

Westfield Council Recognizes Green Team For Certification

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Town Council passed an ordinance amending the Westfield Bicycle Board and read a proclamation in honor of the Westfield Green Team achieving Silver Level Certification from Sustainable New Jersey.

Mayor Shelley Brindle spoke at the regular meeting about the vaccination situation residents have seen throughout the state, acknowledging that there is “widespread frustration as demand outpaces the supply available for these sites.”

She said that Union County vacci-

nation appointments filled up quickly when they opened last Sunday and that the county will not open more appointments for weeks until it can verify how many more vaccines it will receive.

Mayor Brindle reminded residents that the county is in control of all local distribution at this time. However, she said, the Westfield Regional Health Department, which serves eight local municipalities, is “continuing to explore other possible avenues to provide broader vaccination access for our residents. ... We’re looking — leaving no stone unturned.”

The mayor thanked the Westfield Green Team for its hard work in achieving Silver Level certification from Sustainable New Jersey, an organization that promotes green practices at the municipal level.

Mayor Brindle said that of the 565 New Jersey municipalities, only 62 have Silver Level certification and that Westfield is the second municipality in Union County to be awarded this accolade. The certification demonstrates the town’s commitment to sustainability and increases its ability to receive grants and other funding, Mayor Brindle said.

To receive Silver Level certification, a town must implement three of 12 “priority actions,” complete actions in eight of 18 categories and establish a green team, among other requirements. Westfield completed 36 actions in 13 categories, Mayor Brindle said.

She cited the adopt-a-drain program, which had 120 participants, leaf collection, recycling at the conservation center, the rain garden installation in Tamaques Park and the work to allow front-facing solar panels as examples of the Green Team’s impact on sustainable local practices.

“This was really a collective effort of 20-plus volunteers as well as (Town Administrator) Jim (Gildea)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Photo courtesy of Cranford Police Department
SPECIAL DELIVERY...Cranford Patrolmen Thomas Bell and James Knight were on patrol on the morning of December 20, 2020, when they were dispatched to a 9-1-1 call for a pregnant woman in labor. Cranford resident Gina Chaves had gone into labor in her Cranford home when her water suddenly broke and the baby’s head had begun crowning. Patrolman Bell, a 21-year veteran of the police force, quickly assessed the situation, making a determination that their time was limited and the delivery would need to occur in the home. During the delivery, Patrolman Bell soon discovered that the umbilical cord had wrapped around the baby’s neck. Patrolman Bell was fortunately able to remove the cord from around the baby’s neck and deliver the baby boy shortly thereafter. Everyone, including the newborn’s parents, Gina and Noberto Chaves, were relieved when the baby began to cry. The Cranford First Aid Squad took baby Lucas and his mother to Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, for evaluation. The proud parents are now home and said baby Lucas is “healthy” as they expressed their gratitude to the responding officers and EMTs for their actions.

Cranford Pivots High School To All-Remote Learning

By JENNIFER GLACKIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — On Sunday, Cranford Superintendent Scott Rubin, Ed.D., moved Cranford High School to remote learning for two weeks and canceled all extra-curricular activities for the duration as well. The decision was made when three

coronavirus-positive cases occurred within four days. Following the initial decision, two additional individuals tested positive, totaling five positive cases in five days.

“Please know these decisions are based on the guidance of our partnership with the township health department and they are made to keep our community safe,” Dr. Rubin said at the Cranford Board of Education meeting on January 25. While there has been no evidence of in-school transmission thus far, Dr. Rubin said the closure is meant to flatten the numbers and mitigate the possibility of in-school transmission. Closing all school activities (including sports, theatre and clubs) was recommended by the health department.

Parents voiced their frustrations at the meeting, particularly regarding the shut down of sports. Athletes will miss two weeks of a six-week season, and some teams will miss five of 15 scheduled games. Dr. Rubin said the district is looking into options to reschedule the missed games, including opening the school on Saturdays.

Athletic Director Darren Torsone said he has been calling the opposing schools and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJISAA) to begin making plans for rescheduling but cannot promise they will be rescheduled. Mr. Torsone also said he has been in contact with the coaches to keep the athletes working out and connected during the two-week pause.

“In a world where we’re looking

for a right answer, there don’t seem to be any,” said Board President Kurt Petschow. He acknowledged the difficulties and frustrations students and parents voiced about the closure but said the board supports the decision made by the administration. “We will continue to do the best that we can,” he said.

Cranford was selected as a recipient of the Data Driven Instructional Coaching Model grant for the next four years, funded by the United States Department of Education in partnership with Rutgers University, said Dr. Rubin. The model will be implemented at Walnut and Lincoln Avenue schools and will be replicated in kindergarten through third grade classrooms across the district, he said. The data gathered will focus on targeted interventions and will track data trends across populations, which may help identify any learning loss that may arise from the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We are very focused on making sure that we are providing for our students,” said Dr. Rubin.

The board also accepted an extra \$4,054 from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) grant. This is in addition to the approximately \$74,000 from the CARES Act.

Board members thanked the Livingston Avenue School Parent-Teacher Association for donating \$5,800. The money will be used to pad Livingston’s gymnasium.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Vaccine Hotline Available

For those without internet access, the State of New Jersey is offering a Vaccine Hotline. Call (855) 568-0545 between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week to register and schedule a vaccine.

DWC Outlines Wide Range Of Plans For ’21 at Meeting

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) Board of Directors laid out its 2021 goals, including plans for the highly-anticipated downtown redevelopment, at its first meeting of the new year on January 20. During the meeting, Patricia Hanigan was re-elected as chairwoman, Lewis Kimble as vice chair, Jim Donofrio as secretary and Jerry Eickle as treasurer.

The board also welcomed new member Anthony DiTomaso, who owns 1 Elm Street and 226 North Avenue. “I have a real estate investment firm and development firm,” Mr. DiTomaso said as an introduction. “We primarily focus on multi-family development and transit-oriented downtown mixed-use rehabs.”

Executive Director Bob Zuckerman outlined a plethora of 2021 organizational goals, with topics ranging from downtown redevelopment to the installation of light-up seesaws in March.

Mr. Zuckerman said one of the DWC’s goals is to collaborate with Streetworks and the town administration on downtown redevelopment this year. He said the DWC has begun to talk with Streetworks about redevelopment plans.

“I think our input is going to be critically important into what Streetworks comes up with in terms of their redevelopment plans for the Lord & Taylor redevelopment site and for some of the other sites, potentially,” he said. “Now it’s our turn to really get involved and provide feedback, provide input, and really be a major stakeholder in that.”

Mayor Shelley Brindle said later

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Rebecca Mehorter for The Westfield Leader
TO THE RESCUE...Abigail Dupré, Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad's training lieutenant, shows how to use a light pen to dilate her fellow squad member's pupils in the back of the ambulance. The squad has adjusted the way it trains its newest members by following coronavirus-prevention protocols. See the story on Page 2.



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A COLD DAY IN WESTFIELD...A light snowfall leaves behind wet and messy conditions on North Avenue in downtown Westfield.

Mountainside Bd. of Edu. Reviews School Year Plans

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Board of Education met Tuesday evening to discuss the status of the current school year and to start planning for the next school year. Superintendent of Schools Janet Walling reported that 38 percent of district students are participating in in-school instruction. She also stated that teachers and administrators are reviewing benchmarks for the students to ensure a successful school year. The district has been providing in-person instruction during shortened days five days a week. The library and cafeteria are not open. Mrs. Walling also reported that, as of now, it is unknown how next year will be structured. She noted that the board currently plans to structure next year the same as this year, but that things could change. She stated that, as of now, vaccines were only for residents age 16 and older.

Registration for the borough's Pre-K program currently is underway, and, as of now, Pre-K will remain a half-day program. Mrs. Walling said that there will be morning and afternoon programs and that this plan is in place in order to ensure proper distancing for students. Further, the superintendent reported that, in its quest to meet the needs of all students, the district is adding a self-contained special-education program at the Beechwood School next year. In other business, Board Secretary Raymond Slamb reported that next year's budget is being worked on and that there are still unknowns for next year. He noted that on Tuesday, February 23, the governor is scheduled to address budgets for New Jersey school districts. He also stated that the final tentative budget is due on Monday, March 22. It additionally was reported that Kimberly Richards, principal of Deerfield School, has announced her retirement, which will take place June 30, 2021. She has been a principal in the district for 11 years. In addition, Pat Debbie, a paraprofessional for the district, retired on December 31, 2020. It was said that she served the district for 23 years. All members of the board of education wished both educators well in their retirement and offered many words of appreciation for their work in the district. In other business, a short report was given about Governor Livingston High School. It was

noted that winter sports had started for the school on a staggered schedule. It also was said that the school's hockey team had begun its season on January 4 and won its first two games. In addition, fencing and basketball started on January 14, and track, swimming and volleyball were set to start in March. It was noted that all sports had no live spectators and that events were live-streamed. It was additionally reported that Governor Livingston High School had just installed two new gender-neutral bathrooms. The next regular Mountainside Board of Education meeting will be held on February 23.

Cyberattack Disrupts Schooling for SP-F Students

By JENNIFER GLACKIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — After opening its doors on Tuesday, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district called an emergency remote-learning day for January 22. At first, the district believed that a hardware problem was causing disruptions to its internet connection, but after further inspection, found that the district had been the victim of a cyber-attack. "It is serious, but fixable," Superintendent Joan Mast, Ed.D., said at Thursday evening's board of education meeting. In a letter on January 22, Dr. Mast wrote, "Our tech team identified a DDoS attempt, which is a malicious attack disrupting the normal traffic pattern of a targeted network." Dr. Mast also addressed parent concerns in the letter, writing that there was no threat to home networks or personal information as a result of the attack. She additionally noted, "the district has reported the attack on our network to both the New Jersey Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC) as well as the F.B.I." In-person schooling was able to resume on January 25. The board presented a tribute to the educators who were named New Jersey Governor's Educator or Educational Services Professional of the Year. The winners of the Governor's Educator of the Year are Jeff Koegel (Scotch Plains- Fanwood High School), Susan Vidolin-Hart (Park Middle School), Sarah Odum (Terrill Middle School), Raquel Santiago (Brunner Elementary School), Lori Travers (Coles Elementary School), Marisa Pucci (Evergreen Elemen-

Union Co. Commissioners Start Year With Full Slate

By MICHAEL P. CARVALHO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — In its first regular meeting of the new year, the Union County Board of County Commissioners had a busy agenda. The board was presented with 60 resolutions for its review, including a dozen commissioner-sponsored resolutions. Ten different county offices and departments presented their resolutions for review by the board, with each department having an administrator, director or representative on hand to answer any questions. Many of the resolutions are annual renewals of contracts that cover ongoing operations. The Board of Elections had eight resolutions up for review, seven of which are for contracts that cover the 2021 calendar year. Nicole DiRado, the Board of Elections administrator, explained that, "These are our typical annual resolutions, and we are preparing in the event that we have [typical] elections." When asked about some of the resolutions, and specifically regarding the uncertainty of what the next round of elections in June will look like due to the pandemic, Ms. DiRado responded, "We will see what happens in terms of how our elections will be administered. But we are preparing." Ms. DiRado confirmed that officials need to be prepared for anything, and it is possible that some of the monies requested will not be needed. County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi stated that she, "has been advised that the governor is seriously con-

sidering the vote-by-mail election for the Primary." Ms. Rajoppi continued, "It's pretty clear that we are not going to have 70 or 80 percent of our population vaccinated by the first week in June. That's not going to happen. It could be a hybrid election, but I believe it's going to primarily be vote-by-mail. "The clerk's office has already decided to set up for that in terms of location and collation of ballots. I have no idea what will happen in November — hopefully it will be a more normal situation," concluded Ms. Rajoppi. One resolution submitted by the Department of Economic Development is for the authorization to apply for and accept grant funds through the Department of the Treasury for emergency rental assistance in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, in an amount not to exceed \$16,601,886.70. Deputy County Manager Amy Wagner explained that this grant was just awarded to the county last Wednesday. Ms. Wagner went on to say that, "There are a lot of questions still remaining as to how we can use it. "We literally just got the award. We have a couple of calls set up to talk about how we can use this and expand it and in what capacity," continued Ms. Wagner. Ms. Wagner explained that, in addition to tenants, this program is available to landlords to apply for on behalf of eligible tenants. "It has the potential to help a whole lot more people," said Ms. Wagner. Debbie-Ann Anderson, director of the Department of Human Services, was asked about her department's resolution to enter into an agreement with Geneva Worldwide Interpretation Service to provide interpretation services to non-English-speaking clients. Ms. Anderson explained that the Division of Social Services finds the language line very helpful to walk clients through the various application processes. "The language line provides over 40 different languages," said Ms. Anderson. Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella added that, "the line is used in a lot of communities in the courts for individuals who speak different languages, to be able to communicate directly with the judge and the prosecutor. "That is a good, universal type of contract that we have with this firm that helps people." The top three languages accessed through the service are Spanish, Haitian-Creole, and Arabic, according to Ms. Anderson. Andrew Moran, director of the Department of Public Safety, added that, "our dispatch center uses that language line in the process of emergency call-taking, so it's really a valuable resource for public safety also." Bruce Bergen, director of the Office of the County Counsel, introduced eight resolutions to the board. Mr. Bergen explained that the first five resolutions, "are just our yearly contracts for legal research, both in books and online."



SNOW-ONE STOPS CONSTRUCTION...Environmental testing drilling continues through the snow on Tuesday in the North Avenue train station parking lot.

Green Team

and other town officials," Councilman and Green Team Council Liaison David Contract said. "This couldn't have been accomplished without everyone's hard work and effort, energy and passion. It just proves what volunteers really can make happen and the difference they can make." "This is documentation of a lot of stuff that the Green Team had done over three years and that the town had done with us," Green Team Co-chair Tim Van Epp said. "Moving forward, the team will continue to maintain our certification and look for opportunities to brand the town as the most sustainable place to live and work and do business and invest and shop and so forth." General Ordinance No. 2203, which appoints a member of the Westfield Green Team to the town's Bicycle Board, passed unanimously at the regular meeting. The council approved a Code Review and Town Property Committee resolution to refer an application to designate 417 Prospect Street as historic to the planning board. Mr. Gildea said the property owners voluntarily came to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to have their home looked at for historic qualities. The application, already approved by the HPC, will now be examined by members of the planning board at their Monday, February 1 meeting. If approved there, the application will be read at the next council meeting for final approval. The Code Review and Town Property Committee also read General Ordinance No. 2205 on first reading. The ordinance would change the caps of certain fees at the Memorial Pool like group swim lessons, swim team, aquatic programs and private event reservations. Mr. Gildea emphasized in the conference meeting that the ordinance would not change the 2021 membership fees. The council also passed a resolution authorizing the purchase of a

new/unused 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe for \$45,489.41 to replace a utility vehicle "for use by the Westfield Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division," the resolution reads. At the conference meeting, the council approved a list of event requests from multiple organizations, including the Downtown Westfield Corporation, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Westfield Baseball League, the Westfield Neighborhood Council and the Westfield Public Arts Commission. Mr. Gildea clarified that each event approval would be contingent on coronavirus safety precautions advised by the state at the time. He said that he had spoken with each organization and that everyone was understanding of this requirement. The next town council meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 9, at 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to watch via Facebook Live or Zoom. The Westfield Town Council Finance Policy Committee will hold a forum via Zoom at 7 p.m. tonight, Thursday, January 28, to review the 2020 budget, give an overview of the 2021 budget, and to hear input from residents.

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DWC

21. Ms. Hanigan said it is a "big win," as the installation has been placed in cities like Montreal and New York. The installation will cost approximately \$28,000, and \$25,000 is paid for by a grant the DWC received. "It's a way to bring warmth and light to downtown during a quiet time," Ms. Ben-Hayon said. "It's also a nice way to support the arts, which has been something that wasn't supported that well during the Covid time." Mr. Zuckerman said another goal for the DWC would be to look into becoming a section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization rather than a section 501(c)(6) nonprofit, as the former is more flexible with the types of donations the organization can accept and would make the organization exempt on sales tax. Peg Lockwood of the DWC Design Committee presented two motions to grant money toward two businesses for new signs. I to Eye, which provides eye care services, was granted \$500 for a new sign. Beyond Trends, a women's clothing store, was given \$300 for a new sign. Ms. Lockwood also mentioned that the committee spent \$3,000 on reusable snowflake window decorations. Mr. Zuckerman noted that an initial draft of the 2021 DWC budget would be presented in the near future to be approved by board members as soon as possible. Mr. Gildea said the town would need the budget by the end of February. The board will next meet on Wednesday, February 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Volunteers Sought to Help With Vaccine


AREA -- The Union County Office of Health Management is seeking volunteers to assist with Covid-19 vaccination efforts. If you are interested in assisting with registration/intake or with administering vaccines, joining the Union County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers is a great way to help. If you are a healthcare professional that would like to help in a clinical capacity, please email your resume and proof of licensing to: Lovely Randle, MPA, REHS at lrandle@ucnj.org.




PARSONAGE HISTORIC HOME IN SCOTCH PLAINS...Tuesday's snowfall left a light dusting of snow on the Parsonage Historic Home located in downtown Scotch Plains.

Pivot

In other board news, Gabrielle Rendeck was named the new supervisor of Social Studies and Business Management and Information Systems. Ms. Rendeck will replace Judy Podbelski, who recently retired. Also approved were the retirements of Matthew Jennings, director of Human Services, who has held that position for the last year and a half, and Lori Talbot, a teacher with 31 years of service. Fellow teacher and Cranford Education Association President Rich Hurley said, "Lori is definitely a legend in Cranford Public Schools." Dr. Rubin and the board wished both retirees well in their next chapter. The next meeting of the Cranford Board of Education will be on February 8.



Westfield Memorial Library
Celebrate Black History Month
Online—all through your Library



Wednesday, February 10
at 7:00 pm
Martin Luther King, Jr. and
the Advancement of the Civil
Rights Movement

Paul White takes us through the life of Dr. King. For millions of Black Americans, he was the voice of anguish and their battle cry for human dignity.

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Rescue Squad Volunteers Persevere Through Covid

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — When the Covid-19 pandemic hit Westfield a little less than a year ago, residents were quick to thank frontline healthcare workers through online messages, signs in driveways and donations. After nearly a year since the beginning of the pandemic, the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad (WVRS) is still dealing with coronavirus-related challenges.

WVRS President Art Cooke and Estelle Cervantes, a member and the 2020 president, spoke with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* about the squad's responsibilities, coronavirus-related issues and recruitment.

The rescue squad provides residents with free "basic life support" and care — such as CPR, first aid, dealing with cuts, broken bones and difficulty breathing — as well as transport to hospitals, Mr. Cook said. Rescue squad members must first ride along with the ambulance as observation before taking a course that is approximately the length of a college semester and then pass the National Registry EMT exam. Even after passing the exam, Ms. Cervantes said, members continue to learn new skills.

When the pandemic hit and residents were told to social distance and stay home, EMTs were expected to respond to any resident with any number of issues who called 911. Suddenly, Mr. Cooke said, the number of available EMTs dropped.

"We had a number of members who went on Covid leave," he said. "Maybe they had someone in their family who had an underlying condition that they didn't want to risk exposing them to Covid. So they wound up taking family leave, which cut people off of our

shifts. Then we also had some of our members who went on medical leave ... because they may have been exposed to Covid, so they had to go into a 15-day quarantine period, which then created unexpected holes in the shifts."

Mr. Cooke said former squad members "pooled resources" to figure out how to fill the gaps in the schedule. He said the squad increased funding for one of its bigger recruiting tools by offering scholarships to members who were willing to pull extra shifts.

"We think we've solved it," Mr. Cooke said, noting that almost all of the shifts are now covered. When the squad doesn't have enough members to fill a shift, it relies on its mutual aid system with the county and/or nearby towns like Scotch Plains, Cranford and Garwood to cover for it. "There will always be an ambulance" for residents, Ms. Cervantes assured *The Leader* and *The Times*.

"We also had disruptions to what I would call the training pipeline," Mr. Cooke said. Spring training classes were either limited in participants to adhere to social-distancing protocols or canceled entirely, he said. So probationary members were not becoming full members at the usual rate.

Since the rise in cases in May, Ms. Cervantes said, the squad has restricted how many people could be in the ambulance at once, leaving probationary members even further behind.

Probationary members are not the only ones left behind, however. Ms. Cervantes said the restrictions on numbers in the ambulance also means no family members or friends can travel with patients to the hospital in the ambulance, with an exception for children.

Ms. Cervantes said that when hospitals were receiving an overwhelming

number of Covid-19 patients, they would limit the number of patients allowed in the emergency room.

"Some of our shifts would have to wait two, three hours at the hospital to be able to bring a patient in, put them in a room and then be able to correctly sign off and have one of the nurses take over patient care," Ms. Cervantes said. "We are not able to just leave a patient at a hospital in a chair somewhere. That's negligence. So we would have to wait."

Mr. Cooke added that ambulances are not allowed to idle in front of the emergency room but require a large amount of power to keep air conditioning and heating on for the patients as they wait.

"What Overlook had to do was bring out big extension cords," he said. "If they knew they were going to be sitting out there for a lengthy period of time, they could charge their batteries."

After responding to a Covid-19 call, the ambulance needs to be decontaminated, Ms. Cervantes said. The squad wipes down surfaces and uses an ultraviolet light to kill the coronavirus. The time it takes to properly disinfect the ambulance is more time that the vehicle is unusable for other calls.

If a caller reports symptoms of Covid-19, the crew is responsible to put on extra protective gear beyond the usual N-95 masks, surgical masks and eyewear, Ms. Cervantes said. The squad has special biohazard suits, respirators and face shields for these calls. Putting on the gear takes extra time but is a necessary precaution for the squad members, she said.

The rescue squad is always welcoming potential new members, Mr. Cooke said, as "we want as many people as possible to try it and get involved." Many people join because they are considering a career in the medical field and want experience, he said. Ms. Cervantes, for example, is in her third year of medical school.

"I really think that being an EMT helps you be more confident with the medical field," she said. "It was definitely one of the best choices I've ever made in my life, hands down."

"It's worthwhile," Mr. Cooke said. "It's a great way to volunteer and give back to the community."

Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the rescue squad is encouraged to find the squad's application online or at the building, located at 335 Watterson Street, Westfield.



Rebecca Mehorter for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TRAINING CONTINUES DURING PANDEMIC...The Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad's training lieutenant, Abigail Dupré, demonstrates how to correctly fit a neck brace to a patient to two probationary members. The Westfield Rescue Squad has pivoted during the Covid-19 pandemic to assist the public and train its new members while following CDC guidelines.

Historic Preservation Commission Discusses Potential New Districts

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) met Monday night to nominate its 2021 cabinet and discuss updates to the town's historic preservation plan, including potential new historic districts in Westfield.

Kathy Reed recited her oath of office as a new member of the commission. Ms. Reed said she moved to Westfield approximately a year ago, and commission members noted that Ms. Reed moved into a historic home in a historic district.

The HPC also nominated its cabinet at its first meeting of 2021. Maria Boyes was reelected as chair of the commission, and Jacqueline Brevard accepted the position of vice chair. Linda Jacus will act as the HPC's secretary.

The commission approved its December 28 meeting minutes and adopted its meeting schedule. HPC meetings will now take place on the fourth Monday of the month. The commission then jumped into a presentation on the Westfield Historic Preservation Plan update by Margaret Hickey of Connolly & Hickey Historical Architects, LLC. Ms. Boyes said the historic preservation plan has not been updated since 2002.

The historic preservation plan is one element of becoming a certified local government (CLG). Being a CLG would give the town the ability to qualify for certain federal, non-matching grants for up to \$24,999 to do a variety of plans, outreach and studies, Ms. Hickey said. However, achieving CLG status takes quite a bit of "legwork," and reassessing the historic preservation plan is part of that.

"The 2002 element, with regard to how it was done, it's acceptable for its time," she said. "It's acceptable for a municipality that's not planning to be a certified local government, but it's missing a lot of components for now."

For example, she said, the plan needs a list of goals and objectives, specifically made with public input and with the town's funding levels and resources in mind. Ms. Hickey recommended the HPC review similar towns' plans so the commission does not "reinvent the wheel."

The plan also currently is missing a "broad, overriding history" of both the town and of the town's planning and preservation record. The HPC needs to look at the history of Westfield's neighborhoods, not just architecturally but also economically, culturally and socially. The plan also needs a review of public policy. "The public needs to know what your influences are," she said, like the regulations and ordinances the HPC follows.

Ms. Hickey also recommended changes to the current historic districts. The 2002 plan had 15 historic sites, and she said these should be adjusted — expanded, tightened, added to or eliminated — after so much time has passed. She said she believed "Prospect Street may not be cohesive enough for a district" anymore after new construction has created a "lack of integrity."

She recommended the Boulevard Historic District, Stoneleigh Park Historic District and Downtown Historic District be potentially expanded a block or two each.

She also recommended tightening the borders of the Dudley Park, Kimble Avenue, Harding Street California Bungalow, Westfield Gardens and Wychwood Historic Districts.

Ms. Hickey also identified three potential new historic districts. One would be in the area of Woodmere, Sunnywood and Fairhill Drives. Another would include portions of Downer Street, West Broad Street, First Street, Rahway Avenue and Osborn Avenue. The last potential historic district would include portions of Dorian Road and Shadowlawn Drive.

The HPC then discussed its commission committees, which "really take on the smaller chunks of the business of the commission," as Ms. Boyes said. This year the committees include communications, Devlin, design, designation/historic homeowners relations and funding incentives. "Even though you might be assigned to a certain committee, ... anyone can contribute to any committee," Ms. Boyes reminded commission members.

The next HPC meeting will take place on Monday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. Residents are welcome to join via Zoom. The February meeting will have a presentation titled "Building Blocks for Working Together" that will focus on reaching out to builders in Westfield and explaining the town's building rules, which the commission members said is necessary because builders have told them that they are confused and unable to find resources to understand them.

Cell Tower Hearings Continue in Cranford

By MARTA ESQUIROZ
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — The zoning board of adjustment met on Monday night, where members discussed matters related to their meeting schedule and the revision of a cell tower application.

After the scheduling conflict was discovered with the township committee last week, the board announced that it will not need to adapt its calendar. The committee has decided to no longer televise its Monday night meetings in favor of the zoning board.

The board also discussed the idea of including a public-comment portion during their sessions. Christine Daly, the chairperson, described how this category would be "at the end of every meeting and the public would have an opportunity to make comments that are not about the (zoning) applications."

Ms. Daly explained that the township committee has already revised its remote meetings, including the public comments. She remarked that, "the difference between the committee and the zoning board is that when someone makes comments on applications, they have to [give sworn testimony]." Acknowledging that "they do things differently," she said she believes that "they should be in line with the committee."

Ben Robbins, substituting for Zoning Board Attorney Mark Rothman, advised that "there's no requirement to listen to these comments." For him, the only way is to "listen to them, make a decision about whether it is appropriate, whether it is dealing with items you are dealing with, and then decide if

they should be read out loud."

Ultimately, Dan Aschenbach, board secretary, made a motion to table and ask the members to come back to the next meeting and establish language parameters for this new rule that facilitates reading decisions. He also wanted to make sure that "the public will have full input" in these sessions.

As a last part of the agenda, the board reviewed an application from New York Limited Partnership doing business as Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile network. The applicant is requesting site plan approval to construct a wireless communication facility on the grounds of Union County College's campus at 1033 Springfield Avenue.

This application has been in progress for two years, wherein the applicant has presented different variations about the available spots to construct this macro facility, the cell tower's height, and its separation from the nearest residential area.

During the nearly two hours of public comment on the application, the board heard from multiple residents regarding their exposure concerns regarding the project.

Dave McDonald, a resident of Cranford, explained that "public companies have fiduciary responsibilities to its shareholders while we have the responsibility for the safety of Cranford's residents." He continued by saying that, "the exposure to high frequency isn't safe." He also stated his belief that construction of the tower could dissuade buyers from purchasing houses, as well as bring down the values of homes in the area.

The hearing will continue at the board's Monday, February 22 meeting.

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14 Homes Sold Jan 17 – Jan 24, 2021 in Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield								
TOWN	ADDRESS	STYLE	RMS	BRS	BTH	GAR	SALE PRICE	
Cranford	15 CHEROKEE RD	CapeCod	8	3	1.0	1	\$400,000	
Cranford	30 MORSE ST	CapeCod	8	4	2.0	1	\$545,000	
Fanwood	127 MIDWAY AVE	SplitLev	8	3	2.0	1	\$515,000	
Garwood	260 HAZEL AVE	Colonial	7	3	1.1	1	\$469,000	
Garwood	351 PINE AVE	Colonial	8	3	2.1	0	\$479,000	
Scotch Plains	19 CLYDESDALE RD	Colonial	8	4	2.1	2	\$765,000	
Scotch Plains	11 KEVIN RD	Ranch	11	4	3.1	2	\$860,000	
Westfield	306 BELMAR PL	CapeCod	9	3	2.0	1	\$466,000	
Westfield	833 GRANT AVE	Colonial	8	3	1.1	0	\$545,000	
Westfield	16 BURGESS CT	Bi-Level	8	4	3.0	2	\$695,000	
Westfield	415 S CHESTNUT ST	Tudor	9	4	2.1	2	\$907,000	
Westfield	231 MARYLAND ST	Colonial	10	4	4.0	1	\$917,500	
Westfield	226 LINDEN AVE	Colonial	11	4	2.2	2	\$950,000	
Westfield	910 BAILEY CT	Colonial	11	5	4.1	3	\$1,530,000	

*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 1/3/21 – 1/10/21. Featured properties may not have been listed or sold by the office/agent presenting this data. Information deemed RELIABLE. A home is one of the most important and significant purchases or sales you will make in your lifetime. If you are thinking about a move, now is the time to prepare. I will provide you with a market evaluation and mortgage update, create a thorough marketing plan and let you know my suggestions in staging. For more information on these or other real estate matters, contact Susan Massa Broker CRS SRES ABR at 908-400-0778, susan@susanmassa.com or susanmassa2@gmail.com. www.NJHomeShowcase.com www.summitwestfieldhomes.com.

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Cranford Board Discusses Cannabis Act in Closed Session

By MARTA ESQUIROZ
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The planning board convened last Thursday to discuss matters related to the zoning ordinances of Cranford. It was the first time the board met following its reorganization on January 6.

The agenda of the board focused on the discussion of two matters. The first was the topology draft on the need for rehabilitation for certain properties on South Avenue and Chestnut Street. The second was the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory and Expungement Aid Modernization Act, which legalizes the personal use of cannabis for adults.

Both resolutions required the client confidential legal advice from new Board Attorney Jonathan Drill.

The board voted in favor of moving to a closed session to receive this advisement, but Chairperson Kathleen Murray said that, "we will not be taking actions; we are just getting advice."

At the end of the meeting, board members came back to the open session, and Ms. Murray explained that at the next meeting on Wednesday, February 3, they "will be considering and possibly taking actions on the rehabilitation for certain properties on South Avenue and Chestnut Street."

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Westfield Foundation Names New Executive Director

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

WESTFIELD — Jay Boyle has been named executive director of the Westfield Foundation, replacing Betsy Chance, who recently retired after 26 years of service to the organization. Mr. Boyle said Ms. Chance has been "very generous" with her time, helping him adjust to his new role. He had served on the board of trustees for six years before stepping into his current position on January 1. "I'm very excited about it," Mr. Boyle told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. "It's nice to give back."

The Westfield Foundation was formed in 1975 and has donated \$7.2 million to help fund projects for local non-profit organizations. While the Foundation primarily works with Westfield organizations, it has expanded into Union County. According to its website, some local recipients include Westfield Public Schools, Mobile Meals of Westfield, Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Westfield Veterans Fund, and Imagine, Inc. The Foundation also donated \$400,000 for the playground renovations at Mindowaskin Park.

The Foundation has provided these local non-profit organizations with the resources for employee training programs, capital improvement projects, or equipment such as vans. "We like to see them take the funding and grow their organization," Mr. Boyle said.

Another aspect of the organization's outreach is managing funds for more than 40 local scholarships. The Founda-

tion supervises the assets for these grants but does not have a say in who receives the scholarship, except for the Clarence H. and Florence H. VanDellen Memorial Fund scholarship, which was established in 2003 from "a bequest under the Will of Florence VanDellen," according to the Foundation's website.

Bertha "Betty" Bogaert was another philanthropist who left a legacy and willed her entire estate to the Foundation. The Bertha E. Bogaert Fund is used for major projects, like the aforementioned Mindowaskin playground and Westfield High School STEM room. The YWCA is the most recent recipient, receiving \$250,000 to help rebuild its headquarters after it was destroyed by a fire in 2019.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, requests for funding have grown, but the Foundation has been able to fill the increased need, said Mr. Boyle. The Foundation distributed \$172,000 in donations from its general fund in 2020.

"I am most excited about making sure people know who we are and what we do," said Mr. Boyle, joking that many people do not know the organization exists. The office is located at the train station on North Avenue, next to the United Fund of Westfield.

501c3 organizations interested in funding a project can go to thewestfieldfoundation.com for an application. Those interested in donating to the Foundation also can visit the website to donate directly or mail a check to The Westfield Foundation, P.O. Box 2295, Westfield, N.J. 07091.



Jay Boyle

Two Arrested in Connection With Elizabeth Homicide

COUNTY — Two men were arrested January 21 and are now criminally charged in connection with a fatal shooting that took place in Elizabeth last spring, acting Union County Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo and Elizabeth Police Department Chief Giacomo Sacca and Director Earl Graves jointly announced Friday.

Leonard Ellison, 36, and Shawn Gilford, 41, are both charged with first-degree murder and three related weapons offenses in connection with the homicide of 42-year-old Robert Owens.

During the early afternoon of March 30, Elizabeth Police Department officers responded to the area of 3rd and Livingston streets in the Elizabethport neighborhood, where they found Mr. Owens, who had sustained a gunshot wound, according to Union County Assistant Prosecutor Julie Peterman, who is prosecuting the case. Mr. Owens was subsequently pronounced dead.

An investigation led by the Union County Homicide Task Force and assisted by the Elizabeth Police Department, Union County Police Department Ballistics Unit and Union County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit resulted in Mr. Ellison and Mr. Gilford being identified as suspects in the case. Mr. Ellison was arrested

in Elizabeth by members of the prosecutor's office and sheriff's office, while Mr. Gilford was apprehended at his home in Monroe Township with the assistance of the Middlesex County Special Operations Response Team and the Monroe Township Police Department, after which both were lodged in the Union County Jail pending first appearances and detention hearings to take place in Union County Superior Court.

"I commend the fortitude and dedication exhibited by the investigators who have worked tirelessly on this case these past several months during a time that presented so many other unique challenges," acting Prosecutor Ruotolo said. "Thanks to their efforts we have moved closer to bringing two people to justice for their roles in the murder of Mr. Owens."

Anyone with information about this matter is still being urged to contact Homicide Task Force Sgt. Christopher Scuzorzo at (908) 472-0492 or Detective Ryan Kirsh at (908) 347-1420.

Convictions on charges of this nature are commonly punishable by terms of up to life in state prison.

These criminal charges are mere accusations. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Bill Requiring Civics Classes In Middle School Advances

TRENTON — The State Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee advanced legislation that requires civics instruction in middle school.

"Civics education helps foster an understanding and appreciation of our democracy," said bill sponsor Sen. Tom Kean (R-21). "All students should have the opportunity to learn about the rights of citizens, the function of government and the values that underpin American democracy. This legislation will give students the skills and knowledge they need to actively participate in a democratic society."

According to the New Jersey Center for Civic Education at Rutgers, only 39 percent of schools in the state voluntarily offer a civics course to all students.

Under this legislation, S-854, each board of education must provide a middle school civics course beginning in the 2022–23 school year. The new civics course must address the principles underlying the American system of democracy, the function and limitations of government and the role of a citizen in a democratic society.

The bill also authorizes the New Jersey Center for Civic Education to provide curricula, professional development and technical assistance for middle and high school civics.

S-854 is also known as Laura Wooten's Law — named in honor of Mrs. Laura Wooten, a New Jerseyan who contributed a lifetime of civic service. Mrs. Wooten was born in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and was the longest-serving poll volunteer in the nation. She was an elder of the First Baptist Church of Princeton, was employed by Princeton Medical Center and worked as a part-time staff member at Princeton University. Mrs. Wooten passed away on March 24, 2019, at the age of 98.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to the requirements of the Township of Cranford Land Development Ordinance ("LDO") and The Municipal Land Use Law N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq. (MLUL), CRANFORD HARRISON DEVELOPERS, LLC has made application to the Zoning Board of the Township of Cranford (App. No. ZBA-20-003) for Use Variance Application Approval, bulk variances, design waivers and such other relief as may arise during the course of the application for property located at 24 South Avenue West, Cranford, New Jersey and known and designated as Lot 1, Block 474 as shown on the Township of Cranford Tax Map and is located in the DB – Downtown Business District Zone. The subject property is 0.75 acres in size.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-76 (b) and (c), Applicant has elected to bifurcate the subject application such that the Zoning Board will first hear and decide Applicant's requests for use variance approval and bulk variance approval. In the event the Zoning Board grants such variance approval, then Zoning Board shall conduct a separate and subsequent future public hearing on Applicant's request for preliminary and final major site plan approval.

Applicant proposes to demolish the existing E.F. Britton industrial buildings on the subject property.

Applicant seeks use variance and bulk variance approvals to construct a four-story-mixed use development which includes seventy-five (75) residential apartments and ground floor retail space. Of the seventy-five (75) residential apartment units, fifteen (15%) percent are proposed as affordable units (i.e. sixty-four (64) market rate residential units and eleven (11) affordable residential units. The Subject Property fronts on South Avenue West which is a Union County roadway. The Applicant is proposing a four-story structure, forty-five (45) feet in height with ground floor parking, retail space and lobby on ground floor, seventy-five (75) residential units on floors two, three and four. The proposed "open garage" on the ground floor would include seventy-six (76) parking stalls including four (4) ADA accessible stalls. There are six (6) existing parking stalls on South Avenue West. The proposed development will decrease the street parking to two (2) parking stalls on South Avenue West.

The development proposal includes 674 Square Feet of ground floor retail space to be located along the South Avenue West frontage and a 622 Square Feet ground floor lobby space to be located along the South Avenue West frontage. Seventy-five (75) residential units are proposed on floors two, three and four distributed as follows: fifteen (15) studio units (700 Square Feet/Unit); thirty-nine (39) one-bedroom units (850 Square Feet/Unit); fifteen (15) two-bedroom units (1,000 Square Feet/Unit) and six (6) three-bedroom units (1,150 Square Feet/Unit). Access is provided by three stairwells and two elevators.

Applicant seeks the following waivers and design waivers:
(1) N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(d)(3) - Conditional Use Variance; \$255-39B(22)(d) - Condi-

PUBLIC NOTICE

tional Uses; Residential Uses; Maximum 2 bedrooms per unit. Six three-bedroom units proposed.

(2) N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(d)(5) - Density Variance; \$255-39B(22)(g) - Conditional Uses; Residential Uses; Density - Maximum 10 units/acre permitted; 100 units/acre proposed.

(3) N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(c) - Bulk Variance; \$255-34 - Area, Yard and Building Requirements; Maximum Impervious Coverage 80% max permitted; 52% exists and 86% proposed.

(4) N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(c) - Bulk Variance; \$255-34 - Area, Yard and Building Requirements; Maximum Building Height, 3 stories - 45 feet permitted; 4 stories - 45 feet proposed.

(5) N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(c) - Bulk Variance; \$255-34 - Area, Yard and Building Requirements; Front Yard Setback 5 feet required; 0 feet exists and 0 feet proposed.

(6) N.J.S.A. 40:55D-51(b) - Design Waiver; \$255-44A & B; 142 parking spaces required; 76 parking spaces proposed.

The Applicant further requests all other variances, waivers, relief, exceptions, interpretations and/or approvals as may be required under the circumstances pursuant to the LDO, and/or the MLUL.

The Zoning Board will conduct a **VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING** on this matter on the following date: **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 at 7:45 p.m. Residents who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in the scheduled public hearing can join with Google Meet at: meet.google.com/hgo-uaaz-ngc or by phone at 1-620-392-0566 enter PIN 183271362.**

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

All documents relating to this application are on file in the Zoning/Planning Office, Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016 but are not available for public inspection at the building due to the Covid-19 emergency. **All documents will be posted to the Zoning Board Webpage 10 days prior to the hearing.** Anyone interested in reviewing the Application and supporting documents may inform the Applicant's attorney identified below or the Board secretary (Kathy Lenahan: Phone - 908.709.7211; email - K.Lenahan@cranfordnj.org - that they wish to receive copies of same and the Applicant's attorney shall then be required to deliver to the member(s) of the public the Application and supporting documents either electronically or by delivery of hard copies to the person requesting the materials.

AGAIN, THIS HEARING WILL BE A VIRTUAL HEARING VIA GOOGLE MEET.
Ronald L. Shimanowitz, Esq.
Hutt & Shimanowitz, PC
Attorneys for Applicant,
Cranford Harrison Developers, LLC
459 Amboy Avenue
P.O. Box 648
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095
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WESTFIELD

Sunday, January 17, a resident of the 0 to 100 block of Wychview Drive reported an attempted burglary to her residence. The victim stated that between January 16 at approximately noon and January 17 at 1:40 p.m., one or more unknown suspects attempted to gain entry to her residence by breaking the glass pane on the rear door. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that no entry was gained inside of the residence.

Monday, January 18, a business located on the 1100 block of West South Avenue reported being the victim of a theft. The suspect is described as a white male wearing black cargo pants, a black hat and a gray jacket. The suspect removed approximately \$607.47 worth of products from the store.

Tuesday, January 19, a manager of a business on the 1100 block of West South Avenue reported an incident of shoplifting. The manager stated that a suspect entered the business and selected items for sale. The suspect then concealed the items on his person and subsequently left the business without paying for the items. The total amount of the theft, along with the suspect's identity, was unknown at press time.

Tuesday, January 19, a resident of the 500 block of Hort Street reported an act of criminal mischief to a Town of Westfield No Parking sign. One or more unknown suspects were reported to have adhered a three-inch-by-three-inch sticker to various signs in the Town of Westfield. One of the stickers in question was later removed; thus, all that remains is a small amount of adhesive. The resident was unaware of the exact location of the other two stickers.

Wednesday, January 20, a resident of North Wickom Drive reported that packages that were documented as delivered never arrived. The total amount of the packages was \$198. The packages were to contain clothing from an online purchase. There were no suspects at press time.

Thursday, January 21, a resident of the 600 block of Maple Street reported being a victim of fraud. The resident reported a monetary loss of almost \$1,000. The fraud occurred when a suspect claimed to be a representative of a utility company. The suspect stated that the victim was past due and required funds to prevent an interruption of service. However, after the resident supplied the funds, they realized that the suspect was not a representative of the utility company. There were no suspects at press time.

Friday, January 22, a resident of the 100 block of Sandy Hill Road reported being the victim of fraud as a result of a suspicious incident that occurred. The victim stated that an unknown suspect contacted him regarding his wife and a \$500 rebate to which he was entitled. The unknown suspect proceeded to instruct him on how to obtain his rebate through use of his computer. The unknown suspect proceeded to deposit \$5,500 into the victim's bank account, indicating it was done in error. He then asked that the victim repay him the \$5,000 in gift cards. The victim reviewed his bank account and found a suspicious withdrawal in the amount of \$2,200.

Friday, January 22, a house on the 500 block of Kimball Turn was vandalized with eggs by an unknown suspect.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

TAKE NOTICE that on the 25th of January the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union took the following actions:

1. Adopted a Resolution of Memorialization appointing Mark Rothman, Esq. as Zoning Board Attorney for year 2021.

2. Adopted a Resolution of Memorialization appointing Topology Inc. as primary Planner and CME as secondary Planner for planning services for the year 2021.

3. Adopted a Resolution of Memorialization appointing Maser Consulting (Colliers Engineering and Design Inc.) as Zoning Board Engineer for the year 2021.

4. Application ZBA 20-006: Adopted a Resolution of Memorialization approving the request of Michael and Noreen Kirk for a c(2) variance for construction of a new front porch on Block 212 Lot 63 as designated on the Township Tax Map also known as 42 Richmond Avenue in the R-3 zone. Minimum requirement is 25 ft. for a front yard setback where 25.19 exists and 17.19 ft. is proposed \$255-34.

Kathy Lenahan
Board Administrator
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Union County to Hold Emergency Food Distribution

COUNTY -- The Board of County Commissioners announces that an emergency food distribution for Union County residents to aid those affected by COVID-19 will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at Gerald B. Green Plaza located at 200 W. 2nd Street in Plainfield

The food distribution is open to all Union County residents. Food will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and no registration is required. The event will take place rain or shine.

The food distribution is being coordinated by the County of Union With support from Village Supermarket and Gargiulo Produce.

"Food distributions have become a lifeline for our residents during the COVID-19 pandemic," said County Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "We are proud to be able to continue providing this valuable resource to the residents in the western part of Union County."

"Residents continue to face unprecedented levels of unemployment, housing issues and food insecurity and we are working hard to help ev-

everyone put food on their tables," said Commissioner Sergio Granados who also serves as Liaison to the Human Services Advisory Council. "We thank Village Supermarket and Gargiulo Produce for their partnership in this effort."

Upon arrival, proof of New Jersey residency and indicate how many people reside in their household will have to be provided. Recipients will receive an emergency box of produce, dairy and shelf stable food, with enough to sustain a family for several days. Please note that only one box of food will be provided per recipient.

This event will run in compliance with state COVID-19 orders, regarding social distancing and other protocols.

Walk-up recipients must wear masks at all times and maintain social distance. Walk-up recipients should bring a cart or be able to carry several food bags at the walk-up area.

For questions and more information, residents may call the UCDHS Director's Action Line at (888) 845-3434 or (908) 558-2288.

Supervisor of Social Studies, Business Management Named

CRANFORD -- After an extensive search process which included multiple interviews with the selection committee and a very thorough reference check, the Cranford Board of Education has announced Gabrielle Rendek as the new Supervisor of Social Studies and Business Management & Information Systems. Ms. Rendek will be replacing Ms. Judith Podbelski who is retiring after serving the district in this position for the past sixteen years.

Ms. Gabrielle Rendek began her career as a teacher of Social Studies at Cranford High School. In this role, she has refined her craft teaching across content areas and levels including Economics, History, Financial Literacy, and the University Program's Action Research senior capstone program. Recognizing the need to be responsive to students' academic, emotional, and cultural needs, Ms. Rendek has served as a representative on the Intervention and Re-

ferral Services Committee, the Data Team, the Faculty Advisory Committee, and as a teacher mentor. Moreover, with the goal of encouraging students to take an active role in their learning where the focus is on cultivating essential skills necessary for success in our increasingly globalized society, Ms. Rendek has written curricula for Cranford High School, the Union County Social Studies Curriculum Writing Project, and the Rutgers Future Scholars program. Ms. Rendek has also taught as a coadjutant instructor for the Rutgers University Writing Program and the Rutgers Future Scholars program.

Ms. Rendek holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Rutgers University - New Brunswick and a Master of Education degree in Social Studies Education from the Rutgers Graduate School of Education.

Ms. Rendek is honored to be named the new Supervisor of Social Studies and Business Management & Information Systems for the Cranford Public School District. She is looking forward to collaborating with Cranford's innovative and dedicated Business and Social Studies teachers across the district as they work towards the shared goal of enhancing student learning and success.

to pollute.

The average family in the U.S. takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year.

An average only 15 of every 1,500 plastic bags are recycled in the U.S.

For more information about recycling programs and events hosted by Union County, visit ucnj.org/recycle. For on-the-go updates on all local and countywide recycling programs download the free Recycle Coach app.

Quick links to all Union County environmental programs and activities are available at ucnj.org/green-connect.

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Vaccine Rollout is a Disaster; There’s Blame to Go Around

For everyone who qualifies and wants a vaccine, there is clearly a shortage of available appointments. But who is to blame? Well, we don't exactly know, but there's probably plenty to go around.

The governor and "the woman who needs no introduction," Judy Persichilli, assured us all that they had a plan in place for the vaccine rollout long before the first shot was even approved by the FDA. But the state's online registration form doesn't work: It puts people in the wrong categories, and now the categories don't mean anything anyway since that was stripped away in favor of several health conditions and smokers. While not perfect, stripping away the 1A, 1B and 1C categories has proven to be a disaster. It has caused more people to qualify for the vaccine than is available and allowed the tech savvy to book appointments ahead of our less tech savvy and more vulnerable population.

After providing vaccines to healthcare workers at the Kean University site, the county opened its online registration portal, and it filled up almost immediately. On Sunday, after experiencing some technical difficulties, the county opened up another 1,210 appointments, which were filled within moments.

We asked to interview county health officials, and despite repeated attempts, never got return phone calls. The public information official answered some questions via email, but ignored others.

The state has reportedly received nearly 1 million vaccine doses, and is expected to get 100,000 each week, but as of press time, we still do not know the total number of vaccines the County of Union has gotten. We await responses to our OPRA requests from both the state and county. It is also unclear if the state's total includes private medical groups and hospitals that have received and are giving the vaccine.

In the meantime, Summit Medical Group had announced that all of its appointments are filled and asked patients to stop calling their offices. ShopRite Wakefern's website said no appointments are available. Both RWJ/Barnabas and Atlantic Health offered an intake form to the public but have not offered any appointments at this time. Those who registered were told they would be contacted when the vaccine is available to them.

However, while the Atlantic Health form asks a handful of demographic and health information queries, presumably to determine eligibility, the

RWJ/Barnabas form asks none beyond date of birth. RWJ/Barnabas is administering shots at the closest New Jersey Mega Site at the Edison Convention Center.

Governor Phil Murphy said on Friday that the pharmacies in charge of administering vaccines to our nursing homes and long-term-care facilities have failed to adequately distribute the vaccine to this most vulnerable population. After the state's total failure to adequately protect this population at the start of the pandemic, this second failure is just reprehensible.

Meanwhile, rumors swirl about vaccines being thrown out when they expired with no one coming to be vaccinated and people who received the first dose struggled to get appointments for the second. No one seems to know what happens if you don't get the second dose in the prescribed amount of time...will you

Educator’s Corner: Are Snow Days Melting Away?

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

With the prevalence of remote learning, snow days may be going the way of the dinosaurs and cable TV. Years ago, before words like "pivot" and "unprecedented" became household words, my first graders and I would make graphs to see which snow day superstition was their favorite. Wearing pajamas inside out and backward? Putting a spoon under your pillow (or in the freezer)? Flushing ice down the toilet?

In addition to kid superstitions, there is something nostalgic about snow days, especially for "elder millennials" like myself. I knew it was a snow day when I arrived downstairs and the kitchen radio was on. I would sit and listen to the scroll of names, waiting to hear my town before bolting to the living room and turning on the TV.

Replacing snow days with remote learning is not new. Districts around the country started implementing this practice in 2017 with the realization of one-to-one technology. The change-up has garnered a lot of attention in recent months due to widespread remote instruction. Superintendent letters promising to keep snow days have gone viral. Local districts each have their own ways of determining what will distinguish a snow day from a remote day, causing confusion and frustration among stakeholders, including parents and students.

The state dashboard says that over 500,000 doses have been administered, with 27,318 in Union County. Over a month since the first vaccine was given on December 15, only 4.9 percent of the Union County population and 5.6 percent of the state's total population is vaccinated. Neither statistic feels good. Beckerhospitalreview.com says that New Jersey has received nearly a million doses but has only administered about half of them, putting us in 25th place in the country. In the meantime, states like North Dakota and West Virginia have reportedly distributed 84 percent of the vaccines they have received. This means that West Virginia has vaccinated 11.5 percent of its population. Maybe Governor Murphy should give West Virginia Governor Jim Justice a call and see what they're doing.

While researching snow days, questions popped up in my head faster than Bernie mitten memes. What do families do when they rely on school lunches or breakfasts? What about teachers who live in a different town and may be out of power but their district is not? With stress on the rise, why not call the day and let kids enjoy the snow? With reduced class time, can teachers and students use this day to help catch-up? Just like many issues in education, this one is multi-faceted and there are valid concerns on both sides of the argument (Many more than can be addressed in a 500-word column.)

The snow day debate isn't going to end any time soon, and I'd like to give you a few ideas on using the snow to your advantage before winter melts away.

1. Explore the snow – Use binoculars or a magnifying glass, and take a closer look! Don't have the real thing? Make pretend binoculars out of two toilet-paper tubes. Decorate them before "spying" outside. Draw or write in an observation journal.
2. Snow paint – Mix food coloring and water in a spray bottle, and squirt on the snow to create a melt-able masterpiece!
3. Snow-topography – Give your kids free-reign over an old camera (or your phone, if you're brave). Let them zoom in on snow covered branches or ice crystals in the mud.
4. Write a book – Use your snowball fights, snowman building or shoveling as inspiration for a great realistic fiction story or an informative, non-fiction book. Use those photos for a professional touch!

There is magic in snow, even if some of the day is spent in virtual classes. Get out there and have some fun!

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Letters to the Editor

Enough With the Smokescreen, Friends of Brightwood Park

In response to Kathleen Browne's Letter to the Editor on January 21st, it's time to shine a light on the activities of Friends of Brightwood Park (FOBP). The sheer fact that FOBP is wasting our police department's resources along with demanding action from town council members over their missing yard signs is in itself a glimpse into their selfish, Nimby behavior over the past several months.

In fact, this is the group of people that somehow managed to not notice the blight, garbage, illegal dumping of construction debris, invasive species and overgrown trail network in their private "sanctuary" for years and even decades. Only when our town leadership had the vision to rehabilitate the park for the enjoyment of the entire town did FOBP spring into action with a public relations blitz that would be the envy of a Fortune 500 company.

It got even worse for them when a group of Westfield parents and kids volunteered to work in the park by doing trail maintenance so dog walkers, bird watchers, kids on bikes, etc. could have decent trails by which to enjoy

nature. What they realized is the whole town might start to take advantage of their private park.

In response, they created a big lie and said a "mountain bike race course" was going to be built, which is complete nonsense. Then they disparaged the group of Westfield volunteers who organized to do the trail maintenance as being part of an outside organization. What they don't admit is that many of the most vocal FOBP members are from towns quite distant from Westfield. The truth is they don't want kids riding bikes in Brightwood Park and have attracted like-minded gadflies from near and far that are spreading lies to deceive us from their real agenda. Enough with the smokescreen, FOBP. Why not behave like good neighbors and cooperate with the parents that have volunteered to do trail maintenance and finally admit that all the user groups love Brightwood Park and have an equal opportunity to enjoy it?

Joe Weiss
Westfield, NJ

Lifelong Westfield Recaps 2020 Accomplishments

We wanted to provide an update on the 2020 accomplishments of Lifelong Westfield, one of the mayor's advisory councils started in 2018, whose mission is to help Westfield residents age in place and build a stronger community for Westfield's seniors.

Despite Covid, Lifelong Westfield — under the leadership of co-chairs Brad Chananie and Deirdre Gelinne and Council Liaison David Contract as well as a team of volunteers ranging in age from high school students to residents in their eighties — has made a huge difference in the lives of our town's seniors and their caregivers. Our key accomplishments in 2020 include:

Launched the Westfield 300 Milestone Awards to honor residents and businesses achieving incredible milestones including the oldest resident and the family that has lived in Westfield for the most generations. Winners and runner-ups were honored at a virtual ceremony and were hand-delivered proclamations signed scam by Mayor Brindle.

Held safety education programs for seniors that provided face coverings and safety vests.

Held a senior walk with Mayor Brindle and Chief of Police Battiloro.

Held a senior scam webinar in partnership with Westfield Police Department.

Held a Medicare education webinar during the Medicare open enrollment period.

Led a voluntary pickup of storm debris from 50 senior residences.

Distributed quarterly newsletters to keep seniors informed.

Conducted weekly calls to seniors during first wave of the pandemic to check-in on their well-being.

Launched Friday virtual chat series to provide community for seniors.

Implemented Lifelong Westfield's Mission C.A.K.E. (Compassion, Acceptance, Kindness and Empathy) by our members for seniors throughout 2020.

If you're a Westfield senior and not on our mailing list, please let us know so we can add you and help keep you informed. Please email us at westfieldnjseniors@gmail.com or call (908)301-1287 and get ready for a full slate of programs in 2021 beginning with a home safety seminar being held in conjunction with the Westfield Fire Department in February 2021.

Deirdre Gelinne and
Brad Chananie
Lifelong Westfield Co-Chairs

Human Relations Advisory Commission Sets 2021 Priorities

In February 2020, Mayor Shelley Brindle formally appointed 11 Westfield residents to the newly formed Human Relations Advisory Commission (HRAC). Despite the difficulties of launching this important initiative amidst a global pandemic, HRAC has worked virtually since June 2020 to advance its mission to "serve as a resource and community partner to uphold, dismantle and eradicate hate, prejudice, racism, and to foster an inclusive and supportive environment, raise awareness, and build a community that appreciates our commonalities and celebrates our diversity."

Westfield has long been defined by our schools, downtown, parks and, importantly, by its commitment to social and intellectual progress. Still, recent national events remind us that every place and every person has work to do and, sadly, Westfield is not immune to overt and covert acts of hate and bigotry. Over the past several months, a series of harmful incidents, including anti-Semitic vandalism in both Brightwood and Tamaques Parks and in our public schools, highlight the work that needs to be done in our own backyards.

HRAC is committed to standing against such acts of hate and bigotry as well as proactively listening to our community, understanding residents' concerns on tolerance within Westfield and creating programs and alliances with community groups that work toward the stated goal of inclusion. As we begin the new year, HRAC will be focusing on three main components via sub-committees:

- 1) information gathering and dissemination (research)
- 2) community education and engagement
- 3) community practices, policies and culture

Each sub-committee is tasked with

working together with our liaisons from the police and fire departments, Westfield Superintendent's Office, town clergy and other local organizations to solidify the overall mission of HRAC. Already in the works are a climate survey, youth book club, a community panel discussion, collaboration with other New Jersey HRAC committees and more.

This important work needs community support. With our mission and community efforts in mind, we want to know if you have been impacted by hate or bigotry within Westfield. Please note that HRAC is not an investigatory group. We fully support the work of the Westfield Police Department as it does criminal investigations, which is not the work of HRAC. HRAC is here as a safe space to hear your stories and experiences and to offer community support. Lastly, HRAC welcomes community members' input and participation. We want to hear your suggestions and ideas to eradicate hate and build community. To contact HRAC, please email us at HRAC@westfieldnj.gov.

HRAC is working to create a warm community and inclusive town environment for all, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or other marginalized social statuses, and we believe that it is our beautiful uniqueness and our shared humanity that not only makes this town so wonderful, but what, ultimately unites us.

Michele Coyne
Debbie Goddard
Varsha Iyer
Alexis Jemal
Rodney Ross
Rami Sarabi
Cheryl Swift
Jenny Tananbaum
Gary Timm
Sarah Wu
Sofia Zimmerman
Westfield

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	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	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]
LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.	LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark, Rahway and Linden.	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 asbrannick@njleg.org, aswmunoz@njleg.org asmkenney@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. Carucage – Act of plowing
2. Smaragdine – Pertaining to the emerald
3. Whirret – To slap; to annoy
4. Lilt – A gay, graceful song

ABATJOUR

1. One who steals herds of cattle, in distinction from one who steals a head or two
2. Skylight that admits or deflects light
3. A slaughterhouse for animals
4. A daydreamer

NORIA

1. A water wheel with buckets
2. The prickly pear
3. A large sea bird; the cormorant
4. A nurse

TALARIA

1. An earthworm
2. A spider that catches its prey by chasing them
3. Contagious disease of goats, characterized by failing appetite and a gradual wasting away
4. Winged sandals

LIMBAT

1. A cool northwest wind of Cyprus
2. An outer jacket made of tough, long-wearing fabric
3. A courlan, a bird found in the West Indies and Florida
4. A manrope beside a ladder

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

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**Candidate
Statements Welcome**
Candidates for elected office are invited to submit op-ed columns each week. Columns should be between 250 and 500 words, and be issue based with no personal attacks on opponents.

Letters to the Editor

Were the Freeholders Withholding?

Long before Sunday's colossal internet meltdown, Union County's slow rollout of public access to its vaccine allocation was already an epic failure compared to the efforts of Essex, Bergen and Middlesex counties. Will we ever find out why? Given how cronyism has been the shameful and sordid lifeblood of Union County governance for decades, my questions would be these, too — Amid the delay, were the Freeholders privately hooking up their 1A and Age 65+ friends with vaccine appointments? You know, the same friends, family, relatives, donors, contractors, employees and neighbors who were getting preferential treatment at the annual county music fests not too long ago? Was there an express appointment lane and doses reserved for the connected, when the internet was disconnecting the rest of us in a real life version of "The Hunger Games"? I don't know the answers. But here is the thing about a system built upon cronyism: No chance is missed to turn a crisis or opportunity into personal political capital, especially an allocated resource. How sad if that were to be the Union County truth in a pandemic too? Another irony: This year they changed their titles from "freeholders" to "commissioners." Nice try. Changing their dishonorable reputation for self-interest, and public mistrust, will not be as easy.

Sal Caruana
Westfield

The Student View

A collaboration with the
Westfield High School Journalism Program

The Negative Impact of Our “Throw-Away Society”

By MEGAN HINKEL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

If you walked into a grocery store right now, you would see a plethora of products, many containing single-use plastic and others wrapped in plastic packaging. During checkout, products are frequently placed in plastic bags. This is a problem because sustainability is very important — however, we continue to live in a throw-away society. By definition, this means we produce and over-consume products that are disposable. Items are used once and then thrown away. We have been living this way for decades, especially due to the rise in plastic use and consumerism that occurred in the 1950s. The mentality that products can only be used once is extremely damaging to our future.

Using single-use plastic bags, cups and bottles are examples of how we contribute to the disposable lifestyle daily. Not only do these items cost extra, they harm the environment.

This lifestyle is creating excess amounts of waste and harming the wildlife.

According to cleanwateraction.org, 30 percent of household trash in America is packaging waste due to the throw-away lifestyle. This waste can end up in oceans and contaminate waterways. In the ocean, between 60 to 80 percent of debris is made up of plastic. This is a big problem because plastic can be consumed, strangle and even kill species, and it also transports pollutants.

Although these single-use plastics are harming the oceans, they are also linked to climate change. According to yaleclimateconnections.com, 40 percent of all plastics are created for pack-

aging, which are used one time and then disposed of. These plastics can be incinerated, recycled or thrown in a landfill. The incineration of plastics has the largest environmental impact, creating 5.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2015. This is alarming considering the amount of single-use plastic our community uses daily.

Consumers need to be aware that their purchases have negative effects and that they can make choices to lessen the environmental impact. Ending the throw-away society entirely will be difficult, but there are many ways to limit the use of single-use plastic.

Instead of purchasing multiple plastic water bottles and cups, buy some reusable alternatives. In the long run, this will be more cost efficient and create less waste. It is equally important to bring a reusable bag to the store to limit the waste created by plastic bags. Also, some plastic can be recycled, so it is important to recycle when it is possible.

Additionally, action has been taken by Governor Phil Murphy to end our throw-away society with single-use plastic, specifically bags. He signed a new law that bans businesses from distributing plastic and paper bags along with polystyrene food containers. This will become effective in May 2022 according to nj.com. It is important that New Jersey is putting this into action because it will greatly limit the waste caused by plastic bags, thus helping the environment.

It might be hard to make some of these changes due to Covid-19 restrictions, but it is important to be aware of the impact each person has. Making

brown bits when the heat comes on.

In the winter, there are some options. Humidifiers and fish tanks both help, but both need regular cleaning. Grouping plants together also helps because plants create more humidity through transpiration (water making its way through the plant). If you have radiators, simple ceramic humidifiers are an option. Sitting the plants on trays of pebbles filled with water increases the humidity incrementally as does regular misting. Just make sure the plant itself doesn't sit in water, and be aware that misting harms fuzzy-leaved plants and aids certain plant pests.

Another option is to choose a variety that can thrive in lower humidity such as Calathea Rattlesnake, Stromanthe Triostar, or Ctenanthe Never Never Plant. But be aware that even these dry heat-hardier varieties often form brown tips. Lack of humidity is only one cause.

Another is a build-up of fluoride in the plant if it's watered with tap water over time. Using rainwater or distilled water can help.

Remember if you get discouraged: Sometimes resolving browning tips is difficult if not impossible without a greenhouse. It's natural for a tropical plant to do this in dry heat. Creating tropical conditions in our homes in winter is hard, and brown tips do not mean you're doing something wrong or that your plant is unhealthy.

Another cause for brown and curling leaves is, of course, a pest infestation, so keep an eye on your plants when the leaves take a turn for the worse.

Vaccines Are in Short Supply but Murphy Needs to Make Better Plans

TRENTON — Despite the state's short supply of Covid-19 vaccines, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz said that there is no reason unprecedented demand should result in a chaotic rollout.

"While there is no best way to roll out a vaccine in short supply, we are seeing it done the wrong way," said Assemblywoman Munoz (R-Union) who spent more than 35-years working as a registered nurse. "There are cancer patients and elderly residents who have been put on hold while healthier, and possibly more technology inclined residents, were able to secure appointments. It's gut-wrenching, sad and enraging."

On Monday, the state opened up a vaccine hotline for those who don't have access to a computer or are seeking more information on how to get an appointment for a vaccine. More than 17,000 calls came in to the hotline in the first hour it was open.

"People are desperate to get appointments for their loved ones who are our most vulnerable population. It seems as though people are able to leapfrog over residents who should be our priority," the assemblywoman said. "Let's make sure those who are getting the vaccine are the ones that need it most."

Assemblywoman Munoz suggested that people should be allowed to schedule appointments even if it's weeks away and based on conservative estimates of when doses become available. Right now, New Jersey gets 100,000 vaccine doses from the federal government each week and

officials expect that number to increase. It has received nearly 1 million doses in total and administered 605,397 doses to date.

"Just let people schedule appointments," said Assemblywoman Munoz. "People should not be calling a phone hotline or going online only to find out they have to wait. It is far easier to change a plan when you have one. If the plan doesn't work, that needs to change, not the goal."

Bramnick Demands Answers on Vaccine

TRENTON — For those New Jerseyans who have received the first Covid-19 vaccine dose, there's another wave of confusion about how to get the second dose within the recommended time frame.

Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick is calling for Legislative hearings to fix the problem.

"This is worse than poor planning, this is inexcusable," said Assemblyman Bramnick (R-Union). "No one should get their first dose without certainty that they will be able to receive their second. The Legislature should hold a hearing immediately to get to the bottom of this and fix the problem."

In a report published Monday by NJ Advance Media, Gloucester County said people who received their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine administered at the Rowan College of South Jersey mega site in Sewell are currently not able to book an appointment for a second dose

Letters to the Editor

Tiny Tim Fund Board Thanks Community for Fundraising Support

The members of the Tiny Tim Fund Board extend sincere thanks to all Scotch Plains and Fanwood neighbors as well as their family members and friends who assisted and supported the organization's contact-less fundraiser in December.

Many volunteers assisted board members in distributing more than 2,000 solicitation letters to residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Volunteers included members of the community who have participated in the fund's annual Carol Night fundraiser in the past as well as new volunteers who recognized the importance and difficulty of soliciting donations during a pandemic. The time devoted by groups from the SPFHs, the St. Bart's Youth Group and Girl Scout members is very much appreciated.

Gratitude and appreciation are also

extended to the generous donors who have made it possible for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue its mission of providing financial assistance to local families for children who need medical, dental or psychological services as well as medical supplies and equipment.

Traditionally the Tiny Tim Fund, which is a registered New Jersey nonprofit corporation 501(c)(3), actively seeks funds once during the year. Donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated at any time as well as requests for referrals and financial assistance.

The Tiny Tim Fund can be contacted at TinyTimSPF@gmail.com or by mail at The Tiny Tim Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

Bernadette Hoyer
Tiny Tim Fund Publicity

Scotch Plains Mayor Losardo Recaps First Month In Office

Thank you, Scotch Plains residents, for the opportunity to serve as your mayor!

Completing my first month in office, I am more determined than ever to meet the challenges we face and to make us a stronger and closer community.

For two months, we have had nearly 60 new coronavirus cases per week. Despite the initial rollout of the vaccines and reopening of township public schools, we still face several months of living under the shadow of this pandemic. I urge everyone to continue taking preventive measures to slow its spread as much as possible.

Despite this, we are actively moving Scotch Plains forward.

During my campaign I promised to prioritize our town's parks and recreational spaces. Last week the Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting the purchase of new safety surfacing and curbing for Kramer Manor Park.

Earlier this month, Councilwoman Zimmerman and I toured our local businesses to reassure everyone that we will continue to do everything in the town's power to support them during this critical time. More recently, we were pleased to welcome a new restaurant, Yummies, to Route 22 in town with a socially distanced

ribbon cutting. (The chicken wings are delicious, by the way.)

As our economy and society begin to heal from the events of 2020 and life returns to normal, Scotch Plains must remain a place where prosperity and progress have a seat at our table and a paramount voice in our discussions.

Finally, I want to mention how heartened I was to see the turnout we had for this year's Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Despite our often seemingly irreconcilable differences, we are all on the same American team. By helping the less fortunate among us, we can bridge gaps in understanding that often lead to discord and strife.

This is the same philosophy that motivates my repeated demand that our administration be the most inclusive and open-door in Township history, and to urge all residents who want to get involved in helping create a better Scotch Plains to reach out to us. Although the holiday honoring Dr. King comes but once a year, I believe we can best carry on his legacy and honor his spirit by giving back all year round.

I will do my part and hope you will too.

Joshua G. Losardo
Mayor of Scotch Plains

Anjali Mehrotra Launches Campaign for State Assembly

MOUNTAINSIDE -- Anjali Mehrotra, President of National Organization for Women of New Jersey, and Municipal Chair of Mountainside Democratic Committee is seeking the Democratic nomination for State Assembly from Legislative District 21. The district consists of sixteen municipalities from Union, Somerset, and Morris counties.

Why I am running for State Assembly:

The American Dream—words that embody my own life experience. Born and raised in India, I moved to New Jersey in search of higher education and stayed for the opportunities. Sure, my husband and I both faced challenges as immigrants and persons of color, but through optimism and persistence, we were able to carve a piece of that dream for ourselves and our daughters. In my work as an advocate and activist however, I have seen how those same opportunities continue to elude the more marginalized groups in our economy—women, especially those of color, Black and brown communities, people with disabilities and our LGBTQIA population.

In New Jersey, we must prioritize the needs of our citizens. As we recover from Covid-19, we need relief for our small businesses and jobs to grow our economy. We need to build infrastructure that is reliable—our commuters deserve a better tunnel and transit system. We need to get guns and fear out of our schools and provide an education that will enable our next generation to meet the needs of the digital economy. And above all, we need tax fairness to ensure affordability; the status quo simply cannot continue. To accomplish this, we need to balance social change with fiscal responsibility: common sense to do the right thing, but pay our bills on time, and save for a rainy day. Perhaps it is the immigrant in me, but to me it is no different from how I run my own household.

At the same time, we can do better by those that have been left behind. I came across this recently from Indian author Arundhati Roy who wrote in April, 2020,

"Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.

We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data

Verizon Has No Compelling Reason for Cranford Tower

Living some distance from Verizon's UCCC proposed cell tower site I'm not likely to see the thing but for when I am driving along Springfield Avenue. That doesn't disqualify my disgust of the County College's and, in particular, Verizon's callous disregard of area residents. Mostly, though, I am angered by their arrogance and flat out dishonesty.

The simple truth is that there is no compelling reason to squeeze the proposed tower on property that dominates the adjacent neighbors' homes. Homes that typically represent the bulk of their owners' lifetime of in-

vestment and savings. Verizon's own witnesses testified to there being no emergencies, injuries, loss of life, or anything ever as a result of dropped cellular service. What they didn't say is that their company, putatively the most abhorred since their predecessor, is on record trumpeting to their investors how they're striving every day to expand their growing base of 5G capability in order to sell more services. They are despicable and we all know it.

George Steinbach
Cranford

It's a Wonderful Life in Westfield... For Now

If you watched TV over the holidays, you probably caught a few minutes of Frank Capra's Christmas classic *It's a Wonderful Life* — the tale of George Bailey who, when at his absolute rock bottom, wishes that he'd never been born. When his guardian angel shows him what his hometown, Bedford Falls, would look like without him what he is shown is "Pottersville" — a dark haven of shoddy houses, gin joints, dance halls, pawn shops and billiard parlors. With the action taken by the town council last month, Westfield is flirting with creating its own version of Pottersville.

In classic, Old-Man-Potter, smoke-filled backroom fashion, the Brindle Administration gave Streetworks, LLC a no-bid deal on December 8 to be the exclusive redeveloper for the Lord & Taylor properties, along with significant town property at the Central Avenue, North- and Southside train station lots. Coincidentally, Streetworks' parent company, HBC, spent nearly a million dollars last March (nine months earlier) to buy a town liquor license.

StreetWorks, an organization whose portfolio includes work in cities much larger than ours and with demographics much different than Westfield's, is bound to get the lion's share of profits while taxpayers will likely be left holding the bag on long-term debt, infrastructure upgrades, extra classroom space and additional town services.

If the concept that's been laid out comes to fruition, we are looking at massive new construction in the form of numerous apartments, thousands more square feet of retail and office space, parking garages and more. This plan, along with the South Avenue corridor and other projects already in the works, would likely result in thousands of additional residents — further overburdening our first responders, schools, parks and playing fields, along with hundreds more cars for residents and non-residents alike.

What's driving this effort to push forward with massive redevelopment in the middle of a pandemic? What should taxpayers expect? A new firehouse? Some sort of community center or open plaza? Is the town giving out more PILOTS with undetermined school funding? Is any part of all this new construction going to be age-restricted? How does creating more retail space help our existing businesses? The details seem just as sketchy as this arrangement.

To justify this undertaking the town is citing statistics (from their much-touted Master Plan Reexamination Survey) that 70 percent of you moved to Westfield for its downtown. You're not being told that only 783 people responded to the survey — only 2.5 percent of the town's entire population. But, if you want to throw around stats, try these: More of you (82 percent) moved here for the quality of the school system and the majority of respondents (40 percent) thought that the town should discourage promoting new residential development within and near the downtown.

While the mayor takes a victory lap for 2020, you're not hearing about presiding over the largest municipal tax increase in five years, an apparent reduction in town services, closing businesses, park vandalism, increasing car thefts and home invasions. Not true? Look at your higher tax bill, uncollected Isaias storm debris, empty storefronts, local crime blotter and the increase in requests for gun permits. Instead of addressing current challenges, it's full steam ahead on major redevelopment. This administration has taken full advantage of this crisis by avoiding looking residents in the eye while explaining their plans. Instead, it hides behind Zoom meetings, mid-day webinars, snap ordinances and resolutions, Op-Ed pieces and assurances that no one's committing to anything. If you believe that last part, I'll buy you a drink at Mr. Martini's!

We can all agree that some targeted development is important for the future of our downtown — but this process needs a healthy dose of sunlight. No-bid deals with a single redeveloper should not be the standard for such an impactful project. The time to get engaged and ask questions is now. Otherwise, it's so long Bedford Falls and hello to a new place you won't even recognize. We can call it Brindlesville.

Shawn Mullen
Westfield

State to Receive \$216 Million for Vaccination Costs

LONG BRANCH — Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) announced today that New Jersey will receive \$216 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for costs associated with storage, transport, distribution, and administration of Covid-19 vaccines. The funding will be distributed to the New Jersey State Police who are working with the New Jersey Department of Health to distribute and administer Covid-19 vaccines.

"New Jersey must have support from the federal government to implement an equitable and efficient Covid-19 vaccine plan. This funding will help our state continue to develop and maintain the infrastructure we need to get vaccines to New Jerseyans," Rep. Pallone said. "I remain committed to ensuring that our state has the resources it needs to equitably distribute, administer, and promote vaccines. As vaccines become more widely available, I'll continue to work with the Biden Administration so that everyone can get vaccinated."

New Jersey is currently managing six vaccination mega-sites across the state in addition to dozens of other sites at hospitals, pharmacies, and community-based vaccination sites. The funding comes from FEMA's Public Assistance Program, which reimburses communities for costs associated with disaster response.

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Mary Jane Mullaney, Loving Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Sister

Mary Jane Mullaney of Westfield was called home to God on Thursday, January 21, 2021, after a twenty-year struggle with Alzheimer’s. While her passing is sad to her many family members, they take joy in knowing that she is once again with those she loved who preceded her in death. They include her husband, Tom; daughter, Tara; granddaughter, Kayla Rippe; her parents, Michael and Alice Trainer; her brother, Robert Trainer, and her brother-in-law, Jack Gilfillan.

Mary Jane was born December 4, 1930 and was raised in Woodbridge, N.J. She graduated from Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, N.J. and St. Elizabeth College in Morristown, N.J. After receiving her master’s degree in education, Mary Jane taught elementary school for several years prior to having children.

Just a few weeks after giving birth to her sixth child, Mary Jane and Tom moved to Westfield and quickly settled in. She was a member of the Westfield Service League and took genuine pleasure in her involvement with the organization. Mary Jane and Tom were members of Echo Lake Country Club, where Mary Jane enjoyed playing platform tennis in the winter and spending summers at the pool with her children. She was a loving and involved mother to her children as a homeroom mother for many, many years, field trip chaperone, Girl Scout leader and CCD teacher at Holy Trinity Church, and she was the mother who never said no to the very large slumber parties her five daughters continually threw. Mary Jane was also an enthusiastic supporter of her children’s many and varied athletic teams – swimming, diving, softball, tennis, field hockey, soccer, cheerleading, football and lacrosse. She excelled at slicing oranges for her children’s teams and driving from one event to another with children in tow so she could be at a child’s game. Somehow, she always made time to do a special activity with each child and focused on that child’s interests. The one-on-one time with their mother was a time her children all fondly recall.



Mary Jane Mullaney

Mary Jane was a woman of deep faith and strove to live a life of compassion and caring for others. Holy Trinity Church was her spiritual home, and she was a devoted member. Sunday Mass was never to be skipped and she was insistent that her children dress appropriately for church. She and Tom were always appreciative of the guidance, solace and comfort of the clergy of Holy Trinity provided.

Mary Jane had many loving friends whom she enjoyed entertaining in her home, throwing wonderful dinner parties. She and Tom particularly loved traveling with friends to various destinations around the globe. Mary Jane and Tom spent a part of each winter at their beloved home at Round Hill, Montego Bay, Jamaica, with a revolving door of friends and family visiting.

The Mullaney family will be eternally grateful to their mother’s caretaker of 15 years, Guerline Jean-Pierre, who showered Mary Jane with love and affection. She allowed Mary Jane to travel through these years of Alzheimer’s with dignity and grace. Guerline tenderly took care of her, always making sure her hair was done, her clothes just so, her earrings clipped in, and her lipstick applied.

Mary Jane is survived by her children, Maura Mullaney, Robert Mullaney (Pam Gannon), Sheila Rippe (Paul Rippe), Tricia Mullaney (Paul Hagar) and Alicia Mullaney (Dave Hock), and by her grandchildren, Ashley, Kyle and Chris Boylan; Tierney, Michael and Francesco Bonini; Rob, Tom and Will Mullaney; Mary Walker Rippe; Ronan and Maddie Hagar; and great-grandchildren, Lucio Bonini and Tristan Davie. She is also survived by her sister, Betty Ann Gilfillan of Morristown, and Betty Ann’s five sons.

A graveside service will take place today, Thursday, January 28, at 1 p.m., at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. A memorial service will be held in the future when Covid-19 is no longer a concern.

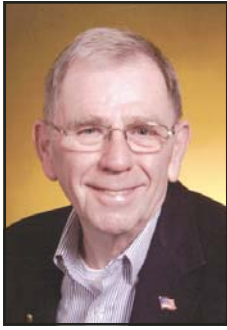
Arrangements are by Gray Funeral Home of Westfield. Please go to www.grayfuneralhomes.com to offer condolences.

January 28, 2021

Obituaries

Martin J. Green, Jr., 81, Was With Westfield Fire Department

On Tuesday, January 19, 2021, Martin John Green, Jr., 81, of Street, Md., passed away. He was the beloved husband of Patricia Green (née Bourke); devoted father of Mary Green Kolbe and her husband, William T. Kolbe, Martin J. Green, III and Elizabeth Green Campbell and her husband, Al Campbell; cherished grandfather of Amanda Green Sibley and her husband, Damian; great-grandfather of Autumn Feeney and Lexi Sibley; dear brother of the late Robert Green and his wife, Joan Green, Richard Green and his wife, LuAnn, and Cathy Green; and brother-in-law of Kathy Beyer and her husband, Jeff, and Kenny Bourke and his wife, Nancy.



Martin J. Green, Jr.

Family and friends honored and celebrated Marty’s life at the Evans Life Celebration Home-Bel Air, 3 Newport Drive (Route 23 and Route 24), Forest Hill, Md., on Monday, January 25, 2021, from 1 to 4 p.m., with a Prayer Service that began at 4 p.m. Interment was held privately. If desired, contributions may be made to Rally Against Parkinson’s, www.rallyagainstparkinsons.org/; ARRL Foundation in the name of remembrance of Marty Green K2PLF, www.arl.org/THE-ARRL-FOUNDATION/, or Gilchrist Hospice Harford County, www.gilchristcares.org. Memory tributes may be sent to the family at www.evansfuneralchapel.com.

January 28, 2021

Joan Villane, Loving Wife and Mother; Enjoyed Cooking, Travel, Figure Skating

Joan Villane of Westfield, N.J., passed peacefully on Saturday, January 23, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.

Born October 21, 1928 in Bridgeport, Conn., to Joseph and Emma (Eydum) Serino, Joan moved with her family to New Jersey when she was a young child.

Joan attended the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf in West Trenton, N.J., where she made many lifelong friends. While at school, Joan learned to sew and became interested in fashion. It was there where she would meet her future husband and love of her life, Carl.

After graduation, Joan worked as a seamstress at Hahne & Co in Newark and, later, on Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Joan and Carl were married on April 26, 1952 and settled in Carl’s hometown of Westfield, where he built what would become their home of 67 years and where they raised their two children, Linda and Timothy. In a bygone era, Joan relished her role as wife, mother and homemaker. Joan continued sewing beautiful clothes for herself and her daughter for many years.

Joan was always honing her culinary skills, both Italian and German, to the delight of her family. Her mastery of an Eydam family recipe resulted in her signature dish of sauerbraten and dumplings, unrivalled by any German restaurant.

Joan had a deep passion for figure skating. She shared this love of skating with her daughter, taking lessons and spending hours together watch-

ing figure skating on TV.

Joan enjoyed family vacations at the Jersey shore, trips to Bermuda, Germany, Austria, and Rhine River cruises, where she visited her German roots.

In her senior years, Joan was challenged with significant health issues. Her inner strength was never deterred as she courageously battled each time. Against all odds, she fought valiantly, serving as an inspiration to her brain tumor support group and to all of those who knew her. She worked tirelessly to regain her amazing youthful vibrancy and took great joy in resuming her involvement with many organizations, including the Westfield Lions Club, UNICO, and the Deutscher Club of Clark.

Joan will be remembered for her smile and kindness. Joan loved nature and saw grace and beauty all around her. She especially enjoyed time she spent with family and with her many friends, both within the hearing and the deaf community.

Joan will be deeply missed by Carl, her devoted husband of 68 years, and her loving children, daughter Linda Dowd (Joe) and son Timothy.

Donations in her memory may be made to an organization of your choice. Services were handled by Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood, N.J. A graveside service was held at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. For the complete obituary or to express condolence messages, please visit www.fanwoodmemorial.com. A celebration of Joan’s life will be announced at a later date.

January 28, 2021



Joan Villane

Laura K. Bass, 52, of Mountainside; Loving Mother, Niece and Cousin

Laura Karene Bass, 52, of Mountainside, N.J., passed away on Friday, January 22, 2021. A funeral service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at Hollywood Memorial Park in Union, N.J. A private visitation for family members and close friends will precede the service from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Gray Funeral Directors, 318 East Broad Street, Westfield, N.J.

Laura was the daughter of the late Manfred and Marion Bass. Laura is preceded in death by her brother, Glenn; her uncles, Gerhard Bass and Joseph Mish, and her aunts, Edel Freitag and Marian Bass. She is survived by her son, Richard Glenn Heins; her three uncles, Wm. Peter Freitag, Walter Bass and William Soos; her four aunts, Bette Bass, Inge Mills, Marianne Mish and Elizabeth Soos, and 17 first cousins.

Laura graduated with an undergraduate degree in English from Seton Hall University, was a na-



Laura K. Bass

tional champion body builder, and always had a love for animals and nature. She spent several summers vacationing with her family and friends at her parents’ cabins on Lake Wallenpaupack in Pennsylvania. In addition to her home in Mountainside, N.J., she also lived for several years in both the Florida Keys and Hellertown, Pa. No matter where she lived, her time was spent focused on fitness and the care of animals. She was extremely proud of her father, Manfred Bass, who was the chief designer of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade for over forty years, but her greatest joy was her son, Richard.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ASPCA online at www.aspc.org or via mail to P.O. Box 96929, Washington, DC 20090-6929.

Please go to www.grayfuneralhomes.com to offer condolences.

January 28, 2021

Robert Hill Britton 1922-2020

Robert Hill Britton died on Saturday, December 19, 2020, at his home in Florida. He recently celebrated his 98th birthday.

Born and raised in Plainfield, N.J., Robert was the son of the late Lester Hill and Helen McEwen Britton. After his mother’s passing, Robert was raised by his father and stepmother, Ruth Swaffield Britton. Robert graduated from Plainfield High School in 1940. He was an honor student every semester at Lafayette College, inducted into the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, graduating with a degree in Economics, class of 1944.

Robert was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant, in “the Golden Lions” of the 106th Infantry Division, the 424th Regiment. During the Battle of the Bulge, he was wounded, hospitalized in Paris and recovered in England, and returned to his regiment. He received commendations for his acts of bravery; the Bronze Star twice, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Purple Heart. On V-J Day, Robert was on a troop ship, returning to the States for assignment in the South Pacific. He was instead assigned to Fort McClellan in Alabama and released from service in 1946. He returned home and, in 1947, married Helen (“Chris”) Christensen, the best friend of his sister Barbara. They lived in Plainfield, until Robert was called back into service in 1950 during the Korean War. He and Helen were stationed at numerous Army bases stateside: Fort Dix in New Jersey, Fort Hood in Texas, and Fort Reilly in Kansas.

Upon his discharge from the Army in 1952, Robert and Helen settled in Mountainside, N.J., where they lived for over 30 years. He then divided his time between Westfield, N.J., Florida, and his beloved Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire.

Robert’s entire professional career was as a dealer in U.S. Government Securities at Briggs, Schaeffle & Co., Inc. At his retirement, he was Vice Chairman. In addition, he served on the Federal Advisory Council to the Board of Governors

of the Federal Reserve, and served on the Board of Directors of the Dime Savings Bank.

Robert was committed to a life of service. He was an Eagle Scout, a founding member and Elder at The Community Presbyterian Church in Mountainside, President of the Board of Education in Mountainside, President of Echo Lake Country Club, and a Trustee Emeritus at Lafayette College.

Robert loved sports, was an excellent golfer and tennis player, and an enthusiastic spectator. He loved all music, played the clarinet, and his mellow baritone could be heard if you were seated near him in church. Once retired, he and Helen enjoyed travel, which took them to many countries and continents.

Robert was of the highest character and integrity, always a gentleman, and a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother.

He is survived by his loving wife of 73 years, Helen Christensen Britton; his son, Bruce Christensen Britton (wife Andrea); daughter, Pamela Britton Kolb (husband David); grandchildren, Kirsten Kolb, Adla Britton and Owen Britton; sister, Louise Basbas, and nieces and nephews and their children. He was predeceased by his sister, Barbara Britton Hanson, and a grandson, Erik Britton Kolb.

A family service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Erik Britton Kolb ’02 Memorial Scholarship, Lafayette College, 307 Markle Hall, Easton, Pennsylvania 18042-1770.

January 28, 2021

Remember a loved one

goleader.com/obits

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD
Date Adopted: 01/21/2021
Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of County Commissioners has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an Professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) (i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.
RESOLUTION NO: 2021-084
AWARDED TO: Netta Architects of Mountainside, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: to provide On-Call Architectural Services
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$7,500.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-080
AWARDED TO: Maser Consulting, Red Bank, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: to provide On-Call General Engineering Services
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$7,500.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-097
AWARDED TO: Election Systems & Software LLC (ES&S) Omaha Nebraska
SERVICES TO: for the purpose of purchasing consumables for the Union County Vote Tabulation System
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$100,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$22.44

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-077
AWARDED TO: Neglia Engineering Associates, of Mountainside, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: to provide design, construction administration and inspection services
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$312,892.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-081
AWARDED TO: CME Associates of Parlin, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: to provide On-Call Environmental Engineering Services
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$25,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-082
AWARDED TO: French & Parelo Associates, P.A. of Wall, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: to provide On-Call Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineering Services
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$2,500.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-103
AWARDED TO: A. Rifkin, Co., Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
SERVICES TO: for the purpose of providing secret election bags
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$100,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-098
AWARDED TO: Election Systems & Software LLC (ES&S) Omaha, Nebraska
SERVICES TO: for the purposes of providing onsite election resources
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$60,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-113
amending (Resolution No. 2020-209)
AWARDED TO: Rainone Coughlin Minchello, Iselin, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: in the matter entitled Reginald Curry v. Union County, et al.
COSTS: in the amount not to exceed **\$10,000.00** for a total contract not to exceed **\$45,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-083
AWARDED TO: NV5 Inc., of Parsippany, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: to provide On-Call Traffic Engineering Services
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$10,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-112
amending (Resolution No. 2020-210)
AWARDED TO: LaCorte Bundy Varady & Kinsella, Union, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: in the matter entitled Reginald Curry v. Union County, et al.
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$10,000.00** for a total contract not to exceed **\$35,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-114
amending (Resolution No. 2020-321)
AWARDED TO: Javerbaum Wurgart Hicks Wikstrom & Sinins, P.C.
SERVICES TO: in the matter entitled Reginald Curry v. Union County, et al.
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$15,000.00** for a total contract not to exceed **\$35,000.00**
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1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-078
AWARDED TO: M. Disko Associates of Kenilworth, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: to provide On-Call Hydraulic Engineering Services
PERIOD: January 1, 2021-december 31, 2021
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$5,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2021-071
amending (Resolution No. 2019-1051)
AWARDED TO: Leherer-Gibilisco Funeral Home, Inc., Rahway, New Jersey
SERVICES TO: to provide funeralhome livery services for the Union County Examiner’s Office
PERIOD: January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020
COSTS: in an amount not to exceed **\$150,000.00**
James E. Pellettiere, RMC, QPA, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

Obituaries Continued

Patricia Dillon, 90, Taught at SPFHS; Was Active With IHM, Service League

Patricia M. Dillon, age 90, passed away on Sunday, December 20, 2020, at her home at The Chelsea in Fanwood. Born in New Britain, Connecticut, she lived in Scotch Plains since 1960. Mrs. Dillon and her family also summered in Martha's Vineyard for many years.

Mrs. Dillon graduated, with honors, from St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, Connecticut, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She was employed as an administrative assistant with BOC Gasses in Murray Hill for 15 years before retiring in 1995. Earlier, she was a teacher at St. Patrick's School in Elizabeth as well as at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, where she taught English and History. Mrs. Dillon began her career following college at the United States Embassy in Honduras, where she met her husband of 63 years, Michael Dillon. Mr. and Mrs. Dillon married in 1957 and lived in Honduras, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Recife, Brazil, before settling in Scotch Plains to raise their family.

Mrs. Dillon was a longtime member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains, where she served as a Eu-

charistic minister and Sunday School teacher. She was also a member of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League for 20 years and volunteered at the Scotch Plains Thrift Shop. Mrs. Dillon was a voracious reader, enjoyed traveling and exploring places new to her, was an avid bridge player and loved every moment with her grandchildren. Mrs. Dillon also loved spending time on her favorite beaches on Martha's Vineyard with her family and friends. She was always intellectually curious and enjoyed lively debates on a wide variety of topics.

Mrs. Dillon is survived by her husband, Michael; three sons, Stephen (Erin), Christopher (Molly) and Michael; her daughter, Kathleen Daly (Tim); her twin sister, Marilyn Shaw; eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Private services were in the care of Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. A public Memorial service will be planned for the future. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at <https://www.lls.org>.

For additional information or to sign the guestbook, visit www.fanwoodmemorial.com.

January 28, 2021

Garwood Library Spotlights Activities For February

GARWOOD — The Garwood Public Library has announced its schedule of events for adults and youth during the month of February. On Monday, February 15, the library will be closed in honor of President's Day.

Virtual Red-Hot Robotics will be offered on consecutive Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 4, at 3 p.m. Kids will explore the basic and complex technology used to design and build robots. Each participant will pick up a robot kit before the start of the program. This program is open to children in grades 2 to 6. To register for the class, call the library at (908) 789-1670 or access the library's events calendar at yousemore.com/garwood. Once registered, participants will receive a Zoom link. The class is limited to 20.

Virtual Kid's Craft will take place on Tuesday, February 9, at 3 p.m. Participants may pick up craft supplies from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day and follow the Facebook tutorial at 3 p.m. Registration is required and is limited to 15 participants. Interested persons may sign up on the library website's events calendar or by calling the library.

"Managing Stress and Anxiety" is slated for Thursday, February 11, at 7 p.m. Diane Lang, a therapist, educator, author and positive-living expert, will discuss how to help create a balanced lifestyle by relieving stress and anxiety. Participants will learn the signs of "burnout," the impact of stress and anxiety on the body, and ways to simplify their life so that they can feel more empowered, motivated and healthier. Individuals may register on the library website events page or by calling the library. Once registered, they will receive a Zoom link prior to the start of the program.

Kamora Johnson Arriving at NCC

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Northampton Community College (NCC) welcomes Kamora Johnson of Scotch Plains as one of its new or returning students arriving the week of January 25 for the start of the Spring 2021 semester.

Kamora is among more than 7,500 students studying over 100 majors and programs at NCC locations in Bethlehem Township, Monroe County, Southside Bethlehem and online.

JFSCNJ to Address Safety For Seniors

AREA — Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey (JFSCNJ) will present "Heads Up Seniors! A Pedestrian and Fall Prevention Program" on Tuesday, February 9, from 11 a.m. to noon, via Zoom. This free program will be led by Danielle Pagani, a Certified Health Education Specialist with the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey (BIANJ).

Ms. Pagani received her Master's in Public Health from Montclair State University, and in her current role at BIANJ she enjoys facilitating workshops to increase awareness about brain injury.

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 Walgreens.

To register for this program and receive a Zoom invitation, contact info@jfscentralnj.org or call (908) 352-8375. Participants will be sent their Zoom invitation the morning of the event.



Danielle Pagani



Photo courtesy of Westfield Public Schools
SPECIAL HONOR...Westfield High School seniors Emma Suggs, center, and Katherine Wistner receive certificates as National Honor Society 2020 Inductees from advisor Scott Rutherford in December 2020.

WHS Lists 2020 Inductees Into National Honor Society

WESTFIELD — With in-person ceremonies sidelined due to Covid-19, 163 Westfield High School 12th graders who were inducted last spring as juniors into the National Honor Society (NHS) received their NHS certificates, pins, charms and gold tassels from NHS advisor Scott Rutherford last month. Covid prevented in-person ceremonies last April and October and a snowstorm prevented a planned drive-through, pick-up ceremony last month. The honorees are as follows:

Ahmed, Zahra; Albano, Isabella; Alliegro, Kaitlyn; Anderson, Julia; Attia, Dina; Azzaretto, Kyle; Bahadur, Ashleigh; Becker, Sean; Benaoojan, Keren; Jian; Bergerman, Emily; Berman, Aidan; Bertsch, Aidan; Bielen, Caroline; Bielen, Elizabeth; Birle, James; Borak, Ryan; Boufarah, Isabel; Braterman, Emily; Brogan, Joseph; Campbell, Claire; Cano, Isabella; Castellanos, Amya; Ceraso, Lily; Cerrachio, Amanda; Cerro, Erica; Cha, Alexander; Chen, Thomas; Cioffi, Anna; Cohen, Andrew; Cohen, Eli; Collins, Caroline; Collins, Maevae; Cunningham, Andrew; D'Agosta, Griffin; Davis, Gianna; Dayon, Rebekkah; Delforte, Jacob; Dente, Gianna; Doyle, Paige; Duncan, Emily; Dursee, Charlotte; Eagan, Kelly; Ebel, Olivia; Endy, Grace; Ferguson-Hewson, Rileigh; Filippov, Nikita; Fiorentino, William; Fischer, William; Fishman, Kate; Fleming, Mia; Gallo, Giovanni; Garguilo, Shannon; Gesser, Andreas; Giardina, Morgan; Gildea, Kyleigh; Glenn, Sean; Glenn, William; Gonzalez, Jacqueline; Guggino, Isabella; Hamilton, Katherine; Hanley, Emma; Harding, Spencer; Harris, Cooper; Hazard, Sean; Healy, Elizabeth; Heber, Audrey; Heflin, William; Hinkel, Allison; Hinkel,

Megan; Hoffmann, Samantha; Holtzman, Jacob; Horvath, Rebecca; Horvath, Samantha;

Isser, Jessica; Jackler, Garrett; Jean, Keri; Jepsen, Emma; Johnson-Milstein, Julia; Keenan, Jonathan; Kehler, Laurajane; Kiely, Jack; Klag, Emily; Kobori, Xenia; Kylish, Erin; Lanza, Grace; Learner, Madeleine; Lehavi, Jack; Levy, Andrew; Lezynski, Patrick; Luo, Grace;

Mackey, Julia; Marner, Sean; Mautone, Emily; McGann, Julia; McGlynn, William; McGuire, Elizabeth; McGurn, Finn; McHugh, Kathryn; McIntyre, Robert; McMahon, Lila; Meacock, Henry; Mehta, Mira; Meixner, Matthew; Metz, Noah; Mizerek, Lorenzo; Moran, Matthew; Mordkovich, Eric; Nazzaro, Sophia; Ng, Brandon; Omberg, Jillian; Ortiz, Jordan; Palia, Eric; Panikiewsky, Angela; Patel, Reva; Petrie, Erin; Pietrewicz, Emma; Popa, Bianca; Qiang, Anna;

Rappoport, Sarah; Reynders, Patrick; Richter, Ryan; Riley, Aimee; Romero, Alina; Rossetti, Sophia; Saltzstein, Julia; Salz, Samantha; Santamaria, Dilany; Savin, Alexandra; Saxon, Joshua; Schafer, Caroline; Schuttevaer, Juliana; Scialabba, Maxwell; Shanebrook-Wein, Chloe; Shen, Justin; Shimmers, Matthew; Silva, Madeline; Simpson, Rachel; Snyder, Kyle; Stewart, Henry; Stirrup, Daniel; Stogner, Hailey; Stryker, Braden; Sugrue, Emma; Sullivan, Jane; Sur, Louise-Marie; Surks, Samantha; Tan, Naia; Tananbaum, Sophie; Terry, Eva; Tichenor, Anna; Vollaro, Natalia; Waddell, McKenzie; Wang, Aprina; Weinstein, Julia; Wendler, Amanda; Wendler, Jacob; Wistner, Katherine; Wolf, Ellery; Wolff, Isabella; Wu, Carlton; Yu, Justin; Zakharenko, Benjamin; Zhao, Kailey.



Photo courtesy of Franklin Elementary School
MLK TRIBUTE...Among the virtual activities during a fourth-grade celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15 was a picture of words that one class selected after reading the book "Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." by Doreen Rappaport.

Franklin Students Conduct Virtual MLK Celebration

WESTFIELD — Fourth-grade teachers and students at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield on January 15 continued their tradition of celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each fourth-grade teacher provided a Google Meet link as students "traveled" between the six fourth-grade classrooms to learn about Dr. King and to complete related activities.

The stations included activities such

Sarah Gorman Makes President's List At Shenandoah U.

WINCHESTER, Va. — Sarah Gorman of Fanwood is one of approximately 470 Shenandoah University students to make the President's List for Fall 2020. Students who achieved this prestigious academic recognition attained a grade point average of at least 3.90.

Established in 1875, Shenandoah University is a private university headquartered in Winchester, Va., with additional educational sites in Clarke, Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Nearly 4,000 students are enrolled in more than 200 areas of study in seven different schools. For more information, visit su.edu.

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Professor Rossi to Discuss Easter Island at Luncheon

WESTFIELD — As part of the Westfield Historical Society's First Wednesday Luncheon series, Professor John Rossi will discuss "Chile's Easter Island – The Land that Time Forgot" on February 3 at noon. Professor Rossi will share his extensive first-hand knowledge of this famed Pacific Island.

This will be a live and interactive virtual event. Guests will enjoy their own lunch, in place, while watching and listening to Professor Rossi's presentation. There will be a question-and-answer segment and opportunities to share with others.

Instructions and the link to the event will be sent to all paid registered guests. For anyone who may not be familiar with Zoom meetings, the Westfield Historical Society can set up a tutorial session on how to participate in a Zoom presentation with the Society. Those interested in this tutorial are asked to call or email the Society.

Easter Island is a Chilean island in the southeastern Pacific Ocean and is most famous for its nearly 1,000 surviving monumental statues. The transportation of the island's statues (moai) is considered remarkable because they were moved 11 miles across the island without the use of wheels, cranes or large animals.

For over 25 years at New York University, Professor Rossi has educated and inspired numerous students on subjects such as South American studies, the Alaskan frontier, and economics and finance. During his tenure at New York University, he has given many lectures and traveled ex-

Area Students Make CCU Dean's List

CONWAY, S.C. — A total of 2,329 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University (CCU) were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. That is nearly a quarter of the student body with a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.99 for the Fall semester. An additional 930 students were named to the President's List for achieving a 4.0 GPA during the Fall semester.

Among the students earning recognition on the Dean's List are:

Jessica Aponte, an undeclared-undeclared major from Mountinside.

Lexa Samer, a communication major from Westfield.

Austin Williams, a management pre-major from Cranford.

CCU is a public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, S.C. It offers baccalaureate degrees in 94 major fields of study. Among the university's graduate-level programs are 27 master's degrees, two educational specialist degrees, and the doctorates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. For more information, visit coastal.edu.

Westfield Business Will Save Lives In Hospitals and Homes

WESTFIELD — Most of us don't give a second thought to the bathroom or kitchen sinks that we use multiple times a day even in this Covid-19 era. But it turns out that sinks are dangerous pathogen incubators, especially in hospitals, where Hospital Acquired Infections, or HAIs, are rampant. It is estimated that HAIs kill about 100,000 patients a year and infect 1.7 million more, despite the best efforts to eradicate them.

HYGENZ LLC, a new Westfield company, is focused on developing a patent-pending device called HYSink™ to reduce HAIs by eliminating pathogens in sinks, utilizing a variety of technologies. Daniel Guttman, a Westfield resident, is the president of HYGENZ™. Michael Bloomberg is the CEO and chief technology officer and Brian K. Johnson is the patent attorney and engineer. Mr. Johnson is also a New Jersey resident, the third founder of the company, and responsible for intellectual property.

Doctors and healthcare institutions recognize the serious ongoing problem of HAIs. As such, two of HYGENZ's earliest investors are physicians; gastroenterologist Dr. Matthew Guy, MD, and internist Dr. Craig Feinberg, MD, of Summit Medical Center. They have seen the HAI problem up close and recognize it needs to be

tensively.

Some of his adventures include travel to Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, Panama and Alaska. He has published several articles for McGraw Hill and has been a guest speaker on the popular cable program "BIZTECH," where he discussed finance and responded to calls from the viewing audience.

On multiple occasions, the cruise industry has invited Professor Rossi to present enrichment talks on subjects including Alaska: The Final Frontier, the Mayan Civilization and the Panama Canal. He also volunteers his time teaching senior citizens basic computer skills at SeniorNet.

Those wishing to join the virtual luncheon may make a reservation by email to westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or by calling (908) 654-1794 before Monday, February 1. The presentation fee is \$10 for Westfield Historical Society members and \$15 for non-members. The fee should be paid in advance, with checks payable to the Westfield Historical Society, and mailed to: Westfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 613, Westfield, N.J. 07091; by Venmo to @Westfield-HistoricalSociety; or online at westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/registration. Payments should be received by February 1 to assure participants receive the emailed link to the event.

Daria Speranza Makes Alvernia Dean's List

READING, Pa. — Daria Speranza of Scotch Plains has been named to Alvernia University's Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. In the Fall, Ms. Speranza studied occupational therapy at Alvernia. Ms. Speranza was one of over 725 Alvernia students to earn the honor.

"Despite another challenging semester brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, Daria and the rest of our students once again showed their ability to adapt and persevere," said Alvernia University President John R. Loyack. "We look forward to welcoming back our students for another successful semester on our campuses."

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must carry a semester GPA of 3.5 or better and take a minimum of 12 credits.

Guarnuccio Attains Dean's List Status At U. of Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME, Ind. — Matthew A. Guarnuccio of Westfield has been named to the Dean's List in the University of Notre Dame's First Year of Studies for outstanding scholarship during the Fall 2020 semester. Students who achieve Dean's honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

addressed with fresh approaches.

You don't need to be a pathologist or an infectious disease specialist to intuitively realize that sinks can harbor pathogens. Because of standard plumbing codes, all sinks have a "J-Trap," which is a perfect incubator for microbes. Pipe-trap bottoms are wet, warm and dark with plenty of nutrients to encourage microbe growth. A microbial film forms on the inside of the pipe, which is not washed away by running water. On the contrary, it has been demonstrated scientifically that this film rises up the pipe about one to two inches a day. Eventually the pathogens are reintroduced back into the room to potentially wreak havoc.

The patent-pending HYSink™ device will address this pathogen problem by disinfecting sink traps automatically at night, when the sink is not normally utilized. With this daily application, sinks will be safe and clean with the added benefit that unwanted odors will be eliminated as well.

For more information and ways to participate or invest, contact Daniel Guttman at (908) 232-3300 and dan@HYGENZ.com or go directly to HYGENZ.com.

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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 9-11

STARTING SR. - McCAFFERY, KRUK; JR WHEATLEY TO START

Lady Cougar Cagers Have Great Combination of Veterans & Youth

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

One starting senior opened the door for a host of underclassmen to gain varsity experience for last year's Cranford High School girls basketball team that mixed a few short winning streaks with slightly longer losing streaks to finish with a 10-15 record. However since the Lady Cougars return all but one of their starters plus a number of bench girls, who acquired significant playing time, that could translate into a successful season.

"We have a great combination of veterans and young blood. A captain has not been named, but that has not had an effect on the leadership that

I've seen across the board, from freshman to seniors," Cougar first year Head Coach Allison Skrec, a former Roselle Catholic High School standout, said.

With the leadership of senior starters Liz McCaffery and Natalia Kruk, along with seniors Kirsten Williams, Amanda Vath, Olivia Merriman and Caroline Bush, the team seems to have been coordinating very well with the roster of 12 which includes three juniors, two sophomores and a freshman.

"We're about a week into the season, and I am really happy with the progress that our team is making. I'm so proud of the way the girls have bought into what our staff has been

asking of them - not only from an X's and O's standpoint but also, and just as important, the standards that we hold them to whenever they step on the court. It's easier to meet those standards when things are going well; it takes toughness to meet those standards when things are not. Our staff constantly preaches toughness," Coach Skrec emphasized.

Last year McCaffery, a guard, proved that she was deadly from the outside and led the Cougars in scoring with 245 points and 3-pointers with 35. She is also a stalwart on defense. Center/forward Kruk will be a dominant force under the boards

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



ON THE DEFENSIVE...Cougars Amanda Vath, No. 24, and Natalia Kruk, No. 22, guard against Blue Devil Charlotte Dursee in Cranford on February 6, 2020.

WALL, FRISCIA, DeFRANCESCO, MURPHY, BAYLOCK START

Raiders Will Return Experience; Expecting Success in Girls Hoops

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

Restructuring an entire lineup was the focus of last year's Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team. Even with a full slate of new starters, the Raiders, who had only two girls with any significant floor time from the previous year, finished with a 9-17 record but that baptism by fire should result in success this season.

Seniors Ryann Wall and Madison Starosa were the two who had that significant experience. Wall, the playmaker, did exercise her leadership last year and led the team in assists with 52 and was third on the team with 37 steals to go with 105 points and 43 rebounds. Starosa, unfortunately spent a major portion of the season on the injury list and played in only nine of the 26 games. In her

time on the floor, she scored 67 points, which included a team-leading 14 3-pointers.

"Ryann Wall is back and same with Maddie," Raider Head Coach Ryan McKenna commented. "Maddie ran into a lot of bad luck last year, but is at full strength. Maddie was out for a significant amount of time."

Junior Emily Friscia, who led the team with 198 points last year, will also be a starter and is expected to be a major contributor, especially with her offensive drive. Junior Ashley DeFrancesco, a solid defender on the championship soccer team, has been and will be very stubborn defensively on the basketball court. She led the Raiders in three major categories - steals with 63, rebounds with 110 and blocked shots with eight. DeFrancesco was also second on the team with 184 points.

Also expected to start is sophomore Alicia Murphy, who played in 17 of the games and finished with 136 points (3rd on team) and 68 rebounds.

"Ali Murphy was out with an ankle sprain for a month, but still put up great stats as a freshman," Coach McKenna pointed out.

A very pleasant addition will be freshman Amanda Baylock.

"We had a lot of inexperience that has turned into experience this year. Amanda [Baylock] will share point guard duties with Ryann, but both will be starting. Right now it looks like we will have Ryann, Baylock, Friscia, Murphy and DeFrancesco in the starting lineup with a deep bench," Coach McKenna revealed.

The deep bench consists of seniors Ciara Worthy, Emily Muench and Carly Walker, and juniors Julia DeVizio.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



TRYING TO GET TO THE BASKET...Raider Emily Friscia, No. 10, tries to get past Blue Devil Paige Gorczyca during the Senior Night game in Westfield on February 13, 2020.



NOT A "GHOST" OF A CHANCE...This Paterson East Side Ghost has a slim chance of getting past 6'7" Blue Devil Logan Howland, center, and 6'8" Jack Spellman, left, during a game in Westfield in February 2020.

SPELLMAN, HOWLAND, FRIEDBERG RETURNING VETS

Blue Devil Cager Boys to Lean On the Three Returning Starters

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

Athleticism and years of playing the sport with each other paid off big time for last year's Westfield High School boys basketball team. Not only did the Blue Devils win their conference but they surpassed 20 wins for the first time since 1974, finishing with a 21-7 record. The Blue Devils had a wealth of adaptable multi-sport athletes to thank for their success but this season, Blue Devil Head Coach Jim McKeon will rely on three very talented returning starters to show the way.

There is no denying that after graduating such multi-sport athletes as Griffin Rooney, Colin Freer, Andrew Echausse, Hank Shapiro and Declan McCauley, along with Jake Walsh

and Ray Hurtt will present quite a challenge.

Rooney's all-around athleticism earned him the distinction as the team leader with 469 points and 45 steals to go with 50 assists and 142 rebounds. Walsh, who had 292 points, led in 3-pointers with 64, while adding 53 assists. Echausse led the team with 87 assists. Freer came off the bench and scored 112 points but also was so important defensively as he was in football. Shapiro, McCauley, who had the ability to soften the interior, and Hurtt were also huge defensive assets.

"We lost a lot of guys and guys that we can and never will be able to replace, but like I said, we are a different team. Although we lost seven seniors, we are returning three start-

ers and we will lean on them for experience and leadership," Coach McKeon said.

The returning starters are senior 6'8" Jack Spellman and juniors Logan Howland (6'7") and 6'3" Ryan Friedberg. Last year Spellman led the team with 92 blocks, and added 185 rebounds, 181 points (22 3-pointers), 18 steals and 22 assists. Howland led the team in rebounds with 225, and added 205 points, 23 blocks, 14 assists and 14 steals. With his time on the court, Friedberg finished with 34 steals, 92 points, 44 rebounds, 44 assists and two blocks.

According to Coach McKeon, other immediate impact players will be 6'10" junior forward Sean Logan, 6'4" junior guard/forward Julian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



TRYING TO INTERCEPT THE PASS...Cougars Zion Hammond, No. 13, and Joe Carrea, No. 10, try to intercept the pass while Arjun Petgrave, No. 2, watches in a game against AL Johnson on February 19, 2020.

DeMARINO, CARREA, PETGRAVE, KWIATKOWSKI RETURN

Cougar Basketball Boys Expected To Have Talent & Deep Rotation

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

Only one senior, Cole Blazek, was on the starting five most of the time last year, so this season the Cranford High School boys basketball team not only return four talented starters but also have a talented and deep bench that may result in a very successful season within the division.

Because they were such a young team last year, the Cougars struggled early on to find the right chemistry but it all began to blend together in the second half of the season, resulting in a winning 13-12 record, which in-

cluded a six-game winning streak and eight wins of their final 11 games. The first meaningful win of the run was a second thrashing of the New Providence Pioneers.

As of January 19, Cougar Head Coach Sean Trotter said, "I do not know exactly who will be starting this year but (we) have a pretty deep rotation with all of those guys. We were 13-12 last year and I return all of the guys other than Ryan Jaros [Focusing on baseball] and Matt Bush."

Dennis DeMarino and Joe Carrea, both seniors, provided a lot of leadership last year and the same is ex-

pected from them this season. Last year DeMarino tied Zion Hammond, now a junior, for the lead in assists with 46 and finished with 208 points, including 263 pointers, 119 rebounds, 24 steals and a block. Carrea was second on the team in scoring with 237 points, 126 rebounds and 43 steals to go with 36 assists and four blocks.

The Cougars certainly got plenty of mileage from Arjun Petgrave, now a senior, who was a constant boss under the boards and led the team in scoring with 251 points, including 21 3-pointers, rebounds with 185 and steals with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
FIRST IN BACKSTROKE, FIRST IN 500-FREE...Blue Devil Lauren Lane won the 100-backstroke and the 500-freestyle, and was on the winning 200-medley relay team in the meet against the Summit Hilltoppers on January 14, 2020.



David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
STEPPING UP THE PACE...Senior Griffin Rooney, No. 5, and the Blue Devils really stepped up the pace in the final minute of the second quarter and throughout the second half to beat Union Catholic, 65-61, in overtime on January 16, 2020.



David B. Corbin (January 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
SURROUNDED BY COUGARS...Blue Devil freshman Grace Klag, No. 33, finds herself surrounded by three Chatham Cougars at Westfield High School on January 17, 2019. The Chatham girls defeated the Blue Devils, 47-32.

** 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* - complete accounts found at www.goleader.com - year - month - week.

January 14, 2020: Four events into the meet there was only a two-point spread at break time between two unbeaten girls swim teams at Wallace Pool. The hosting Lady Blue Devils led by a slim 32-30 margin at that time but began to separate themselves from the Summit Hilltoppers, especially after a convincing performance in the 500-freestyle, then added a 1-3 finish in the 400-freestyle relay to emerge with a 91-79 victory.

The 7-0 Lady Blue Devils won two of the three relay events and five of the eight individual events but their ability to add some key second, third and fourth-place finishes insured them of the triumph. Lauren Lane (500-

plenty of talent was in the Westfield lanes when the Blue Devil boys swim team racked up double digit team points in five events, which included two relays, to topple the Summit Hilltoppers, 105-65, at Wallace Pool. The 7-0 Blue Devils, who had numerous second and third places, also inflicted the previously once-defeated Hilltoppers with a 1-2-3 sweep in the 100-backstroke.

Roan Baker, Jeremy Kronheimer, Barney Veres and Seth Camacho made major contributions to the team total. Baker won the 200-Individual Medley and the 100-backstroke, and was on the winning 200-medley relay and the 400-free relay foursome that finished second. Kronheimer took top honors in the 50-free, swam on the winning 200-medley relay and 200-free relay, and placed third in the 100-breaststroke. Veres was on the win-

January 14, 2020: The Cranford girls basketball team defeated the Roselle Catholic Lady Lions, 59-53, in Roselle. Senior Gianna Toretta was a terror from the outside, sinking five 3-pointers and finishing with a game-high 25 points, while adding four assists, four rebounds and a steal. Olivia Merriman netted 17 points, including trip 3-pointers.

January 16, 2020: Everything was going wrong for the home team, while everything was going right for visitors, that was until the Westfield Blue Devils began their magical turnaround with one minute remaining in the first half to chip away at a 17-point deficit en route to a 65-61, overtime victory over the Union Catholic boys basketball team in Westfield.

Senior Griffin Rooney would finish with a game-leading 24 points, while adding five rebounds and three assists. Senior Jake Walsh finished with 15 points, including trip 3-pointers, and added three assists and three rebounds. Senior Andrew Echausse had four assists, five rebounds and nailed a 3-pointer. Sophomore Logan Howland, who finished with 12 points, ruled the boards, especially late in the third and fourth quarters and in the overtime period to finish with 15 rebounds and two blocks.

January 12, 2019: Tournament time means "rise to the occasion" as far as the Cranford wrestling team is concerned. The Cougars entered competitors in all 14 weight classes and 13 of them placed in the top-5, which included two champions, as they claimed their fifth straight Union County Tournament Championship at Union. The Cougars totaled 221

with a total of 198. Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz was named UCT Coach of the Year.

What could be considered the biggest stunner, but not really, of the afternoon came in the 126-lb championship bout between state-ranked Blue Devil CJ Composto and Panther Eddie Hummel. After a long scramble, Composto scored a takedown and later added a two-point Turk tilt to grab a 4-1 lead. But Hummel, known for his devastating throw maneuvers, escaped and caught Composto off-balance with a headlock for a pin in 3:33. Composto had recorded a pair of falls to reach the finals. Hummel received the Outstanding Wrestler Award for the lower weights.

An upset on a somewhat lesser scale occurred in the 138-lb class where Cougar Jack Korzeneski, seeded seventh, won his pigtail bout by fall to face top-seeded Stefano DelValle (Linden), who he knocked off 7-3 in the quarterfinals. Nothing stopped Korzeneski in his title bout with Pat Nevins (Union). With a 6-5 lead in the third period, Korzeneski reversed Nevins and put him on his back for a 4:49 pin to claim the crown.

Blue Devils Luke Hoerle (120-lbs), Tim Miller (182-lbs) and Brendan Loder (195-lbs) won UCT titles and Cougar AJ Bencivena won the 152-lb crown.

January 17, 2019: Second and third chances, creating turnovers, quick but effective passing and timely 3-pointers kept the Chatham Lady Cougars on the road to a 47-32 victory over the hosting Westfield Blue Devils. The 11-3 Cougars' persistence, with the exception of two brief moments, kept

over SPF Raiders at Scotch Plains. Matt Crowley led the Blue Devils with 14 points, while Griffin Rooney added 10 points. Raiders Justin Guy and Anthony Porter led all scorers with 16 points.

boys basketball team but it certainly was a problem for the Blue Devil boys in a 64-54 setback at Westfield. The Cardinals banged 10 3-pointers, had second, third and even fourth chances on offensive rebounds and



David B. Corbin (January 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
UCT CHAMPION...Cougar Jack Korzeneski, top, won the Union County Tournament 138-lb title (January 12, 2019).

freestyle, 100-backstroke) and Abby McKinney (200-Individual Medley, 100-butterfly) each took first in two individual events and Erin McAndrew won the 100-freestyle. All three also played important roles in the relays.

January 14, 2020: Depth with

ning 200-medley relay, placed second in the 100-fly and 100-breast, and was on the 200-free relay foursome that took second. Camacho finished second in the 500-free and 200-free, and was on the second-placed 400-free relay.

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Take notice that HGC Shackamaxon, LLC, d/b/a Shackamaxon Country Club ("Applicant") has applied to the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, in the County of Union, New Jersey, for a person to person transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 2016-33-013-003, heretofore issued to NJ Golf Partners Limited Liability Company, for premises located at 1607 Shackamaxon Drive, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.	Christopher Chang, Director 101 Kearney Street Denver, Colorado 80220
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James M. Oliver, Chief Operating Officer and Club General Manager 25704 Green Ash Lane Aldie, Virginia 20105	James Charles ("Charlie") Martin, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary 10 South Madison Street Denver, Colorado 80209
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Officers and Directors of HGC Holdings III, LLC: Mark A. Burnett, President and Director 5101 Marshal Farm Court Fairfax, Virginia 22030	Eric C. Resnick, Chairman of the Board of Directors 1027 Ptarmigan Road Vail, Colorado 81657
James M. Oliver, Chief Operating Officer 25704 Green Ash Lane Aldie, Virginia 20105	Peter R. McDermott, Director 1 Pond Drive Englewood, Colorado 80113
Eileen M. Watford, Vice President of Accounting and Finance 5802 Spruce Grove Court Haymarket, Virginia 20169	Members of Steele HGC Investment, LLC: Steele HGC Investment II, LLC 100 Saint Paul Street, Suite 800 Denver, Colorado 80206 100% Member of HGC Investment, LLC
Martin J. Newburger, Director 869 Vine Street Denver, Colorado 80206	Officers and Managers of Steele HGC Investment II, LLC: Steven S. Siegel, President and Secretary 340 North Lafayette Street Denver, Colorado 80218
Michael L. Mohapp, Director 919 South Gaylord Street Denver, Colorado 80209	James Charles ("Charlie") Martin, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary 10 South Madison Street Denver, Colorado 80209
Christopher Chang, Director 101 Kearney Street Denver, Colorado 80220	Kevin R. Rohnstock, Vice President and Assistant Secretary 720 Vine Street Denver, Colorado 80206
Members of HGC Holdings III, LLC: HGC Holdings, LLC 100 Saint Paul Street, Suite 800 Denver, Colorado 80206 100% Member of HGC Holdings III, LLC	Steele HGC Investment, LLC, 0% Managing Member 100 Saint Paul Street, Suite 800 Denver, Colorado 80206
Officers and Directors of HGC Holdings, LLC: Mark A. Burnett, President and Director 5101 Marshal Farm Court Fairfax, Virginia 22030	Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to: Bozena Lacina, Township Clerk, Township of Scotch Plains, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.
James M. Oliver, Chief Operating Officer 25704 Green Ash Lane Aldie, Virginia 20105	Applicant HGC Shackamaxon, LLC Douglas J. Sherman, Esq. Post Polak, P.A. 425 Eagle Rock Avenue, Suite 200 Roseland, New Jersey 07068-1717
Eileen M. Watford, Vice President of Accounting and Finance 5802 Spruce Grove Court Haymarket, Virginia 20169	2 T - 01/21/21 & 01/28/21, The Times Fee: \$261.12
Martin J. Newburger, Director	



David B. Corbin (January 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TRYING TO SLIP BEHIND...Raider Nick Palazzola tries to slip his arm behind Panther Josh Connolly in his 152-lb bout in Roselle Park on January 20, 2017. The Panthers had to win big in the final three bouts to pull out a 34-33 victory.

team points, while the Westfield Blue Devils placed 10 of their entrees, including three individual champions, in the top-5 and finished second

PUBLIC NOTICE
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-006984-20 FILE NO. 27843-20
NOTICE TO REDEEM
TFS CUST FOR FIG CAP INV NJ13, LLC; PLAINTIFF VS. CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD; CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC; JERRI MCPHAUL; STATE OF NEW JERSEY; DEFENDANT(S)

TO: JERRI MCPHAUL;
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on January 22, 2021, the Superior Court Fixed March 23, 2021, or the next business day, between regular business hours, at the office of the Tax Collector of PLAINFIELD, located at 515 WATCHUNG AVENUE, PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060 as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:

LOT 24 BLOCK 606 on the tax duplicate of PLAINFIELD. Total amount required to redeem tax sale certificate no. 17-0249 is \$6,235.77, together with interest from January 16, 2021 and costs of \$1,278.83.

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

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

Deborah Feldstein, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.
290 Route 46 West
Denville, New Jersey 07834
(973) 586-2300
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$46.92

the 8-5 Blue Devils in a chase mode throughout the entire game, Senior Sam Stravach led the Blue Devils with nine rebounds, two blocked shots and three assists, while putting in six points. Freshmen Grace Klag (7 rebounds, assist) and Chloe Kreusser each scored eight points and Charlotte Dursee contributed two rebounds, an assist and a steal. Maz contributed strong defense and an assist.

January 17, 2019: The Westfield boys basketball team built a 19-point lead in the second half then hung on for dear life to claim a 60-59 victory

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
The Tax Assessment List for The Township of Scotch Plains for the 2020 Tax Year will be open for inspection on Thursday, February 25, 2021 between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. in the Tax Assessor's Office, RM. 122, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.
Michael A. Ross, CTA Tax Assessor
1 T - 01/28/21, The Times Fee: \$11.22
PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF WESTFIELD, BOARD OF EDUCATION 302 ELM STREET, WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD
The Westfield Board of Education has awarded contracts without competitive bidding as a professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 a (1). The contracts and the resolutions authorizing them are on file and available for public inspection in the office of Westfield Board of Education.

Whereas, there exists a need for professional services in the specific area(s) mentioned below for the 2020-2021 school year for the following professional services and whereas, funds are available for this purpose, and whereas, the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) permits the award of contracts without competitive bids for Professional Services that require licensing and are regulated by law, and Whereas, the Public School Contracts Law requires that the Board of Education adopt a resolution awarding such contracts at a public meeting.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR		
United Therapy Solutions 141 South Avenue Fanwood, New Jersey 07023	OT/PT/Speech Therapy *Evaluations In-District Evaluations Out-of-District	\$90.00/hour \$350.00/eval \$400.00/eval
*No charge for in-district evaluations that fit within therapist's working hours **Meeting attendance for evaluations that do not fit within a therapist's working hours in-district is \$100.00/hour		
NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00		
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader		Fee: \$96.51



David B. Corbin (January 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
DRIVING HARD INSIDE...Blue Devil Danielle Rinaldi, No. 1, attempts to drive past Union Farmer Neeke Moneme, No. 15, in Westfield on January 19, 2017. The Blue Devils' defense halted the Lady Farmers, 33-21.

January 18, 2019: Solid performances from veterans and some of the younger wrestlers on both teams made for a very entertaining evening in the showdown match between Westfield, sporting a 5-0 record, and the hosting 8-1 Rahway Indians. As it turned out, the Blue Devil veterans and several less experienced wrestlers came up with the better performances in key bouts to claim a 43-22 victory.

Mike Price earned the Blue Devils six points when he pinned Jon Tilton in 4:43 with a half nelson at 160-lbs. Veteran Jordan Simpson, facing Nevon Quinones, initiated his 170-lb bout with a double-leg tackle and ended it with a cradle in 1:12. Veteran Tim Miller battered Jeff Mendoza at 182-lbs, beginning with a far-leg takedown and a stack nearfall, adding a head-and-arm/walk around takedown and another nearfall, then ending it all in 4:23 with a wrist/half nelson. Top control paid dividends in

also sank 20 of 29 free throws, while the Blue Devils were not only off on their shooting but got very few second chances under the boards.

Senior Mark Natiello scored 15 points, including a pair of threes, and added four rebounds. Senior Adam McDaniel finished with 10 points, including a 3-pointer, and added six rebounds. Luke Spellman (8 points) hit two 3-pointers and pulled seven rebounds. Sophomore Griffin Rooney hit a pair of threes and finished with eight points. Dylan Jackson also finished with eight points, four assists and six rebounds.

January 18, 2018: The Cranford girls basketball team dropped a 63-49 decision to Roselle Catholic (9-2) in Cranford. Charlotte VanWhy and Camryn Wichelns each scored 13 points for the Cougars and Caroline McCaffery netted nine points.

January 19, 2018: One of just four! A jam-packed gym filled with



David B. Corbin (January 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
HEAVILY GUARDED...Cougar senior Cerys MacLelland, No. 33, is surrounded by Cardinals but still managed to score 12 points to go with her nine rebounds and four steals (January 13, 2016).

Blue Devil Brendan Loder's 2-0 victory over Shimei Page at 195-lbs.

January 18, 2018: Getting in sync in nearly every aspect of the game was no problem for the Plainfield

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
The 2021 Tax List may now be viewed between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in Room 104 (Assessor's Office) in the Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.
Bryan Flynn Assessor
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$9.69
PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF WESTFIELD, BOARD OF EDUCATION 302 ELM STREET, WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD
The Westfield Board of Education has awarded contracts without competitive bidding as a professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 a (1). The contracts and the resolutions authorizing them are on file and available for public inspection in the office of Westfield Board of Education.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR		
United Therapy Solutions 141 South Avenue Fanwood, New Jersey 07023	OT/PT/Speech Therapy *Evaluations In-District Evaluations Out-of-District	\$90.00/hour \$350.00/eval \$400.00/eval
*No charge for in-district evaluations that fit within therapist's working hours **Meeting attendance for evaluations that do not fit within a therapist's working hours in-district is \$100.00/hour		
NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00		
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader		Fee: \$96.51

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
The Tax Assessment List for The Borough of Fanwood for the 2020 Tax Year will be open for inspection on Thursday, February 25, 2021 between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. in the Municipal Building Lobby, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood.
Michael A. Ross, CTA Tax Assessor
1 T - 01/28/21, The Times Fee: \$11.22
PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF WESTFIELD WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD BICYCLE BOARD
GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2203
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the foregoing ordinance was approved for final adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a Regular Meeting held on January 26, 2021.
Tara Rowley, RMC Town Clerk
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$15.81

Area stores that carry The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains – Fanwood TIMES

Westfield Tobacco & News
108 Elm St. (Leader)
7-11 on Central Ave
800 Central Ave. (Leader)

7-11 of Westfield
1200 South Ave., W. (Leader/Times)
Shoprite Supermarket
563 North Ave. (Leader)

7-11 of Mountainside
921 Mountain Ave. (Leader)
King's Supermarket
300 South Ave. (Leader)

7-11 of Garwood
309 North Ave. (Leader)
Baron's Drug Store
243 E. Broad St. (Leader)

Westfield Mini Mart
301 South Ave., W. (Leader)

Kwick Mart Food Store
190 South Ave. (Times)
Wallis Stationery
441 Park Ave. (Leader/Times)

Mountain Deli
2385 Mountain Ave. (Times)
Krauszer's
727 Central Ave. (Leader)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
STRONG ON DEFENSIVE, OFFENSE...Cougar Liz McCaffery, left, was strong defensively but also led the Cougars with 245 points and 35 3-pointers.

Cougar Cagers Have Great Combo of Veterans and Youth

and so will junior guard/forward Katy Wheatley, who led the team with 15 blocked shots. That trio is expected to be part of the starting five along with sophomore guard Sarah O'Donnell, who scored 101 points, including 22 3-pointers last year, and freshman guard Madison DeLong.

But the Cougars will also get a lot of mileage from Williams and Vath, both stars on the section champion soccer team. Williams (guard/forward) was second in rebounds with 63 and steals with 24. Her hard driving to the basket resulted in her leading the team in free throws with 50. Vath (forward/center) netted 128 points and led the Cougars with 73 rebounds. Merriman, a guard who had a high game of 17 points against Roselle Catholic, could be an offensive threat this season.

Other girls on the varsity roster who will be receiving court time are: Bush (guard), juniors Kayla Arch

(guard/forward) and Zoe Hamilton (guard) and sophomore guard Cassee Marchese.

The Cougars compete in the rugged Watchung Division and will have two meetings each with Roselle Catholic, Westfield, Summit, Union Catholic, New Providence and Oak Knoll and one game with Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

"The Watchung Division is certainly tough, every game will be a battle! With that being said, every battle will be an opportunity for our team to grow and improve. There is not one opponent on our schedule who we can take lightly. Proper preparation will be key going into each match-up," Coach Skrec said.

The Cougars were to open their season at home against Roselle Catholic on January 26 then will travel to Summit to face the Hilltoppers today. *Due to the COVID situation all games have been placed on a 2-week pause.*

Cougar B-Ball Boys Expected To Have Talent, Deep Rotation

48 to go with 29 blocks and 37 assists. Opponents must keep close tabs on junior Liam Kwiatkowski, who led the team with 37 3-pointers and 39 free throws, to finish with 172 points.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
REACHING FOR THE BALL...Cougar Joe Carrea, No. 10, reaches in an attempt to knock the ball out of Highlander Connor Bigelow's grasp (February 11, 2020).

He also had 38 rebounds, 32 assists, 17 steals and two blocks.

Coming off the bench, Hammond had 191 points with 21 3-pointers and added 93 rebounds, 33 steals and five blocks. Jack Connolly, now a senior, was a "hands-on" man who came off the bench to lead the team with 30 blocks, while adding 44 rebounds. Expect junior Lukas Ruby to be tough under the boards. Last year he finished with 34 points, 54 rebounds, 28 assists, 14 steals and five blocks.

Others in the mix are seniors Devin Haughey and Adam Kuytzer, junior Kyle Higgins and sophomores Leo Wisniewski and Kyle Fay, who all experienced court time last year.

The Cougars have 14 regular-season games on their slate and will face Oratory Prep, Hillside, New Providence, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Rahway and Summit twice in addition to a game against Governor

Livingston and Union. The Cougars were to open their season by hosting Oratory Prep on January 26. *Due to the COVID situation all games have been placed on a 2-week pause.*

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD PLANNING BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that on the 20th of January the Planning Board of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union took the following actions:

- 1. Adopted a Resolution** of Memorialization appointing Jonathan Drill, Esq. as Planning Board attorney for year 2021.
- 2. Adopted a Resolution** of Memorialization appointing Maser Consulting (Colliers Engineering and Design Inc.) as primary Planner and Topology as secondary Planner for planning services for the year 2021.
- 3. Adopted a Resolution** of Memorialization appointing Maser Consulting (Colliers Engineering and Design Inc.) as Planning Engineer for the year 2021.

Kathy Lenahan
Land Use Administrator
01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

Tara Rowley, RMC
Town Clerk
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$20.40

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL PERSON TO PERSON TRANSFER

TAKE NOTICE that application has been made to the Town of Westfield to transfer to Riddhi Ganesh Siddhi LLC (DBA Bianchi Wine & Liquors) Plenary Retail Distribution License No. 2020-44-017-011, as a pocket license, heretofore issued to SAAMRO, LLC.

The individuals who will hold an interest in this license are:

Bianca U. Shah
946, County Club Road
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807
Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to Tara Rowley, Town Clerk, Town of Westfield, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

Bianca U. Shah
946 County Club Road
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807
2 T - 01/21/21
01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$43.86

Raiders to Return Experience; Expect Success in Girls Hoops

Catie Wilson and Bridget Carter.

According to Coach McKenna. "Mostly everyone on the bench started games last year. Catie Wilson stepped in for Murphy and really blossomed. Looking forward to seeing her again this year. Emily Muench had an ACL injury last year so this is her first year on varsity. Ciara Worthey also broke her elbow playing last year and is back at full strength."

Another addition to their depth is junior Gabby Palermo.

"Gabby Palermo transferred from Dayton High School. She's a junior guard who will help us defensively. She is also a tremendous passer," Coach McKenna said.

The Lady Raiders will compete in the Mountain Division with two games



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GOING FOR THE BLOCK...Raider Ashley DeFrancesco, No. 33, attempts to block the shot of a Viking at Scotch Plains-Fanwood on January 23, 2020.

** A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror **

5:26. The 195-lb bout was all Raiders as Sam Wustefeld, ranked No. 1 in the state, finally got an opportunity to face an opponent. Wustefeld went the takedown route to rout Ryan Urban via 20-5, technical fall in 2:29.

January 17, 2017: The SPF boys basketball team continued its winning ways with an impressive, 53-46, overtime victory against UCC Valley Division rival Rahway at Scotch Plains. Raider Tommy Drubulis pumped in 21 points to lead all scorers. The victory was the Raiders' 12th in a row to start the season after winning just three games all of last year.

January 18, 2017: Senior Vince Concina joined Chris Scorese and Tom DiGiovanni as members of the "100-career win club" on this year's Cranford wrestling team during a rivalry match with Roselle Park in Cranford. The 7-0, fourth-ranked Cougars also achieved a rarity by defeating the Panthers for the third straight year, this time by a 46-21 margin. Concina celebrated his 100th victory when he twisted Devin Hilburn with a corkscrew maneuver to record a 17-1, technical fall in 4:08 at 182-lbs.

and Brian McGovern, who are approaching that magic number on this team that may be one of the best in Cranford wrestling history.

January 19, 2017: Defensive solidarity compensated for some moments of shaky offensive play in the Westfield Blue Devils' 33-21 victory over the Union girls basketball team in a game played at Westfield. Molly Ryan netted 16 points and also made five steals and pulled seven rebounds. Shannon Devitt scored six points and was tops under the boards with eight rebounds and four blocked shots. Three was the magic number for Grace Elliott as she had three points, three assists and three steals. Danielle Rinaldi had five rebounds, two assists and two steals.

January 20, 2017: Three bouts remaining and trailing 33-20, the Roselle Park wrestling team needed to get big time bonus points to survive a major setback from the visiting SPF Raiders. Clever wrestling and a shocking upset at 145-lbs by the Raiders set the stage for a dramatic conclusion but the Panthers came through with a



David B. Corbin (January 2004 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ATTEMPTING TO AVOID A TILT...Blue Devil sophomore Steve Cruikshank, front, tries to avoid being turned to his back by Raider junior Marc Fabiano in the 215-lb bout. The No. 20 Raiders defeated the Blue Devils 51-21 (Jan. 21, 2004).

Scorese reached his 100th victory at the NJSIAA Championships last March and DiGiovanni gained his at the recent Bethlehem Catholic Christmas Tournament. But there are still two more members, Anthony Capece

fall at 285-lbs, a major decision at 106-lbs and a fall at 113-lbs to eke out a 34-33 victory.

Jack Cannon (138-lbs) got the Raiders on the scoreboard in a big way when he pinned Dylan Camilo in 3:29

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.2 via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on **02/28/21**, downloaded, and publicly opened and read, in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:

Maintenance Pavement Markings Contract, North - 2021, Various Locations, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren (Including and North of Route 57) Counties; 100% State; DP No: 21433

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 (P.L. 1975, c. 127); N.J.A.C. 17:27.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.19, contractors must provide a Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form prior to contract award.

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

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

Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bids.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the web site. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express. Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our Design Field Offices at the following locations:

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

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

3 T - 01/28/21, 02/04/21 & 02/11/21, The Leader Fee: \$168.30



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CHASING A RAIDER...Blue Devil Ryan Friedberg, No. 12, chases a Raider during a game in Westfield last year.

Blue Devil Cager Boys to Lean On Three Returning Starters

Perez, 6'1" junior guard Zander Barraza, 5'11" sophomore point guard Pete Meixner and 6'2" sophomore guard TJ Halloran.

The Blue Devils were allotted one scrimmage game which was at Cranford on January 21 then they will get into the thick of their conference with a showdown against the Plainfield Cardinals today, January 28, in Plainfield. Westfield will host the Linden Tigers on Monday, February 1, then travel to Elizabeth on Wednesday, February 3.

Their conference foes consist of two games each against Roselle Catholic, Elizabeth, Union, Plainfield, Union Catholic and Linden. The Blue Devils also have two out of confer-

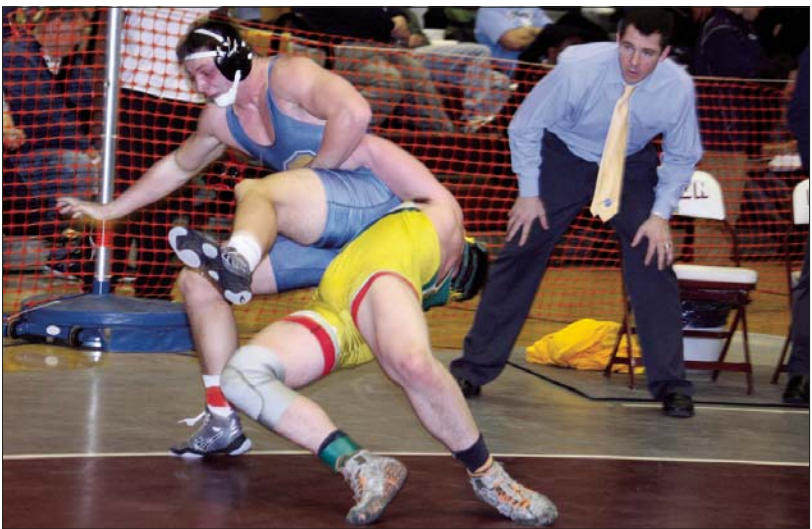
ence games, one with Summit and another against New Providence.

"We are looking to build off a great year. Yes! It was a historic year for Westfield High School. We are proud of what we accomplished, to win a conference and 21 games is special. The senior class was able to put their graduating year in the banner forever, but it's time to move on. We are a different team, a very talented team but different. We know the hard work that has to be put in to accomplishing our goals. If you look at the teams we play, you probably realize the difficulty of Union County basketball. We accept the challenge and can't wait for people to realize what Westfield basketball is about," Coach McKeon concluded.

** A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror **

with a arm bar/tight waist. At 145-lbs, Panther Rene Perez surged to a 12-2 lead but when he got a little too low on another takedown attempt, Mikey

1:21 with a Mallory to a Jimmy John. Alex Oslislo (160-lbs) began his bout with Jefferson Garcia with a tackle takedown, added a two-point stack



David B. Corbin (January 2015 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WATCHING THE ACTION...Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman watches Niko Cappello's, left, 182-lb semifinal bout with Klaudio Bardhoko (New Providence) intently during the UC Tournament on January 17, 2015. Cappello won, 7-1.

Ramos stepped over his shot and pinned him in 3:20. Nick Palazzola (152-lbs) pinned Josh Connolly in

and a power throw takedown before the bout was halted at 2:16 due to injury default.

Remembering Tom Breznitsky:

Legendary Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer coach Tom Breznitsky passed away on January 21. Accounts of Coach Breznitsky's career and accomplishments can be read in *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* archives - www.goleader.com - February 6, 2020 edition - pages 9 & 10.



David B. Corbin (September 2016 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
JOB WELL DONE...Raider Assistant Coach Joe Mortarulo, left, and Head Coach Tom Breznitsky, right, stand with co-captain Ryan Peterson, No. 8, who scored the first goal, and Robert Devine-Gelling, No. 23, who scored the winning goal in overtime for the 2-1 victory over Elizabeth to present coach Breznitsky with his 700th career win (September 15, 2016).

ARE YOU DIVORCING? DIVORCED?

HAS THE CORONAVIRUS CAUSED A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN YOUR FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES?

If so, call the Family Law Department of Dughi, Hewit & Domalewski, P.C. for a **free introductory telephone call** and speak to one of our lawyers about your case:




Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq.


Kristin M. Capalho, Esq.


Jennifer L. Young, Esq.

Please contact us at (908) 272-0200

You may also visit us on our website at www.dughihewit.com

DUGHI, HEWIT & DOMALEWSKI, P.C.
340 NORTH AVENUE CRANFORD, NJ

CLASSIFIEDS

Place a Classified Ad online at www.goleader.com/form/classified

HELP WANTED - BILLING CLERK

Westfield Mid-Sized Law Firm seeks Billing Clerk/Bookkeeper

- Knowledge of Clio Billing System Preferred
- Good Computer Skills
- Full Time with Benefits

Interested applicants should send qualifications to:

billingclerk@sciarrillolaw.com

AUTOS WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR OR TRUCK TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 844-256-6577

MISCELLANEOUS

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-516-1257

PUBLIC NOTICES

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MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAC Standby Generators. The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!) Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-844-228-1850 Special financing for qualified customers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-007095-20
FILE NO. 27856-20

NOTICE TO REDEEM

PPP NEW LLC; PLAINTIFF VS. THEODORE KASTIS; CLOTILDE KASTIS, HIS WIFE; FLASH CLEANERS, INC.; DEFENDANT(S)

TO: FLASH CLEANERS, INC.;
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on January 22, 2021, the Superior Court Fixed March 23, 2021, or the next business day, between regular business hours, at the office of the Tax Collector of HILLSIDE, located at 1409 LIBERTY AVENUE, HILLSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07205 as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:

LOT 25 BLOCK 603 on the tax duplicate of HILLSIDE. Total amount required to redeem tax sale certificate no. 17-110 is \$123,767.92, together with interest from December 18, 2020 and costs of \$1,466.30.

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

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

Deborah Feldstein, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.
290 Route 46 West
Denville, New Jersey 07834
(973) 586-2300
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$44.37

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MISCELLANEOUS

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High-Speed Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-592-5113.

REPORTERS WANTED

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

MULTI-ACTIVITY TRAIN TABLE

FOR SALE: This multi-activity table is a space-defining play area. The sturdy wooden play table is ideal for trains, dollhouses, arts & crafts, blocks, puzzles, games and more. Big enough for multiple kids to play at once and low enough for easy access. Pull-out drawer for storage. 50"Lx35"Wx18"H. Exc. condition. \$45. Call Jeff (908) 232-4407.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

The Board of Education of the Borough of Garwood in the County of Union, New Jersey (the "Board") has awarded a Contract without competitive bidding for professional services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1). The Board retained the firm of Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey to serve as Municipal Advisor to the Board in connection with its capital program and the issuance and sale of bonds, notes or other obligations of the Board. The amount charged for these services will be determined in accordance with the Proposal dated as of January 13, 2021 on file with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary. This Contract will be in effect until such time as either party gives written notice to the other of termination or as otherwise required by law.

This Contract, the Proposal and the resolution authorizing it are available for public inspection in the Business Office, 400 Second Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey. Dr. Dennis R. Frohnapef Interim SBA/Board Secretary
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$26.01

Healthy Food Tips for Home-Cooked Meals

COUNTY – Union County residents who are looking to add variety, spice and healthy ingredients to their home-cooked meals can find guidance online from experts through the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County.

“Cooking at home is recommended as an effective strategy for improving health and well-being, and it is all the more important during the winter months when outdoor activities are limited,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman Alexander Mirabella. “We are proud to support the Extension in its efforts to provide the public with expert, fact-based research on healthy meals.”

Studies show that interest in home cooking and comfort foods has skyrocketed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Home cooks are also expanding their use of new products and different ingredients.

Online learning topics include: The many benefits of squash, including Vitamin A, fiber, antioxidants and minerals. Food safety tips for pregnant women. Five ways to plan for family meals. How to choose foods that boost energy, and reduce stress.

Zoom Program to Explain Great Backyard Bird Count

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual event when people all over the world record their bird sightings over a four-day span, and submit their findings through an app or on the web. Started in 1998, the Great Backyard Bird Count is organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada. It is designed as an easy and fun project for all ages.

On Monday, February 1, at 7 p.m., Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School biology teachers Matthew Ritter and

Guidance for following a Mediterranean diet.

Visit Health Tips or Family Meals at ucnj.org/rce/. A complete online edition of Small Steps to Health and Wealth is available at njaes.rutgers.edu/sshw.

To see new research on food trends for 2021 from Rutgers, visit njaes.rutgers.edu.

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County is supported in part by the Union County Board of Commissioners, with offices at the Union County complex at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield. The extension belongs to a statewide research and youth development program run in New Jersey by the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, as part of the national Cooperative Extension network of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For more health tips and information on popular Rutgers Cooperative Extension programs for Union County residents, including Environmental Stewards, Master Gardeners, Master Tree Stewards and 4-H youth activities, visit ucnj.org/rce/ or call (908) 654-9854.

Zach Rittner will show the community how to prepare for and participate in the Count, which takes place Friday through Monday, February 12 to 15. They will show participants how to sign up for and use the eBird app, and how to submit their observations. Mr. Ritter and Mr. Rittner also will talk about ways to set up bird feeders and how to find additional resources to identify birds.

Registration is required. The Scotch Plains Public Library will send participants the Zoom link prior to the program. For more information or to register, go to scotlib.org, email library@scotlib.org or call (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204.

Join the Rotary Club of Westfield



westfieldrotary.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the Town of Westfield in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, at 10:00 AM prevailing time on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, for the “2021 MISCELLANEOUS ADA RAMP & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY”.

The work under this Proposal includes the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment necessary to complete the work as shown on the Contract Drawings and described in the Contract Specifications, and Proposals shall be in accordance with such Drawings and Specifications and the terms proposed in the Contract. The major items of work under this contract include, but are not limited to, the following in estimated quantities:

1,800 square yards of 4 inch thick Concrete Walk
660 linear feet of 12 inch High Density Polyethylene Pipe

All bidders must submit with their bid a copy of their New Jersey Business Registration Certificate. Failure to submit proof of registration will disqualify the bid.

The Town of Westfield offices are currently closed to the public but remain operational. The Town of Westfield is practicing Social Distancing; therefore, bidders are encouraged to Mail in your bid responses in a timely manner via USPS, UPS and FedEx, etc. If they must be hand-delivered, potential bidders may contact the Office of the Town Engineer (908-789-4100, ext. 4606, or engineer@westfieldnj.gov) to arrange drop off at the Main Entrance of the Town's Public Works Complex at 959 North Avenue, West, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. As always, it is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that all bids are timely submitted in order to be received by the time and date as specified. Bids received after the designated time and date will be returned unopened.

Proposals shall be in writing on the forms furnished and must be delivered at the place and before the hour above mentioned, and must be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond payable to the Town of Westfield in an amount equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the base amount of the bid, but not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$20,000.00. (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-21) Each bid must also be accompanied by a Surety Company Certificate stating that said Surety company will provide the bidder with the required Performance bond in the full amount of the Contract (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-22), by a Non-Collision Affidavit and a Contractor's Qualification Statement, Statement of Ownership, on the forms included in and explained in the contract documents.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27 and must pay workmen the prevailing wage rates promulgated by the New Jersey State Department of Labor and Industry for this project, copies of which are on file in the Office of the Town Engineer.

Plans and specifications may be seen or obtained from the office of the Town Engineer, Public Works Center, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey. The Mayor and Council reserve the right to reject any bid, and to waive any informality in any bid, if in the interest of the Town, it is deemed advisable to do so.

Kris J. McAloon
Town Engineer
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$72.93

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY
GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2205
NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

General Ordinance No. 2205, a summary of which is included herein, was introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield held on January 26, 2021 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by said Town Council at a meeting beginning at 8:00 PM on February 9, 2021 or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.

Due to the pandemic and the current closure of the Westfield Municipal Building, the meeting on February 9, 2021 will be held virtually. The public may connect to the meeting and participate via Zoom webinar using the following link: <https://bit.ly/2021WestfieldTownCouncilMeeting>, or via telephone by calling 646-518-9805, Webinar ID 873 4615 6495 #, Passcode 233043.

In the event the Town Council meeting scheduled for February 9, 2021 can be held in person, the meeting location will be the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

Copies of this ordinance are available in full at the Office of the Town Clerk, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

Tara Rowley, RMC
Town Clerk

A summary of General Ordinance No. 2205 is as follows:

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 16, "PARKS AND RECREATION" BY CHANGING CERTAIN FEES IN THE MEMORIAL POOL AND BY ESTABLISHING CERTAIN NEW CATEGORIES.

SUMMARY:

Amends Section 16-12f "Swimming lesson fees" to read as follows:

(f) Program fees:
(1) Group swim lessons: for each child, not to exceed \$100 per child, per session.
(2) Swim Team: for each child, not to exceed \$150 per child.
(3) Aquatic programs: for each person, not to exceed \$200 per person, per program.
(4) Private Swim Team Pool Rental: Not to exceed \$250 per hour, per pool, and shall include staffing reimbursements, as required.
(5) Member Private Event Reservations: Not to exceed \$250 per hour, per reservation, and non-member guests paid separately upon entrance.

Linda Jacus
Administrative Secretary
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$61.71

Coffee with a Cop, Walk Set Along Riverwalk Feb. 13

CRANFORD — Cranford Police Department Outreach officers and the Cranford Riverwalk Restoration and Preservation Alliance, in partnership with the Cranford Downtown Management, will host Coffee with a Cop and Winter Walk on the Riverwalk on Saturday, February 13, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Cranford residents of all ages are invited to pick up complimentary hot chocolate or coffee and walk Cranford's historic Riverwalk while having a casual conversation with officers from the Cranford Police Department. The goal of the walk is to allow the Cranford Police Department to interact positively with the citizens they serve each day, as well as build relationships with the community.

Participants can pick up a complimentary beverage offered by the Cranford Police Department at the Cranford Heritage Plaza, located at the intersection of South Avenue East, Lincoln Park East and Centennial Avenue. Everyone will then be welcomed to walk the paved one-third-of-a-mile Riverwalk along the Rahway River from the Heritage Plaza to Droesch's Mill Park and waterfalls on Lincoln Avenue.

“Coffee with a Cop is a way for members of the Cranford Police Department to interact positively and proactively with the citizens they serve, building relationships and addressing community concerns through casual conversations,” Chief Ryan Greco of the Cranford Police Department said.

Officer Ali Muhammad of the

Community Outreach Division highlighted the benefit of this upcoming event in light of this past year. “Covid-19 has been devastating to our nation, so this opportunity to once again interact in a safe manner while informing others of the good works of the police and community members has us hopeful for a brighter 2021,” he said. “We will have informational handout pamphlets regarding safety and new programs coming in the future.”

“One of the valuable aspects of Cranford's historic Riverwalk, which is part of the Union County parks system, is the central location,” explained Michael Mason, president of the Cranford Riverwalk Restoration and Preservation Alliance. “It is an easy place for Union County residents to gather, and its rich history and beautiful scenery lends itself to social walks such as this. We are honored to have the Cranford Police Department use our walk for their outreach efforts.”

The hopes of the Cranford Riverwalk Restoration and Preservation Alliance is that more individuals will be interested in walking the Riverwalk and learning about Cranford's unique past while helping to work to restore it at their monthly restoration days, held the second Saturday of each month from March until November.

Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced. The Cranford Police Department will have pamphlets available to inform participants of the many activities the department offers to residents.

Library Offering Classes In Balance-Gentle Fitness

SCOTCH PLAINS — Through funds provided by the All of Us Research Program, the Scotch Plains Public Library is offering a weekly balance and gentle fitness class live via Zoom, led by instructor Yasmin Ofek. Classes are held

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPEAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Adjustment for the Town of Westfield shall hold a public hearing on February 8, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. on the appeal of Lisa S. Varandas of the denial of an application for issuance of a building permit for 120 Wychwood Road, Westfield, New Jersey.

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

Ashford-Schael, L.L.C.
100 Quimby Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
Attorneys for Applicant
Lisa S. Varandas
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$35.70

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR VIRTUAL HEARING TOWNSHIP OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. In compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, the General Ordinances of the Township of Westfield and the Rules and Regulations of the Township of Westfield Board of Adjustment, and in order to comply with the Executive Orders signed by Governor Murphy and in an effort to follow best practices recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that **The Board of Adjustment of the Town of Westfield, New Jersey** will hold a virtual meeting on **February 8, 2021, at 7:30 pm** to hear and consider the following appeals for bulk (c) and/or (d) variance relief from requirements of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance.

Pawel Kierzkowski, 171 Tudor Oval. Applicant is seeking approval to install a six-foot fence and an inground swimming pool in the front yard contrary to Section 12.07C and 13.02D3of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance allows a maximum fence height and above grade wall height of four feet in the front yard. Proposed is 6 feet. Ordinance requires a swimming pool to be located in the rear yard. Proposed is the front yard.

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

Linda Jacus
Administrative Secretary
1 T - 01/28/21, The Leader Fee: \$51.00

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens and consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., through standards promulgated by the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, and Executive Orders 103 and 107, the regular meeting of the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. will be held by **online/virtual means and telephonically only.** In addition to the regular business as outlined in the agenda, the following application will be heard:

Villane Building & Development, LLC, who is seeking Preliminary and Final Major Subdivision and Site Plan approval for property located at 2328 & 2344 North Avenue, Block 8301, Lots 5 and 7, ML-4 Zone. The applicant is proposing to subdivide Lot 7 into 6 lots with a multi-unit apartment building constructed on 1 of the proposed new lots, and 5 attached single family dwellings constructed on the other proposed new lots. Lot 5 will be dedicated to the Township of Scotch Plains and be preserved as open space or green space.

The agenda for the meeting on February 8, 2021 will be posted on the Township of Scotch Plains Website. Members of the public who wish to monitor and/or participate in the public meeting may join from a computer or capable device at:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81925395031?pwd=VRPUFGZlR0UUE5FkxkDktHbUJ0R>

Meeting ID: 819 2539 5031
Password: 523644


or join by telephone by dialing 1 646 558 8656 and entering the above noted Meeting ID when prompted.

The application(s) and supporting materials are on file and will be available for public inspection, free of charge, at least ten (10) days prior to the online/virtual hearing at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14XhW-RTYqSzR9qSBMx3fmLSO4FY17>

Alternatively, members of the public may contact the Clerk/Land Use Secretary by email at srapant@scotchplainsnj.com or by phone, during regular business hours, at (908) 322-6700 x307 prior to the meeting in order to ask any questions if encountered any difficulty with the options described in this notice.

Shannon Rapant
Clerk/Secretary to the Planning Board
1 T - 01/28/21, The Times Fee: \$53.04



Affordable Apartments for Rent in Garwood, NJ



Preliminary applications are currently being accepted for 30 affordable rentals at The Vermella at Garwood Station. Rents for 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units will range from \$400 to \$1,376 (utilities not included.)

Join the Garwood rental waiting list at www.AffordableHomesNewJersey.com by April 15, 2021 to be included in the random drawing.

Maximum Income Limits (per household)	
1 person household:	\$59,085
2 person household:	\$67,526
3 person household:	\$75,967
4 person household:	\$84,408
5 person household:	\$91,160
6 person household:	\$97,913



Although any income eligible households may apply, residents and workers of Essex, Morris, Union and Warren will be selected before residents of other counties or states. Income Guidelines Apply. Rents and Income Limits may change.

To submit a preliminary application, please visit:
www.AffordableHomesNewJersey.com
and Join the GARWOOD RENTAL WAITING LIST
If you do not have email, call 609-664-2769, ext 5

Paper Mill Announces Auditions for Summer Musical Conservatory

MILLBURN — Paper Mill Playhouse has announced auditions for the institution’s prestigious Summer Musical Theater Conservatory for young artists to be held this summer. Paper Mill Playhouse welcomes audition videos from students 10 to 18 years old seeking a coveted spot in the competitive Conservatory. The program culminates in a video presentation titled, *New Voices of 2021!* This original program will premiere online in September.

The 2021 Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theater Conservatory will take place Monday, June 28 to Friday, July 23, 2021, at Paper Mill Playhouse and the Paper Mill Studios in Milburn. Students will be offered a hybrid schedule of live training three days a week and alternating with virtual instruction two days a week. Classes will be modest in size with all current CDC guidelines and state mandated protocols in place for live instruction.

Auditions for the Summer Conservatory are by video submission only. There will be no live auditions scheduled. For audition video guidelines, submission instructions and other important information on tuition and available scholarships, visit papermill.org.

The Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theater Conservatory is a program of rigorous study led by Paper Mill’s professional artistic

staff. Students have the opportunity to enhance their individual performance potential while developing a broad base of theater experience and knowledge. Students participate in intensive classes including musical theater performance, acting, dance, private voice lessons, monologue coaching, and improvisation, while also attending guest workshops taught by professional actors, directors, and casting agents. Time during every instructional day is devoted to rehearsing and filming the virtual New Voices performance that debuts September 2021. Key to the curriculum is the development of self-discipline, respect, and a commitment to excellence that will serve these young artists throughout their lives.

“Paper Mill Playhouse’s Summer Musical Theater Conservatory is one of the finest young artist professional development programs for musical theater in the United States,” stated Mark S. Hoebee, Paper Mill’s Producing Artistic Director. “It is amazing to see these young performers learn and grow into professional artists culminating in a performance produced by leading industry professionals.”

As one of the nation’s leading theaters, Paper Mill Playhouse has a well-earned reputation for launching both performers and shows for the Broadway industry. Since its inception in 1996, the Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theater Conservatory and the New Voices Concert have ignited the careers of many notable performers. Conservatory alumni include Academy Award winner Anne Hathaway (*Les Misérables*), Tony Award winners Laura Benanti (*Gypsy*), Nikki M. James (*The Book of Mormon*), Ali Stoker (*Oklahoma!*), Tony nominee Rob McClure (*Chaplin*), Jelani Remy (*Ain’t Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations*), Shanice Williams, star of NBC’s *The Wiz Live!* and Olivier Award nominee Jared Gertner (*The Book of Mormon*).

The *New Voices* performance is the culmination of the four-week program. Also appearing will be numerous winners and nominees of the 2021 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards presented by Investors Foundation, who win scholarships to attend the Conservatory.

“From the first day of class all the way through the New Voices performance, we require our students to rise to the demands of this rigorous program,” stated Lisa Cooney, Paper Mill Playhouse Director of Education. “We ask them to work harder than they ever have before as young performers, and we strive to build an incredible ensemble company, while each student hones their own individual performance skills.”

The summer of 2020 saw the introduction of online classes, and despite everyone’s desire to be in studio, the virtual Conservatory soared and enrolled students from across the country. A parent in Colorado shared, “We want to thank you for an amazing summer with the Paper Mill Conservatory. Our son is absolutely LOVING his time with Paper Mill this summer! You have all done such a marvelous job making the Conservatory so personable and illuminating for the students—truly, a life-changing experience. Your commitment to making the Conservatory happen provided a transformative experience for our son, who not only grew as an artist but also created incredible memories and friendships. You and the other Conservatory teachers & staff were amazing—personable in your interaction with the students and directly impactful on their artistic development. You should be so proud of what you all accomplished in this unprecedented summer!”

The Summer Professional Training Programs and New Voices are supported by Investors Foundation, Paper Mill Playhouse Education and Outreach are proudly sponsored by The Goren Family and The Harmony Helper App.

Live Theater

Burdick, the play’s focus is solely on the characters. When Mr. Kelner’s character creates hummus from scratch, his onstage “business” is in the frenetic pace and manner of a person who is high on anxiety. Mr. Kelner brings his character to life expertly from the inside out. Every twitch and movement is almost bird-like in nature. And when Mr. Walsh fumes and explodes because of the weight of medical issues on his mind, it is believable.

But questions abound. Like all good art, there are no set answers or one interpretation. In fact, in the talk back after the show with both actors and Mr. Burdick seated on the set, Mr. Kelner said he likes to let the audience “write what happens after the end of the play.” Like life, nothing is wrapped up in a nice, neat package with or without a bow.

Hooray for live theater! The curtain may be down now on this play’s one-weekend run, but its essence will live on in the minds and hearts of us who were fortunate enough to experience it live.

Mardi Gras Bash To Live-Stream From the Watchung Arts Center

AREA — “Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!” Let the good times roll at The Watchung Arts Center’s Mardi Gras virtual celebration on Saturday, February 20 at 8 p.m.

The Mardi Gras Band returns following the success of last year’s sell-out performance. Band leader and bassist Thaddeus Exposé, a New Orleans native, will be joined by vocalist Arlee Leonard, pianist Brandon McCune, drummer Gordon Lane, Michael Green on the trumpet and Marty Eigen on the clarinet. Due to the Pandemic, this concert will be live-streamed from the Watchung Arts Center to the comfort and safety of your home via Zoom.

Mr. Exposé was fascinated by the bass lines in music and first began practicing them on his father’s guitar. His formal bass training began at age 18 under the instruction of bassist Walter Payton. In 1985, Mr. Exposé moved to Chicago, Illinois. He earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree in music education from Northeastern University and become one of Chicago’s top bassists. In early 1999, he moved to New York City, working as the house bassist for the Jazz Standard Club. He has had a career as a freelance musician throughout the U.S. and internationally. Mr. Exposé has shared the stage with Stanley

Turrentine, Marcus Roberts, Wynton Marsalis, Jennifer Holiday and many other great jazz artists.

Dynamic vocalist and recording artist Arlee Leonard began performing at age six in coffee houses in Detroit with her parents, blues/folk icons David and Roselyn. Raised in California, Michigan, Montreal and New Orleans, Arlee earned a BA in sociology with honors from the University of California, Santa Cruz, while she sang, acted and danced through her four years there. In 1991, Arlee’s multi-racial family toured Germany, France, Holland and Switzerland, where she sang, led her own groups and became a guest vocalist for a variety of events and occasions. Ms. Leonard has since performed throughout the world.

A Chicago native, pianist Brandon McCune, makes his home in Newark, New Jersey. Mr. McCune was selected as a U.S. Jazz Ambassador to Africa in 1998–99. He has worked as a band leader, music director and as a sideman for artists such as Abbey Lincoln, Terence Blanchard and Nneena Freelon among other great musicians. Mr. McCune has written music for choreographer Camille A. Brown’s “Matchstick” and “Groove to Nobody’s Business.”

Gordon Lane has been a recurring member of world-renowned guitar virtuoso Stanley Jordan’s New York trio since 2003. In February of 2008, Mr. Lane was invited to perform at the Great Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, Russia, with saxophonist George Garanian. The sold-out concert was a resounding success. In August of 2013, Gordon completed a one-week engagement

with Mr. Jordan and Charnett Moffett at the Iridium Jazz Club of New York City presenting Mr. Jordan’s latest CD release: “State of Nature.”

Michael Green is active in the tri-state area as a pianist, trumpeter, composer and arranger. He has composed and performed the scores for documentary films, orchestrated a Broadway musical (*Lucky Stiff*) and has served as both a performer and composer-in-residence for The Princeton Brass Band. Currently, Mr. Green is on the faculty of Westminster Conservatory in Princeton, where for 12 years he has been teaching while maintaining an active freelance career, performing in both jazz and classical ensembles and orchestras.

Marty Eigen is the founder of AMANI and the leader of Beacon Hill Musicians. He has appeared many times at the Watchung Arts Center, Bickford Theatre, Shanghai Jazz and Trumpets in New Jersey. He recently appeared at the world-famous Birdland Jazz Club in New York City with Carrie Jackson and Rio Clemente. Since 2015, Mr. Eigen has produced four annual benefit concerts to raise money for The Seeing Eye.

Tickets are \$20 per person. The box office will close at 7 p.m. Saturday, February 20. The Zoom link will be sent via email to the ticket holders. Buying in advance is strongly recommended, and tickets can be purchased securely through Eventbrite (watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com).

To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call (908)753-0190.

February Festivities Series Takes Place at Trailside

COUNTY – Families looking for fun outdoor activities during the Presidents’ Day weekend are invited to visit Union County’s Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside for a series of special outdoor programs. The programs are recommended for families with children ages four and older, and Covid-19 prevention guidelines apply.

“The February Festivities series at Trailside offers creative and educational programs for all ages in the natural setting of Union County’s Watchung Reservation,” said County Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

All programs will be offered each day on Saturday, February 13; Sunday, February 14; and Monday, February 15, weather permitting.

The complete list of outdoor activities includes:

The Journey of Sap to Syrup from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Visitors will learn how real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree.

Remarkable Raptors from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Meet a live hawk and owl from the Tenafly Nature Center. Discover the interesting life of a raptor.

Joe Fischer’s Hocus Pocus Magic Show from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon filled with the perfect blend of magic, audience participation, comedy and

excitement.

Winter Walk Scavenger Hunt from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Search for buck rubs, animal tracks, nibbled twigs and other signs that tell us our animal neighbors have visited.

A second magic show will be offered on Presidents’ Day, Monday, February 15 only, from 2:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants are also welcome to warm up around a campfire and enjoy some hot chocolate.

Pre-registration is required for all February Festivities programs. No walk-ins will be permitted. To register, visit ucnj.org/trailside.

The fee per person per class is \$5 for Union County residents and \$6 for non-county residents.

Masks are required and must be worn by all participants. Programs will be held in small groups in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Participants are advised to dress for the outdoors.

For additional information about the special programs offered during February Festivities and upcoming programs and activities for seniors, families and children at Trailside, please visit ucnj.org/trailside or call (908)789-3670.

In-person activities in Union County parks are limited during the Covid-19 outbreak in accordance with statewide public health guidelines, and Trailside is closed to the public until further notice.

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Arts & Entertainment

Nani’s Cheesecake Brings Family Recipe Back to Life

By HILLARY SHOPE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — A secret family recipe is getting a second life through Nani’s Cheesecake, a new sister-owned business based in Westfield.

When sisters, Amy Greenbaum and Nicole Greenbaum McCormick, found themselves living together during Covid, they decided there was no better time than the present to bring their cheesecake dreams to life - founding Nani’s Cheesecake in October of 2020.

The name for their business comes from their beloved 97-year-old grandmother — their Nani.

Their families cheesecake recipe was born many years ago when Amy and Nicole’s grandparents, their Nani and Popi, owned a restaurant named The Captain’s Roost in Edgewater, New Jersey.

“When our mom was 12 years old she decided to bake her mom’s cheesecake recipe. It was then when she suggested they sell it. Ever since, our Nani had to keep up with demand by baking multiple cheesecakes daily, said Greenbaum. “Customers would call the restaurant to make a table reservation and simultaneously reserve slices for their table.”

“They would sell out of the cheesecake every night,” said Greenbaum McCormick.

The restaurant closed in 1978, but it’s cheesecake legacy still lives on. The recipe has always been sacred to their family and remains a staple at their family gatherings.

“Our Nani never wanted us to tell anyone [the recipe], or my mom to tell anyone, and then us once we got of age because it just felt special, so she wanted to keep it for us to see one day potentially what could happen with it. Somehow she just knew,” said Greenbaum McCormick.

And now, their Nani’s wish is coming true.

“Recently we were talking about it [with our nani] and she said she was always hoping that one day someone would do something with it,” said

Greenbaum. “Now at 97 years old, she can see what we’re doing. We’re trying.”

Nani’s Cheesecake is all about bringing a modern twist to a classic dessert. Their ‘minis’ are small cheesecakes, meant to be eaten in two to three bites. Each month, they debut



Photo Courtesy of Ryan McCormick
SAY CHEESE-CAKE...Amy Greenbaum and Nicole Greenbaum McCormick, sisters and co-owners of Nani’s Cheesecake.

a new flavor of the month for the minis, but customers can also customize flavors, colors, and more for special occasions and other orders.

This month’s flavor is toasted s’more, and with each new flavor, Nani’s Cheesecake is looking to redefine and invigorate what it means to eat and enjoy cheesecake.

“When we think of cheesecake we think of an older generational dessert. We love it, we’re used to it, but our age group and younger don’t really think of cheesecake as a go-to. With this in mind, we decided to keep

Nani’s cheesecake — the classic 8-inch and 10-inch cakes — but also bring in these youthful, colorful monthly minis with new flavors to appeal to a younger crowd,” said Greenbaum.

“We have various options for pack sizes, so even if you’re one person or two people at home, it’s not an intimidating size. Our smallest box right now has 6 [minis] and they last in the fridge 3-5 days,” said Greenbaum McCormick.

They also offer packs that include 16 minis, or the traditional 8-inch and 10-inch cheesecakes.

“We hope people think of them as hostess gifts but also to bring to their own tables,” said Greenbaum McCormick.

They currently hand-deliver orders in the Tri-State area and plan on doing pop-up shops in their hometown of Potomac, Maryland this year. Pick-ups are also available in Westfield.

Nani’s Cheesecake is happy to work with customers outside of their delivery schedules for special orders and encourages customers to reach out to them for coordination.

“We love trying to bring smiles to our customer’s faces,” said Greenbaum McCormick.

Whether it’s baby showers, gender reveals, birthdays, or beyond, Nani’s Cheesecake plans to work with customers to design the perfect minis for any occasion.

“We have so much fun playing around with the endless opportunities and we’re having so much fun with it,” said Greenbaum McCormick.

“We’re really close with our grandma, we talk to her daily, and seeing this come to life and seeing how proud she is — no matter what happens with the future of Nani’s Cheesecakes, it’s already so fulfilling,” said Greenbaum.

Customers can follow Nani’s Cheesecake on Instagram @nanis.cheesecake for the latest updates and place orders via direct message or email orders@nanischeesecake.com.

Downtown Cranford Business Getting a ‘Takeover Makeover’

By MARTA ESQUIROZ
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Since the Covid-19 pandemic descended early last year, small businesses, which depend strictly on their customers, have faced a severe crisis. Day after day, they have struggled financially, having no guarantees that they would open the day after. They had to learn new strategies and reinvent themselves to keep selling their products.

Acknowledging this situation, communities have offered their help during the quarantine to their local businesses to keep them afloat.

Caren Demyen, acting director of Downtown Cranford, presented the idea of providing small businesses with renovations as a way to give back to all the businesses that, while deeply affected by Covid-19, have earned Cranford’s downtown the best in the state for two years in a row by NJ.com.

Ms. Demyen said she saw this plan as an opportunity “to bring the community back together.” For her, “one of Cranford’s strengths is the fact that everyone is always willing to lend a hand,” she said. She explained the idea arose last August,

but that it took time to put the different pieces together.

Once the organization decided on the plan, it took the concept to the owner of Timber Ridge Construction, Lisa Carbone, and they shaped it into the project “Takeover Makeover.” She and her husband became the project managers, and

businesses by donating their time and materials. Ms. Demyen added that they counted on “a lot of local contractors that like to support people in town.” She said she believed it has been an excellent example for them as they have realized how important it is “to lean on each other to get through the difficult times.”

Periwinkle’s Fine Gifts, which first opened in 1989 in Westfield and then moved into Cranford, was the first business selected to benefit from this program.

Elaine Moffitt, owner of the North Union Avenue store, said she was “thrilled” after finding out she was the one picked. “It’s such a dream come true,” she remarked.

Asked about the impact of Covid-19, she related that it was “so traumatic.”

“I didn’t know if my business or any business would survive because

they shut us down,” she said. Facing the lockdown, Ms. Moffitt worked day to night on her website in order to stay in touch with her customers.

“I was out there on social media letting them know I am here,” she

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Marta Esquiroz for The Westfield Leader and The Times
READY FOR RENOVATION...Owner of Periwinkle's, Elaine Moffitt, with her dog prepare for renovation of the store.

Ms. Carbone said, “it was a great idea — being able to help other business owners, especially the retail industry deeply hit by the pandemic.”

The project goal was to gather a team of volunteers from Cranford and neighboring communities to create a new look for one of their local

Live Theater Thrills at The Hamilton Stage in Rahway

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

RAHWAY — A live presentation of the poignant one-act play *Thanks, Brother*, written by Jared Kelner, had its premiere this past weekend at Union County Performing Arts Center’s (UCPAC) Hamilton Stage. Oh, live theater – it was just what the doctor ordered – an engaging, layered piece that makes the audience reflect about bonds among family members. Is loyalty born out of guilt or obligation? To what lengths would a person go for a family member?

Socially distanced audience members (around 30 at the Saturday matinee I attended), fully masked and completely aware of pandemic protocols, watched as two gifted, seasoned actors presented characters who opened themselves up to painful vulnerability.

A sparse set of a house interior and an outdoor area with two mismatched chairs signal this is a small, lower-class house. Not much has changed in it for decades. Tommy (James Walsh), a burly, coarse, hog-riding loudmouth,

has served as protector and bodyguard of his brother figure, Jeremy, starting from when they were teens. Complete opposites, Jeremy (the playwright, Mr. Kelner) is a nail-biting, hyper-agitated gay man who has been bullied and abused his whole life. As the story unfolds, we see that from their first meeting, these two “brothers” have a victim/savior relationship. Years ago, Tommy, as a teenager in foster care, was living in a park when he rescued Jeremy from a lake as he was being drowned by two bullies. Tommy comes home for dinner that night with Jeremy and stays as a permanent family member and continual protector of the frail young man.

Like any household, though, secrets abound. Muffled skeletons rattle. Tommy, the fun-loving, “I-can-survive anything,” life-of-the-party guy who is always seen with a drink in his hand, has come back to the mother’s home, which was willed to Jeremy six years ago. Both men have major issues.

Recently, Jeremy’s beloved dog

was eaten by coyotes. He lost his job as a chef, and he is feeling rudderless. He has asked Tommy to drive hours to be there for an “important meeting” with other relatives. That was a ruse.

Tommy reveals that his doctors told him that his alcoholism has given him only three to six months to live unless he has a full liver transplant. Not just a portion of a liver, not just a little bit, but a full liver. And, of course as we know from TV medical shows, an alcoholic has no chance of being on a liver transplant list, even though Tommy can attest to the fact that he has not had a drink for “four years and seven months.” Is that the truth? Ah, elusive truth, like beauty, sometimes is in the beholder’s eye.

Reminiscing through exposition and dialogue, Tommy shares his sense of responsibility to protect his frail brother. Paradoxically, Jeremy feels it is his duty now to protect Tommy. This seesaw relationship is compounded by the fact that Tommy is estranged from his wife and children. Jeremy tries to be a peacemaker and urges for a reconciliation of sorts in the form of a phone call to his children.

Sensitively directed by Mike

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
FIRST IN BACKSTROKE, FIRST IN 500-FREE...Blue Devil Lauren Lane won the 100-backstroke and the 500-freestyle, and was on the winning 200-medley relay team in the meet against the Summit Hilltoppers on January 14, 2020.



David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
STEPPING UP THE PACE...Senior Griffin Rooney, No. 5, and the Blue Devils really stepped up the pace in the final minute of the second quarter and throughout the second half to beat Union Catholic, 65-61, in overtime on January 16, 2020.

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

From the archives of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* - complete accounts found at www.goleader.com - year - month - week.

January 14, 2020: Four events into the meet there was only a two-point spread at break time between two unbeaten girls swim teams at Wallace Pool. The hosting Lady Blue Devils led by a slim 32-30 margin at that time but began to separate themselves from the Summit Hilltoppers,

especially after a convincing performance in the 500-freestyle, then added a 1-3 finish in the 400-freestyle relay to emerge with a 91-79 victory.

The 7-0 Lady Blue Devils won two of the three relay events and five of the eight individual events but their ability to add some key second, third and fourth-place finishes insured them of the triumph. Lauren Lane (500-freestyle, 100-backstroke) and Abby McKinney (200-Individual Medley, 100-butterfly) each took

first in two individual events and Erin McAndrew won the 100-freestyle. All three also played important roles in the relays.

January 14, 2020: Depth with plenty of talent was in the Westfield lanes when the Blue Devil boys swim team racked up double digit team points in five events, which included two relays, to topple the Summit Hilltoppers, 105-65, at Wallace Pool. The 7-0 Blue Devils, who had numerous second and third places, also inflicted the previously once-defeated Hilltoppers with a 1-2-3 sweep in the 100-backstroke.

Roan Baker, Jeremy Kronheimer, Barney Veres and

Seth Camacho made major contributions to the team total. Baker won the 200-Individual Medley and the 100-backstroke, and was on the winning 200-medley relay and the 400-free relay foursome that finished second. Kronheimer took top honors in the 50-free, swam on the winning 200-medley relay and 200-free relay, and placed third in the 100-breaststroke. Veres was on the winning 200-medley relay, placed second in the 100-fly and 100-breast, and was on the 200-free relay foursome that took second. Camacho finished second in the 500-free and 200-free, and was on the second-placed 400-free relay.

January 14, 2020: The Cranford girls basketball team

defeated the Roselle Catholic Lady Lions, 59-53, in Roselle. Senior Gianna Toretta was a terror from the outside, sinking five 3-pointers and finishing with a game-high 25 points, while adding four assists, four rebounds and a steal. Olivia Merriman netted 17 points, including trip 3-pointers.

January 16, 2020: Everything was going wrong for the home team, while everything was going right for visitors, that was until the Westfield Blue Devils began their magical turnaround with one minute remaining in the first half to chip away at a 17-point deficit en route to a 65-61, overtime victory over the Union Catholic boys basketball team in

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David B. Corbin (January 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
DRIVING THROUGH “BLUE”...Raider Christian Piesch, No. 22, tries to drive through Blue Devils Hank Shapiro, No. 10, and Mike Kane, No. 14. Witnessed by a capacity crowd, the Blue Devils nipped the Raiders, 60-59 (January 17, 2019).



David B. Corbin (January 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
SURROUNDED BY COUGARS...Blue Devil freshman Grace Klag, No. 33, finds herself surrounded by three Chatham Cougars at Westfield High School on January 17, 2019. The Chatham girls defeated the Blue Devils, 47-32.

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

Westfield.

Senior Griffin Rooney would finish with a game-leading 24 points, while adding five rebounds and three assists. Senior Jake Walsh finished with 15 points, including trip 3-pointers, and added three assists and three rebounds. Senior Andrew Echausse had four assists, five rebounds and nailed a 3-pointer. Sophomore Logan Howland, who finished with 12 points, ruled the boards, especially late in the third and fourth quarters and in the overtime period to finish with 15 rebounds and two blocks.

January 12, 2019: Tournament time means “rise to the occasion” as far as the Cranford wrestling team is concerned. The Cougars entered competitors in

all 14 weight classes and 13 of them placed in the top-5, which included two champions, as they claimed their fifth straight Union County Tournament Championship at Union. The Cougars totaled 221 team points, while the Westfield Blue Devils placed 10 of their entrees, including three individual champions, in the top-5 and finished second with a total of 198. Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz was named UCT Coach of the Year.

What could be considered the biggest stunner, but not really, of the afternoon came in the 126-lb championship bout between state-ranked Blue Devil CJ Composto and Panther Eddie Hummel. After a long scramble, Composto scored a takedown and

later added a two-point Turk tilt to grab a 4-1 lead. But Hummel, known for his devastating throw maneuvers, escaped and caught Composto off-balance with a headlock for a pin in 3:33. Composto had recorded a pair of falls to reach the finals. Hummel received the Outstanding Wrestler Award for the lower weights.

An upset on a somewhat lesser scale occurred in the 138-lb class where Cougar Jack Korzeneski, seeded seventh, won his pigtail bout by fall to face top-seeded Stefano DelValle (Linden), who he knocked off 7-3 in the quarterfinals. Nothing stopped Korzeneski in his title bout with Pat Nevins (Union). With a 6-5 lead in the third period, Korzeneski reversed Nevins and

put him on his back for a 4:49 pin to claim the crown.

Blue Devils Luke Hoerle (120-lbs), Tim Miller (182-lbs) and Brendan Loder (195-lbs) won UCT titles and Cougar AJ Bencivenga won the 152-lb crown.

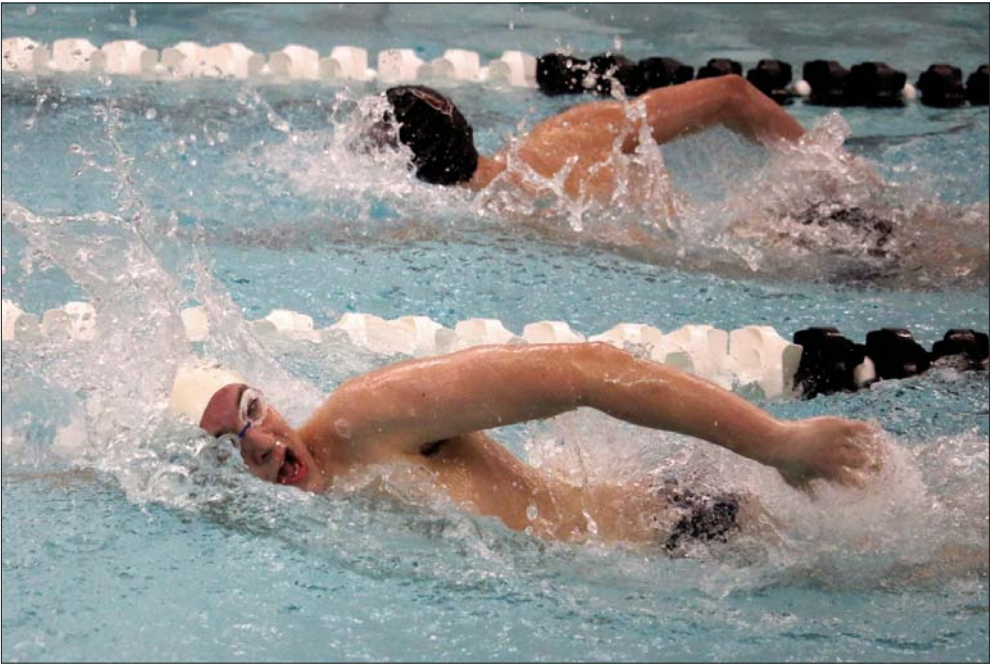
January 17, 2019: Second and third chances, creating turnovers, quick but effective passing and timely 3-pointers kept the Chatham Lady Cougars on the road to a 47-32 victory over the hosting Westfield Blue Devils. The 11-3 Cougars’ persistence, with the exception of two brief moments, kept the 8-5 Blue Devils in a chase mode throughout the entire game. Senior Sam Stravach led the Blue Devils with nine rebounds, two blocked shots and three assists, while putting

in six points. Freshmen Grace Klag (7 rebounds, assist) and Chloe Kreusser each scored eight points and Charlotte Dursee contributed two rebounds, an assist and a steal. Maz contributed strong defense and an assist.

January 17, 2019: The Westfield boys basketball team built a 19-point lead in the second half then hung on for dear life to claim a 60-59 victory over SPF Raiders at Scotch Plains. Matt Crowley led the Blue Devils with 14 points, while Griffin Rooney added 10 points. Raiders Justin Guy and Anthony Porter led all scorers with 16 points.

January 18, 2019: Solid performances from veterans and some of the younger wrestlers

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



David B. Corbin (January 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TAKING SECOND IN THE 500-FREE...Blue Devil Seth Camacho took 2nd in the 500-free and 2nd in the 200-free against the Hilltoppers (January 14, 2020).



David B. Corbin (January 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
UCT CHAMPION...Cougar Jack Korzeneski, top, won the Union County Tournament 138-lb title (January 12, 2019).

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

on both teams made for a very entertaining evening in the show-down match between Westfield, sporting a 5-0 record, and the hosting 8-1 Rahway Indians. As it turned out, the Blue Devil veterans and several less experienced wrestlers came up with the better performances in key bouts to claim a 43-22 victory.

Mike Price earned the Blue Devils six points when he pinned Jon Tilton in 4:43 with a half nelson at 160-lbs. Veteran Jordan Simpson, facing Nevon Quinones, initiated his 170-lb bout with a double-leg tackle and ended it with a cradle in 1:12. Veteran Tim Miller battered Jeff Mendoza at 182-lbs, beginning with a far-leg takedown and a stack nearfall, adding a head-and-arm/walk around

takedown and another nearfall, then ending it all in 4:23 with a wrist/half nelson. Top control paid dividends in Blue Devil Brendan Loder's 2-0 victory over Shimei Page at 195-lbs.

January 16, 2018: The hosting Rahway boys basketball team rallied from an 11-point deficit to defeat the Raiders, 54-50, in a battle of unbeatens. The UCC Valley Conference co-leaders had been on a collision course since the season began and Tuesday's round one showdown lived up to expectations. Senior Jack Brady netted 14 points for the Raiders. Dwight Laylor scored 12 points, while Tommy Drubulis and Lamont Cruse each scored eight points.

January 17, 2018: Bonus points in face-to-face bouts were

hard to come by for either team when the Cranford wrestling team traveled to Roselle Park to clash with the Panthers. The outcome came down to the final bout where the Cougars needed a pin to win by one but Abel Crespo avoided a gallant effort from Kyell Roper to emerge with a 4-3 decision and to earn the Panthers a 33-25 victory.

Cougar Justin Alpaugh McLean showed Jefferson Garcia the lights with a half nelson in 2:07 at 170-lbs. Dylan Budnik claimed an 8-0, major decision at 195-lbs to top Ryan Urban. Rob Schork began his 220-lb bout with Sean Matthews with a shrug-and-yank takedown and ended it with a single-leg and trip takedown to grab a 5-0 decision. At 152-lbs, AJ Bencivenga defeated Dylan

Camila, 5-2.

January 18, 2018: Getting in sync in nearly every aspect of the game was no problem for the Plainfield boys basketball team but it certainly was a problem for the Blue Devil boys in a 64-54 setback at Westfield. The Cardinals banged 10 3-pointers, had second, third and even fourth chances on offensive rebounds and also sank 20 of 29 free throws, while the Blue Devils were not only off on their shooting but got very few second chances under the boards.

Senior Mark Natiello scored 15 points, including a pair of threes, and added four rebounds. Senior Adam McDaniel finished with 10 points, including a 3-pointer, and added six rebounds. Luke Spellman (8 points) hit two 3-

pointers and pulled seven rebounds. Sophomore Griffin Rooney hit a pair of threes and finished with eight points. Dylan Jackson also finished with eight points, four assists and six rebounds.

January 18, 2018: The Cranford girls basketball team dropped a 63-49 decision to Roselle Catholic (9-2) in Cranford. Charlotte VanWhy and Camryn Wichelns each scored 13 points for the Cougars and Caroline McCaffery netted nine points.

January 19, 2018: One of just four! A jam-packed gym filled with exuberant fans and outstanding Panther wrestlers of yore, even from the 1940s, witnessed their Roselle Park wrestling team achieve what just three

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



David B. Corbin (January 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TRYING TO SLIP BEHIND...Raider Nick Palazzola tries to slip his arm behind Panther Josh Connolly in his 152-lb bout in Roselle Park on January 20, 2017. The Panthers had to win big in the final three bouts to pull out a 34-33 victory.



David B. Corbin (January 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
DRIVING HARD INSIDE...Blue Devil Danielle Rinaldi, No. 1, attempts to drive past Union Farmer Nneka Moneme, No. 15, in Westfield on January 19, 2017. The Blue Devils' defense halted the Lady Farmers, 33-21.

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

other high school wrestling teams in the United States had achieved. The Panthers took on the SPF Raiders and came up with a 44-23 victory to earn the program's 1,000th career win.

At 170-lbs, Raider Nick Palazzola recorded six takedowns before pinning Jefferson Garcia with a cradle in 5:26. The 195-lb bout was all Raiders as Sam Wustefeld, ranked No. 1 in the state, finally got an opportunity to face an opponent. Wustefeld went the takedown route to rout Ryan Urban via 20-5, technical fall in 2:29.

January 17, 2017: The SPF boys basketball team continued its winning ways with an impressive, 53-46, overtime victory against UCC Valley Division rival

Rahway at Scotch Plains. Raider Tommy Drubulis pumped in 21 points to lead all scorers. The victory was the Raiders' 12th in a row to start the season after winning just three games all of last year.

January 18, 2017: Senior Vince Concina joined Chris Scorese and Tom DiGiovanni as members of the "100-career win club" on this year's Cranford wrestling team during a rivalry match with Roselle Park in Cranford. The 7-0, fourth-ranked Cougars also achieved a rarity by defeating the Panthers for the third straight year, this time by a 46-21 margin. Concina celebrated his 100th victory when he twisted Devin Hilburn with a corkscrew maneuver to record a

17-1, technical fall in 4:08 at 182-lbs.

Scorese reached his 100th victory at the NJSIAA Championships last March and DiGiovanni gained his at the recent Bethlehem Catholic Christmas Tournament. But there are still two more members, Anthony Capece and Brian McGovern, who are approaching that magic number on this team that may be one of the best in Cranford wrestling history.

January 19, 2017: Defensive solidarity compensated for some moments of shaky offensive play in the Westfield Blue Devils' 33-21 victory over the Union girls basketball team in a game played at Westfield. Molly Ryan netted 16 points and also made five

steals and pulled seven rebounds. Shannon Devitt scored six points and was tops under the boards with eight rebounds and four blocked shots. Three was the magic number for Grace Elliott as she had three points, three assists and three steals. Danielle Rinaldi had five rebounds, two assists and two steals.

January 20, 2017: Three bouts remaining and trailing 33-20, the Roselle Park wrestling team needed to get big time bonus points to survive a major setback from the visiting SPF Raiders. Clever wrestling and a shocking upset at 145-lbs by the Raiders set the stage for a dramatic conclusion but the Panthers came through with a fall at 285-lbs, a major decision at 106-

lbs and a fall at 113-lbs to eke out a 34-33 victory.

Jack Cannon (138-lbs) got the Raiders on the scoreboard in a big way when he pinned Dylan Camilo in 3:29 with a arm bar/tight waist. At 145-lbs, Panther Rene Perez surged to a 12-2 lead but when he got a little too low on another takedown attempt, Mikey Ramos stepped over his shot and pinned him in 3:20. Nick Palazzola (152-lbs) pinned Josh Connolly in 1:21 with a Mallory to a Jimmy John. Alex Oslislo (160-lbs) began his bout with Jefferson Garcia with a tackle takedown, added a two-point stack and a power throw takedown before the bout was halted at 2:16 due to injury default.

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David B. Corbin (January 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TRYING FOR THE SWITCH...Raider Zach Fleischman, left, attempts a switch reversal near the outside circle in his 160-lb bout with Panther Abel Crespo. In a very tight bout, Crespo pulled out a 3-1 victory (January 19, 2018).



David B. Corbin (January 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
HEAVILY GUARDED...Cougar senior Cerys MacLelland, No. 33, is surrounded by Cardinals but still managed to score 12 points to go with her nine rebounds and four steals (January 13, 2016).

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

January 13, 2016: Expecting an easy victory against a team that has been struggling this season, the Cranford girls basketball team did not allow itself to get overconfident and cruised to a 46-27 triumph over the Plainfield Cardinals in Cranford. When it came to creating steals, seniors Lindsay Pace and Cerys MacLelland were indeed the “Chief Thieves” with five and four thefts, respectively. MacLelland, who pulled nine rebounds, led the Cougars with 12 points, while Pace bucketed 10 points. Sophomore Cam Wichelns also put in 10 points.

January 14, 2016: Down by 10 points early in the fourth quarter the never-give-up attitude of the 19th-ranked Westfield boys basketball team paid off when a

successful barrage of 3-point shooting down the stretch resulted in a 72-72 tie in regulation then continued in the overtime period to earn the Blue Devils a dramatic, 86-77 victory over the 14th-ranked Union Catholic Vikings in Westfield.

The 8-3 Blue Devils sank 14 3-pointers - 7 in second half, 2 overtime - and junior Matt LaCorte had the lion’s share with seven 3-pointers and led all scorers with 32 points. Senior Owen Murray utilized his abilities in every aspect of the game to harvest a triple double — 14 rebounds, 11 assists, 10 points. He also added three steals and a pair of blocked shots. Senior Nick Mele netted 24 points with five 3-pointers and added 5 steals.

January 15, 2016: SPF and

Bridgewater-Raritan went toe-to-toe and matched each other stroke-for-stroke in a memorable showdown between two of the top high school boys’ swimming teams in the state at the Bridgewater YMCA. In the end, there was literally nothing separating the two schools from one another as the Panthers rallied to pull out a win in the 400-freestyle relay that helped them earn an 85-85 tie against the Raiders.

Raiders Josh Cohen and Chris Bondarowicz each won a pair of events. Cohen reaped victories in the 200-free (1:55.24) and the 500-free (4:06.57). Bondarowicz captured the 200-Individual Medley (2:10.06) and the 100-breaststroke (1:04.64).

January 15, 2016: The SPF

girls’ swim team made its biggest splash of the season with a thrilling, 89-81 victory over previously unbeaten Bridgewater-Raritan in Bridgewater. The Raiders took first in eight of the 11 events, swept all three relays and needed every single point to vanquish the previously unbeaten Panthers ranked as high as second in the state in some polls.

Rachel Maizes took first in the 200IM (2:24.02) and the 100-breaststroke (1:15.17). Erika Frazier, Stephanie Judge, Rachel Maizes, Amanda Banasiak — 2:00.44 won the 200-medley relay. Dee Dee Maizes won the 200-freestyle (2:08.63). Judge earned first in the 100-butterfly (1:04.14). Sarah Davis claimed the 500-freestyle (4:35.47). Rachel Maizes, Dee Dee Maizes,

Maya Dunchus and Davis finished first in the 200-free relay at 1:49.83. Banasiak, Frazier, Dee Dee Maizes and Davis sealed the deal by posting a blistering winning time of 3:57.06 in the 400-free relay.

January 16, 2015: Despite posting several individual best times of the season, the Westfield girls could not get it done against Immaculate Heart Academy, losing 111-59 in a showdown of top-20 rated girls swimming programs at Wallace Pool. Gwyn Devin led the way for Westfield, claiming first-place finishes in the 100-fly (58.98) and 100-breast (1:09.31).

January 16, 2015: It could not have been any closer. In the end, two top-10 swim programs

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



David B. Corbin (January 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TRYING EVERYTHING...Cougar Kyell Roper tries to pull Panther Abel Crespo to his back with a Spread Eagle maneuver. Roper did get a 3-point nearfall with a cradle but Crespo hung on to give Roselle Park its 999th victory (Jan. 17, 2018).



David B. Corbin (January 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
KEY STEAL TO LAY-UP...Blue Devil Nick Mele, No. 23, made a key steal that he converted to a lay-up late in the 4th quarter. The 19th-ranked Blue Devils defeated the 14th-ranked UC Vikings in overtime, 86-77 (Jan. 14, 2016).

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

would be separated only by the final result of a single event. The Westfield boys, ranked as high second in some polls, needed a key victory in the 200-free relay to edge past top-10 Bergen Catholic, 87-83, at Wallace Pool. Eric Bebel, Aedan Collins, Ryan Daniel and Stephen Husch took first in the 200-free relay (1:31.10). But it was the battle for second place that was every bit as important. Austin Kreusser, Ryan Bebel, Gavin Conlon and Griff Morgan finished in 1:32.91 to snatch second.

January 17, 2015: Twenty nine years in the making, according to Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman, but it happened when the Cranford wrestling team claimed four individual champi-

ons, swept both Outstanding Wrestler (OW) Awards and seized the Union County Tournament championship in Union. Gorman was also named the UC Coach of the Year and Cranford parent Kevin Murray received the Ralph "Pug" Williams Award for his contribution to Union County wrestling.

Cougar Chris Scorese was awarded the OW in the lower weight classes when he defeated Blue Devil John Fuller, 7-1, in the 126-lb title bout. Scorese recorded three takedowns and controlled Fuller from the top position throughout the second period. The OW Award in the upper classes went to Gavin Murray (152-lbs), who recorded a first-period fall and a 21-6, tech fall,

before pinning NeoJoe Lughas (Plainfield) in 1:51 with a half nelson/tight waist.

Cougar Niko Cappello stopped Rohan Phillip (Plainfield) 4-3 for the 182-lb title. Tom DiGiovanni claimed the 120-lb crown when he defeated Carmine Boccellari (New Prov.), 5-0. Raider Brian Lapham (145-lbs) recorded a pair of takedowns and an escape to defeat Cougar Brian McGovern, 5-2. Alex Mirabella's technique worked out very well when he clamped Will Ferdinando (Roselle Park) with a cradle in 3:05 to claim the 195-lb title.

January 15, 2014: Sophomore Devin Anderson (170-lbs) took his turn to withstand heavy pressure and won then Kevin Frega (195-lbs) and Cotter

Spurlock (220-lbs) came through with much needed pins in the final two bouts to allow the Westfield wrestling team to pull a 34-30 victory over Governor Livingston out of the fire in Westfield.

January 17, 2014: Dogged defense, thievery and execution catapulted the Cranford girls' basketball team past the hosting Governor Livingston Highlanders, 38-34. The Cougars totaled 32 rebounds and six steals. Senior guard Mairead McKeary led the Cougars offensively with 12 points and sophomore Cerys MacLelland poured in 11 points and led the team with nine rebounds. Sophomore point guard Lyndsey Pace netted 10 points, including two 3-pointers and

snagged seven rebounds.

January 12, 2013: Senior Reggie Green took charge under the boards, especially in the second half, and junior point guard Tommy Trotter went on a scoring and assists spree to lead the Cranford boys basketball to team a 60-35 victory over the stunned SPF Raiders in Cranford. Trotter, who led all scorers with 18 points, bucketed five of the Cougars' nine 3-pointers. He also dished out seven assists and snatched four steals. Green scored 10 points and pulled 12 boards. Junior John Oblachinski also sank 10 points, and senior Stefan Fedorchak put in 11 points.

Senior Tom Bonacum led the Raiders with 12 points. Junior

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David B. Corbin (January 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TAKING TOP HONORS IN THE 200-FREE...Blue Devil Aedan Collins won the 200-freestyle in 1:46.12 in the meet against Bergen Catholic at Wallace Pool on January 16, 2015. The Blue Devils won an 87-83 squeaker.



David B. Corbin (January 2013 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
LOOKING TO OUTMANEUVER A COUGAR...Raider Tom Bonacum, No. 1, looks to get around Cougar Stefan Fedorchak in Cranford on January 12, 2013. The Cougars caught fire in the second half, while the Raiders turned to ice. Cranford won, 60-35.

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

guard Andrew Voysest sank nine points and senior point guard Xavier Noel-Brooks also had nine points.

January 17, 2013: Just two days after falling to No. 1 Christian Brothers Academy, the No. 3 Westfield boys swim team made it look easy in a 106-64 win over No. 4 St. Joseph's (Metuchen) at Wallace Pool. The No. 1 ranked Blue Devil girls made it look even easier in their 115-55 romp over top-20 ranked Mount St. Mary.

John Lindros, Tyler Lessner and Matt Daniel each won a pair of individual events and swam on two winning relays. For the girls, Caroline Baldwin and Sarah Cronin each won a pair of individual events and swam on two winning relays, while Ellie

Reinhardt won an individual event and swam on two winning relays.

January 17, 2013: Senior Jess McCoy had no letdown after she sank her 1,000th career point in a game against the SPF Raiders, when she bucketed 15 points, including the final two points to lead the Cranford girls basketball team to a 35-33 victory over Governor Livingston in Cranford. Forward Kaitlin McGovern scored 11 points, including 5-for-6 from the line.

January 19, 2013: Roselle Park produced three individual champions and climbed to the top rung to claim the team title at the Union County Wrestling Tournament in Union. The Panthers finished with a 172.5 total to end the Brearley Bear's UCT winning

streak at seven. The Bears claimed three individual championships and finished second with 149.5 points. Westfield took third at 139.5 and had one individual champ. Cranford placed fourth at 119.

Blue Devil Brian Bulger extended his record to 20-0 when he put on a takedown clinic to defeat Bear Jeff Velez, 10-3, for the 182-lb title. Raider heavyweight Anthony Tufaro took care of business against Kris Lewis (Union) to grab a 12-4, majority decision for his 93rd career win and the title.

January 13, 2012: Two undefeated teams meeting face-to-face and a packed house crammed with screaming fans set the stage for a thrilling finale

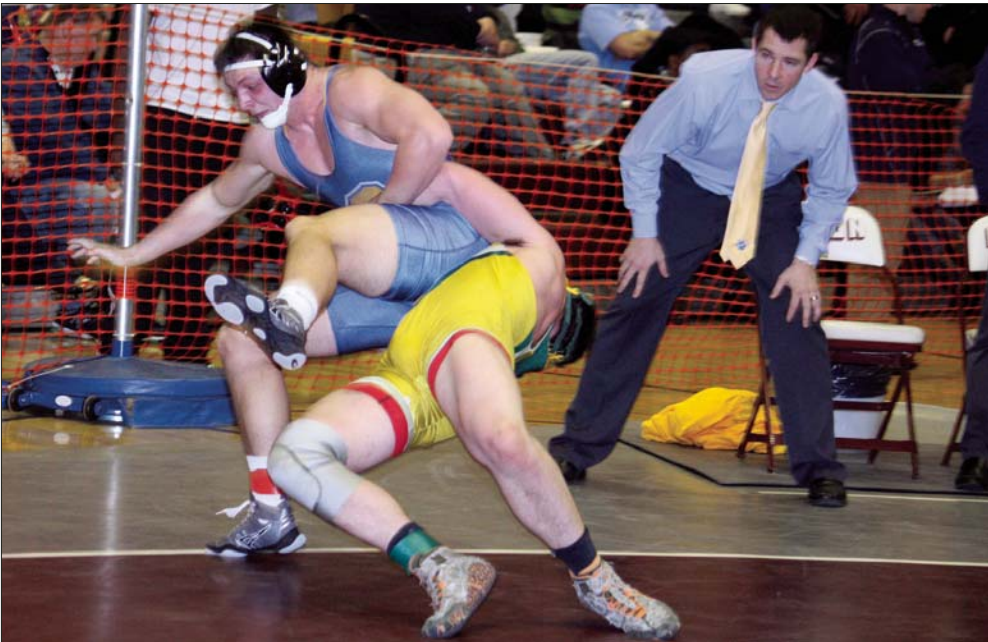
that sizzled down to the last bout between the 8-0 Blue Devils and the 10-0 Raiders wrestling teams in Scotch Plains. Trailing 27-22 with three bouts remaining, the Blue Devils got a 6-4, overtime win from Colin Barber at 152-lbs, a technical fall from Mike DeLouisa at 160-lbs and a 4-0 decision from Brian Bulger at 170-lbs to pull off a 33-27 victory. Raider heavyweight Anthony Tufaro and freshman Brian Lapham (126) both recorded pins.

January 14, 2011: Cranford senior Matt DiGiovanni wrestled one of the finest bouts of his career by defeating Seton Hall Prep's Lou Mascola, ranked fourth in the state at 140 lbs., 5-3, at the Paul J. Finn, Jr. Memorial

Tournament in Millburn, just one day after the Cougars defeated Rahway, 33-29, in Rahway. Joe Giaccio worked his takedown superiority to seize an 11-4 decision over Eamonn Gaffney at 125 lbs. Kyle Markovitch claimed a 19-5, majority decision over Ben Conover at 135-lbs. J.P. Christiano recorded a 17-1 tech fall over Brian Pyrus at 171-lbs.

January 14, 2010: Friendly rivalries can be great! And, this time, the Westfield basketball team got a timely and special effort from junior Ryan Hess, who netted 15 of his 22 points in the final quarter, as the hosting Blue Devils pushed past the Raiders, 56-50. Westfield senior center Pat Sabatino got the job done

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David B. Corbin (January 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
WATCHING THE ACTION...Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman watches Niko Cappello's, left, 182-lb semifinal bout with Klaudio Bardhoko (New Providence) intently during the UC Tournament on January 17, 2015. Cappello won, 7-1.



David B. Corbin (January 2004 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
ATTEMPTING TO AVOID A TILT...Blue Devil sophomore Steve Cruikshank, front, tries to avoid being turned to his back by Raider junior Marc Fabiano in the 215-lb bout. The No. 20 Raiders defeated the Blue Devils 51-21 (Jan. 21, 2004).

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

defensively and offensively as he tossed in 13 points and ruled the boards with 13 rebounds. Raider junior Chuck Oliver hit five three-pointers to lead all scorers for a career-high 26 points. Junior Patrick Dougher drained two three-pointers and converted two lay-ups for 10 points.

January 17, 2009: Shades of 2008 Union County Tournament semifinals occurred, but only in reverse, when the hosting SPF girls basketball team chilled Westfield, 51-39. An immediate offensive assault backed up by rebounding dominance throughout the game left the Blue Devils' hands as cold as ice for the first three quarters.

Raider Kathryn DeCataldo finished with 13 points. Center Kaylin Jaichon led the Raiders

with 16 points and 13 rebounds. Jackie Law pulled 10 boards and sank 11 points. Blue Devil Diana Venezia led her team with 16 points. Point guard Tara Handza pushed in nine points, including two 3-pointers in the final quarter. Keri Pringle netted eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

January 19, 2008: Senior Erin Miller banged a 3-pointer with 57 seconds remaining and senior Gab O'Leary sank a free throw with 13 seconds on the clock to earn the Westfield girls basketball team a 27-25 victory over the Raiders in Westfield. Miller netted 11 points and added 4 assists and 7 rebounds. Raider forward Jackie Law had 9 points and 6 rebounds. Molly Meehan sank 6 points. Center Kaylin

Jaichon pulled 10 rebounds.

January 21, 2005: Several exciting bouts made the match very interesting in the Raider wrestling team's 42-22, victory over a strong Linden team that had returned six Region 3 qualifiers from last year. The most exciting bout came at the heavy-weight class where Raider Marc Fabiano extended his record to 16-0 with a 2-1 sudden death, overtime victory of 2004 District 11 champ Ronnell Orr.

January 22, 2004: Three quarters of offensive dominance was enough for the Blue Devil boys basketball team to withstand a ferocious, 36-point fourth-quarter charge by East Side, in a 57-50 victory in Westfield. Jan Cocozziello and Eric Hayes pumped in 19 points

and 15 points, respectively.

January 24, 2004: Several Roselle Park wrestlers resorted to a "minimize loses" technique – a necessary strategy sometimes – and succeeded but it was not enough as the 12-1, hosting Raiders prevailed, 32-24, in front of a packed, standing room only gym. Andrew Silber and Charlie Bachi came through, with key falls. Raider freshman Pat Mineo tore into Joe Signorello, recording a first period takedown and an escape and a takedown in the second period but his nose began to bleed and several bleeding timeouts were called. Hoping to snag a team victory via bleeding default, the Panther coaches approached the scorer's table, hoping that the five-minute allowance would run out. With his

nose heavily taped, Mineo persisted and won 7-3 to seal victory.

January 24, 2004: The defensive roof caved in for the Cranford girls basketball team when the 20th-ranked host Raiders went on a 17-6 first-quarter scoring frenzy and breezed to a, 63-30, victory. Center Hillary Klimowicz led all scoring with 21 points, while grabbing seven rebounds and making three blocks. Point guard Jenny Burke finished with 10 points, forward Maura Gillooly netted five points, two assists and three swipes and forward Katie Feeley fired in eight points, pulled four rebounds and stole two basketballs.

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