

Parents Sound Off About Westfield Reopening Rollout

By JENNIFER GLACKIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — More than 300 people attended Tuesday’s virtual board of education meeting, where Superintendent Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., announced more in-person schooling for all Westfield elementary- and middle-school students.

Kindergarten through second-grade students were previously announced to return to in-person learning for five half days on Monday, March 15. Third-through fifth-grade students will return to the same in-person model the following Monday, March 22.

Kindergarten students currently at-

tend a reduced schedule, approximately two hours per day, which will continue in the new five days per week schedule. Parents asked if the hours can be extended to the usual two and half hours per day. Bringing students in the building for five half days safely has been logistically challenging, said Dr. Dolan, referring to all of the programs in each school. After a safe return, however, the superintendent said that the district will “certainly consider it.”

Middle-school students will begin alternating Wednesdays starting March 10. Middle-school special-education students will return to five in-person half days on March 15, with the rest of

the middle-school population joining them on Monday, April 12.

The high school will remain four days in-person learning with all-remote Wednesdays through Monday, April 19, according to Superintendent Dolan’s timeline. High-school parents will be surveyed regarding their choice of in-person or remote learning for the fourth marking period. Any decisions for the high school will be made after a review of the survey data.

Dr. Dolan also reported the ongoing steps the district is taking to continue progressing, such as working with the department of health to facilitate vaccinations for teachers. She said she is hopeful the district and the department of health will be able to provide vaccinations in school to those teachers who want it.

The district also will continue to monitor guidance for in-school lunch, which at this time is still considered “high-risk” by the health department, she said. Also, using outdoor spaces for classes, and possibly lunch, is being looked into.

Parents can support these efforts through their parent teacher organizations (PTOs) by helping with fundraising or providing needed resources for their particular school.

Advocating for change at the state level and applying to become district substitutes are two other ways parents can help. Those wishing to help by becoming substitute teachers, secretaries, paraprofessionals or custodians can check the Human Resources tab on the district website.

Superintendent Dolan also presented Westfield’s monthly Covid totals from September 2020 through February of 2021, noting that of the 490 Covid-positive individuals in January, 24 percent of those were in the school community. She also reminded residents of the Covid-19 Hub on the district’s website where people can find all of the guidelines and reopening plans, superintendent communications, board meeting synopses, and the videos of board meetings to address some of the fre-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Pandemic Causes Dip In Public School Enrollment

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA — Both Westfield Public Schools and Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools have seen a dip in enrollment numbers for the 2020-2021 school year. Westfield lost 273 students, bringing total enrollment numbers under 6,000 for the first time in at least 11 years. Scotch Plains-Fanwood lost approximately 163 students after maintaining a relatively steady number of students for the past nine years.

Since the pandemic began nearly a year ago, schools have faced a number of roadblocks in regaining any sense of normalcy. Students in both municipalities are not in school for full days, with most still on a hybrid of in-person and virtual-learning models.

“As I’ve said previously, there is no doubt that this year has been difficult—at times, seemingly impossible—for everyone, especially for students who are younger or have specific needs,”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Town Planner Gives Update On Affordable Housing

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Town Planner Don Sammet gave an update on Westfield’s affordable-housing compliance at the February 23 town council meeting.

As the town’s municipal housing liaison, Mr. Sammet is required to update residents on the status of implementation of Westfield’s affordable-housing plans every February by the settlement agreement with the Fair Share Housing Center. Fair Share is a nonprofit organization that “prohibits economic discrimination through exclusionary zoning and requires all towns to provide their ‘fair share’ of their region’s need for affordable housing,” as per its website.

Mr. Sammet explained that the town received a final judgment from Superior Court in August 2018, in which the court approved of Westfield’s affordable-housing plan and strategy as, “we are provid-

ing a realistic opportunity for the development of affordable housing in Westfield,” Mr. Sammet said.

Because the plan is satisfactory, the town is protected from builders’ lawsuits until July 2025. Builders can sue if the town has not provided an opportunity for affordable housing, he said. These lawsuits shift the control of the municipality’s landscape from the town to the courts, he said.

“By entering into a Settlement Agreement, Westfield gains both finality and certainty in terms of meeting its affordable housing obligation; and effectively eliminates any future costs associated with litigation with the FSHC,” according to the town website.

The settlement said Westfield had a prospective need of 1,090 units of affordable housing. However, Mr. Sammet said, the town successfully argued that, realis-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

RVL Comes One Step Closer to a One-Seat Ride

By MARTA ESQUIROZ
Specially written for The Westfield Leader

TRENTON — The Raritan Valley Line Mayor’s Alliance (RVL Mayors) applauded the decision from the Biden Administration of reversing a policy of former President Donald Trump’s that did not allow New York and New Jersey to use loans borrowed from the federal government as part of each state’s funding commitment for the Gateway Project.

The group of 32 mayors from Union, Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex Counties, advocating for fair and equitable service for more than 23,000 users of the Raritan Valley Line, welcomed this recent change related to the \$11.6 billion project.

Rupal Obaray, a volunteer for the RVL Mayors, explained that in June 2018, the Trump policy stated that federal loans taken out by local project partners would no longer count as part of local share for Capital Investment Grant (CIG) projects.

“This made harder for states to finance their portion of transit infrastructure, such as the Hudson Tunnel Project,” she said.

“New Jersey and New York had planned on using loans under existing transportation programs, which they would which they would have to pay back, as their 50 percent share of paying for Gateway,” Ms. Obaray added.

“By reversing the Trump policy, the Biden Administration now allows states to use government loans to cover their share of the project, mak-



Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader

WISHFUL THINKING...This frosty guy has an optimistic message, which is understandable with the recent temperatures that soared to the 50s. Check him out on the 800 block of Summit Avenue in Westfield before he’s just a puddle.

WF Health Bd. Fields Questions About School Reopening

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Regional Health Director Megan Avallone and Board President Dr. Larry Budnick fielded numerous questions from parents about Covid-19 transmission and schools reopening at Monday night’s Westfield Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Avallone first gave a general update on Covid-19, saying February had been a much better month for the region, with cases down quite a bit from the startling January numbers when Covid-19 cases reached extreme levels. However, according to covidactnow.org, Union County is still

at a critical level of cases.

“While the cases are less, they are certainly still coming in every single day,” Ms. Avallone said. “What we’re kind of seeing, anecdotally, is that, while the cases are less, it certainly feels like individuals are more places than ever before.”

She said specifically that her department is seeing school-aged children on sports teams having “many, many contacts” due to participating in multiple spring sports and having “active social lives.” She said the department is seeing a similar trend in young adults as “circles are starting to widen.”

Ms. Avallone and the board spoke at length about the guidance of the health department on schools reopening. Ms. Avallone stressed that the department provides guidance reflective of the state’s guidance to each municipality it serves. As a state-licensed public health official, Ms. Avallone is required to follow state guidance. No guidance is created by the Westfield Regional Health Department.

She said that each board of education adopts policies based on that guidance and based on its own individual needs, like staffing needs, student population size and ventilation and space. “It is certainly not a one-size-fits-all,” Ms. Avallone said. “Ultimately, it is up to the schools and the board of education.”

Ms. Avallone said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance on opening schools approximately two weeks ago. New Jersey will make some changes to reflect the CDC guidance but they have not been released yet, she said. She said she anticipated these changes to be released next week but emphasized she did not know what those changes may be.

Many resident questions revolved around guidance related to eating lunch in schools. Ms. Avallone repeated multiple times that eating lunches in schools is allowed under state guidance so long as schools keep children six feet apart, which is logistically difficult, especially with a large number of children and/or limited space. Ms. Avallone said that eating a meal indoors is one of the “highest-risk activities that you can do

to spread Covid.”

When a resident asked why indoor dining was allowed then, she said, “Just because something is allowed, doesn’t necessarily mean it’s completely safe,” she said. “Indoor dining, we’ve known for a while — there is a risk.”

Students are allowed to sit at desks less than six feet apart with barriers like Plexiglass in place, but state guidance is clear that, at this time, eating is not okay unless students are six feet apart, Ms. Avallone said in response to another question.

Multiple attendees asked what the consequences would be if Westfield School Superintendent Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., ignored the safety guidelines and fully opened schools while allowing students to eat lunches less than six feet apart. Ms. Avallone said the health department only provides guidance and does not have a role in meeting out consequences or penalties. But, she said, “Dr. Dolan takes the safety of the school community very seriously, and the guidance shows that it is not safe to eat closer than six feet apart.”

“I know that it’s been very hard for people to understand what the relationship is between the department of health and the board of education,” board member Elizabeth Talmont said.

Ms. Avallone stressed that, as spring break is coming up, nonessential travel is highly discouraged from the state. She reminded the board and attendees that variant strains are emerging throughout the country, and that if residents do decide to travel outside of the general region, they will be required upon their return to quarantine for seven days after receiving a negative Covid-19 test.

On the vaccine front, Ms. Avallone said the state will receive 70,000 doses of the newly-approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is only one shot and does not have to be stored frozen like the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. While the state is vaccinating more people each week, “we are nowhere near out of the woods,” she said. Last week, New Jersey had the second most confirmed cases per capita in the nation, Ms. Avallone revealed. In Union County, 11.8 percent of residents have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



SENSORY KITS...Officer Ali Muhammad with the assembled Sensory Communication Kits which will be in all primary radio cars in Cranford. For more information, see the press release on Page 2.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	7, 13
Editorial	4-5	Sports	9-11
Police	12	Home Sales ...	2
Community ...	6-7	Classifieds	12
Obituary	6-7	A&E	14





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Girl Scouts Propose Fairy Trail in Tamaques Park

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – At the start of the Westfield Recreation Commission meeting Monday evening, local Girl Scouts promoted proposals for upcoming projects that would benefit the town.

The first project introduced was the making of a fairy trail along the backside of Tamaques Park’s wooded section.

The project includes building fairy houses decorated by local troop members along a pathway. It was also noted that the Daisy Scouts Engineering Badge includes the building of fairy houses for the youngest of the township’s Girl Scout members.

The Girl Scouts are asking for wood chips to be provided by the recycling center to help dry out some of the wet areas along that trail. The project would also entail clearing the path of debris to make it accessible to all walkers and park users.

In addition, the scouts are proposing to put in signage alerting passers-by about the fairy houses proposed to be built along the way.

Sound Off

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

quently-asked questions about transparency.

Many parents took to the meeting to air their frustration with what they argue is the district’s slow roll-out of the plan, one of whom called it “glacial.” Parent Robert Benacchio said, “What I see is a lot of excuses.” Another parent, Eric Kosta, suggested that Board President Amy Root and Superintendent Dolan step down from their current roles, saying their handling of Covid has been “an abject disaster.” Other parents again pointed to what they maintain is the board’s lack of transparency, asking for more details on the metrics of reopening.

Gretchan Ohlig, who has been a board member for 10 years, addressed the parents’ complaints regarding transparency, saying she felt that using the word “transparency” has become “we’re not telling you what you want to hear.”

Ms. Ohlig continued by saying that Dr. Dolan is the only person with a “bird’s-eye view” of the district. Parents, students, teachers, board members and even principals do not know the inner workings of the other schools, and that she supports the “thoughtful and deliberate way that the district is trying to get our kids back in school.”

Supporters also spoke up during the meeting. Julie Steinberg said that while she has disagreed with board members and administrators about many things, the “vitriol that has been heaped onto Dr. Dolan, the board and the administration” has been difficult to watch. “I do believe,” Ms. Steinberg continued, “that actually a great deal of creativity and thoughtfulness has been provided, and an enormous amount of hard work” has gone into reopening the schools. Monica Bergin praised Dr. Dolan for always having the students’ interests at the forefront of her decisions and for giving “every consideration possible.”

There will be a budget presentation at the board’s next meeting on Tuesday, March 16.

According to findings from parks that already have fairy trails, the structures resemble miniature bird houses and feature tiny chairs and furniture made from acorns and twigs and roofs made from tree bark. Walkers and visitors have been reported to have seen them tucked within the trees.

Members of the recreation commission were all in favor of the project and stated that the next step would be to propose the project to the town council.

The second project proposed was the making of a labyrinth at Sycamore Park across from where the Terri DiFalco memorial will be. It was proposed to have hundreds of painted rocks close to Sycamore Road. The 11-foot structure will incorporate rocks painted from all groups within the township including the schools, the senior citizen groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and many other organizations.

Terri Di Falco was a Westfield High School freshman who was struck and killed by a car in late 2019.

In other business, Recreation Director Don Bogardus gave a brief overview on what the recreation department is currently working on, including the current registration of 2021 pool members. It was noted that thus far 1,000 people had registered as pool members and that currently, lifeguards and pool employees were being hired.

He noted that last year’s members had been accepted as pool members first before new members.

It was also reported that all participants in spring recreation classes need to be registered and that walk-ins will not be accepted as to comply with Covid-19 regulations.

It was further noted that, as of now, spectators will be allowed to come to spring sporting events, but there is a limit of only two spectators per athlete.

The next Westfield Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Affordable Housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tically, it has only enough land to build 62 units.

The unmet need (the prospective need minus the realistic number) is then 1,028 units. While the town does not need to build this many units, it does need to “address its unmet need and Westfield is doing that by enacting overlay zones to offer the realistic opportunity to produce approximately 100 affordable housing units,” Mr. Sammet said via email. Mr. Sammet said the town is using multiple techniques to do this, such as increasing the density on the North Avenue transit-oriented affordable-housing zone district.

This number of 100 units “has been determined as sufficient by the Court, and this number cannot go up,” the town website says.

However, the zoning requires a developer to allocate between 15 and 20 percent of units as affordable and the rest as market rate. So in order to achieve the goal, developers will need to construct approximately 690 market-rate units, for a total of 790 units.

Mr. Sammet recapped the progress made in 2020 with building the units. The Parker at 339 West Broad Street was completed and contains five affordable units, and 333 Central Avenue also was completed and contains nine affordable units. The Bentley at 201 South Avenue



Photo courtesy of Andrew Goldberg

GARWOOD WELCOMES UNDERGROUND NUTRITION... Undergound Nutrition, located at 331 South Avenue in Garwood, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting. Pictured from left to right are Gene Jannotti, GWACC CEO; Carol Kearney, GWACCVP; Garwood business liaison Jim Mooney, GWACCVP; Garwood Mayor Sara Todisco; co-owners Scott Lasher and Allen Collins; the daughter of Tony Bianchino, GWACC board member, and Mr. Bianchino.

Mountainside Council Hears Girl Scouts’ Safety Proposal

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE – Five members of Mountainside’s Junior Girl Scout Troop 40962 presented a Bronze Award project proposal involving pedestrian safety at the Deerfield School at the start of the Mountainside Borough Council meeting Tuesday evening.

The girls, in addition to their co-leaders, Ana Silva and Stephanie Filippo, gave a presentation on a proposal they had that would help ensure safety for Mountainside children walking to and from school.

The girls talked about how they had met with members of the Mountainside Police Department along with members of the Mountainside Board of Education to help

craft a plan. They informed governing body members that, through their own observations along with input from the police department and board of education, they determined that cars were driving too fast along the route to school and that more signage was needed to remind drivers to adhere to the speed limit.

In addition, the girls noted that other signage that has faded needs to be replaced and that crossing zone painting needs to be re-done. Further, trees need to be trimmed back so drivers can better view the signs. The girls also requested that a “Children At Play” sign be added and that two radar feedback signs be added to show drivers how fast they are going.

The two adult leaders noted that the cost for all the improvements was estimated to be \$6,500 and that the troop was in the process of applying for a Watts Mountainside Community Foundation grant. In addition, the girls confirmed that they had already raised \$400 and had plans to raise more.

Council members were appreciative of the girls’ work, and all supported the plan, while Borough Engineer Michael Disko said he had no engineering issues with the recommendations.

In other business, Mountainside Mayor Paul Mirabelli announced that the presentation of the borough’s budget would take place in April instead of March this year due to state mandates related to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was announced, however, that at this time there was “no anticipated increase.”

Finally, it was announced that Ordinances 1292-2021 and 1294-2021 were scheduled for a second reading and would have their public hearings at the next council meeting in two weeks.

Ordinance 1292-2021 updates the stormwater-management plan for the borough to comply with recent New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection guidelines.

Ordinance 1294-2021 involves infrastructure improvements and resurfacing projects for various roads within the borough, a new salt dome at the Department of Public Works, a pedestrian-crossing signal on Summit Road and new radio equipment for the borough’s fire department. A \$900,000 down payment was authorized for the work.

The next Mountainside Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m.

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One-Seat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

life for residents because it will reduce not only the time of their commutes but also eliminate the connection in Newark, “which introduces so much uncertainty.” Mayor Brindle does believe that “it will improve properties values in our town and all along the Raritan Valley Line.”

Mayor Brindle acknowledged the impact of Covid-19 on commuting, noting that many commuters have learned to work from home. But Covid-19 has also provoked many residents to move away from New York. Mayor Brindle said she believes, “there will always be people who commute to the city.”

However, Mayor Brindle pointed out that there are opportunities right now to improve the commute for residents before the completion of the Gateway Project.

“The Raritan Valley Line Mayor’s Alliance (RVL Mayors) continues to work with the NJ Transit to see how to get more direct trains in this line, potentially two or more trains, until the tunnel is ready,” she said. “The pandemic creates a great opportunity to make changes now because of the lower ridership, and this is the fight we have at this moment with them.”

Next month, the RVL Mayors have a call to discuss the further steps toward improvements.

Plan Board Signs off on South Ave. Redevel. Plan

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Planning Board found the South Avenue Redevelopment Plan consistent with the Master Plan at its Monday night meeting. The next step is for the town council members to hold a public hearing for the ordinance to adopt the plan and then vote on its adoption.

Phil Abramson and Chris Colley of Topology explained the plan to the board members with a similar presentation used at the February 23 council meeting. However, Mr. Abramson and Mr. Colley took special care in addressing how they believed the plan fit with the principles of Westfield’s Master Plan. For example, Mr. Abramson said, the plan incorporates open spaces, preservation of Westfield’s character through landscaping and streetscaping and promotes retail growth.

Town Planner Don Sammet also wrote a letter giving his support to the plan related to its consistency with the Master Plan. The board members expressed their excitement for the plans and gave suggestions for the developer agreement if the ordinance is passed.

Mr. Abramson also said the property owner, Elite Properties, is “a self performer,” meaning it does the investing, constructing and developing. He said the group does “intend to deliver what they’ve promised” and has made changes “in real time” as Topology requested them.

The board unanimously found the plan consistent with the Master Plan. The board also jokingly voted to let Mr. Sammet take a break after all his hard work.

Mr. Sammet also gave an update on revisions to Master Plan Reexamination at the meeting. Due to the death of Jeff Janota, who led consultant firm H2M in the project, the completion date will be pushed back, Mr. Sammet said. He said his most educated guess would be that it will wrap up in June. Board member Ross Goldstein said Mr. Janota took pride in being able to put a stamp on the community he lived in.

“It really meant a lot to him to be working on this, to be representing the town he’s raising his children in this way,” Mr. Goldstein said. “While it’s a terrible tragedy, I think it would mean a lot to Jeff to see his legacy live on through this Master Plan reanalysis.”

The board also approved a resolution to allow Villane Building and Development, LLC, to subdivide the property at 412 Palsted Avenue, demolish the existing single-family home and construct a new single-family home on each lot.

The board also approved two new appeals, starting with Jeffrey and Malissa Cass for the properties 826 and 830 Summit Avenue. The applicants, who own the adjacent lots, sought to essentially transfer property from one lot to the other. Both lots are oversized for their zone, Mr. Cass said, but the transfer would make them closer to equal in width. The application was approved as submitted.

Enrollment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“It seems I’m still placing students mid-year,” Mr. Gonella said. “There are public-school families ... that are not happy with their school’s approach.”

He said there has been an increase in Wardlaw+Hartridge’s pre-k through grade 8 program as well as heavy levels of interest in its ninth- and 10th-grade programs.

Mr. Gonella said the school took “tremendous efforts” to open in person in the fall. Wardlaw+Hartridge updated its HVAC systems, invested in cameras and technology for students who chose virtual learning and adjusted classrooms to be coronavirus-safe, he said. One aspect that allowed the school to open full time was that Wardlaw+Hartridge is able to serve lunch. Mr. Gonella said Lower School students eat in their classrooms and Upper School students are assigned to a table in the lunchroom and have Plexiglass dividers between each student. The food service staff also wraps each piece of fruit and each dish to keep them germ-free.

However, comparing Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools to Wardlaw+Hartridge is not really possible, he noted. Wardlaw+Hartridge has a population of approximately 465, Mr. Gonella said. Westfield has 5,954 students in its district and Scotch Plains-Fanwood has approximately 5,309.

Mr. Gonella was clear that Wardlaw+Hartridge is extremely different. He said the school does not have to negotiate with unions, as all its teachers are under one-year contracts, a system he says works for Wardlaw+Hartridge.

“I would say how we differ, in public schools, there’s a diocese to contend with,” Mr. Gonella said. He said the multiple administrators, supervisors and superintendents that public schools have can slow changes down, whereas “we can just talk to ourselves.”


“While all school administrators – public and private – face unique challenges brought on by Covid-19, public schools have additional challenges that private schools do not,” Dr. Dolan said in her statement. “Private schools can cap the number of students they accept; public schools cannot. Space is the primary issue for the Westfield Public School District. We worked hard last summer to open in September with a hybrid model that allowed a level of in-person instruction.”

Westfield resident Elyse Everett said she enrolled her two oldest children at Morristown-Beard School after “we heard about Westfield’s plans for this school year,” as she was concerned about her oldest daughter’s social-emotional health and her son’s ability to be “in front of a screen all day during virtual learning and (stay) on target.” She said transferring to a private school that offers in-person learning “has made a huge difference.” She said the family feels very fortunate that they were able to make the transition to private schools at “a key time” in her children’s lives.

Ms. Everett said Morristown-Beard had “the financial ability to pivot and plan for life during the pandemic,” like investing in technology and infrastructure to keep students safe.


Ms. Everett said the plan at the moment is for her oldest daughter to complete high school and for her son to complete middle school at Morristown-Beard. Her youngest daughter is still enrolled in the Westfield Public School system at this time.

“Both my husband, Scott, and I always thought we were a public-school family,” Ms. Everett said. “But when the landscape changed, we needed to pivot in order to meet the emotional, physical and educational needs of our children.”




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TGIF! Friday, March 5
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Trivia Night for Teens and Adults
Tuesday, March 9
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Alisa Dupuy and “Civil War Ladies”
Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 pm
Presented by Friends of the Library

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TOWN	ADDRESS	STYLE	RMS	BR	BS	BTH	GAR	SALE PRICE
Cranford	18 SPRINGFIELD AVE 1F	OneFloor	5	2	1.0	1		\$325,000
Cranford	11 HEATHERMEADE PL	CapeCod	7	3	1.1	1		\$385,000
Cranford	13 FRANKLIN AVE	CapeCod	8	3	1.1	1		\$415,000
Cranford	3 MIDDLEBURY LN	CapeCod	13	13	2.1	1		\$455,000
Cranford	21 WALL ST	Colonial	6	3	2.1	0		\$495,000
Cranford	35 HEMLOCK CIR	Bi-Level	9	4	2.1	2		\$653,035
Cranford	49 MYRTLE ST	Colonial	8	4	3.1	0		\$662,109
Mountainside	375 SUMMIT RD	Colonial	11	5	4.1	2		\$860,000
Scotch Plains	1 WAREHAM CT	MultiFtr	6	2	2.1	1		\$380,000
Scotch Plains	2351 CAROL PL	SplitLvl	8	3	2.0	1		\$540,000
Scotch Plains	1659 FRANK ST	Colonial	11	6	4.0	2		\$665,000
Westfield	232 WINDSOR AVE	HalfDupl	5	2	1.1	0		\$338,000
Westfield	1098 RAHWAY AVE	Custom	9	4	2.0	2		\$620,000
Westfield	904 COLUMBUS AVE	Colonial	6	3	2.0	0		\$652,000
Westfield	650 MAPLE ST	Colonial	8	4	3.1	2		\$880,000
Westfield	119 BRIGHTWOOD AVE	Colonial	13	8	4.0	2		\$965,000
Westfield	435 WYCHWOOD RD	Colonial	10	5	3.2	2		\$1,425,000

*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 2/21/21 – 2/28/21. 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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Five-Year Anniversary of Fatal Shooting Marked

COUNTY — In marking the fifth anniversary of an incident in which a young Rahway entrepreneur was fatally shot in the downtown sneaker store he owned and managed, investigators are again asking members of the public to come forward with information as part of their continuing efforts to solve the crime, acting Union County Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo and Rahway Police Chief John Rodger jointly announced February 26.

The known facts of the case are as follows:

At approximately 9:15 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2016, members of the Rahway Police Department responded to the East Coast Boutique on the 1500 block of Irving Street and found 21-year-old Jamal “Mally” Gaines at that location, having sustained a gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

A joint investigation involving the Union County Homicide Task Force, the Rahway Police Department and the Union County Sheriff’s Office’s Crime Scene Unit revealed that minutes before police first arrived at the scene, two people with their faces obscured by fabric accessed the store through a rear utility door, resulting in a physical struggle that ended when the fatal shot was fired. At that point, the two suspects ran out of the building the same way they came in, after

which they were seen on surveillance footage sprinting down a rear alley, with one of the two exhibiting a pronounced limp.

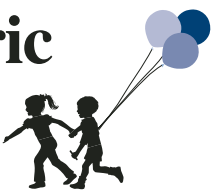
The prosecutor’s office is re-releasing a video clip pulled from that footage.

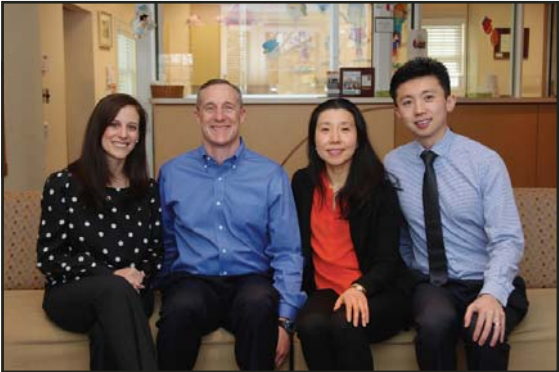
The suspect with the limp appeared to be wearing dark pants, light-colored sneakers and a dark hooded sweatshirt with a light-colored patch on the left arm. The other suspect appeared to be wearing a lighter-colored hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and brown or beige shoes. Both brandished handguns.

“At a remarkably young age, Mr. Gaines was living the American Dream — owner and operator of a small business he felt deeply passionate about,” acting Prosecutor Ruotolo said. “But that dream and his life were cut short in senseless fashion, and we remain as firmly committed today as when the crime first happened to seek and find justice for him and his loved ones.”

Anyone with information about the shooting is urged to contact Prosecutor’s Office Detective Ryan Kirsh at (908)347-1420. The Union County Crime Stoppers also are continuing to offer a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to an arrest and indictment in this case; tips can be given anonymously by phone at (908)654-TIPS (8477) or online at www.uctip.org.

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Cranford Police Roll Out Sensory Communication Kits

CRANFORD — A forward-thinking police officer, a generous Cranford-based business and the Police Department’s Community Outreach Unit combined efforts to create and deploy “Sensory Communication Kits” in all primary radio cars in Cranford.

“The Sensory Communication Kits are intended to improve relationships and mitigate communication barriers between our officers and those individuals in our community who may have an underlying diagnosis involving sensory issues,” Chief Ryan Greco announced February 25.

Officer John Rattigan, a 16-year veteran of the force and paramedic, saw the value in providing officers with a kit comprised of self-soothing tools, ear protection, eye protection and whiteboards to be used during crisis situations in which hypo- and hyper-sensitivities may affect an officer’s interaction with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). After he assembled a prototype and pitched the idea to the organization, the Cranford Police Department created an additional 7 kits to outfit police vehicles in the Patrol Division, Juvenile Bureau and Community Outreach Unit. One kit will also be housed inside police headquarters.

The Community Outreach Unit, comprised of Lieutenant Matthew Nazzaro and Officer Ali Muhammad, then determined that the kits could benefit from being housed inside clearly identifiable, custom made bags. After approaching Scott and Donna Marino of Cougar Headquarters in Cranford to discuss design options, Scott and Donna immediately offered to design, produce and donate all of the custom sensory bags toward this initiative.

“Cranford is a special place where we have raised our family and grown our business,” said Donna Marino. “We were thrilled to be a part of this new endeavor and are always on board to help the youth of the Cranford community.”

Cougar Headquarters has worked with many local organizations on custom, Cranford-themed apparel and has supplied equipment and uniforms for the annual Cranford Police Department Youth Police Academy, held during summer months.

“It was our pleasure to have partnered with the Cranford Police Department on this latest initiative,” they said.

The majority of Cranford police officers are Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT) and some officers have advanced training in Juvenile Crisis Intervention Training.

“De-escalation is a major component of modern law enforcement that aids in the peaceful disposition of police-citizen encounters,” Chief Greco added. He applauded Officer Rattigan for this innovative idea and was encouraged when Officer Muhammad of the Community Outreach Unit spearheaded the effort to make the concept a reality.

“Aside from showing great teamwork, I trust that this initiative demonstrates our officers’ commitment to our Special Needs Community,” said Chief Greco.

In addition to this initiative, the Cranford Police Department actively offers a Special Needs Registry. The Special Needs Registry is designed for residents who may be challenged with developmental disabilities such as autism, dementia, Down syndrome or other special needs. The program was created to better assist families with loved ones who might be at a higher risk for wandering from home and getting lost. By voluntarily registering, the police will have access to personal information should they encounter an individual who has difficulty speaking or identifying themselves.

For more information about the Special Needs Registry or other Community Outreach Initiatives, contact Officer Ali Muhammad at a-muhammad@cranford.org or (908) 272-8989.

Bill Passes to Eliminate Mandatory Min. Sentences

TRENTON — Legislation that would eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for all nonviolent offenses was approved by the Senate February 22. The bill, S-3456, that would follow through on the “blueprint for reform” provided by the New Jersey Criminal Sentencing and Disposition Commission, was voted out of the Senate with a vote of 23-14.

Assemblyman Nicholas Chiaravalloti will sponsor a companion measure in the Assembly.

“Sentencing reforms are a crucial piece of the greater effort to bring more social justice to the legal system and to society,” said Senator Sandra Cunningham (D-Hudson), who co-authored the bill and served on the commission. “Judicial discretion is needed to best determine the appropriate level of punishment. We have to return decision-making to the courts for matching an individual’s punishment to account for the nature and

circumstances of the crime.”

“As we continue to bring more fairness to the justice system we must move away from imposing lengthy sentences for minor offenses and tying the hands of judges,” said Senator Nick Scutari (D-Union), co-author of the bill and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. “By removing mandatory minimums on non-violent offenses we can return the discretionary power back to our judges and allow them to issue sentences based on what is truly in the best interest of the individual and society.”

“At the end of the day, the judge in the case is in the best position to understand the unique facts to determine what the individual’s punishment should be,” said Assemblyman Chiaravalloti (D-Hudson). “Mandatory minimums are a way for politicians to look like they’re tough on crime. We’re not in the courtroom, and we should defer to the judges.”

Trinitas Receives \$3.7 Mil. Grant for Behavioral Health

ELIZABETH — Trinitas Regional Medical Center received a \$3,719,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Mental Health Services to support its behavioral health and psychiatry program, which has grown into one of the largest hospital-based mental health centers in New Jersey over the past 50 years. The purpose of this grant is to award funds to exceptional organizations offering mental health services so they can continue to bring high-quality services to their communities. These federal funds will be used to help expand and increase operations of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) at Trinitas. The CCBHC model alleviates decades-old challenges that have led to a crisis in providing access to mental health and addiction care. This funding will benefit TRAC (Transitions

Requiring Active Coordination), a program designed to identify adult Union County residents who have had an acute psychiatric crisis and are in need of community services, including psychiatric, medical and substance use, as well as the range of social determinant issues that complicate community stability, housing, social services, legal, Medicaid, transportation, etc.

“The program ensures that these individuals in need receive fully integrated care on an ongoing basis to help stabilize them in the community and reduce hospitalizations,” says James McCreath, Ph.D., Vice President Behavioral Health and Psychiatry at Trinitas.

The program, set to launch in March, will operate seven days a week to provide outreach to community sites as needed.

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Resilience Is Key To Meeting Financial Goals

You can demonstrate this resilience by answering these questions: What is your specific goal? What obstacle do you face in achieving this goal? How can you overcome this obstacle? Here are some examples of how this resiliency process works:

Goal: Building sufficient retirement funds.

To build sufficient retirement income, you need to invest in the financial markets through your 401(k), IRA and other accounts.

But how should you respond when these markets go through periods of volatility? Your best defense is to remain invested. If you were to jump out of the market every time it dropped, you’d probably miss out on the rebounds that followed. Also, over a period of decades, the effects of short-term market fluctuations tend to diminish, so while the results of any particular day or week may not look good on your investment statement, the importance of these results may diminish in 10 or 20 years.

Goal: Maintaining steady cash flow.

Keeping a steady cash flow is essential to meeting your daily and monthly expenses. So, it’s obviously important that you maintain sufficient earned income. But what happens if you encounter a serious illness or injury that keeps you from work for an extended period? Depending on the length of time you’re not working, you could feel a real financial pinch, so you may want to consider some type of disability insurance. Your employer may offer a short-term policy as an employee benefit, but it might not be sufficient, so you may need to look at private coverage.

Goal: Keeping retirement accounts intact.

Ideally, you’d like to leave your IRA, 401(k) and other accounts intact until you need to start tapping into them when you retire. But what if

you face an unexpectedly large medical bill or you need to replace your furnace or get a new car? If you don’t have the money readily available, you might be forced to dip into your IRA and 401(k), incurring taxes and potential penalties and leaving yourself fewer resources for retirement. You can help avoid this setback by creating an emergency fund containing three to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

Goal: Having confidence in your strategy.

To achieve your important financial goals, you need a strategy – and you need to believe in it strongly enough to keep following it during all types of stress on the financial markets. It’s not always easy to maintain this conviction – less than half of Americans are confident in their abilities to recover quickly

from difficult financial situations, according to a new survey from Edward Jones. One way to help gain this confidence is by working with a financial advisor.

In fact, 36 percent of those surveyed began working with a financial advisor in 2020 for help navigating the past year. The importance of receiving good advice became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought about a variety of financial worries, such as job loss, retirement considerations, caregiving for elderly parents or providing financial support to adult children.

You will face some challenges on your journey toward achieving your financial objectives. But by being resilient, you can stay on the right road.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Union County to Honor Women as SHeroes

COUNTY – Do you know a phenomenal woman from Union County who has or is making a difference in our community in response to the Covid-19 public health emergency? If so, the Union County Office on Women would like to hear from you.

The Union County Office on Women invites residents to recognize neighbors, friends, coworkers, caretakers, sisters, mothers, educators, doctors, nurses and medical personnel of any kind who muscled their way through this long battle with Covid-19 in Union County.

Beginning March 1, the Office on Women will accept nominations for the “Tribute to SHeroes” awards. A SHero is a woman who has demonstrated leadership, pride and commitment to her community in a remarkable manner. To be eligible for this special distinction, nominees must either live in or work with an organization or business in Union County, New Jersey.

“Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to be amazed at the how resourceful and resilient members of our community have been in their response to unprecedented circumstances,” said Union County Board of Commissioners Chairman Alexander Mirabella. “March is Women’s History Month and the Board of Commissioners is proud to honor the SHeroes within the County who have distinguished themselves as pivotal in helping to get our residents through these difficult times.”

Eligibility:

Must identify as a woman.
Must be 21 years or older.
Must reside in or be employed in Union County, New Jersey.

Union County Government Employees are not eligible for nomination.

Criteria For Consideration:

Nominee must have made accomplishments and demonstrated outstanding achievements in fighting the pandemic and the battle against Covid-19.

Nominator must include examples of how the nominee has demonstrated outstanding achievements.

Nominator must indicate how the nominee has made a difference or improved the lives of the Union County residents or employees

based in Union County.

Supporting Documentation:
Nominator must include photo of nominee for publication.

Nominator must send typewritten nomination one paragraph long, describing nominee’s distinctions.

Nominations will be accepted until March 31. Due Covid-19 restrictions, SHeroes will be honored virtually and in a safe manner this spring. To submit a nomination, click <https://ucnj.org/departments-of-economic-development/office-on-women/>.

The Union County Office on Women is a division of the Union County Department Economic Development. For more information on the Union County Office on Women, visit <https://ucnj.org/departments-of-economic-development/office-on-women/> or call (908)527-4216.

Net Neutrality Legislation Introduced

TRENTON – Assembly Democrats Annette Quijano, Wayne DeAngelo and Raj Mukherji have re-introduced legislation to help ensure equal internet access in New Jersey now that California’s own attempts to secure net neutrality have succeeded in the federal courts.

The bill (A-5411) was previously introduced last session in response to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) repealing net neutrality regulations under the Trump Administration. The FCC’s decision to repeal these regulations removed protections that would ensure equal internet access while preventing internet service providers (ISPs) from charging customers higher fees or stopping/slownet internet service.

The “New Jersey Net Neutrality Act” would establish a system to ensure that all New Jersey ISP customers are able to receive proper internet service.

Under the bill, ISPs are to provide customers access to any lawful internet content of their choice and the ability to attach any lawful, non-harmful device to their end connection. They must also allow customers to run any lawful application or use any lawful service of their choice, and provide access to an open, neutral and non-prioritized Internet.

Additionally, the bill directs the state Division of Consumer Affairs to establish the “New Jersey Internet Service Provider Registry” and promulgate regulations requiring all ISPs to affirmatively disclose to the division any prioritization policies, agreements with content providers for prioritization, and the material terms for their agreements with their customers—including all fees to be charged and any promises or assertions regarding connectivity speed.

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Westfield Council Discusses Budget and Cell Tower

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

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Town Council met on February 23, first in a conference meeting and then at the regular public meeting. Officials passed three ordinances on second reading, including one designating 417 Prospect Street as historic.

The council approved on final reading an ordinance to update the town code to install stop signs on Sherbrooke Drive. It also amends the town code to add 121 Cacciola Place as a handicap-parking space.

General Ordinance No. 2207, which designates 417 Prospect Street as a historic preservation-designated landmark, passed on second reading as well.

“This is a great, great next step in our historic-preservation effort,” Mayor Shelley Brindle said.

The last ordinance passed on second reading modifies the town stormwater control, “to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls for major development,” the ordinance says.

During the conference meeting, Town Administrator Jim Gildea updated the council on a liquor license transfer. The license is specifically for a liquor store and was pocketed as the buyer does not have a location for it yet.

Councilwoman Linda Habgood gave an update on the town budget during the conference session. She said the finance committee has wrapped up discussion with town departments about budget needs and opportunities to cut costs.

“We don’t really know what the continuing impact of the pandemic will be on revenue sources like parking and courts, in particular, where we had much lower collections in 2020 than we had in 2019,” Councilwoman Habgood said.

She said the budget will be introduced in a conference session on Tuesday, March 9, and then presented to

the public at the regular council meeting on Tuesday, March 23. Residents are welcome to send questions and comments to the email budget@westfield.gov.

Councilman Mark Parmelee gave a code review and town property committee update in the conference session as well. He said the committee is looking to sell some of the town’s properties to generate revenue for the town and eliminate liabilities. He said the properties are “slivers of property” that are unused and untaxed at the present.

Councilman Parmelee also brought up a potential opportunity at Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields. He said AT&T has approached the town looking to install a cell tower near the fields to improve coverage in nearby service areas like Willow Grove Road, Lamberts Mill Road and Clifford Street. A cell tower also would improve the town’s emergency-response network. Mr. Parmelee said, as well as benefit those working from home. Houlihan/Sid Fay Fields has long suffered from a lack of parking and bathrooms. Mr. Parmelee suggested the town could allow AT&T to build its cell tower on the condition that it implements, and pays for, a town-approved plan to expand the parking lot and add ADA-compliant bathrooms.

“The committee is recommending that the first step would be to get a cellular communications consultant on board so they can advise us properly because obviously we don’t do this very often,” Mr. Gildea said.

Councilman Michael Dardia reminded residents that applications to join the bike advisory board are open until Friday, March 12. The board was formed to promote bike safety and innovation in town.

The next council meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 9. Residents can join and make public comment through Zoom or watch via Facebook Live.

Council Gives All-Around Updates on the Borough

By JULIA BONAVITACOLA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GARWOOD — The Garwood Council met on February 25 to update the community on various events and progress on previous projects.

Municipal Engineer Michael Disko opened the meeting by telling the council that he wanted to do sanitary and television checks around Garwood while roads were being paved. Mr. Disko said that the cost would be low and that the money could be taken from the roadwork bond.

Mr. Disko also said that applications would be accepted for an infrastructure grant from Union County. The matter of what the grant money would be used for will be discussed by the council during the next meeting. Council President Jen Blumenstock said, “We had discussed replacing the flag pole in front of Borough Hall...as well as some new, much-needed holiday decorations on our lamp poles for the holidays...And then Buildings and Grounds looked at some much-needed repairs to the DPW (Department of Public Works) building.”

Council members agreed that they needed to include as many projects as possible in the grant application in order to get as much money as they can for the projects that they already have.

Mayor Sara Todisco reported the Covid-19 cases for the borough. “Garwood had 11 new positive cases, which puts us at a new cumulative total of 230 cases...So I just encourage everyone to take the necessary precautions to keep yourselves and others safe,” said Mayor Todisco. She encouraged everyone who would like a vaccine to register with the state.

Councilman Vincent Kearney said that he circulated a resolution regarding the prioritization of teachers and school staff in the state of New Jersey for the Covid vaccination. “I have a few close friends who are teachers and I serve on this governing body with three teachers. So as a fellow essential worker, I’d like to make a statement to the governor and the state on the behalf of our community about including teachers and school staff given the appropriate priority for vaccination,” said Councilman Kearney. He asked that this resolution be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor Todisco, Councilman Sean Benoit, Councilman Marc Lazarow and Councilman Michael Ince were all in favor of the resolution.

Both bond ordinances that were brought to the council in the meeting were approved unanimously. These bond ordinances included approving the money for the pedestrian-safety initiative and approving money for new breathing equipment for the fire department.

President Blumenstock gave a report on the Public Works Department. “It was another few weeks of busy snow removal for our DPW...Once again, our DPW has been doing a great job with all of this bad weather, and I’m sure we’ll all be happy to have some warmer temperatures soon, but a big thanks to the

department,” said Ms. Blumenstock.

Councilman Russell Graham thanked the council for approving the ordinance to grant money to the fire department, stating that the fire department had been dealing with a lot of hand-me-down equipment that had left the department with a “mishmash” of equipment. The new ordinance will allow the fire department to get stand-alone breathing devices that will help in dangerous situations.

Councilman Lazarow said that the Finance Committee was looking to stretch every dollar before presenting the initial budget to the mayor and council. “While we are certainly making progress, we still have a lot of difficult decisions to make, as this year’s budget is probably the hardest that I’ve had a hand in,” said Councilman Lazarow.

Councilman Lazarow gave his report on the Garwood Public Library’s schedule of events for this upcoming month. On Wednesdays, March 17, 24 and 31, at 3 p.m., there will be a coding program where kids will learn essential coding skills. The program will run through May 12 for kids from second to sixth grade, with a limit of 15 participants. On Thursday, March 25, a cartooning activity will be offered where a cartoonist will teach participants how to draw Japanese anime characters. The program is open to kids ages 8 and up as well as adults.

The next council meeting is set to take place on Thursday, March 11.

Garwood Board Approves Master Plan Reexamination

By JULIA BONAVITACOLA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GARWOOD — The Garwood Planning Board approved a resolution to reexamine the Master Plan of Garwood during its February 24 meeting. This resolution authorizes the borough administrator/clerk to solicit proposals about the reexamination of the master plan of Garwood.

The vote for the passing of this resolution was ultimately unanimous, with Mayor Sara Todisco and Councilman Russell Graham abstaining due to their recommendations of the resolution.

The goal of reexamining the Master Plan is to add other ideas to the agenda for consideration moving forward. This includes items like the pedestrian-safety campaign and affordable-housing plans.

There was an hour’s worth of discussion about the resolution before approval came. Planning Board member William Nierstedt was the first to speak on the resolution and the upcoming Master Plan update. He said he wanted the planning board to be more involved in the making of the Master Plan, so the board could outline what the borough needs.

He cited Plainfield as an example of this. “[We] might want to think about, ‘what do you want input on from the planning board over the next 10 years?’ and how involved you want the planning consultant to (be) ... People think that the Master Plan is just the lands and zoning; it’s not,” Mr. Nierstedt said.

Chairman Steve Greet proposed two parallel courses of action regarding the Master Plan. “One would be dedicated to the physical Master Plan and looking at the zoning and location of the mapping of what we currently have ... and then maybe having a 10-year action plan on what their needs or requirements might be. Then we can detail certain goalposts that we want to achieve within that 10-year timeline based on that separate

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

CRANFORD — FLAG for Cranford received a \$100,000 grant from New Jersey Economic Development Authority’s Sustain and Serve NJ program to continue their work of supporting local restaurants during the pandemic. FLAG for Cranford is among 24 recipients of the Sustain and Serve NJ grant.

“We are thrilled and excited,” Rebecca Tantillo, co-founder of the Cranford non-profit organization, told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

Started as the Frontline Appreciation Group of Cranford in April of 2020, FLAG’s aim was simple: feed doctors, nurses, police officers, fire fighters and other frontline workers through buying meals from local restaurants. FLAG has raised nearly \$117,000, said Ms. Tantillo, and spent it all supporting local restaurants that have been negatively affected by the pandemic.

Volunteers of all ages helped FLAG for Cranford complete its mission last spring. Elementary and middle school students ran fundraisers, while adult and senior members of the community picked up and drove the food to various hospitals, medical buildings, and grocery stores to feed workers. “It was amazing seeing how people wanted to help,” said Ms. Tantillo. She also said that getting the community involved, with volunteers of all ages, is the “spirit

and heart of FLAG” and something she hopes to continue with this new initiative.

FLAG of Cranford shifted focus in the fall, changing their name to FLAG for Cranford and supported many charitable causes in the town, such as raising money for a family who lost their home in a fire, supporting efforts for children’s cancer outreach programs, and fundraising for Cranford Family Care, a non-profit that assists struggling Cranford residents.

Ms. Tantillo said the group decided to apply for the grant after speaking with Liz Bernitch, founder of FLAG of Chatham and Madison, who are also recipients of the Sustain and Serve NJ grant. The Cranford group will use the grant money to aid the community by feeding the police department, fire department and first aid squad, as well as some of the hospitals they supported last year. The FLAG for Cranford board also hopes to create a partnership with Cranford Family Care and is open to discussing other possibilities, such as providing meals to local soup kitchens.

Organizations had to spend \$50,000 aiding local restaurants to qualify for the grant and submit itemized receipts. Ms. Tantillo insists she was just the moral support and credits co-founder Caren Demyen, who filled out the paperwork and kept meticulous records, for the organization’s grant award.

Restaurants who wished to take part in the new effort also had to apply for the program. Calabria Pizza, Delice Macarons, Kilkenny House, Mr. J’s Deli, Oasis, and Vanilla Bean Creamery are some of the restaurants that have been approved to participate.

The Sustain and Serve NJ grant program is expected to end on Monday, May 31, so FLAG will have to move quickly once the money is received. Ms. Tantillo told *The Leader/Times*. From the volunteers, to supporting town restaurants, and feeding those in need and who serve, Ms. Tantillo believes “it will be wonderful for Cranford.”

New Schedule for Covid-19 Test Center

COUNTY — Effective Monday, March 8, the free Union County Covid-19 Drive-Thru Test Center at Kean University will be open on Monday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The drive-thru test center is available by appointment to all Union County residents.

It is not necessary to experience a fever, coughing, or other Covid-19 symptoms in order to use the drive-thru test center. Anyone who is concerned about their exposure can receive a test without needing a doctor’s referral.

To book an appointment at the drive-thru test center online, visit ucnj.org. Please note that a car is required to use this service.

Residents are urged to continue observing precautions against spreading the virus, including wearing a face mask, maintaining social distance and washing hands frequently.

Virtual Meeting for Westfield Superintendent Search Set

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education invites parents and community members to attend a critical issues input session on Thursday, March 11 at 7 p.m. to gather information, which will be used to shape a variety of candidate review documents and interview questions in the search for a new superintendent.

At the January 19, 2021 Board of Education virtual meeting, Westfield Superintendent of Schools Dr. Margaret Dolan an-

nounced that she will retire as of July 1, 2021. On Thursday, February 4, 2021, the Board of Education appointed the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) to conduct the national search.

NJSBA search consultant Gwen Thornton will explain the search procedure, the roles played by the board, the staff and the public in the process and the timeline for the search as well as answer questions. Discussion will center on the strengths, areas of concern and future initiatives and issues that will face the new superintendent.

A link to the virtual meeting can be found under “Superintendent Search” on the board tab at www.westfieldnj.k12.org.

Additionally, an online survey is available on the Superintendent Search page. Community members are asked to submit input by March 13, 2021.

Applications Available For SP-F District Preschool

SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public School District has begun accepting preschool applications for the 2021-2022 school year. The Preschool Program uses the Creative Curriculum, which fosters children’s learning through exploration and discovery. Preschool classes are comprised of general-education students and students with special needs, as determined by a district evaluation.

Applicants must be residents of Scotch Plains or Fanwood. Proof of residency status and an original birth certificate will be required for new students enrolling in the program. The child’s age as of October 1, 2021 will determine placement in a 3-year-old or 4-year-old class. Typically, 3-year-olds attend the morning session, from 8:25 to 11:20 a.m., and 4-year-olds attend the afternoon session, from 12:20 to 3:10 p.m. All classes meet five days per week.

Tuition for the half-day program will be \$350 per month. A 10-percent sibling discount is available. In addition,

free or reduced tuition may be available for families who qualify per federal guidelines or a district review.

Applications are available at all district elementary schools and on the program website, spfk12.org/preschool. All completed applications should be mailed to the Preschool Office, located at 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076. For additional information, contact the Preschool Office at (908) 889-8600, extension no. 31402, or preschool@spfk12.org.

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and for Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford and Garwood

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Grateful for Unexpected Pandemic Gifts: New Ways to Calm Anxiety

Part 2

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

We’ve made it to March of 2021, one full year of coping with Covid-19! Yay us! Vaccines are becoming more available. Sunlight lasts longer. Crocus stems are beginning to break through winter’s frozen soil to remind us that spring is near.

Let’s fortify our pandemic-induced coping skills by following more of the good guidance offered by psychologists/experts on stress-reduction, including Tara Parker-Pope, who writes of *The New York Times* “Well” column.

In the last column, I outlined five suggestions for coping with stress. This time, I offer five more. Choose the calming remedies that suit you best. No single approach benefits all people.

The Nature Fix — Go outside, and enliven your senses. Smell and taste the crisp, sharp, chilly air. See the trees, now leafless, with arms reaching up to the sky like dancers celebrating. Feel the bark. Each tree has a signature feel and look. Listen. Hear the birds chattering and singing. Listen to the whoosh of the breeze on a

windy day. Woes and worries wash away during these mindful moments. Our brains quiet and subdue the tendency to ruminate.

Step 1: Hold your hand, fingers spread apart, in front of you.

Step 2: Using your index finger on the opposite hand, start tracing the outline of your extended hand, beginning at the wrist, moving up the pinkie finger.

Step 3: As you trace up your pinkie, breathe in. As you trace down your pinkie, breathe out.

Step 4: Continue finger by finger until you’ve traced your entire hand.

Now reverse the process.

Aromatherapy — You may think that whiffing scents of lavender or orange is new-age nonsense, but not so. Johns Hopkins University research shows that inhaling molecules from natural essential oils can reduce anxiety and depression while increasing feelings of relaxation. A lavender foot bath, aroma stick-infusers dipped in a jar of wonderfully scented oil or essential oils rubbed into arms and feet all help.

Don’t try to bat your current life away. Accept what is! Of course, we all want Covid-19 to stop governing and limiting our lives. But we can maximize pandemic-induced opportunities to draw closer to our at-home families and to acquire stress-reducing skills that can guide us throughout our lives.

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

Gratefully yours,
Patti

Educator’s Corner: NJ Women Writers

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

As a kid, I had ideas. I thought I couldn’t be “a success” coming from New Jersey. I thought every “successful person” came from New York City or California. Let’s not take a psychological dive down the very narrow worldview of my childhood, but rather, in honor of Women’s History Month, I wanted to highlight some amazing women writers (who just happen to come from or set their books in New Jersey)!

Judy Blume — The award-winning, prolific (and sometimes controversial due to the mature topics her books address) author of young adult and children’s books “Are You there God?, It’s me, Margaret,” “Freckle Juice,” “Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing” was born and raised in nearby Elizabeth. Her 2015 adult novel “In the Unlikely Event” uses the real-life occurrence of multiple plane crashes from December 1951 through February 1952.

Tara Lazar — My pun-loving kindergarten is currently obsessed with Ms. Lazar’s 2017 “7 Ate 9: The Untold Story.” I heard Ms. Lazar speak at a Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators New Jersey event

in 2018, where her story of persevering with multiple sclerosis was inspirational. She is also the author of “Little Red Gliding Hood,” “Way Past Bedtime” and “Normal Norman.” March is a great month to read her 2020 picture book “Three Ways to Trap a Leprechaun.”

Sayantani DasGupta — “Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond” series is a *New York Times* children’s book bestseller and features a 12-year-old Indian girl from Parsippany who finds out she is a princess and must fight fantastical beasts to save her parents... and New Jersey.

Nancy Springer — The Edgar award-winning author of the Enola Homes series was born in Montclair. Enola Holmes is the fictional youngest sister who starred in her own series of six detective novels from 2001 to 2010. The first title, “The Case of the Missing Marquess,” is the basis for the 2020 Netflix movie starring Millie Bobby Brown.

Laurie Wallmark — Ms. Wallmark is from Ringoes and writes biographies of women in STEM. Her award-winning books include “Ada Lovelace and the Thinking Machine,” “Hedy Lamarr’s Double Life: Hollywood

Legend and Brilliant Inventor” and “Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code.”

Zora Neale Hurston — Ms. Hurston, who wrote “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” lived for a time in Westfield while collaborating with Langston Hughes on a Broadway play. The home where Mr. Hughes lived in Westfield is a part of the Westfield Historical Society’s African American History in Westfield Walking Tour.

More authors close to home are Dinah Williams (Cranford), Laura Sassi (Cranford) and Rosanne L. Kurstedt (Westfield).

There is an adage in the children’s book world that says a published author is simply one who didn’t give up. To all these women (and many others!), I give a personal thanks for never giving up. Your books have been an inspiration to many and helped your readers laugh, learn, grow and overcome challenges that have come their way.

To those of you reading this, I implore you to check out some of these authors and their work this month. You may just find the inspiration (not to mention humor) you and your children crave.

Letters to the Editor

Scotch Plains Redevelopment Plan Shorts Residents

I am writing to alert Scotch Plains neighbors and taxpayers regarding the Scotch Plains Planning Board’s Redevelopment Committee plan to potentially relocate some essential services including the police department and fire department to town-owned property on Plainfield Avenue (continuation of Westfield Avenue). This is a major public safety and noise hazard as Westfield Avenue is already terribly busy with traffic and many vehicles going over the 35 miles-an-hour speed limit. I would also like to point out that there is a major sloping curve on Westfield Avenue as it intersects with Belvedere Drive, where there have been accidents in the past. Having emergency vehicles traveling at high rates of speed with flashing lights and sirens 24/7 is not smart planning. This is a bad idea, will create a new congestion area and needs to be taken off the table now. I think that as taxpayers we deserve better than a dangerous, mini Route 22 in front of our homes!

Of note, although the speed limit on Westfield Avenue says 35 and 25 miles-per-hour, as you approach the intersection of Westfield Avenue and Westfield Road many people drive, as my dad use to say, like bats out of hell. I have recently seen one guy popping a wheelie on his motorcycle, witnessed a blue Scotch Plains truck coming from the maintenance center barreling down the road and saw a tractor trailer and SP fire engine (with no lights on) going through the red light at the cross street of Westfield Road and Westfield Avenue. In the same area, we have children riding on bikes, the high school track team running, folks walking dogs and families walking their young children in strollers, etc.

I have written to Scotch Plains Mayor Lorusardo and Joseph Doyle, planning board chair. I received no response. However, I did speak to

Tom Strowe, the hired project coordinator for redevelopment. Tom referred me to the police department regarding current concerns about rate of speed on Westfield Avenue and at the intersection of Westfield Road and Westfield Avenue. I made several suggestions, but, for now, all the town was willing to do was have police, when not otherwise occupied, park in the area to observe the traffic speed. However, I think this will be of little value and this does not address the other major issues of relocation of fire and police to Plainfield Avenue.

I urge you, as my neighbors and fellow taxpayers, to familiarize yourself with the redevelopment committee plans, of which I have other concerns as well. I urge you to contact our town leaders regarding your concerns or join me as I form a group — Scotch Plains Neighborhood Alliance. Of note, I have lived in Scotch Plains for 40 years. I raised my children here as a single parent and am planning on retiring here. I have had the pleasure of meeting so many more of my neighbors as I have worked from home since March of 2020. I have enjoyed chatting with old and new neighbors as I walk Lucy, my new puppy, stock my Little Free Library or chat as I work in my garden. We are group of kind, good-hearted people, and we deserve better than dangerous rates of speed and sirens blasting as emergency services race to respond to life-threatening needs of fellow residents.

As said, you may want to either check out the Scotch Plains redevelopment plan or consider joining my newly formed Scotch Plains Neighborhood Alliance. If you send me an email, I will respond. Best for a safe spring — we are all in this together.

Cynthia Newman
Scotch Plains
Neighborhood Alliance
ScotchplainsNA@gmail.com

Westfield Mayor Comments On Schools Reopening

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to me expressing their concerns regarding remote learning for our students.

As a parent of a WHS tenth grader, I am personally aware of the toll this pandemic is taking on our students, as is the Town Council, five of whom also have kids in the public schools. First and foremost, I would like to emphasize that we all agree on the need to get our students back for additional in-person days in the safest way possible. Like many other parents, I am particularly concerned about the K-5 and other vulnerable students who are most challenged with hybrid learning and am encouraged to hear about the coming increase in school days for K-2. I agree that we need to leverage all possible resources and strategies to identify a path to five in-person school days a week.

As you know, the Mayor and Town Council don’t have oversight of the schools, but I do remain in regular contact with Dr. Dolan and members of the BOE. On this important matter that concerns so many residents, we are committed to being part of the solution to the extent our jurisdiction allows. I have continued to offer whatever support the Town can provide to assist, including making available both private and public facilities for additional classroom space if helpful. I have also personally advocated with the Governor’s office to prioritize teacher vaccinations and will continue to do so.

However, since the Board of Education operates independently of the Town, I am not privy to the complex challenges they face in reopening from an operational standpoint, and therefore I am limited in my ability to offer specific solutions, especially if they are staffing related. I do know from my experience in municipal government that tough situations require innovative thinking, ongoing communication and community collaboration in order to find the best way forward.

As part of this ongoing discussion, I want to reiterate my full confidence in the Regional Health Department, the members of which have done an extraordinary and nearly impossible job over the past year facing unprecedented circumstances. Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone, who also serves on the Executive Commit-

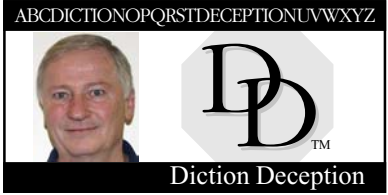
tee and as past president of the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials, speaks frequently with Dr. Dolan and the medical staff in the Westfield schools — a practice she maintains in each of the eight municipalities she supports. Her input is provided as counsel to each municipality’s school officials so they are able to ultimately make informed decisions regarding school operations with which they are tasked.

In fact, in the municipalities that comprise the Westfield Regional Health Department, the school boards have arrived at a variety of solutions, ranging from Fanwood and Roselle Park, who started fully remote and only recently transitioned to hybrid; to Westfield, who has been hybrid from day one; and to Chatham and Summit, where elementary students receive five half days of instruction — all derived from the same Health Department data sets and guidance from Megan’s team. I point this out to underscore that public health information is just one of many components involved in a complicated situation, and the ultimate decision resides with each Superintendent based upon what they believe is in the best interest of their school community.

Regarding Tuesday night’s BOE meeting, I have received some questions about why we held a Town Council meeting on the same night. As a reminder, both the Town Council and the Board of Education vote on their full-year meeting schedules in January of each year, with some meetings occurring on the same night. After we adjourned, I spent the remainder of my evening and much of Wednesday reading many of the emails I received and comments posted online about the schools, and I understand and appreciate how frustrated parents are. Yet I am also aware that solutions are never as simple as they appear, and I will continue to reiterate that the Town is committed to playing whatever productive role we can in getting our kids in school more frequently and as quickly and safely as possible.

Thank you for your advocacy and engagement on behalf of our kids.

Mayor Shelley Brindle
Westfield
Editor’s Note: This letter was sent in an email to residents.



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. Eustomatous — Having a well-developed mouth
2. Smaragdine — Pertaining to the emerald
3. Fluctisonous — Resembling the sound of waves
4. Petard — A kind of firecracker

KILLIGREW

1. Cornish crow with red feet and beak
2. A small bell similar to a sleighbell
3. A traitor; turncoat
4. A lake dwelling built on an artificial island

TUMBEKI

1. A gypsy
2. A species of green tea from China
3. A small globular vessel of polished brass
4. A kind of Persian tobacco

DEINOUS

1. Balanced; stable
2. Sharpness; eagerness
3. Arrogant; haughty
4. Uselessness; of little or no value

STRABISMUS

1. Cross-eyed
2. Formed like a fan
3. A tendency or leaning
4. A scar or ulcer underneath the skin of sheep

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

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Westfield Mayoral Candidate Comments On Schools Reopening

Over 600 parents joined the Board of Education meeting to voice their serious concerns over the handling of Covid-19 and virtual learning. I commend the hard work of our teachers in finding creative ways to educate our students in an environment no one expected. The voices of our parents make clear, however, that there is much more work to be done to properly support those teachers and our students. I join those parents in calling for a more diligent and transparent process to get our children and teachers safely back to in-person learning.

I also support the independence of our school board and commit to that in my administration. That does not mean, however, that the Council and School Board cannot unite in times of concern and support each other. I’m looking forward to discussing innovative ways for the Town to partner with our schools for the good of all. Let’s work together for Westfield.

JoAnn Neylan
Westfield Mayoral Candidate



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 asmbrannick@njleg.org, aswmunoz@njleg.org asmkennedy@njleg.org, aswcarter@njleg.org		

The Leader/Times Monthly Crossword Puzzle

By Ruth B. Margolin

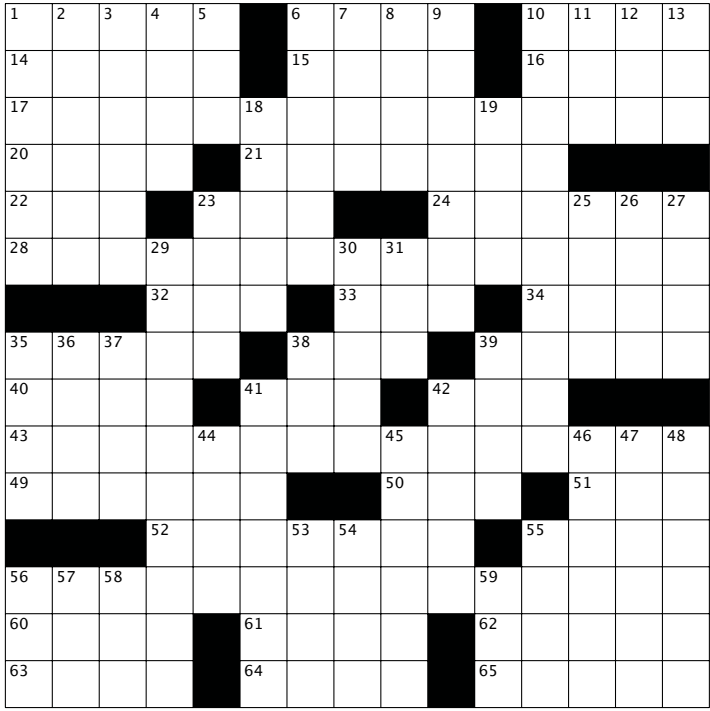
Puns for Dinner at the Trattoria

ACROSS

- Personal heroes
- Field, where the Mets play
- Baguette, for one
- Cantaloupe or honeydew
- Rapper whose name sounds like a summer drink
- Ski resort new Snowbird
- Antipasto: Dinner begins abruptly
- Adam and Eve's firstborn
- restrictions, such as vegan or gluten-free
- Poem of praise
- Trajectory of a javelin
- Brunch breads, served with cream cheese
- Primo piatto: delicious, and it hints of more delights to come
- "Rumor ___ it..."
- Install, as carpet
- Facts and figures
- Theater levels
- Compliment "on the back"
- Puts in a secret spot
- "The drinks are ___!"
- Onassis who married Jackie
- Off-road truck: Abbr.
- Secondo piatto: this is so good that I want to thank the chef personally!
- Alternative to a paper clip
- UPS competitor
- Tin Woodman's tool
- Japanese appetizer pod
- Brewery options known by their initials
- Dolce: these perfect sweets bring me joy!
- Store-window sign
- Black cat, to the superstitious
- Al Capone's lieutenant, Frank
- Like a lawn at dawn
- Care for
- How some brewery options are offered

DOWN

- Original "Dragnet" words after "My name is Friday"
- Reply to "Gracias"
- Songs of yesteryear
- Bird on Canadian dollars



© 3/4/21

- NBC show where Chase, Belushi, Radner et al. got their big breaks (Abbr.)
- Social Studies course in government and citizenship
- Slushy summer beverage
- Milk source for a puppy
- Birth-announcement phrase
- Legendary nude horse rider with her own brand of chocolates
- "Arsenic and ___ Lace"
- Ingested
- Athletic supporter?
- "The Wire" actor Elba
- Long Russian river, or a territory in Risk
- Remote batteries
- Old-timey expletive
- Troubadour's instrument
- Sail the seven ___
- Kurt Weill's "___ Opera"
- Without embellishment
- Scoundrel
- Tater ___
- Past the regulation period, informally
- "Harry Potter" actress Watson
- Athlete on a salary
- Web designer's code language
- Got your money's worth at the buffet
- Fireplace residue
- Designer Gucci
- Halley of Halley's Comet fame
- No longer working and completely ruined (from German)
- Bet that involves picking the top two finishers in order
- Mail again, as a parcel
- Performer who doesn't say a word
- Main port of Yemen
- Poker player's declaration while anteing
- Fish sticks fish
- Gibbon or gorilla
- Brand spanking ___
- Beatle bride Yoko

Letters to the Editor

Resident Lauds Officer For Sensitivity During Difficult Circumstances

Editor's Note: The following is a copy of a letter sent to Chief Christopher Battiloro of the Westfield Police Department.

Dear Chief Battiloro,
This is a belated, but no less heartfelt, response to the patience, courtesy and humanity exhibited by Officer Gill when he arrived at our home on Sunday afternoon, 31 January, 2021, when my wife, Charlotte, died. He stayed here for several hours until the undertakers left.

While he was here, he furnished needed support and yet allowed for the need for privacy.

Please pass this letter on to Officer Gill.

Joseph Biren
Westfield

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The Student View

A collaboration with the
Westfield High School Journalism Program

The Social Media Vortex

By GIULIA GIANNETTA
Specialty Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times

When I was younger, I did not know the effect that social media would have on my life. Reflecting upon it now, it evolved from something incredible, a place where I could stay connected to everyone I know, to something dangerous — a catalyst for insecurity and comparison in my life.

It all started when I created my first Instagram account, which was the first interaction I had with social media. It was also on that day that I swore that I would never post a picture of myself on Instagram to prevent myself from being exposed to the harshness of the internet. At first, I used this account to post pictures I had taken from my iPod Touch of places I had visited. I did not think twice about sharing my trip to Niagara Falls with my family or my day in New York City with some friends. I would post because I wanted to share aspects of my life with my small group of friends who followed me at the time.

As I got older, posting became more personal. People would strive to share every aspect of their lives on the internet in order to gain popularity in the form of followers, comments and likes. I remember taking and posting my first selfie with the intention of gaining acceptance from others while I was at the mall. I wanted to be like the people I saw online; I wanted to display my life on the internet as well.

Eventually, the visual display of my peers changing themselves for a better social media presence became a pressure that I had never felt before. I had never been upset about missing out on events, but suddenly I felt trapped in my life, insecure and alone. Suddenly, my naive and innocent view of life had faded. I knew that I was now living in a world where my online appearance outweighed anything else.

This trend continued throughout middle school. I was struggling with self-acceptance because of the fake lives displayed on social media. Every picture I took led me further down a path of struggling with self-acceptance and comparing myself to my peers. I began zooming in and pointing out minute details to myself, always finding flaws that no one else would notice. I knew that people only posted the good aspects of their lives where they

looked the best and were in the best places, yet I still longed to be someone else — to live a perfect life like everyone I was comparing myself to.

It was not until high school that I realized how toxic social media can be. Yes, it is an incredible way to stay connected with your friends and family, meet others and keep tabs on your favorite celebrities. But, it holds power over all of our lives, it changes us from the day we download the first app. The day we expose ourselves to social media is the day we begin a cruel cycle of vulnerability and struggling with self-acceptance, and worst of all, it is the day we begin to lose our identity.

This will only become worse over time. Children will be exposed to various platforms at a younger age, making them more susceptible to feelings of inadequacy and isolation.

The only way to prevent this is to take scheduled breaks from social media. When you relieve yourself from social media you will begin a journey of self-acceptance. Letting go of a platform that draws out insecurity can be a relief; you can learn to love yourself for your authenticity and no longer compare yourself to fabricated lives.

However, it is unrealistic to take a permanent break from social media. So, you should begin to use it responsibly. Do not post every aspect of your life for the whole world to see. You can share on social media, but you can still live privately and authentically.

Over the years, I have struggled with comparing myself to others, criticizing myself and feeling alone due to the presence of social media in my life. I succumbed to the pressures of social media, but I eventually learned that sometimes a break can be the most important thing. Deleting an app for just a few days at a time can feel like a breath of fresh air. Once you log out, you will begin to appreciate life for its authenticity, not for its on-screen fabrications.

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Letters to the Editor

Scotch Plains Mayor Thanks DPW for Snow Removal

As we move out of February, I am sure I'm not the only one looking forward to leaving the snow and cold weather behind. Before we do, however, I want to again thank our women and men serving the town at the Department of Public Works for the terrific job they did throughout what meteorologists are saying will end up as one of the top five snowiest Februaries on record. Their tireless energy kept our roads safe and accessible despite unusually heavy and frequent snowstorms, including one that lasted over twenty-four hours.

As a town, we are constantly refining our snow removal plan, and I also want to thank our Town Manager, Al Mirabella, and Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, Dennis VanNatta, for working before, during and after the storms to ensure our streets were cleared and that we look for ways to do an even better job removing snow next time. Reminding residents how to report snowy conditions on our town website was most helpful, and considering better ways to pre-treat our roads may improve snow collection in the future.

This month we held our first Downtown Redevelopment Committee meeting of the year. It was an opportunity to update the committee and general public on the work that has been done since December 2020, as well as consider questions and comments from the general public and solicit feedback on our next steps. I am happy to report that we have maintained the project's momentum. Our Project Coordinator for Redevelopment, Tom Strowe, hopes that the Town Council may introduce the town's redevelopment plan at our March meeting. The next few weeks will include meetings among Mr. Strowe, Mr.

Mirabella and our professionals with the developer. I am hopeful the meetings are productive. The Scotch Plains Town Council remains committed to smart, responsible development that enhances our downtown and fulfills our legal affordable housing obligations while preserving our town's unique character and heritage.

Fellow residents are reminded that our annual property messenger was released digitally for the first time this month, which is an environmentally friendly way to provide cost savings to residents. For those who may prefer a traditional paper copy, please call Town Hall at (908) 322-6700 ext. no. 313 or the Scotch Plains Public Library at (908) 322-5007 and a paper copy will be mailed to you or left for you to collect at the entrance to the library.

Finally, I hope everyone was able to attend some of our town's Black History Month events this month. We featured presentations and panels on the history of the Kramer Manor area, the story of Shady Rest and John Shippen and a performance about Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to become a licensed airplane pilot. I encourage everyone to consider that Black history is American history and does not magically disappear for eleven months on the last day of February. Regardless of the month, I urge every resident to explore the Black History Month page on our town website to learn more about the town we call home.

That's it for now. I look forward to seeing green lawns and fully cleared streets in March.

Mayor Joshua G. Losardo
Scotch Plains

FOX Names Mike Emanuel Chief Washington Correspondent

NEW YORK —FOX News Channel (FNC) has promoted Mike Emanuel to chief Washington correspondent, announced Jay Wallace, president and executive editor of FOX News Media. In this new role, Mr. Emanuel will continue to report on all news emanating from the nation's capital, effective immediately.

Mr. Emanuel grew up in Westfield and is a 1986 graduate of Westfield High School.

In making the announcement, Mr. Wallace said, "Whether he is delivering breaking news from halfway around the world or reporting the latest headlines from Capitol Hill, Mike has played a pivotal role on our news team throughout his tenure with the network. We are proud of his valuable insights and unrivaled work ethic will continue to help lead our best-in-class news coverage."

Mr. Emanuel added, "Having been lucky enough to call FOX News home for nearly 25 years, I'm thrilled to take on this expanded role and keep doing what I love: delivering the news to our viewers, straight from the source."

Most recently, Mr. Emanuel served as FNC's chief congressional and senior political correspondent, where he provided in-depth coverage of congressional proceedings, such as confirmation hearings for cabinet appointees and Supreme Court Justices, as well as efforts to pass legislation. Over the past year, he covered the

House and Senate proceedings surrounding both impeachments of former President Donald Trump, in addition to contributing to the network's breaking news coverage surrounding the January 6th storming of the Capitol and FNC's *Democracy 2020* presidential election coverage.

Since joining the network in 1997 as a Los Angeles based correspondent, Emanuel has provided coverage of every election cycle and has also reported on a number of global, high-profile stories, including the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya and the 2006 execution of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. In 2005, he traveled to Baghdad, Iraq to provide on the ground reporting of the country's first parliamentary elections following the

overthrow of Hussein. Throughout his tenure at the network, Emanuel has conducted interviews with a number of notable political figures, including former Vice President Dick Cheney and then-President George W. Bush.

Before his role with FNC, Emanuel worked as a breaking news reporter for independent television station KCAL-TV in Los Angeles. Previously, he spent time as a reporter covering state and local politics at several local news stations across Texas, including KMID-TV (ABC) in Midland, KCEN-TV (NBC) in Waco and KTBC-TV (FOX) in Austin.



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Peter A. Abitante, 90, Loving Husband, Father and Grandfather

Peter Anthony Abitante, 90, of Westfield, New Jersey, and Bolton Landing, New York, passed away 26 February, 2021. Born to Maria and Joseph Abitante on July 11, 1930, Peter grew up in Elizabeth, New Jersey, graduating high school in 1948. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and he earned a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. His engineering career included leading the R&D division for Intradata in Long Branch prior to his retirement in 1989.

Peter married Gloria Anne Schlobohm on May 1, 1960. Together they raised two children, George and Peter, in Westfield, New Jersey.

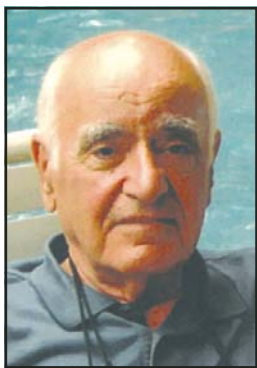
His wife, Gloria, and his brothers, Anthony and Joseph Abitante, precede him. He is survived by a sister, Celeste Schweitzer of Bricktown, New Jersey, and his sons and their families: George and his wife, Patricia, their three children, Miki, Alissa and Max, of Columbia, Maryland, and Peter and his wife, Yon

Han, and their two children, Alexandra and Kristen, of Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

Along with his family, Peter enjoyed countless vacations to Lake George, New York. In the early years, Peter and Gloria would island camp for two weeks in the Narrows of Lake George. They graduated to living on their boat at the Norowal Dock, and then finally moving to apartment living in Bolton Landing, all the while enjoying their boating, hiking the trails, and the overall peacefulness of the lake. He was active in the Westfield Old Guard, where he served as an officer and volunteered during their annual Christmas Tree Sales.

Peter loved his family. He enjoyed seeing everyone at the Christmas Day breakfasts, the Memorial Day picnics, the weddings, and the christenings.

Due to the current situation with the pandemic, the family has decided to forego services at this time. We will gather the family for a celebration of Peter's life at a later date.



Peter A. Abitante

March 4, 2021

Walter A. Blumenscheid, 93, Enjoyed Volunteering, Photography, Travel

Walter Andrew Blumenscheid of Exeter, New Hampshire, died of natural causes at the Boulders of Riverwoods on Saturday, February 6, 2021. He was 93 and lived a good, long life.

Walter is survived by two sons, Bob (Patti Sproule) of Columbus, Ohio and Richard (Sue Reister) of Newburyport, Massachusetts; four grandchildren, Blair Elizabeth (Utah), Anna Elizabeth (Massachusetts), Benjamin Charles (Massachusetts) and Skyla Rose (Ohio); his sister, Barbara Begley of Kendall Park, New Jersey; cousin, Robert Campenot (Mary Kay) of Alberta, Canada; several nieces and nephews; good friends and neighbors. He was preceded in death by Lois Marie (Knittel) Blumenscheid, his wife of 64 years, and his parents, Walter and Elizabeth (Mackanage).

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Walter served in the Navy and attended college at Newark College of Engineering (now New Jersey Institute of Technology). He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Chemical Engineering. He joined Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation in 1956 as a Project Engineer. Advancing to Project Director, he supervised the construction of chemical and petroleum processing plants in the United States, Canada and South America. He retired as a Division Vice President in 1988 after 32 years.

Walter and Lois resided in Westfield, New Jersey, for 41 years, from 1955 until 1996. He held various volunteer

positions at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and assisted with the church's Boy Scout Troop 72, where both his sons earned the rank of Eagle Scout. In the early 1970s, he and others expanded the Boy Scout Earth Day activities and started the Westfield Recycling Center, which collected tons of paper and glass and returned needed funds to Westfield service organizations that volunteered to help. He continued his volunteer activities after moving to New Hampshire, first in Stratham and then at the Boulders at Riverwoods in Exeter.

He had a lifelong love of music of all kinds and shared that love with his sons. He enjoyed listening to an extensive collection of recordings and attending concerts in New Jersey, at Phillips Exeter Academy, and Boston Symphony Hall. He enjoyed traveling on family vacations throughout the United States, National Parks in the west, and after retirement, on extended trips to Alaska, Europe and Antarctica.

Walter was an accomplished photographer and leaves a rich legacy of thousands of photographs he took during his travels. He also liked taking candid pictures of family during visits and gatherings.

An private burial for Walter and Lois will occur later at the Revolutionary Cemetery in Westfield, New Jersey. The family requests those wishing to honor Walter donate in his memory to your local hospice organization or the charity of your choice.



Walter A. Blumenscheid

March 4, 2021

— Obituaries —

Robert F. Barrett, 82, Executive; Rescue Squad EMT and Officer

Robert F. Barrett, age 82, lived a rich life. His early years were filled with formal training as a Jesuit, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics and followed that up with a Master's in Finance (NYU) and significant postgraduate studies in the fields of law and physics at Georgetown University. He spent 40



Robert F. Barrett

years on Wall Street in senior executive positions as it relates to finance. He also was the former President and EMT Captain, and a life member, of the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad and an EMT member of Scotch Plains. He died on Sunday, February 28, 2021, in the early morning in the arms of his loving wife, Nancy C. Rosar Barrett, of 50-plus years, at their home in Scotch Plains, N.J. He and his family would first and foremost thank the Police and Fire Departments and the Rescue Squads who, with care and compassion, tried to resuscitate him. Each member there knew of him and his dedicated service to the community that he loved and called home.

In this time of pain and confusion, Bob never lost sight of what is truly important. He first and foremost had a deep faith and conviction in God and the Holy Trinity. Secondly, he believed in the sanctity of life and marriage. Finally, he believed in family and friends.

Bob is a man of quiet faith, formally trained in the Jesuit tradition and the teaching of "God in All Things" and "A Man for Others." He would say, "You know, we may miss the mark, but just keep putting it out there." It is from this simple message that in his 40's he joined the Westfield Rescue Squad. He studied emergency medicine, took courses and learned how to save lives. Each life was precious to him. Each life received a prayer. He would always have a story or a good joke to keep the patient comfortable. When he could no longer ride in the rig, he became a dispatcher. There was no job he was unwilling to do if it helped others. A reflection of "God in All Things."

Bob believed in the Sacrament of Marriage. He also understood that it was not easy and that not all marriages were meant to be. His relationship with his wife started at Scranton Central High School in Scranton, Pa. Nancy

Rosar was the lead baton twirler and Bob President of the band. The competition was fierce as to who had the better team. They laughed. They danced. But most importantly, they were friends. Then it was time to find new adventures. For seven years they had their separate journeys. Then one day, they met again and discovered love and romance. That romance lasted for 50 years and was blessed with a loving son, Stephen Robert Barrett. Just before he left this world, his message was, "I just need to be more loving to my wife." And he was. He never stopped loving her. For him, she was a saint. She was his rock and he was her pride.

Finally, Bob believed in family. He would always say, "The only difference between families... is the name." He loved his siblings, Dorothy Barrett, Ruthie Judge, Joanie Babes King and Joseph Barrett, their children and grandchildren. He would always have this playful, child-like grin when he would reminisce about the adventures they had. He drew energy from Steve's wife, Shannon, and his grandchildren, Brendan, Cole, Nathan and Michael. Each time they spoke or were together, the joy in his face was infectious. But he felt that way toward all the people with whom he came in contact. In his heart, he felt ALL people were a part of God's family, which we call the human race. He would always invite anyone to be a part of his family. He would find a way to make you laugh and feel just a little bit better. He would listen and seek all that is good and holy. He is always happy for other people's successes and was a consummate teacher. He would say "Keep going and know that you are a Child of God."

The wake for Robert F. Barrett was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, 582 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, N.J. 07090, (908) 789-7400. The Mass will be held at 11 a.m. today, Thursday, March 4, 2021, at the Parish Community of Saint Helen, 1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, N.J., (908) 232-1214. Following the Mass there will be a repast at the home of Tom and Karym Hoens, 434 Tremont Avenue, Westfield, N.J. 07090, (908) 468-8391.

March 4, 2021

Diane Kessler Hefferman Devoted Mother and Grandmother

Tenacious yet tender, strong yet sweet, Diane Kessler Hefferman, 89, of Concord, California, passed away peacefully on the afternoon of Saturday, February 6, 2021, with family by her side after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

Diane was born to the late William and Margaret Kessler in 1931 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was baptized at the Episcopal Church of the Redemption in Philadelphia. After moving to Westfield, New Jersey, she graduated from Westfield High School in 1948 and attended business school. She married Robert Watts Hefferman in 1950 (deceased 1981), settling in Plainfield, New Jersey. Her husband's career took them to Charleston, West Virginia, for two years with the first three of their six children. Diane and Robert returned to Westfield in 1957, welcoming the additional arrivals of the "three little ones." Following her husband's promotion and transfer, the Hefferman family moved in 1966 to Danville, California. Divorced in 1974, Diane moved to the north gate of Mount Diablo, starting a new chapter as a very successful sales manager. In retirement, she resided at lovely Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, nearby Dublin, and finally transitioned to



Diane Hefferman

Concord Royale Assisted Living in Concord, California.

Diane was gifted. Music, theater, and athletics were among her many talents.

She studied piano as a young girl, and so impressed her father, he gave her a beautiful piano for her birthday. She enthusiastically participated both on and off stage in Westfield Community Players, Walnut Creek Civic Arts Theater, and the Contra Costa Municipal Theater. Diane also excelled at club swimming and diving, becoming a Junior Olympic Diving Champion in New Jersey and a diving

teacher. She passed on her appreciation of the arts and athletics to all of her children and grandchildren. Blessed with a driving spirit, Diane thought nothing of traveling up and down the West Coast to visit family and friends for any occasion. Demanding special attention when addressing the group as "you people," she was the beloved center of our large extended family circle, at gatherings, and most of all holidays. She could cook a prime rib or lamb with "seven vegetables," or take the front seat on the Matterhorn at Disneyland. Her drive, determination, and grit live on in her children and grandchildren. Please sing along with her when you hear her favorite song: "I see trees so green, red roses too, I see them bloom for me and you. And I think to myself, what a wonderful world."

Diane is survived by two sisters, Gwen Brooks, of Fresno, Calif., and Linda Nelson, of Cary, North Carolina. She is survived by her six children, Pam Hefferman, of Oakland, Calif.; Robert Hefferman, of Meridian, Idaho; Lisa Elliott, of San Francisco, Calif.; David Hefferman, of Buellton, Calif.; Bill Hefferman, of Portland, Ore.; and Amy Eisenmann, of Redmond, Wash. Diane is also survived by nine wonderful grandchildren.

Many thanks to the wonderful directors and staff at Concord Royale on Clayton Valley Road, Concord, for their immeasurable care and assistance with our mother in her final years.

In remembrance of Diane's life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to UCSF Memory and Aging Center, <https://memory.ucsf.edu/about/support-us>.

Final arrangements are being conducted by The Neptune Society.

March 4, 2021

John 'Jack' Foulks, 85, Longtime SP-F Educator, Terrill Principal

John "Jack" Foulks, 85, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains. Born and raised in Rahway, he was a longtime resident of Scotch Plains.

Jack was a veteran of the United States Army, having been stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. A graduate of Rahway High School, he received a Bachelor's degree from Newark State College (Kean University) and a Master's degree in Education from Rutgers University. He was a lifelong educator and loved being in the classroom. His entire 41-year career was spent in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District. He began teaching math at Park Junior High School in 1962 and later served as Vice Principal at Park. In September of 1976, he became Principal of Terrill Middle School, a position he held until his retirement in 2003.

Jack was a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society for Educators, the Union County Elementary and Middle School Principals Association, National Middle Schools Association, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, National Association of Secondary School Principals, and New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, where he served as President (1998-1999). Jack was a presenter at many education workshops and conventions. He also served the Board of Education of the City of New York as an Assessor. Jack was the recipient of the 1991 NJPSA Golden Lamp Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership.

Jack served as chairman of the American Cancer Society (NJ) annual Cancer Crusade, as a member of the Juvenile Conference Committee of Union County, on the Rahway

Redevelopment Association, and with the Family Division of the Union County Superior Court.

Jack was a longtime communicant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains.

He chaired the Church Directory Committee, was the Archdiocese of Newark liaison for "Protecting God's Children," and was a member of the Holy Name Society. Jack served as a lector, altar server and Eucharistic minister.

Jack will be remembered for his love of family, jigsaw puzzles, reading, gardening, traveling, and Rutgers sports. He enjoyed tailgating with friends prior to each Rutgers football game, and even spent one Christmas Day driving to Detroit to cheer for Rutgers in a bowl game. His absolute favorite was always the Rutgers Women's Basketball team. He cheered for them from his season seat at the RAC, and traveled to as many of their tournament and away locations as possible, such as California, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, Bimini and many more.

Jack is survived by his devoted wife, Dorothy; his proud children, Nancy Foulks and Jeffrey Foulks (Jan); his loving grandchildren, Melissa Foulks and Christopher Foulks, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and wonderful friends. Jack was predeceased by his sister, Dorothy Foulks Waldheim (William).

Arrangements will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, in Jack's memory, to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1571 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076 (<https://ihmparish.net/>). For additional information or to sign the guestbook, please visit www.fanwoodmemorial.com.

March 4, 2021

John W. James, Sr., 78, Devoted To His Family, Faith and Community

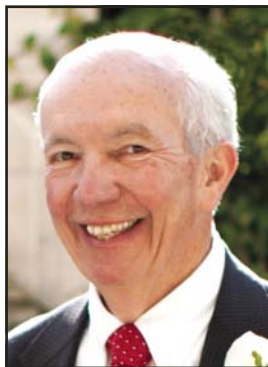
John Whitaker James, Sr. passed away on Thursday, February 18, at his home in Old Greenwich, Conn., surrounded by his family. He was 78 and had been living with Parkinson's disease. John was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, mentor and friend.

John was born on August 19, 1942 in Summit, N.J., the only child of Nathan Whitaker James and Dorothy Lafayette James. He grew up in Westfield, N.J., and graduated from Princeton University (1964) and later earned an MBA from NYU's Stern School of Business. He served in the U.S. Army, where he studied Mandarin Chinese. He went on to a distinguished career in corporate finance and banking, holding senior positions at Bankers Trust, Chrysler Capital and DaimlerChrysler.

A chance encounter on a train traveling from Washington, D.C., introduced a young John to Loretta Porter, a college student returning home to New Jersey. Noticing his new seatmate was heading to Newark, then in the midst of a four-day riot, John helpfully suggested an alternate route back to Westfield, noting they shared the same hometown. After John agreed to show ID verifying his address for his cautious companion, the two began a romance that continued for more than half a century. John and Loretta were married in 1968 and had four children, who will miss him dearly.

Throughout his life, John earned the respect of others by leading by example. In a world often dominated by loud voices and strident views, John was a humble but powerful source of kindness, patience and wisdom. He devoted himself to his family and community with remarkable warmth and generosity.

John served as Board President of the Scranton Memorial Library in Madison, Conn., supporting its recent



John W. James, Sr.

renovation project; Board President of Christian Community Action in New Haven, and President of the New Canaan Community Foundation. He was active with the United Way, serving as local president in Binghamton, N.Y., and continuing his involvement in New Canaan, Conn. He was also a lay leader at the First Congregational Church of Madison and the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan.

John enjoyed traveling with his wife and prized the adventure of working overseas in Stuttgart, Germany and Copenhagen as a consultant to DaimlerChrysler. He played tennis and taught bridge to a steady flow of students using a players guide he wrote. He avidly traced his family's genealogy, taking special pride in his connection to Civil War general and Medal of Honor recipient Edward Washburn Whitaker. He also loved the breadth and diversity of America, visiting all 50 states.

John is survived by his wife of 52 years, Loretta, and their four children, John Jr. (Elizabeth) and Corinne (Thomas) of Greenwich, Conn., and Laurissa (David) and Randy (Stephanie) of Los Angeles. He had six grandchildren, James Porter, Adaline, Marina, Arabella, Louisa and Emmeline. The family held a private funeral, to be followed by a virtual celebration in the coming weeks and in-person commemoration once it is safe to gather. Details will be available at www.johnjamesmemorial.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in John's memory to Christian Community Action in New Haven (www.ccahelping.org) or the Scranton Memorial Library in Madison, Conn. (www.scrantonlibrary.org).

For online condolences, please visit www.hoytfuneralhome.com.

March 4, 2021

Westfield Library Schedules March Programs on Zoom

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library continues to offer online programs through Zoom. They can be found on the library's website, wmlnj.org, and the library's Facebook page, facebook.com/wmlnj.

The TGIF! program will feature a presentation on the life and artistry of designer Alexander McQueen on Friday, March 5, at 1:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 9, at 7 p.m., Trivia for Teens and Adults will take place online. Players can bring their own teammates, team up with others, or be a one-person outfit. Everyone age 16 and over is welcome to play. The questions are designed to be accessible to a wide range of ages and interests.

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library will sponsor a program entitled "Civil War Ladies" on Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. It will be presented by Alisa Dupuy, who will


bring to life Eliza Blackwell Dupree, a woman of the Civil War who lost a son at the Battle of Gettysburg.

"Eliza" will talk a little bit about her life, the time, and some women of the Civil War, both famous and private. She also will discuss fashions of the era and present a singing of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Ms. Dupuy began "Ladies of History" in 2006. It was called Historical Teas and her main clients at the time were tearooms. Since then, however, she has branched out and her list of clients has grown to include historical societies, libraries, bed-and-breakfasts, book clubs, social clubs, church fundraisers and schools.

The library has included additional programs on its YouTube channel, which can be found at youtube.com/user/westfieldmemoriallib, or by clicking on the YouTube icon on the library's website.

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Obituaries Continued

Susan Warner Brown, Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Dedicated Social Worker

Susan Warner Brown died on Friday, February 19, 2021, after a twelve-and-a-half-year battle with lung cancer. She was born July 23, 1946 in Rahway, N.J., the daughter of Henry K. Warner and Edna Mae Donahue Warner. Susan graduated from Westfield High School in 1964 and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology at Keuka College in New York in 1968. She then earned a master's in social work from Rutgers University in 1970, where she met Robert Allen Brown in the same program, and they married in 1971. Together, they lived in New York City and Susan worked at Beekman-Downtown Hospital while Robert worked for the Community Services Society in Jackson Heights, Queens. In 1974 Susan bought her family home in Westfield on Mountain Avenue when her parents retired to Kennebunkport, Maine. Susan then spent the next 12 years raising her three sons, Charles Benjamin Brown (45), Daniel Warner Brown (41), and Theodore Aaron Brown (37). At this time, Susan was involved in volunteer work, as a La Leche League leader, Den leader coach for Cub Scouts, and a PTA member. She returned to work part time at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center for 20 years in psychiatric emergency services, their detox unit, and eventually full time for in-patient acute psychiatry, where she was a short-term care facility manager. Throughout that time, she also worked on acute psychiatric emergency services on weekends. Her husband, Robert, died in 1994 at 48 years old, leaving Susan to care for her three sons (11, 15, and 19 at the time). In 2008, when Muhlenberg closed, Susan took a job as a social worker for the VA on a home-based primary care team, a job from which she just retired on January 22, 2021.

Susan enjoyed camping with her family on lakes and enjoyed anything

related to water; swimming and kayaking in the Adirondacks and on the ocean in Maine alongside harbor seals. She had a love for gardening, nature and the outdoors in general. She practiced Qigong at the First Congregational Church, loved going to the opera and ballet in New York City, and reading historical novels. In addition to her family, she had great love for cats and adopted a number of rescue cats. She also enjoyed all the opportunities she had to travel through her sons. Ted was an all-American gymnast at the University of Illinois, which allowed Susan to travel all over the United States for his competitions. She later traveled extensively internationally with her son Dan, who taught English as a foreign language abroad for many years before going on to earn a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics (currently a university professor in Michigan). Together, they traveled to Thailand, Japan, Cambodia, Laos, Tibet, China, Indonesia, Singapore, and throughout Europe, including a trip to Hungary in 2011, where they discovered previously unknown relatives. She also spent 40 years visiting her retired parents on the coast of Kennebunkport, Maine.

After discovering her diagnosis of a rare form of lung cancer (unrelated to smoking) and attending the grief seminar at the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford, "Journey to Wholeness," she began volunteering her Sunday evenings facilitating for the program to help others with loss and grief in the healing process. She was an integral part of the facilitating team and developed many long-lasting friendships within the group. She will be missed by all. She is survived by her three sons, two granddaughters, Emma and Sofia Brown, of Dan and his wife, Ingrid, and her sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Ted Drescher, living in Golden, Colorado.

March 4, 2021

Hist. Society to Host Virtual 'Antiques Road Show'

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Historical Society will host a virtual "What's It Worth? Antiques Road Show" on Sunday, March 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Author, auctioneer, appraiser and radio show host Mike Ivankovich will introduce participants to "What Determines Value," and reveal what their antiques, collectibles and personal treasures are really worth today.

Each attendee is invited to show one to two items for Mr. Ivankovich to appraise. This event will take place as a virtual Zoom session. Space is limited, so early reservations are recommended. Registered and paid guests will be emailed the Zoom link and item-appraisal guidelines prior to the program.

Mr. Ivankovich has been involved in some phase of the antiques and collectibles business for more than 40 years. He is a frequent lecturer and has spoken before many groups. He has authored more than 20 books and eBooks in his areas of specialty and has written articles and columns for most major national trade papers. Mr. Ivankovich is the host of the "What's It Worth? Ask Mike the Appraiser" radio show that airs every Friday, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., on WBCB 1490 AM.

As a home-downsizing expert and author based in Doylestown, Pa., Mr. Ivankovich guides clients through the entire home-downsizing process, helping them deal with their antiques, collectibles and general household contents. He is a professional GPPA and MPPA appraiser specializing in appraisals for estate, insurance, inheritance, divorce, insurance claim, non-cash charitable donation, or other legal purposes.

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FIRST COUPLE...George and Martha Washington "visit" the Westfield Area YMCA Kindergarten class to celebrate the President's recent birthday. The children caught America's first President and First Lady up on what changes they could expect to find in the current century, including indoor plumbing, cars and Alexa. Registration is open now for the 2021-2022 school year for full- and half-day preschool programs. For more information, contact Maria Nierstedt at mnierstedt@westfieldynj.org or (908) 317-9622, extension no. 423.

Lauren Worthington Among Nursing School Graduates

ELIZABETH — Lauren P. Worthington of Westfield was among 106 students who received their nursing diplomas from the Trinitas School of Nursing for what would have been the 165th Convocation Ceremony on January 21. Although a typical ceremony was not held, 89 women and 17 men became eligible to sit for the registered nurse licensing exam.

"Trinitas School of Nursing is a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for the fourth time," said Dr. Roseminda Santee, dean of the Trinitas School of Nursing, which is affiliated with Union County College and also awards Associates in Science degrees to the graduates.

"We are very proud of our class of January 2021, and our faculty and staff, for doing this professional work during a very challenging situation and practicing all precautions including screening, social distancing, hand washing and masking," added Dr. Santee. Trinitas School of Nursing, operated jointly by Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Union County College, currently holds full accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. For more information, visit trinitasschoolofnursing.org.

erated jointly by Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Union County College, currently holds full accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. For more information, visit trinitasschoolofnursing.org.

Gina Fahrenholz On Hartwick Dean's List

ONEONTA, N.Y. — Gina Mae Fahrenholz of Scotch Plains was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester at Hartwick College.

Dean's List inclusion is an indication of excellent academic work, including the completion of a full course load with at least a 3.5 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.

Hartwick College is a private liberal arts and sciences college of 1,200 students, located in Oneonta, N.Y., in the northern foothills of the Catskill Mountains. For more information about the college, visit hartwick.edu.



SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN...The Westfield Area Y Men's Club expresses appreciation to the community, including customers and volunteers, for their support of the club's most recent Christmas Tree Sale. The 2020 event enabled the Y Men to donate \$37,000 directly to area non-profits.

Y Men Thank All Who Supported 2020 Tree Sale

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area Y Men's Club would like to thank all its customers and volunteers who supported the annual Christmas Tree Sale again in 2020. "This was an incredible year — selling out in nine days and increasing our charitable donations from last year," the club revealed in a statement. "This year's sale enabled us to donate \$37,000 directly to area non-profits."

Since 1947, this community-wide effort run by the Y Men has generated more than \$2.5 million in donations to many worthwhile causes. Donor recipients this year include The Center For Hope; Children's Dyslexia Center; Children's Specialized Hospital; Caring Contact; The Elizabeth Coalition; Imagine; Mobile Meals of Westfield; Optimist Club; Westfield Crew; Master Gardeners; Resolve Community Coun-

selling Center; Westfield United Fund; Westfield Day Care Center; Westfield Rescue Squad; Scotch Plains Rescue Squad; New Jersey Workshop for the Arts; Westfield Neighborhood Council; Westfield Area Youth Volunteer Experience; Naval Sea Cadets and The Westfield Area YMCA Annual Support Campaign, Westfield Y Operation Recovery and Y Capital improvements.

The Y Men's Club is once again Host Sponsor of the Westfield Y Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser at Echo Lake Country Club on Monday, June 21, 2021. This event raises money to provide financial assistance to struggling families and access to Y programs, including childcare, pre-school and healthy-living programs. For more information, check out the Westfield Area Y website, westfieldynj.org/.

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Five Local Students Make Susquehanna Dean's List

SELINGSGROVE, Pa. — Susquehanna University congratulates those students who have qualified for its Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. The Dean's List recognizes students who achieve a grade point average of 3.4 or higher out of a possible 4.0 for the semester.

Five local residents are among the students who earned this distinction.

Yanni Angelides Earns Georgia Tech Degree

ATLANTA, Ga. — Yanni Angelides of Westfield has been awarded a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering with Highest Honors from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Mr. Angelides is among approximately 3,800 undergraduate and graduate students who earned their degrees during the Fall 2020 semester and were recognized during the Institute's 259th Commencement exercises December 11 and 12, 2020, at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

Nearly 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled at Georgia Tech. For more information, visit gatech.edu.

Local Students Make Ithaca Dean's List

ITHACA, N.Y. — Ithaca College congratulates students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Twelve local residents are among the honorees. They are as follows:

Avital Abraham of Fanwood, Emily Aponte of Mountainside, Caitlin Bromm of Fanwood, Madelyn Jacobs of Westfield, Timothy Marotta of Cranford, Kelly Mehorth of Scotch Plains, Megan Robinson of Cranford, Paul Savina of Westfield, Madeline Simone of Cranford, Erin Trojan of Cranford, Henry Vierschilling of Westfield and Molly Whitehead of Westfield.

Home to some 6,500 students, Ithaca College offers more than 100 degree programs in its schools of Business, Communications, Humanities and Sciences, Health Sciences and Human Performance, and Music. For more information about the college, visit ithaca.edu.

St. Michael's Names Junior Tess Brown To Fall Dean's List

COLCHESTER, Vt. — Tess Brown has been named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2020 semester. She is a junior psychology major from Westfield and a graduate of Westfield High School.

A fully residential Catholic college in Vermont's Green Mountains, Saint Michael's College offers liberal arts and graduate education near the college town of Burlington. For more information about the college, visit smcvt.edu.

Stonehill Dean's List Includes Erin Hayes

EASTON, Mass. — Erin Hayes of Scotch Plains, a member of the Class of 2021, has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Stonehill is a Catholic college located near Boston, on a 384-acre campus in Easton, Mass. The college engages more than 2,500 students in over 80 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences and pre-professional fields. For more information about the college, visit stonehill.edu.

Friends Receives AS From Georgia State

ATLANTA, Ga. — Elizabeth Friends of Scotch Plains graduated from Georgia State University during the Fall 2020 semester, earning an Associate of Science degree, with studies in Psychology.

Georgia State conferred degrees to more than 3,000 students at the conclusion of the semester in December. For more information about the university, visit gsu.edu.

UA Names Local Students To Dean's, President's Lists

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A total of 13,128 students enrolled during the Fall 2020 term at The University of Alabama made the Dean's List, with academic records of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or the President's List, with academic records of 4.0 (all A's).

The University of Alabama Dean's and President's Lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

Four Scotch Plains residents were named to the Dean's List. They include Daniel Hopkins, Elizabeth

Three of the honorees are from Scotch Plains. They include Jack Levy, a marketing major of the Class of 2021 and a graduate of Union Catholic Regional High School; Caden Mari, a management major of the Class of 2024 and a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, and Peter Yarem, a marketing major of the Class of 2021 and a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Alyssa Fiebiger of Cranford, a music education major of the Class of 2023 and a graduate of Cranford High School, and Matthew LaCorte of Westfield, a mathematics major of the Class of 2021 and a graduate of Westfield High School, also were named to the Dean's List.

Susquehanna is a liberal arts university offering more than 100 majors and minors in business, the humanities, arts and sciences. For more information about the university, visit susqu.edu.

Wenqi Duan Among U. of Iowa Graduates

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Wenqi Duan has graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Iowa's Graduate College.

The Scotch Plains resident was among more than 2,100 University of Iowa undergraduate, graduate and professional students to graduate in December 2020. For more information about the university, visit uiowa.edu.

Madeline Motyczka On Rider Dean's List

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. — Westfield resident Madeline Motyczka has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List for Rider University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Ms. Motyczka is a senior film and television major at Rider and president of Rider's student television network, Rider University Network. She also recently started an internship at a video-photography studio near Mercerville, N.J.

Holy Cross Names Local Students To Fall Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — A total of 1,453 students were named to College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the Fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year. The following local residents made the list:

Aidan Christman of Fanwood, a member of the Class of 2024, majoring in classics.

Liam Christman of Fanwood, a member of the Class of 2023, majoring in English.

Nicholas Macchi of Cranford, a member of the Class of 2022, majoring in economics.

Sean Mikovits of Westfield, a member of the Class of 2021, majoring in economics.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

A four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is a liberal arts institution that educates its students in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. For more information about the college, visit holycross.edu.

Area Residents Make Centenary Dean's List

HACKETTSTOWN, N.J. — Centenary University President Bruce Murphy, Ed.D., has announced the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. To earn this honor, full-time students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.8 or above and complete a minimum of 12 semester credits.

Union County residents who earned Dean's List honors are Isaiah Anderson and Luke Jayroe, both of Westfield, and Elisheva Pliner of Springfield.

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

Lestrangle, Ava Steele and Max Steele. Henry Devenny of Cranford, along with Westfield residents Anthony Iacoponi, Kaitlin Mackin, Hannah Miller and Josh Schuttevaer, also were named to the Dean's List.

Olivia Meyer and Megan Raftery, both of Westfield, were named to the President's List.

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that provides undergraduate and graduate education. For more information about the university, visit ua.edu.

See complete Rearview Mirror
at goleader.com Ballyhoo Sports

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 9-11

KREUSSER, GORCZYCA, FACTOR 8 RBS EACH; RYAN 12 PTS

Blue Devils' Full Team Effort Blocks Oak Knoll Royals, 49-34

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

Lessons were learned very well by the hosting Westfield High School girls basketball team in their second meeting with Oak Knoll on February 26 as a very stingy defensive effort nearly stopped the Royals' two best offensive players in their tracks en route to a 49-34 victory. In their previous meeting on February 15, the Royals defeated the Blue Devils, 53-44. Greta Criqui scored 17 points and Liz Archer put in 11 points. This time the Blue Devils yielded just four points to Criqui and zero to Archer.

going in, which confused them a lot," Blue Devil sophomore Paige Gorczyca explained.

Due to the Blue Devils' constant pressure, Archer was unable to find a seam anywhere and was off on her shooting.

Blue Devil junior co-captain Chloe Kreusser explained, "I know Archer. She's a really good player and as a team we knew how to shut her down. We were able to get out there and play good defense on her. I don't think she scored anything. That just shows our intensity and how we are able to acknowledge the good players on the other teams and

ing out. We are still working on it a lot but because how aggressively we boxed out we got our rebounds," Gorczyca answered.

Kreusser (9 points, 1 3-pointer, 2 assists) also led the team with four steals and three blocks.

"You know the saying a good defense drives a good offense. Defense is just as important as offense. I love getting steals and blocks. It's a great feeling. Sometimes it feels even better than scoring. It's such a good skill to have to be able to block and be able to get rebounds. It drives the offense right away to get fast breaks and get



ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE THROUGH...Blue Devil junior Chloe Kreusser, No. 21, attempts to drive through two Oak Knoll defenders during the clash with the Royals at Westfield on February 26. Westfield prevailed 49-34.

Sophomore Annie Ryan was assigned to guard Criqui and it worked out like a charm.

"We had one of our better players guard Greta. It definitely slowed her down. She is a very good player. She is one of their leading scorers and because of that it definitely limited their chances on offense and plays

be able to shut them down."

The 5-5 Blue Devils spread the wealth in the 37 rebounds that they pulled with Kreusser, Gorczyca and sophomore Sutton Factor each grabbing eight boards, Ryan with six, freshman Clare Logan with four and Phoebe Chadowitz with three.

"We definitely improved our box-

hyped up," Kreusser expressed.

After Ryan, who led the team with 12 points, scored the first of her two 3-pointers early in the first quarter, the Blue Devils used a drive-and-draw technique which worked out well to draw fouls. Factor (9 points) was the first to use the technique

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

DeMARINO, CARREA 22 PTS EACH, PETGRAVE DBL-DBL

Cougar Boys Shift in High Gear To Topple Rahway Cagers, 73-64

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

Startling passing from the start and patience by the Cranford High School boys basketball team that led to some impressive scoring caused concern for the Rahway Indians when they visited the Cougars on March 1. Rahway entered Cranford boasting a healthy 10-1 record but the Cougars were spot on with their shooting thanks to 17 assists delivered predominantly from seniors Dennis DeMarino and

Joe Carrea, along with junior Lukas Ruby to emerge with a 73-64 victory.

"The guys played really well. They were patient on offense and turned down good shots to work for great ones, which got those guys assists and easy baskets," Cougar Head Coach Sean Trotter said.

Carrea and DeMarino were the recipients of most of those assists and both finished with 22 points. Carrea (8 rebounds, 2 steals) who dished out six assists nailed four 3-pointers and

DeMarino (3 assists, 2 steals, 2 rebounds) hit three threes and sank seven free throws. Ruby (5 points, 6 rebounds, block) contributed four assists.

"Joe and Dennis played really well, they are both guys I never need to worry about, I know they will both show up every day and give me a great effort and energy. Their energy got everyone else to play better and I think that everyone who played in that game did something positive to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



TRYING TO OUTMANEUVER THE DEFENDER...Cougar senior Arjun Petgrave, No. 2, tries to outmaneuver his Rahway defender during the game in Cranford on March 1. The Cougars certainly outmaneuvered Rahway 73-64.



GOING AFTER THE BALL...Blue Devil junior Logan Howland, No. 21, goes after the ball during the game against the Elizabeth Minutemen in Westfield on February 24. The Minutemen held off the Blue Devils, 45-39.

LOGAN 16 POINTS, 10 BLOCKS; SPELLMAN 10 RBS, 10 PTS

Elizabeth Minutemen Hold Off Blue Devils in Hoops Clash, 45-39

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

Two big runs drastically changed the complexion of the game but in the end it was the No. 9 ranked Elizabeth High School Minutemen who managed to hold off a tenacious effort by the Blue Devils in a 45-39 basketball victory in Westfield on February 24. What it came down to was a number of key steals created by the Minutemen and a few missed shots by the Blue Devils. 49-34

"I don't ever see anything bad with this group. They don't quit. I think we played the way we wanted to play. Everybody who gets in the game has a special talent that they bring to make us better. We had a period of four minutes that we would love to

have back but they are ranked in the state. They create that all day for a team. To be able to fight with them until the end is great," Blue Devil Head Coach Jim McKeon remarked.

Interestingly, the Minutemen were fortunate on second chances under their offensive boards and pulled down 30 rebounds that were distributed evenly among eight players. The Blue Devils totaled 26 rebounds and senior Jack Spellman (10 points, including trip 3-pointers, 2 assists, 2 blocks) led with 10 grabs. Junior Sean Logan, who had seven rebounds, had an interesting double-double with a team-leading 16 points, including two 3-pointers, and 10 blocks.

Both teams were exhibiting tight defense in the first quarter that the

Minutemen won 9-7. Spellman began the Blue Devils' scoring with his first 3-pointer, on an assist from junior Logan Howland (3 points, 6 rebounds, 2 blocks, 2 assists) and adding another two on an assist from guard Pete Meixner (2 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals). Logan sank a pair of free throws near the end of the quarter.

The Minutemen took a 12-7 lead on a 3-pointer by Entienne Richelieu, who would lead all scorers with 21 points, at the start of the second quarter but Logan would get those points right back with his first 3-pointer, on TJ Halloran's assist. But disaster struck next. Some missed lay-ups, rushed passes and a number of steals

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Courtesy of James Finver for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WORKING AROUND AN EAGLE...Blue Devil senior Kyle Azaretto, No. 12, attempts to work the puck around a Middletown South Eagle. The Blue Devils downed the Eagles 3-1.

No. 20 Blue Devil Icemen Chill Middletown South Eagles, 3-1

Westfield Blue Devils faced off on the road last week against the Middletown South Eagles at Middletown Ice Arena. Ranked No. 20 by NJ.com, the boys in blue rallied for a big win against a highly competitive Middletown South team ranked at No. 19.

Westfield sophomore goaltender Sam Schupak had seven saves for eight shots faced in the first period. It was senior captain Brendan Kotiga that put the team on the board sinking a goal in the first period with the apple coming from junior defenseman Thomas Conrod. The Eagles soon closed the gap in the tilt during the first period to bring the game to a 1-1 tie.

The Devils fought back and to quote Jersey Sports Zone it became a night of "what can Brown do for you" with Junior forward Spencer Brown having a sensational run scoring a pair for the evening. Brown struck with a quick release goal in front of the net during the first period to put Westfield ahead 2-1. The assist was provided by senior Captain Dan McDonald. Brown sealed the win putting up another goal in the back of the net during the second period with the assist coming from Kotiga.

The Devils took home the "W" flying past the Eagles with a final score of 3-1. Junior netminder Jake Watson had a stellar night stopping 30 shots on

goal. The Blue Devils are 9-1-1 heading into the McInnis cup play.

The Iceman finished first place in the regular season and look toward conference playoffs locking in the 1 seed in the McInnis division of the NJIHL Conference tournament. If the Blue Devils advance, a win propels them into the championship game Friday, March 5, at Codey arena.

Follow the WHS boys ice hockey team on Twitter @westfieldpuck for an informative and entertaining take on the season's activities. Fans can also visit WHSpuck on Facebook and Instagram Pages. See the website for up to date team schedules at www.westfieldhockey.com



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Cougar Boys Shift in High Gear to Topple Rahway

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

impact that win. Hopefully we can keep it rolling this week,” Coach Trotter commented.

The 6-5 Cougars focused on containing the offensive exploits of Amari Thompson, Ernest Carter and Nasir Arribas. They did manage to limit Carter to 12 points and Arribas to six points but Thompson was nearly unstoppable and finished with 29 points, which included 12 from the charity line. He actually sank his first nine

free throws but faded a bit late in the fourth quarter.

The Cougars began the game with a 3-pointer from DeMarino then after Thompson answered with two, they reeled off two each from Kyle Fay (4 points, assist), Zion Hammond (3 rebounds, assist) and Leo Wisnefski (8 points, 7 rebounds). Rahway pulled to within 11-9 with 4:17 on the clock but Carrea sank his first three and DeMarino followed with a lay-up.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MAKING IT TOUGH...Cougar Lukas Ruby, No. 23, extends his arms in an attempt to make things difficult for a Rahway Indian.

Carrea nailed his second three late in the quarter.

Entering the second quarter with a 19-11 lead, Ruby scored the first two points but the Indians would later go on a 10-2 run to close the gap to 25-23 before Coach Trotter called for a timeout with 4:23 left. It was a good decision because the Cougars answered with a 9-0 run that began with Ruby's inside assist to Carrea and ended with a key rebound from Arjun Petgrave that would lead to another Carrea lay-up that prompted a Rahway timeout with 1:52 left in the half. The Cougars would win the quarter 20-16 to grab a 39-27 halftime lead when Petgrave (10 points, 10 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals) banged a 3-pointer.

The Cougars added another three 3-pointers but the Indians won the third quarter 19-16 to slightly cut the lead to nine points. Thompson went to the line four times and hit all eight of his free throws. The charity line highlighted the fourth quarter that ended in an 18-18 draw. The Cougars would sink 12 of 20 from the line and the Indians would sink six of 11 free throws.

“Rahway is always a tough team and our guys made it tough for them on the defensive end and were patient on the offensive end, and came out with a win,” Coach Trotter concluded.

Rahway	11	16	19	18	64
Cranford	19	20	16	18	73

Raider Cagers Nip Oratory Prep; Stun Cougar Boys in Basketball

Hayden Widder and Matt Nervi each netted 12 points and Liam Mahr bucketed 11 points to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team to a 66-63 win over the Oratory Prep Rams on February 24. Two days later the Raiders improved to 7-5 with a 63-47 triumph over the Cranford Cougars.

Against Oratory, Raul Lugo scored eight points, Damon Schumann and Matt Drubulis each scored five points, and Christian Piesch and Charlie Coolidge each added four points. Lucas Pavlounis sank 19 points, Mike Pirone had 17 points and Greg Jones netted 13 points for the Rams.

Lugo led the Raiders against the 5-

5 Cougars with 19 points. Schumann and Jaden Carter each netted 10 points. Piesch sank eight points. Widder put in six points and Mahr scored five points. Matt Drubulis had three points and Nervi had two points.

Dennis DeMarino led the Cougars with 16 points followed closely by Joe Carrea with 15 points. Arjun Petgrave sank six points, Zion Hammond netted four points and Adam Kutzer had three points. Leo Wisnefski had two points and Jack Connolly sank a free throw.

Oratory Prep	10	21	5	27	63
Sc PI-Fanwood	15	20	14	17	66
Cranford	10	12	11	14	47
Sc PI-Fanwood	23	10	16	14	63

Cougar Cagers Silence Oratory Prep, New Prov.

Dennis DeMarino pushed in 18 points to lead the Cranford High School boys basketball team past Oratory Prep, 66-51, in Cranford on February 23. The next day the 5-4 Cougars silenced the 6-5 New Providence Patriots, 53-41.

Against Oratory, Arjun Petgrave scored 14 points and Zion Hammond netted 12 points. Greg Jones led Oratory with 15 points and Tom Conniff added 10 points.

Against the Patriots, Dennis DeMarino pumped in 20 points, including trip 3-pointers, and added

seven rebounds, an assist and a steal. Leo Wisnefski sank 12 points and added five rebounds, two assists and a steal. Senior Joe Carrea scored 11 points, including a 3-pointer, and added three assists, four rebounds and two steals. Petgrave had eight points, eight rebounds, five steals and an assist. Hammond had two points, two rebounds and two assists. Nick Bisaccia had nine points and Carsten Schumm had 12 rebounds and five blocks for the Patriots.

Oratory Prep	11	12	12	16	51
Cranford	13	21	14	18	66

** 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 can be found at www.goleader.com - year - month - week

February 13, 2020: Girls who have worked so hard all season in practice to help the starters hone their skills, received ample court time for the

For the Blue Devils seniors, Ali Lisanti scored all 15 of her game-leading points from 3-point range. Faith Dobosiewicz, who bucketed eight points, made four steals and pulled four rebounds. Caroline Dwyer had three steals and two assists, and Amanda Paden came off the bench in the second half and scored two points,

the third period to grab a 6-5 victory. Freshman Mike Murphy beat Leonard Calvo, 10-4, at 138-lbs. Luke Scanlan (182-lbs) pinned Adam Claxton with a leg lift & far arm maneuver in 2:40. Jon Heard (285-lbs) beat a much heavier Hunter Seubert, 5-0.

February 13, 2019: Finding themselves in a shocking 38-31 hole entering the fourth quarter, the sixth-seeded Cranford girls basketball team reached down deeply in the fourth quarter to knot the score in regulation then came up with a number of big plays in overtime to eliminate the Brearley Bears, 64-58, in the second round of the Union County Tournament in Cranford. Seniors KC Pringle, Lauren Williamson and Olivia Speer appeared to take it up another notch to set up the majority of those key plays in the fourth quarter and in overtime. Gianna Toretta led the Cougars with 18 points, including four 3-pointers. Pringle had nine rebounds and four blocked shots. Olivia Speer had 13 points and Williamson sank 12 points.

February 16, 2019: Two teams, Westfield and Cranford, could have been considered to be the top contenders for the team title at the District 14 Wrestling Championship held at Millburn. But in the end, it was the Blue Devils, who stepped forward to send 10 matmen to the finals, claiming five champions and grabbing the crown with a total of 231.5, while the Cougars sent six to the finals and

claimed two champs to place second with a total of 201. Glen Kurz was named District 14 Coach of the Year.

Blue Devil freshman Luke Jacobs (106-lbs) beat Seven Rich (Voorhees), Quinn Gimblette (113-lbs) topped Cougar Will Fernandez, Luke Hoerle (120-lbs) stopped Aidan Taylor (Voorhees), CJ Composto (126-lbs) tracked down Hunter Rinehart (Voorhees) and Jordan Simpson (160-lbs) beat Cougar Ky'ell Roper for the title, Cougar Dean Smith (132-lbs) edged Blue Devil Jeremy Silber and AJ Bencivenga (152-lbs) defeated Blue Devil Luke Scanlan for the title.

February 15, 2018: Smooth teamwork and an outstanding performance across the board from senior Colin Budries guided the Cranford boys basketball team down the road to a 54-42 victory over the Brearley Bears in Cranford. The Cougars were very effective in their passing game and ruled the boards throughout the game. Budries finished the game with 13 points, 10 rebounds, two assists and a block. Cougar Hunter Goff scored nine points and Anders Myhre, (7 points) led the team with five assists.

February 17, 2018: North Hunterdon (NH) and Roselle Park (RP) went down to the wire in a battle for the District 15 wrestling crown but in the end, the NH Lions beat out the Panthers, 200-183, with the hosting Westfield (W) Blue Devils finishing third with 118 total in Westfield.



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

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS	
2021 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE	
NOTICE OF CHANGE OF FORMAT	

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN The Township of Scotch Plains will conduct the remaining 2021 Council Business Meetings (schedule follows at bottom of notice) commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Township of Scotch Plains Municipal Building (430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076). There will be limited capacity for the in-person meetings. Seating will be limited to 14 attendees, on a first come/first seated basis. If attending in-person, please ensure that you bring a mask and ensure proper social distancing.

PLEASE NOTE, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the "Open Public Meetings Act") Business Meeting will be open to the public by electronic means, and as such, members of the public may view the meeting by livestream on our public access **Channels FIOS 22 and Comcast 34**; or by live stream on the **Township's Facebook Page**; and Public Comment will be available through call in during the appropriate comment portions at (908) 322-2076. The meeting format is subject to change if Covid-19 emergency persists or worsens - please check Township website for updated meeting information - scotchplainsnj.gov.

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

2021 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE		
March 16, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
April 20, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
May 18, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
June 15, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
July 13, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
August 17, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
September 14, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
October 19, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
November 9, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM
December 14, 2021 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting	6:00 PM

The Township of Scotch Plains does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Those individuals requiring auxiliary aids and services where necessary, must notify the ADA Coordinator of the Township of Scotch Plains at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting.

BOZENA LACINA, RMC	
TOWNSHIP CLERK	
Fee: \$85.68	

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF GARWOOD

NOTICE OF PENDING

BOND ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a virtual published meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, on February 25, 2021. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a virtual meeting of the Borough Council to be held on March 11, 2021 at 7:15 P.M. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, pursuant to Governor Murphy's 2020 NJ Executive Orders Nos. 103, 107, et seq., and per the corresponding guidelines issued by the N.J.D.C.A. Division of Local Government Services, the meeting will be conducted virtually, via RingCentral, and the meeting is accessible to the public at the below login:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/6432970558>

Alternatively, you may dial in to hear/participate at audio dial-in: Telephone: Dial: +1 (646) 357-3664.

Meeting ID: 643 297 0558

During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting the text of the full ordinance will be available to the general public on the Borough's website (www.garwood.org). The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 21-03

TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF NEW SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT FOR THE USE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$160,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Purpose(s): Acquisition of new self-contained breathing apparatus equipment for the use of the Fire Department in, by and for the Borough.

Appropriation: \$160,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$152,350
Grants (if any) Appropriated: \$-0-
Section 20 Costs: \$5,595
Useful Life: 10 years

This Notice is published pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17.

Christina M. Ariemma, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood
County of Union
State of New Jersey
1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$65.79

while adding a steal.

Junior Ryann Wall led the Raiders with 10 points. Ashley DeFrancesco put in five points and added two rebounds, a block and a steal. Catie Wilson was their chief thief with four steals.

February 14, 2020: Threepeat was the last word that the top-seeded Westfield wrestling team wanted to hear after its North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 Championship match with second-seeded Watchung Hills in Westfield. But the Warriors arrived in full force, which included an exuberant fan base that matched the huge Blue Devil crowd, and earned their third straight sectional title with a 37-27 victory. The Warriors had beaten the Blue Devils, 39-23, in 2018 for the title and 36-25 for the title last year.

The Warriors bumped their good wrestler, Chris Calvo, up to 132-lbs to face Jeremy Silber, who escaped in

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF GARWOOD

BOND ORDINANCE

STATEMENT AND SUMMARY

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, on February 25, 2021 and the 20-day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available to the general public on the Borough's website (www.garwood.org). The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 21-02

TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE 2021 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$117,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Purpose(s): Undertaking of the 2021 Pedestrian Safety Program consisting of the installation of flashing beacons at crosswalks and LED stop signs at intersections at various locations in, by and for the Borough.

Appropriation: \$117,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$111,400
Grants (if any) Appropriated: \$-0-
Section 20 Costs: \$9,000
Useful Life: 10 years

Christina M. Ariemma, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood
County of Union
State of New Jersey
1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$49.98

Raiders Overwhelm AL Johnson, Cougars

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team picked up a pair of wins in a big way by overwhelming the AL Johnson Crusaders, 48-22, on February 25 and the Cranford Cougars, 41-24, on February 27. The victories lifted the Raiders' record to 11-2.

Against ALJ, Alicia Murphy sank 14 points and added four rebounds, while Ashley DeFrancesco rolled in 13 points, grabbed four rebounds and made five steals. Amanda Baylock also had five steals, while adding six points and two assists. Gabby Palermo (3 points) led the team with six steals and Emily Friscia scored nine points, and added three steals and three assists.

Dominika Kosiek scored 10 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and had seven steals for the Crusaders. Tori Grady had six points and four steals. Sophia DiProffio had eight rebounds and Lucy Vill scored six points.

DeFrancesco sank 13 points and Baylock sank 12 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, against the Cougars. Murphy bucketed six points, while Maddy Starosa and Friscia each had five points. Liz McCaffery led the Cougars with 12 points, including two 3-pointers, and six steals. Sarah O'Donnell and Maddy DeLong (3 steals) each had five points and Katy Wheatley had two points.

The Blue Devils claimed two champions with sophomore CJ Composto claiming his second 106-lb crown and also his second Outstanding Wrestler Award, and sophomore Luke

Hoerle at 113-lbs. Senior Sean Dwyer had an outstanding showing and finished second at 145-lbs. Juniors Tim Miller (170-lbs) and Brendan Loder

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

High School Sport Shorts:

Lady Blue Devils Halt JP Stevens Hawks; Fall to Unbeaten New Providence, 53-47

The Westfield High School girls basketball team evened its record to 4-4 with a 56-23 victory over JP Stevens in Edison on February 23. Junior Chloe Kreusser (6 rebounds, 3 steals) and Sutton Factor (8 rebounds, 3 steals) each scored 11 points. On February 24, the Lady Blue Devils became the victims of a 53-47 setback to the undefeated, 11-0 New Providence Patriots.

Against JP Stevens, Paige Gorczyca led the team with 11 rebounds, while adding 10 points and a pair of assists. Clare Logan had nine points, eight rebounds, two assists and two steals. Annie Ryan sank 10 points and added six rebounds and a steal. Phoebe Chadowitz had four points and four rebounds. Charlotte Dursee had four rebounds, two points, three assists and three steals. Rhea Gupta scored eight points for JP Stevens.

Logan scored 12 points, including a

Blue Devils Turn Back UC Viking Boys, 63-39

Logan Howland had a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds, while adding three assists, two steals and a block, and Zander Barraza sank 14 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and added five rebounds, two assists and two steals as the Westfield High School boys basketball team improved to 6-4 with a 63-39 victory over the Union Catholic Vikings on February 27.

Sean Logan scored 13 points, including two 3-pointers, and added eight rebounds, two blocks and a steal. Jack Spellman had six points with a 3-pointer, five rebounds, three assists, a block and a steal. Ryan Friedberg had five points (3-pointer), three rebounds, an assist and a steal. Pete Meixner, Theo Sica, Dan Bills and TJ Halloran had two points apiece.

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
PLANNING BOARD

Please take notice that on March 24, 2021 at 7:30 PM the Planning Board will hold a virtual hearing on the application of the undersigned. The property in question is located at: 243 Belvidere Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block 110 Lot 3, as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map, owned by David and Christine Scordato.

The applicant requests a rear two-story addition which is in violation of:

Section 184-115(E4) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: front yard setback; Permitted: 30 feet; Present: 24.42 feet; Proposed: 22.6 feet.

Section 184-134(D2) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: side yard setback; Permitted: 8 feet; Present: 4.97 feet; Proposed: 4.97 feet.

Section 184-115(E2) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: lot width; Permitted: 75 feet; Present: 74.58 feet; Proposed: 74.58 feet.

Section 184-115(E1) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: lot size; Permitted: 7500; Present: 6600; Proposed: 6600.

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

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

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

Applcant:
David and Christine Scordato
243 Belvidere Avenue
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023
1 T - 03/04/21, The Times Fee: \$42.33

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE OF CHANGE

OF START TIME OF MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Cranford Zoning Board of Adjustment has changed the time of its public meeting scheduled for March 22, 2021, to start earlier as set forth below.

Formal action may be taken at this meeting.

Date: March 22, 2021

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Virtual Meeting via Google Meet link: meet.google.com/gio-opja-qzh or by phone at 1-470-310-0979 enter PIN 129823155

Purpose/Agenda: Continuation of Application ZBA 19-010

Applicant: New York SMSA Limited Partnership

d/b/a Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile Northeast LLC

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Union County College

1033 Springfield Avenue

Block: 121 Lot: 2.01, E-1 Zone.

Kathy Lenahan

Land Use Administrator

1 T - 03/04/21, The LEader Fee: \$27.54

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

7-11 Central Ave
800 Central Ave. (Leader)

7-11 Garwood
309 North Ave. (Leader)

7-11 Mountainside
921 Mountain Ave. (Leader)

7-11 Westfield
1200 South Ave., W. (Leader/Times)

Baron's Drug Store
243 E. Broad St. (Leader)

King's Supermarket
300 South Ave. (Leader)

Krauszer's
727 Central Ave. (Leader)

Kwick Mart Food Store
190 South Ave. (Times)

Mountain Deli
2385 Mountain Ave. (Times)

Shoprite Supermarket
563 North Ave. (Leader)

Wallis Stationery
441 Park Ave. (Leader/Times)

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

Westfield Tobacco & News
108 Elm St. (Leader)

Elizabeth Minutemen Hold Off Blue Devils, 45-39

led to a 13-0 run that earned the Minutemen a 25-10 lead with less than two minutes remaining in the half. Logan snapped the streak with a 2-pointer but the Minutemen answered to make the score 27-12 at the half. Richelieu sank 11 of his points in that quarter.

The Blue Devils came with a plan in the third quarter and it worked well with a 9-0 run to cut the Minutemen's lead to 27-21 midway through the quarter. Zander Barraza (6 points, 2 assists) got it started with his first 3-pointer. Howland sank a free throw then Logan rolled in a lay-up and was fouled. After he sank the free throw, Meixner hit a jumper. Richelieu scored the Minutemen's only two points in the quarter setting up a fourth quarter with a 29-21 Elizabeth lead.

"We could have knocked down a couple more shots but that's the game of basketball in a nutshell. We were getting shots. The last couple of games we were struggling to get them, so we played much better. We played our style. We played more up tempo, which is what we preach every day in practice," Coach McKeon said.

Logan cut the lead to five with a 3-pointer early in the quarter but Richelieu answered with his third 3-pointer. Scoring went back-and-forth for the remainder of the quarter with the majority of the points coming from the free throw line. The Blue Devils would finish eight for 10 from the line and the Minutemen finished 11 for 19 from the line.

"We thought we could win coming into it. It wasn't a surprise that we were in it. We think we could beat anybody. We want to have that attitude. We are not a cupcake for anybody. We wanted to set the tone. We came out strong. Maybe midway through the second I guess was their run but we came back. Our job in the third quarter was to cut it in half. And we did. Step by step! It's a learning year, a crazy year but we compete, we compete. And that's all I ask for. We never quit and we play to the last second," Coach McKeon emphasized.

Elizabeth	9	18	2	16	45
Westfield	7	5	9	18	39



COLLISION INSIDE...Minuteman Al-Fatir Connor, No. 5, collides with Blue Devil Peter Meixner, No. 3, during the game in Westfield on February 24. The Minutemen won 45-39.



DRIVE THROUGH A LANE...Blue Devil sophomore Pasige Gorczyca, No. 44, drives through a lane during the clash with the Oak Knoll Royals at Westfield on February 26. Westfield prevailed 49-34.

Blue Devils' Team Effort Blocks Oak Knoll, 49-34

when she drove to the basket, rolled in her lay-up, was fouled and sank the free throw. With the help of Ryan's tip, Kreusser created a steal and drove to the basket for another lay-up. Next, Ryan was fouled and sank both of her free throws then Gorczyca gave the Blue Devils a 10-6 lead when she sank a free throw.

The Blue Devils also won the second quarter 8-4 to lead 18-10 at the half. Chadowitz (2 steals, assist) scored all five of her points during the quarter with a lay-up and three free throws. Gorczyca (8 points, 2 assists, steal) banged a 3-pointer.

"We got more intensity driving to the basket. I think Sutton had one early in the game. We ended up good enough on foul shots. I think we went 11 for 14 which is pretty good. Being able to have that intensity no matter what the outcome is good to have," Kreusser said.

"Everyone took advantage of their driving ability. Everyone was patient on their blocks. It was a lot like pump fakes and drawing those fouls or even like kicking it out to the corner to knock down the three," Gorczyca added.

The Royals began to find the mark after halftime and won the third quarter 17-14 to narrow the score to 32-27. But it was Haley Meehan (11 points) and Bridget Sheehan, who led the Royals' charge with six and seven points, respectively. Logan (2 assists, steal) scored four of her six points in the quarter, while Ryan and Kreusser scored five each.

However, Factor with six points and Gorczyca with five points led to a 17-7 Blue Devil response in the fourth quarter.

"From the last game to this game, we are always improving as a team. That just leaves us to bring our all into the game and be able to beat them by so much and not have it as close of a game as last time," Kreusser said.

"I think we definitely noticed how they work on offense. Because of that we practiced more to improve our defense and handle their offensive play. We played really good defense and stopped a lot of the good players," Gorczyca added.

Oak Knoll	6	4	17	7	34
Westfield	10	8	14	17	49

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

(195-lbs) both placed third.

February 17, 2018: Senior Sam Wustefeld and Jack Cannon each captured titles at the District 13 Wrestling Championships held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on February 17. At District 14 in South Plainfield, the Cranford Cougars, although claiming no champions, advanced six to the Region IV Tournament. The Raiders managed to advance three.

February 18, 2017: Cougar senior Tom DiGiovanni, not only won his fourth district crown but he also, won the Outstanding Wrestler (OW) Award — lower weights — when he defeated South Plainfield (SoP) Tiger Joe Sacco, 3-0, in the 138-lb finals at the District 14 Tournament in Woodbridge. On the same date at the District 13 Tournament in Scotch Plains, Raider junior Sam Wustefeld won his second district title, this time at 182-lbs.



DETERMINED TO WIN THE SCRAMBLE...Cougar Jack Carroll, No. 33, is determined to get control of the ball instead of allowing Bears Aiden Samila, No. 30, and Ibn McLean, right, get their paws on it (February 15, 2018).

Cougar Anthony Capece won his fourth district title with an 8-3 decision over Alex Amato (SoP) at 113-lbs, Chris Scorese at 132-lbs claimed his fourth title with a 9-0 major decision over Jacob Painton (SoP) and Alex Esposito not only won his second district title but he also beat NJSIAA top-8 ranked Barron Alex LaGrippio, 3-0, at 285-lbs.

February 22, 2017: "Drive-and-Draw" strategy was used by both teams but the team that used it second had a more prolonged success with it and came out on top in the semifinal round of the Union County Tournament at Rahway. After experiencing the second-seeded New Providence Pioneers' success with the drive to the basket and draw the foul technique, the third-seeded Westfield Lady Blue Devils basketball team adopted that strategy and kept it rolling throughout the entire second half to earn a 39-33 victory and a trip to the UCT championship game.

Blue Devil junior Grace Elliott was the major initiator of the drive-and-draw in the second half and she was quite successful, sinking 9-for-12

during that time. Elliott would finish with 14 points and 10 were from the charity line. As a team, the 17-4 Blue Devils would hit 20 of 28 free throws.

February 20, 2016: Gold and Blue uniforms dominated the top podium in eight of the 14 bouts as the Cranford wrestling team won its third straight title at the District 11 Tournament in Westfield. Westfield with eight champions, two seconds and three thirds finished with a total of 254.5. Scotch Plains-Fanwood placed second with a total of 137 and had one champion. Westfield took fourth at 105 and had one champion.

Cougar Niko Cappello (182-lbs) won his fourth title. Chris Scorese (132-lbs), Anthony Capece (113-lbs) and Tom DiGiovanni (120-lbs) each captured their third title. Junior Brian McGovern (152-lbs) won his second title. Junior Alex Esposito (220-lbs), Kevin Doran (285-lbs) and Vince Devil Jack Miller in overtime to claim the 170-lbs title and the Outstanding Wrestler Award.

February 20, 2016: Timing is important and the third-seeded Cranford girls' basketball team certainly has picked the perfect time to round into shape. The Cougars looked very sharp as they took down Summit, 55-44, in their Union County Tournament quarterfinal at Rahway. Camryn Wichelns led Cranford with 17 points, while senior Lyndsay Pace and freshman Lauren Williamson added 15 points to lead the Cougars past the sixth-seeded Hilltoppers.

February 21, 2016: Taking first in all three relays and four individual events was one thing but it was team depth that forged the No. 1 Westfield swim boys way ahead of No. 2 Cherry Hill East en route to a 102-68 thrashing for the Public A title at The College of New Jersey in Ewing. The Blue Devils increased their all-time state leading titles to 26.

February 28, 2015: Two SPF wrestlers and four Cranford Cougars punched their tickets to compete in the NJSIAA Tournament this weekend at Atlantic City (AC) by placing in the Top-3 in their respective weight classes at the Region 3 Tournament held in Union. Two Westfield Blue Devils came up one decision short of qualifying for AC.

Cougar junior Niko Cappello will be making his second trip to AC after defeating Plainfield's Rohan Phillip, 7-5, in overtime in the 182-lb title bout. Raider JT Beirne (138-lbs) placed second with a 3-1 loss in the title bout against Tyler Gazaway (New Providence). Raider Alex Mirabella (195-lbs) took third when he pinned Khalil Burns (Linden) with a cradle in 2:50.

Cougar Gavin Murray (152-lbs) advanced to the finals when he pinned Sam Champi (Morristown) in 4:13 with a double arm bar. Murray lost his

title bout with Joe Tavoso (Delbarton), 6-4. Cougar Chris Scorese (126-lbs) placed second after being pinned in 3:04 by Anthony Cefolo (Hanover Park), who was ranked fifth nationally. Cougar Tom DiGiovanni (120-lbs) defeated Summit's Phil Angelo, 3-2, for third place.

February 25, 2014: Junior Jackie Knapp got a pass from junior Lil Scott and swished in a 3-pointer with 4:27 remaining in the fourth quarter to achieve her 1,000th career point, but the emotional moment would end up being a bittersweet memory when the third-seeded Union Farmers went on to defeat the second-seeded Blue Devil girls basketball team, 52-41, in the semifinal round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway. Knapp finished with 13 points and added four rebounds, while Scott led the 21-3 Blue Devils with 15 points, four steals and three assists.

March 1, 2014: Milestones, a pair of upset victories and a flurry of activity in the waning seconds of a title bout highlighted the Region 3 Wrestling Tournament in Union. Three Blue Devils and three Cranford Cougars qualified for the NJSIAA Tournament to be held at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City (AC).



AT THE EDGE OF THE CIRCLE...Blue Devil Matt Barber tries to get a takedown on Ray Jazikoff (South Plainfield) in his 145-lb semifinal bout (March 1, 2014) Barber placed third to advance to the NJSIAA Championships at AC.

into the 113-lb title bout and sealed his dreams to qualify for AC when he bounced second-seeded Anthony Fajardo (Boonton), 1-0.

Cougar freshman Tom DiGiovanni (113-lbs) wrestled back and beat Phil Angelo (Summit), 1-0, for third place. Cougar sophomore Niko Cappello earned his trip to AC when he recorded a 4-3 decision over Plainfield's Derrick Washington to place third at 160-lbs. Blue Devil Matt Barber (145-lbs) beat Raider Brian Lapham, 3-2, to place third and earn his trip to AC.

February 26, 2013: Senior leadership led the sixth-seeded, 17-8 Cranford High School girls basketball team to a somewhat smooth, 42-32, victory over 10-13 Roxbury in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament in Cranford. Seniors Jess McCoy scored 20 points, Jenna Goeller netted 12 points and Kaitlin McGovern grabbed six rebounds.

February 29, 2012: Raiders Ian Johnston, Tom Bonacum, Anthony Byers and Xavier Noel-Brooks each had a good evening in the scoring column; however, it was Rahway's Jamill Babrow, who pulled the trigger with six fourth-quarter points to edge the Raider basketball team, 50-47, in the quarterfinal round of the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament held in Rahway.

February 29, 2012: Ice-cold shooting from a disappointing loss to Governor Livingston in the Union County Tournament championship game on February 26 transformed into a blazing fireball when the third-seeded Cranford Cougar girls basketball team scorched the net with eight 3-pointers en route to a 51-36 victory over sixth-seeded Nutley in the quarterfinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament in Cranford.

Senior forward Morgan Miller emitted lightning from her fingertips to char the net with six 3-pointers, finishing with a game-high 20 points. The win gave Jackie Dyer her 100th career victory in her five years as Head Coach at Cranford.

February 26, 2011: Nineteen Union County wrestlers initially qualified for the trip to the NJSIAA Championships at Atlantic City (AC) on March 4-6, and six of them won titles at the Region 3 Tournament in Union. Blue Devils Mike Kalimtzis (103-lbs) and Christian Barber (152-lbs) placed second in their respective weight classes. Cranford Cougars Matt DiGiovanni (145-lbs.) and JP Christiano (160-lbs.) won titles, while teammates Joe Giaccio (119-lbs.) placed second and Kyle Markovitch (130-lbs.) placed third.

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 03/11/21, 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:

Traffic Signal Relamping, North Contract - 2021, Various Locations, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties; 100% State; DP No: 21429

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 T - 02/18/21, 02/25/21 & 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$168.30

PUBLIC NOTICE

GARWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PLANNING BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that on February 24, 2021, the Garwood Planning Board memorialized the following resolutions:

Case #PB20-05: 337 Myrtle Avenue, Block 408, Lot 8, R/A Zone. Applicant: Joseph Smolinski. Granting a Certificate of non-conformity for a two-family house in a one family zone (Granted 12/9/2020).

Case #PB20-04: 640 Willow Avenue, Block 302, Lot 19, R/B Zone. Applicant: MZ Homes, LLC. Granting relief from Section 106-93 B.2 of the Land Use Ordinance to permit a duplex (side by side) two family dwelling in the R/B zone. (Granted 1/13/2021).

The resolutions are on file and available for inspection by calling the office of the Planning Board at (908) 789-0710 located in the Municipal Building, Garwood, New Jersey or e-mailing the Board Secretary at A-Lewis@Garwood.org

Adele C. Lewis
Board Secretary
1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$24.48

The Law Offices Of

Lisa M. Black, LLC

53 Cardinal Drive, 3rd Floor, Westfield, NJ 07090

908-233-1803

lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com
www.lblacklaw.com

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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

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Planning Board, at their meeting on March 1, 2021, adopted the following resolution for the application acted upon at the February 1, 2021, meeting.

PB 20-12 Villane Building & Development, LLC., 412 Palsted Avenue, Block 2607 Lot 25. Applicant sought approval to subdivide the property into two lots, demolish the existing single-family home, and construct a new single-family dwelling on each lot contrary to Section 11.12E4 of Land Use Ordinance to allow a lot depth of 98 feet for lot 25.02 where the Ordinance requires a minimum lot depth of 120 feet. Application approved with conditions.

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

Kris McAloon
Planning Board Secretary
1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS:

Do you want to reach nearly a million readers? Place your 25-word classified ad in over 90 newspapers throughout NJ for \$560. Contact Peggy Arbitell 609-359-7381 or visit www.njpa.org

PUBLIC NOTICES

Keeping an eye on your governments? Manually search the site or register to receive email notifications and/or save your searches. It's a free public service provided by NJ Press Association at www.njpublicnotices.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Deliver your message to nearly a million readers! Place a 2x2 Display Ad in NJ weekly newspapers. Call Peggy Arbitell at 609-406-0600 ext. 14 for more information.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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BLUEPUCK EVENT...The Westfield High School ice hockey team had a great time at the Annual BluePuck Event.

Blue Devil Icemen Host Annual BluePuck Event

Live For Hockey, Love for Community is the WHS boys hockey team's student run outreach initiative where athletes identify opportunities for community engagement that align with the teams mission of giving back to surrounding towns and charitable organizations. This year living up to that mission has been a challenge given the pandemic.

As a member of the WHS boys hockey team, players focus on the fundamentals needed on the ice and in giving back to their community. Past engagement has included St. Joseph's Sandwich Drives, Westfield YMCA 5K Run for Everyone, Children's Specialized Hospital, Dunk Your Kicks (Max Cure Foundation), The Westfield Rink, BluePuck

Skate Event, Boosters Magnet Drive and NJ special needs hockey clubs (Special Olympics, Dare Devils).

BluePuck is one of the teams most beloved community outreach events. "It was both exciting and challenging to be able to host the event during this trying year" stated Sean McDonald, president of the WHSIHA, the parent association that supports the program.

"BluePuck2021 was a huge success," McDonald added "and the players, parents and sponsors were so pleased to be able to organize the event again this year."

BluePuck generated enormous excitement with 54 boys and girls registering for the program. Rookies had a tremendous time playing hockey, chatting with WHS players, grabbing photos with the Blue Devil Mascot and having their very own BluePuck autographed. It was a remarkable day to live for hockey in Westfield.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE XLIII, TO ESTABLISH AN ANTI-NEPOTISM POLICY

WHEREAS, in order to maintain confidence in Township government, it is imperative that residents can be assured that Township employment is free from nepotism, patronage, and favoritism; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Township employment be based on merit, so that residents are assured that Township employees will be providing the highest quality service to those deserving residents; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford recognizes the need to amend Chapter 5 of the Township Code of Cranford to include a nepotism policy; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 6, Article XLIV is hereby added to the Township Code and shall read as follows:

ARTICLE XLIV: ANTI-NEPOTISM

§ 6-178 Definitions. As used in this policy, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

(1) "Appointed Official" means any person whether compensated or not, whether part-time or full-time (1) serving on a Township Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment; or (2) who is appointed by the Township as a member of an independent municipal, county or regional authority.

(2) "Elected Official" shall mean the elected members of the Township.

(3) "Family member or relative" shall mean a spouse; child; parent; sibling; father-in-law; mother-in-law; brother-in-law; sister-in-law; stepfather; stepmother; stepsibling; half-brother; half-sister; foster child; domestic partner or cohabitants as defined by the New Jersey Civil Union Act; a person with whom there is a relationship as a legal guardian or *in loco parentis*.

§ 6-179 Hiring and Supervision of Employees.

(1) No person who is a family member or relative of any Elected Official or the Township Administrator shall be considered for employment as an employee of the Township or for appointment as an Appointed Official. This applies to full-time, part-time, temporary and seasonal employment. This shall not restrict nor prohibit (i.) the continued employment of individuals to a position or positions with the Township where a relative of a permanent employee is elected after the date of the permanent employee's start date of employment with the Township; (ii.) the continued employment of individuals employed as of the effective date of this ordinance; or (iii.) the appointment of a family member or relative to a board or committee which performs functions of a purely advisory nature.

(2) No municipal employee shall be in a position that provides direct supervision

PUBLIC NOTICE

over any family member or relative of that employee.

(3) One of the purposes of this policy is to assure that the hiring, promotion, responsibilities, oath, obligations to the public, salary, work assignments, performance, appraisals, evaluations or career progress of a person is not affected by that individual's status as a family member or relative of an Elected Official or employee of the Township. These policies are not for the purpose of depriving any citizen of an equal chance for a government job, but solely to eliminate the potential for preferential treatment of the relatives of government personnel or Elected Officials. These policies will not deprive any permanent employee as of the effective date of this ordinance of any promotional right in the normal career development nor change the existing status of any permanent employee. Nothing within this policy shall interfere with a person's right to marry.

(4) The Township reserves the right to exercise, in its sole discretion, with respect to placement, employment, transfer, reassignment or continued employment, where either an actual or perceived conflict of interest exists or will reasonably arise as well as to avoid or decrease the likelihood of sexual or other unlawful harassment in the workplace.

§ 6-180 Promotion of Existing Employees. No Elected Official or supervisor may participate in the promotion process, or any other personnel decision, of any existing municipal employee who is a family member or relative of such Elected Official or supervisor.

§ 6-181 Appointments. No family member or relative of an Elected Official or Appointed Official shall be appointed to the position of any municipal professional who receives compensation, e.g., attorney, planner or engineer.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. Upon final passage and publication according to law, this ordinance shall become effective immediately.

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE

The foregoing ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 and will be further considered for final passage after public hearing to be held at the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as this matter can be reached. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance. Copies of Ordinance 2021-01 are available, for no fee, in the office of the Township Clerk, Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, 07016, during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (email pdonahue@cranfordnj.org or call 908-709-7210.) A copy of Ordinance 2021-01 has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Municipal Building of the Township.

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$136.17

POLICE BLOTTER

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Monday, February 22, a resident of the 700 block of Prospect Street reported being the victim of identity theft. The victim stated that one or more unknown suspects attempted to apply for unemployment benefits utilizing his information. He went on to add that an attempt was made to open a new bank account as well. The victim stated that he did not sustain any monetary loss at this time.

Tuesday, February 23, a resident of the 1500 block of Rahway Avenue reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated that they provided their bank account information to a person who deceived them. Shortly after the information was provided, multiple unauthorized withdrawals from their banking institution took place. The total amount of these fraudulent transactions was \$4,995.

Tuesday, February 23, a business owner on Elm Street reported an incident of theft of services at her establishment. The suspects entered the establishment, received \$67.07 worth of food, and left the establishment without paying.

Wednesday, February 24, a resident of the 700 block of Lenape Trail reported that an attempt was made to burglarize his motor vehicle. At approximately 3:30 a.m. that day, an unknown suspect walked up to the victim's vehicle, which was parked in the driveway, and attempted to gain entry by pulling on the driver-side door handle. Due to the vehicle being locked, the suspect's attempt to commit an act of motor vehicle burglary was unsuccessful.

Wednesday, February 24, a resident of the 300 block of Hillside Avenue reported that his motor vehicle was burglarized. The victim stated that upon review of his video surveillance, he observed two unknown suspects pulling on the door handles of his two vehicles, which were parked in the driveway. One of the suspects gained entry to one of the vehicles, which was left unlocked. After conducting inventory of his vehicle, the victim determined that nothing was taken.

Wednesday, February 24, a resident of the 200 block of Watchung Fork reported that his motor vehicle was burglarized overnight. The victim stated that one or more unknown suspects entered his unlocked vehicle without his permission and ransacked the interior. Nothing appeared to be missing, and the vehicle was not damaged.

Wednesday, February 24, a resident of the 400 block of Kimball Avenue reported that his personal and business information was used by an unknown suspect who claimed to be employed by the Board of Dentistry. A suspect contacted the victim via telephone and advised him that his dentist license was suspended and requested the victim wire \$38,100 in order to restore his license. The resident stated that he did not send any money, but did provide additional personal and business information to the suspect. The victim suffered no monetary loss at this time.

Wednesday, February 24, a resident of the 600 block of Lawrence Avenue reported being a victim of fraud. The fraud occurred when an unknown suspect claimed to be an employee of a utility company. The suspect stated that the victim was past due and required funds to prevent an interruption of service. The victim then sent two \$455.23 Venmo transfers to a phone number provided by the suspect, before realizing that it was a scam. The total loss to the victim as a result of this fraud was \$910.53.

Wednesday, February 24, a resident reported that she found a custom designed ring while walking on the sidewalk on the 700 block of Kimball Avenue. She surrendered the found ring to the Westfield Police Department and it was secured for safekeeping. The Westfield Police Department is attempting to locate the owner of this found property.

Wednesday, February 24, the manager of an establishment located on the 100 block of Elm Street reported that a female suspect, described as an older African-American female wearing a black-and-gold head burka, a brown sweatshirt and grey and black sweatpants, took approximately \$490 worth of merchandise from the store.

Wednesday, February 24, a victim stated that one or more unknown suspects gained entry to their unlocked motor vehicle and removed numerous items. The victim stated that their vehicle was left unsecured for approximately 12 hours. The victim further stated that items that were initially taken were later recovered but other items were still missing.

Thursday, February 25, a resident of the 100 block of Ludlow Place reported that his 2019 Jeep Compass was stolen from his driveway. The theft occurred overnight between 7 p.m. on February 24 and 6 a.m. on February 25. The victim estimated that an approximate value of the vehicle is \$34,000. He also believed the vehicle was unlocked and the keys might have been left inside the vehicle at the time of the theft. The victim did not report that anything of value was left inside the vehicle at the time of the theft. During the course of this investigation, the stolen vehicle was recovered in Newark.

Thursday, February 25, a resident of the 900 block of Miniskin Way reported a burglary to his motor vehicle. The victim stated that his vehicle was parked unlocked in his driveway between 3 p.m. on February 23 and 11 a.m. on February 25, when one or more unknown suspects entered his vehicle without his permission. The interior passenger compartment appeared to be ransacked but nothing of value was taken by the suspects. No vehicle damage was caused as a result of this incident.

Thursday, February 25, an unknown male walked into a business located on the 100 block of Central Avenue. Once inside, the suspect shoplifted approximately \$3,000 worth of retail merchandise. The suspect fled and the incident is being investigated.

Friday, February 26, during the early morning hours, a van belonging to a business located on the 400 block of East North Avenue was burglarized. Once the van was entered, its interior compartment was ransacked and tools owned by the business were taken. The total theft amount is approximately \$30,000.

Friday, February 26, a resident of the 0-100 block of Westbrook Road reported being the victim of identity theft that occurred that day. One or more unknown suspects filed for an employment claim in the victim's name.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Friday, February 26, a resident of Balmoral Lane reported a motor vehicle burglary. Two males entered the resident's vehicle, which was parked in their driveway. The males fled the area when they were confronted by the homeowner. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, February 27, a resident of Treeview Circle reported the theft of a 2019 Volvo XC60 during the overnight hours. The Newark Police Department later recovered the vehicle, which had been abandoned. The case is under investigation.

Saturday, February 27, a business located on Martin Place reported a burglary. An employee arrived in the early morning hours for work and stated that an unknown male entered the building through an unlocked door. The suspect was wearing a black face mask and immediately fled the area when he noticed the employee in the building. Officers searched the surrounding area for the suspect, with negative results. The matter is under investigation.

Sunday, February 28, Gamal Ligon, 49, of Elizabeth was arrested on an active warrant out of Linden during a motor vehicle stop. Ligon was transported to police headquarters and processed.

Sunday, February 28, a resident of Union Avenue reported that someone had opened a fraudulent PayPal account in their name. The matter is under investigation.

Monday, March 1, a resident of Chapel Road reported a case of identity theft. The matter is under investigation.

Monday, March 1, a business owner on Martin Place reported a burglary that occurred over the weekend. Entry was gained through a rear window. The matter is under investigation.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER A503 POLICE DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, in December 2020, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General revised the "Attorney General's Law Enforcement Drug Testing Policy"; and

WHEREAS, those revisions require that municipal police departments adopt a rule or regulation mandating random drug testing; and

WHEREAS, those revisions further require municipal police departments to adopt a rule or regulation provisions governing reasonable suspicion drug testing; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford Police Department has codified its rules and regulations as Chapter A503 of the Township Code;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter A503 Police Department Rules and Regulations, Section 47 Alcoholic beverages and drugs is hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE XLIV: ANTI-NEPOTISM

§ A503-47. Alcoholic beverages and drugs.

A. No member or employee of the Department will appear for or be on duty under the influence of liquor or drugs or be unfit for duty because of their excessive use.

B. Members or employees of the Department shall not drink any kind of intoxicating beverage while on duty or take any drugs not duly prescribed and necessary for health at any time.

C. Members or employees of the Department shall refrain from drinking intoxicating beverages for a reasonable period before going on duty.

D. Intoxicating beverages may not be consumed at any police station.

E. No member of the Department shall, at any time when in uniform, except in the performance of duty, enter any place in which intoxicating liquor is served and sit at the bar.

F. Members and employees shall not bring into or keep any intoxicating liquor or drugs on Department premises except when necessary in the performance of a police task. Liquor or drugs brought into

PUBLIC NOTICE

Department premises in the furtherance of a police task shall be properly identified and stored according to Department policy.

G. For sworn members of the Department, the Department shall participate in drug testing procedures in accordance with directives issued by the New Jersey Attorney General and Union County Prosecutor's Office as well as applicable State law(s) and shall outline that procedure in a Standard Operating Procedure. Testing is categorized as random testing and reasonable suspicion testing. The Chief of Police shall adhere to the standards of reasonable suspicion considering the following: The nature and source of the information; whether the information constitute direct evidence or is hearsay in nature; the reliability of the informant or source; whether corroborating information exists and the degree to which is corroborate the accusation; and whether and to what extent the information may be stale. The Chief of Police may consult with the Union County Prosecutor's Office to discuss whether the information they possess is sufficient to conduct reasonable suspicion drug testing.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. Upon final passage and publication according to law, this ordinance shall become effective immediately.

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE

The foregoing ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 and will be further considered for final passage after public hearing to be held at the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as this matter can be reached. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance. Copies of Ordinance 2021-05 are available, for no fee, in the office of the Township Clerk, Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, 07016, during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (email pdonahue@cranfordnj.org or call 908-709-7210.) A copy of Ordinance 2021-05 has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Municipal Building of the Township.

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$106.08

Policy to Expand RVL One-Seat Goes Fwd.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Raritan Valley Line Mayors' Alliance cheered great news out of Washington yesterday regarding the Gateway Program's new Hudson River tunnel project. The Biden Administration reversed a policy by former President Donald Trump that did not allow either New York or New Jersey to use loans borrowed from the federal government for the project as part of each state's funding commitment to the project.

This artificial obstacle prevented New Jersey and New York from using federal loan funds — which each state would have to pay back — as their 50 percent share of Gateway costs.

"We are relieved that the Biden Administration removed this irrational policy and are optimistic that the Gateway Project will move forward with great speed under the Biden Administration," said Bound Brook Mayor Bob Fazen. "Although, to be sure, there is still a lot of work to be done, we believe the project will move forward with great speed now."

"We are particularly thankful for the leadership of Congressman Tom Malinowski, who pressed the new Administration on this change," said Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle. "Congressman Malinowski, along with Senators Booker and Menendez, continue to advocate that the Gateway Project is the most important infrastructure project in the United States."

Gateway's planned new tunnels under the Hudson River is critical to achieving expanded one-seat ride service on New Jersey Transit's Raritan Valley line. President Joe Biden's pick for U.S. Department of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, has vowed to move forward with Gateway. "It seems particularly appropriate that Secretary Buttigieg, himself a former mayor, would recognize the importance of Gateway to improve the lives of countless New Jersey and New York residents. It's time to put the last four years' worth of delays behind us and move forward quickly on this clearly-needed project," Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr commented.

The Raritan Valley Line Mayors' Alliance is a bi-partisan group of 32 Mayors from Union, Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex Counties advocating for fair and equitable service for more than 23,000 users of the RVL. The alliance, organized in 2018 by Mayors Brindle, Mahr and Fazen (and joined now in their leadership by Cranford Mayor Kathleen Prunty), are working with federal and state elected and appointed officials to gain support for midtown direct service/one-seat ride during weekday peak hours and weekends. Despite ridership equal to or greater than some other New Jersey Transit rail lines with peak-hour, midtown direct trains, the RVL has none.

Arrests Made for Defrauding Elderly Resident of Thousands

WESTFIELD – FEBRUARY 24, 2021 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has announced the recent arrest of two people on multiple criminal charges related to an on-going fraudulent scheme being perpetrated against an elderly Westfield resident.

Brandon Reyes, age 27, of Union City, and Walter Rosario, age 28, of Jersey City, were both arrested in Westfield on February 23 at approximately 11:16 a.m. by detectives and uniformed patrol officers as they attempted to further defraud the victim of an additional \$40,000 in cash monies. She had already been defrauded of \$93,000.

"The amount of fraudulent activity occurring these days is overwhelming," stated Chief Battiloro, who reported that fraudulent schemes such as this one, in which the victim thought she was providing money to an arrested relative through an attorney, are becoming increasingly commonplace.

Mr. Reyes and Mr. Rosario are believed to be part of other similar fraudulent schemes involving other unidentified perpetrators and many other victims. They have both been charged with Theft by Deception pursuant to 2C:20-4a, a third-degree

crime, and Criminal Attempt pursuant to 2C:5-1, also a third-degree crime.

Mr. Reyes was additionally charged with two counts of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon pursuant to 2C:39-5d, both fourth-degree crimes. He was found to be in possession of one knife concealed on his person and another one in the vehicle he was operating at the time of his arrest.

Mr. Rosario was additionally charged with a one count of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon pursuant to 2C:39-5d, a fourth-degree crime. He was found to be in possession of a spring-loaded knife while a passenger in the vehicle operated by Mr. Reyes at the time of his arrest.

"Criminals are persistently targeting our most vulnerable residents. They all need to be fully aware of this fraudulent scheme and others to avoid becoming victims," stated Chief Battiloro. "If you are suspicious, before you transfer any monies, contact the Westfield Police Department."

Mr. Reyes and Mr. Rosario were transported to the Westfield Police Department, where they were both processed, served with complaint summonses, and released from custody pending a future court date.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE 2021-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 255 LAND DEVELOPMENT, TO CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVERLAY DISTRICTS

SUMMARY

On February 23, 2021, the Township of Cranford (the "Township"), introduced Ordinance 2021-03, to create four overlay zoning districts for inclusionary affordable housing developments. Three of the overlay districts coincide with the boundaries of their eponymous underlying districts: i.) Downtown Core Overlay District; ii.) Downtown Business Overlay District; and iii.) Downtown Transition Overlay District. The fourth district, the Park Street Overlay District consists of the property identified on the Tax Map of the Township of Cranford (June 1977) as Block 555, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 7.

Section 1 of the Ordinance amends Sections 255-33 to designate the four overlay districts.

Section 2 of the Ordinance amends Section 255-36 to establish residences as Principal Permitted Uses in the i.) Downtown Core Overlay District; ii.) Downtown Business Overlay District; and iii.) Downtown Transition Overlay District.

Section 3 of the Ordinance amends Section 255-36 to create the Downtown Core Overlay District, including accessory uses, yard and bulk requirements, and general and supplemental requirements.

Section 4 of the Ordinance amends Section 255-36 to create the Downtown Business Overlay District, including accessory uses, yard and bulk requirements, and general and supplemental requirements.

Section 5 of the Ordinance amends Section 255-36 to create the Downtown Transition Overlay District, including accessory uses, yard and bulk requirements, and general and supplemental requirements.

Section 6 of the Ordinance amends Section 255-36 to create the Park Street Overlay District, including accessory uses, yard and bulk requirements, and general and supplemental requirements.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Section 7 directs that the Township's Schedule of Zone District Area, Yard and Building Requirements be updated to reflect the preceding amendments.

Section 8 directs that the Township's Zoning Map be updated to reflect the new overlay zoning districts.

Section 9 states that the separate sections of the Ordinance are severable, and if one section is invalidated for any reason the other sections remain in effect.

Section 10 states that the Ordinance supersedes any inconsistent or conflicting ordinances.

Section 11 directs the Township Clerk to provide notice to the Union County Planning Board and all other persons entitled to notice pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-15, and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-63.

Section 12 directs the Township Clerk to submit a copy of the Ordinance to the Township Planning board for its review in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64.

Section 13 states that the Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publication, and filing of the final form of adoption with the County Planning Board and tax Assessor.

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE

The foregoing ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 and will be further considered for final passage after public hearing to be held at the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as this matter can be reached. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance. Copies of Ordinance 2021-03 are available, for no fee, in the office of the Township Clerk, Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, 07016, during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (email pdonahue@cranfordnj.org or call 908-709-7210.) A copy of Ordinance 2021-03 has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Municipal Building of the Township.

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$94.86

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8th Grade Regular Honor Roll
Grace Abadir, Christopher Abate, Keziah Acedieu, Ethan Afir, Araoluwa Akinwunmi, Pauline Elisha Aloo, Fiorella Amari, Courtney Anthony, Brandon Au, Michael Bellistri, Lily Bishop, Arianna Blake, Emma Boris, Ella Butters, Michael Cantwell, Mason Cardenas, Adriana Cardinal, Emma Chan, Varun Chauhan, Carolina Conklin, Olivia DiSalvo, Elisabeth Dolowy, Juliana Doran, Thomas Eisner, Camryn Evans, Jack Fezza, Lydia Flagg, Dylan Fountain, Victoria Gain, Max Gal, Braeden Galway, Rosa Giles Garcia, Lindsay Gold, Maria Gonzalez, Jeff Gui, Evan Hayeck, Sofia Heta, Tristan Hunter, Clarke Hunter, Sean Johnston, Lily Kalafat, Caitlin Keough, Zayd Khurram, Paul Kole-Emmanuel, Ryan Lahetta, James Lama, Henry Lassman, Daniel Laurenzano, Elana Lewis, Jackson Lorenzetti, Colin Mahr, Grayce Mattos, Emily McCall, Luis Mendez Vargas, Kayla Mohabir, Christopher Murphy, Daniel Murphy, Sofia Murray, Virginia Nanton, Nicole Papadakis, Rachael Pinsky, Abena Poku, Shawn Poliseo, Sean Price, Victoria Prizger, Bakhtawar Qamar, Gabriella Quiceno, Jayden Richards, Madeline Richter, Isabella Rocha, Miguel Rodriguez Chacon, Sophia Shapiro, Gianna Silva, Tristan Sirmans, Phillip Snair, Hannah Spieler, Jada Sripada, Benjamin Thomas, North Thurman, Taylor Tsin, David Tsvayberg, Xavier Vega, Erik Widhiatmodjo, Isaiah Williams, Jia Xue, Tiffany Yang, Riley Yau, Sophia Zambrio, Saman Zeb, Luke Zimmerman

7th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll
Elizabeth Adegboyega, Reilly Amberg, Gregory Baerson, Hannah Benevento, Normandie Beversluis, Julian Bhatia, Sophia Birk, Alexa Birnbaum, Justin Bogdan, Liam Bonifas, Grace Brown, Reid Buehler, Jada Carter-Mcummings, Beatriz Cesario, Samantha Chan, Alexander Chen, Christopher Chesky, Samantha Chesky, Tess Coffey, Steven Cohen, Timothy DeMatteo, Sienna DelCorsono, Brandon DiNizo, Thomas Dowling, Jacob Fallas, Lubow Ferencevych, Jacob Friedman, Sean Fuentes, Callum Fynes, Spoorthy Gundra, Samantha Hale, Kaitlin Har, Alexander Ho, Patrick Huszcza, Quinn Hyman, Brandon Indoe, Jasmin Jasul, Panagiota Kaintermoglou, Dyllin Kervel, Eitan Klieger, Elyse Lambert, Madelyn Latham, Patrick Leone, Jonah Leske, Aiden Lickman, Noah Lieberman, William Liu, Joao Lopes, Rhiane Lopez, Jeylene Lugo, Giovanni Martoccia, Michael Martucci, Caleb McDowell, Taylor Mingoa, Brian Natareno Santiago, Kristina Nitro, Samantha Nocera, Edward Orellano, Ariadni Pappas, Andrew Peneno, Nicole Perez, Hannah Perler, Cooper Pomponio, Taylor Prunty, Taryn Ribaud, Abigail Richardson, Addison Richie, Emily Roof, Joelle Ruccio, Sofia Sanisidro, Liam Skiff, Vance Slack, Joseph Souza, Georgea Stellakis, Jonah Tamayo, Liam Telesca, Lorenzo Tittanegro, Shae Trenery, Sofia Vanterpool, Anthony Villafrade, Victoria Virga, Presley Weuve, Sam Whitefield, Kevin Wright, Hana Zamor, Jason Zhuo

7th Grade Regular Honor Roll
Claire Abadir, Ava Accardi, Paul Allen, Sebastian Angeles, Irfa Azhar, Arthur Barbosa, Tristan Baumgartner, Sydney Bethune, Ryan Catto, Jack Colvin, Madison Cooper-McMahon, Jacob Cristobal, Jathaniel Cruz, Gabriella DeBrito, Nicholas DeBrito, Emilio Falkowitz, Delaney Farley, Jade Franco, Jake Geleman, Ryan Gilligan, Carlie Gleason, Ella Goldstein, Pablo Gonzalez-Negron, Sylvia Haley, Chase Herb, Lyla

Hernandez, Seth Hunter, Nathan Hyman, Andrew Jiang, Hailey Kaplan, Brian Kloefer, Patrick Korner, Joseph LaRosa, Joseph Lambert, Natalia Lambert, Zoe Lessing, Samantha Lionetti, Josephine Lomonte, Antonio Lourenco, Jenna Lourenco, Grace MacDougall, Jeimy Martinez, Jake Martucci, Daniel McArdle, Sophie McMeekan, Colin Miller, Brian Mitchell, Luke Murphy, Averie Nazario-Sharpe, Kamryn Nesmith, Nicholas Nitti, Carter Oser, Angelina Pagan, Nasir Pellam, Salvatore Racanelli, John Robinson, Peyton Rose, Paige Rowley, Ashleigh Ryan, Ellie Schwartzman, Ava Scott, Taylor Shea, Lilia Skawinski, Mehki Stevens, Ryan Trivisonno, Jack Trojan, David Vu, Kelsie Waldron, Logan Weiss

6th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll
Madeline Abrams, Christopher Allen, James Allen, Andrew Balagot, Sanjith Balaji, Brody Balestrino, Logan Benedict, Cayden Benoit, Amanda Birk, Caitlin Birk, Benjamin Bouverot, Patrick Boyle, Kiera Brennan, Brynn Cardenas, Asher Carpien, Kevin Chen, Carly Chichester, Catherine Ciemniecki, Zofia Cintron, Isla Clowers, Meg Coppock-Huegel, Joseph Cordero, Neela Darmarajah, Madelyn DeBernardis, Zachary DeBernardis, Sanjiv Dhanantwari, Thomas Dreyer, Joseph Estevez, Luciana Gerace, Jaslene Gonzalez, Matthew Gregov, Logan Griffiths, Sloan Gulas, Delaney Harmer, Madeline Huber, Emmalyn Hunsinger, John Hutchinson, Luke Iannotta, Matthew Iannotta, Jainithin Jeyaprakash, Allison Juckes, Alexander Juniewicz, John Kalafat, Nazariy Katerynyuk, Carter Kelly, Anwar Khan, Catherine L'Hommedieu, John Laudman, Kensie Lee, Aiden Liguori, Andy Lin, Sarina Llano, Andrew Lourenco, Kaylin Lowe, Sami Marku, Mark Migliaccio, Sophia Monteith, Amelia Nath, Brandon Nguyen, Elana Nieporent, Jake Ogg, Haidyn Pantano, Massimo Passucci, Ethan Phillips, Naima Pilgrim, Knevin Pilley, Aaron Pinsky, Robert Platts, Eric Price, Trishan Ray, Angelina Rebuth, Josephine Rebuth, Jaliyah Richards, Ryder Richer, Jacob Rogowsky, Connor Scarpa, Ryan Scarpa, Zachary Schiff, Aaron Sector, Harper Shimko, Andrew Skara, Braden Slifer, Isabelle Stewart, Liana Stewart, Mia Taylor, G'Ana Torres, Madelyn Valera, Zoe Wallis, Sarah Ward, Nicolas Wierzbowski, Christian Zerilli

6th Grade Regular Honor Roll
Jayden Acevedo, Justin Au, Jude August, Alejandro Bailey, Besim Berisha, Max Bickford, Nicholas Bizzarro, Madison Bogart, Ryer Bonavitacola, Noah Brown, Isabella Burdick, Logan Busch, Gabriella Capece, Aidan Carter, Xavier Cerchio Saggese, Aidan Cholar, Julian Clark, Brielle Colon, Siena Damens, Maya Diaz, Evan Doran, Jack Doran, Madison Durant, Aaron Farkash, Shawn Fitzgerald, Parker Frisolas, Jolene Furguele, Joseph Furguele, James Gist, Alexander Hagopian, Connor Hayeck, Everton Heaven, Jack Heiberg, Lucas Heta, Isabel Hofmann, Nicholas Homer, Teresa Jackson, Emma Johnston, Samantha Judd, Matthew Karp, Yusuf Khan, Lucas Koehler, Dillon Lassman, Antonio Laterza, Curtis Lewis, Elio Lombardi, Aiden Luccarelli, Alexander Manguait, Samantha Marcolina, Matthew Martucci, Maxwell Monderoy, Davis Murphy, Jack Murray, Korede Oloko, Mya Parrella, Megan Pellitteri, Gianluca Pentlicky, Benjamin Poliseo, Anshul Rajadhyax, Anisa Ray-Reich, Lucas Read, Jaden Reilert, Kayla Reinemann, Liam Rozycki, Thomas Smeltzer, Jacqueline Smith, Sean Sponheimer, Jonah Teicher, Kaylee Tucker, Kathryn Veliz Acuna, Jacob Vosseler, Samantha Williams, Chase Worthey, Veralyn Yang, Keela Yau, Sakina Zaidi

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD
Please take notice that on March 24, 2021 at 7:30 PM the Planning Board will hold a virtual hearing on the application of the undersigned. The property in question is located at: 9 Saville Row, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block 116 Lot 86, as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map, owned by Sorbo Bagchi & Maitreyee Bagchi.
The applicant requests rear yard sunroom addition which is in violation of: Section 184 - 115 (E6) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Rear yard setback; Permitted: 25 Feet; Present: 29 feet; Proposed: 18 feet.
The applicant will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.
The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection 10 days prior to the hearing at https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/.
Any interested party at said hearing may participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Fanwood Planning Board. Instructions for virtual participation can be found at https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/.
Applicant: Sorbo & Maitreyee Bagchi 9 Saville Row Fanwood, New Jersey 07023
1 T - 03/04/21, The Times Fee: \$32.64

HONOR ROLL

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8th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll
Elizabeth Agnello, Shana Amsellem, Thomas Bastable, Christopher Bell, Anabelle Bernard, Emma Blair, Grace Burke, Isabella Caldwell, Reese Carberry, Caitlin Carter, Emerson Carton, Linxiang Chen, Samantha Cohn, Alexandra Compierchio, Madeline Coyle, Audrey Coyne, Atharv Dwivedi, Yael Eini, Justin Ellazar, Antonio Ficazzola, Benjamin Filler, William Folger, Kashvi Furia, Brayden Gal, Caitlin Gannon, Sophie Gingold, Caroline Grandmaison, Lacey Greene, Sophie Hughes, McKenna Jeans, Gabrielle Johnson, Olivia Kanterman, Sarah Kaplan, Jack Kendall, Ava Khan, Olivia LaPorta, Caroline Lemansky, Amanda Leung, Xavier Levy, Edward Li, Caroline Lowder, Caitlyn Madden, Caden Matulonis, Connor Matulonis, Margaret McNulty, Sophia Mekbe, Elizabeth Messano, Mikaila Millard, Elyona Molina, Malissa Morabito, Samantha Nadel, Tanvi Pawar, Marin Pecarsky, Christopher Plenca, Claire Russo, Maria Sao Jose, Olivia Scarpignato, Gabrielle Schiff, Jonathan Schwartz, Alicea Sena, Jaidev Sharma, Jordana Sheiwitz, Robert Sorkin, Keira St John, Alissa Stumpf, Dominique Tabug, Jaralin Truselo, Lindsay Tse, Alyssa Verducci, Marianne Wavelet, Kate Wolff, Sarah Wong, Elaina Yick

8th Grade Regular Honor Roll
Zuriel Battle, Matthew Benedicto, Francesca Benedicto, John Boyle, Annalise Brencsons, Jackson Briamonte, Nadia Buck, Joshua Chaillet, Robert Christensen, Andrew Ciampa, Benjamin Ciampa, Aidan Cichocki, Dylan Condell, William Consoli, Emily Cruz, Christian DeGennaro, Maria DiMaggio, Salvatore Diaco, Harsh Doshi, Riley Dupuis, Tyler George, Maia Gonzalez, Eboni Goodman, Anthony Guan, Sabrina Hackett, Noah Kornfeld, Damien Lariviere, Justice Larkin, Max LeBrun, Samuel Lindell, Giovanni Marrese, Isabella McCarthy, Logan McDonald, Shannon McGuinness, Kyle Miller, Jeremy Montgomery, Jacob Morrell, Alex Moser, Nam Nguyen, Kathryn Novak, Dominic Olivito, Prince Ossy, Kevin Paredes, Kenneth Paul, Devin Pedrero, Sophia Poeschl, MacLaine Priesing, Annabella Pugliese, Wincnet Qui, David Ruiz, Brienne Russo, Benjamin Sackett, Rohan Sangal, Tyler Sklarin, Maya-Li Sneor, Emily Sobolewski, Nicholas Squashic, Cooper Stahley, Claire Swensen, Emma Teevan, Antonios Theocharopoulos, Sara Valencia, Evan Weber, Alyssa Wimer, Mary Clare Worthey

7th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll
Juliana Abrantes, Uswah Agboola, Aarav Akarte, Brandon Aponte, Grace Assuncao, Mason Atkins, Parker Bauman, Alex Bolton, Ava Bonczek, Sofia Cesario, Emily Clarke, Amelia Condell, Isabella DeSanto, Holly Dore, Venny Ebrahim, Darren Edelman, Hannah Fox, Jesse Friedman, Natalie Gorski, Juliette Gutierrez, Shawn Guzman, Vivienne Hwang, Ashley Hynes, Asher Jackovny, Juilee Joshi, Tara Kilgannon, Sydney Klein, Matthew Krantz, Ava LaHuta, Rebecca Lacerda, Andrea Lerner, James Lester, Devin McAuliffe, Isabella Mirenda, Diane Morrow, Maxwell Nicholson, Emma O'Hearn, Alison Park, Yael Perrotta, Gayatri Phatak, Lily Priel, Thomas Riley, Brayden Rites, Gianna Rundella, Alexandra Savare, Mia Savare, Michael Savare, Hamza Shah, Sadie Shapiro, Jordanna Silverstein, Benjamin Sohmer, Garey Su, Kaitlyn Sullivan-Massa, Gabriella Suriani, Michael Tafur, Michaela Tang, Emma Telpis, Jake Todaro, Alison Trafalis, Mia Trombetta, Marc Vidone, Aanya Wright, Agnes Yee

7th Grade Regular Honor Roll
Alexander Abrams, Regan Auyeung, Madeline Ball, Patrick Barnett, Logan Bermingham, Anay Bhardwaj, Adrianna Bonaccolto, Paul Boyle, Logan Brands, Madelyn Byrne, Brendan Campion,

Sebastian Ceraulo, Ananya Chaudhari, Mahnoor Chaudhary, Tessa Conley, Benjamin Dening, Liya Desai, Niam Desai, Ella Dicellis, Olivia Domingues, Daniel Ennis, Max Entin, Ethan Fellen, Brooke Ferguson, Cassidy Fitzgerald, Ella Fleckenstein, Matthew Folkart, Gabriela Fraguas, Aaron Frank, Gabriela Franschman, Erica Giuliani, Luke Gorospe, Jacob Goykhman, Lucas Grimm, Keira Hoey, Griffin Hough, Liam Kendall, Anjali Koganti, Vince Larbi, Xing Liao, Tiago Liccone, Sophia Loewenthal, Spencer Martin, Kaitlyn McKeon, Andrew Medina, Travis Moore, Tyson Moose, Nicholas Movsesian, Noah Needle, Jeffrey Noonan, Kiersten O'Donnell, Daniela Pano, Everett Pasqua, Kyle Pedrero, Molly Pickel, Atharv Pillai, Emma Piszko, Maxim Pressman, Noah Rhodes, Brooke Ritter, Keira Rosa, Olivia Rotondo, Sofia Sanchez, Samantha Savarese, Aiden Schollin, Lila Sinetar, Jeremy Solis-Ledezma, Alexander Spencer, Danielle Tabug, Benjamin Travnick, Sophia Ursino, Maxwell Van Etten, Deegan Ventura, Rose Weisman, Aiden Winters

6th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll
Jack Alchus, Gabriella Antonellis, Nathaniel Asculai, Alisanne Ball, Alexandra Bejarano, Rebecca Blanco,

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 255 LAND DEVELOPMENT, SECTION 255-68 MANDATORY AFFORDABLE HOUSING SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, in December 2018, the Township of Cranford adopted a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, including a Master Plan Housing Element and Fair Share Plan to address the Township's Third Round Affordable Housing Obligations; and
WHEREAS, in December 2018, the Township filed a declaratory judgment action, captioned *In re Application of Township of Cranford*, No. UNN-L-3976-18, seeking, among other things, a judicial declaration that its Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (hereinafter "Fair Share Plan"), satisfies its "fair share" of the regional need for low and moderate income housing pursuant to the Mount Laurel doctrine; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Share Housing Center ("FSHC") and the Township agreed to compromise certain positions regarding the Fair Share Plan such that each party agreed the Fair Share plan satisfies Cranford's "fair share" of the regional need for low and moderate income housing subject to certain amendments to the Fair Share Plan; and
WHEREAS, on October 13, 2020, Cranford enacted Ordinance 2020-11, which, *inter alia*, included an affordable housing mandatory set aside ordinance, that Cranford now desires to amend to further the purposes of the Fair Share Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Union County, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Township Code of the Township of Cranford, Chapter 255, Section 68 Mandatory Affordable Housing Set-Aside Requirements, is amended to read as follows:

§255-68 – Mandatory Affordable Housing Set-Aside Requirements

1. Purpose and Scope: This section establishes regulations to ensure that any site that benefits from a rezoning, variance or redevelopment plan approved by the Township, the Township's Planning Board, or the Township's Zoning Board of Adjustment that results in multi-family residential development of five (5) dwelling units or more produces affordable housing at a set-aside rate of twenty percent (20%) regardless of tenure, in accordance with the Township's Third Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement reached with Fair Share Housing Center ("FSHC") regarding compliance with the Township's affordable housing obligations. This section will not apply to the Township's Overlay Zones, as said zones already has affordable housing set-aside requirements:
i. Downtown Core District Overlay Zone
ii. Downtown Business District Overlay Zone
iii. Downtown Transitional District Over-

Brooke Bressler, Brittany Catalan-Ledezma, Alexandra Chung, Tessa DeGennaro, Alexandre Dumontier, Valencia Duru, Samantha Edwards, Russell Eschbacher, Reyna Facenda, Emily Fava, Bradley Feltingoff, Shayna Feltingoff, Elliana Fessock, Mackenna Fischer, Lara Fox, Samuel Galante, Leah Genato, Avery George, Ronald Germinder, Rebecca Greisman, Liam Greten, Shaan Gurnani, Kylie Hackett, Arianna Hamilton, Ava Handler, Max Handler, Aliya Hanjra, Emily Hyland, Jordyn Iazzetti, Amy Jiang, Samuel Kaplan, Ryder Karp, Emerson Klaskow, Katie Kowalsky, Sara Kuchar, Amare Kumamoto, Maxwell Kumparatana, Ryan Levine, Marcelo Liccone, Matthew Lindo, Sophia Loew, Isabel Lowder, Reese Madden, Olivia Mandy, Julia Marinaro, Alyssa Marrese, Aarav Mathur, Harrison McClure, Tyler Midrano, Zainab Mohammed, Taylor Murray, Noah Oon, Julia Pissamitski, Hayley Plotnick, Ivan Rego, Holly Rein, Julia Rein, Juliette Rose, Naomi Ryan, Hriday Sadhvani, Millie Saltzman, Marissa Schiff, Aidan Schobel, Karla Segarra, Ishita Senkumar, Srishti Shankar, Madeline Sobolewski, Leah Soifer, Shyla Spagnoli, Braden Steer, Aleksander Stevens, Andrew Szabo, Aaron Thomas, Justin Timchak, Jack Tse, Molly Van Ostenbridge, John Verducci, Jason Villaverde, Jack Wilber, Bowen Zhang

6th Grade Regular Honor Roll
Isaac Alfaro, Kyra Amsellem, Henry Bastable, Jacob Benedicto, Jessie Bolland, Justin Brace, Sawyer Briamonte, Luca Burgio, Oliver Cohen, Anthony D'Elia, Joseph Donofrio, Reagan Estivene, Jane Fisher, Jayden Giaimo, Alexander Holston, Logan

PUBLIC NOTICE

lay Zone
Elise-Burnside-Overlay-Zone
iv. Park Street Overlay Zone
2. Affordable Housing Mandatory Set-Aside Requirement
a. If the Township or the Township's Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment permits the construction of multi-family or single-family attached residential development that is "approvable" and "developable," as defined at N.J.A.C. 5:93-1.3, the Township or the Township's Planning Board or Zoning Board shall require that an appropriate percentage of the residential units be set aside for low and moderate income households.
b. This requirement shall apply beginning with the effective date the Ordinance creating this section was adopted to any multi-family or single-family attached residential development, including the residential portion of a mixed-use project, which consists of five (5) or more new residential units, whether permitted by a zoning amendment, a variance granted by the Township's Planning Board or Zoning Board, or adoption of a Redevelopment Plan or amended Redevelopment Plan in areas in need of redevelopment or rehabilitation.
For any such development for which the Township's land use ordinances (e.g. zoning or an adopted Redevelopment Plan) already permitted residential development as of the effective date the Ordinance creating this section was adopted, this requirement shall apply only if the Township, the Township's Planning Board, or the Township's Zoning Board permits an increase in approvable and developable gross residential density to at least twice the permitted approvable and developable gross residential density as of the effective date the Ordinance creating this section was adopted.
c. Nothing in this section precludes the Township, the Township's Planning Board, or the Township's Zoning Board from imposing an affordable housing set-aside in a development not required to have a set-aside pursuant to this paragraph consistent with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311 (h) and other applicable law.
d. For all inclusionary projects, the appropriate set-aside percentage will be twenty percent (20%) for all projects regardless of tenure.
e. This requirement does not create any entitlement for a property owner or applicant for a zoning amendment, variance, or adoption of a Redevelopment Plan or amended Redevelopment Plan in areas in need of redevelopment or rehabilitation, or for approval of any particular proposed project.
f. This requirement does not apply to any sites or specific zones otherwise identified in the Township's Settlement Agreement with FSHC, which was executed by the Township on November 8, 2019, or in the Township's 2020 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, for which density and set-aside standards shall be governed by the specific standards set forth therein. As such, this section will not apply to the Township's Overlay Zones set forth in §255-69(1), as said zone already has affordable housing set-aside requirements.
g. Furthermore, this section shall not apply to developments containing four (4) or less dwelling units.

FOR ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH THE TOWNSHIP'S LAND USE ORDINANCES (E.G. ZONING OR AN ADOPTED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN) ALREADY PERMITTED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE THE ORDINANCE CREATING THIS SECTION WAS ADOPTED, THIS REQUIREMENT SHALL APPLY ONLY IF THE TOWNSHIP, THE TOWNSHIP'S PLANNING BOARD, OR THE TOWNSHIP'S ZONING BOARD PERMITS AN INCREASE IN APPROVABLE AND DEVELOPABLE GROSS RESIDENTIAL DENSITY TO AT LEAST TWICE THE PERMITTED APPROVABLE AND DEVELOPABLE GROSS RESIDENTIAL DENSITY AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE THE ORDINANCE CREATING THIS SECTION WAS ADOPTED.

SECTION 2. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Township of Cranford, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Cranford are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

SECTION 4. The Township Clerk is directed to give notice at least ten (10) days prior to a hearing on the adoption of this ordinance to the Union County Planning Board and to all other persons entitled thereto pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-15, and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-63 (if required).

SECTION 5. After introduction, the Township Clerk is hereby directed to submit a copy of the within Ordinance to the Planning Board of the Township of Cranford for its review in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon (1) adoption and publication in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey; and (2) filing of the final form of adopted ordinance by the Clerk with (a) the Union County Planning Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-16, and (b) the Township Tax Assessor as required by N.J.S.A. 40:49-2.1.

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE
The foregoing ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 and will be further considered for final passage after public hearing to be held at the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as this matter can be reached. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance. Copies of Ordinance 2021-04 are available, for no fee, in the office of the Township Clerk, Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, 07016, during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (email p.donahue@cranfordnj.org or call 908-709-7210.) A copy of Ordinance 2021-04 has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Municipal Building of the Township.

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Municipal Clerk

1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$200.43

Hopkins, Sean Hyland, Sophie-Francesca Isleta, Xavier Jimenez, Geetika Joshi, Zoya Khan, Patience Kissi, Avery Klotz, Colin Kochanowicz, Sarah Kornfeld, Abigail Kuczynski, Luke Lang, Alyssa Larmore, Ryan LeBrun, Sofia Linderman, Christopher Lorenzetti, Lucas Lugo, Aidan Maguire, Mercurius Mickail, Sarah Mihansky, Omar Mirza, Ella Movsesian, Anthony Mustacciolo, Courtney O'Donnell, Peyton O'Donnell, Lia Passucci, Taylor Piazza, Lauren Reynolds, Sydney Richardson, Vanessa Rosario, Hayley Sackett, Tyler Schobel, Ryan Schollin, Avery Sesser, Manav Shah, Simon Shapiro, Henry Sherratt, Jacob Shipitofsky, Spencer Shulman, Andrew Smith, Arielle Solomon, Devin Tighe, Damian Walter, Mikayla Wong, Jack Yablonowitz, Alexis van Blijdestein

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY
NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD
The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford has authorized an award of contract for the purchase of Library and Educational goods or services, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (q). Baker & Taylor, LLC has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and has submitted a Business Entity Contribution Disclosure Certification to the Township.
Such contract and Resolution No. 2021-135 authorizing said contract are available for public inspection at the office of the Township Clerk.
Awarded to: Baker & Taylor, LLC
Services and Goods: Library and Educational
Date: February 23, 2021
Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk

Awarded to: Baker & Taylor, LLC
Services and Goods: Library and Educational
Date: February 23, 2021
Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk
1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

PUBLIC NOTICE

h. All subdivision and site plan approvals of qualifying residential developments shall be conditioned upon compliance with the provisions of this section.
i. Where a developer demolishes existing dwelling units and builds new dwelling units on the same site, the provisions of this section shall apply if the net number of new dwelling units is five (5) or more.
j. All inclusionary projects created under this section must comply with the affordable housing requirements in §255-68 through §255-87.

SECTION 2. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Township of Cranford, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Cranford are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

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Patricia Donahue, RMC
Municipal Clerk

1 T - 03/04/21, The Leader Fee: \$200.43

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Arts & Entertainment

Young Musicians Give Back With ‘Shine a Light’ Concert

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

AREA — It sounded like it would be a quite the marathon concert when RMC Studios in Garwood announced it was putting on a Rock Show on February 27 called “Shine the Light.” And it was. At the all-day presentation from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., children and teens were given the chance to perform with any members of their family and professional musicians to “Shine a Light” on their favorite charity. Nearly 60 students and family members from Scotch Plains, Garwood, Westfield, Cranford, and other area towns performed on the mainstage of the iconic Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) in Rahway. Students were accompanied by the RMC Studios teacher band made up of professional musicians. No matter the level of the expertise of the student, each was made to feel like a rock star with video streaming, still shots of them performing and having the memory of that joy of live performance. Students sent a link to the live-streamed show to their friends and family to watch them and asked them to donate to their selected charity.

In a phone interview days before the performance, dad Josh Bornstein, from Cranford, said this would be “an interesting adventure.” His children, who attend Orange Avenue School in Cranford, are ‘allowing’ him to sing along with them. Son Carter, 13, plays the drums, and daughter Addie, 11,

plays the piano and sings. “We couldn’t settle on one song for all of us, so,” Mr. Bornstein said, “I’m singing ‘We Didn’t Start the Fire’ with my son and Addie and I are singing ‘Shallow.’” He continued, “My wife Keren, our biggest fan, is our designated ‘manager.’” He called this event, “a great outlet during this pandemic.” Instead of selecting one charity to promote, however, their family decided “to dedicate our performance to a family member who died from Covid.” He went on to explain that “In current times, we can help kids to understand how fulfilling it is to give back to the community.”

Likewise, Scotch Plains mom, Lisa Byrne, shared by phone what this opportunity to perform for a charity has meant for her three children Jack, 14, Maddie, 12, and Brian, 11. She and her police officer husband Mike from the Summit Police Department have always taught their three kids the importance of giving back. Since food insecurity is such a major problem in the state, they promoted their charity of choice: New Jersey Food Banks. She said the family has donated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary food pantry and GRACE in Summit even before the pandemic. At the concert, they all performed the Beatles’ song, “Ob - La - Di, Ob - La - Da. Before the performance, shared that she and her husband were anxious about performing with their children. “This is our first time doing this, so he and I are so nervous.” She said she would remind her friends when they watched the performance online that “We are not musicians!”

Westfield residents, high school senior Caroline, and her freshman brother Derrick Zhao, on guitar and saxophone respectively, tackled the jazz classic “Take Five” by Dave Brubeck and did it proud. Their charity of choice was the American Red Cross because, as they said in their taped promo before their performance, “It has helped 200 million people and now the people in the south really need help.”

Another Westfield family, the Kobin family, presented a powerful rendition of “Hallelujah” with mother-daughter duo Caroline and Lisa on vocals and younger brother Michael on guitar. They selected “Make-a-Wish” as their charity to spotlight.

Liz Robbins, spokesperson and voice and piano teacher at RMC Studios explained, “There is an awful lot of work that goes into these concerts. The students performing are aged from eight-years-old to adult, all different abilities from beginners to high school seniors who are going to study music in college.” She told of the health precautions that were taken to provide a safe experience. “There are only a certain number of students in the building at one time.”

Westfield family of the Browns - Declan, Seamus, Fiona and mom Megan and dad Pete - added levity to the concert with their upbeat rendition of “Twist and Shout.” They gave a shout-out to their friend Lucy who has juvenile diabetes, so their charity was JDRF. Another Westfield family, the Reynolds family, that espoused the “Wounded Warriors Project,” provided something unique with vocals and a shadowed mime to “Put a Little Love in Your Heart.”

Margaret Smith, mother of performer Samantha Smith, a junior at Westfield High School who sang two songs shared that during the pandemic, RMC Studios has held five concerts, some outdoors and some at UCPAC. She said they use professional recording equipment to video the performances and mix audio and video to create personalized music videos for each “rock star” student.

With charities like Make-a-Wish, Trevor Project, St. Jude’s, Hungry for Music, Animal Welfare, and dozens more, the 20 Westfield families, half a dozen from Scotch Plains and the rest from other areas let their inner rock star shine while giving back to worthwhile organizations.

To see the live - stream of the concert, visit <https://www.rmstudios.com>.



Photo Courtesy of Margaret Smith

HERE COME THE IRISH...Samantha Smith, a junior at Westfield High School, belts out “Here Come the Irish” at “Shine a Light” concert at the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) on Saturday. Backed by the professional band from RMC Studios, she raised funds for the St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth. Samantha held two Gig for Good concerts in 2019 - one in NYC at Le Poisson Rouge and one in NJ at Garwood’s The Crossroads, both raising \$13,000 in funds to fight hunger. Band members: EJ Gaub on percussion, Liz Robbins on the Bodhran drum (traditional Irish drum), Dan Hutchinson on the Aerophone (essentially a saxophone/keyboard hybrid that plays to sound like a bagpipe), Dustin Sebes on guitar, Liam Hughes on Bass guitar, and Jen Davis on keys.

Area Residents Selected for Annual ReVision And Respond

NEWARK — The Newark Museum of Art is excited to announce the artists whose works will be featured in the upcoming exhibition: 2021 New Jersey Arts Annual: ReVision and Respond. The annual juried exhibition is sponsored by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

The Newark Museum of Art will host this year’s edition of the long-standing series of exhibitions that highlight the state’s artists. The exhibition will open on Thursday, June 17 and will be on view through Sunday, August 22.

Among those selected are: Francesca Azzara of Westfield, June Brown of Cranford and Jon Simon of Westfield.

This year’s exhibition jurors are Kristen J. Owens, Associate Curator (Programs) for Rutgers University-Newark’s Paul Robeson Galleries at Express Newark, and Amy Simon Hopwood, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts at The Newark Museum of Art. Together, they reviewed more than 1,800 entries from 484 artists across New Jersey. The jurors selected 50 works by 45 artists that powerfully interpret this year’s ReVision and Respond theme, inspired by artists’ crucial role in our society as they offer nuanced perspectives on our current and future worlds.

“We are delighted to host this year’s New Jersey Arts Annual in collaboration with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and look forward to amplifying the work of these visionary artists by offering the public a glimpse of their inspiring talent,” said Amy Hopwood, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts for The Newark Museum of Art. “We are eager to share what these 45 New Jersey-based artists have created.”

“As one of the longest standing partners on the Arts Annual, The Newark Museum of Art has found exciting new ways to engage with, and highlight the work of, New Jersey’s many accomplished artists,” said Danielle

Bursk, Director of Artist Services at the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. “We are proud to support the vision of The Newark Museum of Art and the artists who have contributed their talent to this timely exhibit.”

All artists over the age of 21 who live or work in New Jersey were eligible to apply. The open call invited a

range of artistic practices, from traditional to abstract, from craft to new media. The selected works include ceramics, collage, installations, paintings, photographs, sculpture, textiles, video, and works on paper.

For more information, visit <https://www.newarkmuseumart.org/> 2021njaa.

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Community Calendar

Brought to you by Trinitas Regional Medical Center



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

Drive-Thru Pierogi Dinner Friday, March 5, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Youth Association located at 60 N Jefferson Road in Whippany. Preorders will be taken online at pdinner.com.

The Misadventures of Romeo and Juliet Friday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 6, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday March 7, 2 p.m. presented by the Kean Theatre Conservatory. Performances are free, but registraion is required. Please visit their Facebook at Kean University Theatre Conservatory for registration links.

Cooking with Tony Bianchino Saturday, March 6, 10 a.m. Join the Union County board of commissioners and office for persons with disabilities and special needs as they present a virtual Saturday series. For more information or to sign up, please visit ucnj.org/opdsn-reg or call (908) 527-4781.

St. Patrick's Selfie Scavenger Hunt Friday, March 12 through

Sunday, March 14. Join the CHS Project Graduation 2021 for a family friendly scavenger hunt with an interactive map. \$25 per family/team. Register by Monday, March 1 at signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA4A82BA6F4C70-stpatrick.

Magic with Simon Mandal Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m. Join the Union County board of commissioners and office for persons with disabilities and special needs as they present a virtual Saturday series. For more information or to sign up, please visit ucnj.org/opdsn-reg or call (908) 527-4781.

Free Open Mic Cash Poetry Slam Saturday, March 20, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Take part in this free outdoor event hosted by the Rahway Arts and Business Partnership located at the Rahway Arts District Park on the corner of Central Ave and Irving Street in Rahway.

Poetry at the Pit Friday, March 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Take part in the youth open mic night during this outdoor event hosted by the Rahway Arts and Business Partnership located at 59 E. Cherry Street in Rahway.

Submit events at www.goleader.com/calendar

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Seasoning Blend (this isn’t necessary if you don’t have it)

• Parmesan cheese (to your liking)
Directions for Kalamata Hummus:

1. Drain and rinse your chickpeas and add them to your blender
2. Add a pinch of salt and pepper
3. Add ~10 Kalamata olives
4. Add ½ cup olive oil
5. Blend until smooth (Be sure to scrape the sides of the blender so it’s well combined.)

Once finished, set to the side)

Directions for pizza:

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit
2. Heat ~2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large skillet
3. Dice the shallot and garlic cloves. Add to the skillet
4. Sauté on low for a few minutes until transparent
5. While your shallot and garlic are sautéing, cut your eggplant into small cubes
6. Add cubed eggplant to the skillet and mix. Drizzle with a bit of additional olive oil (~another 4 tablespoons or until you feel it’s moist).
7. Add the salt, black pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika, red pepper flakes, and Trader Joe’s Umami Seasoning Blend (if you have it) to the skillet
8. Cook on low for around 20 minutes or until the eggplant is cooked down and soft. Mix every few minutes.
9. While your eggplant is cooking, place your pizza crusts on a non-stick cookie sheet. Spread the homemade hummus on top of the pizza crusts like you would for any pizza sauce.
10. Once the eggplant is soft, evenly spread it on top of both the pizzas and sprinkle with parmesan cheese
11. Bake for about 8 minutes. Remove from oven, slice and enjoy!



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David B. Corbin (February 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
WORKING THE GABLE...Blue Devil junior Jon Heard, top, tries to set up a Gable during his 285-lb bout with Warrior Hunter Seubert. Heard won 5-0 (February 14, 2020).



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

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 can be found at www.goleader.com - year - month - week

February 13, 2020: Girls who have worked so hard all season in practice to help the starters hone their skills, received ample court time for the Westfield basketball team that hosted a rebuilding SPF squad on Senior Night. The Blue Devil girls, who recently received the top seed for the upcoming Union County Tournament, went

right to work and emerged with a 51-22 victory.

For the Blue Devils seniors, Ali Lisanti scored all 15 of her game-leading points from 3-point range. Faith Dobosiewicz, who bucketed eight points, made four steals and pulled four rebounds. Caroline Dwyer had three steals and two assists, and Amanda Paden came off the bench in the second half and scored two points, while adding a steal.

Junior Ryann Wall led the Raiders with 10 points. Ashley DeFrancesco put in five points

and added two rebounds, a block and a steal. Catie Wilson was their chief thief with four steals.

February 14, 2020: Threepeat was the last word that the top-seeded Westfield wrestling team wanted to hear after its North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 Championship match with second-seeded Watchung Hills in Westfield. But the Warriors arrived in full force, which included an exuberant fan base that matched the huge Blue Devil crowd, and earned their third straight sectional title with a 37-27 victory. The Warriors had beaten the Blue Devils, 39-23, in 2018 for the title and 36-25 for the title last year.

The Warriors bumped their

good wrestler, Chris Calvo, up to 132-lbs to face Jeremy Silber, who escaped in the third period to grab a 6-5 victory. Freshman Mike Murphy beat Leonard Calvo, 10-4, at 138-lbs. Luke Scanlan (182-lbs) pinned Adam Claxton with a leg lift & far arm maneuver in 2:40. Jon Heard (285-lbs) beat a much heavier Hunter Seubert, 5-0.

February 14, 2020: The SPF girls indoor track team captured first in six events to claim the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 title at Toms River. Julia Jackson crossed first in the 55-meter dash at 7.51 and also crossed first in the 400 at 59.7, followed by teammate Jenai Berry at 59.83. Berry won the 800 with a time of 2:25.45. Berry, Nicole Agwu, Zuri Kennedy and Jackson finished first in the 4x400 at 4:11.87. Che

Dashiell won the high jump with a height of 5-0 and Katherine Chouinard won the pole vault with a height of 8-0.

February 13, 2019: Finding themselves in a shocking 38-31 hole entering the fourth quarter, the sixth-seeded Cranford girls basketball team reached down deeply in the fourth quarter to knot the score in regulation then came up with a number of big plays in overtime to eliminate the Brearley Bears, 64-58, in the second round of the Union County Tournament in Cranford. Seniors KC Pringle, Lauren Williamson and Olivia Speer appeared to take it up another notch to set up the majority of those key plays in the fourth quarter and in overtime. Gianna Toretta led the Cougars with 18 points, including

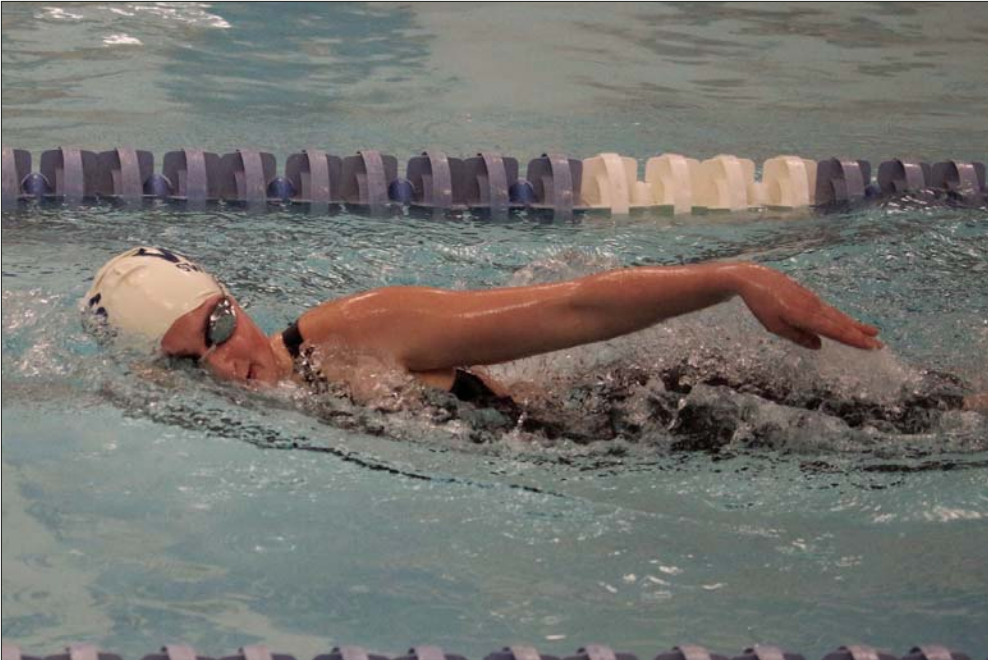
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David B. Corbin (February 2019 Ridge semifinal meet) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
FOURTH IN THE 500-FREESTYLE...Blue Devil Julia McGann finished fourth in the 500-free with a time of 5:28.11 in the North 2, Public A Championship meet against Bridgewater-Raritan on February 15, 2019.



David B. Corbin (February 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
ADVANCING TO THE SEMIS...Raider Alex Oslislo, top, pinned Marc Pretto (St. Peter's Prep) in the 1st period to advance to the 182-lb semifinals at the District 16 Tournament in Scotch Plains on February 16, 2019. Oslislo placed third.

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A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

four 3-pointers). Pringle had nine rebounds and four blocked shots. Olivia Speer had 13 points and Williamson sank 12 points.

February 15, 2019: Control of the boards belonged to the second-seeded Westfield basketball Lady Blue Devils, who also dished out 14 assists, in a 49-36 victory over the Governor Livingston Highlanders in the quarterfinal round of the Union County Tournament at AL Johnson in Clark. Freshman Chloe Kreusser

had one of her finest all-around games for the 15-7 Blue Devils, netting a game-high 18 points, and grabbing nine rebounds and three steals, while adding an assist. Junior Faith Dobosiewicz became a dominating force under the boards also with eight rebounds, while putting in 12 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and adding two assists, a steal and a blocked shot.

February 14 & 15, 2019: Special efforts from its depth

plus expected strong showings from seniors Josh Cohen and Alan Shao allowed the No. 17, top-seeded SPF boys swim team to defeat the second-seeded Montgomery Cougars, 97-73, for the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Public B championship at Raritan Bay YMCA. In the North 2, Public girls final, the second-seeded, No. 8 Raiders lost to the top-seeded 10-3 No. 10 Chatham Cougars, 98-72, at the same location.

The Raiders won both freestyle relays, which included going 1-2 in the 200-free relay with Matt London, Dan Donaldson, Corey He and Cohen touching first with a time of 1:32.4, followed by Drew Burfeindt, Jason Mongiovi, Mike Depaola and Lucas Route. Cohen, He, London and Aidan Trenery won the 400-freestyle relay at 3:28.05.

In the girls championship, the Chatham girls, who lost only to Morristown, Mountain Lakes and

the Raiders this season, won nine of the 11 events with Raiders Lily Hughes, Sofia Leonetti, Rachel Small and Julia Bonhote taking first in the 200-medley relay at 1:50.88 and Hughes winning the 100-backstroke in 57.8.

February 16, 2019: Two teams, Westfield and Cranford, could have been considered to be the top contenders for the team title at the District 14 Wrestling Championship held at

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



David B. Corbin (February 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
LUNGING FOR THE BALL....Cougar senior Lauren Williamson, No. 10, makes a valiant effort to get possession in the thrilling UCT game against the Brearley Bears in Cranford on February 13, 2019. The Cougars beat the Bears, 64-58, in overtime.



David B. Corbin (February 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
SECOND DISTRICT TITLE, SECOND “OW” AWARD...Blue Devil sophomore CJ Composto claimed a 19-2, tech fall over Connor Robinson (North Hunterdon) and also received his 2nd District 15 Outstanding Wrestler Award (Feb. 17, 2018).

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A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

Millburn. But in the end, it was the Blue Devils, who stepped forward to send 10 matmen to the finals, claiming five championships and grabbing the crown with a total of 231.5, while the Cougars sent six to the finals and claimed two champs to place second with a total of 201. Glen Kurz was named District 14 Coach of the Year.

Blue Devil freshman Luke Jacobs (106-lbs) beat Seven Rich (Voorhees), Quinn Gimblette

(113-lbs) topped Cougar Will Fernandez, Luke Hoerle (120-lbs) stopped Aidan Taylor (Voorhees), CJ Composto (126-lbs) tracked down Hunter Rinehart (Voorhees) and Jordan Simpson (160-lbs) beat Cougar Ky’ell Roper for the title. Cougar Dean Smith (132-lbs) edged Blue Devil Jeremy Silber and AJ Bencivenga (152-lbs) defeated Blue Devil Luke Scanlan for the title.

February 16, 2019: Two state powerhouses battled it out for

top honors in the District 16 Wrestling Tournament held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood. When all the dust was cleared, it was the St. Peter’s Prep (SPP) Marauders that grabbed the top rung with a total of 220.5, followed closely by the Seton Hall Prep (SHP) Pirates at 213. Raiders Justin Bowles (113) and Zach Zimmerman (195) won titles.

February 15, 2018: Smooth teamwork and an outstanding performance across the board

from senior Colin Budries guided the Cranford boys basketball team down the road to a 54-42 victory over the Brearley Bears in Cranford. The Cougars were very effective in their passing game and ruled the boards throughout the game. Budries finished the game with 13 points, 10 rebounds, two assists and a block. Cougar Hunter Goff scored nine points and Anders Myhre, (7 points) led the team with five assists.

February 15, 2018: The SPF girls swim team reclaimed their first sectional title since 2015 in a thrilling 89-81 victory over perennial foe Chatham in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Public B Final at the Raritan Bay “Y” pool in Perth Amboy. Sisters Rachel and Dee Dee Maizes each earned a pair of victories in individual races. Rachel took first in the 200IM and the 100-breast-stroke, while Dee Dee notched

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David B. Corbin (February 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
DETERMINED TO WIN THE SCRAMBLE...Cougar Jack Carroll, No. 33, is determined to get control of the ball instead of allowing Bears Aiden Samila, No. 30, and Ibn McLean, right, get their paws on it (February 15, 2018).



Alex Lowe (February 2018 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
NORTH JERSEY, SECTION 2, PUBLIC B CHAMPIONS...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls swim team pose for a photo after defeating Chatham, 89-81, for the North Jersey, Section 2 Public B title (February 15, 2018).

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Christine Cosenza, State Farm Insurance Agent

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A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

wins in the 100-freestyle and 200-freestyle.

February 17, 2018: North Hunterdon (NH) and Roselle Park (RP) went down to the wire in a battle for the District 15 wrestling crown but in the end, the NH Lions beat out the Panthers, 200-183, with the hosting Westfield (W) Blue Devils finishing third with 118 total in Westfield. The Blue Devils claimed two champions with sophomore CJ Composto claiming his second 106-lb crown and also his second Outstanding

Wrestler Award, and sophomore Luke Hoerle at 113-lbs. Senior Sean Dwyer had an outstanding showing and finished second at 145-lbs. Juniors Tim Miller (170-lbs) and Brendan Loder (195-lbs) both placed third.

February 17, 2018: Senior Sam Wustefeld and Jack Cannon each captured titles at the District 13 Wrestling Championships held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on February 17. At District 14 in South Plainfield, the Cranford Cougars, although

claiming no champions, advanced six to the Region IV Tournament. The Raiders managed to advance three.

February 18, 2017: Blue Devil freshman CJ Composto left a huge impression on fans and coaches in his 106-lb championship bout with North Hunterdon Lion Connor Robinson and earned the Outstanding Wrestler Award for his performance at the District 15 Wrestling Tournament in Westfield. Team wise the Blue Devils also impressed with two

champions, four seconds and three thirds to advance nine to the region tournament and to place a strong second with 172 points behind the North Hunterdon (NH) Lions, who totaled 193.5 and boasted six champions.

Composto, seeded second, pinned Michel Wolfeneger (Irvington - I) with a double arm bar stack in 1:30 then went to work on Gabe Leo (Roselle Park) utilizing an assortment of tilts, including a single grapevine, chin

hook, to claim an 11-2 major decision and a trip to the championship.

Seeded first at 195-lbs, Blue Devil Jack Miller began his quest for a title by pinning Nashwan Brooks (I) in 2:43 with a tight waist/half nelson. Then after quickly putting Akel Manza (Somerville) to rest in 56 seconds with an under hook half nelson, Miller was ready to face Yousef Abbas (NH) for the title. Miller won 2-0.

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David B. Corbin (March 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TRYING TO GET AROUND A DEFENDER...Cougar senior Sam Curanovic, No. 15, tries to get around a Morris Catholic defender on “Senior Night” in Cranford on February 23, 2017. The Cougars won a 47-46 overtime thriller.



David B. Corbin (March 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE...Blue Devil Grace Elliott, No. 12, helped contain Pioneer star Katie Kinum, No. 1, in the UCT semi at Rahway (February 22, 2017). The Blue Devils defeated New Providence, 39-33, to advance to the championship.

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A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

February 18, 2017: Cougar senior Tom DiGiovanni, not only won his fourth district crown but he also, won the Outstanding Wrestler (OW) Award — lower weights— when he defeated South Plainfield (SoP) Tiger Joe Sacco, 3-0, in the 138-lb finals at the District 14 Tournament in Woodbridge. On the same date at the District 13 Tournament in Scotch Plains, Raider junior Sam Wustefeld won his second district title, this time at 182-lbs.

Cougar Anthony Capece won his fourth district title with an 8-3 decision over Alex Amato (SoP) at 113-lbs, Chris Scorese at 132-lbs claimed his fourth title with a 9-0 major decision over Jacob Painton (SoP) and Alex Esposito not only won his second district title but he also beat NJSIAA top-8 ranked Barron Alex LaGrippo, 3-0, at 285-lbs.

February 22, 2017: “Drive-and-Draw” strategy was used by both teams but the team that

used it second had a more prolonged success with it and came out on top in the semifinal round of the Union County Tournament at Rahway. After experiencing the second-seeded New Providence Pioneers’ success with the drive to the basket and draw the foul technique, the third-seeded Westfield Lady Blue Devils basketball team adopted that strategy and kept it rolling throughout the entire second half to earn a 39-33 victory and a trip to the

UCT championship game.

Blue Devil junior Grace Elliott was the major initiator of the drive-and-draw in the second half and she was quite successful, sinking 9-for-12 during that time. Elliott would finish with 14 points and 10 were from the charity line. As a team, the 17-4 Blue Devils would hit 20 of 28 free throws.

February 23, 2017: “Senior Night” not only turned out to be special for seniors Brianna Scotti, Samantha Curanovic and Lauren

Infante, but it also featured a few wild turns of events that finally ended in the Cranford girls basketball team’s favor with a 47-46, overtime victory over the Morris Catholic Crusaders in Cranford.

Sophomore Lauren Williamson bucketed five of her seven points in the overtime period and junior Lauren Santarelli, who was fouled on a 3-point attempt, sank two of her three free throws to give the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



David B. Corbin (February 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TRYING TO GET A LEG UP...Cougar Dave Busch, left, attempts to bring Blue Devil Jarek Gozdieski back to the mat in the 160-lb title bout in Westfield on February 20, 2016. Gozdieski won his second District 11 title with a 5-0 decision.



David B. Corbin (March 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
WORKING HER WAY AROUND...Blue Devil Jackie Knapp, No. 2, figures out how to dribble around Roselle Catholic defender Tyara McQueen, No. 10, in the Union County Tournament semifinal game in Rahway on February 24, 2015.

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

10-14 Cougars the margin of victory. Junior Cam Wichelns bucketed 14 points and Santarelli finished with 10 points.

February 20, 2016: Gold and Blue uniforms dominated the top podium in eight of the 14 bouts as the Cranford wrestling team won its third straight title at the District 11 Tournament in Westfield. The Cougars with eight champions, two seconds and three thirds finished with a total of 254.5. Scotch Plains-Fanwood placed second with a total of 137 and had one champion. Westfield took fourth at 105 and had one champion.

Cougar Niko Cappello (182-lbs) won his fourth title. Chris Scorese (132-lbs), Anthony Capece (113-lbs) and Tom DiGiovanni (120-lbs) each cap-

tured their third title. Junior Brian McGovern (152-lbs) won his second title. Junior Alex Esposito (220-lbs), Kevin Doran (285-lbs) and Vince Concina (145-lbs) each won their first district title Blue Devil senior Jarek Gozdieski (160-lbs) beat Cougar Dave Busch, 5-0, for his second title. Raider sophomore Sam Wustefeld beat Blue Devil Jack Miller in overtime to claim the 170-lbs title and the Outstanding Wrestler Award.

February 20, 2016: Timing is important and the third-seeded Cranford girls' basketball team certainly has picked the perfect time to round into shape. The Cougars looked very sharp as they took down Summit, 55-44, in their Union County Tournament quarterfinal at Rahway. Camryn Wichelns led Cranford

with 17 points, while senior Lyndsay Pace and freshman Lauren Williamson added 15 points to lead the Cougars past the sixth-seeded Hilltoppers.

February 21, 2016: Taking first in all three relays and four individual events was one thing but it was team depth that forged the No. 1 Westfield swim boys way ahead of No. 2 Cherry Hill East en route to a 102-68 thrashing for the Public A title at The College of New Jersey in Ewing. The Blue Devils increased their all-time state leading titles to 26.

February 24, 2015: Variations of offensive schemes involving a number of girls on the part of the fourth-seeded Westfield basketball team tended to boggle the minds of the top-seeded, seventh-ranked Roselle

Catholic Lions, who never quite figured out how to contain all the weapons, and it resulted in a 57-51, Blue Devil victory in the semifinal round of the Union County Tournament held in Rahway. Junior Olivia Luzzi finished with 16

points, Lil Scott sank 14 points, Jackie Knapp netted 12 points and Hannah Liddy put in nine points.

February 25, 2015: Sidney Morang and Kate Kinum put on a scoring clinic to lead the New Providence girls basketball team to a 60-49 victory over the hosting SPF Raiders in their season finale. Freshman Brianna O'Brien led the Raiders with 11 points. Micaiah Battle netted 10 points and 10 rebounds.

February 26, 2015: There would be no glorious ending for the Cranford boys basketball team on "Senior Night". The Cougars lost their season finale, 58-50, to New Providence in Cranford. James Kellet scored 12

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



David B. Corbin (March 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TRYING TO WREST THE BALL AWAY...Raiders Brianna O'Brien, No. 2, and Kara Foley, No. 24, attempt to wrest the ball from the grasp of a Pioneer in their season finale in Scotch Plains on February 25, 2015.



Courtesy of Joe Rinaldi (March 2014 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
JOINING THE 1,000-POINT CLUB...Three former members of the Blue Devils' 1,000-point club witnessed Jackie Knapp hitting a 3-pointer against Union to also join the 1,000-point club. Pictured, left to right, are: Erin Miller, Head Coach Joe Marino, Lil Scott, Knapp, Assistant Coach Liz McKeon and Director of Athletics Sandy Mamary (February 25, 2014).

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

points, Luke Christiano had 11 points and Hunter Remley added 10 points to the Cougar cause.

February 28, 2015: Two SPF wrestlers and four Cranford Cougars punched their tickets to compete in the NJSIAA Tournament this weekend at Atlantic City (AC) by placing in the Top-3 in their respective weight classes at the Region 3 Tournament held in Union. Two Westfield Blue Devils came up one decision short of qualifying for AC.

Cougar junior Niko Cappello will be making his second trip to AC after defeating Plainfield's Rohan Phillip, 7-5, in overtime in the 182-lb title bout. Raider JT Beirne (138-lbs) placed second with a 3-1 loss in the title bout against Tyler Gazaway (New Providence). Raider Alex

Mirabella (195-lbs) took third when he pinned Khalil Burns (Linden) with a cradle in 2:50.

Cougar Gavin Murray (152-lbs) advanced to the finals when he pinned Sam Champi (Morristown) in 4:13 with a double arm bar. Murray lost his title bout with Joe Tavoso (Delbarton), 6-4. Cougar Chris Scorese (126-lbs) placed second after being pinned in 3:04 to Anthony Cefolo (Hanover Park), who was ranked fifth nationally. Cougar Tom DiGiovanni (120-lbs) defeated Summit's Phil Angelo, 3-2, for third place.

February 25, 2014: Junior Jackie Knapp got a pass from junior Lil Scott and swished in a 3-pointer with 4:27 remaining in the fourth quarter to achieve her 1,000th career point, but the emotional moment would end up

being a bittersweet memory when the third-seeded Union Farmers went on to defeat the second-seeded Blue Devil girls basketball team, 52-41, in the semifinal round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway. Knapp finished with 13 points and added four rebounds, while Scott led the 21-3 Blue Devils with 15 points, four steals and three assists.

March 1, 2014: Milestones, a pair of upset victories and a flurry of activity in the waning seconds of a title bout highlighted the Region 3 Wrestling Tournament in Union. Three Blue Devils and three Cranford Cougars qualified for the NJSIAA Tournament to be held at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City (AC).

Blue Devil Nick Velez, seeded

third at 152-lbs, after earning a grueling 7-6 victory in his quarterfinal bout, knocked off second-seeded Delbarton's Joe Tavoso, 4-3. In his title bout against South Plainfield's Inan Sikel, Velez saved the best to last, getting an escape with 19 seconds remaining and shooting quickly for the takedown to earn a 3-2 decision and the title.

Cougar Gavin Murray achieved his 100th win when he defeated North Plainfield's Dom Mulhearn, 9-2. He pinned Joe Zecca (Hanover Park) in 5:40 then he recorded an escape and a takedown to beat Alex Murray (Watchung Hills), 3-0, for the 138-lb title.

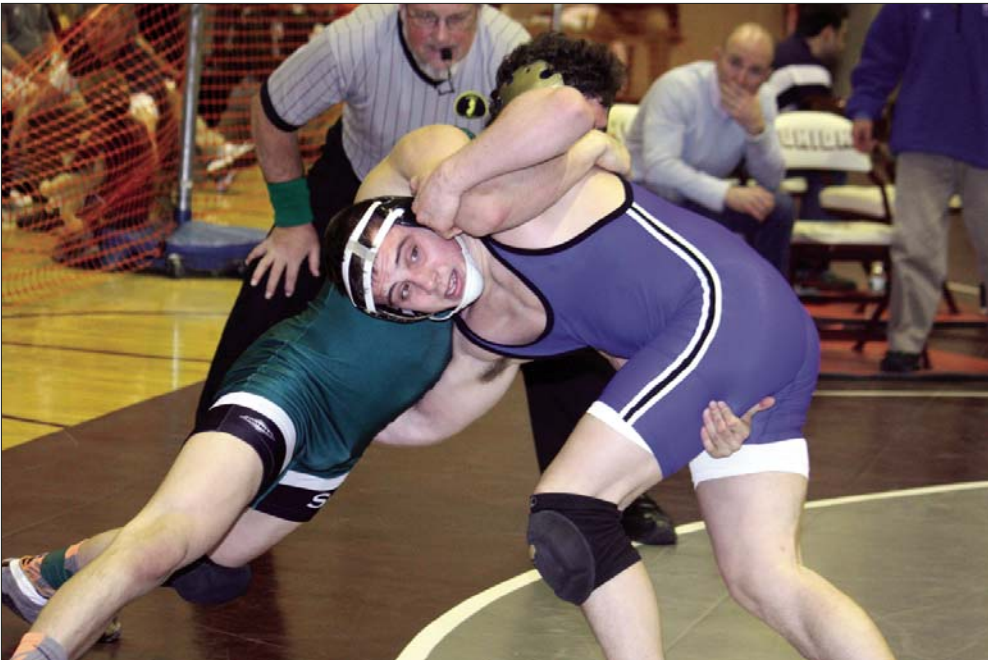
The pair of stunning upsets were delivered by Blue Devil junior John Fuller, seeded sixth at

113-lbs. He wrestled "smart" to defeat third-seeded Zach Kovacs (Parsippany), 2-0. Smart wrestling catapulted Fuller into the 113-lb title bout and sealed his dreams to qualify for AC when he bounced second-seeded Anthony Fajardo (Boonton), 1-0.

Cougar freshman Tom DiGiovanni (113-lbs) wrestled back and beat Phil Angelo (Summit), 1-0, for third place. Cougar sophomore Niko Cappello earned his trip to AC when he recorded a 4-3 decision over Plainfield's Derrick Washington to place third at 160-lbs. Blue Devil Matt Barber (145-lbs) beat Raider Brian Lapham, 3-2, to place third and earn his trip to AC.

February 26, 2013: Senior leadership led the sixth-seeded,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



David B. Corbin (March 2014 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
AT THE EDGE OF THE CIRCLE...Blue Devil Matt Barber tries to get a takedown on Ray Jazikoff (South Plainfield) in his 145-lb semifinal bout (March 1, 2014) Barber placed third to advance to the NJSIAA Championships at AC.



David B. Corbin (March 2012 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
REACHING MAGIC NO. 100...Cranford Head Coach Jackie Dyer, center, reached career victory No. 100 when her Cougars defeated Nutley, 51-36, in the sectional quarterfinals on February 29, 2012.

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

17-8 Cranford High School girls basketball team to a somewhat smooth, 42-32, victory over 10-13 Roxbury in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament in Cranford. Seniors Jess McCoy scored 20 points, Jenna Goeller netted 12 points and Kaitlin McGovern grabbed six rebounds.

February 27, 2013: One hundred and sixty eight individuals began competing at the Region 3 Tournament in Union, but when all was said and done, only three in each of the 14 weight classes qualified for the NJSIAA Tournament, which begins March 8, at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City (AC). SPF senior heavyweight Anthony Tufaro earned his second Region 3 title, and Westfield Blue Devil senior Brian Bulger

emerged as the 182-lb champion. Blue Devil Colin Barber (152-lbs) and Cranford Cougar Jeff Weiss (220-lbs) each placed second, while Cougars Gavin Murray (132-lbs) and Corey Markovitch (182-lbs) both placed third.

February 29, 2012: Raiders Ian Johnston, Tom Bonacum, Anthony Byers and Xavier Noel-Brooks each had a good evening in the scoring column; however, it was Rahway's Jamill Babrow, who pulled the trigger with six fourth-quarter points to edge the Raider basketball team, 50-47, in the quarterfinal round of the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament held in Rahway.

February 29, 2012: Ice-cold shooting from a disappointing

loss to Governor Livingston in the Union County Tournament championship game on February 26 transformed into a blazing fireball when the third-seeded Cranford Cougar girls basketball team scorched the net with eight 3-pointers en route to a 51-36 victory over sixth-seeded Nutley in the quarterfinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament in Cranford.

Senior forward Morgan Miller emitted lightning from her fingertips to char the net with six 3-pointers, finishing with a game-high 20 points. The win gave Jackie Dyer her 100th career victory in her five years as Head Coach at Cranford.

February 26, 2011: Nineteen Union County wrestlers initially qualified for the trip to the NJSIAA

Championships at Atlantic City (AC) on March 4-6, and six of them won titles at the Region 3 Tournament in Union. Blue Devils Mike Kalimtzis (103-lbs) and Christian Barber (152-lbs) placed second in their respective weight classes. Cranford Cougars Matt DiGiovanni (145-lbs.) and JP Christiano (160-lbs.) won titles, while teammates Joe Giaccio (119-lbs.) placed second and Kyle Markovitch (130-lbs.) placed third.

February 27, 2011: EWING – Vineland girls swim coach Mike Schneider has been up against Westfield before, as a swimmer and as a coach. And he has seen a lot of the best teams to ever come through South Jersey. But what he saw at the College of New Jersey, in the state Public A

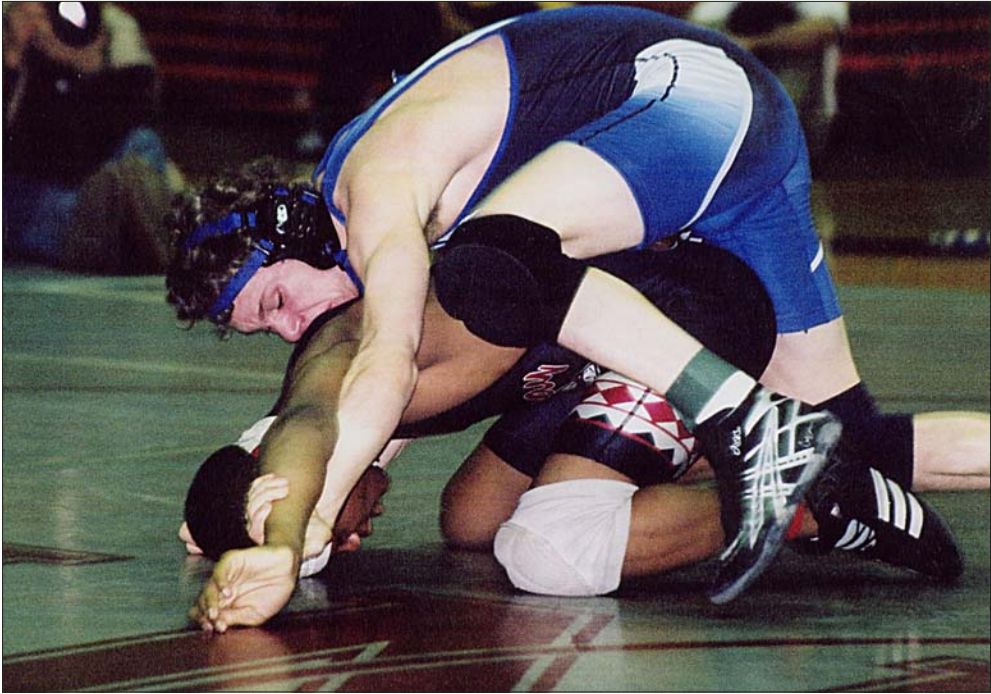
championship meet, was something special. Before this year, no girls team had ever power-pointed over 5,000; in fact, a power-point of over 4,000 was great and over 4,500 was unbelievable. The WHS girls went over 5,000 against Bridgewater-Raritan in the sectional final, then went 5,168 on Sunday (and it would have been over 5,200 but for a disqualified B relay ... and WHS's C relay still got third place!).

Becky DeLaFuenta capped her sensational career with wins in the 200- (1:52.65) and 500- (5:02.56) freestyles, just off the school marks held by Alexi Kuska. The Yale-bound Dee-Lah also swam on the winning 200- and 400-relays that just missed

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David B. Corbin (March 2008 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
SETTING AN ALL-TIME SPF RECORD...Bryan Dougher, right, broke the all-time SPF boys scoring record of 1,482 points set by Willy McCoy in 1986 in the 49-37, victory over Emerson. He added 31 more points to up his total to 1,516 in the Raiders' 54-38 semifinal victory over Mendham on March 1, 2008. In the win over Colonia, he sank 26 points to total 1,542.



David B. Corbin (March 2004 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
WRESTLING ON A MISSION...Raider Derek Francavilla, top, gets ready to slip a leg in for a cross body ride on Rahway's Ed McCray in the 127-lb final. Francavilla defeated McCray, 9-3, for the crown (March 6, 2004).

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

school records.
February 27, 2011: EWING – This one was for Bill Brennan and Jeff Greim, and Norm Swenson, Dave Morgan, Wayne Whitty and Dave Butler, and Wayne and Warren Hoffman, Scott Morris, and Dave Hobart, Mark Butler, and Geoff and Doug Ramsden, Marc Morgan, Mike Fleck and Fred Bonner.
But mostly this one was for the 2011 SPF boys swim team, who were the ones who went into the water and captured the school's first state championship with a 90-80 victory over a solid Princeton team in the Public B championship at The College of New Jersey. Junior Greg Baliko won the 200- IM (1:55.78) and 100-breaststroke (59.93) and

also swam on the winning sprint relay with Dan Napolitano (200-free winner, second in the 100-free), Ryan Gajdzisz (200-runner-up, 500-winner) and Joe Dunn (second in 50-free, 100-fly).
February 28, 2010: EWING — There were plenty of reasons for why the Blue Devil girls swim team earned its 12th state championships – and third in four years – last Sunday at the College of New Jersey, an 85-85 tie with defending state champion West Windsor-Plainsboro South. *(There are no tiebreakers in the swimming state finals, so the teams are co-champions.)*
Start with a couple of by-far personal-best swims by Meredith Smith, in the 200-free (1:55.18)

and the 100-butterfly (1:00.80). Add in Kelsey Wilson's pair of fourths in the 200 and 500 free. Suzanne Lemberg did a season-best 50 (24.19) and just missed her own school record in the 100-free (52.54). Meg Kaveney's 25.15 was the eighth fastest 50-free in school history. Becky DeLaFuente (2:09.64) and Anna Fetter (2:10.47) both broke the school record in the 200-individual medley; DeLaFuente came back to turn in the second fastest 500 ever (5:04.77) and Fetter's first sub-minute fly (59.53) was no. 4 all-time. And there was Kyle Higgins finishing fifth in the 500 and keeping everybody's spirits at a high level.
February 28, 2008: Willie McCoy's all-time SPF boys bas-

ketball scoring record of 1,482 points that he set in 1986 was broken by senior Bryan Dougher when he sank 10 points in a 49-37, Raider victory over visiting Emerson in the quarterfinals of the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 tournament. Dougher broke McCoy's total near the end of the third quarter then he upped his total to 1,485 by hitting two free throws in the fourth quarter.
March 6, 2004: Surprises, misfortune and revenge took place at the Region 3 Wrestling Championships in Union, and all involved local competitors. Raider senior Derek Francavilla got sweet revenge when he man-handled Rahway's Ed McCray, 9-3, to seize the 125-lb region crown. Blue Devil senior Lee

Tomaso defeated Mark Czarny of Seton Hall Prep then wrestled the two smartest bouts of his career to finish third at 152-lbs.
Unexpected misfortune befell Blue Devil Rob Mench (103-lbs). He defeated Johnson's Anthony Priore, 7-6, to advance to the finals, seemingly insuring a trip to AC. Thirty minutes later, after an appeal, Mench was ruled loser by disqualification due to a locking hands penalty coupled with stalling penalty points that warrant automatic disqualification. Raider junior Steve Mineo (130-lbs) won his second straight Region 3 crown and Raider senior Eric Connolly placed second at 140-lbs. Raider senior Andrew Silber earned his second tip to AC by placing third at 171-lbs.



Elizabeth Minutemen Hold Off Blue Devils in Hoops Clash, 45-39





Elizabeth Minutemen Hold Off Blue Devils in Hoops Clash, 45-39





Elizabeth Minutemen Hold Off Blue Devils in Hoops Clash, 45-39





Blue Devils' Full Team Effort Blocks Oak Knoll Royals, 49-34







Blue Devils' Full Team Effort Blocks Oak Knoll Royals, 49-34





Cougar Boys Shift in High Gear to Topple Rahway Cagers, 73-64







Cougar Boys Shift in High Gear to Topple Rahway Cagers, 73-64

