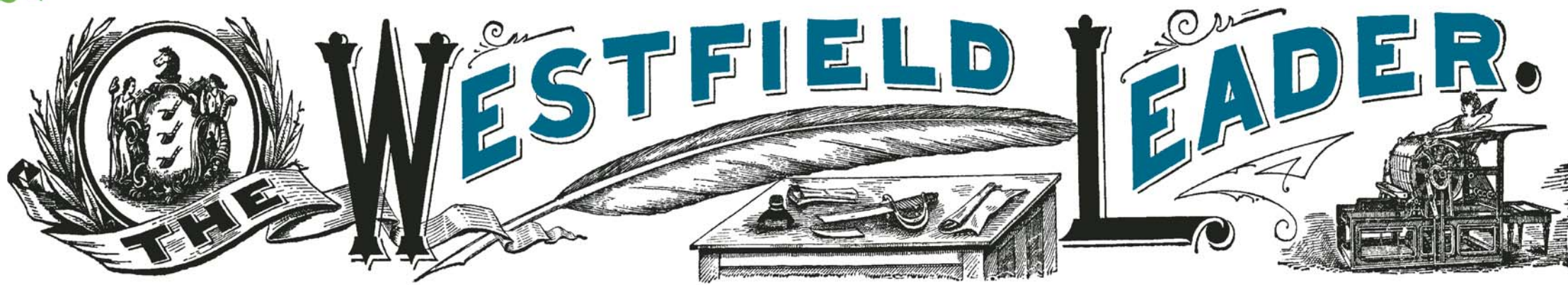




Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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ONE DOLLAR

Westfield BOE Approves Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

By JENNIFER GLACKIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—The Westfield Board of Education (BOE) approved the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year, which will be sent to the county superintendent for approval. The board will vote on the budget's official adoption in April.

The total budget is just over \$127 million, according to Business Administrator Dana Sullivan. Of the total amount, \$6.49 million will come from state aid and \$105.5 million will be raised through the tax levy. The average

assessed household should expect an increase of approximately \$170 for the school budget portion of its taxes.

In order to stay under the state-mandated, 2-percent cap, the district needed to reduce the previously-presented preliminary budget by approximately \$861,000. The district plans to reduce three staff positions as a result of decreased enrollment. All programs will stay in place for next year and class sizes will remain under the current guidelines. A planned increase in substitute stipends also will be delayed in order to keep the budget under cap.

Ms. Sullivan said Westfield is a low-spending district, according to state calculations, when compared to similar-sized K-12 school districts. Westfield has a cost of \$13,803 per pupil, which is \$2,000 lower than the state average and lower than the nearby Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Cranford and Summit school districts.

Ms. Sullivan also noted that Westfield puts a higher percentage of its budget toward direct instruction — 61.73 percent compared to the state average of 59.03 percent. Westfield comes second only to Summit's 64.34 percent when comparing the same districts.

"Although we're low spending, we are spending the money in the right spot," said Ms. Sullivan.

Recently announced federal funds as part of the American Rescue Plan are not accounted for in the proposed budget, as the total amount to be received is not yet known.

"Actually, the state is just opening up applications for the December stimulus money," said board member Brendan Galligan. Federal funds take time to make it to the states after they are initially announced before being distributed to the districts, Mr. Galligan explained. "It will be several months before we have any idea what that money is going to look like," he added.

There also are many stipulations as to how that money can be spent once it is received, added Ms. Sullivan.

Board member Tara Oporto said she recently met with the Parent-Teacher Organization at Lincoln Early Childhood Center and had a long discussion on how to return the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students to their full, half-day schedule of two and a half hours each day.

"It's really, really important we do everything possible to figure that out," said Ms. Oporto. "These kids are getting a half of a half day right now."

Ms. Oporto said that Superintendent Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., was aware of the lengthy discussion and urged those involved to continue to think of ways to make that possible to help the district's youngest learners.

In response to a public question regarding student-learning loss, Assistant Superintendent Paul Pineiro said the district currently is compiling data for state requirements and planning to present to the community in April. The district is looking toward professional-development opportunities and vertical articulation (where teachers from neighboring grade levels meet to compare benchmarks and student data to help bridge learning between grades) in order to address possible learning loss for next year. Mr. Pineiro said the district will not be using the Start Strong

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WF BOE Holds Public Input Meeting For Supt. Search

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education held a virtual community-input session for its superintendent search on March 11. During the meeting, Gwen Thornton, search consultant from the New Jersey School Boards Association, outlined the board's role in the search, the hiring process and timeline, and answered the two questions from the public.

Ms. Thornton explained that the candidate will need to be a New Jersey resident within a year of being hired. She also explained that the contract offered would be for a period of three to five years and would be approved by the executive county superintendent. Compensation would be subject to comparability requirements, she said, using other districts in Union and Morris Counties as references.

Ms. Thornton said the job was posted on February 17 and had a March 15 deadline. She said she will deliver the candidate pool to the board on Monday, March 22. The role of the New Jersey School Boards Association is to facilitate the search, she said, but not to make decisions. The Westfield Board of Education will make all decisions about who to move forward with.

The first round of interviews are scheduled for April 7 to 10. The second round of interviews are set to take place April 12 to 14, with a finalist decided

upon by Monday, April 19. Then, the contract would be sent to the executive county superintendent. After its approval, the contract would be publicly announced on Monday, May 3, and the new superintendent would begin on Thursday, July 1.

Ms. Thornton said the confidentiality of the candidates must be upheld, as some of the candidates may not have told their current employers that they have applied for the job. However, she said the pool summary — including details like the number of candidates, number of current superintendents and principals and number of out-of-state versus in-state candidates — will be made available to the public.

Ms. Thornton also mentioned receiving public responses from the board's online survey, which closed March 13. She said the board has received "an extraordinary response" of upward of 290 answers.

"The board is, by statute, the only body legally charged with the ability to hire but does believe that an inclusive process is critically important, which is why I'm speaking with you this evening, why I'm here to answer any questions you may have," Ms. Thornton said.

One participant mentioned that previous superintendents were in-district hires. She asked how often this occurs and how often hires come from out of state. Ms. Thornton said that it was not

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Mountainside Council Passes Two Ordinances

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Two ordinances were unanimously passed upon a second reading and public hearing at the Mountainside Borough Council meeting held on Tuesday evening.

Ordinance 1292-2021 updated the borough's storm-water management plan. The council unanimously passed the ordinance to comply with recently-updated New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) guidelines. It was noted that the ordinance contained updated verbiage to comply with the latest green infrastructure standards. There were no public comments made or public questions asked regarding the amendments to the ordinance.

Ordinance 1294-2021 included infrastructure improvements and resurfacing projects for various roads within the borough, including work on Summit Road, a new salt dome at 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.

This ordinance also generated no public comment or questions.

In addition, several resolutions were unanimously passed. Resolution 34-2021 appropriated monies to go into the borough's temporary budget until the main budget is passed in upcoming meetings. It was noted that bills needed

to be paid such as library maintenance, Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority bills, group health insurance, snow removal and payment of bonds.

Mountainside Mayor Paul Mirabelli announced, as he also did at the last meeting, that the presentation of the borough's budget would be done in April instead of March this year due to state mandates resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. It was announced, however, that at this time there was "no anticipated increase."

Resolution 35-2021 included the hiring of Mountainside Pool staff for Summer 2021. It was stated that John Tassado was hired as the manager and Scott Lindati and James Cicherillo would both be hired as assistant managers.

Resolution 36-2021 was a retroactive pay compensation for Recreation Director Frank Masella in the amount of \$2,000. The additional funds were effective as of February 8.

Resolution 37-2021 was a payment reimbursement of \$50 to a local business, and Resolution 38-2021 declared April 18 through April 24 New Jersey Local Government Week.

Activities for Local Government Week will include virtual tours of the borough's historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, rescue squad and police department. It was noted that this was the first year Mountainside has activities planned for this event.

Resolution 39-2021 was announced

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CATCH THE RAINBOW...Residents pose with leprechaun gnomes in downtown Cranford created by the Cranford Green Thumb Garden Club for the "Catch the Rainbow Scavenger Hunt."

Westfield Reg. Health Director, Physicians Hold Covid Forum

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Megan Avallone, Westfield Regional Health director, hosted an open forum March 9 focusing on Covid-19 vaccinations. With the assistance of local healthcare workers, Ms. Avallone fielded questions about how the vaccines work, their effectiveness and their limitations.

Dr. Britney Alexander, second-year family medicine resident at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, explained that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are mRNA vaccines. These vaccines use mRNA that codes for the spikes that the Covid-19 virus has to trigger an immune response from the body. The body destroys the mRNA after recognizing the spikes and learning how to fight them.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses DNA, Dr. Alexander said, and an adenovirus, similar to the Ebola vaccine. An adenovirus usually causes the common cold, but in this case has been altered to not cause any symptoms and is instead used as a method for the vaccine to enter the body. She emphasized that the vaccine does not alter the body's DNA in any way and is broken down once the body notices and fights it.

Moderna and Pfizer are among the first mRNA vaccines, she said, but

the concept of using mRNA in vaccines has been studied for more than 10 years. The amount of funding for a Covid-19 vaccine helped scientists create the vaccines, which have been "tested by the FDA vigorously," she said.

Dr. Alexander said the vaccines have very few contraindications, or conditions that serve as reasons to not get the vaccines. "The big contraindications are an allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine," she said. She said the allergic reaction rate is 4.7 people per million for Moderna and 2.5 per million for Pfizer.

Dr. Janice Baker, associate director with Overlook Medical Center and Chatham Medical, said common side effects of the vaccines include sore arms, fatigue, headaches, nausea

and fevers. These effects demonstrate that the immune system is "mounting a response," she said.

More serious reactions are rare, but one is Bell's Palsy, a temporary facial nerve palsy, although the rates are not higher than the general population rate so it is not clear if the vaccine causes the palsy.

"The (vaccine) production is very new — the technology is not, ... but these particular vaccines have been in existence for a very short period of time, so ongoing studies are continuing, but at this time there are no long-term side effects of the vaccine," Dr. Baker said. She said scientists know that Covid-19 itself can have long-term effects like fever, fatigue, joint pain, depression and shortness of breath, so "the disease is worth preventing."

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Garwood to Upgrade Fire Dept. Equipment

By JULIA BONAVITACOLA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The Garwood Council met on March 11 in order to pass Bond Ordinance No. 21-03 and to give updates on the state of the borough.

Bond Ordinance 21-03 is an ordinance aimed at providing the Garwood Fire Department better equipment to utilize on a daily basis. The bond ordinance states that it will "authorize the acquisition of new self-contained breathing apparatus equipment for the use of the fire department" in the borough of Garwood. This new equipment will cost the municipality approximately \$160,000.

Councilman Russell Graham, as fire commissioner, was in favor of this bond ordinance. "As I explained in the past, the self-contained breathing apparatus that's currently in use is a mishmash of some old and outdated equipment. ... A lot of their equipment is hand-me-downs," said Councilman Graham. "This is a big step forward for the department and for the safety of Garwood's bravest."

The bond ordinance to approve new equipment for the fire department was approved unanimously by the council. In other business, Councilman

Vincent Kearney gave an update on the Communications Committee. Councilman Kearney reported Borough Administrator Christina Ariemma has arranged for equipment to be installed for the commencement of hybrid and livestreamed meetings in the future. On March 9, the Communications Committee received the last piece of equipment needed to fully test the capabilities of the RingCentral interface for future livestreaming.

"We are still in discussion regarding the livestreaming platform" and are waiting on the Laws and License Committee for the social media policy, "but we're leaning toward YouTube as the platform because there's no requirement to log in or have an account to either view the livestream or download the videos," said Councilman Kearney.

Mayor Sara Todisco acknowledged the approach of the one-year anniversary of the first positive case of Covid-19 in Garwood, which occurred on March 14, 2020. Mayor Todisco said that there were currently 13 new positive cases of Covid-19, for a new cumulative total of 256 cases.

"I know with more easing of restrictions and increasing vaccinations, we

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PROTESTING CCP...Vehicles parade through downtown Westfield on Saturday in support of bringing an end to the Chinese Communist Party.

Kim Prata for The Westfield Leader

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ON IMPULSE...People of all ages enjoy the Impulse seesaws in downtown Westfield. The seesaws will be in the North Avenue train station parking lot through this Sunday, March 21.

Kim Prata for The Westfield Leader
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

DWC Passes 2021 Budget; Discusses Seesaw Venture

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) Board of Directors passed its 2021 budget at its Tuesday night meeting. The budget, along with the town budget and the annual capital budget, will be introduced to the council at next week’s governing body meeting, Town Administrator Jim Gildea said.

The board discussed the installation of 15 seesaws in the north-side train station parking lot. Board member Jerry Eicke said the DWC spent \$1,600 on various costs associated with the seesaws, like lights, balloons and a photographer. He said that, as a downtown business owner, he felt the installation brought people to the downtown and to his business.

Mayor Shelley Brindle echoed her appreciation of the event, which runs until Monday, March 21. She said the DWC “hit it out of the park” and could use this event as a model for future endeavors and promotions. Executive Director Bob Zuckerman wondered how the DWC would top the seesaws next year.

“Bob, I thought you told me (we’d have a) ferris wheel on Quimby next year, no?” Mr. Eicke joked.

Mr. Zuckerman also reminded board members that downtown parklets for outdoor dining are set to open on or about Thursday, April 1. Quimby Street’s pedestrian plaza will open around the same time, he said. He said the DWC used a grant to purchase enough barrier covers for the entire downtown. Last year, he

said, Quimby Street appeared put together at the last minute, “which it was,” but through grant purchases and more time for planning, Mr. Zuckerman said he thinks the area will have a more uniform look.

Mr. Zuckerman said Streetworks, which is redeveloping the Lord & Taylor properties as well as some town properties downtown, has given suggestions for programming. The DWC will create a task force to plan for the seven months of programming, including music and fitness classes, for the pedestrian plaza.

Mayor Brindle gave a brief update on the redevelopment plans with Streetworks. She said they are moving forward with a land-use element, “where we will revisit existing zoning based upon the examination recommendations as well as the circulation plan.” Mayor Brindle said Streetworks has continued with listening tours with “a variety of stakeholders ... to really understand what the community wants and expects.” She said the listening tours will be completed “in the next month or two.”

Councilwoman Dawn Mackey said the Westfield Public Art Commission is calling on local photographers to participate in its next outdoor art project — a downtown photography exhibit with the theme community. The submission deadline is Monday, March 22. More information can be found at <https://www.westfieldnj.gov/wpac2021photoexhibit>.

The DWC’s next meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21.

Cranford Kicks Off 150-Year Celebration

By MARTA ESQUIROZ
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — On Sunday, the Cranford Township Committee inaugurated the activities that will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Cranford after its incorporation on March 14, 1871, as a township in Union County.

Commissioner of Finance Mary O’Connor said Cranford’s most important characteristic is “resilience.”

“We have seen flood and ice storm,” she said. “We have seen a pandemic. And every single time something comes up, the people of this town pull together.”

Ms. O’Connor said this is what makes Cranford “a unique and a very special place.”

Alongside his colleague, Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews reflected on the historical foundations of the township. He explained that, “in the early 1700s, civilians traveled west from Elizabeth looking for new opportunities, and they settled this land.”

Mr. Andrews said Cranford did not see intense development until the railroad arrived in 1830.

“It was on that railroad, following the civil war, that an influx of new residents arrived, forming this town 150 years ago today,” he remarked.

He pointed out that above all the things that Cranford has, such as a “great downtown” that continues to attract more businesses, “incredible schools and teachers” and “improvements that will benefit future generations,” for him, the most important thing is that everybody shares “sense of community.”

Caren Demyen, director of Downtown Cranford, sharing the same thoughts, declared that what makes Cranford unique is “the community that the town has developed for years.”

“Our community is really strong between our organizations and other departments. Also, everybody is always looking to support each other in many different ways. And I don’t see that changing — it’s even increasing,” Ms. Demyen said.

Reflecting on the challenges that Cranford is dealing with nowadays, Ms. Demyen said they will continue to focus on “helping local business.”

From a different perspective, Tom Hannen, Jr., commissioner of Public Works and Engineering, does believe that Cranford’s significant problems will be based on the new affordable-housing requirements that the State of New Jersey has imposed.

“The complaints with affordable-

housing requirements are causing new development that is potentially uncharacteristic with what Cranford has been,” he said.

Mr. Hannen said, “it is pushing a higher density that Cranford hasn’t been used to in its history” in the attempt to satisfy these new requirements.

This high density, being one of Mr. Hannen’s “major concerns,” will impact different services such as the school system.

“Right now, the school system is pushing the upper limits of classroom sizes for students,” he said. “And as more development comes into Cranford, it becomes more problematic in order to satisfy the size class in Cranford.”

“What needs to happen is,” Mr. Hannen said, “those developments need to provide sufficient funding to provide the revenue sources for the schools to continue being the great school system that concurrently is.”

Connected with these new building projects, Mr. Hannen identifies another problem. He does believe that a good community should have to provide “good local jobs for the middle class in the area.” Such jobs should “support the lifestyle that you could affordably live in Cranford.”

“These jobs are not around anymore as they shifted the balance of what it takes to be a middle-class resident in the community,” Mr. Hannen said.

With the inauguration last Sunday, Cranford kicked off a year of activities to celebrate its anniversary. The events the township has planned include the return of the Cranford River Carnival, a bike race, a scavenger hunt and more.

Forum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Baker said one rumor she wanted to address is the idea that the vaccine could make people infertile. “There’s absolutely no evidence and no theoretical reason why a Covid vaccine, or any vaccine, could affect fertility in men or women,” she said.

Dr. Baker said all three vaccines are “unbelievably effective.” Pfizer is 95 percent effective in preventing symptomatic Covid-19 cases two weeks after its second dose. Moderna is “virtually the same” — 94.1 percent effective in preventing symptomatic Covid-19 infections. However, she noted, the studies for Pfizer and Moderna were done before the emergence of the U.K., South African and Brazilian Covid-19 variants.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is 72 percent effective against moderate to severe disease in the United States.

“One’s first reaction is, ‘Eh, 72 percent? That’s not so good,’” Dr. Baker said. “It’s unbelievable — like I said, it’s much, much higher than almost any of the other vaccines we have. ... And it was tested three weeks after one dose.”

A one-dose vaccine is much easier to produce and to distribute to residents, she said. She said that it is 85 percent effective against severe disease with no difference across eight countries and that there were no hospitalizations or deaths in the 28 days following the vaccinations.

The vaccines were all tested very differently so it is difficult to compare them, Dr. Baker said. Dr. Alexander said the best vaccine a resident can get is “any vaccine you can get in your arm.”

“We don’t know yet — there’s a lot we don’t know yet — if the vaccines can prevent asymptomatic infection because the trials were testing for symptomatic disease,” Dr. Baker said. She said public health officers also do not know if vaccinated people can still transmit Covid-19. She said that tests are ongoing and that early data from Israel, where a large percentage of the population is vaccinated, hints that the vaccine will help lower transmission, but more research is needed. Vaccinated individuals should still wear masks in places where people may not be fully vaccinated, she said.

Ms. Avallone reminded viewers that nonessential travel is still highly discouraged even if residents are vaccinated. If residents must travel outside the immediate area, she said, they are expected to quarantine for seven days upon their return after receiving a negative Covid-19 test.

A resident asked how the vaccine will be a solution to the pandemic if it does not prevent Covid-19 infections, just symptomatic cases. Dr. Baker said that while scientists remain hopeful that the vaccines will decrease both symptomatic and asymptomatic cases, decreasing the overall number of cases will help hospitals control serious illness. Ms. Avallone echoed that public health officials are optimistic that the vaccine will help people avoid Covid-19 asymptotically.

Dr. Baker answered a question from the public about how long the vaccine will protect recipients. “That’s an excellent question, and the answer is we don’t know,” she said. She said the ongoing studies from vaccine trials will help scientists learn. “I have a feeling that we’re going to have to have some sort of a booster specifically because of the different variants that are already in our country,” she said. “As soon as any of us know, we’ll let you know.”



THE CROWD GOES NUTS...Mr. Peanut made an appearance in Cranford on March 10.

Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

Garwood BOE Adopts Preliminary Budget

By JULIA BONAVIDACOLA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The Garwood Board of Education (BOE) approved the new budget for the 2021-2022 school year during its meeting Tuesday.

Board Secretary Dr. Dennis Frohnappfel laid out the budget for BOE members during the meeting. The budget encompasses multiple expenditures that will occur in the upcoming school year. These include teachers’ salaries, extracurricular activities, special education, technology and student transportation. It also projects where the money for these expenditures will come from. Other projects outlined in the budget include replacing the gym floor, repaving the parking area and installing an LED sign, all of which will be funded by the capital reserve.

The largest portion of the budget, approximately 30 percent, was directed toward special-education teachers and programs.

“This district is not alone; this is many districts throughout the state that are struggling with their special-education expenses,” said Dr. Frohnappfel.

The total budget proposed for the 2021-2022 school year was \$10,433,358. The appropriations increase for this budget was \$388,111, or 3.85 percent more than the previous year.

Board member Tim Ryan addressed the changes in the specific areas of the budget.

“We saw some pretty dramatic increases in certain areas, like technology, as a result of some reorganization of accounts. But moving forward, those accounts will remain in place, and hopefully, we’ll be able to build on this budget in years to come. We won’t see such dramatic increases because the funds are appropriated the right way,” said Mr. Ryan.

Dr. Frohnappfel said he hopes that his budget will work as a template for anyone who comes after him to move forward for the borough.

BOE President Ralph Trentacosta had some reservations about the projects outlined in the budget, “but [Dr. Frohnappfel] cleared them up when [he] said that putting them in the preliminary budget tonight does not mean automatic approval of those projects.”

Dr. Frohnappfel said these projects also could be added upon during the public budget hearing in May.

The BOE members unanimously approved the preliminary budget outlined during the meeting. The next step to approving a final budget is to submit the preliminary budget to the county superintendent to look at. The final budget is set to be adopted on Tuesday, May 4, during a public budget hearing.

Mr. Trentacosta also presented an update on the goals laid out by the board in June 2020 to improve upon. The first goal, for the board to better understand its role and responsibilities in school finance and budgeting, has been worked on. Two new members of the BOE joined the finance, buildings and grounds and budget committees in order to contribute directly to the conversations held in these meetings. Mr. Trentacosta’s presentation stated that, “seven of the nine sitting board members have participated in a budget committee at some point during their time on the board.”

The second goal of the board was to increase knowledge and understanding around effective governance. The board has responded to this goal by having a presentation on January 19 that covered the board’s role in personnel hires. The members also plan to hold a presentation on curriculum at the public meeting in April.

The last goal was to improve working relationships among the board members. This goal was to be fulfilled with a planned retreat for all board members. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this retreat has been postponed until further notice.

After a vote, the BOE decided to hold its meetings virtually until it reconvenes in August, where it will decide whether to resume in-person meetings or continue virtually. The next Garwood BOE meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20.

Search

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

unusual to hire internally but that the candidate would be subject to the exact same application process as every other candidate. She said she could not share if there are internal applicants but said there are generally few out-of-state applicants due to more intensive New Jersey guidelines deterring out-of-state candidates.

Another member of the public asked about in-person learning and if the candidates are being asked for their action plans. “It’s very much on the minds of the parents what the new superintendent will do in that regard,” she said.

Ms. Thornton confirmed it was the superintendent’s role to make decisions about in-person learning. “I don’t have a crystal ball, so I can’t tell you when school might open or not open,” she said. She said the board is committed to sending students back to school as soon as possible and that, as far as the board asking for candidates’ plans, “the simple answer is ‘yes.’”

Ordinances

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as awarding a bid to Top Line Construction, in the amount of \$254,050.62, to resurface Long Meadow Drive and Beechwood Court.

At the end of the meeting, it was revealed that Mountainside will host two senior citizen drive-up Covid-19 vaccination programs for residents age 65 and older in the municipal lot. They will take place on consecutive Saturdays, March 20 and 27, from noon to 2 p.m. It was announced that paperwork must be filled out upon entry. More information will be provided on the website.

The next Mountainside Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Assessments available from the New Jersey Department of Education. The district looked at the assessments and talked to other districts that use the assessment, but Mr. Pineiro said Start Strong was “not the right fit for us.”

The BOE will hold a special meeting on Monday, March 22, at 7 p.m., to discuss the superintendent search via private session. There will be no public comment on the agenda. The next regular BOE meeting will be on Tuesday, April 6, at 7 p.m.

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Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Hetherington, Teacher, Designer, Artist, Gardener

Elizabeth Hetherington, née Tarasuk, died on Thursday, March 11, at her home in Basking Ridge. She was born on May 8, 1925 in Newark, N.J., to Anna and Tomas Tarasuk, immigrants from Russia. She was the third of five children, and the last of the siblings to survive.

Determined to acquire an education, Betty took advantage of the nurse training program at the University of Michigan during World War II.

She married Alexander Hetherington in 1946. They had four children, Kim, John, Scott and Liza. While making homes in Mountainside, Berkeley Heights, Summit, Adrian (Michigan) and Westfield, she attended college, completing her Bachelor of Arts and obtaining two master’s degrees. She taught elementary and middle school reading in the Westfield school system for 30 years, then after retirement taught ESL at Union County College. She loved her work and was a devoted mentor to many.

She took up costume designing



Elizabeth Hetherington

and won the State Theatre New Jersey Perry Award. She was an accomplished painter and a Master Gardener. Endlessly curious, she traveled all over the world. She had a fearless spirit and was committed to helping others and making the world a better place.

Her husband, Alexander, predeceased her. She will be missed by her children, their spouses, her granddaughter, Hannah; her step-grandchildren, Richard, Dan and Laura, and her step-great-grandchildren, Grace, Claire, Jack and Luca. Her friends, too, will be bereft of a shining presence in their lives.

A memorial service will be held in the spring. Contributions in her name can be made to: The Children’s Aid Society, 117 West 124th Street, New York, New York 10027, or online at donate.childrensaidnyc.org.

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

March 18, 2021

Cranford Church to Offer Bereavement Seminar

CRANFORD — The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford is preparing for its free, eight-week seminar entitled “Journey to Wholeness — Healing the Grieving Heart.” It will be presented via Zoom every Sunday, from April 11 to May 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Everyone across the United States who has experienced loss of any kind, in the past or present, is welcome to participate, including those who have previously attended this seminar.

Registration is required to attend this event. To register, call Patti Williams, R.N., seminar founder and a certified pastoral bereavement counselor, at (908) 709-1341.

The eight sessions, each designed to lead a person through the process of grief, will help those who have suffered any types of loss better understand the process and learn ways to cope, while also practicing self-care. Mrs. Williams and psychologist Virginia Waters, Ph.D., have helped almost 3,000 people experience healing, find new purpose for their lives and feel joy once again.

“We are all navigating through especially challenging times due to the ravages of the pandemic, exhaustion from political conflict, depletion of our resources, the loneliness of increased isolation, and

the unprecedented chaotic environment in which we currently exist,” Mrs. Williams said. “When you are also grieving a loss in the midst of all these stressors, life can become very dark and every day may seem overwhelming.”

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process; coping strategies and tools for the journey; taking good care of oneself; dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays and anniversaries; building a support system and more.

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from “the inside out.” Participants are welcome to have family members and friends join them for the sessions. All faiths are welcome.

The seminar is dedicated to Mrs. Williams’ late husband, the Reverend Dr. Bruce D. Williams, who had a vision for this program and a desire to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford is located at 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford. For more information about the church, and about “Journey to Wholeness — Healing the Grieving Heart,” visit firstprescranford.org.

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— Obituaries —

Dr. Raymond T. Snyder, 89, Devoted To His Family, Patients and Church

Dr. Raymond T. Snyder, 89, passed away on Friday, March 12, 2021, at McAuley Hall Health Center in Watchung, N.J. Ray resided in Westfield, N.J., for more than 40 years before moving to

Mountainside in 2002. The youngest of five children born to John and Lottie Kordelski Snyder, Ray grew up in Linden, N.J., where he attended Linden High School. In 1953, he completed undergraduate studies at Georgetown University and St. Peter’s College in Jersey City and went on to earn his Master of Science degree from Marquette University.

At Marquette University, Ray was a laboratory instructor in general and cellular physiology. His thesis, which he presented before the Wisconsin Academy of Science, dealt with the effects of the thyroid hormone on the development of pigment cells. While attending Marquette, Dr. Snyder was President of the Marquette University Graduate Association and Treasurer of the Marquette Chapter of Phi Sigma, the national honor society of research biologists.

In 1960, Ray received his medical degree as a member of the charter class of the Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry. While at Seton Hall, Ray was a member of Phi Rho Sigma National Medical Fraternity.

After completing his internship at Jersey City Medical Center, Ray became a well-known and accomplished General Practitioner who received numerous awards. He operated a private practice in Plainfield, N.J., for more than 40 years, during which time he served as chief of Family Practice at Muhlenberg Hospital and president of the Plainfield Area Medical Association. A more dedicated physician would be hard to find, as Ray always showed up for his patients. Every time he sent a patient to the Emergency Room he was right there by their side, no matter what time, day or night. House calls were the rule and not the exception, and no one was turned away for lack of

Dr. Raymond T. Snyder

ability to pay.

Ray’s commitment and dedication to others could be seen in 1994, when over three hundred and fifty of Ray’s patients came together to honor him at a dinner at The Westwood in

Garwood, N.J. The program for the evening read “Raymond T. Snyder, M.D., Healer, Counselor, Friend.” The evening was characterized by testimonials, tributes, and speeches from both patients and colleagues alike.

On more than one occasion, Ray was invited to meet with Saint Teresa of Calcutta and celebrate mass in private with her and her sisters. Ray was a devout Catholic and, along with his wife, Helen, was a long-standing member of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. He is the recipient of humanitarian awards from the Archdiocese of Newark and was knighted Sir Raymond of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in a special mass that took place at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in September of 2009.

Ray was predeceased by the love of his life, his wife of almost 60 years, Helen Kerekes Snyder. Ray is survived by his children, Raymond Louis, Amy Helen, Thomas John (Kelly), Jennifer Lynn, and John James (Caryn). He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren, Theresa Rose, Ronald Henry, III, Emily Rae, Catherine Elizabeth, Thomas Joseph, Melanie Elizabeth, John Michael, James Robert, Brielle Rose, Kendall Rae, and Luke John.

Visitation will be at Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue, Westfield, on Friday, March 19, from 4 to 7 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, March 20, at 10 a.m., at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Entombment will follow at Saint Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia, N.J. For additional information or to sign the guestbook, please visit dooleycolonialhome.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ray’s memory to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America.

March 18, 2021

NAMI Speaker to Discuss Mental Health Journey

AREA — The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will offer an online presentation of “H-O-P-E by John Gesumaria” on Tuesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. H-O-P-E stands for Honesty-Optimism-Persistence-Endurance.

Mr. Gesumaria will discuss his journey of hope in living with Bipolar 2 and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. He will recount the onset of his mental health diagnosis, challenges, acceptance, treatment, therapy, medication, recovery positive coping skills and managing a mentally healthy life.

Mr. Gesumaria is a first-year Master of Social Work student at Columbia University focusing on mental health and disabilities program development. Before entering Columbia, he had worked in the financial services industry for nine years.

In addition to presenting at NAMI monthly events, Mr. Gesumaria has spoken at Columbia, Kean University and Union County College and at Crisis Intervention training for all police departments in Union County.

His mission is to share his mental health lived experiences and recovery. Mr. Gesumaria also is the co-lead for the New York Region at the Stability Network, where he advocates for mental health in the workplace.

To register in advance, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8122222222> or register/tZMuduqoqj0iGtQ-FqW_oMJVIS3iNjhH9jYk.

NAMI Family Support Available Via Zoom

AREA — The Union County chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) invites family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness to attend its Family Support Zoom Group.

Peer-led group meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and offer participants the opportunity to gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

To register for this support group, email Denise at namiunioncounty@yahoo.com with one’s name, town and phone number.

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Dr. Nicholas M. Ponzio, 76, ‘Scientific Trailblazer,’ Teacher and Family Man

Westfield, N.J. resident Nicholas Michael Ponzio gently passed on Saturday, March 6, 2021.

He was born November 12, 1944 in Summit, N.J., to Michael and Ann Ponzio.

After graduating from Summit High School, Nicholas furthered his educational journey by studying at Seton Hall University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science. Fully immersed in scientific exploration, Nicholas continued his academic enrichment by achieving his Ph.D. from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, while performing postdoctoral studies at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and New York University Medical Center. After some time as a faculty member at Northwestern University Medical School, Dr. Ponzio returned to his home state of New Jersey in 1981, joining the faculty at New Jersey Medical School as a model educator and scientist.

In addition to his numerous and significant contributions to the educational programs of these universities in their medical, dental and graduate school programs, Dr. Ponzio is described as a “scientific trailblazer” for dedicating a major part of his research career to investigating B-cell lymphomas. He also applied his strong background in cellular immunology to show the possible origin of autism in the fetus.

Dr. Ponzio was the model of academic collaboration in teaching, research and service. He was adamant that scientists must communicate their research findings with the public, devoting recent years to championing scientific communication among trainees through the first scientific communication course at Rutgers. Dr. Ponzio’s stellar method in teaching is underscored by his induction as a Master Educator. Dr. Ponzio could identify future needs

Dr. Nicholas M. Ponzio

in technology, developing a course in molecules to medicine which provides students the knowledge of drug development. Dr. Ponzio was a superb mentor, training the next generation of scientists for academia and the pharmaceutical companies.

More recently, Dr. Ponzio acted on diversifying clinician scientists through a grant award from the National Institutes of Health. This will ensure the training of 50 underrepresented minority as clinician scientists. If this was not sufficient enough, Dr. Ponzio just led a team to submit a Rutgers-wide training grant to support future scientists.

Outside of his professional brilliance, Dr. Ponzio cared deeply for his family and friends (who he also considered family) by always devoting his time to their interests. His love of travel took him and his wife, Patricia, around the globe, with several stops at their favorite spots in Italy.

At home he was a rock. Dependable, strong and the cornerstone of a loving family who cherish time spent with him and recognize his impact on anyone who was fortunate to have crossed his path.

Nicholas Ponzio is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Patricia Duffy Ponzio; daughter, Sarah (John); son, Josh (Kerri), and grandchildren, Brooks (7), Amelia (5), Tatum (5) and Maeve (1), and his sister, Diane Ponzio.

A memorial service was held on Monday, March 15, at St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Summit, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, the family of Dr. Nicholas Ponzio asks that donations be made to <https://gofund.me/b190ec5c>. All monies collected will be donated in his name to Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and be put towards furthering the research and education to which he dedicated his life.

March 18, 2021

Keith Christianson Family Man and Business Leader

Keith Robert Christianson, 97, died in New London, Conn., on Thursday, March 4, 2021, of complications from diabetes.

Born in New London, he was a graduate of Bulkeley School. He received his Bachelor of Science in Bacteriology from the University of Connecticut, was past president of the UConn Alumni Association, and was recipient of UConn’s alumni service award in 1994.

He met the love of his life, Joyce Fraser, at UConn. After completing OCS during World War II, he married Joyce, with whom he had four children. He served his entire career with ER Squibb & Sons, where he rose to be National Vice President of Sales. After retiring from Squibb, he returned to New London, where he enjoyed serving on the Water and Sewer Commission as well as the Zoning Commission for many years. He was

very proud of his leadership role in the establishment of Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut, and he served as a corporator for Lawrence and Memorial Hospital. He was also the chair of the Bulkeley Scholarship Fund for many years.

He was predeceased by his wife, Joyce, and his son, Scott. He is survived by his daughter, Susan, of Simsbury, Conn.; his daughter, Carol, of Westfield, N.J., and his son, Peter, of Stow, Mass., as well as seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and his stepsister, Frederica Wellington Valois of Woods Hole, Mass. Byles-MacDougall Funeral Service will handle arrangements; burial will be private at Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, or Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut.

March 18, 2021



IN SESSION

We Must Continue to Take Care of Ourselves

By Carol Pedro, Exec. Dir. Youth & Family Counseling Service

As 2020 ended and 2021 begins, we are still dealing with the pandemic and people continue to struggle with anxiety and depression. In a poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation in the Spring of 2020, KFF found that nearly half, 45 percent, of adults in the United States reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to worry and stress over the virus.

Many of us know this first hand through our own feelings and observing loved ones. Fortunately, during this challenging and uncertain time, many resources have become available through social media. The internet is flooded with ideas about self-care and coping skills. This is a good thing!

Knowing how to cope through difficult times has always been a key component to a healthier life. As difficult times are unavoidable, and often out of our control, we learn to accept that things will happen. Life is not fair and sometimes it’s hard. The mental health field has acknowledged the importance of self-care as a core principle in emotional wellness for a very long time. Personally, professionally, globally, we are able to “get through” situations by a continual practice of self-care and use of coping skills. Not only during a crisis,

but as part of a healthy routine.

Self-care, often the last thing we focus on, is a lifestyle. Regularly practicing activities such as: deep-breathing exercises, meditation, yoga, and journaling will not change your circumstances but it will change you. You will be better equipped to get through challenges and manage your emotions. Before, during and after the stressful event it is healthy to practice eating well and sleeping well. Consider rest, relaxation and exercise a vital part of your daily routine. These good habits can have a tremendous positive impact on our own emotional health.

This doesn’t have to be a daunting task. Make small changes. Drink more water, walk more often, wind down before you fall asleep. There are many free resources and cost-friendly options to begin. Look on the internet or for a local Facebook group. Talk with friends to start a walking routine.

We do not know when our next crisis will be but we do know self-care will help us cope. If any positive message has resulted in an extraordinarily difficult time, it is the importance of self-care, your health and your ability to take charge in a meaningful way. Love yourself, take care of you and others will benefit, too. You do have time and you are worth it! Stay healthy and enjoy the Spring — a new beginning.

Carol M. Pedro is a licensed therapist with Youth and Family Counseling Service, 233 Prospect Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090; (908) 233-2042. Website: yfcnsj.org.

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Westfield Rotary Accepting Grant Applications

WESTFIELD — Michael Miller, Rotary Club of Westfield Community Service Grants chairperson, has announced that Rotary grant applications are now being accepted for consideration. Non-profit organizations may receive a copy of the official application directly from the Rotary website at westfielddrotary.com, by e-mail at michael.v.miller@morganstanley.com, or by calling Mr. Miller at (908) 518-5404.

To be considered for a Westfield Rotary Club Community Service Grant, local non-profit organizations must complete and submit the official grant application before the Thursday, April 15 deadline. The Rotary Club, in accordance with its goal of community service, is most interested in providing grants for

Blood Drive to Occur In Clark March 25

CLARK — A blood drive will take place from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. next Thursday, March 25, at the Clark Volunteer Emergency Service headquarters, located at 875 Raritan Road, Clark. To sign up, access nybc.org/njdrive, sponsor code 14422, or call/text Genevieve at (732) 672-5281 for an appointment.

Participants are reminded to eat and drink beforehand and to bring their donor identification card to the donation site.

Donors presenting must wear a mask or face covering; will have their temperature taken, and must be 14 days symptom-free if recovered from Covid-19. Individuals may not donate if they have a positive diagnostic test or have experienced symptoms of Covid-19 in the prior 14 days, or if they currently are on self-quarantine restrictions.

SHU Lauds 54 Area Students On Making Dean’s List

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall University has announced that 54 area students qualified for the Fall 2020 Dean’s List and congratulates them on their outstanding academic achievements. After the close of every semester, undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4 or higher, with no grades lower than “C,” qualify for the Dean’s List. The area students are as follows:

Sebastian Angulo of Scotch Plains, Julia Barnes of Scotch Plains, Amanda Brewster of Cranford, Alanis Card of Fanwood, Amber Card of Fanwood, Heather Carlson of Garwood, Aiden Cascio of Westfield, Ethan Cohen of Scotch Plains, Olivia Correia of Cranford, Isabella Dicosmo of Mountainside, Dylan Fahy of Cranford, Robert Fallo of Scotch Plains, William Gale of Scotch Plains, Jordan Gasson of Westfield, Ryan Geschickter of Westfield, Jada Gomillion of Scotch Plains, Nora Hall of Cranford, Allison Hess of Westfield, Allison Hochman of Scotch Plains, Ethan Hom of Westfield, Samantha Hui of Scotch Plains, Jenna Iorio of Cranford, Eric James of Cranford, Isabella Kurasz of Mountainside, Cara Lamastra of Scotch Plains, Abigail Lamera of Mountainside, Michael Lamera of Mountainside, Michael Leniart of Westfield, Emma Linthicum of Cranford, Julia Logiudice of Cranford, Michael Magnotti of Westfield, Ava Manganiello of Mountainside, Britany Markase of Cranford, Mary Grace McNamara of Cranford, Sierra Moorman of Scotch Plains,

Westfield Three On Hartford Dean’s List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — Three residents of Westfield are among the students who have been named to the University of Hartford’s Dean’s List for Fall 2020. They are Uzezi Ijoma, Christine Rogers and Emma Shakal.

Spread across seven schools and colleges, the University of Hartford is a four-year, private university located on a 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut’s capital city. It enrolls approximately 4,600 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students representing 49 states and 47 countries. For more information about the university, visit hartford.edu.

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programs and projects that directly serve the people in the community. As part of the decision process, the Grants Committee reviews the simple, one-page application form to receive a clear understanding of the way in which the funds are used. Grants will not be awarded for capital improvements or operating funds.

This year, the Rotary Club will offer a second grant cycle in the fall. Applications for the fall grants cycle will be available in the summer. An organization may only apply for one grant per year.

Rotary is a community service organization comprised of business and professional men and women who live or work in the Westfield area. The Rotary Club of Westfield meets Tuesdays at noon via Zoom. Prospective members and guests are welcome to join any of the weekly meetings. For additional information, email info@westfielddrotary.com or visit the organization’s website, http://www.westfielddrotary.com/.

‘Bagels and Books’ To Be Virtual April 5

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will host a virtual Bagels & Books program via Zoom on Monday, April 5, at 10 a.m. Book lovers can share what they have been reading or listening to and can pick up suggestions for future reading. This month, the group also will discuss abandoned books that deserve a second chance.

Registration is required. Registered participants will receive a Zoom link via email a day or two in advance of the meeting. The registration form, and information about the library’s entire month of programming, can be found on the library’s website, scotlib.org.

Alanna Moriak of Mountainside, Jadie Pearl of Fanwood, Julia Poeschl of Scotch Plains, Ashley Postaski of Westfield, Ryan Quick of Westfield, Patrick Ritter of Fanwood, Miller Schulman of Cranford, John Serzan of Westfield, Elizabeth Sottung of Westfield, Justin Sousa of Mountainside, Jessica Szulc of Scotch Plains, John Taylor of Garwood, Emma Thumann of Scotch Plains, Gabriela Valdes of Cranford, George Waweru of Scotch Plains, Diana White of Garwood, Victoria Wilkins of Scotch Plains, Daniel Wright of Scotch Plains and Alexia Zsak of Scotch Plains.

One of the country’s leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been educating students since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students, the university offers more than 80 majors. Its main campus is located in suburban South Orange, while its nationally-recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark. For more information about the university, visit shu.edu.

Local Students Make Caldwell Dean’s List

CALDWELL, N.J. — Six local residents were among 852 students recently named to Caldwell University’s Fall 2020 Dean’s List, according to Ellina Chernobilsky, Ph.D., acting vice president for academic affairs at the university. In order to achieve this honor, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher and complete at least 12 credits during the semester.

The local residents include Megan Rose DeGregorio of Clark, Britanni Anne Hoffman of Garwood, Amanda Marie Kefalas of Clark, Theoniki P. Makras of Scotch Plains, Mackenzie Marie Santorelli of Cranford and Gabriella Julia Tomon of Scotch Plains.

Caldwell University is a private, Catholic coed four-year university located on a 70-acre campus in suburban Caldwell, N.J. For more information about Caldwell University, visit caldwell.edu.



FUN WITH MATH...Franklin Elementary School’s annual Math Night, held virtually this year, had students and their families enjoying seashore-themed activities. Pictured, from left to right, are: third grader Macy Hartz and fifth grader Ella Hartz.

Franklin School Families Enjoy Virtual Math Night

WESTFIELD — There was a seashore treasure hunt, a goldfish estimation challenge, a race to light the light-house, and much more as Franklin Elementary School in Westfield held its well-loved Math Night on March 4.

The theme of the annual event – held virtually this year – was “Math: It’s a Shore Thing.” Students, staff and families were invited to have fun with problem-solving games to practice addition, subtraction, decimals,

fractions, Venn diagrams and other grade-appropriate activities.

Families thanked Franklin teacher Nancy Rygiel and other staff members for spearheading the well-attended event. “Math game night has been so much fun! Thank you so much for organizing this wonderful family event!,” wrote one family, as they posted pictures to a virtual bulletin board. “Thank you so much to all the Franklin teachers and staff for such a fun night! We had a great time!,” wrote another.

Sam Sullivan Named DAR Essay Contest State-Level Winner

CRANFORD — Cranford High School senior Sam Sullivan recently was selected as the winner of the New Jersey Daughters of the American Revolution (“NJ DAR”) Good Citizen Essay contest on the state level. His essay has been forwarded to the DAR Eastern Division for judging. The Eastern Division includes eight states and overseas chapters. The judging should be completed by the end of March. If Sam wins at the Eastern Division, he will then be judged at the DAR National Level; that judging will not be complete until sometime in April.

Sam was recognized and awarded for this achievement by both the NJ DAR and the Cranes Ford Chapter.

Westfield UNICO Offers Scholarships

WESTFIELD — Greater Westfield UNICO has scholarships available to graduating seniors currently attending Westfield High School. Hard copies of local chapter scholarship applications are available at the Guidance Office at the high school. Only hard copies may be submitted for local scholarships. Local scholarships are available to students of Italian heritage.

National scholarship applications are available online only at unicono.org/scholarships. UNICO National is the largest Italian-American service organization in the nation.

Library Plans Makers Day, Howard Hughes Program

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

On Friday and Saturday, March 19 and 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the library will host New Jersey Makers Day. This free, live-streaming, two-day event will feature Inspiring Innovators and virtual hands-on making and STEM workshops for families and individuals of all ages.

The website, https://njmakersday.org/njmd-live, shows all of the upcoming presentations — from hacking origami to building bee abodes to game design. Participants can obtain a list of supplies beforehand so they can follow along. This free, live-streamed event will

be available in multiple virtual locations, including Facebook: www.facebook.com/njmakersday; YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/njmakersday, and the New Jersey Makers Day website: https://njmakersday.org/njmd-live.

The library will present “TGIF! Howard Hughes: The Great Aviator” on March 19 at 1:30 p.m. Viewers of this Zoom presentation can explore the public and private life of one of the 20th century’s most important Americans. Information about Howard Hughes also can be found on the library’s Facebook page.

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

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Cranford	23 STRATFORD TER	CapeCod	7	4	2.0	1	\$430,000
Cranford	15 CHESTER LANG PL	SplitLev	7	3	2.0	3	\$445,000
Fanwood	2098 PRINCETON AVE	Bi-Level	8	4	2.1	2	\$538,000
Fanwood	115 HUNTER AVE	Colonial	10	5	6.1	2	\$1,170,000
Garwood	318 MYRTLE AVE	Colonial	7	3	2.0	1	\$374,000
Scotch Plains	518 FOREPAUGH AVE	Bi-Level	9	4	2.0	1	\$485,000
Scotch Plains	1833 LAKE AVE	CapeCod	7	4	2.0	2	\$500,000
Scotch Plains	1984 WOOD RD	Custom	16	7	4.0	3	\$785,000
Westfield	750 CENTRAL AVE	HalfDupl	8	3	2.0	1	\$394,160
Westfield	321 E GROVE ST	TwnlntUn	8	3	3.1	1	\$727,500
Westfield	751 STEVENS AVE	Ranch	9	4	3.0	1	\$768,000

*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 3/7/21 – 3/14/21. 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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Join Temple Emanu-El for a One-Night-Only Live Streamed Presentation by Bryan Stevenson

WESTFIELD — March 22 at 7:30 p.m. LIVE STREAMED “Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America’s Mandela.” — Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*.

We are honored and excited to announce that Bryan Stevenson, acclaimed human rights attorney, founder of The Equal Justice Initiative and author of *The New York Times* bestseller “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption,” adapted for film and released in 2019, will speak to Temple Emanu-El and our broader community via a private live-streamed event on March 22.

Stevenson, a defender of individuals wrongly accused and mistreated by our criminal justice system, will discuss racial injustice as experienced by his representation

of capital defendants and death-row prisoners since 1989. His Equal Justice Initiative, based in Alabama, is committed to the fight against mass incarceration and excessive punishment. Stevenson, who has won multiple cases at The United States Supreme Court, speaks with unusual candor and insight about racial systemic mistreatment of the innocent that continues to exist in our country today.

You won’t want to miss this one-time-only live-streamed presentation. Please register in order to receive the link to the presentation. You will receive your link to the live-stream presentation the day of the event. You can register here: www.tewnj.org/bryanstevenson.

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The Scotch Plains – Fanwood
TIMES

Since 1959

Educator’s Corner: You’re BUGging me!

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

We’ve all been stuck together for just over a year now, and we’re all getting a little bit buggy. Brothers, sisters, kids, parents... all bugging each other. Spring is also around the corner, and bugs are reemerging from their winter shelters. I’m itching to tell you about some buggy activities for you and your learners.

Science – Use your powers of observation! Create a list of common bugs (spiders, ants, ladybugs, etc.). Spend some time outside looking at those bugs. Magnifying glasses encouraged! How many body parts do they have? Do they have antennae? How many legs? Then use your knowledge to draw or create bugs out of pom-poms, pipe cleaners, straws and googly eyes. Label the body parts (head, thorax, abdomen, legs, antennae, exoskeleton, etc.).

Math – Thanks to their spots, lady bugs are great for counting and number recognition. Ladybugs have two red wings. Each one can have a dot pattern (think dice), and learners

can add them together. Another way to focus on number sense is to compose numbers in a variety of ways. Write a number, like 10, on the lady bug’s head. Then use dot paints, pom-poms, stickers, etc., to create the “head number,” like 6 and 4 or 2 and 8. Create multiple bugs for each number and use them as a resource at home.

Want another math activity? Tall up the bugs in the science observation activity. Create a pictograph (or bar graph) with your information and create questions to go with it!

Word recognition – Write sight words in a random pattern on a big piece of paper. Then tape it to the wall. Use a fly swatter (if you don’t have one, a square piece of paper taped securely a wooden spoon works in a pinch!). Call out a sight word and let your child “swat” the word. If you are in a pod, make it into a friendly competition. Are you artistic? Draw bugs around the words for a fun addition!

Social Studies – Study the community structure of ant colonies or of beehives. How is their society organized?

What are the jobs the bugs have? Are the relationships symbiotic?

Culinary – I love getting my kids involved in making their snacks.

One, it’s a fun activity to pass a few minutes. Second, it slows down the never-ending snack requests... for a little bit at least! Banana Spiders (which are a real kind of spider, too!) – half a banana, chocolate chips and pretzel rods. Reinvent the classic Ants on a Log – have your little chefs create their own versions.

Writing – Create poems with all of the facts you learned about bugs. For a model, check out “UnBEElievables: Honeybee Poems and Paintings” by Douglas Florian.

Extension activity – Create “Help Wanted” advertisements for helpful bugs (spiders eat mosquitoes, bees and mosquitoes are pollinators, etc.). On the opposite side, create a “Wanted” poster for bugs that are destructive (murder hornets, anyone?) Write details based on your research.

If these activities don’t tick-le your fancy, make up your own on the fly!

Gratitude for Acceptance Versus Shaming

By PATRICIA STECKLER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

As we re-enter the world of people and places, thanks to the expanding availability of Covid-19 vaccines, what are some pandemic takeaways? What do we want to keep going forward? Not more coronasvirus-shaming, but more love, gratitude and a celebration of kindness to all.

Let’s move on from mask-shaming, mom-shaming and vaccine-shaming. Enough judging moms who let kids go to school or those who opt for schooling at home. Let go of the current rage of vaccine-shaming: who is eligible and who is not; who wants it versus who is afraid to try; berating and blaming smokers and obese folks for moving ahead in the vaccine queue because their health vulnerabilities warrant it. Enough!

Instead, let’s delight in our fortitude, flexibility and endurance! We, all of us, have “done” the pandemic for an entire year! We’ve cared for each other, loved our at-home and far-off families, worked, schooled and fed the kids while tending to myriad details of our secluded lives.

Remember the pastel rainbow

drawings and the lawn signs last spring, saying, “We’re in this together?” We felt united as a community. A spirit of gratitude and togetherness abounded.

Yet, as the wear and tear of this pandemic year mounted, an uptick in public shaming began to permeate social media and neighborhood chat groups. Running rampant now are mean-spirited judgments, unkind criticisms and condemnations of people simply voicing unpopular or non-mainstream opinions.

Why is this? Psychologists may say that “displacement” is the answer, defined as the transfer of painful, upsetting or angry feelings from the person who feels them to someone or something outside of oneself. For example, a child, angry at a parent, might break a toy or yell at a sibling rather than blow up at Mom or Dad. A henpecked employee might criticize his or her spouse rather than let the boss have it.

In this pandemic year, displaced frustrations have morphed into a blame-game, landing on public platforms. Pent-up anger at school administrators about schools reopening or irksome spouses who

chew too loudly or kids begging for just one more round of video games is spilling over. Public shaming is peaking, even though we are truly in this pandemic together.

Shaming hurts. It does not promote behavior or attitude change. People reluctant to sign up for vaccines will not change their minds if called out for it. Mask-wearing habits won’t change from ridicule. Shaming prompts folks to feel devalued and angry. Let’s remember how taxing this year has been for all of us.

A Fanwood reader, Edna Kirschenbaum, who adores her grandkids, said this: “Kids make life joyful and worth living. The best part is that they give you grandchildren.”

Let’s follow Edna’s lead and share stories of gratitude at this one-year-plus anniversary of the pandemic. Let’s use social media platforms for thanks and anecdotes about kind acts that abound in our community.

Share your pandemic takeaways with me at *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* by writing Gratitude in the subject line and emailing press@goleader.com or patisteckler@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

A House for the Ages Preserved on Prospect Street

It was 1980, and, although my husband and I didn’t want to leave the city, we realized that, with his long hours, commuting from New York was impossible. He took a map and drew a circle around New Brunswick, where he worked, and said, “Let’s find a house within this radius.” Luckily, Westfield was within that circle.

When we saw this house, it was perfect. I wanted an old home, and he wanted land. This had both! It’s also a wonderful house for entertaining. One of the former owners was an opera singer, and she used to have concerts here. The rooms are spacious, and there’s a nice flow. Every year, I would host a large party for my husband’s department and have between 100 and 120 people. I always dressed in Victorian gowns.

My son and my daughter, who were 8 and 12 when we moved, grew up having wonderful adventures in this house. One year, my son decided he wanted to be an explorer and would go out into our woods in the back and dig and dig – he’d always come back with some artifact, an old doll’s head, medicine bottles or a piece of pottery. The kids each had such memorable parties and sleepovers. Sometimes they’d sleep in the basement, other times on the sleeping porch.

Now my grandchildren are the ones having parties and sleepovers. One year, my granddaughter, who lives in the city, held a “travel party” and invited friends out here for her birthday. My other granddaughter, inspired by the house, is now studying art

conservation and preservation at the University of Delaware.

I grew to love the house and to revere its long history, and so I wrote a letter to the town many years ago and inquired about designating my home. I never heard back from anyone. In the past 10 years or so, beautiful old homes have been demolished. There were a number of teardowns that were taking place right here on Prospect Street!

The straw that finally broke the camel’s back was when a lovely old Victorian with a mansard roof that had been restored only a few years earlier got torn down just a few houses away. I again called the town and asked if anything could be done. They said there was nothing they could do. And now that beautiful architecture has been replaced with a side-by-side duplex.

Last year, as I began to read about the changes in the historic preservation ordinance, I became encouraged that the Town of Westfield has finally taken steps to address the concerning trend of teardowns. And this time when I called the town, my call was answered.

I am very excited to be able to designate my home for future generations of Westfield residents to enjoy. That way, this house for the ages will live on. I hope others will consider doing the same to preserve the character of this town, before it’s too late.

Joyce Goldstein
Westfield

Mayor Brindle Looks Back, Covid-19: One Year Later

On March 12 of last year, I sent out my very first Covid update, communicating that there were 29 cases of Covid in New Jersey, including one death — and one case in Union County. I wrote about our Regional Health Director Megan Avallone being in regular contact with Dr. Dolan to make determinations about potential school closures. Governor Murphy had declared a State of Emergency and had restricted outdoor gatherings to 250 people. I communicated that all town-run programs and events were postponed until April 19, at which time we would reassess the public health situation. Two days later, on March 14, we had our first confirmed case in Westfield.

And now a full year has passed — a year of the truly unimaginable. In this time, we have mourned the heartbreaking number of lives lost and our inability to console grieving family members at public memorials. We have felt for the many that have been impacted economically and for businesses that may never recover.

Not to be minimized are the lost memories and countless personal milestones typically celebrated with friends and family that we can never reclaim. It is through these sacrifices, which have had a deep and ongoing impact on everyone, that we are reminded daily of our reality in this pandemic.

Amidst this pain and ongoing uncertainty, the community-minded residents of Westfield proved to be at their best. From day one of this situation, I received numerous emails from residents asking how they could help to assist others, to organize and to give.

And give, you all did. Neighborhoods cheered outside for heroic healthcare workers. The community threw its support behind our local businesses through supporting our Virtual Downtown and by raising over \$300,000 through the We Love Local fund. Rainbows of hope were hung in windows and chalked on sidewalks all over town. Our seniors were assisted by the police department’s repurposed Community Resource Officers and checked on by the volunteers of Lifelong Westfield. Feed the Frontline, a grassroots fundraiser started by residents, raised over \$100,000 to feed healthcare workers with thousands of meals provided by our local restaurants. Volunteers sewed thousands of masks and over 100 medical gowns from donated fabric for a nearby senior facility. Painted wooden pallets, created to raise money, adorned lawns all over town. PPE donations overflowed our collection bins and donated meals to our first responders were generously provided on a regular basis from local families. Residents lit candles in solidarity and contributed to Be the Light, raising over \$50,000 to help address the very real and mounting local hunger crisis exacerbated by the pandemic.

Shelley Brindle
Westfield Mayor

Corrections

In the article “Pandemic Causes Dip in Public School Enrollment” in the March 4 edition, Wardlaw+Hartridge Director of Admission Gerard Gonnella’s name was misspelled. In a quote regarding how the school differs, Mr. Gonnella was referring to parochial and not public schools.

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. Plessor – A small hammer with a soft head
2. Pleurenchyma – The cellular tissue which is the chief constituent of wood
3. Delenda – Things to be blotted out or erased
4. Tylarus – One of the callous pads on the underside of the toes of birds

DILANIATION

1. A tearing in pieces
2. In zoology, having no joints
3. Pulling back or retreating suddenly
4. A turning or veering off course

HAMADRYAS

1. Minced chicken or veal, mixed with eggs and bread crumbs in the shape of a ball
2. Dog-faced ape
3. A green vegetable pigment
4. Solidified; hardened

HALLUX

1. A small spike or elongated cluster of flowers in grasses
2. A nerve cell connected with other nerve cells
3. The great toe
4. A flying squirrel

THALLASSIC

1. Readiness of mind in managing operations; mental adroitness
2. Pertaining to the night
3. Apathetic; disinterested
4. Of the sea or ocean

Letters to the Editor

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

All The News

www.goleader.com

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.

Resident Opposes JORBA Proposal

Question 1: Why have all Union County and Essex County parks prohibited mountain biking? The reason is clear: high-speed biking terrorizes walkers. It also tears up trails and destroys ecological habitats.

Question 2: Why would the Westfield Town Council even consider allowing this extreme sport in the one small remaining nature preserve in town, Brightwood Park? The mountain bike course development outfit known as JORBA has influenced the council into considering its proposal.

We can’t afford to let our last parcel of natural land disappear due to the loud insistence of JORBA, encouraged by a tiny group of thrill seekers. As shown by the town survey, most Westfielders prefer a nature walk to any mountain biking course. Listen to us!

Please reassure Westfielders that you will not consider yielding the future of this little park to JORBA and its proponents.

Nicole Chartrain
Westfield

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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]
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The Student View

A collaboration with the
Westfield High School Journalism Program

Having Power Does Not Give Authority to be a Bad Person

By CAROLINE BIELEN
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

I never imagined that a pandemic could take over the world. I never imagined that the Covid-19 virus would come to the United States, and I never imagined that it would last this long. It certainly was “unprecedented,” a word we are all tired of hearing. Nonetheless, we are still here one year later: wearing masks every day, staying six feet apart and washing our hands frequently.

This past year was difficult, but I learned a lot about myself and the world around me during this time. I also learned a lot in school. Although WHS was remote last spring, I luckily had access to technology, internet connection, WiFi and a safe place to learn from. I was able to learn how to derive math equations and how to write poetry in iambic pentameter all from my laptop and Google Meets.

Although I learned many valuable lessons in school, the most important lesson I learned throughout the pandemic was the power of love. Evidently, this year was nothing short of normal. With no end in sight, many Americans suffered financially, physically and emotionally.

However, in a year where many people were struggling, I saw the opposite of love. In the news, I saw many stories of apathy and hatred. I saw Asian Americans being blamed for the virus, and I read articles about how there has been an uptick in anti-Asian American hate crimes. I also read about how the virus was disproportionately affecting racial and ethnic minority groups. I watched news channels that revealed many American families are struggling financially. According to cbsnews.com, one in three families with children in the United States are facing food insecurity because of the pandemic.

Instead of helping these people who are suffering, many turned to hate, and much of this hate stemmed from authority figures. When people who hold authority make hateful comments, their supporters follow. For example, anti-Asian American hate crimes increased by almost 150 percent in 2020 according to

cbsnews.com, and many people suspect that this increase was caused in part by former President Donald Trump’s references to the coronavirus as the “Chinese virus” or the “Wuhan virus.” Manjusha Kulkarni, the executive director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, confirmed this suspicion and said, “Our data and evidence of the real-life stories confirm that Asian-Americans are facing increasing racist and xenophobic attacks, catalyzed by rhetoric from the [former] president and other government leadership.”

Recently in an interview with Oprah, Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, revealed that some members of the royal family were concerned about how dark her son Archie’s skin would be before he was born. What kind of precedent does this set in the U.K.? If the most-respected family is racist, what does this tell other residents in the U.K.?

Again more locally, seven women have come forward to accuse New York Governor Andrew Cuomo of sexual assault. Also, our current President Joe Biden and Donald Trump have both been accused of sexual misconduct. What kind of example does this set for younger generations? If these people had not been in positions of power, they would have been fired from their jobs. Power should not give someone the ability to hurt others without consequence, but we see this happening over and over.

More often than not, hatred comes from a place of ignorance. However, in these instances, where educated people are spreading hatred, the hate is coming from a feeling of superiority. Anyone with a platform and the ability to influence others should not take that responsibility lightly. Authority figures that abuse their authority to spread this hatred and bad behavior are making hate acceptable.

To combat this hatred, love and understanding must become more common. The world desperately needs love at a time like this, and it starts with people who can influence others. When people in positions of power start loving and stop hating, their supporters will follow suit.



Elections 2021

Weed Sales in Westfield? You Must Be Toking

The Cannabis Commission. It’s not the long-awaited sequel to the movie ‘Dazed and Confused’. Instead, it’s the Mayor’s “holistic and thoughtful” approach to the issue (or opportunity, for some) of what to do regarding marijuana dispensaries.

Why would a town that just a few years ago was up in arms about the picture advertisements in the windows of Victoria’s Secret even consider such a move? It must be the pungent, burning smell of something else that’s green and wrapped in paper: Money. You see, among the many gifts we’ve received lately from the Murphy Administration, including lockdowns, business-killing regulations and its inept handling of COVID in our nursing homes, we are now being presented with the ‘dope’ opportunity of 2% sales tax revenue for towns that host dispensaries within their borders.

To be ‘blunt’, this Cannabis Commission is a non-starter. It’s a Who’s Who of how to open and where to put a marijuana dispensary, rather than how to prevent one from opening up here in the first place. It includes Downtown Westfield Corporation and Chamber of Commerce members, cannabis entrepreneurs, lawyers, planning officials and a minuscule presence of public health and safety officials. Really? The only appointees missing here are Jeff Spicoli, Ali G and Mary Jane herself.

Is Westfield really this desperate

for tax money? Have we given up entirely? Through its plans for massive redevelopment and its botched handling of our open spaces, we’ve already seen this administration pander to walking, skating and mountain biking wallets. So, now we need to woo the joint-smoking wallets as well? Surely we can find other ways to generate revenue or, better yet, reduce ‘chronic’ overspending.

Reasonable people can agree that individuals caught with small amounts of ‘weed’ shouldn’t have their lives upended or be treated like hardened criminals. We can also agree that parents should at least get a phone call when their kids are caught by police with alcohol or ‘pot’. What we shouldn’t get behind is a ‘Half-Baked’ idea to allow a marijuana dispensary to open in our town. As a councilmember, I would vote to stop this ‘Pineapple Express’ in its tracks and not allow it in the Third Ward or anywhere else in Westfield. No studies. No commissions. Period.

This new law allows local governments to opt-out of allowing dispensaries within six months. Let’s exercise that option and nip this idea in the ‘bud’. Contact the mayor and your current councilmember and let them know your thoughts. And be sure to do so prior to ‘4/20’.

Shawn Mullen
Candidate for Westfield Town Council - Third Ward

New Law Keeps the Lights On At Hospitals, Nursing Homes

TRENTON — In a power outage, utility companies must prioritize the restoration of electricity to hospitals and nursing homes under legislation signed into law March 1.

Governor Phil Murphy endorsed the bill, A-1226/S-265, requiring the Board of Public Utilities to adopt regulations obliging electric companies to give preference to restoring electric service to critical facilities, including chronic or acute renal dialysis centers and research labs or clinics that store human blood, tissue, or DNA.

“When a storm or grid failure interrupts power, it is a significant inconvenience for all of us, but when it impacts

facilities that rely on medical machinery and technology to sustain critical functions, blackouts put lives at risk,” said bill sponsor Senator Tom Kean (R-21). “It’s an emergency any time a healthcare facility is without electricity.”

The legislation was first introduced after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

The priorities established under the new law take effect any time an outage lasts for more than 24 hours. The restorations must consider the requirements of facilities and the geographic area. The restoration efforts to the facilities cannot interfere with efforts to restore power needed to maintain overall public safety.

Union County Expands Covid-19 Vaccine Outreach

COUNTY – Union County has received its first shipment of Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine from the New Jersey Department of Health. The available doses are being distributed to seniors at five locations through the newly launched Union County Mobile Vaccine Unit, and additional sites will be added as soon as more doses become available.

The Union County Mobile Vaccine Unit launched March 12 at a senior residence in Linden. Residences in Hillside, Plainfield, Roselle and Union Township are also included in the program, accounting for the full shipment received from the state health department. Additional sites will be added to the mobile program once more vaccine is available.

“The new mobile unit enables us to bring vaccines to seniors who would have difficulty traveling to the Kean University site, and the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine enables us to reach more seniors as quickly and efficiently as possible. The new mobile service also helps limit the risk of exposure for people who are most vulnerable to the potentially deadly effects of the virus,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

“We believe that all Union County residents should have access to this life-saving vaccine,” said Commissioner Sergio Granados, who chairs the Commissioner Board’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. “Our Public Safety team has made it a top priority to not only vaccinate all those who want the shot, but in while making sure we target our most vulnerable populations of residents. As more resources become available, we will focus on these communities throughout our county utilizing various initiatives and pro-

grams, including our new mobile unit.”

The new mobile unit complements the Union County Vaccine Center at Kean University and the county’s satellite site in Plainfield, through which the commissioner board has already administered almost 30,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine to eligible residents.

The board has also assigned county staff to assist with the federally managed FEMA vaccination site in Elizabeth, which has administered 3,000 doses as of March 12.

Union County residents are reminded that the vaccine supply shortage still persists. Those who already have an appointment for the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine are advised to keep their appointment in order to ensure they receive a vaccine as quickly as possible.

All three vaccines are highly effective and received emergency-use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Residents who would like to make an appointment at the Union County Vaccine Center at Kean University can book an appointment online at ucnjvaccine.org.

Residents are advised to check for updates frequently. Appointments are scheduled only when supplies are available, and they book up quickly.

Seniors and persons who have difficulty accessing the Internet can contact the Union County Vaccine Call Center at (908) 613-7829 to check for updates.

In addition to vaccination programs run by Union County, pharmacies and other locations are beginning offer vaccines. For a list of available sites visit the New Jersey vaccine information hub at covid19.nj.gov/pages/covid19-vaccine.

Celebrate Women’s History Month in Union County

COUNTY — March is Women’s History Month, and the Union County Board of Commissioners is proud to celebrate the lives of remarkable women in history and the history makers of today, too.

On Wednesday, March 31, the commissioners will be honoring women who were instrumental in the fight for women’s suffrage, who prevailed with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919. Everyone is invited to enjoy a free virtual performance of *Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey’s Role in Woman Suffrage*, which recounts the struggle for the right to vote from the perspective of Plainfield resident Lillian Feickert, who was president of the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association from 1912 to 1920.

For information about joining *Reclaiming Our Voice* on Zoom, visit the Union County Office on Women at ucnj.org/women.

To celebrate and recognize women who are making history today, everyone is also invited to submit their nominations for the 2021 Tribute to SHeroes Award. The award honors women who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, pride and commitment to their community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whether they are neighbors, friends, coworkers, caretakers, sisters, mothers, educators, doctors, nurses or other medical personnel, untold numbers of women in Union County strove to hold our community together in the midst of an unprecedented public health and economic crisis. We want to highlight and memorialize their efforts as an inspiration to the young women of today, and for future generations.

Nominations are being accepted all throughout Women’s History Month until March 31. To submit a nomination,

visit ucnj.org/women, or call (908) 527-4216 for more information.

As part of our commitment to supporting diversity, equality and inclusion for all women, this month we are also launching the second year of our new “OUT in Union County: Queer Empowerment Hour” series. Queer Empowerment Hour is a monthly online story and discussion series exploring LGBTQ+ topics with advocates, allies, community leaders and other stakeholders.

For more information about participating in the conversation, visit our Office of LGBTQ Affairs at ucnj.org/lgbtq or call (908) 527-4742.

Finally, I would also like remind everyone that 2021 marks the first year of a historic change in title for county elected officials throughout the state of New Jersey.

Until January 1 of this year, county commissioners were titled “chosen freeholders.” Freeholder is a holdover from the earliest years in American history, when only property owners — primarily, white males — were entitled to hold elected office. Though interesting as a historical artifact, the freeholder title does not reflect the fight for equal rights in our history, for which so many have sacrificed so much. Nor does it reflect the diversity of today’s society, especially so in Union County, which is one of the most diverse counties in New Jersey.

The Union County Board of County Commissioners exemplifies the need for change. Women currently hold a majority of six seats on our nine-member board, including Vice Chair Rebecca Williams and Commissioners Angela Garretson, Bette Jane Kowalski, Lourdes M. Leon, Kimberly Palmieri-Moued and Andrea Staten.

More Emergency Food Distributions Dates Told

COUNTY — The Union County Board of County Commissioners will hold three additional emergency food distribution events for Union County residents in March and its first food distribution event in April to aid those affected by Covid-19.

Saturday, March 20 at 8 a.m. – Union County Vocational Technical School in Scotch Plains – Drive-up only.

Tuesday, March 23 at 10 a.m. – Gerald B. Green Plaza in Plainfield – Walk-up only.

Saturday, April 3 at 8 a.m. – Kean University in Union – Drive-up only.

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

“During this time, residents continue to mitigate effects of unemployment, housing issues and food insecurity, and we are working hard to help everyone put food on their tables,” said Commissioner Sergio Granados who also serves as Liaison to the Human Services Advisory Board. “We thank Village Super Market and Gargiulo Produce for their partnership in this ongoing effort.”

Residents wishing to pick up food at the drive-up distribution events at Kean University and Union County

Vocational Technical School must arrive in a vehicle. Walk-ups will not be accommodated at either location.

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

All drive-up recipients at Kean or Union County Vocational Technical School must remain in their cars with windows rolled up at all times, otherwise masks are required. Food boxes will be placed in the trunk or truck bed of the vehicle by volunteers.

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

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Plainfield Avenue Can Not Handle Added Traffic

This is in response to Scotch Plains Mayor Losardo’s reply to my letter regarding significant public safety concerns about potentially relocating the Scotch Plains Fire and Police Departments to Plainfield Avenue. This remains an extremely dangerous plan and a major concern for those of us, homeowners and taxpayers, who live in the area. Although the property is owned by the town and making use of it certainly makes sense, putting the fire and police departments there, which would be traveling at high rates of speed with sirens blaring at all hours of the night and day, is irresponsible and unfair to those of us who live in the neighborhood.

I have the following questions:

Do any members of the Scotch Plains town council or redevelopment committee live on Westfield Avenue or Westfield Road and know personally how busy the area already is? In speaking with my neighbors, none of us think relocating police/fire to Plainfield Avenue is an acceptable plan.

Why couldn’t a traffic study be done now to look at current traffic

patterns, including large trucks, buses and cars, which do not always obey the speed limits? This is a real and current concern of taxpayers who live in the area.

Why would the town develop another high congestion area on Plainfield Avenue when areas closer to Route 22 and Terrill Road might be better suited for emergency vehicles?

Why wouldn’t the town consider placing the Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Plainfield Avenue?

Also, of considerable concern, relocation of the police and fire departments to Plainfield Avenue will negatively impact property values. We have many young families purchasing new, expensive homes in the area. I would not choose to buy a home in an area that has the added danger of emergency vehicles traveling at high rates of speed 24/7. Nobody wants a mini-Route 22 in front of their home.

Cynthia Newman
Scotch Plains Neighborhood Alliance
ScotchPlainsNA@gmail.com

WPD Needs More Than Accreditation For Proper Reform

Police reform isn’t just an inner city issue. Misconduct by small-town police departments is rampant. When police officers abuse their power, they have the ability to change a person’s life in a matter of minutes.

Currently, the WPD is seeking law enforcement accreditation, a “highly-regarded” recognition for any law enforcement agency. I am writing to remind residents of the ongoing issues that members of the WPD have caused in the past five years, to Westfield and non-Westfield residents. I do not have to cite them here, as a search for them is readily available online. However, this department needs to institute significant reforms before it can become “highly regarded.”

The department is looking for accreditation as a “top priority” department that demonstrates “to all that it is worthy of their trust and confi-

dence.” This is a process that is said to “improve accountability, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy, and more confidence in the department.”

This statement is striking. In particular, this department needs to demonstrate “trust and confidence” before it receives such an accreditation, not after, if the goal, for sure, is to create a culture of accountability at the WPD.

It isn’t easy to stand up to a police department. We all want to be treated fairly by our local PDs. Isn’t that what we expect, in fact? To be protected, not to be afraid? It is time to start the conversation about the Westfield Police Department – and ask for real reform, not a hollow accreditation.

Stephanie Branna
Mountainside

Residents Invited to Shape the Future of Union County Parks

COUNTY – Work is under way on a new 10-year Master Plan for the public parks and cultural programs of Union County, and the Board of Commissioners is seeking participation from members of the public. The Union County parks system is managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation, which includes the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

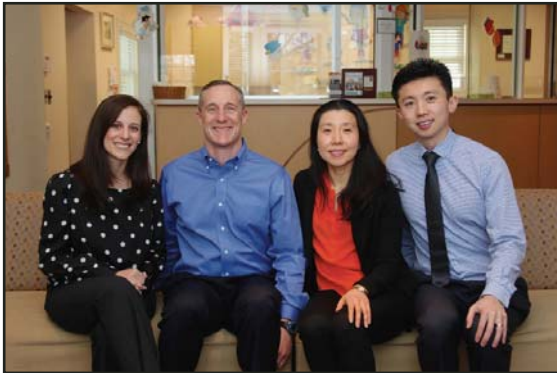
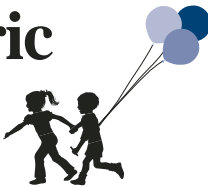
The Master Plan provides a platform for balancing future needs in recreation, cultural activities and environmental preservation and for or-

ganizing improvements, restoration projects and programs throughout the entire park system. It is updated every 10 years.

Members of the public who wish to submit ideas and comments on any aspect of Union County parks and programs of the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs can contact Master Plan 2020 by email at UCParks2020@ucnj.org.

The deadline for submitting comments has been extended to Friday, April 2.

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VETERANS - HEARD, JACOBS, COMPOSTO, MURPHY, CIOTTA

Blue Devil Matmen to Fill Many Vacant Slots after Banner Season

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

Varsity slots will be filled with a number of fresh faces after the Westfield High School wrestling team graduated six varsity athletes, five that qualified for the regional tournament and four who had been NJSIAA qualifiers during their careers. This season, however, the Blue Devils do return several matmen who could create some impressive waves.

Last year the Blue Devils during preseason were odds on favorites to win the Union County Tournament (UCT) but right off the bat, senior CJ Composto, ranked No. 1 in the state at 126-lbs, injured his knee and was out for the season. Still the Blue Devils juggled their lineup somewhat and entered the UCT as the favorites but

an outstanding performance by the entire Cranford Cougar squad earned them their sixth straight UCT title.

The Blue Devils did defeat the Cougars in a regular-season match but were, once again, outfoxed by them for the District 14 title and had to settle for second. As the No. 1 seed for the section tournament, Westfield advanced to the finals but were upset by the second-seeded Watchung Hills Warriors who claimed their third straight title. Westfield finished with a 16-3 record with its other losses being to West Essex and High Point.

The returning Blue Devils who qualified for the region tournament are senior Jon Heard (220-lbs), junior Luke Jacobs (132-bs) and sophomores Ethan Composto (113-lbs) and Mike Murphy (152-lbs). Competing

at the same weight class Heard placed second in the district his sophomore season and finished 20-15. Last year Heard, who on several occasions jumped up to heavyweight, placed second in the UCT and second in the district at 220-lbs to finish with a 27-12 record. He will remain at 220-lbs.

Jacobs, a district champion his freshman season, who also placed second in the UCT at 113-lbs, competed at 113-lbs last year, reaped his second district title, placed second in the UCT, fourth in the region to qualify for the NJSIAA Tournament in Atlantic City and finished 24-11. Jacobs is expected to compete and 132-lbs this season.

Composto placed third in the UCT, second in the district and finished 30-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



TWO-TIME DISTRICT CHAMP, NJSIAA QUALIFIER... Junior Luke Jacobs, a two-time district champ, qualified at 113-lbs for the NJSIAA Tournament held at Boardwalk in Atlantic City (AC) last year.

BOWLES, SHOYOYE, ROBINSON, LERNER LEAD RAIDERS

Raider Matmen Return Wealth Of Vets for Shortened Season

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

Only two seniors started in the varsity lineup last year, so this year's Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team returns a wealth of veterans for what could be an outstanding season. Last year, the Raiders began their season with an 8-9 record but turned it up several notches to win 11 of their next 13 matches to finish with a 19-11 record. Additionally, the Raiders return three matmen who had 30+ wins, including a two-time NJSIAA qualifier, plus another matman who just missed reaching the 30-win mark.

According to Raider Head Coach Marc Fabiano, his key returners are

senior Brandon Bowles (30 match winner, 2 time state qualifier), senior Larry Shoyoye (region qualifier, 30 match winner last season), junior Robert Lerner (region qualifier, 30 match winner last season) and junior Anthony Robinson (region qualifier).

Bowles, who has been selected team captain, gave viewers a lot to look at last season. Bowles, who qualified for the NJSIAA Tournament in Atlantic City (AC) his sophomore year at 113-lbs, jumped up to 126-lbs and found himself amidst a host of NJSIAA qualifiers in his county, district and region.

Bowles placed second in the UCT to Westfield's Luke Hoerle, who was ranked fourth in the state at the time.

After knocking off a state qualifier Lawrence Melchionda (Seton Hall Prep) in the District 16 semifinal, Bowles placed second after dropping a 7-3 decision to state-ranked Sean Rendeiro (St. Peter's Prep).

Bowles' journey was definitely not over as he went and defeated Melchionda, 6-5, for a second time in the Region 4 quarterfinal only to face Hoerle in the semifinal where he lost 9-3. In the wrestleback for third, Bowles defeated another state qualifier in Chris Dalmau (Rahway), 3-2. Once at AC, Bowles won two of his four bouts and finished with a 37-8 record. Bowles is expected to compete at 145-lbs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



TWO-TIME NJSIAA QUALIFIER...As a junior at 126-lbs, Raider Brandon Bowles, center, qualified for the NJSIAA Tournament held at Boardwalk in Atlantic City (AC). Bowles also qualified for AC at 113-lbs his sophomore season.



TIGHT RACE IN THE BOYS 1600...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders and the Westfield Blue Devils keep a tight pack during the boys 1,600-meters during a winter track meet at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on March 10.

Results From Westfield/SPF Track Meet:

The Westfield High School girls and boys hosted the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders for a winter (indoor) track meet that was actually held at Gary Kehler Stadium on March 10. The Raiders had a fine showing. Below are the individual results.

GIRLS RESULTS:
55 hurdles: 1. Peri Roper (SPF) 11.2, 2. Tracy Bagdonas (SPF) 11.5, 3. Jada Montgomery (SPF) 11.7
55 dash: 1. Julia Jackson (SPF) 7.4, 2. Grace Kennedy (SPF) 7.7, 3. Mackenzie Trenk (SPF) 8.5

1,600: 1. Gabby Crona (SPF) 5:40.6, 2. Brenna Sullivan (SPF) 5:55.4, 3. Emily Sicoli (SPF) 6:07.1
400: 1. Grace Kennedy (SPF) 59.2, 2. Macey Cullen (W) 65.3, 3. Sonia Olsen (W)/Caroline Bielen (W) 66.2
200: 1. Julia Jackson (SPF) 25.7, 2. Chelsea Little (W) 28.8, 3. Caroline Bielen (W) 28.9

BOYS RESULTS:
55 hurdles: 1. Anthony McDonald (SPF) 7.9, 2. Kenny Agwu (SPF) 8.1, 3. Tom Rodriguez (SPF) 9.7
55 dash: 1. Kenny Agwu (SPF)

6.8, 2. Tom Rodriguez 7.0 (SPF), 3. George Wen (W) 7.2
1,600: 1. Miles Varner (SPF) 4:59.7, 2. Terence Downey 5:03.5, 3. Rory Scialabba (W) 5:06.3
400: 1. Jon Boufarah (W) 56.4, 2. Quinn Jackson (SPF) 57.6, 3. Justin Lipschutz (W) 58.3
800: 1. Josh Garcia (SPF) 2:29, 2. Luke Mokryzki (W) 2:33.8, 3. Hanson Slusher (W) 2:39.9
200: 1. Kenny Agwu (SPF) 24.0, 2. Anthony McDonald (SPF) 24.7, 3. Tom Rodriguez (SPF) 25.5



FIRST LAP OF THE GIRLS/BOYS 1600...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders and the Westfield Blue Devils keep a tight pack during the first lap of the girls/boys 1,600-meters during a winter track meet at Kehler Stadium on March 10.

MURRAY, SHRINER RETURNING DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

Cougar Matmen Facing Season With Very Competitive Schedule

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

Tournament time has been very special to the Cranford High School wrestling team for the past several years. During that time, the Cougars have beehived up their schedule with

hearty opponents to prepare for the end of the season events. And this year is no different with Phillipsburg, Wall Township and Middletown South added to their list of Union County foes.

Last year, Westfield was the odds on favorite to win the Union County Tournament (UCT) crown but the Cougars stunned them all by placing all 13 of its wrestlers in the top-five, claiming two individual champions with four seconds, three thirds, a fourth and three fifths to capture their sixth straight title. But the glory was not over yet. Up came the District 14 Tournament. Westfield held the upper hand after defeating the Cougars effectively, 44-22, in a dual meet. How-

ever, the Cougars pulled magic out of their hats again, claiming four individual champions and qualifying 10 for the region tournament.

Two of those district champs return with juniors Colin Murray and Kevin Shriner. Last year Murray, competing

at 145-lbs, placed third in the UCT, won the district title and placed third in the region to advance to the NJSIAA Tournament in Atlantic City where he did win a bout to finish with a 38-8 record. Murray is listed to compete at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



NJSIAA QUALIFIER...Cranford Cougar Colin Murray qualified for the NJSIAA Tournament held at Boardwalk in Atlantic City at 145-lbs his sophomore season.

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Blue Devil Icemen’s Season Ends In McInnis Semis vs Glen Rock

The Westfield Blue Devils 2020-2021 boy’s hockey campaign came to an unceremonious end Tuesday night (March 9) in the McInnis Cup semifinal match-up vs. Glen Rock at Woodbridge Community Center. In this COVID year where athletes began the season relieved to be able to dawn the blue and white and hit the ice at all, the expectations for the post-season were rightfully high for the Westfield icemen after finishing the regular season 9-1-1.

Glen Rock, the eventual McInnis Cup winner, entered the game cloaked in a misleading fifth seed due to a 1-1-1 division record (their one loss at the hands of the Blue Devils), and came out finishing all checks with wide knees and high elbows setting a



Courtesy of James Finver for The Westfield Leader and The Times
PLAYING HIS FINAL GAME...Senior Joey Brogan, No. 27, played his last game for the Blue Devils against Glen Rock.

physical tone to the game.

Captain Brendan Kotiga started the scoring midway through the first when a shot from Matt Moran hit traffic, dropped at the feet of junior Spencer Brown who was able to load up Kotiga in the slot for a top-shelf finish. The Panthers tied it up later in the first and the first frame ended locked at 1.

Kotiga repaid the assist to Brown in the second when he fought off two Panthers, slid the puck to Brown in the slot – who again, finished top shelf. Blue Devils 2; Panthers 1. Glen Rock tied it 2-2 with 45 seconds left in the second setting the stage for a dramatic third period.

Seniors Joey Brogan, Matt Moran, Kyle Snyder, Kyle Azzaretto, Mason Garnhart, Brendan Kotiga (C) and

Dan McDonald (C) led the Blue Devils in what was to be their last 15 minutes in the Westfield blue and white. Each played with the passion and urgency of young men who wanted to add to their already significant accomplishments over the course of their careers with the Blue Devils.

Unfortunately, it was not meant to be. Despite Westfield out-shooting the opponent 2 to 1, Glen Rock took the lead early in the third. Then, with two minutes left, Glen Rock cleared the puck in desperation into a recently vacated net taking the air out of the building and ending Westfield’s hopes of playing one last game this season.

In the waning seconds of this final game, senior Captains Kotiga and McDonald were quarantined in the “sin bin” with junior leaders Brown, Greg Oliveri, Thomas Conrod and Matt Beke watching the final seconds tick away. It is unclear whether this quarantine was a coincidence or a scheduled meeting to officially transition their leadership of the team to the juniors. One thing was clear as the seniors took in their last moments on the ice, they embodied the theme for the season: Resilience. This resilience will carry them all to great places beyond high school. We hope to see them cheering on the team they led so well next year.

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

Union County Bowling Tourney Final Team & Individual Results:

Westfield is the capital of the Union County scholastic bowling scene in 2021. The Blue Devils repeated as Union County Tournament (team) champions and Westfield High School’s Perry Cuccaro, a sophomore, won the UCT Individual title at Jersey Lanes in Linden. Westfield knocked down 3,167 pins the first day of competition (March 3), 100 more than its closest competitor, to earn the top seed for the eight-team finals, which used a Baker Format on March 4.

In the second day of competition, Westfield defeated Oratory (3-1) and Scotch Plains-Fanwood (3-1) to reach the final vs. Union. The Blue Devils and Farmers split the first two games, but Westfield won the next two to defend its UCT title.

On the final day of the tournament, Cuccaro qualified as the second seed

for the five-man step-ladder finals. Cuccaro faced familiar faces in his two step-ladder matches. Cuccaro stopped teammate and fifth-seeded Dante Morales in the semifinal, 246-215. In the final, another battle of Blue Devils, Cuccaro defeated teammate, and top-seeded, Austin Peterson, 224-205.

Before he lost to Cuccaro, Morales was on fire at Jersey Lanes. He finished the first day of competition in 10th place, but rolled a 670 series on Friday to slide into fifth place and qualify for the step-ladder finals. Morales defeated fourth-seeded Christopher Thomas of Union, 247-212, and Matthew Remelgado of Linden, 238-202, to reach the penultimate match of the tournament.

The Union County Tournament Girls final also featured a battle of teammates as top-seeded Jaelynn Johnson of Elizabeth High School defeated Sara Fleming, 178-139. Johnson followed up the 544 she rolled on the first day of the UCT with a 525 to garner the top seed. In the semifinal match, Elizabeth’s Fleming defeated Danielle Galarza of Union Catholic, 164-138. Galarza and Union Catholic finished the team tournament in third place after the Vikings defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood in a one-game (Baker) playoff.

Below are the Union County Tournament team finals with seed number held on March 4 at Linden Lanes.

SEMIFINALS:
Westfield defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 3-1
Union def. Union Catholic, 3-1

QUARTERFINALS:
Westfield defeated (8) Oratory, 3-1
Union defeated (6) Rahway, 3-0
Scotch Plains-Fanwood defeated (5) Linden, 3-0
Union Catholic d. (2) Cranford, 3-2
The UCT boys and girls stepladder finals were held on March 5

BOYS FINALS:
(2) Perry Cuccaro (Westfield) d. (1) Austin Peterson (Westfield), 224-205.
Cuccaro (Westfield) d. (5) Dante Morales (Westfield), 246-215.
Morales (Westfield) d. (3) Matthew Remelgado (Linden), 238-202.
Morales (Westfield) d. (4) Christopher Thomas (Union), 247-212.

GIRLS FINALS:
(1) Jaelynn Johnson (Elizabeth) d. (2) Sara Fleming (Elizabeth), 178-139.
Fleming (Elizabeth) d. (3) Danielle Galarza (Union Catholic), 164-138.

UCSSL Seeks Softball Players for 2021

The Union County Senior Softball League is seeking experienced players for its slow pitch softball season in both its 50+ Division (born 1971 or earlier) and its 60+ Division (born 1961 or earlier).

Each team plays two games per week beginning in mid-April and ending with league playoffs in late August. New this year is a 70+ Division (born 1951 or earlier) which we expect will be playing Thursday morning doubleheaders. If interested, contact the league commissioner at UCSSL938@comcast.net or (908) 232-0477.

UCT BOYS BOWLING:
TOP 10 Individuals:
Scores are combined series from March 3 and March 5
1. Austin Peterson (Westfield) 1,447
2. Perry Cuccaro (Westfield) 1,433
3. Matthew Remelgado (Linden) 1,381
4. Christopher Thomas (Union) 1,340
5. Dante Morales (Union) 1,319
6. James Fitz (Linden) 1,310
7. Matthew Reynolds (SPF) 1,292
8. Roi Antonio (Elizabeth) 1,280
9. Allen Potts (Cranford) 1,279
9. Austin Torres (Roselle) 1,279
10. James Middleton (SPF) 1,204

UCT GIRLS BOWLING:
TOP 4 Individuals:
Scores are combined series from March 3 and March 5
1. Jaelynn Johnson (Elizabeth) 1,069
2. Sara Fleming (Elizabeth) 1,030
3. Danielle Galarza (UC) 1,015
4. Gabriela Martinez (Union) 978

** 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

Mid March 2019: Having graduated a number of very talented seniors from the 2018 team, this year’s SPF girls swim team may have been considered to be in a somewhat rebuilding phase. And maybe they were. But the Lady Raiders were able to rebuild enough in time to win their fifth straight Union County Tournament (UCT) title, advance to the North Jersey, Section 2, Public B Championship meet and finish with a 10-2-1 record.

in a row, although they placed second and had three individual champions with junior Luke Hoerle and seniors Tim Miller and Brendan Loder. The Blue Devils did get even with their UC opponents by overwhelming all of them in dual meets.

At the District 14 Tournament, the Blue Devils rumbled away with the team title and claimed five champions in freshman Luke Jacobs, junior Quinn Gimblette, Hoerle, junior CJ Composto and senior Jordan Simpson. At the Region 4 Tournament, Hoerle and Composto stood at the top of the podium, while Miller took second and Gimblette placed fourth to earn their tickets to the NJSIAA Tournament

Brennan who seized first in the 100-breaststroke with a time of 59.13. Freshman Roan Baker, Brennan, senior Zach Youssef and senior Cooper Prieto placed second in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:36.62. Junior Jeremy Kronheimer, Baker, Youssef and Prieto took second in the 200-free relay at 1:28.62. Baker placed second in the 200-Individual Medley with a time of 1:57.55.

Mid March 2019: Three senior starters and a multitude of sophomores and juniors comprised this year’s Cranford boys basketball team that competed in the Union County Conference Sky Division. The Cougars finished in the middle of the pack with a 5-4 record but more than doubled their overall win record from last year to finish 11-12.

Senior Hunter Goff led the team with 364 points, which included 83 free throws and 183-pointers. He was particularly strong driving to the basket which resulted either with a lay-up or a trip to the charity line. Senior Jeremy Ruka led the team with 27 blocked shots. He was second in rebounds with 143 and third in assists with 36, while adding 19 steals. Another discomfoting factor to other teams was Ruka’s ability to bang the big “three” as he pumped in a team-leading 41 3-pointers. Play setter senior Kevin Donovan led by far with 66 assists, while contributing 37 points. He pulled 64 rebounds and was second with 38 acts of thievery.

3:36.51. Rachel Maizes set a meet record in the 100-breaststroke with a time of 1:04.88. At the Meet of Champions (MOC) Frazier, Rachel Maizes, Judge and Dee Dee Maizes took top honors in the 200-medley relay.

The boys received super production, especially from senior Chris Bondarowicz and sophomore Josh Cohen, who were both double winners at the UCT. Bondarowicz won the 200-Individual Medley in 1:53.86 and the 100-breaststroke in 57.54. Cohen broke his former 2016 record of 4:36.39 in the 500-freestyle, finishing in 4:35.02. He also touched first in the 200-freestyle at 1:42.15. Sophomore Alan Shao took top honors in the 100-butterfly with a time of 52.47. At MOC, Bondarowicz placed sixth in the 200 Individual Medley and won the 100-breaststroke. Cohen placed fourth in the 200-freestyle and third in the 500-freestyle.

Early March 2017: Two returning starters with the need to fill the vacancies made it a bumpy road for the Cranford girls basketball team throughout the first half of the season but the Lady Cougars began to get in sync towards the end, winning six of their final 11 games, while being competitive in some of the losses during that span. With all starters returning, the Cougars, who finished with a 10-15 record, should have a very promising outlook for next year.

Junior Cam Wichelns proved to be an asset in every aspect of the game,

happened since 2011. Westfield, the three-time defending champion and the unanimous No. 2 team in the state finally met its match in the NJSIAA Public A state final, losing to Cherry Hill East, 86-84. Even so, it took a lot to take the Blue Devils down from their lofty perch.

The Blue Devils won both the county and sectional and then powerpointed 5,118 in the state final, which is the highest powerpoint total by a public school boys team in state history

March 2015: Junior guard Lyndsay Pace was the Cougar girls’ leading scorer this year (297 points 12.9 ppg).

and boys) with 1,530 points. Miller and O’Leary became *The Westfield Leader’s* “Wanted for Theft”, poster girls with 315 and 218 steals, respectively, for a total of 533.

This year, sophomore Lil Scott led the team with 382 points to bring her total to 681. That average would put her at 1,362 after her senior year. Sophomore Jackie Knapp finished with 366 points to up her two-year total to 630, projecting her at 1,260 after her senior year. This season, Knapp led the team with 94 steals, bringing her total to 155 (310 four-year projection). Scott snatched 66 balls to bring her total to 114 (228



David B. Corbin (March 2019 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
QUITE AN ASSET TO THE TEAM...Freshman Lily Hughes made huge contributions to the Raiders’ efforts this season whether it be in freestyle relays, backstroke or Individual Medley races (Mid March 2019).

At the UCT, the Raiders answered the question by outscoring the Blue Devils, 385-375, at Sonny Werblin Pool at Rutgers University. Rachel Small, Julia Bonhote, Chloe Howell and sophomore Abby Ryan answered the question of who was the best in the UCT in the 200-free relay by taking first in 1:40.36. Lily Hughes took top honors in the 100-backstroke with a time of 58.17.

Mid March 2019: Lofty goals were set and this year’s Westfield wrestling team came close to achieving all of them. The Blue Devils began on the right track by overwhelmingly winning the Roselle Park Tournament and claiming six individual champions. However the Blue Devils were favored to grab top honors for the Union County Tournament (UCT) title and were stunned by the Cranford Cougars, who won it for the fifth year

ment in Atlantic City (AC). Composto would go on the place third at AC.

Mid March 2019: New faces were needed to fill the slots of a talented and decorated senior class that has moved on to the college level, so the work was cut out for this year’s Westfield boys swim team. The good news was that Head Coach Jeff Knight had a wealth of talented newcomers and he used them very well.

The Blue Devils finished a very close second in the Union County Tournament (UCT), being nudged out, 405-400, by the Summit Hilltopper squad, advanced to the finals of the North Jersey, Section 2, Public A Tournament and finished with a 9-4 record.

Although they captured only one first place in the UCT, the Blue Devil boys turned in a number of fine performances, especially from several underclassmen. But it was senior Tom



David B. Corbin (March 2019 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TOUGH ACROSS THE BOARD...Senior Jeremy Ruka, No. 34 left, and junior Arjun Petgrave, No. 12, were vicious competitors this season for the Cougars whether it be on defense or offense (March 2019).

Early March, 2017: More titles and records were set this season by both SPF swim teams. The Raider girls won their third straight Union County Tournament (UCT) title, set multiple records and finished 14-2, losing only to No. 2 Immaculate Heart Academy then to No. 3 Chatham in the North Jersey, Section 2, Public B championship. The boys, who placed second to Westfield in the UCT and also set records throughout the season, defeated Summit, 91-79, for the sectional Public B title and finished with 15-3 record with losses to Westfield, Pingry, and the No 1 ranked team, Mainland.

In the UCT, the Lady Raiders won all three relays — **200-Medley Relay:** (juniors Erika Frazier and Rachel Maizes, senior Stephanie Judge, junior Megan Small) 1:47.74; **200-Free Relay:** (Rachel Maizes, senior Maya Dunchus, Megan Small, junior DeeDee Maizes) 1:39.49; **400-Free Relay:** (DeeDee Maizes, sophomore Caroline Warren, Judge, Frazier)

especially scoring where she led the team with 350 points (14.6 points per game), which included sinking 60 free throws. Not only was she dangerous underneath the basket but if opponents ever gave her enough room, she would bang the threes and led the team with 44 3-pointers. She also led the team in rebounds and assists and added several blocked shots and steals.

Sophomore Lauren Williamson, who was very stubborn defensively, also was quite a scoring threat and she would also make opponents pay dearly if they ever gave her enough room from beyond the arc. Although Williamson missed six straight games towards the end of the season and one earlier in the season, she finished with 186 points (10.3 points per game), including 21 3-pointers. Williamson was also very quick with her hands and averaged more than two steals per game.

March 2015: The Blue Devils boys swim season ended with a loss this year and that is something that had not



David B. Corbin (Westfield/SPF match) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
UCT CHAMP, TOP-12 AT AC...Blue Devil senior Tim Miller, standing, won the Roselle Park Tournament (195-lbs), the Union County Tournament crown at 182-lbs and placed in the top-12 in the NJSIAA Tournament in AC (March 2019).

Perhaps most encouraging of all was that Pace really surged towards the end of the season. In her final four games, Pace scored 97 points for an average of 24.3 per game. This included a season high 31 points scored against A.L. Johnson. Pace also had 44 steals during the season.

Junior Cerys MacLelland had 264 points (11.0 ppg) and added 148 rebounds, including 12 in a game on February 17 against Summit. Freshman Camryn Wichelns also proved to be a capable scorer by posting a career high 23 points on January 10 against Plainfield.

Early March 2013: Remarkable similarities between this year’s Westfield High School girls basketball team and the 2005-2008 Blue Devils squad seem to jump out. The “oldtimers” featured a pair of superstars with Erin Miller and Gab O’Leary. Miller finished her career as the all-time leading WHS scorer (girls

four-year projection). At that rate, Knapp and Scott would become the new “Wanted for Theft” poster girls with 538.

Mid-March 2011: Coming off a 7-17 season in 2010, it was doubtful that anybody would have expected this season’s Raider boys basketball team to be a 20-game winner. But the Raiders finished 20-9, won their first two games in the Union County Tournament before falling to national power St. Patrick’s and advanced to the semifinals of the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 Tournament.

Senior Charles Oliver, not only had the ability to bang the 3-pointers, but he also could drive to the basket, roll in the lay-ups, draw fouls or pass off to an open teammate. He averaged 21.8 points-per-game, three assists per game and 5.6 rebounds per game. He finished his high school career with 1,150 points.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



David B. Corbin (March 2019 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
IN THE SPOTLIGHT FROM THE START...Freshman Roan Baker proved that he had star qualities for the Blue Devil boys swim team right from the start. Later in the season at the Meet of Champions, Baker, Tom Brennan, Zach Youssef and Cooper Prieto placed eighth in the 200-medley relay (March 2019).



David B. Corbin (March 2017 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
COUGAR TEAM LEADERS...Cougar sophomore Lauren Williamson, No. 10, and junior Cam Wichelns, No. 32, led offensively and defensively. Wichelns scored 350 points and Williamson finished with 186 points (March 2019).

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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)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
FINE SOPHOMORE YEAR...Raider junior Anthony Robinson, right, placed second in the district at 152-lbs and finished 28-8. He will compoete at 160-lbs.

Raiders Return Wealth of Vets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Shjoyoye was a very big surprise to everybody except his coaches last year. Shoyoye, a JV wrestler his sophomore year, banded a number of opponents to the mat with his devastating lateral drops at 195-lbs. Shoyoye placed third in the UCT and second in the district to Mike Massa (Seton Hall Prep) who went on to win the region and place sixth at AC. His UCT semifinal loss to Ibn Hall of Linden was avenged less than two weeks later with a 10-6 victory. Shoyoye, who is expected to compete at 220-lbs this season, finished with a 33-6 record.

Anthony Robinson gained a lot of confidence throughout the season, placed second in the district at 152-lbs and finished with a 28-8 record. He is expected to compete at 160-lbs this season. Lerner competed at 220-lbs last year and also found his lateral drop takedowns to be beneficial. Lerner placed second in the district and finished 31-9. He will compete at 195-lbs this season.

Other impressive returning veterans are senior CJ Estevez, who competed at 285-lbs and finished with a 21-13 record and senior Kyle Robinson, who competed at 138-lbs and finished 15-15. He will remain at 138-lbs. Breaking into the lineup at 160-lbs later in the season Jayden

Nyamiaka, now a senior, finished with an 8-4 record. He is expected to compete at 170-lbs. Junior Ben Root (132-lbs) finished 18-15 last year and will remain at that slot.

"I am so happy that we are able to have a wrestling season this year. With so many seniors in the starting lineup, it would have been very upsetting for them if the entire season was shut down. The practice room is a little different; multiple practice sessions, constant sanitizing and distancing, but the kids are excited and have been working hard since day 1. They can't wait to open up the season on March 18th at home vs. Cranford," Coach Fabiano expressed.

Other key matches will be against South Plainfield, Rahway, Westfield and Roselle Park.

RAIDER VARSITY LINEUP:
106 - Michael Brennan, So
113 - Vincent Amato, So
120 - Joey Larmore, Sr
126 - Andre Carinhas, Sr
132 - Ben Root, Jr
138 - Kyle Robinson, Sr
145 - Brandon Bowles, Sr
152 - Jordan Zambell, Jr / Brodie Robertson, Jr
160 - Anthony Robinson, Jr
170 - Jayden Nyamiaka, Sr
182 - Thomas Agueros, Sr
195 - Robert Lerner, Jr
220 - Larry Shoyoye, Sr
HWT - Christian Estevez, Sr

Cougar Matmen Facing Season Of Very Competitive Schedule

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

152-lbs. Shriner placed second in the UCT, grabbed a district crown and finished 23-13.

Also returning, senior Jimmy Gluck, competing at 132-lbs, placed second in the district and finished with a 29-13 record. He is expected to remain at 132-lbs. Senior Luke DiGiovanni placed second in the UCT and second in the district at 138-lbs to finish 20-7 last year. He will remain at 138-lbs. Sophomore Shane Kanterman, who placed third in the district and finished 25-13 at 160-lbs last year, has taken a giant leap to compete at

junior Jake Lies will be at 182-lbs.

The Cougars' first key match was scheduled for March 17 against Rahway. Today (March 18), they will travel to Scotch Plains to face an experienced Raider squad. Other key matches will be against Roselle Park on March 25 and Westfield on April 8.

Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman commented, "This is a special season because no one knows what tomorrow holds, so this year we are taking things one day at a time focusing on the now and making the best of what we have. We all understand that this is not the same."



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DISTRICT 14 CHAMPION...Cranford Cougar junior Kevin Shriner, right, won the District 14 title at 285-lbs last year.

195-lbs this season.

Others returning with some varsity experience are: sophomores Mason Hooey and Connor Hoeffling who are slotted at 145-lbs and sophomore Dylan MacDonald who will occupy the 220-lb slot.

Sophomore Mike Tona will be at 106-lbs with freshman Mike Ramirez at 113-lbs and freshman Alex Muller at 120-lbs. Sophomore Quinten Connolly and senior Brendan Reilly will vie for the 126-lb slot. Senior Harry Gilmartin will be at 170-lbs and

LINEUP AND GRADE LEVEL:
106 Mike Tona sophomore
113 Mike Ramirez freshman
120 Alex Muller freshman
126 Quinten Connolly sophomore, Brendan Reilly senior
132 Jimmy Gluck senior
138 Luke Digiovanni senior
145 Connor Hoeffling sophomore, Mason Hooey sophomore
152 Colin Murray junior, Lucas Esposito sophomore
160
170 Harry Gilmartin senior
182 Jake Lies junior
195 Shane Kanterman sophomore
220 Dylan Macdonald sophomore
Hwt Kevin Shriner junior



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TO COMPETE AT 113-LBS...Blue Devil sophomore Ethan Composto, top, placed 2nd in the district and 3rd in the UCT last year at 106-lbs.

Blue Devils to Fill Vacant Slots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

11 at 106-lbs last year. He is expected to compete at 113-lbs. Murphy, who competed at 145-lbs then dropped to 138-lbs come tournament time, placed second in the UCT, third in the district and finished 23-10. He is expected to fill the 152-lb slot.

Senior Anthony Ciotta, who competed at 152-lbs then dropped to 145-lbs, will fill the 145-lbs slot. Senior Mike Price was on the injury list part of last year but competed several bouts in the 152-160-lb range. He is expected to compete at 170-lbs. Junior Jack Price, who competed mostly at 195-lbs last year, has jumped to the 285-lbs class. Juniors James McDermott and Dan Moraiu both had several varsity bouts last year and will compete in the 182-195-lb classes.

The Blue Devils, who are wrestling an almost exclusively Union County

schedule, open their season at Elizabethtown tomorrow, March 18. Their key matches will be against Roselle Park (Tuesday, March 23), Scotch Plains-Fanwood (Saturday, April 3), Cranford (Thursday, April 8) and Rahway (Thursday, April 15).

WESTFIELD VARSITY LINEUP:
106 - Lucas Bowen-Crupi (senior)
113 - Ethan Composto (soph)
120 - Brandon Ribiero (soph)
126 - Aidan Harper (soph)
132 - Luke Jacobs (junior)
138 - TBD - Aidan Paul (jr), Tyler Sontz (jr), Richard DeRick (soph). Connor Ballingall (jr)
145 - Anthony Ciotta (sr)
152 - Michael Murphy (soph)
160 - TBD - Cottler Vierschilling (jr), Luke Vaccaro (soph), Travis Smith (sr), Shinno Tanaka (sr)
170 - Michael Price (sr)
182/195 - James McDermott (jr)/Daniel Moraiu (jr)
220 - Johnny Heard (senior)
285 - Jack Price (jr)

Devilfish Complete Season With Sprint Swim Meet

The Westfield Area YMCA Devilfish swim team capped off its regular season with a sprint meet on February 21. The meet, a combination of 50's and 100's, was broken out into two sessions with 12/under swimming in the afternoon and 13/over swimming in the evening.

Ahead of championship season, many Devilfish swam best times including Emily Constable bettering her 13/14 100-breaststroke record with a 1:04.41. With the regular season now over the swimmers are preparing for what will be a very different kind of championship season. Though the in-person competition against multiple teams will not be happening this year, the team is working hard to swim best times and have fun

A special thanks to head coach Chris Cipolla, assistant head coach

Meg Myers and all the other coaches for making this season feel as normal as possible for the kids. As the season winds down we want to give a special thank you to a few parents, whom without their help, these meets would not be possible. Thank you to Oscar Camacho for live recording the meets so the parents can watch their swimmers, Matt Kennedy and Bob Young for working in the booth to run the timing system and to Ed Brown and his team of officials, many of whom worked multiple meets where their kids were not swimming.

Finally, thank you to all of the parents for volunteering to time and for watching your kids swim from afar. We are hopeful that we will have a regular season next year and look forward to all being in the bleachers to cheer our swimmers on

** A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror **

Mid-March 2011: Giant steps forward revealed a shining light at the end of a long tunnel of hard but focused work by this year's Blue Devils wrestling team. And that hard work resulted in a 16-7 record, that tied the all-time WHS record for wins, and the first New Jersey state champion that WHS has had in 35 years.

Out of nearly 32 competitors in his weight class, senior Christian Barber was the only one who finished his season, let alone his high school career, with a victory by winning the NJSIAA 152-lb championship in Atlantic City. Barber finished his glorious career with a 112-24 record (second all-time WHS in wins), three District 11 titles, a Union County Tournament title and a state championship.

Mid March 2009: Two of three goals were accomplished by this year's Blue Devil girls basketball team that finished with a 15-10 record. The accomplishments came by way of a Watchung Conference (WC) National Division title and a very competitive game with North Hunterdon in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament. Senior point guard/captain

ference champions and placed first in the District 11 Tournament.

Mid March 2007: Tenaciousness and defensive maturity paid off for the Raider girls' basketball team that won the Union County Tournament and finished the season with a 17-9 record. The influence of senior Co-Captains, point guard Allie Zazzali and guard Lauren Mains on their teammates was phenomenal. Zazzali sank 967 career points. This season, she led in scoring with 436, was second with 98 assists and was the main thief with 52. Mains, a very athletic and physical player, consistently found her way to the basket off the dribble and totaled 156 points.

Mid March 2007: According to Head Coach Mike Tirone, "This indeed was the best year ever for Westfield High School bowling." The Blue Devils were National Division and Watchung Conference Champions with a record of 17-1. The record included a WC record of 110 points. The team won 14 of the 17 matches by a 7-0 score, the most shutouts in team history. By season's end, the Blue Devils' record swelled to 26-1.

won at 148-lbs in 1963, Harry Wowchuck won at 141-lbs in 1964 and Rudy Lanza won at 135-lbs in 1965".

March 2004: The words "Blue Devils" in the Westfield High School boys basketball team's nickname signifies "heat" and this year's Blue Devils finished with a 16-8 record, the best since 1977. Senior guard Jan Cocozziello scored 360, had 37 steals and tied senior forward Joe

Korfmacher in rebounds with 128.

March 2004: The Blue Devil girls indoor track team has been selected as the Union County "Team of the Year" by *The Star-Ledger*. The Blue Devils swept the UC Relays and the UC Track and Field titles. Junior Emily MacNeil (800 meters) and the foursome of MacNeil, Annie Onishi, Meg Driscoll and Jennell Carter (4x400 meters) made the All-Union First Team.



David B. Corbin (March 2004 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WORKING HIS WAY INTO THE 127-LB FINALS...Raider Derek Francavilla, left, arm drags Jerome Greco of Newark Academy and grapevines his leg in an effort to slither around behind in the 127-lb semifinal bout. Francavilla won, 5-1, to advance to the title bout (March 2004).



David B. Corbin (March 2011) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A FAMILY AFFAIR AT ATLANTIC CITY...Blue Devil Christian Barber, right, squares off at center mat with Conor Brennan of Brick Township in the 152-lb. semifinal bout as his father roots for him in the background. Barber won, 4-3, in overtime then defeated Brearley's Devin Geoghegan, 3-2, in overtime to become state champion (March 2011).

Tara Handza, a four-year starter, sank 340 points this season to bring her career total to 873. Junior Diana Venezia scored 245 points and led the team with 174 rebounds and 22 blocked shots.

Mid March 2007: Several firsts were recorded by the Raider wrestling team. For the first time, the Raiders won 20 matches, for the first time, they competed in the sectional finals, and, for the first time, the Raiders had two individuals break the 100-career win mark in the same season. Additionally, they were the Watchung Con-

March 14, 2004: Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior matman Derek Francavilla (125-lbs) led a band of four Raiders into the NJSIAA State Wrestling Tournament at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City and returned home a second-place medalist. Raider junior Steve Mineo (130-lbs) took fourth-place and senior Andrew Silber (171-lbs) grabbed fifth place.

The Raiders had three state champions in the mid-1960s under Head Coach Mike Sorrentino, a Union County Wrestling Hall of Famer. According to Sorrentino, "Steve Parker

Westfield Devilfish Matt Chen Selected NJ 'Y' Outstanding Scholar Athlete

The Westfield Area YMCA Devilfish are pleased to announce that Matthew Chen, a 2020 graduate of the Devilfish swim team has been selected as the 2020 NJ YMCA Outstanding Scholar Athlete.

Matthew started swimming competitively at the Westfield Y on the Devilfish at age 6 (in 2008). After a few successful Devilfish seasons, followed by some time swimming with another club team, Matthew returned to the Devilfish in 2018 where he finished his competitive swim career as a senior in 2020. Matthew graduated from Regis High School in New York City, a private all-boys' Jesuit institution founded in 1914. He lives in Westfield and is currently attending the University of Southern California.

Matthew, along with the entire Chen family, is honored to have been selected as the recipient of this award. The award was open to all class of 2020 YMCA swimmers in the state of NJ.

ished his competitive swim career as a senior in 2020. Matthew graduated from Regis High School in New York City, a private all-boys' Jesuit institution founded in 1914. He lives in Westfield and is currently attending the University of Southern California.

Matthew, along with the entire Chen family, is honored to have been selected as the recipient of this award. The award was open to all class of 2020 YMCA swimmers in the state of NJ.



Matt Chen

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Fanwood Animal Hospital is looking to hire additional staff for our Front Desk team. The main responsibilities include: answering phones, booking appointments, checking patients in & out, processing payments, & maintaining client/patient records. Excellent customer service skills are required, as well as the ability to multi-task in a fast paced environment. Hours include evenings & some Saturday mornings.

For more information or to submit a resume please contact us at info@fanwood.vet Thanks!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF
ORDINANCE 21-09-R
AND PUBLIC HEARING**

An ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood on March 1, 2021. Copies of this ordinance can be obtained without cost in the Clerk's Office, at the Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:53(H) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$110,000 FOR SEVERANCE LIABILITIES RESULTING FROM ACCRUED LEAVE IN CONNECTION WITH THE RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption on April 5, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., via virtual conference and phone conference.

Kathleen Holmes
Borough Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Times Fee: \$29.58

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF GARWOOD
ORDINANCE NO. 21-04**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20-13 WHICH FIXES SALARIES AND WAGES OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. The following named officials and employees of the Borough of Garwood shall be entitled to an annual salary or wages hereinafter set forth opposite each respective classification:

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Borough Administrator	100,000	120,000
Municipal Clerk	60,000	65,000

SECTION 2. The salaries and wages provided for in Section 1 hereof shall be payable bi-weekly unless otherwise ordered by resolution of the Mayor and Council.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith shall be and they are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance No. 21-04 was introduced and passed on first reading at a meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, held on the **11th DAY OF MARCH 2021**, and that Ordinance No. 21-04, will be taken up for further consideration for final passage at the meeting of said Borough Council to be held via VIRTUAL MEETING, on the **18th DAY OF MARCH 2021**, at 7:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter as said matter can be heard, at which time and place all persons who may be interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same.


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 laptop/PC/desktop/cell phone: <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).

ATTEST:
Christina Ariemma
Municipal Clerk
Fee: \$80.58
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader

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Battleship New Jersey Gets \$500,000 Preserve NJ Grant

TRENTON – Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver joined the Battleship New Jersey executive staff and state and local officials March 4 to present a Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund Grant administered by the New Jersey Historic Trust (Trust), an affiliate of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The \$500,000 Capital Preservation Level II Grant was awarded to the Home Port Alliance for the USS New Jersey, Inc. and will be used to continue to replace and restore the battleship's historic teakwood deck.

"This is a very exciting day for the Trust and Battleship New Jersey, who are once again teaming up to preserve one of the most treasured and widely visited historic places in New Jersey," said Lt. Governor Oliver, who serves as the DCA commissioner. "This grant round is going to breath new life into the Battleship New Jersey's ongoing preservation work as well as other heritage tourism sites throughout the state."

Last month, Governor Phil Murphy signed a \$11.7 million appropriations bill approving 50 Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund Grant recommendations that were made by the New Jersey Historic Trust in the fall. The 2021 fund is providing preservation planning, heritage tourism and capital projects to save and promote historic sites throughout the state. There are multiple categories and levels of grants awarded by the fund. The Battleship New Jersey received a Capital Preservation Level II Grant, which may be used for construction expenses related to the preservation, restoration, repair and rehabilitation of historic property and professional fees necessary to prepare and complete the construction project.

"(The Battleship New Jersey's) success serves as a model for everyone else and we're thrilled this grant will continue to preserve this important historic site," said New Jersey Historic Trust Executive Director Dorothy Guzzo.

The Battleship New Jersey, berthed less than five miles from the Philadelphia Naval Yard where it was built, is the only battleship museum in the state and one of the state's most visited historic sites with over 80,000 annual visitors. Thirty percent of the work crew

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

**NOTICE OF PARKING LOT USE
AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT
AMENDMENT**

The Township of Cranford has authorized an amendment to an agreement with JDS Entertainment LLC, dba Cranford Theater, for the utilization of the parking lot at Orange Avenue Pool for the Drive-In Movie Venue and the storage of the Movie Screen in the parking lot of Orange Avenue Pool. The amended agreement and Resolution No. 2021-142 authorizing said Contract are available for public inspection at the Office of the Township Clerk.

Awarded to: JDS Entertainment LLC, dba Cranford Theater, 25 North Avenue West, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Service: Use of the Orange Avenue Pool Parking Lot for Drive-in Movie Venue and Storage of the Movie Screen

Date: March 9, 2021

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$24.48

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF GARWOOD
LAND USE BOARD**

NOTICE OF DECISION

On February 24, 2021, the Borough of Garwood Land Use Board - sitting and acting as the Zoning Board of Adjustment (the "Board") - adopted a Resolution of Approval granting the property owner and applicant, MZ Homes, L.L.C. (PB20-04) (the "Applicant"), a bulk ("c") variance to allow for the construction of a side-by-side, 2-family dwelling consisting of approximately 3,138 square feet (the "Duplex") on a vacant / unimproved lot located at 640 Willow Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey 07027, further identified as Block 302, Lot 19 on the Tax Maps of the Borough of Garwood (the "Property"). The Duplex will contain 2, 3-bedroom units and an enclosed 1-car garage that will be accessed via a shared driveway. The Property is located in the RB (Two-Family Residential) Zone District (the "RB Zone"). The RB Zone permits 2-family dwellings when the dwelling units are separated by unpierced ceilings and floors, not walls (top-bottom units). However, side-by-side unit configurations are not permitted. Therefore, as part of the Application, the Board granted the Applicant a bulk ("c") variance to allow for the construction of a side-by-side Duplex as described above.

Copies of the Resolution, Application materials, and Plans can be viewed here: https://garwood.org/pb_notices. For individuals lacking the resources, know-how, or ability to access these materials electronically, hardcopies of same are on file in the Land Use Board Office in the Borough of Garwood Municipal Building, 403 South Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey 07027. However, they may not be readily available for in-person inspection due to the ongoing Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Therefore, anyone interested in reviewing the Resolution, Application materials, and Plans in-person should contact the Board Secretary via e-mail at A-Lewis@garwood.org to make the necessary arrangements.

Stephen F. Hehl, Esq.
HEHL OFFICES OF JAVERBAUM
WURGAST HICKS KAHN WINKSTROM &
SININS, P.C.
370 Chestnut Street
Union, New Jersey 07083
Phone: 908-687-7000
Attorney for MZ Homes, L.L.C.
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$49.98

who built the ship were women, trained in welding among other trades.

"As the most decorated battleship in the 245-year history of the United States Navy, grants like these will continue to allow the Battleship New Jersey to be a premier tourist attraction and museum and memorial for decades to come," said Marshall Spevak, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Battleship New Jersey.

The scope of work for this grant calls for the replacement of the teakwood deck. Teak is an extremely expensive wood, so the staff and carpenters have developed and implemented a creative and innovative method to cut down on the use of teak while retaining the historic integrity of the deck. A five-year capital initiative to replace the remaining deteriorated teak deck started in 2019 with the project cost totaling \$2.8 million.

The Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund was established by legislation in 2016 after New Jersey voters approved a change to the state constitution to provide a stable source of funding for open space, farmland and historic preservation by dedicating funds from the corporate business tax. Since 1990, more than \$156 million in matching grants has been awarded to worthy historic preservation construction and planning projects throughout the state.

For more information on the New Jersey Historic Trust and its funding programs, visit: www.njht.org.

For more information on the Battleship New Jersey, visit: www.battleshipnewjersey.org.

County Prosecutor's Office Presents Roundtable on Youth Bias

COUNTY — Launched by Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal in 2018, the 21-County, 21st Century Community Policing Project aims to foster collaboration and engagement among law enforcement agencies, local organizations and community members through quarterly presentations on social justice-centered topics.

This quarter's installment is presented as a roundtable discussion between attorney Union County Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo and community leaders on the New Jersey Interagency Task Force to Combat Youth Bias's 2020 report, "An Anti-Bias Vision for the Next Generation."

Participants included the Honorable Leland McGee, retired New Jersey Administrative Law Judge, founder of local organization Social Justice Matters and co-founder of the Joint Committee for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation of Scotch Plains/Fanwood; Danielle West-Augustin, chief academic officer and director of the Queen City Academy Charter School in Plainfield; and Keon Candia, local Linden resident and

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Board of Adjustment adopted resolutions at its meeting on March 8, 2021, for the following applications decided upon at the meetings held on February 8, 2021.

Christine Escribano, 415 Mountain Avenue. Applicant sought approval to construct a driveway turnaround, patio expansion, and a front and rear porch addition contrary to Section 12.03D, 13.021, 12.04G, 12.04F1, 17.05A of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a front yard setback of 18.04 feet where the ordinance requires a minimum front yard setback of 25 feet; to allow a building coverage of 21.39% where the Ordinance allows a maximum building coverage of 20%; to allow an improvement coverage of 52.7% where the Ordinance allows a maximum improvement coverage of 50%; to allow a driveway width of 28.6 feet where the Ordinance allows a maximum driveway width of 24 feet. Application approved with conditions.

Neil Dias, 1416 Boulevard. Applicant sought approval to construct a new deck contrary to Section 12.04F2 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a coverage by decks of 5% (300 square feet) where the Ordinance allows maximum coverage by decks of 2% (400 square feet). Application approved with conditions.

Stephanie Nash, 237 Munsee Way. Applicant sought approval to construct an inground swimming pool and a cabana contrary to Section 12.04G of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a coverage by improvements of 34.38 (9,130 square feet) where the Ordinance allows a maximum coverage by improvements of 30% (8,000 square feet). Application approved with conditions.

David & Amy Nathanson, 1 Breeze Knoll Drive. Applicants sought approval to construct a two-story addition at the rear of the existing three-car garage contrary to Section 12.04G and 11.04E13of the Land Use Ordinance to allow an improvement coverage of 34.5% (11,877.2 square feet) where the Ordinance allows maximum improvement coverage of 30% (8,000 square feet); to allow a building mass at the side yard of +/-50 feet where the Ordinance allows a maximum building mass at the side yard of 25 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.

Linda Jacus
Board Secretary
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$55.59

POLICE BLOTTER

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WESTFIELD

Sunday, March 7, a resident of Barchester Way reported that their 2018 BMW SUV was stolen from their driveway. The resident stated that they believe the vehicle was unlocked and that their vehicle key was inside the vehicle at the time of the theft. The resident also reported that their purse, along with child-safety restraints, were inside the vehicle at the time of the theft. The vehicle's estimated value is over \$45,000 and the cost of the other items stolen is over \$900.

Monday, March 8, a victim reported that he left his wallet on the hood of a motor vehicle in the area of East Broad Street and Hampton Court. The victim stated that he then drove away, leaving the wallet on the hood of the same vehicle. The wallet was later found by a pedestrian walking on East Broad Street, who immediately surrendered it to the Westfield Police Department. However, when the wallet was returned to the victim, they indicated that a \$100 bill was missing as well as a credit card.

Monday, March 8, a resident of the 600 block of Prospect Street reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated that one or more unknown suspects gained access to her and her husband's joint account by utilizing their credit card to make a cash withdrawal in the amount of \$2,800. The unknown suspect or suspects used the credit card to make multiple purchases as well. The amount of those purchases was unknown at press time. These purchases were made without authorization from the victim or her husband.

Wednesday, March 10, a resident of the 1000 block of Central Avenue reported that they believe they were

a victim of fraud. The victim explained that they were applying for an online career opportunity. The victim stated that as a part of the application process they were directed to purchase gift cards and send images of the gift cards purchased along with personal information. Shortly afterward, the victim realized that they were the victim of fraud, with a monetary loss of \$2,500.

Thursday, March 11, a resident reported that their identity was used to open two separate lines of credit. The victim did not open these lines of credit, nor did they authorize the lines of credit to be opened on their behalf. Over \$1,000 was charged to one of the financial institutions in the victim's name. Both lines of credit have been closed.

Saturday, March 13, a resident of the 500 block of Dudley Court reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated that she bought \$1,000 worth of Target gift cards. She then provided the gift card numbers to an unknown suspect, who falsely pretended to be an Amazon security employee.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Tuesday, March 9, a resident of Cook Avenue reported fraudulent activity on a credit card account. The matter is under investigation.

Tuesday, March 9, a resident of Plainfield Avenue reported fraudulent activity on a Facebook account. The matter is under investigation.

Friday, March 12, a resident of Old Farm Road reported fraudulent activity regarding government documents sent to his house. The matter is under investigation.

Friday, March 12, Carlos R. Leon-Alfaro, 23, of Plainfield was arrested on active warrants out of Warren and Bedminster during a motor vehicle stop. Leon-Alfaro was transported to police headquarters and processed.

Saturday, March 13, a resident of Tussel Lane reported fraudulent activity on an internet account. The matter is under investigation.

CRANFORD

Monday, March 15, Abigail Reiley, 18, of Mountain Top, Pa., was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession of paraphernalia. A 2008 Nissan was stopped at Centennial Avenue and Raritan Road for an illegal turn. Following an investigation on scene, police arrested the driver, Reiley, for possession of suspected LSD. She was processed and provided with a Superior Court appearance date. In addition, Reiley was issued motor vehicle summonses for making an illegal turn, a seatbelt violation and possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle.

Tuesday, March 16, Monica Caponigro, 34, of Union was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). A 2020 Volkswagen was stopped on the 100 block of Lincoln Avenue East when an officer observed the vehicle idling curbside. Following an investigation on scene, police arrested the driver, Caponigro, for DWI. She was processed and provided with a municipal court appearance date. In addition, Caponigro was issued motor vehicle summonses for failure to possess a valid registration card, failure to possess a valid insurance card, failure to notify a change of address, suspended driving and refusal to submit to the taking of breath samples.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD
PLANNING BOARD**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the ordinances of the Town of Westfield and the statutes of the State of New Jersey, and in order to comply with the Executive Orders signed by Governor Murphy and in an effort to follow best practices recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that an application for development, Application No. PB-20-11 to be located in Zone GB2-AHO on the premises known as the Address: **440 North Avenue East, Westfield, New Jersey, Block No. 3202, Lot No. 7**, has been submitted by Applicant: 4440 North Avenue LLC, 108 North Union Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016.

Applicant is proposing ten (10) residential rental units consisting of nine (9) two-bedroom apartments and one three-bedroom apartment. This development is pursuant to the GB2-AHO Affordable Housing Overlay District and has two affordable units. This use requires fourteen (14) parking stalls and the applicant is providing eighteen (18) stalls.

Applicant is requesting two bulk variances, one for front yard setback where the prevailing setback on the street is fifteen (15) feet and applicant is proposing one (1) foot. The second bulk variance is for parking area setback where five (5) feet on the side are required and two (2) feet are being proposed.

In addition, applicant requests any other variances, waivers or relief that the Board may require.

The Planning Board will conduct a VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING on the application of the undersigned, at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. This hearing will be electronically presented as described below on April 5, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Residents who wish to attend and participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of participating or making a public comment at the hearing on the Application should follow the instructions and complete the registration form available by activating the link to the VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING that will be included on the meeting agenda for the

PUBLIC NOTICE

Planning Board, which will be posted on the Township of Westfield's website at least 48 hours prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

The public can join the meeting and participate electronically or by phone by accessing the following link <http://bit.ly/WFBOMeeting>. Meeting Dial-In Information Phone #: 470.381.2552 or 646.518.9805 Webinar ID: 567 240 016 and press # on your phone Passcode: 836469. The application plans, and all documents submitted in relation to the application are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey. A digital copy is available by contacting the Board Secretary Linda Jacus at ljacus@westfieldnj.gov, or by viewing the documents on the Town of Westfield website: <https://www.westfieldnj.gov>. Members of the public who have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the remote meeting process, or who are unable to access the plans digitally, should contact the Board Secretary Linda Jacus at (908) 789-4100, extension 4602, or by email ljacus@westfieldnj.gov.

THIS HEARING WILL BE A VIRTUAL HEARING. THE LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VIRTUAL HEARING WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE MEETING AGENDA FOR THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, WHICH WILL BE POSTED ON THE TOWNSHIP OF WESTFIELD'S WEBSITE AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE HEARING.

The Applicant reserves the right to supplement this application and/or seek at the time of hearing such other approvals, interpretations, variances and/or waivers as may be requested or required by the applicant or the Township of Westfield Planning Board and such other variances, relief, exemptions, deviations and/or waivers that may be required upon an analysis of the plans and testimony at the **VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING** on the application.

Gary S. Goodman, Esq.
23 North Avenue East
Cranford, New Jersey 07016
Telephone: 908.272.6900
Email: goodmanlaw23@outlook.com
Attorney for: 440 North Avenue LLC
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$91.29

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Distinguished Honor Roll
8th Grade

Alana Andersen, Gali Avni, Sophia Basaldua, Evan Bauer, Avery Bell, Isabella Blessington, Avery Brooks, Jolie Bruder, William Cabral, Sebastian Cabrera, Luca Carollo, John Clark, Savannah Cohen, Liam Concannon, Charlotte Cotroneo, Kaitlyn D'Alessandro, Mahika Dang, Priscilla Dayon, Keira Deignan, Quinlan Doherty, Jessica Dong, Carson Donnelly, Erica Donohue, Emily Drennan, Benjamin Duan, Maria Dziekanska, Alexander Ebert, Zachary Epp, Garrett Ferguson, Enzo Ferrero, Michael Fisher, Daniel Flores, James Foerst, Lauren Furey, Sophia Fussman, Olivia Gaffney, Marcella Gallo, Garrett Gao, Emily Gasson, Aedan Gayanilo, Micaela Gensler-Canale, Nicole Gerckens, Ella Giacalone, Christian Gilford, Chloe Golub, Daniel Gonzalez, Amanda Goodman, Kate Guglielmo, Addison Heuck, Jack Hill, Sarah Hobbie, Leah Hoffman, Alyssa Hourie, Mallory Hughes, Henry Iannuzzi, Luka Jansveld, Anna Jemison, Lyla Jenner, Chloe Katz, Sydney Kim, Grace Koetje, Matthew Kopolow, Gracie Koslowsky, Maya Koslowsky, Gemma Lagatta, Alexandra Laguna, Gabrielle Laitman, Madelyn Lee, Kyra Lentzner, Alex Linsen, Charlotte Liu, Francesco LoGrippo, Ethan Lung, Grace Malanowski, Amelia Mamlet, Ignacio Marro, Lila Martin, Paulina Maya, Luca McLaren, Maya Mehta, Jorge Mendoza, Gabriella Mercado, Elizabeth Miles, Abigail Mokrzycki, Sara Molen, Elena Morey, Sabrina Muller, Danae Murphy, Shreyas Nair, Sofia Panora, Jake Pardes, Gabriella Pardo, Sienna Pastore, Andres Phillips Vazquez, Tyler Pietrewicz, Brian Polito, Drew Pravlik, Charles Prieto, Katherine Purse, Claire Qin, Hannah Ramdath, Jaslene Raphael, Samantha Rever, Noah Rubenstein, Gulrukh Saad, Sienna Schael, Parth Sharma, Sophia Silecchia, Samantha Silva, Julianna Snyder, Cassie Solomon, Tessa Srebniak, Abigail Stinton, Alina Summer-Brason, Spencer Sutcliffe, Madison Tacktickos, Olivia Thornton, Bianca Vesuna, Owen Waibel, Jack Wallin, Conor West, Riley Whitlock, Jaden Wilkerson, Amanda Williams, Brady Wilson, Jodi Wong, Sofia Wood, Lois Wright, Alice Xi, Wes Young, Chloe Yu, Samuel Zafra, Matthew Zheng

Honor Roll 8th Grade

Joshua Angel, Audrey Bassolino, Sara Blake, Alexa Bloch, Vince Edward Boado, Ava Braddock, Tyler Bradley, Samuel Braun, Logan Cabral, Aiden Carlucci, Lucas Chalfant, Jody Chen, Samuel Cohen, Sophia Conway, Riley Cortes, Colin Coyle, Ryan Dally, Natalie Debowski, Sophia DiSarno, Olivia Disko, Gavin Dwyer, Harrison Earnst, Parker Ebert, Jack Elfstrum, Emma Epstein, Brody Esler, Rachel Feuchtwanger, Elle Foster, James Furrer, Matthew Fusco, Christopher Galella, Danny Garcia, Eric Gilerson, Corey Gilford, Sharify Glasco, Jordan Hadel, Shoshana Handwerker, Brody Henderson, Jiang, Eshaan Khera, Heidi Klingelhofer, Jumel Koonce, Anna Kylish, Olivia Lawrence, Emma Lederman, Dwayne Magno, Olivia Marino,

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 March 11, 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. 21-03
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

Christina M. Ariemma, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood
County of Union
State of New Jersey
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$49.98

Victoria Marmarou, Devin Marotte, Alexa Marquet, Nigel Martinez, Juliana Martorina, Jack McDermott, Daniel McDevitt, Gavin McKeon, Jacqueline Moser, Owen Murphy, Sydney O'Connor, Tanis O'Marra-Chen, Ella Oberstein, Laura Oliveira, Archit Palit, Kathryn Price, Laila Quallis, Alexis Ray, Ella Reed, Max Reissman, Aaliyah Reyes, Livia Reyes, Connor Reynolds, Gisella Rittenhouse, Suzanna Rogers, Morgan Samet, Oliver Schifando, Aanand Shah, Phoebe Shapiro, Ethan Sinclair, Joshua Singer, Anna Sternberg, Colin Stone, Emma Sullivan, Will Sun, Kuejiro Tanaka, Lauren Thomas, Dominic Tomasso, Audra Toth, Zoe Urbano, Hailey Vaccaro, Cole Varner, Sonya Velkov, Benjamin Wancier, Austin Williams, Aidan Wilson, Ziyen Yaqub, Ethan Zhu

Distinguished Honor Roll
7th Grade

Lance Alexander, Brady Andretta, Anya Ausiello, Lia Barton, Hailey Beckerman, Pravitt Bhatla, Carter Blatt, Emma Blaustein, Emily Bracco, Vivian Bryan, Benjamin Bukiet-Beker, Christian Buonopane, Jenny Butler, Colin Cabral, Owen Cederqvist, Ethan Cha, Cooper Chororos, Gillian Cohen, Ava Contrast, Michael Cuomo, Deven Davies, Emelia Dengler, Jacob Dickey, Oliver Dobek, Sofia Droskosis, Josephine Duguid, Aubrey Dunham, Julian Duval, Kayla Edelson, Kylie Eglowitz, Lily Erneta, Bella Fajardo, Emma Filipe, Hana Forbes, Olivia Frank, Jillian Gaffney, Douglas Gee, Simon Gunzberg, Autumn Harper, Zoe Hohlfeld, Audrey Hu, Manasvini Jairam, Julia Janaczek, Timothy Jiao, Arianna Kaban, Dylan Lagrimas, Katherine Lai, Mary Lane, Annabel Lang, Elliot Lehman, Jared Lehner, Saige Levitt, Annabel Lin, Audrey Lin, Liliana Lincoln, Gemma LoGrippo, Megan Logan, Benjamin Lyons, Sonya Machat, Miron Manescu, Anna Mangold, Chloe Martin, Flynn Martin, Grace Matus, Dmitry Mauryshchay, Vasiliki Morey, Liam Mulkeen, Tyler Naeseth, Sarah Nissim, Meenakshi Oberoi, Kiran Patel, Neeva Patel, Nikki Patel, Olivier Paul, Stephen Paul, Mila Payne, Greta Pinto, Kayla Reyes, Kevin Reynders, Sarah Richards, Camille Ripper, Alex Rokhsar, Christian Ruiz, Elana Ryskin, Alice Schaefer, Claire Sewald, Sarina Sherman, Madeleine Smith, Reid Snyder, Rassa Sohrabi, William Song, Chloe Spatz, Chloe Stadlin, Sarah Stavin, Matthew Swaminathan, Ansley Tarleton, Charlotte Thorburn, Olivia Tieri, Logan Welsh, Rachel Werner, Ellie Witten, Madeline Yong, Anna Zadrozny, Matias Zarate Gomez, Elliott Zhu

Honor Roll 7th Grade

Leah Abrams, Hannah Altman, Ijeoma Anyaele, Katherine Augustyn, Griffin Bach, Connor Bassolino, Samuel Beilis, Olivia Black, Sofia Black, Matthew Bonn, Nicholas Brito, Elijah Brown, Anthony Bulger, Courtney Carew, Alyssa Catalano, Emmy Christiansen, Valentina Ciucci, Audrina Cohall, Lucas Damji, Christopher De Pinto, Joseph DiMattina, Sally Drake, Christopher Estrada, Aubrie Fahrenbach, Erica Filipe, Quinn Flor, Andrea Garcia, Araceli Gayanilo, Hannah Gold, Jonathan Greeley, Sydney Herskowitz, Sofia Jemison, Fengyi Jiang, Sam Judka, Oliver Khan, Nicolas Kowalak, Matthew Krihak, Sophie Lane, Alexander Lawrence, Charlotte Lehman, Jonah Lichtenthal, Hannah Linsen, Francesca Mani, Sophia Mattielli, Declan McGorty, Matthew McKenna, Piper Mogila, Sascha Oliveira, Sophia Opryshko, Lena Peachman, Robert Qi, Maren Restivo, Benjamin Rotter, Jake Russell, Griffin Salerno, Callie Schmidt, Jacqueline Schuttevaer, Hanna Sclar, Joshua Semler, Reece Sharma, Alex Singer, Dylan Singer, William Singer, Luke Szyburski, John Soriero, Alaina Stewart, Victor Tang, Luca Von Boch, Hope Walsh, Megan Warmington, Melissa Weinberg, Sarah Weinberg, Cecilia Wiggins, Matthew Wong, Brandon Wright, Erin Yang, Melody Yau, Ashley Yenawine, Jake Zemsky, Chloe Zeng

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF GARWOOD
NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF
ORDINANCE 21-08-R
AND PUBLIC HEARING

An ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood on March 1, 2021. Copies of this ordinance can be obtained without cost in the Clerk's Office, at the Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING THE POWERS & DUTIES OF POLICE CHIEF; POWERS AND DUTIES OF POLICE DIRECTOR OF THE FANWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption on April 5, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., via virtual conference and phone conference.

Kathleen Holmes
Borough Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Times Fee: \$26.52



TO REFLECT AND REMEMBER...The Hanson Park Conservancy is conducting a fundraiser for a memorial bench, depicted in this painting by Jane Ramsey, that will honor the lives of the more than 150 residents of Cranford who have been lost to the pandemic.

Conservancy Raising Funds For Memorial Bench

CRANFORD — The Hanson Park Conservancy is seeking to honor the lives of the more than 150 Cranford residents lost to Covid-19 by placing a memorial bench next to the Butterfly Garden — a place designed for remembrance and reflection.

The Conservancy is holding a fundraiser to achieve this goal. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to this memorial. Supporters are welcome to contribute any dollar amount that they wish towards this project memorializing their neighbors. The bench is expected to be installed later this year and will include a plaque in tribute to those lost from Cranford.

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 21-06-R

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BOROUGH OF FANWOOD ORDINANCE 21-06-R

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING A POLICE CHIEF, CAPTAINS, LIEUTENANTS & CORPORALS; PROMOTIONS

WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 2021.

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Times Fee: \$19.38

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 21-05-R

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BOROUGH OF FANWOOD ORDINANCE 21-05-R

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING THE SENIOR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE FANWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 2021.

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Times Fee: \$19.38

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF GARWOOD
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
403 SOUTH AVENUE
GARWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07027
RESOLUTION NO. 21-071

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood has determined that there exists a need for professional engineering services for environmental engineering consulting services to be performed by a Licensed Site Remediation Professional in connection with the defense of a tax appeal where there is a claim of environmental contamination and the need to remediate same at an industrial/warehouse property located at 502-570 South Avenue in the Borough of Garwood; and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood:

1. That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Najarian Associates, One Industrial Way West, Eatontown, NJ 07724, for the provision of professional engineering services in connection with the above mentioned matter, contract term 04/01/2021 to 04/01/2022; and

2. That said Contractor shall receive fees not to exceed \$5,000.00, in accordance with the proposal dated March 8, 2021; and

3. That this contract is awarded without competitive bidding as professional services pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law; and

4. That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and

5. That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

I, Christina M. Ariemma, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Garwood hereby attest that this Resolution was adopted by the Council of the Borough of Garwood on March 11, 2021.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA,
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$55.08

The unique Hanson Park benches are handmade by a craftsman in upstate New York. They were chosen as part of the original design which envisioned a passive, environmentally-sensitive park along the Rahway River.

Tax-exempt contributions can be made by mailing a check directly to: HPC, P.O. Box 542, Cranford, N.J. 07016; visiting the website at hansonparkconservancy.com, or through the Hanson Park Conservancy Facebook page.

Details on the bench installation will be provided at a later date. Members of the community are always invited to visit Hanson Park, located at 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.

BUY, SELL, RENT, HIRE: goleader.com/classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 21-07-S

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BOROUGH OF FANWOOD ORDINANCE 21-07-S

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 86, SALARIES AND COMPENSATION, AND CHAPTER 67, POLICE DEPARTMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD

WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 2021.

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Times Fee: \$19.38

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
PLANNING BOARD

TAKE NOTICE, that on Monday, February 8, 2021, the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey, approved the application for Villane Building & Development, LLC for Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan and Major Subdivision approval for property located at 2328 and 2344 North Avenue, Block 8301, Lots 5 and 7. The Resolution memorializing said approval was duly presented and adopted by the Planning Board at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021. A copy of said Resolution has been filed in the office of the Planning Board and/or the office of the Municipal Clerk at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, and is available for public inspection. Should anyone encounter problems gaining access to the Municipal Building during the current public health crisis, please contact Shannon Rapant at (908) 322-6700, ext. 307 during regular business hours to discuss alternative arrangements on how to obtain a copy of the Resolution.

Shannon Rapant
Clerk/Land Use Secretary
1 T - 03/18/21, The Times Fee: \$26.52

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC FINANCE
BOND ORDINANCE 21-04-S
STATEMENTS AND SUMMARIES

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough of Fanwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey on March 15, 2021 and the 20-day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,221,000 FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AND, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$779,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION.

Purpose(s): Road improvements to Gere Place and Morse Avenue, including curbing and drainage; Acquisition of video equipment for the Police Department interview room; Acquisition of various vehicles for the Public Works Department, including but not limited to dump truck with plow, pick-up truck with plow and a leaf and brush bucket attachment; and COVID Special Emergency improvements, including but not limited to renovations to offices, police station, municipal court, which includes replacing cubicles with offices, expanding police locker room for female officers, converting all bathroom fixtures, creating separate entrance for construction office, rewiring server and computers, replacing doors with touch free entrances, purchasing temperature kiosks for all entrances and municipal court building, replacing the Fire Department radios and system, and replacement of plumbing in police and administration offices.

Appropriation: \$1,221,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$779,000
Grants (if any) Appropriated: \$400,000
expected to be received as a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
Section 20 Costs: \$70,000
Useful Life: 12.85 Years

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Times Fee: \$58.65

PUBLIC NOTICE
UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
6TH FLOOR
10 ELIZABETHTOWN PLAZA
MARCH 12, 2021

Under the terms of the "Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, C. 231, please be advised that the Union County Board of County Commissioners will be holding a **Special Meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. for the purposes of discussing the 2021 Budget.** These meetings of the Fiscal Affairs Committee are **NOT** Regular Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners. **NO** action will be taken.

While open to the public, there is no opportunity for public comment. The time and place for public comments on the 2021 Budget are designated to take place during the official Public Hearing on the 2021 Budget, which will be announced at time of the budget introduction in accordance with the law.

In adherence to the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) guidelines, this Union County Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee will be open to the public by electronic means, and as such, will be conducted through a teleconference via ZOOM Webinar. All members of the public may view the meeting by livestream at ucnj.org/commissioners. Any member of the public wishing to attend in the teleconference meeting, may do so by downloading ZOOM to their individual electronic device and must email the Clerk of the Board at jpellettiere@ucnj.org to receive the meeting-specific link and password to gain access to the teleconference. All requests **MUST** be submitted and received by the Clerk of the Board **NO LATER THAN NOON OF MARCH 18, 2021.**

James E. Pellettiere,
Clerk of the Board
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$42.33

www.goleader.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY
BOND ORDINANCE 21-03-S
STATEMENTS AND SUMMARIES

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough of Fanwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey on March 15, 2021 and the 20-day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Borough Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$120,000 FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS (SEWER CAPITAL) FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AND, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$114,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

Purpose(s): For road improvements to Gere Place and Morse Avenue (Sewer Capital), including curbing and drainage, and including all work or materials necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications thereon on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

Appropriation: \$120,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$114,000
Grants (if any) Appropriated: N/A
Section 20 Costs: \$30,000
Useful Life: 20 Years

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Times Fee: \$43.86

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF GARWOOD
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
403 SOUTH AVENUE
GARWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07027
RESOLUTION NO. 21-072

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood has determined that there exists a need for professional appraisal services for the Borough of Garwood's 2020/2021 tax appeals; and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood:

1. That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Timothy Hoffman Inc. Real Estate Appraisers and Consultants, P.O. Box 3030, Westfield, NJ 07090, for the provision of professional appraisal services in connection with the Borough of Garwood's 2020/2021 tax appeals, contract term 04/01/2021 to 04/01/2022; and

2. That said Contractor shall receive fees in accordance with the proposal dated March 5, 2021, not to exceed \$10,000.00; and

3. That this contract is awarded without competitive bidding as professional services pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law; and

4. That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and

5. That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

I, Christina M. Ariemma, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Garwood hereby attest that this Resolution was adopted by the Council of the Borough of Garwood on March 11, 2021.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA,
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 03/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$49.47

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St. Paul’s Steeple Concerts To Stream Celloist Oliver Herbert

WESTFIELD — Steeple Concerts at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Westfield will present a live streaming, solo recital by internationally-renowned cellist Oliver Herbert at 6 p.m. this Sunday, March 21. The online recital is the fourth in the 2020/

2021 “Season of Soloists” at Steeple Concerts. Cello enthusiasts, together with the general, music-loving public, are invited to view the recital on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeUetvjy3kTyNDEm-18e11A>. A

link to this concert, plus details on other Steeple Concert events, also is available at steepleconcerts.org.

Following current guidelines, the Herbert cello recital will be offered as a streaming video performance in lieu of an in-person concert. While tickets are not required, donations are encouraged to help cover the cost of presenting this professional, live-music event as part of the Steeple Concert 2020/2021 series. Donations may be made online at <https://www.steepleconcerts.org/donate>.

Mr. Herbert hails from San Francisco. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he studied with Carter Brey and Peter Wiley. He currently plays on a 1769 Guadagnini cello that belonged to the great Italian cellist Antonio Janigro (1918-1989), on loan from the Janigro family. His performances have been acclaimed for the “very vocal approach to his playing,” with praise that “regardless of the technical demands, he makes his cello sing.”

His recent solo and recital appearances include debuts with the San Francisco Symphony, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, among others. He has worked with renowned conductors such as Michael Tilson Thomas (San Francisco, New World, and London Symphonies), Juanjo Mena (Cincinnati Symphony) and Canadian conductor and pianist Yannick Nézet-Séguin (Montreal’s Orchestre Métropolitain, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Philadelphia Orchestra).

Among his recordings is a performance of Haydn’s *Cello Concerto in D* with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony.

Mr. Herbert’s most recent competition awards include both a top prize and special prize in the 2018 XI Witold Lutoslawski International Cello Competition (Warsaw, Poland); first prize plus the Pablo Casals Prize in the 2015 Irving M. Klein International String Competition (San Francisco), and a top prize in the 2015 Stulberg International String Competition (Western Michigan University).

Steeple Concerts at St. Paul’s is presented by the Friends of Music, a 501(c)(3) organization devoted to showcasing the arts in Westfield.

Premiere Stages at Kean Presents ‘Plays by People’

UNION – Premiere Stages, the professional theatre company in residence at Kean University, in partnership with Matheny Arts Access and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, will present “Plays by People” on Saturday, March 27 at 4 p.m. on Zoom. “Plays by People” will feature short works of prose, monologues, theatrical scenes and poetry by Arts Access contributor Cheryl Chapin. Featured works include *Tea and Venom*, *Tea and Me*, *Ghostly Acquaintances* and *The Seasons*. The virtual presentation will also showcase pieces of visual art by Arts Access creators.

“We are so pleased to continue our long collaboration with Matheny Arts Access as part of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance Stages Festival,” stated John J. Wooten, producing

artistic director of Premiere Stages. “This presentation of Cheryl’s fine work is just the beginning of an expanded commitment with Matheny to share the work of Arts Access artists with a broader audience.”

Cheryl Chapin has won a number of awards for her art. Recently, Gallery 24/7 selected one of her original digital paintings for its public art project, “Art on Traffic Control Boxes.” Her work has also been exhibited at the Wallace Art Gallery in Overlook Hospital, Summit; Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton; and Johnson & Johnson in Raritan. Cheryl has composed numerous poems and essays, and some have been featured in Arts Access’ annual arts celebration, Full Circle.

“Plays by People” is free. Advance registration is required to attend the reading. For more information and to register for the reading visit www.premierestagesatkean.com. “Plays by People” will benefit Matheny Arts Access, which empowers individuals with disabilities to

create art without boundaries. Through the use of innovative systems and techniques, participants can take part in the visual, performing and literary arts. Regardless of their disability, clients are provided with the tools and materials needed to produce complete pieces of work. To make a donation, visit <https://artsaccessprogram.org/>.

This event is part of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance 2021 Stages Festival. Premiere Stages provides free or discounted tickets to patrons with disabilities. All Premiere Stages facilities are fully accessible spaces, and companion seating is available for patrons with disabilities. Assistive listening devices and large print programs are available at all times; publications in alternate formats are available with advance notice. Please call (908) 737-4077 for a list of sign-interpreted, audio-described or open-captioned performances. For more information, please visit Premiere Stages online at www.premierestagesatkean.com.

College Club to Host Talk By Fred Rossi On Jersey Book

FANWOOD/SCOTCH PLAINS — The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will host author Fred T. Rossi in a Zoom program on Monday, March 22. Mr. Rossi is a veteran reporter for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

A writer and journalist for 30 years, Mr. Rossi has extensively researched some of the lesser-known stories about interesting people and unusual events from New Jersey’s history. His presentation will feature some of the stories from his book, “Jersey Stories: Stories you may not have heard about people and events in New Jersey history.”

“There is something for everyone in ‘Jersey Stories’ — history, politics, entertainment, lots of trivia and plenty of interesting characters and events,” Mr. Rossi said of his book.

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains invites the public to enjoy Mr. Rossi’s program via Zoom beginning at 7:30 p.m. To receive the link to be able to view the program, send an email to tishisack17@gmail.com.

To learn more about the College Club, its monthly programs or membership information, send an email to collegeclub.fsp@gmail.com or visit the club’s website at fspcollegeclub.org.

Library Friends Announce Met Subscription Series

WESTFIELD — The Metropolitan Opera has just announced its 2021-2022 season. Once again, the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library will sponsor a subscription series. For as little as \$35 a night plus bus fare, participants have an opportunity to experience one of the most distinguished opera houses in the world.

Choice of ticket prices range from \$225 (Family Circle) to over \$2,000 (Orchestra) per series. With the subscription, purchasers get a 15-percent discount over the single-ticket price, with no fees. The opening performance is Terence Blanchard’s *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* on Wednesday, October 13. Conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, it stars Will Liverman, with Angel Blue and Latonia Moore.

The series is flexible to accommodate all types of opera fans. Two or more persons may share one subscription series and a subscriber can change one or more operas to other ones to enjoy them together with a friend or spouse. Several people

have expressed an interest in sharing a subscription and are waiting for others to join.

If a participant cannot attend an opera, the subscription ticket may be exchanged through the Met subscription office or sold to someone else. The opera group maintains a “standby list” of people who have expressed an interest in buying tickets for individual operas.

A true benefit of the Friends Opera Series is the roundtrip charter bus from Westfield to Lincoln Center. The bus leaves from Westfield between 4:30 and 5:15 p.m., depending on curtain time. Bus price and seating will be determined based upon the most cost-effective way for ticket holders to have a safe experience.

A listing of the complete season is available on the Friends of Westfield Memorial Library website at fwmlnj.org. To register as a subscriber or a standby, contact Ulf Dolling at (908) 347-3563 or uhdoll@aol.com.

WHS Band Students To Perform in Virtual State Ensemble

WESTFIELD — Three Westfield High School students will perform in the New Jersey State Solo and Ensemble Festival in April, an inaugural virtual event launched by Arts Ed NJ for the 2020–21 school year to recognize student achievement in music education across the state.

Eleventh graders Conor Daly (trombone), Nate Oberstein (percussion) and Matthew Robinson (alto saxophone) advanced to the state festival after submitting video performances to a regional festival in February. Over 1,000 students participated in the regional festival, which was adjudicated by highly skilled judges. Each student performance received a ranking.

“Out of 30 total points, students who scored 28 points or higher advanced to the state finals,” said band director Christopher Vitale. “We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of Nate, Matt and Conor. This has been a challenging year for musicians to stay motivated without public performances. These three students have gone above and beyond to push themselves to be better. They serve as an inspiration to all of us for how to navigate circumstances that may not be ideal.”

JFSCNJ to Host Passover Cooking Demo.

ELIZABETH — Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey (JFSCNJ) will hold a free, virtual, interactive cooking demonstration, “Passover Comfort Food,” with kosher food blogger Sylvia Fallas on Tuesday, March 23, at 4 p.m.

Ms. Fallas will guide participants step by step to make Kosher brownies and candied nuts for Passover.

Ms. Fallas is a New York-based cooking instructor and recipe developer who teaches interactive cooking classes and demonstrations to people of all ages.

The program is funded by a grant from the JFNA Center on Aging and Trauma and the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

Email info@jfscentralnj.org, or call (908) 352-8375, to register and receive the Zoom link, ingredient list and recipes in order to follow along with Ms. Fallas.

Lemon Caraway Cake

With warmer days on the horizon, I was inspired to make a lemon caraway Bundt cake (two of my favorite flavors!) I recently bought some Meyer lemons because I love how strong their flavor is and decided they would be perfect for this zesty recipe!

I recommend mixing all ingredients by hand (rather than using a mixer) as I find it helps in getting the right consistency in the bake. Enjoy fully-cooled and store leftovers in an airtight container.

Ingredients:
• 1 cup butter (2 sticks) softened
• 2 cups sugar
• 2 eggs
• 2 cups flour (sifted)
• 1 teaspoon baking powder
• ¼ teaspoon baking soda
• 1 cup sour cream (use full-fat, don’t use low-fat)
• 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
• 1 teaspoon almond extract
• ¼ teaspoon salt
• 4 lemons (Use the zest of two whole lemons, use the juice of 2 ½



lemons, use the whole remaining lemon to cut thin slices of lemon for topping)

• 2 teaspoons caraway seeds

Directions:
1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. Cream your softened butter and sugar together. I recommend using the back of a large metal spoon to cream the ingredients in a large bowl.

3. Add your remaining ingredients including: eggs, flour, baking powder, baking soda, sour cream, extracts, salt, lemon zest, lemon juice and caraway seeds. Make sure to mix well between each ingredient.

4. Pour batter into a greased Bundt pan and bake for about ~45 minutes to 1 hour (or until a toothpick comes out clean).

5. Remove from the oven and let cool for ~20 minutes. Then, flip the Bundt pan onto a cooling rack and let it fully cool. Then, top with sifted powdered sugar and lemon slices and serve!

It’s a Sellers’ Market What’s a Buyer to Do? Here Are a Few Ideas From Susan



With historically Low Interest Rates and with a possibility of them creeping up in the future you have decided to Jump in and buy your 1st home, trade up to a bigger one, move out of that apartment and want a back yard. But you have heard stories of multiple bids and some losing out over and over with disappointment. But what you need to know is the market is always changing and values of homes are determined by the negotiated price and terms between buyer and seller in a given moment of time, and my experience knows you will find the right home.

Yes, it’s a sellers’ market, Real Estate has cycles and now the mortgage rates are too great to pass up. COVID-19 played a big part in the low inventory but new protocols to keep all safe have been implemented and inventory will build so get ready for spring and get your ducks in order.

Buying a home in a sellers’ market or any market for that matter is the biggest investment purchase you will make and its more than just money. A sellers’ market requires diligence, focus and since homes are priced to sell, you need to know what you want, how much you can spend and what things aren’t negotiable. Make the list of requirements and desires, get your finances in order and work with a skilled professional realtor. Start on line and researching the community you have chosen to live in or trade up in. Get Pre-Approved for a Mortgage (I have Mortgage VP’s in

Mind who are outstanding).

You have seen the home you want to purchase, but also think about other homes too as back-ups. Make the most of your time by obtaining information about the house you’re interested in. Look for any disclosures on the property, property reports and how long you have to make an offer.

Sellers and their agents want your offer to be complete with full documents in the offer package nothing should be missing. When you know you’re in a bidding war get answers to many questions. What’s the deadline to submit Final Offers? Review with your Realtor what’s important to the seller. The Realtor will get as much intel as possible to help you prepare your offer. What’s the best Closing Date, does seller want quick closing or a delayed one, does seller need to find another home and wants a lease back. Are there other factors like inspections “as is” condition, Financing and terms and time line or an all cash no financing contingency?

Make sure these questions are asked and answered and it is something you can live with. You need to determine your risk level, if not it’s a good way your offer will be rejected.

The day has come; it’s the final presentation for offers so know your limit. You need to have your offer stream lined contract package that includes pre-approval of mortgage or best if offer is cash and you show proof of funds if you have it, you can finance later after you close on the property. Check to see if you can increase down payment up front, review Sellers Disclosure, Lead Paint Disclosure if applicable, fully execute contract. Think about removing some contingencies but there are risks, remove the appraisal of the home if there is financing, and consider the home

inspection for information only. However, you need an inspection for environmental, mechanical, and major structures.

Other things that may help:

1. Offer to Pay sellers transfer fee, or closing fees or attorney fee.

2. Tighten up all the time lines if inspection is 14 days from attorney review shorten to 5.

3. Your offer Price should stand out make it memorable most offers are in round numbers so go your distance and then if it does not work out Move on to the next one. It will all work out and I know it will.

4. Sweeten the pot wherever you can but don’t lose sight of your limits.

5. Don’t be afraid to walk away either. Or get upset for there will be a home for you.

6. Remember the mortgage rates are low. For every \$1000.00 at 3.025% equals \$4.32 cents per month, that’s equivalent to a STARBUCKS GRANDE LATTE.

Just know, whether you are the winning bid or not you have done the best you can and be proud that you have gone the distance and keeping your head in the game and not losing sight of what’s really important.



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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.

Impulse Seesaws Friday, March 5 through Sunday, March 21, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The seesaws are open to the public in 10 minute increments located at the North Avenue train station parking lot in Westfield. No reservations are required.

Glo Downtown Chocolate Tour Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from March 5 through March 21. Take part in the self-directed tasting tour of the most delectable destinations. Pay as you go for \$2 sample sizes throughout town. For more information visit westfieldtoday.com.

Yoga at the Seesaws Friday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 21, 11:30 a.m. Register for free online at westfieldtoday.com.

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.

Music at the Seesaws Saturday, March 20, 7 p.m. brought to you by the Valencia Music School acoustic band. For more information, please visit westfieldtoday.com.

tion, please visit westfieldtoday.com.

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.

Garwood Restaurant Week Sunday, March 21 to Saturday, March 27. Participating restaurants will offer prix fixe menus and specials. garwood.org/restaurantweek

The Theater Project’s Joseph Curka Award for Young Playwrights Monday, March 22, 7:30 p.m. the four winning plays will be performed virtually by professional actors. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/t/e/r/WN_A0qu7SgSyyOyV188Jmy2A.

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.

Rahway Taste Passport Thursday, April 8. Purchase a \$5 passport at the Rahway Rec Center and visit the participating restaurants and pay only \$5 for a delicious feature. For more information, please visit rahwayishappening.com.

Submit events at www.goleader.com/calendar

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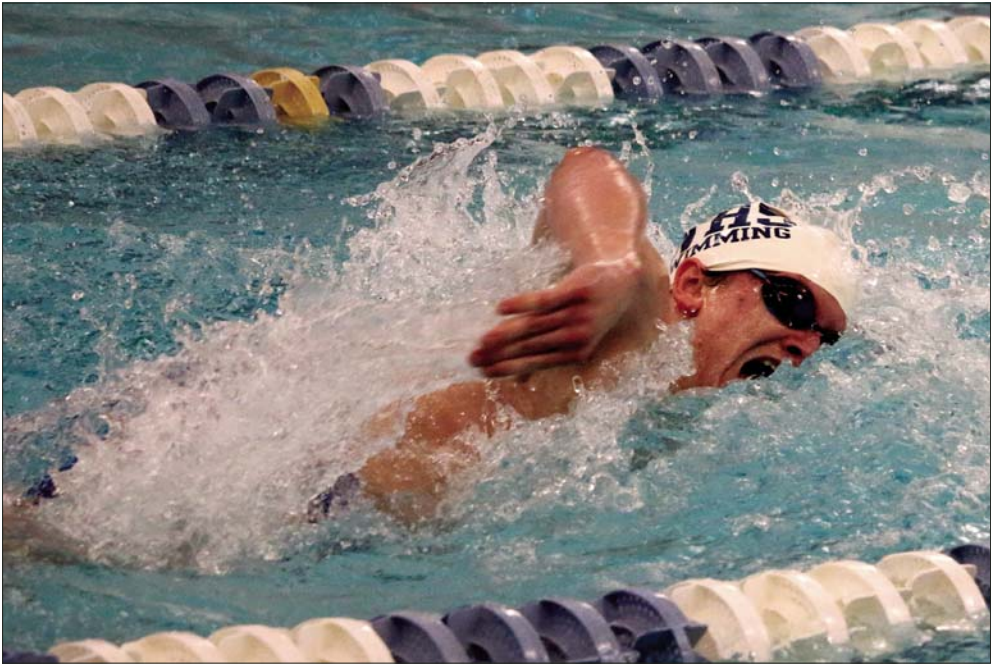


westfieldrotary.com



David B. Corbin (March 2019 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

QUITE AN ASSET TO THE TEAM...Freshman Lily Hughes made huge contributions to the Raiders' efforts this season whether it be in freestyle relays, backstroke or Individual Medley races (Mid March 2019).



David B. Corbin (March 2019 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

IN THE SPOTLIGHT FROM THE START...Freshman Roan Baker proved that he had star qualities for the Blue Devils right from the start. Later in the season at the Meet of Champions, Baker, Tom Brennan, Zach Youssef and Cooper Prieto placed eighth in the 200-medley relay (March 2019).

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

Mid March 2019: Having graduated a number of very talented seniors from the 2018 team, this year's SPF girls swim team may have been considered to be in a somewhat rebuilding phase. And maybe they were. But the Lady Raiders were able to rebuild enough in time to win

their fifth straight Union County Tournament (UCT) title, advance to the North Jersey, Section 2, Public B Championship meet and finish with a 10-2-1 record.

At the UCT, the Raiders answered the question by outscoring the Blue Devils, 385-375, at Sonny Werblin Pool at Rutgers University. Rachel Small, Julia Bonhote, Chloe Howell and sophomore Abby Ryan answered the question of who was the best in the UCT in the 200-free relay by taking first in 1:40.36. Lily Hughes took top

honors in the 100-backstroke with a time of 58.17.

Mid March 2019: Lofty goals were set and this year's Westfield wrestling team came close to achieving all of them. The Blue Devils began on the right track by overwhelmingly winning the Roselle Park Tournament and claiming six individual champions. However the Blue Devils were favored to grab top honors for the Union County Tournament (UCT) title and were stunned by the Cranford Cougars, who won it for the fifth year in a row, although they placed second and had three individual champions with junior Luke

Hoerle and seniors Tim Miller and Brendan Loder. The Blue Devils did get even with their UC opponents by overwhelming all of them in dual meets.

At the District 14 Tournament, the Blue Devils rumbled away with the team title and claimed five champions in freshman Luke Jacobs, junior Quinn Gimblette, Hoerle, junior CJ Composto and senior Jordan Simpson. At the Region 4 Tournament, Hoerle and Composto stood at the top of the podium, while Miller took second and Gimblette placed fourth to earn their tickets to the NJSIAA Tournament in Atlantic City (AC). Composto would go on the place third at AC.

Mid March 2019: New faces were needed to fill the slots of a

talented and decorated senior class that has moved on to the college level, so the work was cut out for this year's Westfield boys swim team. The good news was that Head Coach Jeff Knight had a wealth of talented newcomers and he used them very well.

The Blue Devils finished a very close second in the Union County Tournament (UCT), being nudged out, 405-400, by the Summit Hilltopper squad, advanced to the finals of the North Jersey, Section 2, Public A Tournament and finished with a 9-4 record.

Although they captured only one first place in the UCT, the Blue Devil boys turned in a number of fine performances, especially from several underclass-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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l'ennemi du journaliste



David B. Corbin (March 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TOUGH ACROSS THE BOARD...Senior Jeremy Ruka, No. 34 left, and junior Arjun Petgrave, No. 12, were vicious competitors this season for the Cougars whether it be on defense or offense (March 2019).



David B. Corbin (Westfield/SPF match) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
UCT CHAMP, TOP-12 AT AC...Blue Devil senior Tim Miller, standing, won the Roselle Park Tournament (195-lbs), the Union County Tournament crown at 182-lbs and placed in the top-12 in the NJSIAA Tournament in AC (March 2019).

This page is brought to you by:

Jayson M. Astel, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

908-233-4171 • www.edwardjones.com/jayson-astel

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

men. But it was senior Tom Brennan who seized first in the 100-breaststroke with a time of 59.13. Freshman Roan Baker, Brennan, senior Zach Youssef and senior Cooper Prieto placed second in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:36.62. Junior Jeremy Kronheimer, Baker, Youssef and Prieto took second in the 200-free relay at 1:28.62. Baker placed second in the 200-Individual Medley with a time of 1:57.55.

Mid March 2019: Three senior starters and a multitude of sophomores and juniors comprised this year's Cranford boys basketball team that competed in the Union County Conference Sky Division. The Cougars finished in the middle of the pack with a 5-4 record but more than doubled their overall win record from last year to finish 11-12. Senior Hunter Goff led the team with 364 points, which included 83 free throws and 18 3-pointers.

He was particularly strong driving to the basket which resulted either with a lay-up or a trip to the charity line. Senior Jeremy Ruka led the team with 27 blocked shots. He was second in rebounds with 143 and third in assists with 36, while adding 19 steals. Another discomfoting factor to other teams was Ruka's ability to bang the big "three" as he pumped in a team-leading 41 3-pointers. Play setter senior Kevin Donovan led by far with 66 assists, while con-

tributing 37 points. He pulled 64 rebounds and was second with 38 acts of thievery.

Early March, 2017: More titles and records were set this season by both SPF swim teams. The Raider girls won their third straight Union County Tournament (UCT) title, set multiple records and finished 14-2, losing only to No. 2 Immaculate Heart Academy then to No. 3 Chatham in the North Jersey, Section 2, Public B championship. The boys,

who placed second to Westfield in the UCT and also set records throughout the season, defeated Summit, 91-79, for the sectional Public B title and finished with 15-3 record with losses to Westfield, Pingry, and the No 1 ranked team, Mainland.

In the UCT, the Lady Raiders won all three relays — **200-Medley Relay:** (juniors Erika Frazier and Rachel Maizes, senior Stephanie Judge, junior Megan

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



David B. Corbin (March 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
COUGAR TEAM LEADERS...Cougar sophomore Lauren Williamson, No. 10, and junior Cam Wichelns, No. 32, led offensively and defensively. Wichelns scored 350 points and Williamson finished with 186 points (March 2019).



David B. Corbin (March 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
LEADING COUGAR SCORER...Cougar junior Lindsay Pace, left, led the Cougars in scoring with 297 points, including a season high 31 points against A.L. Johnson. She also had 44 steals (March 2015).

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A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

Small) 1:47.74; **200-Free Relay:** (Rachel Maizes, senior Maya Dunchus, Megan Small, junior DeeDee Maizes) 1:39.49; **400-Free Relay:** (DeeDee Maizes, sophomore Caroline Warren, Judge, Frazier) 3:36.51. Rachel Maizes set a meet record in the 100-breaststroke with a time of 1:04.88. At the Meet of Champions (MOC) Frazier, Rachel Maizes, Judge and Dee Dee Maizes took top honors in the 200-medley relay.

The boys received super production, especially from senior Chris Bondarowicz and sophomore Josh Cohen, who were both double winners at the UCT. Bondarowicz won the 200-Individual Medley in 1:53.86 and the 100-breaststroke in 57.54. Cohen broke his former 2016 record of 4:36.39 in the 500-freestyle, finishing in 4:35.02. He also touched first in the 200-freestyle at 1:42.15. Sophomore Alan Shao took top honors in the 100-but-

terfly with a time of 52.47. At MOC, Bondarowicz placed sixth in the 200 Individual Medley and won the 100-breaststroke. Cohen placed fourth in the 200-freestyle and third in the 500-freestyle.

Early March 2017: Two returning starters with the need to fill the vacancies made it a bumpy road for the Cranford girls basketball team throughout the first half of the season but the Lady Cougars began to get in sync towards the end, winning six of

their final 11 games, while being competitive in some of the losses during that span. With all starters returning, the Cougars, who finished with a 10-15 record, should have a very promising outlook for next year.

Junior Cam Wichelns proved to be an asset in every aspect of the game, especially scoring where she led the team with 350 points (14.6 points per game), which included sinking 60 free throws. Not only was she dangerous un-

derneath the basket but if opponents ever gave her enough room, she would bang the threes and led the team with 44 3-pointers. She also led the team in rebounds and assists and added several blocked shots and steals.

Sophomore Lauren Williamson, who was very stubborn defensively, also was quite a scoring threat and she would also make opponents pay dearly if they ever gave her enough room from be-

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David B. Corbin (March 2011) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
A FAMILY AFFAIR AT ATLANTIC CITY...Blue Devil Christian Barber, right, squares off at center mat with Conor Brennan of Brick Township in the 152-lb. semifinal bout as his father roots for him in the background. Barber won, 4-3, in overtime then defeated Brearley's Devin Geoghegan, 3-2, in overtime to become state champion (March 2011).



Fred Lecomte (March 2007 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
FRIENDS AND TEAMMATES...Co-Captains Allie Zazzali, left, and Lauren Mains, who helped the Raiders win the UCT title, have been good friends, as well as teammates (March 2007).

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

yond the arc. Although Williamson missed six straight games towards the end of the season and one earlier in the season, she finished with 186 points (10.3 points per game), including 21 3-pointers. Williamson was also very quick with her hands and averaged more than two steals per game.
March 2015: The Blue Devils boys swim season ended with a loss this year and that is something that had not happened since 2011. Westfield, the three-time defending champion and the unanimous No. 2 team in the state finally met its match in the NJSIAA Public A state final, losing

to Cherry Hill East, 86-84. Even so, it took a lot to take the Blue Devils down from their lofty perch. The Blue Devils won both the county and sectional and then powerpointed 5,118 in the state final, which is the highest powerpoint total by a public school boys team in state history
March 2015: Junior guard Lyndsay Pace was the Cougar girls' leading scorer this year (297 points 12.9 ppg). Perhaps most encouraging of all was that Pace really surged towards the end of the season. In her final four games, Pace scored 97 points for an average of 24.3 per game. This included a season high 31

points scored against A.L. Johnson. Pace also had 44 steals during the season.
Junior Cerys MacLelland had 264 points (11.0 ppg) and added 148 rebounds, including 12 in a game on February 17 against Summit. Freshman Camryn Wichelns also proved to be a capable scorer by posting a career high 23 points on January 10 against Plainfield.
Early March 2013: Remarkable similarities between this year's Westfield High School girls basketball team and the 2005-2008 Blue Devils squad seem to jump out. The "oldtimers" featured a pair of superstars with

Erin Miller and Gab O'Leary. Miller finished her career as the all-time leading WHS scorer (girls and boys) with 1,530 points. Miller and O'Leary became *The Westfield Leader's* "Wanted for Theft", poster girls with 315 and 218 steals, respectively, for a total of 533.
This year, sophomore Lil Scott led the team with 382 points to bring her total to 681. That average would put her at 1,362 after her senior year. Sophomore Jackie Knapp finished with 366 points to up her two-year total to 630, projecting her at 1,260 after her senior year. This season, Knapp led the team with 94

steals, bringing her total to 155 (310 four-year projection). Scott snatched 66 balls to bring her total to 114 (228 four-year projection). At that rate, Knapp and Scott would become the new "Wanted for Theft" poster girls with 538.
Mid-March 2011: Coming off a 7-17 season in 2010, it was doubtful that anybody would have expected this season's Raider boys basketball team to be a 20-game winner. But the Raiders finished 20-9, won their first two games in the Union County Tournament before falling to national power St. Patrick's and advanced

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David B. Corbin (March 2015 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
ONE OF THE BEST IN FREESTYLE...Blue Devil Aedan Collins was one of the state's best in the 100-freestyle. Collins placed in the top-16 in the event at the Meet of Champions (March 2015).

to the semifinals of the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 Tournament.

Senior Charles Oliver, not only had the ability to bang the 3-pointers, but he also could drive to the basket, roll in the lay-ups, draw fouls or pass off to an open teammate. He averaged 21.8 points-per-game, three assists per game and 5.6 rebounds per game. He finished his high school career with 1,150 points.

Mid-March 2011: Giant steps forward revealed a shining light at the end of a long tunnel of hard but focused work by this year's Blue Devils wrestling team. And that hard work resulted in a 16-7 record, that tied the all-time WHS record for wins, and the first New Jersey state champion that WHS has had in 35 years.

Out of nearly 322 competitors in his weight class, senior Christian Barber was the only one who finished his season, let alone his high school career, with a victory

by winning the NJSIAA 152-lb championship in Atlantic City. Barber finished his glorious career with a 112-24 record (second all-time WHS in wins), three District 11 titles, a Union County Tournament title and a state championship.

Mid March 2009: Two of three goals were accomplished by this year's Blue Devil girls basketball team that finished with a 15-10 record. The accomplishments came by way of a Watchung Conference (WC) National Division title and a very competitive game with North Hunterdon in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament. Senior point guard/captain Tara Handza, a four-year starter, sank 340 points this season to bring her career total to 873. Junior Diana Venezia scored 245 points and led the team with 174 rebounds and 22 blocked shots.

Mid March 2007: Several firsts were recorded by the Raider wrestling team. For the first time,

the Raiders won 20 matches, for the first time, they competed in the sectional finals, and, for the first time, the Raiders had two individuals break the 100-career win mark in the same season. Additionally, they were the Watchung Conference champions and placed first in the District 11 Tournament.

Mid March 2007: Tenaciousness and defensive maturity paid off for the Raider girls' basketball team that won the Union County Tournament and finished the season with a 17-9 record. The influence of senior Co-Captains, point guard Allie Zazzali and guard Lauren Mains on their teammates was phenomenal. Zazzali sank 967 career points. This season, she led in scoring with 436, was second with 98 assists and was the main thief with 52. Mains, a very athletic and physical player, consistently found her way to the basket off the dribble and totaled 156 points.



David B. Corbin (March 2004 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
WORKING HIS WAY INTO THE 127-LB FINALS...Raider Derek Francavilla, left, arm drags Jerome Greco of Newark Academy and grapevines his leg in an effort to slither around behind in the 127-lb semifinal bout. Francavilla won, 5-1, to advance to the title bout (March 2004).

Mid March 2007: According to Head Coach Mike Tirone, "This indeed was the best year ever for Westfield High School bowling." The Blue Devils were National Division and Watchung Conference Champions with a record of 17-1. The record included a WC record of 110 points. The team won 14 of the 17 matches by a 7-0 score, the most shutouts in team history. By season's end, the Blue Devils' record swelled to 26-1.

March 14, 2004: Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior matman Derek Francavilla (125-lbs) led a band of four Raiders into the NJSIAA State Wrestling Tournament at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City and returned home a second-place medalist. Raider junior Steve Mineo (130-lbs) took fourth-place and senior Andrew Silber (171-lbs) grabbed fifth place.

The Raiders had three state champions in the mid-1960s under Head Coach Mike Sorrentino,

a Union County Wrestling Hall of Famer. According to Sorrentino, "Steve Parker won at 148-lbs in 1963, Harry Wowchuck won at 141-lbs in 1964 and Rudy Lanza won at 135-lbs in 1965".

March 2004: The words "Blue Devils" in the Westfield High School boys basketball team's nickname signifies "heat" and this year's Blue Devils finished with a 16-8 record, the best since 1977. Senior guard Jan Coccoziello scored 360, had 37 steals and tied senior forward Joe Korfmacher in rebounds with 128.

March 2004: The Blue Devil girls indoor track team has been selected as the Union County "Team of the Year" by *The Star-Ledger*. The Blue Devils swept the UC Relays and the UC Track and Field titles. Junior Emily MacNeil (800 meters) and the foursome of MacNeil, Annie Onishi, Meg Driscoll and Jennell Carter (4x400 meters) made the All-Union First Team.