

Town, Senior Housing in Litigation Over Lease Renewal

By LAUREN S. BARR
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Town of Westfield and Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation (WSCHC) are in litigation stemming from WSCHC's desire to build 31 additional units and its request for a new land lease which led to a dispute about funds owed to the town.

WSCHC operates two separate buildings and corporations at 1133 and 1129 Boynton Avenue. The non-profit corporations are overseen by two boards of trustees, both of which have the same members.

According to soswestfield.org, Mayor Shelley Brindle "plans to replace the beloved senior center with luxury condos," a charge that the mayor vehemently denied to *The Westfield Leader* as "a flat-out lie. They are using fear mongering and scare tactics to frighten our most vulnerable population, a group that I have made a priority of supporting in my administration."

Save Our Seniors petition on change.org had garnered 139 signatures as of Tuesday at noon.

"The Town of Westfield has put profits over people by not renewing the lease for their affordable housing complex. This is an issue of social justice and equity for over 300 beloved seniors. Save Our Seniors Westfield is a growing bipartisan movement designed to bring awareness to the good work Westfield Senior Citizens Housing has been doing for over 45 years," Board Treasurer John Leshner, Ph.D. said in an email to *The Leader*. "Our board is comprised of volunteers, many of us are seniors ourselves, who reside in Westfield and/or are experts in affordable housing, providing services for senior citizens and professional services."

"The mayor's recent missive, placed on the town website and shared on social media, was riddled with inaccuracies and half-truths. In addition, it neglected to mention that she is aware that we are pre-

pared to build 31 new senior affordable housing units at the Boynton site, provided only that we receive a lease renewal. The town's response is that we can have the renewal, but only on terms that are equivalent to the rents that would be paid by a provider of market-rate housing," Dr. Leshner said.

"This is what we were compelled to challenge in Court," Dr. Leshner's email went on to say. "If we do not settle and receive the lease renewal, in a few years the Town of Westfield will be required to operate and maintain the seniors' housing. Currently, the Boynton site is being run by Westfield Senior at no cost to taxpayers. If the lease is not renewed, Westfield taxpayers will be forced to absorb the operations and maintenance shortfalls at a cost of at least \$2,000,000 per annum. Please understand—Westfield Senior Housing is a private corporation. We can build affordable senior housing anywhere. But Westfield is where our organization is based and renewing our Boynton Avenue lease on reasonable terms is prudent fiscally and socially beneficial for all Westfielders."

The 172-unit, age-restricted building at 1133 was built in 1976, at which time the town leased the land for 50 years for \$1 a year and a PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) in "an amount which shall equal 6.28 percent of the annual gross revenues of the development." That agreement was later amended in 1986 to specify that the PILOT payment calculation include rents received, subsidy payments received, interest on surplus, revenues from laundry service and "other miscellaneous revenue" with exceptions for gifts, bequests and interest on project reserve accounts. 1133 is subsidized by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the lease contains several clauses under which the town may take possession of both the property and its improvements.

Additionally, the lease specifically requires that all board members be residents of Westfield and that Westfield seniors were to be given priority of tenancy in the building, "to the extent permitted by the applicable rules and regulations of the HFA."

In 1993, the second building, containing 130 one-bedroom units, was built at 1129 Boynton utilizing low-income tax credits. 1129 entered into a 33-year land lease for \$1 a

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Planning Board Entertains Subdivision Request

By JONATHAN CONNER
For The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — During its October 6 meeting, the planning board rescheduled an application and began a hearing for a minor subdivision on James Avenue.

First, the board granted Serginho and Sandra Martins of 116 Garden Street a rescheduling request on their minor subdivision application until the Wednesday, December 15 meeting. In a letter to the board, their representative, attorney Stephen Hehl, stated that they "require additional time to finalize revisions to the plans."

The next application proposed to the planning board was by attorney Al Andril on behalf of POMBAL Builders LLC of 95 James Avenue, regarding the approval of a minor subdivision for a 100,000-square-foot lot, one (C) variance for exceptions to minimum setbacks between housing structures, and two design waivers regarding exceptions to minimum distances between driveways of neigh-



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

STREET FAIR AND FALL AIR...As Fall weather begins to roll in, vendors and shoppers take advantage of the cool day this past Saturday during the Westfield Neighborhood Council Street Fair in the South Avenue train station parking lot.

Crossing-Guard Shortage Taxes Westfield Police

By JESSE WINTER
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Crossing guards are in serious short supply in Westfield and the town is experiencing the consequences. The burden is falling especially hard on the police, who are being tasked with filling the vacant posts, and residents who depend on the guards to ensure their children's safety as they walk to and from the numerous schools in Westfield.

In a report delivered during Tuesday's council meeting, Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro said the shortage of guards is requiring him to use staff to fill vacant crossing-guard posts, and implored the governing body to reevaluate the current situation in town for the sake of public safety.

"We've lost another number of crossing guards, which is really putting us in a dire situation," said Chief Battiloro.

As of Tuesday evening, the chief said that after 22 completed days of school, he was required to assign police officers to cover crossing-guard posts on 69 occasions, and he anticipates the trend will continue. After consulting his traffic safety sergeant, he anticipated committing six officers to vacant posts for the Wednesday morning hours, six in the afternoon; four officers during the Thursday

morning hours, seven in the afternoon; and then on Friday being required to commit five police officers in the morning hours, with eight officers filling in the crossing-guard posts in the afternoon.

The police chief said those numbers are before any unexpected sick days taken by guards already committed to the week's posts, with crossing guards having a high sick-day rate, the chief noted.

During his report, Chief Battiloro spoke about the high volume of calls Westfield experiences on an annual basis, and the vulnerable position his department is put in when he has to continuously commit a significant

number of his officers to crossing-guard posts.

"At three o'clock in the afternoon, to see no police resources available is concerning. If an emergency were to happen, those officers are committed to school traffic posts, and we're not going to abandon those posts. Because we said they were necessary and we've committed resources to cover them. It creates a very serious dilemma here," said Chief Battiloro. "I see the numbers going forward, as many as eight on Friday afternoon," said the chief. "We can simply not sustain that for any duration of time."

All City Management Services

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Ruth E. Maloney for The Westfield Leader

PUMPED FOR PUMPKINS...The First United Methodist Church pumpkin patch in Westfield is ready for residents to come pick the perfect pumpkin.

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Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

GRAND MARSHAL AWARD...Police Chief Christopher Battiloro receives the Grand Marshal award during the Columbus Day celebration in Westfield this past Sunday in the Community Room of the Municipal Building. The event was sponsored by the Greater Westfield Chapter of UNICO and the Westfield Italian American Club.

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F-SP YMCA Seeks to Expand Camp Facility

By FRED T. ROSSI
For The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — The zoning board of adjustment will continue a hearing next month on an application by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA to construct an addition to its Martine Avenue building and expand its summer camp by developing an outdoor recreational area.

The YMCA is seeking to construct 1,800 square feet of new building as part of its plan to expand activities inside the main facility and also to create an expanded main entrance. Two adjacent residential lots owned by the YMCA, at 1370 and 1380 Martine Avenue, will be combined into the YMCA's lot. The existing dwellings on those two lots will be razed and replaced with an expanded summer camp and outdoor recreational area that will include a covered pavilion for campers, a walking trail, three playgrounds, a playing field and a basketball court.

Due to the late hour at the board's October 7 meeting, YMCA Chief Executive Officer Kim Decker was the only person to testify about the application, which was continued until the board's Thursday, November 4 meeting, when more details about the proposed expansion will be discussed.

In other business, the board approved an application by Jennifer Phillips to construct a two-story addition to her family's home at 418 Warren Street that will consist of a grade-level garage, three bedrooms and two baths on the second floor and a one-story bathroom addition. The board also is expected to continue a hearing next month on an application to build

a 3,562-square-foot, two-story, two-family house at a location described in the application as 1513 Gables Street, which, according to renderings shown last month, is an unimproved street situated off Terrill Road between Front Street and the Watchung border and adjacent to the PSE&G right-of-way.

The hearing in early September ended abruptly when questions arose about the status of the street itself and whether it was recognized by the township. Several board members at the time noted that they had entered Gables Street into their smartphone in order to visit the site and that it had not appeared on any maps.

The applicant's attorney is researching the street's status, and the board's attorney said last month that the township council may have to weigh in on the street's status.

On Thursday, October 21, the zoning board will hold a special meeting to hopefully complete a hearing on an application to build an assisted-living facility on Raritan Road. Capital Seniors Housing Development LLC is proposing to build a three-story, 86-unit, assisted-living facility at 1814, 1820 and 1830 Raritan Road, which is situated across from its intersection with Black Birch Road and east of the county vocational-technical school campus. At previous hearings, neighborhood homeowners spoke about traffic congestion on Raritan Road and their concerns that the proposed facility will worsen those conditions.



ON THE CASE...Friends of Brightwood Park (FOBP) and the Westfield Recreation Department welcomed the Brightwood Park Nature Detectives to a class about trees. The preschoolers learned about types of trees, leaves, bark and tree shapes by walking in the woods, collecting leaves and making observations about the trees. This fall, FOBP and the recreation department are offering monthly classes, family and history walks and a special Halloween event on Friday, October 29.

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Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader

NOW PLAYING...As part of the AddamsFest in Westfield, the lobby of the Rialto Theatre has been transformed to showcase some of the cartoons of Charles Addams paired with texturalist Suzanne Heilmann's (left) breathtaking work in wood, fabric, oil paint, acrylic and copper. The exhibit is open on weekends. See the related article on Page 16.

Senior Housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year plus an annual service charge. The service charge was to be calculated as 6 percent of the gross revenue for the first 15 years; 20 percent of the annual taxes that would otherwise be due on the value of the land and improvements for the next six years; 40 percent of the taxes for the next six years; and 60 percent for the final three years. The taxes are to be calculated taking into account the restrictions imposed on maximum rent. While several default clauses are present in the lease, which would allow the town to take control of the building, the lease also specifically states that, "at the expiration of this Lease, the Building shall become the property of Landlord." The lease and financial agreement were signed by Mayor Garland "Bud" Boothe and Matthew J. Sheehy, president of its General Partner, Second Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corp, who according to tax filings also is the current board president.

Though both leases are not set to expire until 2026, 1129's financial agreement expires 30 years after project completion, which will occur on October 31, 2025. Both the town and WSCHC acknowledge that they have been in mediation over the issue for more than three years, and in July, 1129 filed suit against the town seeking a declaratory judgment.

According to both WSCHC's lawsuit and *The Leader* archives, WSCHC has been asking the town to revise one or both leases as far back as 1996. In 1998, 1999 and 2000 the lawsuit states that WSCHC requested that it receive a permanent reduction to 1 percent for the life of the agreement for 1129. In 1998 it states that it paid the 1 percent (\$9,312) and that the check was cashed by the town, but no formal response to their request was received. The lawsuit further claims that it never received an invoice from the town until September of 2020 when it received an invoice totaling \$679,000 for "PILOT arrearages." It also claims that "the staged increases of the financial agreement should be declared null and void in accordance with New Jersey law." The financial agreement states that 1129 is to submit annual financial statements to the town to determine the amount owed.

The lawsuit, along with audited financial documents for 1129, show an operating loss of over \$170,000. A service charge to the town is included in 1129's tax filing and audited financials, but the town claims that payment has not been made and the audit report marks an "accrued service charge" to the town totaling \$1,713,309.

According to its tax filing and audited financials, 1133 holds loans for 1129 totaling \$5.2 million at 3-percent interest and over \$14 million in loans to The Village at Garwood at 0.25-percent interest. In 2011, during lease negotiations with the town, then board president Robert Conroy told *The Leader*, "no money from Westfield will ever be used in Garwood."

While the suit against the town currently is in default status for failure to answer in the required time frame, as of last week, the town did file a motion to vacate the default along with an answer and counterclaim to the lawsuit. A default in Superior Court does not automatically grant judgment for or against either party in a lawsuit.

In an email exchange provided to the Court, Town Attorney Tom Jardim requested that WSCHC's attorney, Joseph Manfredi of Manfredi & Pellechio, withdraw the default, but he refused to do so unless the town responded to their offer for settlement, which includes a lump sum payment for alleged

arrearages and a new, 50-year lease for both properties.

The town's counterclaim says that its analysis shows that 1129 owes approximately \$4 million, and alleges that no money has ever been paid to the town.

The town further takes issue with the payments that have been received from 1133. While acknowledging that the town received payments, it alleged that 1133 underpaid by \$476,387.40 between 2007 and 2019. The town also alleges that the loan from 1133 to 1129 is "an intra-company loan that exists when it should not, or perhaps exists solely to reduce Building II's net revenue, and thereby its payments to the Town."

According to the 2019 tax filings, 1133 shows \$192,502 income on interest loans.

1133's tax filing shows revenue totaling \$5.1 million, with expenses totaling \$3.2 million. Among those expenses are salaries and wages totaling \$657,507, legal services totaling \$327,126, accounting fees totaling \$36,578 and investment management fees totaling \$98,891. At the end of 2019, its investments totaled \$23,618,985.

1129's tax filing shows revenue totaling approximately \$1.6 million with \$1.8 million in expenses. Among those expenses are salaries and wages totaling \$385,500, legal services totaling \$58,989 and accounting fees totaling \$18,493. Both buildings share an executive director.

According to its charter documents, which were amended in 2011 and are on file with the state, the board of trustees is to be comprised of 15 duly elected members, each serving a three-year term. It further states that the "trustees shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incident to performing services for the Corporation." The 2019 tax filings only show 14 elected board members, with the executive director filling the 15th spot.

WSCHC did not respond to questions on its board governance practices, how much 1129 has paid to the town, or potential forgiveness or lowering of the interest rate on the loan between 1133 and 1129.

A full statement from the town can be read on Page 4.



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Lauren S. Barr for The Westfield Leader

THE FESTIVAL IS BACK...Residents gather at municipal grounds for Clark's 14th Annual UNICO Italian Feast that returned this past weekend. Families and people of all ages were able to enjoy live entertainment, rides, games and their favorite festival foods.

Crossing Guards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(ACMS) is the company that was hired to oversee the staffing of the town's crossing-guard posts, but like many other businesses and industries throughout the country, crossing guards are in short supply and ACMS has been unable to fill the vacancies.

Town Administrator James Gildea explained that the crossing-guard shortage and the issues of hiring and retaining guards is a problem experienced not only by Westfield, but communities throughout the country, many of which are served by ACMS.

"We're actually fortunate to have ACMS," said Mr. Gildea, reflecting on the widespread crossing-guard shortage in Westfield and beyond. The town administrator said in addition to the challenge of finding new hires, retaining existing crossing guards has become increasingly difficult.

And compared to other municipalities and the benefits offered, "we [Westfield] have a much better package than neighboring communities, higher pay, better opportunities for the guards here, and yet it is still hard to recruit and retain," explained Mr. Gildea.

Discussion of the crossing-guard shortage was taken up during the public portion of the meeting by Phillip Mirabelli of Boynton Avenue.

Mr. Mirabelli addressed the shortage and how it is impacting his family, especially his 10-year-old daughter, Marielle, who is a fifth grader at Jefferson Elementary School.

"A couple things I'm concerned about, when you talk about allocations throughout the town, and what areas should be monitored with a crossing guard, and what should not," said Mr. Mirabelli. "And when I think of Sycamore [Street] and Central [Avenue], I think it should be a primary spot, as opposed to a secondary spot."

Mr. Mirabelli spoke to the difference in neighborhoods, saying that in those immediately surrounding schools, drivers tend to know school is in session, and that there are kids traveling on foot. He compared those neighborhoods to streets like Central Avenue, where many of the drivers are coming from areas outside the community, and are unaware of Westfield's children walking to and from school.

Regarding the thousands of drivers that use Central Avenue daily, "I promise you most of those people have no idea there's a school a block away. All they care about is getting to work. No clue. When they see a yellow light, they speed up to make it," remarked Mr. Mirabelli.

Mr. Mirabelli read a letter from his daughter, addressed to Mayor Shelley Brindle.

"I'm writing to you about the intersection of Central Avenue and Sycamore [Street]," the letter read. "I think that this topic is very important. Me and my friends walk to school almost every day, sorta, by ourselves. We walk to school from the intersection, and then our parents cross us," said Marielle Mirabelli's letter. "The intersection is very dangerous, that is why we meet our parents there. But if there was a crossing guard, we would walk by ourselves. I know that a lot of the kids at my school have to cross there as well, so I'm not alone," said Marielle. "I also think we need a crossing guard there because I know lots of little kids that will deal with the same issue when they are my age. And once I go to Edison, I will still have to cross there," the letter read. "This is why I'm hoping, one day soon, we'll have a crossing guard there to keep us safe."

After the public portion of the meeting, Mayor Brindle took time to respond to public comments and respond to the crossing-guard shortage articulated by Chief Battiloro and Mr. Gildea.

"I want to make sure that these residents know they've been heard," said the mayor. "Clearly, with challenges comes opportunity. I think it is time to reevaluate the entire crossing-guard program."

In more council news, the governing body continued to hear opposition to the Edison Fields project after the town unveiled a scaled-down version of the plan back in September. Although the scope was reduced, many residents, especially those living in and around the Edison Intermediate School area, have continued to voice opposition to the project.

A major point of contention surfacing is the environmental impact and the sustainability of turf-based, artificial fields.

Tuesday's meeting saw opposition not only from residents surrounding Edison School, but from Westfielders around town who are questioning if turf fields belong in Westfield.

"I'm here to talk about Edison fields, which are not in my backyard," said Janette Spiezio of Cedar Terrace. "I'm all about sustainability, and zero waste, which includes being against plastic." Ms. Spiezio said. "Plastic pollutes and it never goes away."

Ms. Spiezio also warned against the potentially deleterious effects of the plastics found in turf.

"To me, it's not a partisan issue, not a political issue, it's just one of public health," said Ms. Spiezio. "While we might not have all the answers as to exactly what health hazards plastics cause, I just think we need to be on the right end of this one and listen to the reports that are out there and be as careful as we can with the health of our children," she said.

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Family Seeks Resolution to Hillside Murder Case

By **JESSE WINTER**
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

HILLSIDE — For the public, an unsolved murder case fades from memory, but for those directly impacted by such a tragedy, like the victim’s family, the wounds and emotional fallout can be a lifelong struggle.

Cristina Plinio is no exception. Her father, Richard Plinio, was murdered outside the family home on Wilder Street



Christine Plinio and her father Richard Plinio

in Hillside back on the night of February 24, 2006. In what was initially reported as a drive-by shooting to police, but would later be described as a failed carjacking, her father was shot twice before the killer fled the scene, according to the official police report.

Richard Plinio would later die on the operating table at University Hospital in Newark during the early hours of February 25. He was 43 years-old.

“Tragedies like these, you don’t really realize when it’s happening, and it feels like a crazy dream,” said Cristina Plinio, speaking to *The Westfield Leader* and *Union County HAWK* earlier this month. “Then you wake up, and it’s your reality.”

Cristina recalls being around 9 and a half years old when her father was killed, with her brother, Matthew, being around 5 years old.

The police report has Cristina, Matthew and Richard’s wife, Clara Plinio, inside their home watching television before Clara Plinio heard two loud explosions outside.

Mrs. Plinio then “observed her husband, laying on the lawn, near the driveway trying to crawl towards the house.” It appeared to Clara Plinio that her husband “was attempting to speak, but was unable to,” the police report stated.

The Plinios moved to Florida shortly after the death of Richard, where Cristina, Matthew and Clara have remained.

Today, Cristina Plinio is 25 and lives with her young daughter, Cindy. Ms. Plinio spoke to the positive impact Cindy has on her life, and how being a mother has “changed her life for the better.” Quarantining during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic allowed Ms. Plinio to reflect on “what matters in life the most.” She would think about her father and wanted to know “what really happened” in the hopes of achieving “a sense of closure.”

After recently inheriting money from her late aunt, her father’s sister, Cristina Plinio hired the New Jersey-based investigative firm AHM Investigations on behalf of her family, in an effort to reopen her father’s cold case.

Both Ms. Plinio and Harry Melber of AHM Investigations believe the public could potentially play a critical role in helping surface new useful information.

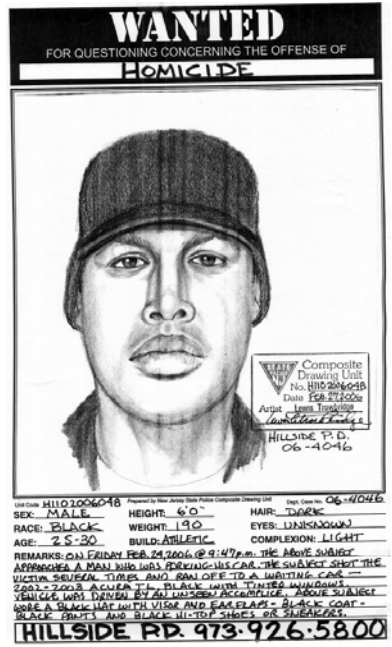
Back in 2006, a sketch was published of the alleged perpetrator of the crime. Speaking to *The Leader* and *HAWK*, Mr. Melber said AHM plans on re-interviewing witnesses and providing an updated sketch featuring the current projected age of the suspect.

Suspect Details

The police report itself contains valuable pieces of information. Two witnesses were present, one of who “observed a black Acura TI with tinted windows” leaving the scene of the crime,

prior to a Hillside police officer witnessing a car fitting that description “traveling at a high rate of speed, northbound on North Broad Street, in the area of Hollywood Avenue,” in Hillside.

The two witnesses named in the report were standing in front of a nearby residence on Sterner Road, the street connected to the Plinios’ driveway. Both witnesses “heard two loud pops and observed an individual running towards



Police sketch, originally published March 2, 2006

them, north on Sterner Road,” noted the police report.

Speaking to police officers, both witnesses “observed a black, revolver-style handgun” in the hand of the suspect, when “the individual was approximately 30 feet away,” running “under the streetlamp.” The witnesses, according to the report, also had the suspect running east on King Street, toward North Broad Street.

When interviewed by Hillside Police after the shooting, both witnesses “described the suspect as a light-skin Black

male, wearing dark clothing with a black hooded sweatshirt,” and being approximately 6 feet, 1 inch, or 6 feet, 2 inches in height,” the report stated.

The crime scene had indications of a failed car theft, with Richard Plinio’s maroon Jeep Cherokee “parked in the driveway with the ‘Club’ anti-theft device on the steering wheel and the driver’s-side door open.”

Cristina Plinio did say that her family’s house had been burglarized twice in the years leading up to her father’s fatal shooting, with her mother once coming home to witness her possessions being stolen by two men.

Path Forward

Speaking on October 6, Mr. Melber said he had sent out letters to the Hillside Police Department, Union County Prosecutor’s Office and the State Attorney General’s Office, letting those agencies know his firm was reinvestigating the case on behalf of Ms. Plinio.

“I think there’s enough evidence and witnesses to get this reopened,” said Mr. Melber.

According to Mr. Melber, there is always a possibility that someone who knows something might come forward, especially if the killing of Richard Plinio is “weighing on their conscience.”

He also emphasized that they are early in the process of reinvestigating the case.

Ms. Plinio believes it possible that the man responsible for her father’s murder could be in the prison system.

“Right now, the best theory I can give you,” explained Ms. Plinio, “is this guy is somewhere in the system right now. We’re just trying to filter down whatever evidence we have in order to identify him.”

She also said she believes the suspect could have been involved with gangs in Hillside and its surrounding areas around the time of her father’s murder.

When describing her father, Ms. Plinio recalled him as being “a comedian, super funny, very Italian, but a terrible cook.” But most importantly, “he was a great guy to be around; you could really talk to him about anything.”

Today, Cristina maintains ties with her brother, Matthew, who is approaching 23 and attends the University of Central Florida, where he is studying sports medicine. Matthew also is a licensed EMT, his sister noted.

“Ideally, some closure would be great,” said Ms. Plinio, who said the loss of her father was especially hard on her mother. “I’m trying to get justice, not only for me, but for my family.”

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County Reports on Rahway River Flood Management

By **JESSE WINTER**
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

COUNTY — Last week, the Union County Board of County Commissioners passed an ordinance October 7 and discussed a recent meeting with the Rahway River Mayors Council.

As communities in Union County and those bordering the Rahway River continue to recover from Hurricane Ida and prepare for future major weather events, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski discussed her October meeting with the organization Rahway River Mayors Council.

“It was a useful meeting; the mayors took an opportunity to remind the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) commissioners of the seriousness of the effects of the flood,” said Commissioner Kowalski. “I know people in Cranford that have been through four or more serious flood events in the last 20, 25 years.”

Commissioner Kowalski reported that nothing definitive came from discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers, an entity tasked with offering projects to ease the stormwater threat to communities along the Rahway River.

“We did make it clear that the mayors and the residents are not interested in another five to 10 years of studying,” said Commissioner Kowalski. “We need to have a project.”

Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella commended Commissioner Kowalski “on taking a leadership position to push the Army Corps of Engineers and the federal government to take some action, saying, ‘It’s devastating for those people that live in those [flood] areas to have this massive cleanup and expense.’”

In other business, the board introduced on first reading an ordinance authorizing Union County to pay principal and interest “on the county guaranteed revenue bonds,” in connection to the “renewable energy program project” of the Union County Improvement Authority, in a total amount not to exceed \$5,500,000.

Chairman Mirabella voted in favor, as did Commissioner Kowalski and Commissioners Angela Garretson, Sergio Granados, Chris-

topher Hudak, Lourdes Leon and Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded.

Vice Chair Rebecca Williams and Commissioner Andrea Staten were not present during the meeting and did not cast a vote.

With the General Election less than a month away, and early voting commencing on Saturday, October 23, Union County Board of Elections Administrator Nicole DiRado took time during the October 7 meeting to brief the public on the different options voters have for casting their ballots for the upcoming election.

Union County voters have three ways to cast their ballots during this election, explained Ms. DiRado. In addition to standard, Election Day voting, voters have the option to vote by mail, or participate in early voting at designated, county-wide locations prior to the Tuesday, November 2 General Election.

Those wishing to vote by mail may do so by mailing in their ballots to the Union County Board of Elections. Vote-by-mail ballots “must be postmarked on or before 8 p.m. November 2 and be received by your county’s Board of Elections on or before November 8,” according to the New Jersey Division of Elections.

Individuals also can deliver the ballot in person to the Union County Board of Elections Office by 8 p.m. on November 2. The Union County Board of Elections’ address is listed as 271 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, N.J. 07207.

In what can be seen as a potentially more convenient alternative, voters have the option of dropping off their mail-in ballots at one of 21 secure drop-off locations. These locations include: The Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue East, Westfield; the Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Avenue; Clark Recreation Center, 430 Westfield Avenue; Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue; Fanwood Memorial Library, 5 Forest Road; Garwood Public Library, 411 Third Avenue, and the Mountainside Public Library, 1 Constitution Plaza.

Vote-by-mail requests, submitted via the mail, are due to the Union County Clerk’s office by Tuesday, October 26, while in-person requests for vote-by-mail ballots are available until Monday, November 1, by 3 p.m.

New Jersey is now an early-voting state.

Early voting begins on October 23 and runs through Sunday, October 31. Early voting will take place at designated locations. It will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

The seven designated early-voting locations include: Cranford, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Seminar Room A/B; Elizabeth, Sampson Center, 800 Anna Street; New Providence, New Providence Municipal Center, 360 Elkwood Avenue; Plainfield, Board of Education Administration Building, 1200 Myrtle Avenue; Rahway, Rahway Recreation Center, 275 E. Milton Avenue, Room 112; Roselle, Amalfi Community Center, 1268 Shaffer Avenue, and Union, Union Township Senior Center, 968 Bonnell Court.

According to Ms. DiRado, “any registered voter in Union County can visit any one of the early-voting sites countywide to vote.”

As a safety precaution ensuring that voters do not vote twice, Electronic Poll Books “will be used to check in voters, over a secure network, to ensure voters do not attempt to vote at more than one location,” according to Ms. DiRado’s presentation.

“This affords an awesome opportunity for voters in Union County to cast their vote,” remarked the Union County Board of Elections administrator.

Clark Blood Drive Set For October 20

CLARK — A blood drive will take place on Wednesday, October 20, between 1 and 7 p.m., at the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, located at 875 Raritan Road, Clark.

Donors may sign up at nybc.org/njdrive, Sponsor code: 11959, or they can call/text Genevieve at (732) 672-5281 for an appointment. Appointments are preferred; however, walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.

Participants are advised to eat and drink and to bring their donor identification card or identification with their name and photo.

Masks are required for all donors regardless of vaccination status. For a full list of Covid-19 safety protocols, visit nybc.org/coronavirus.

Grab & Go” Meals Return For Union County Seniors

COUNTY -- The Union County Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce that box-lunch meals for pick-up will once again be available to seniors through the “Grab & Go” nutrition program. A voluntary donation of \$1.75 is suggested for each meal.

The program had been suspended temporarily after Tropical Storm Ida struck the area last month.

The Grab & Go program is administered by the Union County Division on Aging and Disability Resource Connection in the Department of Human Services. It is offered to Union County residents age 60 and up, who are not receiving home delivered meals from Meals on Wheels.

The program is available through 19 local senior centers and senior housing sites throughout Union County.

Eligible seniors can come to any of these sites on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of approximately 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to pick up a lunch. No reservations are required. Meals will be distributed on

a “first come, first served” basis due to limited supplies.

Masks must be worn at all times, and social distancing maintained, in order to pick up a lunch.

Any eligible senior can use the Grab and Go program at any of the following local senior centers:

Cranford Lincoln Apartments, 800 Lincoln Avenue, Cranford

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club, 820 Jerusalem Road, Scotch Plains

Westfield Community Center—558 W. Broad Street, Westfield

The Grab and Go program is designed to allow for safe social distancing to protect against transmission of Covid-19, while continuing to provide healthy meals for Union County’s aging population. Each meal meets one-third of the daily nutritional requirements of an adult aged 60 or older.

For more information about Grab & Go, and other programs for seniors in Union County, call the Division on Aging at (908) 527-4870 or (908) 527-4877, or visit ucnj.org/aging and use the online contact form.

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Re-Elect

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Mayor
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 4



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	JOANN NEYLAN'S ADMINISTRATION* (R)	SHELLEY BRINDLE'S ADMINISTRATION (D)
	2014-2017	2018-Present
Proactive Leadership		
Miles of Roads Paved	15.8 miles	47.5 miles
Miles of Roads Paved (at no cost to taxpayers)	0 miles	23.6 miles
Grant Money Received	\$2.68 million	\$3.6 million
Ordinances Adopted	54	141
Fiscal Responsibility		
Avg. Year-End Surplus Balance	\$8.3 million	\$12.6 million
Avg. Municipal Tax Increase	2%	1.1%
Avg. Annual Increase in Town Spending	3.46%	0.72%
RFP Process for Professional Services	No	Yes
Transparency		
Mayor & Town E-Mail Updates	0	216
Town Social Media Posts	1,382	3,180
Live-Streamed Town Council Meetings	No	Yes
Publicly Posted Names of Board & Commission Members	No	Yes
Resident Engagement		
Volunteer Applications Submitted	0	846
Women Appointed to Boards & Commissions	25%	57%
Created Councils to Support Senior Citizens, Access, Public Arts, Mental Health & Human Relations	No	Yes
Created AddamsFest & Celebrated Pride Month	No	Yes
Community Policing		
All Crimes (including car theft)	1,211	799
Avg. Annual Parking Tickets Issued	21,572	8,502
Awarded State Accreditation for Highest Standards	No	Yes
Sustainability		
Trees Planted	1,563	2,100
Designated Historic Properties	No	Yes
Installed Free EV Public Charging Stations	No	Yes
Awarded Sustainable Jersey Silver Certification	No	Yes

*Neylan served as acting mayor, councilperson, finance & public safety chairs during this time



VOTE NOVEMBER 2

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— Established 1890 —

Union County HAWK

Since 1959

formerly The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

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Gratitude for “Melanie”

By PATRICIA STECKLER, Ph.D.
For The Westfield Leader and The HAWK

“Mimi, do you know Melanie?” asked Fiona, my four-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter, during a recent visit. “No, honey, I don’t,” I replied. “Is she your friend at pre-school?” “No, Mimi!” said Fiona with impatience and a hint of exasperation, “Melanie is in all of us. It’s what makes our skin lighter or darker.”

“All people are the same,” continued Fiona, “except that some people have more of ‘Melanie’ inside their bodies and other people have less.”

“Oh, do you mean melanin, Fiona?” I asked. “No,” she insisted, “It’s Mel-anie!”

Knowing better than to argue with a passionate pre-schooler, I reflected on the significance of Fiona’s inadvertent personification of melanin. How lovely, I thought, to imagine a little girl inside each of us who selects our skin tones. I pictured a sweet-faced child, turning a multi-hued color-wheel this way or that to determine the relative lightness or darkness of our skin.

Conjuring up Melanie through Fiona’s eyes makes skin color differences seem so incidental and value-free. Melanin is “the pigment that gives

human skin, hair, and eyes their color. Dark-skinned people have more melanin in their skin than light-skinned people have,” according to Medicine Net. These pigments occur naturally and do not reflect greater or lesser worthiness.

Some say that children don’t notice differences in skin color. Not so. Children see everything in the natural world: buzzing bees, full moons that glow, flowers flashing full rainbow spectrums of color, potent rain showers, feathery or cottony clouds, etc. According to psychology research, all people, even babies and children, show preferences for people who look most like themselves. Neuroscience studies demonstrate that our brains naturally categorize what we see in order to simplify our world.

But, unlike adults, children’s preferences for the familiar are not accompanied by judgment but by curiosity and delight. In their wide-open eyes, cardinal-red tulips are no more precious than sun-yellow ones. Loudly cawing crows are just as worthy of attention as are mourning doves or chirping robins. Spiders are not scary. Their web designs fascinate and rivet the attention of young eyes. No judgment, just awe.

How do we retain children’s bias-free fascination with the natural world? How can we, as adults, recapture that innocence and strive to erase the harmful, minimizing ways we often perceive people who are unlike us? Here are talking points for adults and kids from the Social Justice Books Project:

1) Young children are curious about why people have different skin color. Too often, parents or teachers are tempted to brush this curiosity aside with a glib comment: “We’re all the same.” Instead, listen to your children. Validate their observations with value-free words.

2) Two people with different skin color may have more in common than two people with the same skin color. Talk with children and each other about how skin color is, literally, only “skin deep” and how humans are more similar than different.

3) Share cool facts like this: melanin creates zebras’ stripes, leopards’ spots, and frogs’ speckles. People have melanin pigment in their eyes and hair, not just in their skin.

Share how you and your children talk about differences between people with *The Westfield Leader* and *The HAWK* by writing Gratitude in the subject line and emailing: press@goleader.com or pattisteckler@gmail.com

Gratefully yours,
Patti

Planning Board Member Coronato Takes Issue With Debate Answer

It was with surprise and dismay when I heard my name mentioned at the beginning of last week’s Scotch Plains’ Council Candidates Debate.

In his answer regarding downtown redevelopment, appointed Councilman Matthew Adams mischaracterized a telephone conversation between me, Mayor Losardo and Redevelopment Coordinator Tom Strowe. Due to my involvement as Planning Board liaison to the Redevelopment Committee, the mayor called to inform me of the council’s decision not to renew the exclusivity contract it had with the current developer for our downtown before it was made public.

As a planning board liaison and former board chairwoman I have been an integral part of the redevelopment process since the very beginning in 2018. It was my understanding that Mayor Losardo has appreciated my contributions and wanted to give me a heads up. I was not asked to give my consent or agreement to this decision. I found it very disappointing to hear Mr. Adams refer to me only as the “then Chairwoman of the Republican Committee.” He completely omitted my involvement as a planning board liaison since its inception, implying that the phone call was merely political in nature.

I have lived in our town for over 44 years. Forty of those years I have spent in community service for Scotch Plains, especially wearing the hat of a planning

Letters to the Editor

Westfield Town Officials Say Senior Housing Center Made False Claims

You may have heard the false claim by the Westfield Senior Housing Center (WSHC) that the Town of Westfield is not negotiating in good faith regarding renewal of leases on their two buildings located on town property, which expire in 2026. We’d first like to provide assurances to the residents that these false insinuations are baseless, and the town is fully committed to the continuation of their senior affordable housing indefinitely.

For nearly 50 years, the town has leased several acres of its property on Boynton Avenue to two non-profit entities, Building I and Building II, which comprise WSHC. Their responsibility was to construct and maintain two buildings that house approximately 300 low and moderate income units for senior citizens, a mission that we fully support.

Their lease arrangement with the town is atypical, with payment based on a percentage of revenue rather than a fixed monthly amount. Recently, in the midst of lease renewal discussions initiated by WSHC’s Board, it was discovered that WSHC has been misrepresenting what they owe and is in default on payments to the town since at least 1996, if not earlier. To be clear, the WSHC’s own publicly available audited financial statements acknowledge that WSHC owes at least \$1.7 million to the town through 2019, and that’s only for Building II. The WSHC continues to be behind in reporting requirements and still has not provided their 2020 audited financial statements to determine additional amounts owed, in spite of repeated requests.

The WSHC is not struggling financially. To the contrary, the Building I investment account alone contains at least \$20 million in available assets that can and should be used to pay the money they owe the town.

The town remains committed to its senior citizens and affordable housing obligations—whether the facility continues to be operated by the existing management or another entity going forward. We also have a fiduciary duty to resident taxpayers and will not be pressured by false accusations to discontinue past or future amounts due.

The town has also identified additional concerns regarding the WSHC Executive Board’s governance practices, which are not compliant with non-profit board best practices. As WSHC’s landlord, we are insisting on full compliance with governance best

practices and having town voting representation on their board, as opposed to the liaison that is currently allowed.

To be perfectly clear, none—not a single one—of the tenants in the facility are in jeopardy of being evicted or paying higher rents as a result of this dispute. The current lease is in effect for five more years, and there is no plan whatsoever to convert these facilities into “luxury condos,” as WSHC now falsely contends. Just like the town, the residents of WSHC also have rights and need answers. This administration has made supporting the town’s senior citizen population a priority, and any notion that these residents will be displaced is categorically untrue and can only be construed as underhanded politics.

It’s unfortunate that a tenant with whom the town has had a close relationship for more than 45 years has chosen to use scare tactics and fear-mongering through online petitions and media ads in an attempt to gain leverage before a political election—particularly when there are five years remaining in the lease term and their own publicly available audited financial statements acknowledge these payment obligations to the town. To reiterate, WSHC admits that it owes Westfield \$1.7 million and has \$1.7 million to pay, but is still attempting to extort the town into accepting less than that which it is entitled to receive.

We had been engaged in a mutually agreed upon mediation process which we have now terminated in light of their recent actions. For background and context on our claims, you can read our mediation statement, as well as the lease documents, financial agreement, and audited financial statements at westfieldnj.gov/WSHC.

The town looks forward to reaching a resolution that includes WSHC fulfilling its long-neglected financial obligations, while providing further enhancements to the affordable senior housing accommodations on the property for decades to come, even if it is necessary to find a different operator with whom the town can have a more mutually beneficial relationship.

We are attempting to arrange a Town Hall meeting with the WSHC residents to address any concerns directly. We hope the WSHC Board will cooperate and allow us to do so.

Mayor Shelley Brindle
Councilwoman Linda Habgood,
Chair, Finance Policy Committee
Councilman Mark Parmelee,
Chair, Code Review & Town
Property Committee
Westfield

Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions – only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly – good guess. If you get two – well-read individual. If you get three – word expert. If you get all four – You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

Answers to last week’s arcane words.

1. Parmic – Causing to sneeze
2. Dawpate – A simpleton; a fool
3. Tellural – Pertaining to the earth
4. Gobbet – A chunk of raw flesh

BURKING

1. Murdering persons in order to sell their bodies for dissection
2. Pointing out with the finger
3. Causing extreme fear, trembling or quivering
4. Causing a person or persons to get enraged; a taunting

SIMAGRE

1. Stern; rigid
2. A grimace
3. A grouchy old man; curmudgeon
4. An early stage or beginning

BUCCAL

1. Full of life; very lively
2. Living the life of a hermit
3. Pertaining to the cheek or mouth
4. Desolate; barren

BLOTTO

1. Widespread epidemic of catastrophic proportions
2. Very pale or faded
3. Mixed or jumbled
4. Very drunk; unconscious because of drinking too much

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.

Reader Takes Issue With PILOT Letter

I read with interest Bill Nierstedt’s letter to the editor in your October 7 edition of the *HAWK*. Mr. Nierstedt writes informative letters which I agree many times with his opinions. To my dismay it was written to be a partisan attack piece. It is no secret that he “is not too fond” of the opposition party. Sadly, this shades what could have been an informative piece. As he notes, he is a certified planner in Plainfield and as such he brings that large city baggage into our small borough of Garwood. In Plainfield he incentivizes builders to overdevelop by PILOTS (Payments In Lieu of Taxes) garnering revenues for the city. He is certainly party to that scam even though it looks like he never sees it that way.

As to the misinformation that occurred in his attempts to discredit the opposition candidates, he “falls off the rails” as follows: He says that PILOT agreements are made to capture all up front and first costs and allows the developer to schedule payments as his cash flow appears. If this was always the case, no projects would be built without PILOTS. Yet a huge number of buildings everywhere, residential, commercial, industrial have been built for years without PILOTS. Builders usually do tax appeals to keep tax impacts and first costs down. This usual route then dictates all costs to be captured thru rental income. They do financial planning up front to determine feasibility. Mr. Nierstedt also notes that developers “never pay less in taxes”. That couldn’t be further from the truth. PILOTS are called “tax abatements” for a reason. The problem here is that all governmental entities should be doing a study of projected revenues from PILOTS versus what taxes could be achieved thru the normal tax assessment route on the property improvements. Even noted this to my Garwood council to do first before giving a PILOT. And have posted this on the Facebook forum, “NJ-Stop the Madness of Overdevelopment” for the members to chase their councils to do first to understand what they are giving away. For some reason, councils avoid this, just easy to give out PILOTS whether its needed or not. I only found one example on the internet; I believe an “industrial plant” in Maryland. The difference was that the town lost 40 percent of potential taxes when it gave out the PILOT. Tax abatement PILOTS potentially can create shortfalls of 10 to 40 percent.

However, the most egregious avoid-

ance of info by Mr. Nierstedt is when a town gives out a PILOT, it gives away the control of revenue, out of the hands of the tax assessor and into the pockets of the developers who are of course profit motivated. Examples: When PILOTS are based on rental income, if a recession hits and 25 percent of the tenants move out, the revenues drop drastically versus what would have been constant cash flow of property taxes. If you lose your job, do you think the town will cut your taxes? In addition, without proper taxation, the developer can do whatever he wants with his property as to enhancements, added amenities or adjustments and would avoid any further cost obligations to the town. Try to add a porch or pool to your home and get away from paying more property taxes.

The saying goes for Mr. Nierstedt, the City of Plainfield Planner: when you are a hammer everything looks like a nail, and God forbid anyone questions the nail. Just some last items: Not to toot my horn, but he chastises the opposition about the PILOT revenue stream avoiding the school district portion, and says “Do they think they are the first to think of this.” Actually, I was the first to broach this subject before the planning board, council and board of education (BOE) did. I wrote a letter to then Mayor Lombardo, et al. explaining how they should do an “intralocal agreement” with the BOE and even gave a road map of what it should be. That got them at least talking. The revenue should be automatically broken down to the same percentage as our tax bills dictate, no matter how many school-aged youth appear from the development. No revenue fluctuations should be accepted. In addition, he notes the present mayor set up a joint committee, which I recommended they must do years ago. Unfortunate in the last three years all they had were two meetings. This is his political party that are dragging their feet by the way. He also chastises the opposition candidates about their phrase, “PILOT funds will begin shortly.” Guess what? The developer said that the building will have rentals by the end of the year, which is little over two months away.

I do agree with him many times, but Mr. Nierstedt should put away any political agenda since it clouds his judgement.

Edward Hogan
Westfield

Bruce Paterson
Garwood

Denise Garrett: Ready to Collaborate to Drive Change

I am ready! Ready to collaborate with Westfield's leadership to find fair-and-balanced solutions that will drive change. Ready to help ensure Westfield remains one of the most coveted destinations for current and future families. Ready to utilize my two decades of experience in compliance and risk management to make thoughtful, yet timely decisions. Ready to have a seat at the table representing the residents of Ward 2 and all of Westfield as we plan the Westfield of tomorrow.

My first priority as councilwoman will be fiscal responsibility because it sets a strong foundation for many other decisions, and will help us collectively focus on innovative and creative solutions to the town's current and future challenges that have been amplified over the last two years. As we begin to emerge from pandemic restrictions and plan for how we future-proof our community, we have to ensure we don't lose the ability to attract businesses, visitors, and future residents and families as a premier destination. We currently operate with under-functioning and under-utilized sports and recreation facilities, an abundance of empty storefronts in our downtown all while offering tax abatements to developers. We are building faster than we can design and implement an adequate and thoughtful support plan for basic public services.

Another top priority will be public safety, which I assert has suffered under Westfield's current leadership. When my husband and I moved here 16 years ago, I would never have imagined seeing electronic message boards around town warning residents and visitors to "lock your cars" and "hide your things". We are facing a shortage of crossing guards at a time when traffic violations are not being enforced and drivers, more than ever, need to be held accountable for their actions.

As your councilwoman, I also commit that I will: lobby to evaluate the Downtown Westfield Corporation's

(DWC) current operating structure and re-introduce the Downtown Taskforce to help identify new ways to improve our businesses through the restructuring of dated ordinances; work to reverse the town's classifications as an area of redevelopment and rehabilitation taking away the ability to give tax abatements to developers and building owners in the SID area; advocate for a Request for Proposal for the three municipal parking lots currently assigned to Streetworks Development as a result of a no-bid, uncontested agreement with our current administration; emphasize controlled and smart growth; partner with the recreation department to make fiscally responsible and environmentally-friendly fields of dreams a reality of tomorrow; collaborate with the department of public works to equip them with all tools and resources available to ensure efficiency, while meeting the changing environmental guidelines; champion traffic enforcement, while also working with the school-aged children to learn and apply fundamental pedestrian and bike safety rules around town; and work as a responsible steward of our budget by applying a conservative, practical approach that will help rebuild our surplus for future, unforeseen needs.

We have many exciting opportunities ahead as a community. Whether reimagining our town as the private sector adapts more permanently to new ways of working or identifying how we can creatively expand non-tax revenue growth, we can set ourselves up for success for today and shape the Westfield we hope to see in the next 10 to 20 years.

I hope I am able to earn your vote for Ward 2 councilwoman on Tuesday, November 2 because I am ready for the responsibility and the honor. I am ready to work for you. I am ready to work for Westfield.

Denise Garrett
Council Candidate Ward 2
Westfield

Make Public Works Work for the Public Again

Greene Place is a small, dead end street in Ward 3 off Central Avenue between Grove and Sycamore Streets, which has the distinction of being the only street in Westfield still paved with concrete. No one really knows the last time it was paved although a strong indicator might be a manhole cover stamped '1929'. If you visit you'll learn about the buckling, uneven slabs and drainage issues. Yet, according to the recent paving assessment by a consultant, this street received ratings of "Excellent" and "Like new condition" and it is not on the town's long-range paving schedule. Really?

The current administration touts outsourcing its paving decisions to a consultant. Frankly, it seems to outsource a lot of decisions to its many highly-paid consultants, rather than using our own paid staff or listening to residents. But blindly following the advice of a consultant does not account for the unique needs of particular neighborhoods (high traffic, numbers of school age children) and not advocating for residents is antithetical to the notion of representative government. We need a return to government that works for its residents again.

Paving is just one aspect of our public works services that needs addressing. In looking more broadly at other public works services the town should:

Rein in taxpayer-funded Department of Public Works (DPW) services provided to the Downtown Westfield Corporation, which has a budget exceeding \$415k. Let them hang their own decorations, clean the sidewalks and empty their own trash cans so we can move those crews back to neighborhoods and fields, where they're needed the most.

Guarantee debris pickup after all major storms. The initial, uncertain response after Ida followed the non-existent pickup after Tropical Storm Isaias which saw residents (many of whom had lost power for several days) forced to cart their own debris and

seniors forced to rely on volunteers. Restart bulk pickup. Issue fewer permits so neighbors can pool their funds/waste and designate fewer pickup locations per block, reducing pickup times and costs.

Negotiate tree trimming services (rather than rent) in exchange for allowing those companies to park their vehicles at the Conservation Center. This will free up DPW tree crews for field or infrastructure maintenance.

Open the gates at the Conservation Center seven days per week (it's currently open four). It is already staffed every day, so let's get our residents the flexibility they need to dispose of recyclables and yard waste. This will better spread out use and minimize overtime for additional staff to handle weekend rushes.

Install a time clock at the Conservation Center so staff don't have to punch in and out at DPW's North Avenue building. The center can open an hour earlier and stay open an hour later.

Institute street cleaning rules. To better maintain our drains, streets should be swept at least once per month. Ticket those who don't move their cars and use those funds to subsidize the program.

Incentivize the Adopt-a-Drain program by providing a free Conservation Center permit to participating households.

Look at wasteful practices, such as paying DPW staff to drive to Ocean County to recycle batteries.

As your next councilman, I'll work to turn these ideas into solutions, so we can get our public works services back working for the public again.

Shawn Mullen
Candidate for Ward 3 Council
Westfield

*More Letters and
Candidate Statements
on Pages 13-14*

Vote for JoAnn Neylan For Mayor of Westfield

As a former Westfield resident of 31 years I still have great interest in the progress and growth of this wonderful town where my wife, Maureen and I, raised our two sons. I read *The Leader* on a regular basis and try to understand why certain things are happening. I was really annoyed when I read that new Mayor Brindle and her team are spending the surplus on every day activities and I thought the former mayors Bud Booth, Allen Chin and Ron Forgerio would never do that because they understood economics 101. Just recently I read a letter to the editor from a former Democratic council member, Tony LaPorta, who was an effective council member suggesting to Mayor Brindle what the surplus

is REALLY supposed to be for and I thought the new mayor must be trying to emulate President Joe Biden, "spend and hide it."

When I read that JoAnn Neylan was running for mayor I thought "great" because she has always been a bright and capable council member. So I will suggest to my old friends still living in Westfield VOTE FOR JOANN NEYLAN before we run up a deficit.

Francis Quinn
Lavallette

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Elections 2021

Nolde and Jotz Pledge to Ensure a Stable Municipal Tax Levy

One of our goals if elected to the Garwood Borough Council is to ensure a stable municipal tax levy, a trend begun under the current Democratic leadership. It's a fact that the municipal tax was frozen twice over the last 4 years. A closer examination reveals the average municipal tax increase over the last five years (2017-2021) is \$34 per home assessed at \$100,000. Here is a chart that shows the last 20 years, using a five year average to determine tax increases.

Municipal tax increase by year: 2017-2021 \$34, 2012-2016 \$84, 2007-2011 \$121, 2002-2006 \$131.

This average increase, when compared with the fifteen preceding years, shows how committed the Council has been in limiting the financial burden on taxpayers. If elected, we would seek to continue this trend.

In addition, one of the financial tools that allow the council to purchase big-ticket items such as a ladder fire truck or a street sweeper is bonding. Bonds allow the municipality to pay the cost of this equipment over many years at an extremely low interest rate. This allows the Council to keep up with the financial demands of running the town, without placing an undue burden on local taxpayers. While our opponents have criticized bonding for needed equipment, our net debt percentage is currently well under the 3% maximum mandated by the state. In fact, our current debt percentage is less than our neighbors in both Clark and Cranford,

as shown in this table.

Net debt percentage by town: Garwood 0.902 percent, Clark 1.34 percent, Cranford 1.194 percent.

Finally, we are committed to evaluating shared service agreements that save the town money in order to maintain high quality services, and will seek out new shared service agreements if they make financial sense for Garwood. The current shared service with Fanwood saves our town nearly \$50,000 in salary and over \$20,000 in health benefit costs by sharing a state mandated superintendent of the DPW. In fact, Garwood taxpayers have saved \$240,000 since 2015 with this shared service. Since this administrator is not permitted to do any physical labor, having a full-time Superintendent in Garwood is not cost effective. If elected, we would continue to support this agreement in order to continue the savings for our taxpayers.

During our campaign, we have enjoyed the opportunity to speak to many residents who share our concerns about taxes and fiscal responsibility. We believe that our primary responsibility to the residents of Garwood is to continue the fiscal priorities of the current council by stabilizing taxes while also looking for new ways to both save money and make necessary investments in our infrastructure.

Clarissa Nolde & Jeff Jotz
Democratic Candidates for
Garwood Borough Council

Rejuvenating the Westfield Green Team To Increase Focus on Sustainability

Many residents who I speak with while campaigning ask about the town's efforts to fight climate change, especially in the wake of Tropical Storm Ida. I'm proud of my efforts to heighten our town's commitment to sustainability over the past four years through my role rejuvenating the Westfield Green Team and serving as its council liaison. As a result of these efforts, the Westfield Green Team won two prestigious awards from Sustainable Jersey in 2020.

When I ran for council four years ago, I was surprised and disappointed in the previous administration's lack of focus on addressing climate change. The Green Team only conducted parks clean-up, a sitting member of the council at the time mocked global warming and the council even banned solar panels on the front-facing roofs of homes.

So I eagerly volunteered to assemble the Green Team because I knew this town could do a lot more to address this existential crisis, especially by harnessing our residents' talents. As part of the town's first open call for volunteers, more than 60 residents offered to join the Green Team with dozens of additional residents offering to join every year since.

Over the past three-plus years, this talented group of volunteers has gone way above and beyond to help our town launch dozens of sustainability initiatives that have helped our government, residents, students and businesses become more "green". Here are just a few highlights, many of which I personally led or was very involved with:

Launched 11 New Recycling Programs At The Conservation Center Free To Residents: These include #5 plastics, plastic bags, plastic toys, Styrofoam, household batteries, corks, tennis balls, books and more. In 2020, over 240 tons of materials were recycled instead of thrown out.

Held three free markets to promote re-

use. As a result of the free markets which are basically giant tag sales where everything is free and whatever remains is donated to Green Drop, residents reused well over 12 tons of household goods instead of throwing them out.

Installed town's first rain garden at Tamaques Park to more naturally manage stormwater.

Installed 6 EV chargers downtown at no cost to taxpayers in partnership with Volta, the leading network of EV chargers nationwide, to attract residents and shoppers driving electric vehicles.

Launched Green Westfield Medalion Program for downtown businesses to incentive more sustainable business practices.

Passed green building checklist that requires developers to review a list of green building practices as part of their site plan approval, encouraging more sustainable building practices.

Launched Westfield home energy savings program to help residents save money on their energy bills.

Revised solar panel ordinance to allow front-facing solar panels so residents can save money on their energy bills by harnessing the power of the sun; and so many more.

Held the town's first Alternative Energy Fair (with dozens of EV cars and e-bike test drives) and co-sponsored and co-managed the Tour De Westfield (to promote safe biking in town).

If I'm re-elected, I will continue to emphasize sustainability and help the Green Team drive a greater impact in town over the next four years because it's the right thing to do to protect our environment and attract new residents and businesses to our town.

David Contract
Ward 3 Councilman & Liaison to
the Green Team
Westfield

Re-elect Mike Dardia as Westfield's Ward 2 Councilman

I've lived in Westfield for 55 years, and over that time, I've been represented by literally dozens of Westfield councilpersons. But I've never known one as hard working, as well intentioned, and as competent a councilman as Mike Dardia.

Mike is the kind of councilman I like — he doesn't make a lot of noise or pander to the crowd; he just puts his head down, works tenaciously, and gets things done, both for his 2nd Ward constituents and the town as a whole.

Under Councilman Dardia's leadership of the town council's public safety committee, there have been a huge number of improvements — both large and small — to the public safety in our town. The accomplishments are almost too many to list in one place. From moving the town to buy and install more radar speed signs; to installing traffic calming center islands at South Euclid and St. Marks, and at Boulevard and Summit Avenue; to overseeing a comprehensive bike safety initiative, including reactivating the long-defunct bicycle advisory board, whose board works with the mayor and the town council to make bike-related infrastructure recommendations, promote bicycle safety, and continuously improve town-wide biking opportunities through industry best practices. All of these things, and many more, have happened only because of the laser-like focus that Mike has exhibited to make this town a safer place in which to live and work.

If there's one initiative Mike deserves

special credit for is the recent national accreditation of the Westfield Police Department. Although accreditation was not, of course, Mike's idea, Councilman Dardia steadfastly supported Westfield Police Chief Chris Battiloro throughout this process, making sure the department had what it needed to successfully accomplish this significant goal, an accomplishment that acknowledges the implementation of police policies and procedures that are "conceptually sound and operationally effective."

Mike's quiet and effective leadership is matched only by his good nature and his positive and kind demeanor.

Throughout the many years that Mike has been a Westfield Youth Lacrosse coach, Mike has been known for being a fair and caring person and instilling in his players a love for the game and a sense of fair play, respect for opponents, and how to exhibit true sportsmanship, no doubt the qualities he himself exhibited as a standout lacrosse player in high school and college.

I'm proud to call Mike my friend, and I'm even prouder to have him represent me as Westfield's 2nd Ward Councilman. I plan to support him for his re-election this November, and I hope and I urge you to do the same.

Frank Fusaro
Westfield

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The Student View

A collaboration with the
Westfield High School Journalism Program

Cultural Appropriation: A Discussion

By Kimberly Su
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

Towards the end of September 2018, people jumped onto Twitter to call out the popular American online retailer mostly famously known for their sexy Halloween costumes, Yandy. Their sexy Halloween costume lineup for 2018 included 43 different "sexy Native American" and "sexy Indian" costumes, which people found highly offensive and racist.

The backlash only increased as the #CancelYandy campaign gained more traction and a petition was created that received over 12,500 signatures. Yandy did not take down these costumes until a full year later during the summer of 2019, and they did so silently. Many people waited for some sort of public announcement of apology, but nothing was ever released.

This is not the first time that Yandy has gotten themselves into some hot water with their culturally insensitive Halloween costumes. Their "Sexy Shooter Happy Hour" costume featured a "poncho-style" mini dress and a sombrero, and their "Asian Persuasion" costume featured a mini dress, obi-waist corset, hairpiece and umbrella.

According to *dictionary.com*, the exact definition of "cultural appropriation" is "the adoption, usually without acknowledgment, of cultural identity markers from subcultures or minority communities into mainstream culture by people with a relatively privileged status." In other words, cultural appropriation is when an important cultural aspect is watered down and used for "aesthetics," which is extremely disrespectful and ignorant.

Now, there is a big difference between cultural *appropriation* and cultural *appreciation*. Cultural appreciation is an interest in learning about another culture that is not part of your own. Cultural appreciation involves

permission from people of that culture and extensive research to ensure that the cultural elements are being represented properly.

For example, buying a pair of chopsticks and learning to use them in your own home is a form of cultural appreciation, but using them as hair accessories is a form of cultural appropriation because it is a racist stereotype and nobody in East Asia actually does that.

Cultural appropriation within popular culture is nothing new; it has been present since the very beginning. It is only in the last decade that people have been acknowledging this problematic practice. In 2012, then Victoria's Secret angel Karlie Kloss wore a Native-American inspired headdress, fringed leather bra and panties, and high-heeled moccasins as she walked the runway in the annual Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. Her outfit was in the "Calendar Girls" section, and she was supposed to be representing the month of November and the holiday of Thanksgiving. The backlash was so intense that they removed the outfit from the public broadcasting on television, and both the company and Kloss issued a public apology.

At the end of the day, the problem with cultural appropriation in Halloween costumes isn't with these big corporations such as Yandy or Victoria's Secret. It's with the fact that they have customers who are continuing to buy these costumes and be inspired by these outfits.

After all, they wouldn't be able to run their business if they didn't make a profit from these costume sales. So, it's crucial for everyone to educate themselves on this topic to ensure that they are not allowing this to continue. The rule of thumb is that if you are questioning if something you're wearing may be seen as offensive, it probably is.

Re-elect Councilperson Dawn Mackey for Ward 4

When I think back over the past year, I like everyone else, think of the things we lost. The easy interactions with friends, bumping into people out and about around town, seeing family and friends consistently and inside!

Thinking only locally, last spring it was hard to imagine missing so many events we have grown accustomed to over the past few years. Addamsfest, and the summer street festivals like the dog days of summer. As the pandemic wore on and our family became experts on local and not so local parks to explore, things slowly became available again. It may have looked different seeing everyone in masks, but I saw friends I hadn't seen in months when I took a yoga class on Quimby. Exploring our own streets to see how many butterflies we could find, we also found friends doing the same. Instead of going to the masquerade ball or the beer garden, we went to a drive-in movie at the train station. We had the most convenient socially distanced Santa drive by right at the train station.

Then, we met friends out at the seaways and had a great time going into town for the chocolate tour after. We found new ways of connecting in


town, and it made the year not look as bad after all. As I was thinking of the moments of joy my family had in the midst of the most chaotic year of our lives, I realized I had someone to thank. That person is Councilwoman Dawn Mackey. Her ingenuity and creativity helped so many get through the darkest days of an unprecedented year, by giving us local things to do. Those activities not only helped everyone in attendance, but helped our businesses downtown by getting us out and about again. This is why I full-heartedly support Dawn Mackey's re-election campaign. Just today, my daughter said to me as we were driving through the train underpass, "I love the painting under here, it looks so nice and really brightens it up." After she said that, I realized it was just one other thing I have Dawn to thank for. I hope you'll join me in voting for Dawn Mackey this November.

Ashley Pagelow
Westfield

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Sixty-four Local Residents Attain SHU Dean’s List

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall University has announced the names of those students who qualified for the Spring 2021 Dean’s List and congratulates them on their outstanding academic achievements. The following 64 local residents were among the honorees.

Sebastian Angulo of Scotch Plains, Annamarie Anton of Cranford, Julia Barnes of Scotch Plains, Kevin Campanello of Westfield, Alanis Card of Fanwood, Heather Carlson of Garwood, Gianna Carroll of Cranford, Aiden Cascio of Westfield, Dustin Close of Fanwood, Ethan Cohen of Scotch Plains, Olivia Correia of Cranford, Isabella Dicosmo of Mountainside.

Andrea Esquivel 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, Richard Heins of Mountainside, Allison Hess of Westfield, Allison Hochman of Scotch Plains, Ethan Hom of Westfield, Samantha Hui of Scotch Plains.

William Kluckas of Scotch Plains, 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, Lauren Locorriere of Mountainside, Julia Logiudice of Cranford, Julia

Lomonte of Scotch Plains.

Colleen MacNamara of Cranford, Michael Magnotti of Westfield, Kathleen Malanka of Cranford, Ava Manganiello of Mountainside, Britany Markase of Cranford, Mary Grace McNamara of Cranford, Alanna Moriak of Mountainside, Luke Nadolny of Cranford, Alexa O’Brien of Cranford, Benjamin Outten of Westfield, Jadie Pearl of Fanwood, Julia Poeschl of Scotch Plains, Ashley Postaski of Westfield, Ryan Quick of Westfield, Zander Reyes of Scotch Plains, Patrick Ritter of Fanwood.

Miller Schulman of Cranford, John Serzan of Westfield, Elizabeth Sottung of Westfield, Justin Sousa of Mountainside, Ryan Stroever of Westfield, John Taylor of Garwood, Anthony Verardi of Scotch Plains, Danielle Vo of Westfield, Katherine Watts of Mountainside, George Waweru of Scotch Plains, Diana White of Garwood, Victoria Wilkins of Scotch Plains, Daniel Wright of Scotch Plains, Alexa Zsak of Scotch Plains.

One of the country’s leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been welcoming 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 Seton Hall University, visit shu.edu.

The Citadel Awards Jones Academic Recognition

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Matthew Jones of Mountainside has been honored by The Citadel for his academic achievements during the Spring 2021 semester.

He was among nearly 550 cadets and students at The Citadel who received gold stars, which are awarded to those who have achieved a 3.7 grade point average or higher. Cadets and students who earn gold star recognition also are placed on The Citadel’s Dean’s List.

The Dean’s List for the Spring 2021 semester included nearly 1,100 cadets and students. To attain Dean’s List recognition, individuals must be registered for 12 or more semester hours and have a grade point average of 3.20 or higher, with no grade of I (Incomplete) and no grade below C

for work in a semester.

The Citadel, with its iconic campus located in Charleston, S.C., offers a classic military college education for young men and women focused on leadership excellence and academic distinction. The approximately 2,400 members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets are not required to serve in the military, but about one-third of each class earns commissions to become officers in every branch of United States military service.

The Citadel Graduate College, founded more than 50 years ago, offers dozens of graduate degree, graduate certificate and undergraduate programs in the evening or online.

For more information about The Citadel, visit citadel.edu.



BACK TO NATURE...Cub Scout Pack 270’s Wolf Scouts recently went on a nature hike at Brightwood Park. The second graders from Washington Elementary School in Westfield also performed a park cleanup, gathering several bags of garbage and recyclable materials. The Scouts learned about the outdoor principle of “Leave No Trace,” which instills a healthy respect for nature.

Amanda Mayer Part of Largest First-Year Class at LVC

ANNVILLE, Pa. — Amanda Mayer of Scotch Plains has enrolled at Lebanon Valley College as part of its record-setting Class of 2025. The 487 new students surpassed the 478 new enrollees in 2019. Aside from last year’s Covid-affected enrollment across the country, Lebanon Valley College has welcomed record classes of new enrollees in four of the past five years.

Ms. Mayer, a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, is pursuing a degree in history.

Thirty-eight transfer students also arrived on campus this fall.

The Class of 2025 comes from 15 states and Washington, D.C., rang-

ing from California and Michigan to New Hampshire and Florida. New students represent four international countries: China, Canada, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Lebanon Valley College offers more than 50 undergraduate majors and graduate degrees, plus numerous graduate certificates. For more information about the college, visit lvc.edu.

Local 12 Are Among JMU Class of 2025

HARRISONBURG, Va. — James Madison University welcomed the Class of 2025 to campus this month. The incoming freshman class is a diverse group that hails from 35 states, the District of Columbia and 11 countries around the world. The following 12 local residents have enrolled.

Daniel Balkan of Cranford, Luke Barry of Westfield, Melissa Falk of Fanwood, Andrew Goldfeder of Cranford, Josephine Gunther of Cranford, Jonathan Heard of Westfield, Maura Leahy of Scotch Plains, Sofia Leonetti of Fanwood, Juliette Mueller of Westfield, Joy Mulzoff of Westfield, Mattie Waller of Westfield and Kate Wilson of Cranford.

Founded in 1908, James Madison University is a public university located in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. It offers undergraduate degree and graduate degree programs, plus professional and continuing education opportunities. To learn more, visit jmu.edu.

McKella Sylvester Graduates Colgate

HAMILTON, N.Y. — McKella Sylvester of Scotch Plains is a graduate of Colgate University in the Class of 2021. Ms. Sylvester, a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, majored in English at Colgate. Her minor was in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree Cum Laude at Colgate’s 200th Commencement, which was held in person at Colgate’s Andy Kerr Stadium on May 9.

Colgate University offers 56 majors and supports 25 Division I athletic teams on a campus of about 3,000 students in central New York. To learn more about the university, visit colgate.edu.

Mount’s Kaelyn Twaskas Interns at NYC Law Firm

WATCHUNG — As part of the Senior Summer Scholars program, which was organized by the Office of Campus Ministry and the School & College Counseling Department at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, Kaelyn Twaskas participated in an internship at Alan J. Bennett, PLLC in New York City this summer.

“My Senior Summer Scholar law internship helped me form a realistic view of law. The most interesting part of my day was listening to the lawyers talk to clients and discuss their work,” said Kaelyn, a Fanwood resident. “Just being present to see an attorney’s daily routine made this profession feel less like a dream and more like a reality to me.”

The Senior Summer Scholars program was developed as a proposal for rising seniors to be especially recog-

nized for their significant summer community service or employment. The Senior Summer Scholars program contributes to and develops a sense of purpose in the work that the student does within the community, college study or unpaid internship.

“This experience helps the student to understand the need for community service, college study, and/or gaining valuable career skills, helping her to recognize her role in society,” said Ruth Anne Munroe, director of Campus Ministry. “While the Senior Summer Scholar program is not a graduation requirement, it is our hope that rising seniors look towards this experience as an opportunity to document their work and achievement, to work with a mentor, to journal their activities, and to present their experience to other students, providing inspiration to others.”



Kaelyn Twaskas

WAYVE Seeks Applicants For Teen Foundation Board

WESTFIELD AREA — Jill Dispenza, program director for The Westfield Area Youth Volunteer Experience (WAYVE) Program, has announced that applications are now being accepted for the 2021 WAYVE Teen Foundation Board.

“The WAYVE Teen Foundation Program seeks to educate teens on the vital roles that non-profit agencies play in improving the lives of the residents of Union County, by walking the teens, step-by-step, through the entire grant review process,” said Ms. Dispenza.

The WAYVE program is made possible through a grant from the Allstate Foundation, with additional funding from the Westfield Area Y Men’s Club, and is coordinated by Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey (JFSCNJ), a non-profit, non-sectarian health and social service agency serving Union County.

Prospective WAYVE Teen Foundation Program applicants are expected to fill out an application expressing their interest in applying to the program and make a one-time donation of \$300 each to serve on the board. Limited scholarships will be available. These donations will be

used to partially fund the grants.

Tom Beck, JFSCNJ executive director, expressed the need to “give teens a better understanding of the gamut of non-profit agencies in the area and help donate the funds they require to fulfill their missions.”

The WAYVE Teen Foundation Program is open to high-school students in their freshman through junior year who reside in Union County. Once accepted to the board, participants are expected to attend all virtual meetings beginning on Tuesday, November 23, and continuing on November 30 and December 7, with the final meeting taking place on Wednesday, December 15. All meetings will run from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom.

The WAYVE Teen Philanthropy Board will be mentored by seasoned mentors who will provide the teens with the necessary tools to review proposals to address the needs of Union County residents.

Anyone interested in applying to the program should email jdispenza@jfscentralnj.org for an online link to the application. The deadline to submit applications is Monday, November 8.



“Michele Matsikoudis is an advocate for the autism community, and has always been there for us.”

— Cindy, New Providence



“I’m a Democrat. Bramnick still helped me, and that’s the truth.”

— Tony, Westfield



“We were having trouble with unemployment benefits during COVID... Nancy Muñoz helped us out. I’ll never forget it.”

— Ruth, Summit



“In the worst days of COVID, Nancy Muñoz put herself at risk to administer tests and then distribute vaccines to thousands as a retired nurse. Selfless teen service at its best.”

— Nancy, Basking Ridge



“Jon Bramnick represents everyone, and cares for all of us.”

— Joe and Thos, Roselle Park



“I’m a Democrat, and I know Michele will be a great advocate for us in Trenton”

— Asher, New Providence

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Paid for by Bramnick for Senate, 279 Watchung Fork, Westfield NJ – Dan Connolly, Treasurer; Munoz for Assembly, PO Box 999, Edison, NJ – Ron Gravino, Treasurer; Matsikoudis for Assembly, 125 Central Ave, New Providence – Michele Albano, Treasurer.

Richard ‘Dick’ McClain Eckert

The family of Richard “Dick” M. Eckert mourns his passing on Sunday, September 17, 2021. Dick was born in Plainfield, New Jersey, on November 24, 1929 to Harold McClain Eckert and Mary Gunther Eckert. He was married for 67 years to Joan D. Davis, also from Plainfield, New Jersey. They lived in Westfield, New Jersey, for 12 years, where they raised their two daughters, Anne and Elizabeth. Dick attended the University of Louisville, graduating in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. After college, he served in the Navy for three years on a destroyer during the Korean War. During his career, he earned his Master’s degree in Engineering from Union College in New York, and received additional credentials in nuclear



Richard M. Eckert

reactor technology from the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology in Tennessee. Dick worked at Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) in Newark, New Jersey, for 33 years, finishing his career as Senior Vice-President of Supply and Engineering. He retired to warmer climates in 1987 to spend more time with his wife and pursue his passions of sailing, golf and travel. He was a 15-year member of the First United Methodist Church of Gainesville, Georgia, where he was interred in the Memorial Garden. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Joan; his daughters, Anne Clift and Elizabeth (Betsey) Papp; his sons-in-law, David Clift and Timothy B. Papp; and his grandchildren, Douglas Clift and Alexander Clift.

October 14, 2021

Library Program to Recall Pivotal Valcour Campaign

SCOTCH PLAINS — Historian Jack Kelly, author of “Valcour: The 1776 Campaign That Saved the Cause of Liberty,” will share the wild and suspenseful story of one of the most crucial and least-known campaigns of the Revolutionary War, when America’s scrappy navy took on the full might of Britain’s sea power. The Scotch Plains Public Library will present the program on Zoom on Monday, October 18, at 7 p.m. People are familiar with the story of how General George Washington crossed the Delaware and defeated Hessian mercenary troops in the pivotal Battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776, but Washington might never have been able to mount his attack without the actions of Benedict Arnold in the largely-forgotten Battle of Valcour

Classes Continue For Balance Awareness

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will host Virtual Balance Awareness Classes with Yasmin Ofek on Zoom at 10 a.m. on Fridays in October. Older adults in particular are encouraged to take part in these classes, which are designed to address the loss of balance and strength that can occur with age. Participants only need a chair and sneakers. Ms. Ofek’s instruction integrates principles from the Feldenkrais Method, which emphasizes moving with awareness to allow the nervous system to discover easier, more efficient movement patterns. To learn about the method, visit <https://www.mindthebodybalance.com/about-the-method>. Individuals need register just once to attend one or all of the October classes. They will immediately receive an email with the Zoom link that can be used on October 15, 22 and 29. The registration form and information about the library’s entire month of programming can be found at scotlib.org. Registration also may be done by calling (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204.

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— Obituaries —

Joseph S. Urso, Beloved Family Man, Professor, Longtime Squad Member

Mr. Joseph Salvatore Urso XIII passed away on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at The Woodlands Care Center in Plainfield, N.J. Born in Plainfield to Joseph and Theresa (Ciraldo) Urso, Joseph grew up in Westfield and was a Westfield High School graduate, Class of 1961. He attended Union County College and completed his undergraduate degree at Kean University in Union before earning his Master’s degree from William Paterson University. Professor Urso had a long career in higher education, teaching economics at his alma mater, Kean University. He proudly served in the United States Army National Guard. He was an honorary member of the Westfield Rescue Squad, having served for over 50 years and the longest riding member in its history. He also volunteered with the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad and served as president of Southwyck Village Condo Association.



Joseph S. Urso

As a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother, Joseph loved nothing more than spending time around his family. Mr. Joseph Urso was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Theresa (Ciraldo) Urso. He is survived by his loving wife, Miki (Leitner) Urso; his daughter

Kimberley, her husband, Neal, grandchildren Rachel (Jeffrey), James and Andrea, and great-granddaughter, Charlotte; his son Joseph and his wife, Chutchamon; his daughter Lynda, children from his first marriage to Carolyn Urso (deceased); his stepson Philip, his wife, Maureen, and grandson William; his stepson David, his wife, Kimberly, and grandchildren Harrison and Abigail; his stepson Steven and his wife, Angele; his sisters, Joanne (Louis, deceased) and Elizabeth (Fred), and his many nieces and nephews.

Friends and family gathered on Tuesday, October 12, at the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue, Westfield, N.J. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Wednesday, October 13, at St. Helen’s Roman Catholic Church on Rahway Avenue in Westfield, followed by burial at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions in Joseph’s name to Mission Clean Water or to the volunteer rescue squads of Westfield or Scotch Plains. These organizations were incredibly important to Joseph, one started by his grandson James and the others benefiting the organizations he spent his life giving his time to.

October 14, 2021

Hope Chest Seeks Donations, Additional Volunteers

WESTFIELD — The Hope Chest is seeking donations from the community of new and gently-worn clothing and household items to help replenish the store with merchandise that was lost due to flooding from Hurricane Ida at the beginning of September. The Hope Chest, which is run by volunteers from the Center for Hope Hospice, sells new and gently-worn clothing for men and women as well as books and household goods. All items for sale are donations from the community, with proceeds going to

the Center For Hope and used to pay for residential care. Tax-deductible donations can be dropped off on Tuesdays and Saturdays at The Hope Chest, located at 26 Prospect Street, Westfield. The Hope Chest also is welcoming new volunteers to work at the store. Currently, volunteers are needed during normal store hours of Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone interested in donating their time is asked to stop into the store or call (908) 233-9973.



FAIRVIEW IN THE FALL...Fairview Cemetery and Arboretum will host its annual fall arboretum walking tour, highlighting the abundant number of catalogued trees within the cemetery grounds. Led by Dr. Tom Ombrello, the tour is scheduled for this Sunday, October 17, at 2 p.m. The tour is free and open to the community. Due to high demand, the tour is limited to 30 participants. To make a reservation, call the cemetery office at (908) 232-0781. Participants should arrive at the front gate at 1:45 p.m., which is located at 1100 East Broad Street, Westfield. On-premises parking is available.

Westfield Rotary Seeks Grant Applications

WESTFIELD — Marta Alexandre, 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 westfieldrotary.com, by email at malexandre@spencersavings.com, or by contacting Ms. Alexandre at (908) 889-6390. 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 Friday, October 15 deadline. The Rotary Club, in accordance with its goal of community service, is most interested in providing grants for programs and

projects that directly serve 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. 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. Prospective members and guests are welcome to join any of the weekly meetings. For additional information, email info@westfieldrotary.com or visit the club website, <http://www.westfieldrotary.com/>.



ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON...Mayor Sara Todisco and other guests socialize during the annual Garwood Lions Club Senior Citizen Picnic that was held September 25 at the Columbian Club in the borough. The picnic, which featured food and camaraderie, is among multiple events sponsored throughout the year by the Garwood Lions.

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SPF/So. Plainfield Boys Soccer
Will Be in October 21 Edition

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 9-12

MURRAY 2 TDS; VANDAM TDS TO CONLEY, GALLAGHER

Cougars' Run/Pass Combo Stops Colonia Gridders, 27-14

By DAVID B. CORBIN
For The Westfield Leader and The Union County HAWK

Containing the smooth running quarterback Josh Oluremi was a primary concern of the Cranford defense when it entertained the Colonia Patriots on Senior Night at Memorial Field in Cranford on October 8. Well, the defense did just what it needed with relentless pressure and a few sacks to earn the Cougars a 27-14 victory.

The Patriots came into the game with a 4-1 record, losing only to Woodbridge, while recording wins over Edison (38-7), South Plainfield (33-6), Montgomery (27-13) and Linden (23-14). The Cougar defensive line led by Kevin Shriner and the

linebacker corps of Conor Ryan, Shane Kanterman, Angelo Fiorenza and Jake Lies inflicted numerous sacks and throws for losses (TFL) on the Patriot offense.

As to his cooperation with his linebacker corps, Ryan expressed, "We keep playing hard and we keep getting better every weekend. It's only up from here."

Shriner was involved in eight tackles, including a pair of sacks. Ryan, who has been consistent all season pressuring the offense, recorded three tackles and a TFL. Fiorenza had five tackles, including a sack and a TFL. Kanterman brought down eight Patriots. Corner back Liam Godwin made

seven tackles and defensive end Lukas Ruby recorded four tackles.

"Coach Pedicini and Coach Huber do a great job. They tell us to truck the system and do what we are told and that's how we make plays," Shriner commented.

Cougar quarterback Shane Van Dam worked with four receivers and completed 11 of 19 passes for 146 yards, including a 28-yard touchdown strike to Jack Conley (3 receptions, 46 yards), an eight-yard touchdown to Will Gallagher (6 receptions, 83 yards) and one interception. Jake Carter had a nine-yard reception and Ruby had an eight-yard reception.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



BRINGING DOWN A PATRIOT...Cougar Kevin Shriner, bottom - No. 77, brings down a patriot, while teammates Shane Kanterman, No. 35, Lukas Ruby, No. 34, and Conor Ryan, No. 52, assist during Senior Night at Memorial Field in Cranford on October 8. The Cougars defeated Colonia, 27-14.

Blue Devils Roar Past Highlanders, 4-1



GETTING A KICK OFF...A Governor Livingston Highlander kicks the ball as Blue Devil Ciara Dursee, No. 5, tries to block it at Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 5. Westfield won, 4-1. See game details on page 10.

Raiders, Cougars Duel to 0-0 Deadlock



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT...Raider goalkeeper Rebecca Kessler makes the save just before Cougar Anna Constable, No. 16, makes contact in Cranford on on October 5. The game ended in a 0-0 deadlock. See game details on page 10.



MAKING A LEAPING GRAB...Blue Devil co-captain James Csorba, No. 8, makes a leaping grab of Trey Brown's pass during the game with Hillsborough at Kehler Stadium on October 9. Hillsborough topped the Blue Devils 28-7.

BROWN 16-25 FOR 150 YDS, 22-YD TD PASS TO COLBY

Hillsborough's Big Plays Jar Blue Devils' Grid Effort, 28-7

By DAVID B. CORBIN
For The Westfield Leader and The Union County HAWK

Two huge touchdown plays and especially later in the game a number of sacks inflicted on Blue Devil junior quarterback Trey Brown insured that the momentum would be on the No. 16 Hillsborough Raiders' side which led to a 28-7 victory over Westfield at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 9. The speed of running back Tom Amankwaa allowed him to grab a swing pass from quarterback Jay Mazuera and outrun everyone for a 66-yard touchdown then in the third quarter, he dampened the 2-3 Blue Devils' spirits with a 93-yard sprint to the end zone.

Amankwaa carried seven times for 126 yards, including the 93-yard touchdown, to go with his 66-yard catch-and-go touchdown reception. The primary runner for the 6-0 Raiders was Tyler Michinard, who carried 19 times for 62 yards, including a four-yard touchdown. Mazuera completed 10 of 17 passes for 166 yards, which included the 66-yard touchdown reception by Amankwaa and a 27-yard touchdown strike to wide receiver Shane Donoghue.

Brown, who was intercepted twice, completed 16 of 25 passes for 150 yards, including a 22-yard touchdown pass to running back Justin Colby (2 receptions, 36 yards). Receiver Trey Constantinou had five receptions for 29 yards, Paul Cerro had four receptions for 24 yards, co-captain James Csorba had three receptions for 38 yards and Peter Del Re had two receptions for 23 yards. Due to the Raiders' formidable defense, Colby gained only 46 yards on 12 carries and Brown was thrown for a loss five times in the second half and finished

with minus 27 total yards. Csorba had a 21-yard gain on a fake punt.

Despite a solid tackle by Csorba on a pass for no gain and a combined four-yard sack by defensive lineman/co-captain Jack Price and end Rion Murray, the Raiders managed to move the ball to the Westfield 27 on their first series but defensive back Paul Tilyou picked off Mazuera's pass at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CORRECTION:

In the October 7 Sports Section, the score of the game between the Union Farmers and the Westfield football teams was incorrectly given at 13-0 when it was actually 14-3. The score was accurately given in the photo caption and in the small account of the game.

Sorry for the confusion!



GETTING SIGHT OF THE BALL...Blue Devil Max Rokhsar, No. 18, Evan Crozier, center, and Evan Tompkins, No. 4, get sight of the ball in the game against Plainfield at Kehler Stadium in Westfield. The Blue Devils won, 1-0.

Blue Devils' Shelling Downs Cardinals in Boys Soccer, 1-0

By DAVID B. CORBIN
For The Westfield Leader and The Union County HAWK

A negated score late in the first half seemed to ignite quite a spark which led to a constant Blue Devil shelling of the Plainfield goal area but only one shot managed to penetrate the net in a 1-0 Westfield boys soccer victory at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 7. Despite numerous leads into the box predominantly set up by senior forward Andrew Macik, the lone score came on a penalty kick by senior co-captain/midfielder Max Rokhsar with 21:10 left in the game.

The 6-2-1, No. 17 Blue Devils began the game with a mix of starters and reserves. Backup Mike Lieberman filled in at goal and finished the game with three saves.

"We have 22 guys for a reason, so we want them when they step on to perform. There's a lot of soccer to be played each week. Three games! Quality opponents! Unfortunately high school season with so many matches is a little unfair because there's a lot of running. We have data that we collect. Thirty, forty miles a week is way too crazy for high school soccer and that's why we have other players play," Blue Devil Head Coach Eric Shaw explained.

The Blue Devils took four corner kicks during the first half (2 from the right corner, 2 from the left corner). The first real threat on the Cardinal goal came from junior forward Anthony Buscio whose header was tipped by the goalkeeper. With seven minutes left in the half, Blue Devil senior Evan Tompkins' header caused another Cardinal save.

But the real kicker that seemed to create a spark came when Macik brought the ball up field and crossed to senior forward Chris Cicca, who beat the defender and ripped a shot into the net with 5:27 on the clock but the goal was negated and a concerned conversation followed. The result was a free kick awarded instead of a penalty kick to Macik whose shot was smothered by the Cardinal goalie.

"The explanation was that he (ref) blew the whistle before the shot went off. He called a foul outside the box before he scored. Reality, he should have let it go and not blown the whistle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

ANOTHER BIG EVENING...Cougar running back Colin Murray, No. 13, gets some blocking from lineman Geoff Gretta, No. 57, during Senior Night. Murray sprinted for 164 yards and had respective touchdown runs of 19 yards and three yards.

Cougars’ Run/Pass Combo Stops Colonia, 27-14

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

“Van Dam is a great quarterback. He always is, he always will be. He puts it on us and we catch it and we score touchdowns,” Gallagher commented.

The Cougars’ ground game worked out well with Colin Murray chomping up 164 yards of turf, which included respective touchdown runs of 19 yards and three yards. Lucca Limeira carried nine times for 65 yards and Van Dam carried four times for 22 yards.

The Patriots relied predominantly on the success of their ground game and Oluremi carried 12 times for 135 yards, including a two-yard touchdown bash and a 46-yard touchdown run. Running back Josh Prophete carried 12 times for 79 yards. Oluremi completed seven of 18 passes for just 52 yards and Pat Miller grabbed four of them for 28 yards. Oluremi was intercepted once by Jake Carter.

“He is an unbelievable athlete. He is the guy! He is their team! We knew if we shut him down then we win the game. I didn’t think we did too bad of a job regarding shutting him down. He broke a few but it’s going to happen. I have a lot of respect for him,” Gallagher, who plays cornerback, said.

“We knew he would be breaking outside of the pocket. He did that verse Linden. We knew we had to stay in our gaps, contain him and do our jobs. That’s what we did. We did our job and it helped us win,” Shriner said.

“It’s staying in the gaps, especially the outside linebackers because I’m on the edge. It’s a lot of staying outside and forcing them to run it outside or cut it back inside because I know I got everybody else in there waiting for him. It’s just making sure he doesn’t get it around,” Ryan explained.

The 5-0 Cougars began the game with an eight-play, 74-yard scoring drive when Murray got great blocking from linemen Matt Fries, Geoff Gretta, Ryan Heesters and Shriner and sprinted 19 yards for the touchdown with 7:32 left in the first quarter. Godwin kicked the first of his three points after.

The Patriots’ touchdown was set up by an interception that was returned from the Cranford 23 to the two-yard line. From there, Oluremi skipped in for the touchdown with 2:58 left in the quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, Gallagher returned the ball from the five-yard

line to the 43. Eight plays later, Van Dam hit Conley in the middle of the end zone for the 28-yard touchdown. Godwin’s point after made the score 14-7 with 8:45 left in the half. Colonia attempted to answer but Oluremi’s pass was intercepted by Carter just before the half.

After Shriner recorded a three-yard sack and Ryan added a sack midway through the third quarter, the Patriots still managed to knot the score when Oluremi weaved his way 46 yards for the touchdown with 5:05 left in the third quarter.

The Cougars’ defense really did a job on the Patriots’ next possession and forced them to punt from their own end zone. The Cougars took over at the 33 and took five plays to get to the eight. Van Dam tossed to Gallagher on the right flank. Gallagher lunged for the pylon and with 10:03 left, the Cougars led 21-14.

“I’m going to be honest, I don’t think I got it. I don’t think I hit that pylon but it worked,” Gallagher confessed.

The capper came next. The Cougars took their ball from their own 32 and on the eighth play, Murray scooted in from the three. A bad snap prevented the point after.

Next on the schedule would be a trip to Woodbridge to face the 6-0 Barrons.

“We will see Monday on the films. We know they have some returning starters and they got some decent receivers, so we just got to stick with our game plan and play Cranford football,” Shriner emphasized.

“I couldn’t have said it any better myself. We just got to keep playing hard, keep doing what we’ve been doing, what we are coached to do. We got to hand it to them. And we will,” Ryan added.

“It’s the biggest game of the year next week. This week with Colonia is kind of leading up to next week. Colonia is a step above the teams we’ve all played so far and I think that Woodbridge is above Colonia, so it’s going to be a challenge. I think it’s going to be a very good game,” Gallagher said.

Colonia	7	0	7	0	14
Cranford	7	7	0	13	27

Blue Devils Roar Past Highlanders; Union Farmers, 8-1, in Girls Soccer

Four minutes after ceding the first goal of the game to the Governor Livingston Highlanders, the No. 7 Westfield High School girls soccer team came roaring back with its first goal then piled on three more to claim a 4-1 victory at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 5. Two days later the 10-0-1 Blue Devils buried the hosting Union Farmers, 8-1.

With just 1:21 off the clock, Highlander Allie Post connected to make the score 1-0 but the 9-0-1 Blue Devils stepped up the pace and pressured the 5-4 GL box then after a mad scramble, junior attacker Alyssa Martinez slipped one past goalkeeper Vicky Lama, who finished with nine saves. Martinez, who would finish with a hat trick, scored her second goal when she broke down the right side and ripped an angular right-to-left shot past the diving Lama and into the left corner.

The Blue Devils tacked on another goal before the half when junior attacker Chiara Cosenza ripped the net then Martinez added their fourth in the second half. Junior attacker Chiara Cosenza scored a goal. Junior attacker Cat Angel and sophomore midfielder Ella Cadigan each had an assist and junior goalkeeper Sutton Factor made five saves.

After an opening loss to Cranford, the Highlanders had a string of five straight wins, three over Union County rivals Oak Knoll, Summit and Cranford to go with wins over Hillsborough and Parsippany Hills. But losses to Summit, Scotch Plains-Fanwood and now Westfield followed.

Martinez came up with another hat trick and added a pair of assists in the triumph over the Farmers, and Cosenza rammed in a pair of goals and contributed three assists. Elle

Sherman, Angel and Cadigan each scored once. Kelly Sullivan, Zhana Velkov and Bridget Morrison each had an assist. Goalkeeper Olivia

Rosario made two saves. Natalie Aquia on an assist from Rachel Baez scored the lone goal for Union. Faith Cardillo made 10 saves.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

TRYING TO GET A LEG UP...Blue Devil sophomore Kate Giglio, No. 6, and a GL Highlander battle for possession of the ball in Westfield on October 5.

Cougars Rout GL Highlanders In Boys Soccer Clash, 5-1

The Cranford High School boys soccer team continued its winning roll with a 5-1 triumph over the 5-4 Governor Livingston Highlanders in Cranford on October 5. Jake Icklan notched a pair of goals and added and assist, while Owen Maher ripped the net twice for the 5-2-2 Cougars, who have not lost in their last six games.

Logan Bridgman scored once, while Pablo Levy and Matteo Beltran each had an assist. Cougar goalkeep-

ers Gavin Avella had four saves and Marco Coccaro recorded one. GL’s Blake Ortiz scored once and keepers Colin Goldbeck and Jim Ruban had six and four saves, respectively

Since losing two games and tying one, the Cougars beat Oratory Prep, 2-1, and tied AL Johnson, 0-0, then reeled off four straight wins beginning with Jonathan Dayton (3-0), New Providence (1-0), Rahway (2-1) and now Governor Livingston.

Cougars, Raiders Duel to 0-0 Deadlock in Girls Soccer

Plenty of action but no scoring was the outcome of the game between the 5-4-1 Cranford High School girls soccer team and the 4-3-3, No. 16 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders at Memorial Field in Cranford on October 5. Both teams had opportunities but the most crucial one came midway through the second half.

With a little more than 22 minutes left, Cougar senior co-captain Riley Korzeneski set up a corner kick and sent it into the box where Raider goalkeeper Rebecca Kessler smothered the ball before anyone could get a foot on it. Two minutes later Korzeneski launched another corner

kick and this time Kessler managed to get a hand on it to prevent a goal. With 16:56 remaining, another corner kick had Cougar Keely Patterson getting her head on the ball but it missed the mark.

Including the game with the Cougars, the Raiders had recorded three wins and three ties in their past six games. The Raiders defeated Pope John, 5-1, Oak Knoll, 4-0, and Governor Livingston, 3-0. The other ties were to Summit and Westfield. In the meantime, the Cougars had a three game shutout run - Oak Knoll (5-0), West Orange (1-0) and Scotch Plains-Fanwood.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

GETTING HER FOOT ON THE BALL...Cougar Meghan Normann gets her foot on the ball as Raider Grace Kennedy, No. 15, closes in on October 5.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES 1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 600 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625	
Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27-7-35.2 via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on 10/21/21 , downloaded, and publicly opened and read, in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:	
Maintenance Concrete Structural Repair Contract, North - 2022, Various Locations, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren (Including and North of Route 57) Counties; 100% State; DP No: 22415	
Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 (P.L. 1975, c. 127); N.J.A.C. 17:27.	
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.19, contractors must provide a Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form prior to contract award.	
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, contractor must submit the Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue Business Registration of the contractor and any named subcontractors prior to contract award or authorization.	
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.51, contractors must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance at the time of bid.	
Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bidx.com . You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the web site. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express. Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our Design Field Offices at the following locations:	
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PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY FOR NONPAYMENT OF TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND/OR OTHER MUNICIPAL LIENS		
Public notice is hereby given that I, Colleen M. Huehn Collector of Taxes of the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union will sell at public auction on Thursday October 28th, 2021 in the Municipal Court, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey at 9:00 o'clock in the morning or at such later time and place to which said sale may then be adjourned, all of the several lots and parcels of land assessed to the respective persons whose names are set opposite each respective parcel as the owner thereof for the total amount of municipal liens chargeable against said lands respectively, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:5-1, et seq. as computed to the 28th day of October 2021.		
Take further notice that the hereinafter described lands will be sold for the amount of municipal liens chargeable against each parcel of said land assessed as one parcel, together with interest and costs to the date of the slae. Said lands will be sold at the lowest rate of interest bid, but in no case in excess of 18%. Payments for said parcels shall be made prior to the conclusion of the sale in the form of cash, certified check or other method previously approved by the Tax Collector or the property will be resold. Properties for which there are no other purchasers shall be struck off and sold to the Township of Scotch Plains at an interest rate of 18%.		
At any time before the sale I will accept payment of the amount due on any property with interest and costs.		
Payment must be in the form of cash or certified check. Industrial properties may be subject to the Spill Compensation and Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58-10-23.11 et seq), the Water Pollution Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58-10A-1 et seq) and the Industrial Site Recovery Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et seq). In addition, the municipality is precluded from issuing a tax sale certificate to any prospective purchaser who is or may be in any way connected to the prior owner of the site.		
In the event that the owner of the property is on Active Duty in the Military Service, the Tax Collector should be notified immediately.		
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00101 0011	PATEL, MIHIR & KATHIARI, PREETI	349 TERRILL RD
00101 0013	MADISON SP REALTY LLC	345 TERRILL RD
00102 0014	SANCHEZ, NICHOL	372 FARLEY AV
00301 0026	PERSHAY, MAGNOLIA	538 CICILIA PL
00302 0006	DAVIDSON, JEFFREY/GRECO, CAROL	512 FARLEY AV
00403 0010	BOWLES, STEPHEN L & MICHELLE	536 HUNTER AV
00404 0024	VALENTI, MELISSA & CHRISTOPHER	551 HUNTER AV
00601 0036	NIGRO, DANIELLE	1607 ST ANN ST
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00903 0023	GENTY, RALPH & SHIRLEY	340 SYCAMORE AV
01001 0013	JACKSON, NAMON & CORA	319 HAVEN AV
01001 0019	MUNOZ-GAMBOA, VICTOR & CASTRO,	1806 MOUNTAIN AV
01001 0030	KNECHTEL, PAUL & PATRICIA L	340 CEDAR GROVE TR
01001 0037	RIOS, ORESTES	323 CEDAR GROVE TR
01001 0063 C0025	DECHELLIS, RICHARD	25 VILLAGE PARK CT
01103 0002	THOMPSON, PATRICK	1791 E SECOND ST
01201 0007	SIMO, TODD W & ESTES, KINDAL B	527 WILLOW AV
01201 0035 C0103	DUNN, CHRISTOPHER S & LAURA S	530 PARK AV
01201 0035 C0209	SCHMITT, CHRISTINE	530 PARK AV
01201 0036	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	536 PARK AV
01402 0006	BANCES, LIZ	1921 PORTLAND AV
01902 0004	MADISON SP REALTY LLC	1976 ROUTE 22
02102 0011	ANICO, DAVID, M & KIMBERLY D	2003 BARTLE AV
02103 0010	JOSEPHS GROUP LLC	2015 WESTFIELD AV
02702 0003	CINTRON, RICKY D & BETH	2056 NICHOLL AV
02801 0001	KHALSA ENTERPRISE LLC	2040 ROUTE 22
02803 0002	ENCARNACION, FRANK R	243 SCOTLAND ST
02803 0007	SANTORO, SCOTT & BERNADINE	2048 PROSPECT AV
03003 0001	KORANTENG, KIRAN & MERCADO, WE	335 WESTFIELD RD
03004 0004	HAYECK, BRIAN A & JENNIFER A	2218 GREENSIDE PL
03004 0017	KESSINGER, WILLIAM & GENEVIEVE	2241 LYDE PL
03603 0018	ALLEN, ANTHONY	2316 COLES AV
03703 0003	REAGAN, THOMAS & SONIA	2272 MOUNTAIN AV
03901 0001	LUGO, JENNIFER-LAZO, SANDRA	191 MOUNTAINVIEW AV
03904 0003.01	PANTA, JOSE E	186 WILLIAM ST
03905 0022	UONO, LISA & VELLA, SAL	210 ELM CT

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
03906 0012	SHEVLIN, RICHARD	224 HARDING RD
04004 0016	SZENTE, ROBERT J	334 JERUSALEM RD
04102 0002	ANDRAWIS, MARYAN	437 WILLIAM ST
04103 0004	YEWASIS, MAUREN	429 VICTOR ST
04202 0015	CORDERO, ROBERTO & KATRINA	2429 WESTFIELD AV
04301 0013	DAVIS, MICHAEL & CHRISTINE	543 VICTOR ST
04302 0010	POLIANSKY, STEVE & DOLORES	536 JERUSALEM RD
04302 0015	EGUES-DELGADO, MARIA	537 WARREN ST
04501 0018	CORTES, GILBERT & LORRAINE KRI	364 ACACIA RD
04602 0029	ARCILA, JAMES/VILLAGREN, TAMARA	2537 MOUNTAIN AV
04702 0006	KHALSA JI LLC	2581 ROUTE 22
04901 0003 C0408	HENWOOD, GORDON C	408 DONATO CR
04901 0003 C0809	DILANNO, DOLORES	809 DONATO CR
05901 0019	BROWNE, ALBERT J	11 GARY CT
06201 0004.10 X	RISBERG, WILLIAM AND DONNA	239 THROWBRIDGE DR
06105 0004	COHEN, HELENA	2588 LIBERTY ST
06301 0003	TURPIN, PAULINE LARK	2509 SMITH ST
06303 0003	PELLETTIERE, MICHAEL V	804 CLEVELAND AV
06703 0029	JUDGE, JOSEPH G & SUSAN C	709 WESTFIELD RD
06801 0014	MARGIOTTA, MICHAEL S	2309 CONCORD RD
07304 0017.01	MELENDEZ, GRACE	2405 B PARK PL
07401 0028	ROMOND, GREGORY & CALIGUARI, DIA	880 O'DONNELL AV
07401 0032	RODRIGUEZ, ELBA R	848 O'DONNELL AV
07601 0014 C0003	CAPC SUPPORTIVE NEEDS HOUSING,	3 CRESTWOOD COM N AV
07703 0004	SCHETELICH, TIMOTHY T	2426 HILL RD
08104 0024	JACQUES, THOMAS W & BROOKE	2357 NORTH AV
08404 0001	ALHAMRAWY, ISMAIL	1081 HETFIELD AV
08504 0001	FAROUK, ALAA & ABDELBAR, MARW	2045 MAPLEVIEW CT
08702 0008	RUDDY, ADAM & DANDREA, JARRA	1126 JEFFERSON AV
08704 0001	LOCKLEY, BARBARA L	1963 EVELYN ST
08802 0006	BOOKER, VANESSA	1169 WASHINGTON AV
08902 0001	POSTLEWAIT, TROY W & CYNTHIA	2047 ELIZABETH AV
09402 0001	EDGE, SAMUEL & DI NITTO, ANYA	1900 MARY ELLEN LN
09502 0005	JAMOLAWICZ, MARK	1957 W BROAD ST
10301 0005	CARUSO, JACQUELYN	1942 W BROAD ST
10301 0019	MENDES, MICHAEL F	1335 MARTINE AV
10301 0028	CARO ESPOSITO, ANTONIO & CLAUD	1301 MARTINE AV
10801 0001	DEEGAN, BRIEN P	1441 MARTINE AV
11203 0002	ELLNER, TODD & TORRES, GRETTEL	1568 RADLEY RD
11903 0001	HALLECK, ROBERT & MONACO, JULI	22 FENIMORE DR
12205 0009	MC DONALD, JOYCE R	2 RAMBLING DR
12401 0018	TABARES, FREDIE & MADELINE	1871 RARITAN RD
12605 0001	ZIELE, THOMAS A & SHARON M	1920 FARMINGDALE RD
13301 0017	CHARLES, MATTHEW & SHERRY	4 LINDEN LN
13301 0021	ROMEO, DOMENICK - MAURER, KRIS	5 LINDEN LN
13701 0003 C0023	OBEID, RUTH	23 WAREHAM VI
13701 0003 C5010	LEPRE, GEORGE EDWARD	10 TISBURY VI
13701 0004 C0009	SIEGAL, ADAM	1009 CELLAR AV
13701 0004 C0035	GONZALES, VICTORIANO	1035 CELLAR AV
14001 0001	ASHBROOK REALTY, LLC	1610 RARITAN RD
14602 0007	TURCHIN, MARILYN %SCOTT PERRY	11 GREENBRIER LN
14703 0010	JENY, ROBERT J, JR & CAROL A	9 WELLINGTON DO
15005 0009	AUGUSTIN, JOHN M & MARLENE	18 HIGHLANDER DR
15201 0010.11	GALLAGHER, JOHN S & TIFFANY	37 CLYDESDALE RD
15702 0013	LAKHANI, NOORJAHAN	6 SWANS MILL LN
16001 0007	SUBRAMANIAM, SURESH & GANGA	990 RARITAN RD
16001 0039	ALVAREZ, MICHAEL	1700 RAHWAY RD
16202 0002.01	JUCO, RODNEY & DEROGATIS, DIANE	850 RARITAN RD
16402 0001.03	ALZOOBAEE, FAIZ & MAHA	6 KING ST

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King's Supermarket 300 South Ave (Leader)	Krauszer's 727 Central Ave (Leader)	Kwick Mart Food Store 190 South Ave (HAWK)	Mountain Deli 2385 Mountain Ave (HAWK)	Shoprite Supermarket 563 North Ave (HAWK)	Westfield Mini Mart 301 South Ave, W (Leader)	Westfield Tobacco & News 108 Elm St (Leader)	

WF - GIBBS 1 ALL-AROUND; SINGLETARY, FARLEY 2ND

Blue Devil Gymnasts Capture Cougar Classic Invitat’l Title

Prepared By DAVID B. CORBIN
For The Westfield Leader and The Union County HAWK

Shannon Gibbs tied a meet record on the balance beam, took first in the vault and recorded the top All-Around score to help the Westfield High School gymnastics team surpass last year’s champions, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, for the 19th Annual Cougar Classic Invitational crown at Cranford High School on October 6.

Westfield, ranked No. 3 in the state, finished with a team total of 108.05 ahead of the No. 7-ranked Raiders, who totaled 107.7. Cranford took third with a total of 101.55, followed by the Union Catholic Vikings at 101.025, the Summit Hilltoppers at 97.475, Union Farmers at 94.575 and Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs at 86.65. Team wise on the individual events, the Blue Devils had the highest total on the vault at 27.35 and the balance beam at 27.275. The Raiders had the highest total on the uneven bars at 26.65 and the floor exercises at 27.625.

“We had some new difficult skills added on vault, floor, and beam that helped us take home first place. The team has been dedicated to cleaning up their form in each routine, and sticking all their landings. We still have some room for improvement that we plan to work on the next couple weeks leading up to the County

Tournament. Jenna (Zito - co-head coach) and I are so proud of the girls and are looking forward to the remainder of the season,” Blue Devil Co-Head Coach Amanda Santangelo said.

Gibbs’ All-Around total of 37.2 catapulted her past Raiders TT Singletary and Shaylin Farley who tied for second with a total of 35.975. UC Viking Alexis Roth was fourth at 35.55, followed by Union’s Lailah Willis at 35.2 and Blue Devils Jessica D’Agosta and Vendela Surgent who tied for sixth at 35.05.

Gibbs tied the meet record on the balance beam of 9.5 set by former Blue Devil Lacy Cummings in 2009. Farley took second with a score of 9.1 and Blue Devil Chloe Katz placed third at 8.925, followed by Surgent at 8.850. Willis tied Blue Devil Ariana Keith for sixth at 8.825.

Gibbs also took top honors in the vault with a 9.45, followed by Singletary with a 9.4, Raider MK Hoffman at 9.125, Roth at 9.1, Cranford Cougar Claire Werner at 9.05 and D’Agosta at 9.025. Farley captured first on the uneven bars with a score of 9.15, followed by Gibbs at 8.85, Singletary at 8.775, Roth at 8.75, Raider Ella Burgio at 8.725 and Surgent at 8.6. Singletary took first on the floor exercise with a 9.425, followed by Gibbs at 9.4, Farley at

9.225 and D’Agosta at 9.075. Surgent, Hoffman and Willis tied for fifth at 8.975.

For the Blue Devils, Katz had an All-Around total of 33.75 (8.45 - vault, 8.5 - bars, 8.925 - beam, 7.875 - floor). Keith also scored an 8.0 on the uneven bars. Emily McGovern competed in two events with an 8.85 on vault and 8.825 on floor.

Raider Jordana Reisberg had an All-Around total of 34.4 (8.675 - vault, 8.125 - bars, 8.75 - beam, 8.85 - floor). Competing in two events, Ava Fazio scored an 8.625 on vault and 8.775 on floor. Burgio also had an 8.25 on beam.

Four Cougars competed All-Around. Werner recorded a 34.2 (9.05 - vault, 8.2 - bars, 8.6 - beam, 8.35 - floor). Kelly Anderson had an All-Around of 34.15 (8.45 - vault, 8.325 - bars, 8.75 - beam, 8.625 - floor). Samantha Levenstein had a 32.575 All-Around (8.375 - vault, 7.25 - bars, 8.2 - beam, 8.75 - floor). Isabelle Cleveland had an All-Around of 30.75 (8.075 - vault, 7.4 - bars, 7.55 - beam, 7.725 - floor). Sophia Carpenter had the highest Cougar score on the floor with an 8.825.

The Union County Tournament is set for Thursday, October 21, at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and the same group of teams will be vying for the team title.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

A LITTLE FACEMASK PROBLEM...After making a reception, Blue Devil Paul Cerro, No. 16, has his facemask grabbed by Hillsborough Raider Tyler Michinard, No. 4, resulting in a 15-yard penalty at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 9. Hillsborough topped the Blue Devils 28-7.

Hillsborough’s Big Plays Jar Blue Devils’ Effort

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the 13 and returned it to the 35.

The Blue Devils went three-and-out and punted to the Raider 25. On the fourth play, the ball was on the 34 and Mazuera flicked to the right sideline where Amankwaa grabbed the pass and bolted 66 yards for the score with 3:19 left in the first quarter for a 7-0 lead.

Another short series and a bad snap on fourth down caused a desperation punt that made it to midfield. Twelve plays later the score became 14-0 when Michinard plowed in from the four with 8:53 left in the half.

More misfortune followed when Brown’s pass was picked off at the Raider 40 but a fine defensive effort by the Blue Devils, including a batted down pass by defensive back Owen Shakal halted any drive.

The Blue Devils took over at their own 32. Brown hit Csorba for 22 yards and eight yards. Cerro’s reception plus a 15-yard face mask penalty put the ball on the 22 then Brown hit Colby on the left side where he galloped into the end zone with 36 seconds on the clock. Henry Hipschman kicked the point after, narrowing the gap to 14-7.

Early in the third quarter, Brown’s pass was picked off by Amankwaa but thanks to another sack by Price, the Raiders’ offense went nowhere. But neither did Westfield’s next offensive. Fortunately Csorba got off a great punt and the ball came to rest at the Raider seven. But the wind was whisked right out of their sails when Amankwaa broke a pair of tackles at the line of scrimmage and soared 93 yards to up the lead to 21-7.

From that point onward the Raiders’ defense refused to give Brown a chance and the sacks would follow

for the remainder of the game. In the meantime, the Raiders converted a five-play, 63-yard drive into another score when Mazuera connected with Donoghue for his 27-yard touchdown.

“We had a lot of energy at halftime, 14-7. It’s a close game. That’s a game right there and we just let the energy die. Two bad plays. You could just see it on the sideline. We just can’t let that happen. Everyone on the team has to keep their energy up. We can’t let deficits define who we are. We got to keep playing,” Price emphasized.

“We got to put it behind us and move forward. We have a new game next week. New opponent. That’s what we got to focus on right now,” Csorba added.

“We just have to hold each other more accountable for things, especially with the sideline like Jack said. Everybody’s heads dropped and that just can’t happen. It’s a whole team sport. It’s not just the 11 guys on the field, it’s everybody on the sideline too and we just let two big plays get to us too much,” offensive lineman/co-captain Duke Edmondson said.

The Blue Devils have been stung before when facing teams with a lot of speed like Hillsborough and the Linden Tigers when they had two 60+ touchdown runs right at the beginning of the game. And next week will be the Elizabeth Minutemen, who are sure to have some speedsters.

“It’s been an issue with us this year. We got to stay contained, spot the ball,” Csorba said.

“Like he said, we got to read our keys. Too many guys watch the play happen and just wait for other guys to make plays. We all got to run to the ball. Even if the guy doesn’t make a block, then you are there. We got to play faster, play smarter and read our keys and play,” Price stressed.

“It’s definitely going to be a rough film session but for next week, it’s going to be a lot during the week of practice just watching their guys, know who has speed, know what plays they like to run and we just have to prepare for that next week. Put this behind us,” Edmondson said.

Hillsborough	14	0	7	7	28
Westfield	0	7	0	0	7

Blue Devils’ Shelling Downs Cardinal Boys, 1-0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

or let the PK which I thought it was. He made the wrong choice which he attested to and it should have been a PK,” Coach Shaw opined.

Just before the half, Macik whipped a throw-in from the left sideline and senior Jacob Root got his head on it only to have it stopped by the keeper.

Even though there was plenty of action in the first half, there was far more in the second half and it all belonged to the Blue Devils. Senior Matias Arbelaez launched a shot over the crossbar then followed up minutes later with another shot that was stopped.

and each time his shots were knocked away. Then in the final minute, Buscio and Lynch pressed again but the keeper made the stops.

“Then there was the cross when I dribbled it down the line to Lynch. Unfortunately it was a miss,” recalled Macik. “It happened to me earlier in the game. You just got to forget about it and continue playing.”

“We knew that they wanted to compete and we had to find a way to win the game. We only had 40 minutes left, so the whole team really pushed for the goal. It’s a good thing that we



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

WHOOPS - WRONG DECISION...The Plainfield goalkeeper makes the wrong decision on a penalty kick by Blue Devil Max Rokhsar in the second half of the game at Kehler Stadium in Westfield. The Blue Devils won, 1-0.

Twelve minutes in, Rokhsar’s cross to Cicca resulted in another Plainfield save. A minute later, Rokhsar got off a shot that was stopped.

Macik got into the action with a corner kick into the box where junior Mike Blake’s kick was knocked away. Moments later, Macik’s throw-in went to Blake but this time his kick went over the crossbar. With 21:10 left, Macik lofted a corner kick into the box and a Cardinal infraction resulted in a penalty kick. Rokhsar lined it up and ripped it to the right of the goalkeeper.

“I knew where I was putting it before I took it. I kept my composure and plotted it bottom right. Luckily the keeper went the other way,” Rokhsar described.

The shelling was far from over. After a throw-in, senior forward Matt Lynch’s header hit the far post. Macik made another throw-in and this time junior Noah Fischer took a shot that was stopped. Macik’s cross to Rokhsar in the box resulted in a deflection that set up a corner kick. Macik’s corner was directed to Tompkins, who just missed the mark.

“I remember throw-ins I usually look for Evan Tompkins because I know he can get to the ball and at least have a chance on goal. I also look for Noah. They are two very strong kids, up in the air and they can win the ball. My eyes are always looking for them and hopefully they can score a goal,” Macik said.

With less than five minute remaining, Macik tossed in twice to Lynch

were all hungry and found a way to get that goal and win the game,” Rokhsar said.

“We had a lot of opportunities. We created a lot of opportunities and the ability to finish them wasn’t good enough today. And teams like this (Plainfield) live on that. Teams that rely on us not finishing, they kind of

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinances were passed on first reading by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey on the 5th day of October 2021, and that said Ordinances will be considered for final adoption at a meeting of the said Township Council to be held virtually and by remote means, on the 8th day of November 2021 at 5:00 p.m., at which time and place a public hearing will be held prior to final passage of said Ordinances and all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same. Copies of said Ordinances can be obtained from the Township Clerk’s Office at any time prior to final adoption at no cost to any member of the general public who requests same.

ORDINANCE 2021-27

ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS, CHAPTER 7A, ENTITLED TRAFFIC SCHEDULES- § CHAPTER 7A-1 SCHEDULE I – PROHIBITED PARKING TO INCLUDE A PORTION OF COOPER ROAD.

BOZENA LACINA, RMC
Municipal Clerk

1 T - 10/14/21, UC Hawk Fee: \$31.62

“We are now on a winning streak. We haven’t lost in a while. It’s really setting up a strong lead up to the playoffs. Winning against Summit was a huge victory for us because it shows we can compete with Summit. They are not going to have the better hand over us. It gave the whole team confidence going into the counties,” Rokhsar expressed.

“We are the third seed. It’s unfortunate if we beat both Elizabeth and Summit, we could have gotten first but it doesn’t matter. We are just hoping to win counties and then states as well,” Macik said.

Plainfield	0	0	0
Westfield	0	1	1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL AN ACTUARY POSITION FOR THE UNION COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, 20.5 et seq. the Union County Insurance Fund Commission shall pursue a “Fair and Open Process” in awarding a contract for position set forth more fully below, and hereby solicit proposals in the form of resumes and letter applications for the below stated positions of the Union County Insurance Fund Commission, which shall be submitted to:

Union County Insurance Fund Commission c/o PERMA Risk Management Services 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216 “Contains UCIFC/RFP Response”

All responses shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Insurance Commission to be received no later than October 29, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Copies of the criteria for the various positions may be obtained by contacting Cathy Dodd at cdodd@permainc.com or at 973-659-6410. Professional services for the following positions are hereby requested:

- * Actuary
- * Auditor

1 T - 10/14/21, The Leader Fee: \$32.13

SPF Raider Footballers Pass by Linden Tigers, 17-10

Junior quarterback Weston Fischer hooked up with wide receiver Matt Powers for a 43-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter to earn the 4-3 Scotch Plains-Fanwood football Raiders a 17-10 win over the Linden Tigers in Scotch Plains on October 8.

Senior runningback Anthony Robinson was the workhorse for the Raiders offensively, carrying 23 times for 175 yards, which included a second-quarter touchdown that was followed with a two-point conversion by Power. Khadar Jackson carried four times for 15 yards and Power carried four times for 12 yards. Fischer completed three of nine passes for 61 yards, including the touchdown. He was also intercepted by Steeve Dorvil. Isaiah Nathaniel had a 10-yard reception and Damon Schumann had an eight-yard reception.

Linden quarterback Tequan Thomas scored a first-quarter touchdown and completed three of six passes for 23 yards. Victor Gritsal completed one of two passes for 14 yards. Thomas totaled 63 yards on the ground and Andrew Cuervo carried 12 times for 60 yards.

Robinson (5 tackles) and Nathaniel (6 tackles, 3 throws-for-loss) combined for a safety in the first quarter. Schumann had four tackles and an interception. Robert Koch recorded two sacks and a fumble recovery. Nahdir Johnson recorded a sack and three tackles.

With the score knotted 10-10 at the half, the Tigers took a 13-10 lead with a 22-yard field goal by Sam Morales in the third quarter but Fischer hooked up with Power for the game winner.

The Raiders will travel this Friday, October 15, to face Montgomery at 7 p.m.

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FULL-TIME LABORER

The Borough of Mountainside is accepting applications for the full-time position of laborer for the Department of Public Works. Please visit www.mountainstide-nj.com for full job advertisement. Application can also be found on the Borough's website under Public Works. The Borough of Mountainside is an Equal Opportunity Employer and reserves the right to interview/select a candidate prior to the closing of this ad. Applications and resumes can be emailed to gmortimer@mountainside-nj.com or mailed to 1385 US Highway 22, Mountainside, NJ 07092 Attn: Borough Administrator by November 5, 2021. No phone calls.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. the Borough of Fanwood Planning Board ("Board") will hold a virtual public hearing because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency. In compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL), the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq., as amended by A-3850, and/or P.L. 2020, c. 11, and/or N.J.A.C. 5:39-1 et. seq., the Ordinances of the Borough of Fanwood and the rules and regulations of the Board, and in order to comply with the Executive Orders signed by the Governor of the State of New Jersey, which prohibit and/or make public gatherings impracticable because of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency, and in an effort to follow best practices recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) and pursuant to the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, the hearing will be held by online/virtual means only, via Zoom, a videoconferencing service, at which time formal action will be taken by the Board. Interested members of the public can participate in or view the virtual public hearing by video or telephone, by following the instructions posted on the homepage of the Planning Board of the Borough of Fanwood website: <https://www.fanwoodnj.org/departments/planning-board/>. All plans, maps and other documents relating to this Application are on file and available in electronic format for the public to review online at least ten (10) days prior to the virtual public hearing by visiting the homepage of the Planning Board of the Borough of Fanwood website which can be accessed using the above link. If you are unable to access the Application materials online, you may contact

PUBLIC NOTICE

the Board Secretary, Pat Hoynes, by email at phoynes@fanwoodnj.org or by telephone at 908-322-8236 x 121, to make an appointment to review the Application and supporting materials in the Planning Board office at Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, 07023. During this virtual public hearing, the Board will consider the Application of Ganesh Builders LLC (the "Applicant"), seeking preliminary and final site plan and variance approvals (Redevelopment Plan Downtown Fanwood, Block 64: lot area: 4,000 square feet minimum, 3,087 square feet existing; lot width: 40 feet minimum, 25.06 feet existing; front yard setback: 5 feet maximum, 34.06 feet existing and proposed; off-street parking: 7 spaces required, none proposed) and such other variances, deviations, relief and/or waivers that may be required upon an analysis of the plans and testimony at the virtual public hearing on the Application submitted by the Applicant for the property located at 34 South Martine Avenue, Block 64, Lot 10 on the tax map of the Borough of Fanwood, New Jersey (the "Property"). The Applicant is proposing to construct a two-story addition to the existing 1-story commercial building with the new upper floors providing one, two-bedroom apartment on each floor. The Property is located in the Rehabilitation Infill District and subject to the Redevelopment Plan for Downtown Fanwood, Block 64.

The virtual public hearing on this Application may be adjourned, postponed or continued on such additional or other dates as the Board may determine without further notice and you are hereby notified that you should contact the Board Secretary concerning any such adjournments, postponements, or continuations.

Joseph A. Paparo, Esq.
Porzio Bromberg & Newman
100 Southgate Parkway
PO Box 1997
Morristown, New Jersey 07962
(973) 889-4042
Attorneys for the Applicant

1 T - 10/14/21, UC Hawk Fee: \$82.11

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD

NOTICE OF AMENDED FAIRNESS AND COMPLIANCE HEARING ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING WESTFIELD'S COMPLIANCE WITH ITS THIRD ROUND MOUNT LAUREL AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an amended fairness and compliance hearing will be conducted by the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division (Union County), the Honorable Thomas J. Walsh, J.S.C., presiding, on the Zoom virtual meeting platform on December 2, 2021, commencing at 9:00 am, on the fairness of a proposed Amendment to the settlement agreement regarding the Town of Westfield's (the "Town") compliance with its Third Round Mount Laurel affordable housing obligations.

The Zoom link and information will be posted on the Town's website no later than November 25, 2021. The Town's website can be accessed at: <https://www.westfieldnj.gov/>

If you don't have a computer or smart phone or other device that will provide you with access to the internet you can call in and listen to the combined fairness and compliance hearing by dialing the number and entering the information that will be made available by calling the Town Clerk on or after November 25, 2021 at the following number: 908-789-4030.

As background, the Town entered into a settlement agreement with Fair Share Housing Center ("FSHC") dated and signed on April 4, 2017 (the "Initial Settlement Agreement"), which settled the Town's Mount Laurel affordable housing declaratory judgment action titled *In re Town of Westfield Compliance with Third Round Mount Laurel Affordable Housing Obligations*, Docket No. UNN-L-2391-15 (the "DJ Action").

The Court reviewed the Initial Settlement Agreement and approved it as fair and reasonable to the region's low- and moderate-income households by order entered on October 26, 2017.

The Court subsequently entered a final judgment of compliance and repose in favor of the Town on August 23, 2018, declaring that the Town was in compliance with its Third Round Mount Laurel obligations.

The Town and FSHC thereafter entered into an amendment to the Initial Settlement Agreement, signed May 7, 2021 by FSHC and by the Town on May 11, 2021 (the "Amendment to the Settlement Agreement"). The Amendment

PUBLIC NOTICE

to the Settlement Agreement modifies certain components of the Town's Third Round Mount Laurel affordable housing compliance plan.

Specifically:

(1) One of the mechanisms that was incorporated into the Initial Settlement Agreement towards satisfaction of the Town's realistic development potential ("RDP") was the amendment of an inclusionary development zoning ordinance governing the so called "Williams Nursery" site, identified as Block 1905, Lot 13 (the "Williams Site") to increase the density allowed on that site from 8 units per acre to 20 units per acre to allow up to a total of 130 total dwelling units on the 6.61 acre site, 26 of which units had to be affordable units set aside for low and moderate income households. The Town adopted the required ordinance amending the inclusionary zoning ordinance governing this site.

(2) One of the mechanisms that was incorporated into the Initial Settlement Agreement to address the Town's unmet need was the Town's amendment of the North Avenue TOD zoning ordinance providing for inclusionary development and governing a number of lots on North Avenue, one of which is the so called "Handler Building" site, identified as Block 3305, Lot 4 (the "Handler Site"), which would allow up to a total of 27 dwelling units, 6 of which units would be affordable units set aside for low and moderate income households. The Town adopted the required ordinance amending the North Avenue TOD zoning ordinance.

The Amendment to the Settlement Agreement recognizes that, as of the July, 2020 mid-point review of the Town's compliance plan, development at the Handler Site for an inclusionary development did not appear likely to occur any time soon and also that there was interest in increasing the number of affordable units and overall density and development at the Williams Site. As such, the Amendment to the Settlement Agreement proposes that the Town adopt an ordinance further amending the inclusionary zoning ordinance governing the Williams Site to increase the allowable density from 20 units per acre to 24.6 units per acre to allow 162 total dwelling units on the site with a 20% set aside, thus increasing the number of affordable units set aside for low and moderate income households on the Williams Site by 6 (the number of units that would have been developed on the Handler Site), from 26 to 32 units. The Amendment to the Settlement Agreement also proposes that the Town may adopt an ordinance amending the North Avenue TOD zoning ordinance to remove the Handler Site from the

High School Sport Shorts: Blue Devils Shut Out Warriors, Ridge In North 2, Group 4 Girls Tennis

The top-seeded Westfield High School girls tennis team shutout the Watchung Hills Warriors, 5-0, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament in Westfield on October 5 then did the

Cougars Rap Brearley In UCT Soccer, 4-2

Jake Icklan netted a goal and three assists, while Owen Maher, Vince Cafiso and Dom Del Monaco each scored once to lead the eighth-seeded Cranford High School boys soccer team to a 4-2 victory over the 17th-seeded Brearley Bears in the opening round of the Union County Tournament in Cranford on October 11. Dan Nigro provided and assist and goalkeeper Gavin Avella made four saves. The 7-3-2 Cougars moved on to face ninth-seeded Plainfield on October 13 and the winner will face top-seeded Elizabeth this Saturday, October 16.

Raiders Beat GL, 3-0, In UCT Field Hockey

Bridget Ennis scored twice and Kyla Murray scored once as the 4-6-1 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School field hockey team shut out the 5-6-1 Governor Livingston Highlanders, 3-0, in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Scotch Plains on October 7. Olivia Stahley, Meredith Reilly and Ali Murphy all contributed an assist.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD

CONTRACTOR: Foggia Trinity Electric, LLC (FTE), 1759 East Second Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

NATURE OF SERVICES: Electric service repairs at Mindowasking Park

DURATION: One year

AMOUNT: Amount not to exceed \$42,850 charged to Special Ordinance 2203, account C-07-16-206-00D, under Purchase Order No.21-03112

THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Tara Rowley, RMC Town Clerk

1 T - 10/07/21, The Leader Fee: \$17.34

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 600

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

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

Maintenance Timber and Underwater Structural Repair Contract, North - 2022, Various Locations, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren (Including and North of Route 57) Counties; 100% State; DP No: 22434

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

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

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

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

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

200 Sterlier Court Mt. Arlington, New Jersey 07856 973-601-6690	One Executive Campus Rt 70 West Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002 856-486-6623
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3 T - 10/07/21, 10/14/21 and 10/21/21, The Leader Fee: \$168.30

PUBLIC NOTICE

North Avenue TOD so that commercial development without any inclusionary set aside will be allowed on the Handler Site.

The purpose of the amended fairness and compliance hearing is for the Court to review and rule on the following:

First, the Court will review and rule on the fairness of the Amendment to the Settlement Agreement.

In this regard, the Court will consider whether the terms of Amendment to the Settlement Agreement are fair and reasonable to the region's low- and moderate-income households and should be approved by the Court in accordance with the principles established in *Morris County Fair Housing Council v. Boonton Twp.*, 197 N.J. Super. 359 (Law Div. 1984), *aff'd o.b.*, 209 N.J. Super. 108 (App. Div. 1986), and *East/West Venture v. Bor. of Fort Lee*, 286 N.J. Super. 311 (App. Div. 1996).

Second, the Court will review and rule on compliance.

In this regard, the Court will determine whether the planning documents which have been adopted by the Town Planning Board, the implementing ordinances which have been adopted by the Town, and other implementing compliance documents adopted by the Town and/or Planning Board to implement the Amendment to the Settlement Agreement comply with the Town's Third Round Mount Laurel affordable housing obligations.

If the Court determines that the Amendment to the Settlement Agreement is fair and that the Town has complied with its Third Round Mount Laurel affordable housing obligations, it will enter an Amended Order of Fairness and Final Judgment of Compliance and Repose, which will continue to bar any and all exclusionary lawsuits against the Town through July 2025, except for actions to enforce the Court's orders and the terms of the settlement agreements by and between FSHC and the Town.

The Amendment to the Settlement Agreement and all compliance documents will be available as of November 1, 2021 for public inspection and copying at the requestor's expense during regular business hours at the Town Clerk's office located at 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. A copy of the Amendment to the Settlement Agreement can also be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk at the following number: 908-789-4030.

Anyone may seek to appear at the amended fairness and compliance hearing and present their position to the Court by entering through the Zoom link or dialing in through the phone numbers to be provided as described above.

However, anyone who wishes to object on any grounds and wants to be

same to the Ridge Red Devils two days later.

Against the Warriors Savannah Cohen won 6-0, 6-1, at first singles, Natalie Zeleschowski won 6-0, 6-1, at second singles and Katey Peretz won 6-0, 6-0, at third singles. At first doubles, Annika Vesuna and Emily Shabinaw won 6-0, 6-0, and Bianca Vesuna and Madison Wright won 6-0, 6-0, at second doubles.

Cohen won, 6-1, 6-1, against her Red Devil opponent. Zeleschowski won 6-4, 6-3, at second singles and Peretz won 6-0, 6-0, at third singles. A. Vesuna and Shabinaw won 6-1, 6-1, at first doubles. B. Vesuna and Wright won 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, at second doubles.

Soccer Blue Devils Nip Summit Boys, 1-0

After suffering a 4-0 defeat to them on September 18, the No. 17, 5-2-1 Westfield High School boys soccer team got some revenge with a 1-0 victory over the 5-3, No. 15 Summit Hilltoppers in Summit on October 5. With eight seconds remaining in the game, Matias Arbelaez on an assist from Andrew Macik, netted the sole goal. Blue Devil goalkeeper Ryan Friedberg recorded five saves and Summit keeper Sebastian Arias recorded seven saves.

The Blue Devils have allowed only one goal in the past four games - Livingston (1-0), Scotch Plains-Fanwood (2-1), Union City (0-0) and Summit (1-0).

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD

WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2228

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 13 (HANDICAPPED PARKING-CACCIOLA PLACE)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing ordinance was approved for final adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a Regular Meeting held on October 12, 2021.

Tara Rowley, RMC Town Clerk

1 T - 10/14/21, The Leader Fee: \$17.34

PUBLIC NOTICE

The work of this contract shall consist of providing Crossing Guard services for approximately 14 established posts in the Township of Scotch Plains, for the Scotch Plains Police Department, as specified and described in the bid documents.

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

Proposals shall be in writing on the forms furnished and must be delivered at the place and before the hour mentioned above, and must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or Bid Bond, drawn to the order of the Township of Scotch Plains for \$5,000.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq. A complete statement as to these requirements is included in the specifications.

Plans and specifications may be seen or procured at the office of the Township Clerk, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. The Mayor and Council reserve the right to reject any bid, and to waive any informality in any bid, if in the interest of the Township, it is deemed advisable to do so.

Alexander Mirabella
Township Manager

Bozena Lacina,
Township Clerk
Fee: \$43.86

1 T - 10/14/21, UC Hawk Fee: \$33.66

PUBLIC NOTICE

heard by the Court will have to submit their objections in writing to the Court, Adam M. Gordon, Esq. (representing Fair Share Housing Center), Jonathan E. Drill, Esq. (representing the Town of Westfield), and the Court's special master, Kendra Lelie, PP, AICP, at the addresses listed below, no later than Wednesday, November 17, 2021 (which is at least 14 days prior to the December 2, 2021 hearing date), and if they wish to call any witnesses to testify at the fairness and compliance hearing (lay or expert), they will have to submit a written summary of any lay testimony and a written expert's report to the Court, Mr. Gordon, Ms. Lelie and Mr. Drill no later than Wednesday, November 17, 2021 (which is at least 14 days prior to the December 2, 2021 hearing date) at the addresses listed below:

Hon. Thomas J. Walsh, J.S.C.
Backup Mount Laurel Judge for Vic. 12
Union County Courthouse, Tower 11th Floor

2 Broad Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207

Jonathan E. Drill, Esq. (attorney for the Town)

Stickel, Koenig, Sullivan & Drill, LLC
571 Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009
jdrill@sksdlaw.com

Adam M. Gordon, Esq. (attorney for FSHC)

Fair Share Housing Center
510 Park Boulevard
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002
adamgordon@fairsharehousing.org

Kendra Lelie, PP, AICP
T&M Associates
1455 Broad Street, Suite 250
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003
klelie@tandmassociates.com

This notice is intended to inform interested parties, including low- and moderate-income households and advocates, persons and entities of the hearing to be conducted: (1) on the fairness of the Amendment to the Settlement Agreement, and inform them that they are able to comment on the Amendment to the Settlement Agreement before the Court determines whether to approve it in accordance with the terms set forth above; and (2) on the compliance documents and of the compliance plan, and inform them that they are able to comment on the compliance documents and compliance plan in accordance with the terms set forth above.

By: Jonathan E. Drill, Esq.
Town of Westfield
Special Affordable Housing Counsel

1 T - 10/14/21, The Leader Fee: \$218.79

Raiders Shut Out Belleville, Cranford In North 2, Group 3 Girls Tennis

The third-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls tennis team shutout Belleville, 5-0, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament in Scotch Plains on October 5. Two days later the Raiders also shut out the Cranford Cougars in the quarterfinals.

Against Belleville, Anna Szczuka won 6-0, 6-0, at first singles, Diya Nainwal won 6-0, 6-0, at second singles and Diti Nainwal received a

FH Blue Devils Blank Cougars in UCT, 3-0

Julia Schneider scored once and had two assists and Lucy Mineo scored once and added one assist to lead the 6-5 Westfield High School field hockey team to a 3-0 victory over the 6-5 Cranford Cougars in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Westfield on October 7. Becca Silverman scored a goal and goalkeeper Lauren McDonough recorded three stops. Cranford goalies Lily Goodwin made nine stops and Holly Heesters made one stop.

SPF PAL Football to Feature Night Games on October 14

History will be established this Saturday, October 16, when the first home night games will be played by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PAL football teams. The Raider A and B teams will host Morristown under the lights, while the younger teams will play during the day. A huge crowd is expected and the SPF PAL is planning on honoring local residents and workers before the night games.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the Township of Scotch Plains in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, at 10:00 AM prevailing time on **Thursday, October 28, 2021**, for the following:

"FURNISHING AND DELIVERING OF CROSSING GUARD SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022"

The work of this contract shall consist of providing Crossing Guard services for approximately 14 established posts in the Township of Scotch Plains, for the Scotch Plains Police Department, as specified and described in the bid documents.

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

Proposals shall be in writing on the forms furnished and must be delivered at the place and before the hour mentioned above, and must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or Bid Bond, drawn to the order of the Township of Scotch Plains for \$5,000.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq. A complete statement as to these requirements is included in the specifications.

Plans and specifications may be seen or procured at the office of the Township Clerk, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. The Mayor and Council reserve the right to reject any bid, and to waive any informality in any bid, if in the interest of the Township, it is deemed advisable to do so.

Alexander Mirabella
Township Manager

Bozena Lacina,
Township Clerk
Fee: \$43.86

1 T - 10/14/21, UC Hawk Fee: \$33.66

PUBLIC NOTICE		
SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS OF AUDIT REPORT FOR PUBLICATION		
SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS OF 2020 AUDIT REPORT OF THE COUNTY OF UNION AS REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:5-7		
COMBINED COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS		
	DECEMBER 31, 2020	DECEMBER 31, 2019
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	\$ 573,536,563.76	\$ 475,523,931.82
Accounts Receivable	181,164,536.82	164,792,626.38
Fixed Assets	968,136,887.70	962,517,050.17
Deferred Charges to Future Taxation		
- General Capital	576,872,100.06	604,005,261.40
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,299,710,088.34	\$ 2,206,838,869.77
LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE		
Bonds and Notes Payable	\$ 482,246,996.22	\$ 493,302,277.95
Improvement Authorizations	123,613,276.23	119,946,022.45
Other Liabilities and Special Funds	390,459,343.26	390,832,998.98
Reserve for Certain Assets Receivable	188,385,470.09	88,632,851.17
Reserve for Fixed Assets	968,136,887.70	962,517,050.17
Fund Balance	146,868,114.84	151,607,669.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE	\$ 2,299,710,088.34	\$ 2,206,838,869.77
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - CURRENT FUND		
	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019
REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME REALIZED		
Fund Balance Utilized	\$ 53,290,931.23	\$ 25,000,000.00
Miscellaneous From Other Than Current		
- Tax Levy	265,391,426.14	174,730,222.81
Collection of Current Tax Levy	367,295,299.43	367,295,299.43
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 685,977,656.80	\$ 567,025,522.24
EXPENDITURES		
Budget Expenditures:		
County Purposes	\$ 626,863,372.69	\$ 509,752,709.88
Other Expenditures	135,465.54	1,994,648.87
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 626,998,838.23	\$ 511,747,358.75
Excess in Revenue	\$ 58,978,818.57	\$ 55,278,163.49
Fund Balance		
- Balance, January 1	133,622,003.28	103,343,839.79
	\$ 192,600,821.85	\$ 158,622,003.28
Decreased by:		
- Utilization as Anticipated Revenue	53,290,931.23	25,000,000.00
Balance, December 31	\$ 139,309,890.62	\$ 133,622,003.28
RECOMMENDATIONS		
NONE		
The above summary or synopsis was prepared from the report of audit of the County of Union for the calendar year 2020. This report of audit submitted by Suplee, Clooney & Company, Registered Municipal Accountants and Certified Public Accountants is on file at the Clerk of the Board's Office and may be inspected by any interested person.		
James Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Union County Board of County Commissioners Fee: \$108.12		
1 T - 10/14/21, The Leader		

POLICE BLOTTER

Your business can sponsor the Police Blotter
Call 908-232-4407 or email sales@goleader.com

WESTFIELD

Wednesday, September 29, a resident of the 800 block of Lamberts Mill Road reported that an unknown suspect burglarized their motor vehicle during the overnight hours between September 28 and September 29. The vehicle was parked in the driveway of the residence and is reported to have no items missing at this time.

Friday, October 1, a resident of the 100 block of Marlboro Street reported being the victim of identity theft. The resident stated that at approximately noon that day, he was notified of an attempt to open a new account with a banking establishment located in Garwood, utilizing his Social Security number. He additionally was advised that an attempt to open a business account also had been made at a banking establishment in New York City. No monetary loss has been suffered at this time.

Saturday, October 2, a resident of the 400 block of Rahway Avenue reported being a victim of a theft. The victim reported that an unknown suspect(s) stole a package from the entrance of their building.

Saturday, October 2, a resident of the 700 block of Fairacres Avenue reported that he was the victim of a motor vehicle burglary. Unknown suspects entered the unlocked vehicle and rummaged through its contents without stealing anything. A search of the area was conducted for the suspects, which produced negative results.

Sunday, October 3, a resident of the 1000 block of Ripley Avenue reported being the victim of a motor vehicle burglary and a theft by unknown suspect(s) who entered his unlocked motor vehicle.

Sunday, October 3, a resident of Mohawk Trail reported being a victim of a motor vehicle theft and the theft of personal property. The victim had his unlocked vehicle parked at a business on Springfield Avenue when unknown suspect(s) entered and stole his vehicle.

Sunday, October 3, on the 1600 block of Rising Way, a resident reported observing a suspicious motor vehicle operated by an unknown, middle-aged male driver. The vehicle was described as an unknown black sedan. She stated that the above-mentioned vehicle approached her on three different occasions and that the driver attempted to engage her in a conversation while she was out for a walk. These incidents were deemed suspicious by the resident since she was not familiar with the vehicle or the driver.

Sunday, October 3, a resident of Willow Grove Parkway reported that a fraudulent purchase was attempted through a cellular wireless company. The fraudulent transaction was placed on "hold" and the resident suffered no monetary loss. The attempted purchase was made in another state.

Tuesday, October 5, officers were responding to another call for service on the 700 block of Lenape Trail. After handling that call for service, it was determined that one of the residents in that area had his motor vehicle entered by unknown individual(s), as well as the garage to his residence. After further inspection, it did not appear that any items had been taken from either location. The resident's vehicle, described as a white-colored Nissan X-Terra, was entered and the unknown suspect(s) utilized a garage-door opener to gain access to the garage.

Tuesday, October 5, a resident of the 700 block of Lenape Trail reported an attempted motor vehicle burglary. The resident stated that at approximately 4:06 a.m., he was alerted to movement on his property through a doorbell application. Further review of the video revealed that the suspect vehicle was described as a gray-colored Lexus with three occupants. The suspect, described as a Black male wearing a black-colored sweatshirt and sweatpants, was observed attempting to gain access to his vehicle. The suspect was unable to gain access to the vehicle and later fled the area.

Wednesday, October 6, a resident of the 400 block of Palsted Avenue reported observing a suspicious female enter her unlocked residence. The resident stated that she is in the process of selling her residence but that there were no viewing appointments scheduled during the time of this incident. After observing this incident on security-camera footage, the resident returned home and determined that nothing was missing.

Wednesday, October 6, a resident of Sandra Circle reported that an unknown individual opened accounts with both Ally Bank and Robinhood Financial. The resident reported that there currently is no financial loss suffered.

Friday, October 8, a resident of the 700 block of Saint Marks Avenue reported an act of criminal mischief to their residence. On that day, two eggs were found broken on the resident's front door, along with suspected dog feces left on the front steps.

Saturday, October 9, the manager of a business on the 100 block of East Broad Street reported a theft of services. The victim stated that an unknown suspect, described as a White or Hispanic male in his 20s, approximately 5 feet, 9 inches tall, wearing a white T-shirt, entered the business where \$10 worth of services were rendered. The suspect then fled the business prior to paying and was seen

leaving the area as a passenger in a silver sedan traveling at a high rate of speed.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Tuesday, October 5, a resident of Katherine Street reported a burglary to their unlocked motor vehicle which occurred during the overnight hours. Several items were stolen. A neighbor's vehicle, which also was unlocked, was entered but nothing was stolen. The case is under investigation.

Tuesday, October 5, officers responded to the Exxon station located on Route 22 on a report of a stolen motor vehicle. Upon arrival they spoke with the owner, who stated that they had left their 2021 BMW X5 unlocked and running while they went inside the store. They saw four individuals wearing masks and hoodies pull up in a black Range Rover. Two of them entered the BMW and both vehicles fled on Route 22 westbound. The BMW was entered as stolen and was recovered abandoned in Newark the next day. The case is under investigation.

Tuesday, October 5, a resident of Country Club Lane reported a case of fraud. The victim was contacted by someone claiming to be from the IRS. They were told they owed a large amount of money and were instructed to deposit money into a specific bank account. Once that was completed, they were instructed to make another deposit but a bank teller realized what was happening and advised them that this was a scam. The case is under investigation.

Wednesday, October 6, a resident of Westfield Avenue reported fraudulent activity on a credit account. The case is under investigation.

Thursday, October 7, a resident of Ramapo Way reported that someone had fraudulently applied for unemployment benefits in their name. The case is under investigation.

Thursday, October 7, a resident of Algonquin Drive reported that someone had fraudulently applied for a college loan in their name. The case is under investigation.

Friday, October 8, Erick Caceres, 33, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a weapon during a disturbance call aboard an NJ Transit bus. Caceres was transported to police headquarters and processed.

Sunday, October 10, Tyree S. Seegers, 31, of Garfield was arrested and charged with driving under the influence during a single-car accident investigation. No injuries were reported. Seegers was transported to police headquarters and processed.

Monday, October 11, Angel L. Vazquez-Sanchez, 33, of Linden was arrested on an active warrant out of Elizabeth during a motor vehicle stop. Vazquez-Sanchez was transported to police headquarters and processed.

CLARK

Tuesday, October 5, in the vicinity of Westfield Avenue, police arrested Muneeb Haque, 25, of Plainfield on an outstanding warrant from New Brunswick, in the amount of \$500, for contempt of court. Haque was subsequently released pending a court date.

Wednesday, October 6, police took reports of burglaries to several motor vehicles that were parked on Hollander Hill Court. The incidents are under investigation.

Saturday, October 9, in the vicinity of Westfield Avenue, police arrested Damian Rudnicki, 27, of Metuchen on an outstanding warrant from Edison, in the amount of \$500, for contempt of court. He also was charged with CDS (controlled dangerous substance) possession and possession of a hypodermic needle. Rudnicki subsequently was transported to the Union County jail.

Monday, October 11, in the vicinity of Central Avenue, police arrested Tomasz Kalinowski, 42, of Linden, who was charged with driving under the influence. He was subsequently released pending a court date.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

TAKE NOTICE, that on Thursday, September 9, 2021, the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey, approved the following application:

Regina M. Calcagno/Esquire Construction, LLC, to construct a deck and stairs at the existing four-family house, which is a pre-existing, non-conforming for the property located at 1634 Front Street, Block 502, Lot 6.

The Resolution memorializing said approval was duly presented and adopted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment at its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2021. A copy of the Resolution has been filed in the office of the Zoning Board of Adjustment 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 Melissa Szeman at (908) 322-6700, ext. 307 during regular business hours to discuss alternative arrangements on how to obtain a copy of the Resolution.

Melissa Szeman
Clerk/Land Use Secretary
1 T - 10/14/21, UC Hawk Fee: \$29.58



Letters to the Editor

Garwood Mayor Todisco Recaps Ida Efforts

As with many of our neighboring towns, Hurricane Ida was one of the worst storms we have ever seen. In Garwood, it caused even more flooding than we had during Hurricane Irene in 2011. Fortunately, this was not coupled with the power outages we faced during Superstorm Sandy. The rain came in quick and heavy. To call it immense does not even explain the force of it. As mayor, I have made it a priority to conduct a thorough post-storm report to help us learn from what we did well and what we can improve on when the next major storm like this happens. When complete, this report will be available to the public. As a member of the council during Irene and Sandy, no such report was given to me as a councilwoman nor was it provided to the public. I want to make sure we do better.

Council President Jen Blumenstock and I participated in a post-storm meeting last week with our department heads, led by our Borough Administrator, to debrief the storm. More meetings are to follow. A major takeaway from the storm response that I see is that it was our people in Garwood, both borough employees as well as volunteers, who did an incredible job and made the emergency less severe than it could have been. Our volunteer fire department did 70 water rescues. They helped the first aid squad reach people suffering medical issues, including outside of our borders at the Valley National Bank in Cranford. After the storm, they used one of their trucks to help pump our flooded underpass until we were able to get rental pumps to take over. They also pumped out basements of residential and commercial properties. Our police department received 259 calls in just four hours with only one dispatcher on duty. They responded to emergencies and helped tell people to stay off the roads. Our department of public works came in at 9 p.m. on the night of the storm to help with rescues in some waters that even our fire department trucks could not go through. They did a tremendous job picking up storm debris from homes all around our town for four weeks weeks after Ida hit. Our Emergency Management Director was hands-on throughout the storm and even personally picked up the rental pumps for our underpass.

Another major takeaway is how

little we all knew about this storm before it hit. The National Weather Service bulletins at 5:55 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. that evening predicted 1 to 3 inches and 5 inches of rain, respectively. By 7:36 p.m., there was a bulletin basically saying 8 inches. Unfortunately, this meant we could not prepare ahead of time with calling in additional police officers, dispatchers, etc. as we have done in the past. We were fortunate that our fire department was having a meeting that night, so they were already in the center of town when the flooding began.

After each department gave their summary of their actions before, during, and after Hurricane Ida, we discussed a number of items that we want to investigate and improve upon. For one, we are looking at infrastructure and equipment purchases. These include everything from flood gear for our fire department to signals to make for quicker road closures to how engineering could improve our underpass pumps or how to ensure we have mobile pumps to clear the underpass once it is flooded. We have some military surplus equipment, including Humvees and a large truck, which could be a great water rescue truck. With some funding, we could get them properly equipped to be deployed during major flooding events. We also discussed a volunteer corp to help in emergencies, whether nurses during a pandemic or people to answer non-emergency phone lines. We also need to work on flood mitigation. I am a member of the Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control group and we now have the Army Corps of Engineers back in to hopefully help fund major solutions. Also, we are going to look at what we can do ourselves in Garwood, such as at the underpass. Communication is another area we want to improve on, both internally with our departments on radio to each other as well as outwardly to the public.

To close, there was much we did right in Garwood during and after Hurricane Ida. I look forward to recognizing each of our departments during the next several Council meetings. However, there are always places to improve. I look forward to additional meetings with idea sharing and discussions as we compile a detailed final report.

Sara Todisco
Garwood Mayor

Vote for Clarissa Nolde and Jeff Jotz for Garwood Council

I moved to Garwood six years ago and live in the village's senior housing, "The Village at Garwood", on 2nd Ave. I love living in Garwood and enjoy my apartment here. I remember attending town council meetings where some people, for various reasons, expressed their opposition to building this complex. Seeing this vibrant community in which I live, it is hard to imagine why anyone would prefer the old abandoned school, which once stood in this place, to remain. While our apartments are small, they are very comfortable and nicely located within the town. Also, management is swift to repair anything that needs attention. Change is not always easy and sometimes people need time to see that change can sometimes bring something better. I believe that Clarissa and Jeff will bring fresh voices and good changes to Garwood.

Before moving to Garwood, I lived in Roselle Park where I was an active participant in my community. Upon an upcoming 9/11 anniversary, I approached the casano community center's director and asked if I could use a hallway to do an exhibit featuring my 9/11 themed artwork. Shortly thereafter I was able to have the space approved as a permanent gallery to showcase Roselle Park artists. I volunteered

as curator, and we held regular receptions for about five exhibits a year and covered our costs through fundraising and donations. It was so incredibly satisfying to curate art exhibits for my community, by my community. I detail this, as it is something I have missed since moving to Garwood and have longed over these last years to have those kinds of opportunities, to share art with others in my own community, here in Garwood.

It's for this reason, I am so excited about the arts and culture initiative put forth in Clarissa Nolde's and Jeff Jotz's platform. Art has the power to connect people of all ages and perspectives. Artistic and cultural events will bring people together and make our community stronger. I have spoken to both Clarissa and Jeff and it is clear to me that they have the ideas as well as the energy and the work ethic to turn these good ideas into realities. As such, please join me in voting for Clarissa Nolde and Jeff Jotz for Garwood Borough Council on November 2.

Leona Seufert
Garwood

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD, BOARD OF EDUCATION 302 ELM STREET, WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

The Westfield Board of Education has awarded contracts without competitive bidding as a professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 a (1). The contracts and the resolutions authorizing them are on file and available for public inspection in the office of Westfield Board of Education.

Whereas, there exists a need for professional services in the specific area(s) mentioned below for the 2021-2022 school year for the following professional services and whereas, funds are available for this purpose, and whereas, the Public School Contracts Law (NJSA 18A:18A-1 et seq.) permits the award of contracts without competitive bids for Professional Services that require licensing and are regulated by law, and Whereas, the Public School Contracts Law requires that the Board of Education adopt a resolution awarding such contracts at a public meeting.

Dana Sullivan
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Therapy Travelers, LLC PO Box 28870 Anaheim, CA 92809-9998 NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00	Staffing-LDT-C Occupational Therapy	\$105 per hour \$87 per hour
Summit Speech School 7055 Central Ave New Providence, NJ 07974 NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00	IEP/Planning/Meeting w. Staff	\$160 per call
1 T - 10/14/21, The Leader		Fee: \$49.98

Welcome to Our Neighborhood

Brought to you by
Susan Massa CRS
908-400-0778

Susan@susanmassa.com
www.NJhomeshowcase.com
188 Elm Street, Westfield NJ 07090
908-233-8502 x455



KW
KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

27 Homes Sold Oct 3 – Oct 10, 2021 in Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield

TOWN	ADDRESS	STYLE	RMS	BRS	BTH	GAR	SALE PRICE
Clark	16 Cook St	Tudor	10	4	2.1	1	\$540,000
Clark	60 Kenneth Pl	SplitLev	9	3	1.1	1	\$65,000
Clark	144 Liberty St	SplitLev	8	3	1.1	1	\$625,000
Clark	102 Lefferts Ln	RanchExp	10	3	4.0	1	\$616,000
Clark	2 Partridge Run	Colonial	9	4	2.1	2	\$810,000
Cranford	502 Lincoln Park	OneFloor	3	1	1.0	0	\$229,900
Cranford	217 Prospect Ave 5-3B	OneFloor	5	2	1.0	0	\$360,000
Cranford	513 Lexington Ave	Ranch	7	3	1.0	1	\$395,000
Cranford	10 Elizabeth Ave	Colonial	7	3	2.0	1	\$385,000
Cranford	10 Cedar St	Colonial	7	5	3.1	1	\$852,717
Cranford	16 Lenhome Dr	Custom	13	4	3.2	2	\$1,037,500
Fanwood	172 Watson Rd	CapeCod	8	3	1.1	1	\$565,000
Garwood	508 West St	Colonial	8	4	2.1	1	\$835,000
Mountainside	1155 Sawmill Rd	SplitLev	9	4	2.1	2	\$700,000
Mountainside	241 Pembroke Rd	Ranch	9	3	2.2	3	\$785,000
Scotch Plains	1039 Cella Ave	OneFloor	3	1	1.0	0	\$201,000
Scotch Plains	6 Village Park Ct	MultiFlr	5	2	1.1	1	\$350,000
Scotch Plains	2241 Lyde Pl	CapeCod	7	3	1.1	1	\$382,750
Scotch Plains	1915 Mountain Ave	Colonial	11	3	4.0	0	\$575,000
Scotch Plains	990 Raritan Rd	Ranch	9	3	2.1	2	\$610,000
Scotch Plains	11 Gary Ct	Colonial	9	4	2.1	2	\$850,000
Scotch Plains	6 Wedgewood Way	Ranch	12	5	3.2	2	\$850,000
Westfield	211 Hazel Ave	CapeCod	6	3	2.0	1	\$410,000
Westfield	34 Moss Ave	SplitLev	10	4	2.1	1	\$856,880
Westfield	Rahway Ave	Colonial	9	5	3.1	2	\$950,000
Westfield	715 Austin St	Colonial	12	5	3.1	1	\$1,150,000
Westfield	640 Lawnside Pl	Colonial	10	4	2.2	2	\$1,139,000

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



Elections 2021



Candidate James Restivo: The Truth About Your Taxes

Much information is being published during this election season about Westfield's current property taxes as compared to previous years. We are also hearing about surplus consumption and town spending. Carefully selected numbers are being thrown around that do not tell the whole story and use selective math. Statements during the council person debate on October 6 and on a recent Brindle For Mayor flyer were misleading. I will try to shed some light on the figures without boring you.

While the municipal budget is complex, there are three important figures to watch in the town budget: the tax levy (money collected from the property owners), the surplus used (the amount of our town savings we decide to use as revenue), and appropriations (our spending).

First is the tax rate, which is based on the total tax levy. We are being told our tax rate for the last four years is 44 percent lower than the previous four years. This sounds great, but what does it mean? Does your checkbook show that you are paying 44 percent less in property taxes? Mine certainly does not. Tax rates have not gone down (2019 reassessment adjusted). While it is true that the average tax rate annual increase for the years 2018-2021 is less than the four-year average for the years 2014-2017, the trend is not promising. If we use the same math and compare 2018-2019 to 2020-2021, you'll see an increase of 656 percent.

The second figure to watch is the surplus use. The smaller tax increases in 2018 and 2019 were mostly a result of dramatic increase in Westfield's surplus usage, not a decrease in spending. From 2014-2017, the average surplus use was \$1.05 million but it jumped to \$4.2 million in 2018. It has continued at these higher levels. The 4 year surplus usage total is \$17.5 million, which is more than four times the use from 2014-2017 (\$4.2 million) or 2010-2013 (\$4.3 million). The year end surplus level has fallen from \$14.5 million (2017) to \$5.7 million (2021). The recent flyer advertised a four-year average which

would hide this alarming downward trend. The flyer should have still indicated a lower average in the current administration (\$10.4 million). Instead it falsely averaged the year end levels for 2017-2020 rather than 2018-2020, and incorrectly displays an average of \$12.6M. An incorrect average is also calculated for the prior term.

Does this also mean that spending (the 3rd figure to watch) was up over the past four years? You bet. The largest increase came in 2018, with a decade high jump of 6.56 percent in expenditures.

The pandemic reduced government functions created a slight decrease in 2020, but we are headed back to the increasing trend again. The flyer circulated showed an average increase of 0.72 percent for the current administration, which is the average of only the last three years. The 2018 increase was omitted without a note. The reported number for the previous administration excluded 2014, which had a reduction in spending. The numbers are just wrong.

So, what do all these numbers mean? First, I love math. Depending on how you want to use numbers, you can tell two very different stories. If you look at the numbers being presented to you in a crafty way, you may see tax rates declining and things in a good place. But if you look at them more closely, you see tax rates increasing, surplus being consumed at an unsustainable rate, and spending increasing.

Bottom line, if we ran our household budget the way this administration is running theirs, we would all be in trouble. We need to curb spending, stabilize taxes and maintain a healthy surplus for the future. We need to tell the truth about the numbers. I hope you're still awake. One more thing...remember to vote on November 2!

James Restivo
Ward 4 Council Candidate
Westfield

Lantern Hill Senior Living Celebrates 5th Anniversary

On September 20, Lantern Hill, an Erickson Senior Living community in New Providence, celebrated its 5th anniversary with a champagne toast. At the festive event, residents and executive team members raised their glasses to Lantern Hill's five years of excellence in senior living. Other events during the month included theme days, concerts by talented residents, and a pioneer tales event with residents sharing their first memories of moving to campus.

"Lantern Hill is a community that promotes an active, engaging, and healthy lifestyle for its residents and helps them live life to the fullest," said Executive Director Craig Karczmer. "We are excited to continue to bring our outstanding lifestyle to many more in the next five years and beyond."

Marilyn and her husband Gabe, who moved to Lantern Hill from Scotch Plains, attended the festivities. "It's been a great five years," said Marilyn. "I've made a lot of new friends, and everybody has been so

helpful and caring. I'm very blessed to live in such a great and wonderful community."

Opened in 2016, Lantern Hill, located in Union County between Summit and Berkeley Heights, just 50 minutes by train to midtown Manhattan, provides maintenance-free, amenity-rich apartment home living for adults age 62 and over. The community offers a vibrant lifestyle with abundant amenities and convenient services, including on-site restaurants, an all-season pool and fitness center, art studio, library, theater, transportation, on-site medical center, and secure underground parking. In addition to independent senior living, Lantern Hill offers assisted living, sub-acute rehabilitation, long-term care, and memory care.

To learn more about vibrant senior living at Lantern Hill, visit LanternHill.com.

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Smart Development Vs. Over Development

To remain viable and successful, towns must change and develop. But they should do so incrementally, not to drastically change the character that attracted residents to live there in the first place. Smart growth is how a successful town prospers, and it was that philosophy that I applied during my 16 years on town council.

Sadly, the Brindle Administration has forgotten about the “smart” part of that philosophy. They have increased housing density in residential neighborhoods; declared all of Westfield blighted and in need of rehabilitation; declared several downtown parking lots and other areas of town in need of massive redevelopment; and empowered itself to hand out tax breaks to commercial developers who can then avoid payments to our schools for up to 30 years.

Westfield is a beautiful hybrid of small town and city feel – exactly what attracted so many of us here. When I served on town council, I worked hard to maintain the unique character and charm of Westfield while complying with applicable law advancing toward the future. As you may know, all New Jersey municipalities must meet certain affordable housing obligations imposed by the state known as the Mount Laurel doctrine. In the past, Westfield was able to meet the legal requirements imposed by the state and still implement a well thought out and well-balanced plan for development. That has changed; now, Mayor Brindle and her team enact growth plans that are not mandated by law.

Unlike the changes that Mayor Brindle has ushered in, the plan for development in Westfield under my leadership was based upon smart and managed growth in areas and in numbers of units that benefitted our town. I stand proudly behind Westfield’s affordable housing plan that was lauded and approved by the court in 2017. We proposed sites for development that would not overly burden any one school or neighborhood; that would not drastically alter the town’s appearance and character; and that did not permit sweetheart tax deals. It seems like the Westfield we know, love, and moved to is set to become a very different

place.

As part of her overdevelopment efforts, Mayor Brindle enacted our first for-profit PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program, which benefits developers at the expense of residents. With a PILOT, developers are taken out of the standard property tax equation by getting sweetheart tax deals that allow them to, among other things, pay no school taxes for 30 years even though the new construction will attract additional school children. Instead, 95 percent of the agreed upon payments from the developers goes to fund the town’s expenses, which comprise only about 16 percent of our individual property tax bills. Can it be that Mayor Brindle is forced to cater to developers in order to back-fill the town’s surplus savings account, which she has depleted to only \$5.8 million after starting with \$14.5 million four years ago?

To maintain Westfield’s character and our sense of community, we must grow but grow astutely. The way we work, shop, and play has changed, and we need a town that reflects these changes while preserving its charm. As your next mayor, I vow to forge a path forward of smart growth. I will end PILOT programs and not allow developers to prosper at the expense of our schools and taxpayers like you and me. Rather than over-developing our downtown parking lots, I will explore converting large areas of asphalt into parks and green spaces while respecting the needs of downtown businesses. I also envision more indoor public gathering spaces, including at the former Rialto and Lord & Taylor sites, where people can dine, shop, and socialize locally.

These are just a few of the actions I will take to enhance and improve our town, with common sense and respect for its character. We are a unique and hybrid town that should be carefully developed with an open mind to the future while appreciating our past. Thank you for your attention, I humbly ask for your vote on November 2.

JoAnn Neylan
Mayoral Candidate
Westfield

Bulk Service Is Needed for The Town of Westfield

I am deeply disappointed that Mayor Shelley Brindle has decided to end the popular town-wide service of bulky waste home pickup.

As a Westfield Councilman back in 1993, I worked with the mayor and council to have the town offer this service for the first time to Westfield residents.

Both Republican and Democratic Administrations continued this needed town service, until Mayor Brindle came into office.

She has not been honest and truthful with us citizens about why she chose to end this service.

Mayor Brindle and Councilman David Contract just did not want this service to continue and told us the cost was too expensive and we could not find haulers to provide the service to Westfield.

That is plainly false and misleading.

Many towns that neighbor Westfield have continued this service, while Mayor Brindle and Councilman Contract mislead us.

The town of Scotch Plains had a very successful pickup of household goods this year, the cost being \$120 for 700 pounds bulky home waste.

Why can Scotch Plains and other towns offer this popular service while Westfield cannot?

I am very happy to read that JoAnn Neylan has promised to bring back this popular service if elected Mayor of Westfield.

Tony LaPorta
Westfield

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I Support Re-electing Ward 2 Councilman Mike Dardia

I am writing this letter to voice my unequivocal support to re-elect Mike Dardia as our Ward 2 councilman.

My family has lived next door to the Dardias (as in, we can pretty much touch each other’s houses) since the fall of 2014.

From the very beginning, we were well aware this was a new type of neighbor... one who came over with his snow blower after a blizzard and plowed our driveway and walk; one who insisted we hook up a cord to his generator whenever we lost power; and one, who most recently, patiently and non-condescendingly — as this is something I really should have known how to do — talked me through how to get my son gas when he ran out, giving me a portable tank from his garage and telling me just to keep it as with three boys, this is bound to happen again.

As some know, I lost my husband in 2018. Both before, and certainly after, Mike and his family have been quick to check on us during emergencies and provided a sense of community. Just going that extra little bit to make us feel cared for and watched over.

But beyond Mike as a person, I have been equally impressed with the way he has handled his role as councilman, although I suppose the two are intricately connected.

When he first ran, he spent an hour on our back porch, listening to my late husband’s concerns as well as time with so many of our neighbors.

And Mike really listens. But he doesn’t just listen. He acts. He takes in all the information,

all of the concerns, and then acts.

Recently, there was a tree on my front lawn that had grown all interwoven with the power lines. I held my breath every time the wind blew. I knew it needed to be removed and was about to pay out of pocket to do so when Mike came over and took a look, telling me it was a city tree and he would handle it. I think that tree was down within the week.

Then, most recently: Ida.

Like many others, our neighborhood was hit hard.

Mike was out first thing in the morning, with wet vacs, moving from house to house seeing where and how he could be of the most help. As a neighborhood, we all were worried as there is a drainage pipe that runs along the back of all our yards and, based on the fact we get flooding every storm (usually fairly minor, thankfully), we all voiced our concerns with this pipe. Perhaps it was clogged? How did we know this extreme devastation wouldn’t happen again?

Mike investigated and then called the DPW to make sure the pipe is patent. He looks out for all of us in his Ward.

Mike listens and then acts. I feel so lucky to have him as my councilman.

Please vote to re-elect Mike Dardia, Ward 2, on November 2nd.

Thank you,

Jennifer B. Calder
Westfield

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Elections 2021

Councilwoman Habgood: The Facts about PILOTs

The Westfield Crossing project on South Avenue was unanimously approved by the Planning Board in September 2021 and advances the Town in meeting its 2017 court-ordered affordable housing obligations. Because this project involves a PILOT agreement (Payment in Lieu of Taxes), Mayor Shelley Brindle and myself, as Chair of the Finance Committee, have received a lot of questions.

Here are some of the facts and the benefits:

1. The recommendation to pursue the PILOT was made by expert legal counsel and redevelopment advisors hired by the town after a comprehensive, competitive and public process to ensure the highest quality and experienced advisors are at work for residents. The advisors’ fees are paid for by the redeveloper, not the taxpayers.

2. The town is expected to realize a net benefit of more than \$15 million over 30 years.

3. The properties that make up the future Westfield Crossing currently yield only \$80,798 in total annual tax revenue to the town.

4. Under the redevelopment agreement, Westfield will receive \$422,750 in the first year post-project completion vs \$135,637 under conventional taxation.

5. Beyond the first year, in lieu of paying taxes on the project, the redeveloper, Elite Properties, will pay annual service charges that increase over time from 10 percent to 13 percent of its annual gross revenues.

6. The PILOT construct allows us to significantly reduce our tax obligations to the county on the improvements (from approximately 60 percent to 5 percent).

7. The redeveloper is expected to invest \$52 million in Westfield Crossing.

8. The project will contain 193 dwelling units and 17,000 square feet of retail space across two separate parcels and will include 32 affordable housing units.

9. Under the redevelopment agreement with the Town of Westfield, Elite Properties has committed to:

a. Contribute \$380,000 to the Town’s Park Improvement Fund.

b. Develop Lot 17 on Windsor Ave into a public park serving as the eastern “gateway” of Westfield, an investment of about \$350,000, not including land value, and deed it over to the town.

c. Use good faith to hire people of color, women-owned, and small businesses at a rate of at least 20 percent, and employ a variety of green building elements.

d. Reimburse the \$100,000 in esti-

mated town expenses related to this redevelopment project.

There is a contractual profit limitation on the developer of 12 percent, which will be calculated based on audited financial reports that the town is contractually entitled to receive annually.

Mayor Brindle’s Administration is committed to ensuring that significant development projects moving forward deliver benefits to the community, reduce the overall potential impact on schools and infrastructure, and meet quality standards that were not previously required.

In the case of Westfield Crossing, the PILOT protections required that South Avenue Crossing eliminate all 24 market-rate three-bedroom units to mitigate school impact, implement significant upgrades to the architecture and the quality of the materials being used, and provide numerous additional public benefits. There will only be eight three-bedroom units in the buildings, which is required under Westfield’s affordable housing agreement with COAH.

Very importantly, there will be zero impact on school funding. Historically, residential apartments in Westfield have not attracted school age children. In fact, only five school age children currently reside in the 151 units that have been built to date. This is further supported by the recently opened 501 South Ave on the former Pan Am Cleaners site, where in spite of offering 18 three-bedroom units, the fully leased building has zero school age children. And, even if Westfield Crossing brought one or two school age children into our district, Westfield school enrollment has 400 fewer students today than were enrolled in 2015.

PILOT structures will be considered in the future only when they make sense, and, specifically, only when this redevelopment tool can be beneficially utilized to spark investor interest and result in a multi-dimensional benefits that we, as a town, have control over. Our peer communities of Cranford, Fanwood and Summit have been using smart redevelopment tools for years, while we have been slow to react. Westfield Crossing promises to be a state of the art, inviting and community-oriented eastern gateway to our town and an economic, environmental and social win for our residents.

To learn more about our accomplishments so far, and our plans for the next four years, visit westfieldtogether.com. Thank you.

Councilwoman Linda Habgood
Westfield

I Support Amanda Como For Westfield Town Council

When I heard Amanda Como was running for town council, my immediate reaction was, “Yes! This makes perfect sense!”

For nearly 10 years, since our kids were in pre-school, I have been lucky to call Amanda my friend. We have taken our daughters to girls’ leadership workshops together, she has coached my daughter’s softball team, she has helped me come up with creative and inventive ideas to help organize our kids’ rooms for studying success (no small feat!), and my son has even inherited her son’s old baseball glove.

Along the way, we have shared family occasions and had numerous conversations about work, raising a family, health and nutrition, building confidence in our kids and ourselves, and making contributions to our community in meaningful ways.

Amanda has been a consistent, valuable resource to me. Even though our kids are now in different schools, and we don’t see each other as often as we used to, we can always pick up where we were. She is thoughtful, she listens, she challenges me, and she can back it up. She educates herself about issues she is passionate about, and she thinks before she speaks. In today’s political climate, unfortunately, it does not seem that these qualities are given for elected officials. But they are for Amanda.

So here’s the thing. I’m a democrat. I mean democrat with a capital “D.” And I’m a proud supporter of Mayor Brindle and the work that she and the current town council have done since coming into office. I have been extremely disheartened over the last several years to see how divisive politics in our town has been, and that, from my perspective, people have been instinctively and automatically striking down her ideas simply because they are hers, rather than considering their merits, or discussing the ideas constructively.

So that brings me back to Amanda. I realize that if I want to try to improve the current division in our town, I have to do my part to step up and make sure that I don’t fall prey to that same negativity and divisiveness I have seen from so many others. That is why I’m very happy to support Amanda’s campaign for town council.

Local government should not be about red and blue. We all live together in this community, and we should all be focused on what is best for our community and for our families. That is a key tenet of Amanda’s platform. I know

personally that Amanda will make great contributions to the betterment of our community as a member of the town council — as I have seen her make so many contributions over the years through school events and town organizations already.

Amanda will be thoughtful and constructive, and she will work with and not against her fellow council members, regardless of political affiliation. It doesn’t mean everyone has to always agree, but it means that there should be constructive dialogue, and even — gasp! — compromise, to get to the right result for Westfield.

I wish Amanda the best of luck in this election and urge the community to focus our energies on moving forward, together, in the best interests of our town. I am confident that Amanda can play a tremendous part in that effort.

Jessica Cortes
Westfield

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As Your Councilwoman You Can Count on Me to Show Up

A few weeks ago I made a mistake and woke up in a panic.

My blunder was forgetting to lock my car when I went upstairs to go to sleep that night. We have a nighttime routine in place at our house to lock every door, but for some reason that night I forgot to check my car.

I ran frantically down the stairs the next morning, praying we weren’t robbed.

Darting outside in my pajamas, I checked our vehicle to make sure everything was in its place. Fortunately, luck was on our side because criminals decided not to turn down our street that night. We dodged a bullet, so to speak.

Our neighborhood is in a prime location for thefts. We live between Mountain and Lawrence Avenues, which are straight shots to Route 22. Once out of our neighborhood, thieves can drive cars at high speeds and in the opposite flow of traffic to elude police.

I share this story with you today because last week at the candidates’ forum I was asked a question about crime. In my reply, I said it’s been scary in our neighborhood this past year. Almost immediately following my answer, I could hear snickering and sneering in the audience. What’s so funny about crime?

I was taken aback by the reaction. I don’t believe crime, no matter the form, is a laughing matter. Where’s the compassion, kindness and empathy?

Since embarking on my campaign journey, I’ve connected with many neighbors that shared their stories with me of attempted and successful break-ins and thefts. “Scary” is definitely a fitting word to describe them.

Being a victim of attempted or successful robbery is violating, disturb-

ing, and causes a lot of anxiety. Children become afraid to go to sleep at night for fear that someone may enter the house while they’re in bed and parents think the worst every time they hear a strange noise or sound. These reactions are definitely no laughing matter and can last for weeks, if not months, at a time.

The bottom line is we are all human. Perfectly imperfect and doing the best we can. Our life experiences are uniquely our own and we can’t ever fully understand what another person is going through.

Instead of casting shame and blame, we should be showing up for our neighbors asking, “How can I help?” In my 30-plus years working with and managing people, I’ve yet to encounter an effective leader that changes another human being’s behavior or performance for the better by shaming and/or blaming them.

How can we work together to improve the situation? Viewing challenges through a lens of education, encouragement and empowerment is a solid first step. Also, it would certainly help to build bridges between law enforcement and residents to foster more of a “we’re in this together” approach.

As your councilwoman, you can count on me to show up like that for you. With an open heart and mind, practicing compassion, kindness and empathy, asking once again, “How can I help?”

To learn more about me, please visit como4westfield.com

I hope to have your vote on November 2nd and as always, thank you for reading!

Amanda Como
Council Candidate Ward 1
Westfield

How Local Government Can Engage Our Community

Garwood is known as a “small town with a big heart.” However, true leadership from our Borough Council must pave the path for showing that heart. Residents want to get involved when they know there is someone leading the charge who will be there to support and guide them.

Over the past few years, Mayor Sara Todisco, Councilwoman Jen Blumenstock and Councilman Vincent Kearney, have helped shepherd innovative programs such as live streaming town meetings and creating town events to bolster ways for residents to get involved. The Green Team’s rain garden, the MLK Day of service, touch a truck, the mayor’s wellness campaign, and more town hall meetings have really helped to invigorate all of Garwood to get involved and help make a difference!

These kinds of programs and events have inspired our town departments as well. The chief of police has implemented a successful youth academy, and the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department continues to brighten our children’s mood with visits from Santa and summer wet downs.

Clarissa and Jeff have shown they know how to engage members of the community already. Jeff has been doing it as a leader on the Green Team, and Clarissa inspires with her instruction as a music teacher and

vision to create an arts council.

Not only that, but they both know how to pivot and prioritize issues that may require more urgent attention. As a teacher, Clarissa understands coming away from a very challenging school year requires retooling her practice to fully engage her students. Likewise, Jeff in his role as city clerk in Rahway engages with members of the public to focus his attention on directing residents to the resources needed to help in recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Ida. Their ability to react quickly and with a healthy dose of empathy shows that both Clarissa and Jeff are ready to tackle all of the challenges that may be thrown their way.

Garwood needs energetic and thoughtful leaders like Clarissa and Jeff who embolden our residents to realize that being involved not only brings self-fulfillment, but also helps bring a sense of optimism that Garwood truly is filled with big hearts.

I truly hope you will join me in supporting Clarissa Nolde and Jeff Jotz for Garwood Council by voting Column A on November 2nd.

Councilman Marc Lazarow
Garwood Town Council (D)

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Four Centuries in a Weekend Returns October 16-17

COUNTY -- Union County's annual "Four Centuries in a Weekend: A Journey through Union County's History," is back this year on Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17 from noon to 5 p.m. each day. The weekend of activities features special events for all ages at more than 30 historic sites throughout Union County.

"Four Centuries in a Weekend is a Union County tradition that enables residents and visitors to travel through time and learn about the rich history of our community," said County Commission Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "This year marks the return of Four Centuries after last year's hiatus, and we encourage all residents to take this opportunity to explore the many historic treasures we have here in Union County."

The annual event is sponsored by the Union County Board of County Commissioners through the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, in collaboration with the staff and volun-

teers at over 30 houses, museums and historic sites. The two-day free event opens the doors to more than 370 years of history throughout the county.

Visitors will be able to stop by a beautifully restored mansion and church, Revolutionary War burial grounds, the county's oldest railroad station, unique houses and museums, special exhibitions, and more.

This year, Four Centuries welcomes several new sites including the Wallace Chapel on Broad Street in Summit. Wallace Chapel is known for its role as the home of the Reverend Florence Spearling Randolph, a 20th century activist and one of the first women in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church denomination to be ordained as a deacon and elder. Florence Spearling Randolph served on the executive board of the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association and was founder and president of the New Jersey Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

This year, Four Centuries will also feature the 100th anniversary of the Union County Parks system will be featured during the weekend, along with special programs including:

Deserted Village of Feltville/Glenside Park in Berkeley Heights. Visitors will be given a special tour led by none other than "David Felt" himself, founder of Feltville in the mid-1800's. There will be apple cider pressing, games and archeological activities for children, and visits to a classic general store.

William Miller Sperry Observatory in Cranford. Visitors will get to tour the observatory and learn about its long history. On Sunday, October 17 there will be an outdoor solar observation event, weather permitting.

Boxwood Hall State Historic Site in Elizabeth. Visitors will be given guided tours of this elegant 18th-century home, where George Washington dined while en route to his inauguration as President. Learn about famous, infamous, and should-be-famous people who are connected with this historic site.

Oswald J. Nitschke House in Kenilworth. Visitors will receive guided tours of the circa-1880 house, restored and furnished in late 19th-/early 20th-century style, as well as its

teaching gardens with heirloom flowers, vegetables and herbs. There will also be a Living History program, "Persevering Through Times of Triumph and Tribulation (1917-1921)" focused on World War I, Prohibition and Women's Suffrage.

African American History & Heritage Learning Center of Rahway. Visitors to the Learning Center will take part in an oral history event and tour, presented in partnership with the Ebenezer A.M.E. Congregation and the Rahway Community. Rod's Fish & Chips will be present with a food truck and there will be family-oriented games and prizes. The Learning Center will only be open Saturday, October 16 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Liberty Hall Museum in Union, part of and within the campus of Kean University. Visitors to this historic mansion will be touring the home of a Founding Father of the United States of America, a place where generations of the well-known Livingston and Kean families welcomed distinguished guests such as George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Ulysses S. Grant and others. There will also be self-guided tours of the arboretum, gardens and grounds.

Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield. Visitors will be able to step back into Colonial times and witness open-hearth cooking demonstrations, as cooks work in the kitchen using herbs and seasonal vegetables to make authentic 18th-century recipes. On Sunday, cooks will "fire up" the beehive oven to bake delectable colonial treats including bread, muffins and biscuits, while none other than "George Washington" himself will be present.

Four Centuries in a Weekend is funded in part by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, part of the Division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.

For free copies of the Four Centuries in a Weekend tour booklet, map and further information, call the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 558-2550 (NJ Relay users dial 711), or email culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

Complete details about Four Centuries in a weekend are also available online at ucnj.org/parks-recreation/cultural-heritage-affairs/historic-sites-map.

Theater Project Announces Young Playwrites Competition

STATE -- The Theater Project, an award-winning professional company and incubator for rising artists, is once again reaching out to creative young people in its 20th annual Young Playwrights Competition. Winners receive cash prizes and see their work performed by professional actors at the Zoom awards ceremony in the spring. This event is made possible in part by a grant from the Investors Savings Bank Foundation.

The submission deadline to enter the 2022 competition is Saturday, January 22, 2022. New Jersey's high school playwrights submit their short plays at TheTheaterProject.org web site, where they will find all the necessary entry guidelines and formatting rules.

"Kids need us to listen," says artistic director Mark Spina. "Every year one of our winners tells us, 'I would never have tried to do this if I hadn't heard about the competition.' By providing this forum, we hope to inspire more young people to write, and to exercise the verbal abilities, critical thinking skills and creativity that they need to succeed in any field." Several past winners of the Playwrights Competition have gone on to pursue degrees in theater and playwriting, and they often return to The Theater Project's event to present prizes and share their journeys with the newest honorees.

Theater Project playwrights are available for virtual classroom site visits to help student writers get started; interested schools can contact the company at info@TheTheaterProject.org. After the contest winners have been announced, The Theater Project offers free tutorials to any interested entrant: a half hour script consultation with an adult playwright or director.

"We want to make sure that kids know their creative efforts are valued by showcasing them for the community," says program coordinator and Theater Project board president Kevin Carver. "Arts education sometimes gets short-changed as schools struggle to meet so many demands, especially during these challenging times. But when kids lose out on arts experiences, they miss opportunities to de-

velop critical thinking skills that are needed now more than ever."

The winning playwrights receive cash prizes; the honorable mentions are awarded gift certificates. In 2021, Brennan Columbia-Walsh, Montclair Kimberley Academy in Montclair and Alejandro Espinal, Academy for Performing Arts in Scotch Plains, shared first prize. Ryan Rosenthal, Cranford High School, and Julian Martin, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, captured second and third, respectively.

Ava Chickering (Montclair Kimberley Academy), Christiana

Gabor (Holmdel High School), Lucille O'Donnell (Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy), Emily Hammond (The Lawrenceville School), Maddie Pritchett (OCVTS Performing Arts Academy), Tierney Maurer (Holmdel High School), and Veronica Vogelmann (Princeton Day School) won honorable mentions.

Complete competition guidelines are available at TheTheaterProject.org. Further information is also available by contacting the company at (908) 809-8865 or info@TheTheaterProject.org.

October Gardening Tips and Planning

By SHANNON WALSH
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

While it's always bittersweet to see most of the flowers stop blooming and the foliage die in autumn, there are still some bright spots to the October garden. One is certainly fall clean-up, getting your garden spaces ready for next spring. And another is fall plantings of cool-weather vegetables, some cold-tolerant flowers, and any shrubs and trees you find on sale from garden centers. It can be a rich time to be outdoors with clearer skies and cooler weather.

Fall clean-up depends on your goals. If you prefer a pristine look year-round, you'll probably cut back most of your perennials, take out annuals, and dispose of fallen leaves. If you're more interested in a wildlife habitat, you'll leave most of the perennials, especially those that produce a lot of seeds such as echinacea. These are natural food for birds. Native bees, butterflies and numerous other beneficial insects also nest in dead foliage. It's good to have a stick pile in a space with a bit of protection from wind where they can overwinter. And of course, leaf mulch makes excellent compost.

Allowing plants to die back naturally is good for the soil, the lifeblood of healthy plants, as they compost over the winter. Grass should be left a little longer in the final cut to protect the beneficial insects that nest in the thatch. Leaving the fall garden as is, however, does mean that a bigger spring clean-up will be necessary. I enjoy the spring clean-up, however, because garden centers are packed with options in spring for my newly

cleaned garden beds. It's a more immediate reward for all that hard work!

If your vegetable garden has seen its better days like my tomatoes in a raised bed, it's time to pull those out and plant something new. Cool season vegetables include anything cruciferous, including Kale and Swiss Chard, and many root vegetables. You can also plant garlic in the fall to be harvested next spring. I try to rotate what I plant in raised beds to reduce the chance of diseases that often linger in the soil.

Fall is a terrific time to plant certain flowers such as Snapdragons, Sweetpeas, and Dianthus. Snapdragons are not perennials, but they reseed themselves so successfully that I've had them for years without planting new ones. This is also a great time to plant shrubs and trees because of the lower temperatures and the extra rain we often get. As the ground cools, the plants have plenty of time to establish before they go dormant in the freezing temperatures of winter. And then they have a head start in spring. Best of all, many shrubs and trees are on sale right now.

If you want to create a garden with year-round interest, October and November are great months to walk around town to see what looks good to you. Many plants produce colorful berries and foliage this time of year. One of my favorites is Callicarpa, or Beautyberry, and I'm excited for the Diervilla I planted this spring to put on its fall show of color. If you can't identify the plant, take a photo to a garden center, or use an app like LeafSnap. With a bit of planning and time you'll have the garden you want.

Community Calendar

Brought to you by Trinitas Regional Medical Center



Complements: The Art of Charles Addams & Suzanne Heilmann, every weekend from October 15 - 31. View Suzanne Heilmann's masterpieces of imaginative works alongside Charles Addams at the Rialto Theater in Westfield. For more information, please visit addamsfest.com.

Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek Fridays, October 15, 22, 29, 10 a.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library on Zoom for a different approach to exercise. Older adults are encouraged to take part in these classes that are designed to address the loss of balance and strength that can occur with age. To register, please visit scotlib.org.

Rumors by Neil Simon Fridays, October 15, 22 at 8 p.m. - Saturdays, October 9, 16, 23 at 8 p.m. - Sunday, October 17 at 2 p.m. Rumors by Neil Simon will open the fall 2021 season at CDC Theatre in Cranford. To purchase tickets, please visit cdctheatre.org/rumors-by-neil-simon.

Clark Reservoir Cleanup Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall. Kickoff the cleanup with coffee and breakfast and end it with pizza. All participants should wear jeans, long-sleeved shirts, gloves and boots. For more information, please call (908) 510-7334.

Charlie's Ale Garden Saturday, October 16, 6 p.m. Enjoy a variety of beers, wine, and food from local restaurants during an outdoor beer garden with live music at the grounds of the Westfield Armory. Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information, please visit addamsfest.com.

Vampire Ball Saturday, October 16, 6 p.m. Downtown Cranford and Garlic Rose Bistro present the first annual Vampire Ball with a buffet dinner, dancing and live music for \$95 per person. RSVP to the Garlic Rose by calling (908) 276-5749.

The Addams Family Fun Day Sunday, October 17, 10 a.m. Head on over to Quimby Street in Downtown Westfield for a day of family fun including Addams Family character visits, live performances, incredible displays by the Maniac Pumpkin Carvers, activities with some of our local merchants, and more. For more information, please visit addamsfest.com.

Valcour: The 1776 Campaign That Saved the Cause of Liberty Monday, October 18, 7 p.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library on Zoom where author Jack Kelly will share the wild and suspenseful story of one of the most crucial and least known campaigns of the Revolutionary War. To register, please visit scotlib.org.

Gomez's Lecture Series Wednesday, October 20, 7 p.m. The tradition continues at the James

Ward mansion with a variety of events, including, a special conversation with Tee & Charles Addams Executive Director Kevin Miserocchi and artist Suzanne Heilmann, as well as a special presentation by biographer Linda Davis, author of Charles Addams: A Cartoonist's Life. For more information, please visit addamsfest.com.

Diablo Moon Culinary Craftware Showcase Thursday, October 21, 6 p.m. Come enjoy beer, wine, soda and hors d'oeuvres at Minutemen Press located at 334 South Avenue East in Westfield. Members (\$10), non-members (\$20), and walk-ins (\$30) are welcome. Register by Wednesday, October 20.

A Spooktacular Halloween Fest Saturday, October 23, 7 p.m. presented by the Plainfield Area Humane Society. Live music, dancing, costume contests, 50/50, tarot readings, tricky tray and more. Covid vaccination is required. To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit pahs.booktix.com or email contact@pahs.org.

An Evening with Jimmy Webb Saturday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m. Singer, songwriter and composer Jimmy Webb will be performing at Kean Stage's Enlow Recital Hall and is the only artist to receive Grammy Awards for music, lyrics and orchestration. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit keanstage.com/events.

Comic Book Club for Adults Monday, October 25, 7:30 p.m. Join the Clark Public Library in person or via Zoom every five weeks to discuss a different type of comic genre every five weeks. The first October meeting we will be discussing favorite horror themed comics.

Experts in Arthritis Tuesday, October 26, 10 a.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library via Zoom for this special opportunity to meet and learn from a qualified expert in arthritis care. To register, please visit scotlib.org.

Creatures of the Night: The Bats of New Jersey Tuesday, October 26, 7 p.m. Join Conserve Wildlife Foundation biologist Ethan Gilardi on a lively Zoom talk exploring common myths and misconceptions about bats, spotlighting the current threats to New Jersey's bats. To register, please visit scotlib.org.

Virtual Halloween Trivia Wednesday, October 27, 7 p.m. Join the Clark Public Library via Zoom to test your knowledge of all things Halloween, from horror movies to monsters and spooky books. To register, please visit clarklibrary.org.

Submit events at Goleader.com/calendar Uchawk.com/calendar

Free Musical Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

COUNTY -- The Union County Board of County Commissioners is proud to present "Concert in the Park," a free musical celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month featuring the Hector Morales Salsa Band on Saturday, October 16, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. outdoors at Union County's Warinanco Sports Center, located at 1 Park Drive in Warinanco Park, in Roselle.

The first 150 participants will receive a free food voucher for use at the concert.

The free concert caps a month of Hispanic Heritage Month activities sponsored by the Commissioner Board, including the raising of the County's first ever Hispanic Heritage flag at the County Courthouse in Elizabeth, a family movie night double feature at Plainfield High School in Plainfield, a family fun day at Rahway River Park in Rahway, and a countywide virtual art exhibit.

"The Commissioner Board is proud to support Hispanic Heritage Month and encourage people from all walks of life to unite in the enjoyment of cultural events, in recognition of the leading role of the Hispanic community throughout Union County," said Commissioner Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

"It is fitting to conclude our series of Hispanic Heritage Month in Union County with music, the great unifier of people all over the world," said Commissioner Sergio Granados. "I am proud to be one of almost 200,000 Hispanic

residents that make Union County a wonderful place to live, and I welcome this opportunity to share Hispanic culture throughout the community."

"As a Cuban-American woman, I am proud to work with my colleagues on the Commissioner Board to help foster appreciation for the diverse cultures that contribute so much to the Union County community," said Commissioner Lourdes Leon. "We are all looking forward to a wonderful event."

In addition to showcasing the Hector Morales Salsa Band, Concert in the Park will feature an awards ceremony recognizing the contributions of three outstanding members of the Hispanic community in Union County: George A. Castro II, owner of the Premier Homes real estate firm in Roselle Park; Juanita Vargas, Vice President of Programs and Operations at United Way of Greater Union County; and Union County Undersheriff Amilcar "Mickey" Colon.

Food trucks will be on site and residents are welcome to bring their own picnic.



The Leader/HAWK Monthly Crossword Puzzle Answers

By Ruth B. Margolin

A	R	O	D		D	I	S	C		S	N	A	G	S
C	O	L	E		O	S	H	A		E	P	C	O	T
T	I	D	A	L	P	O	O	L		A	R	E	N	A
	F	R	E	E	F	A	L	L			L	E	N	
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B	U	Y	T	H	E	N	E	X	T	R	O	U	N	D
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F	I	R	S	T	T	I	M	E			C	A	P	E
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T	A	L	O	N			E	N	D	T	A	B	L	E
C	H	E	W	Y		A	L	O	E		L	O	G	O
H	O	R	S	E			R	O	C	S		E	T	O

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Arts & Entertainment

Rumor Has It That Cranford Dramatic Club is Back

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

CRANFORD -- Live theater in Cranford is off and running with Cranford Dramatic Club's (CDC) 103rd season opener of Neil Simon's *Rumors*. Director Zachary Mazouat and producer Liz Howard have pulled out all the stops for this production with a top-notch cast that is deliciously over the top for this two-act show.

The set is one of their most elegant and elaborate ones to date. It is two-tiered with doors galore ready for slamming a la true farce style. Grabbing our attention immediately are a red sofa in the shape of provocative lips and two side chairs that are up-reaching giant hands where one must nestle his bum. The acrylic high bistro table and chairs, and a crystal chandelier complete the 1980s chic vibe that was designed by the director himself and constructed by Ed Whitman and Marc Chandler.

It's a tenth-anniversary party of Charlie and Myra, but when the first couple arrives to help them celebrate, it's not the scene they expect. No one is at the door, the wife is missing, the servants have left unprepared food in the kitchen and the host himself, Charlie, the Deputy Mayor of New York City, is upstairs covered in blood. No, he's not dead, but it's unclear if he shot himself, if he was shot accidentally, or if someone deliberately shot him. He's not in any condition to explain what has happened. (Pills may or may not be involved.) Confusion reigns as more and more couples arrive, and the first couple

concocts stories that grow with a modicum of truth, a healthy dose of speculation, and a sprinkle or two of fiction thrown in for good measure. The couples are worried about Charlie's reputation and their own if there is an investigation into the shooting. They are not sure who to tell what to and what the ramifications will be.

Now, this is not one of Neil Simon's best comedies. Granted, it's crazy with one-liner jokes in Act I that make us feel he's trying to get the audience to buy into the crazy premise from the get-go. And if you are a fan of farce and need that belly laugh a minute to make you feel you are glad to be back with live theatre, it's all here. There is some slamming of doors and running up and down the stairs, but no pratfalls or spit takes. When it opened in 1988, it was to mixed reviews. The audience at the intimate theater on Winans Avenue in Cranford, however, couldn't get enough of it. They howled in glee, they chortled in commiseration, and they cackled at the clever/corny lines.

This is no *Lost in Yonkers* or *Brighton Beach Memoirs* that both rely on storyline and characterization. It's more of a "Saturday Night Live" sketch that has been elongated. The second act isn't as silly crazy so the cast and audience can settle down a bit. It's here where the best monologue of the night is given by Lenny Ganz (Ian Federgreen) who, pretending to be Charlie, delivers his hilarious take to the officers (and the audience) of what happened that night. He barely takes a breath as he delivers his version of the

"story" at break-neck speed. It's the highlight of the show.

But this is an ensemble piece first and foremost, so the mention of the standouts must be made. They each have a moment or two where they shine in the spotlight. Sean Lynch - Littlejohn as Ken is a hoot with his screaming in the deafness scene; there's great chemistry between the gossip-swapping gorgeous ladies Claire (Elle Michaeli) and Chris (Lori Travers) who duck into the powder room to drink and dish the dirt; hilarious scenes with Cookie (Shannon Ludlum)'s back spasms and her doting therapist husband Ernie (Mark Zebro, Jr.) bring guffaws, and the state senator candidate Glenn (Byron Hagan) and his jealous wife Cassie (Victoria Navarro) are the perfectly cast stereotypical couple headed for politics. The cast's high energy, interaction, and timing couldn't be better.

Director Mazouat has shown he knows how to cast the right people for each role and move those actors to various physical levels on the stationary set piece. The black-tie party has captured a snapshot of the well-heeled crowd that frequents the charity ball circuit. Amazing, delightful period costumes from the trio of Edgar Hidalgo, Ms. Howard, and Mr. Mazouat reflect the 1980s-time frame with the flair of Suzanne Sugarbaker's sequins and daring slit skirts.

Farce is a form of comedy that aims at entertaining an audience through situations that are highly exaggerated and improbable. And that's what Neil Simon's piece does here with a cast that does it so well.

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The show runs weekends at 8 p.m. through Saturday, October 23, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, October 17. For tickets, go online to their website at cdctheatre.org. Pandemic precautions are being observed with masking.

Sensory Friendly Theatre Returns to Union County

COUNTY -- The Union County Board County Commissioners invites residents to two upcoming Sensory Friendly Theatre events at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. The Sensory Friendly series, sponsored by the Commissioner Board, showcases exciting live performances in an environment tailored to audiences with autism and other sensory sensitivities.

"Sensory Friendly Theatre provides an opportunity for children and their families to enjoy the enriching experience of live performances in a beautiful theatre, while providing a relaxed, judgement-free environment. We are delighted to welcome the series back to Union County," said Commissioner Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

The 2021 Sensory Friendly Theatre series kicks off on Sunday, October 17 at 1 p.m. with the interactive "Bubble Trouble" show presented by the Master of Bubbles himself, Jeff Boyer.

On Sunday, December 5 at 1 p.m., Sensory Friendly Theatre will bring the beloved ballet classic *The Nut-*

cracker, to the Union County community, performed by the American Repertory Ballet.

The Sensory Friendly Theatre series began in 2012 as an initiative of Chairman Mirabella. It follows guidelines that help reduce disturbances for youngsters who experience heightened sensory sensitivity.

During each of the Sensory Friendly Theatre performances, the environment at the Union County Performing Arts Center is adjusted to provide a sensory-friendly, comfortable and judgment-free space that is welcoming for all families.

For more information on what to expect at Sensory Friendly Theatre visit ucpac.org/sensory-friendly-theatre.

All tickets for are \$8 per person and can be purchased through the Union County Performing Arts Center at ucpac.org or by calling the box office at (732) 499-8226.

The Union County Performing Arts Center and box office are located at 1601 Irving Street in Rahway.

Covid-19 prevention rules are in effect at the venue and may be viewed online at ucpac.org/covid-19.

Exhibit Pairs Addams Cartoons With Unique Art for Festival

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

WESTFIELD -- The Thursday night opening of the lobby of the iconic Rialto Theater in Westfield was a surprise and delight to attendees of the exhibition. With a collaboration of the Tee & Charles Addams Foundation and artist Suzanne Heilmann, the works of Charles Addams and Ms. Heilmann were paired in a unique way. The exhibit, which is open on weekends for a donation, and for private group showings on Monday through Thursday, is called "Complements: The Art of Charles Addams and Suzanne Heilmann." The exhibition will run every Friday from 4 to 8 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m.

The opening night of the exhibition featured words of welcome from the artists and volunteers who worked on the project including Town Council member Dawn Mackey who spearheaded the project. Mayor Shelley Brindle explained how delighted she was at the revitalization of the theater for AddamsFest and the artist herself and Kevin Miserocchi, the president of the Tee & Charles Addams Foundation, spoke briefly about how the collaboration came to be. Adrian Pastore of the AddamsFest team explained they "stumbled upon Ms. Heilmann's work during a visit to Charles Addams' home in the Hamptons in 2020." They found her work to be "as whimsical and mysterious as that of Addams himself." So, on the urging of Ms. Pastore and Ms. Mackey, Mr. Miserocchi and Ms. Heilmann collaborated, finding the perfect Addams' cartoons that would pair well with what she had already made. Only two or three pieces were made specifically for the exhibit.

Some of the most impressive pairings are the cartoon "Stormy Weather" and Ms. Heilmann's raincoat and umbrella piece entitled, "Taxi Raincoat" that boasts a Burberry lining. The cost is listed on the price sheet as \$13,000. The "Subcutaneous Violin" piece is 3-D wood, with original violin with strings, bow, and paper nestled into an old buggy carriage suitcase rack. That piece is flanked by two of Addams' cartoons that mention violins.

In this exhibit that breathes new life into the darkened Rialto Theater, masterpieces have been paired cleverly.

The imaginative work of textualist Ms. Heilmann features various media - copper, paint, fabric, wood - and other materials that her talent embraces. During the pandemic, she created stunning white 1'x1' square pieces which she calls, "Covid Squares." They each depict emotions that she, or someone she knew, was feeling during the period of isolation. Many of them are compilations of materials that needed to be repurposed to become "Turbulence", "Fenced In", "Reclusive," "Unraveled," or one of the other pieces in the 24-piece collection. They are all for sale individually as well as her unique art pieces of clothing.

The attendees flocked around "The Pastry Chef Apron", "The Butler" and "Frog in Pocket Shorts." Dudley, the enormous skeleton that has become famous at this, the fourth year of the

month-long festival, was also on display to welcome the guests.

Inspiration for Ms. Heilmann's "Memorialized in White" series came, the three-dimensional artist explained, several years ago when she was doing some spring cleaning and realized she did not want to "get rid of" memories locked in these heirlooms. So, she began turning her relics into art pieces made of fabric, wood, and special oil paint. One might look at them and think that the items have merely been dipped in acrylic after having been painted white. The printed hand-out materials at the exhibition explain they have been painstakingly painted with 48 hours of drying time between multiple coats of paint.

For more information on the exhibit, its hours of operation as well as other AddamsFest events, consult the website: AddamsFest.com.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

ART INSPIRES ART... "Taxi Raincoat," the title of this impressive art piece by Suzanne Heilmann, is paired with Charles Addams' cartoon "Stormy Weather" at the exhibition now continuing weekends at the Rialto Theater lobby in Downtown Westfield as part of AddamsFest. Check the website for the exact times and specifics of this exhibit. Ms. Heilmann's unique artwork is for sale, including her "Covid" Squares and "Memorialized in White" collection of clothing that is made of fabric, wood and special oil paint.

Mixing With Zest

By HILLARY SHOPE

For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

Pumpkin Puff Pastries

These pumpkin pastries are fun to create and make a real showstopper of an appetizer! I use pre-made puff pastry and stuff them with homemade filling. This recipe leaves some pumpkin filling and nuts leftover, so feel free to store in the fridge for later use.

Ingredients:

- 1 package of pre-made puff pastry (should include 2 sheets of pastry)
- Pumpkin filling:
 - 1 cup pumpkin puree
 - 1/2 tsp pumpkin spice
 - 1/4 tsp cinnamon
 - 1/4 tsp Kosher salt
- 1 egg
- Spice filling:
 - 1 cup ground pecans
 - 2 tsp vanilla extract
 - 1 tsp cinnamon
 - 1/4 cup brown sugar

Directions:

If your puff pastries are frozen, leave them in the fridge to thaw overnight or leave at room temperature for ~2 hours.

Preheat oven to 400 °F.

Unroll one sheet of puff pastry.

Cut into squares. You want these to be uniform in size because you'll be stacking one square on top of another.

Size options: You can make 7 large pastries that are ~3"x3.5" or about 15

small pastries that are ~2"x3".

In a medium bowl, make your pumpkin filling by whisking the pumpkin puree, pumpkin spice, cinnamon, salt and egg together. Set aside.

In a food processor, grind your pecans into a sand-like consistency.

Pour the pecans into a small bowl and add the vanilla extract, cinnamon, brown sugar and mix.

Set aside.

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper (to prevent burning/sticking).

Line your baking sheet with half of your pastry squares. Put about 2 tps of pumpkin filling and 1 tsp of spice filling in the middle of each pastry. Spread slightly in the center avoiding edges as much as possible.

Take the other half of your pastry squares and place on top of the filling. Gently press down around the edges.

Using a fork, press down to crimp the edges of the pastry together to ensure the filling stays inside.

Optional: Once prepared, you can sprinkle some of the nut mixture on top or leave them as they are.

Bake for about 12 minutes until golden brown. Enjoy



Photo credit: Kristin Morin Photography

DON'T LISTEN TO THOSE RUMORS...The character Lenny Ganz, played hilariously by Ian Federgreen, tells the "real story" of how he was shot in the ear in Cranford Dramatic Club's season opener, *Rumors*, by Neil Simon. The comedy runs weekends at 78 Winans Avenue, Cranford.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

2 TO 4:30 PM • ANGELS OF VICTORY FIELD

Learn more about The Mount by joining us for campus tours from 1 to 3:30 pm, as well as academic, athletic, and extracurricular presentations throughout the afternoon. A special presentation from S. Lisa D. Gambacorto, RSM, Ed.S., Directress, will be held at 2:45 pm.

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NOVEMBER 6 AND NOVEMBER 14, 2021

The Mount offers its own entrance exam which is used to determine merit-based scholarships, as well as to evaluate a student's ability to satisfy academic criteria. We will be offering a Q&A for parents and a light continental breakfast during the first two hours of the November 6 test date only.

Register for Open House and the Entrance Test at www.mountsaintmary.org under Admissions. For more information, email enrollment@mountsaintmary.org.

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Westfield Memorial Library

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CDC Theatre

78 Winans Ave. Cranford, NJ

Neil Simon's

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OCTOBER 8-23

Tkts/Info @ cdctheatre.org/908-276-7611



Story on page 9
of The Westfield Leader



BROWN COMPLETES 16 OF 25 FOR 150 YARDS, INCLUDING 22-YD TOUCHDOWN PASS TO COLBY

Hillsborough's Big Plays Jar Blue Devils' Grid Effort, 28-7

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

For The Westfield Leader and The
Union County HAWK

Two huge touchdown plays and especially later in the game a number of sacks inflicted on Blue Devil junior quarterback Trey Brown insured that the momentum would be on the No. 16 Hillsborough Raiders' side which led to a 28-7 victory over Westfield at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 9. The speed of running back Tom

Amankwaa allowed him to grab a swing pass from quarterback Jay Mazuera and outrun everyone for a 66-yard touchdown then in the third quarter, he dampened the 2-3 Blue Devils' spirits with a 93-yard sprint to the end zone.

Amankwaa carried seven times for 126 yards, including the 93-yard touchdown, to go with his 66-yard catch-and-go touchdown reception. The primary runner for the 6-0 Raiders was Tyler Michinard, who carried 19 times for 62 yards, including a four-

yard touchdown. Mazuera completed 10 of 17 passes for 166 yards, which included the 66-yard touchdown reception by Amankwaa and a 27-yard touchdown strike to wide receiver Shane Donoghue.

Brown, who was intercepted twice, completed 16 of 25 passes for 150 yards, including a 22-yard touchdown pass to running back Justin Colby (2 receptions, 36 yards). Receiver Trey Constantinou had five receptions for 29 yards, Paul Cerro had four receptions for 24 yards, co-captain James Csorba had three receptions for 38 yards and Peter Del Re had two receptions for 23 yards. Due to the Raiders' formi-

dable defense, Colby gained only 46 yards on 12 carries and Brown was thrown for a loss five times in the second half and finished with minus 27 total yards. Csorba had a 21-yard gain on a fake punt.

Despite a solid tackle by Csorba on a pass for no gain and a combined four-yard sack by defensive lineman/co-captain Jack Price and end Rion Murray, the Raiders managed to move the ball to the Westfield 27 on their first series but defensive back Paul Tilyou picked off Mazuera's pass at the 13 and returned it to the 35.

The Blue Devils went three-and-out and punted to the Raider 25. On the fourth play, the ball was on the 34 and Mazuera flicked to the right sideline where Amankwaa grabbed the pass and

bolted 66 yards for the score with 3:19 left in the first quarter for a 7-0 lead.

Another short series and a bad snap on fourth down caused a desperation punt that made it to midfield. Twelve plays later the score became 14-0 when Michinard plowed in from the four with 8:53 left in the half.

More misfortune followed when Brown's pass was picked off at the Raider 40 but a fine defensive effort by the Blue Devils, including a batted down pass by defensive back Owen Shakal halted any drive.

The Blue Devils took over at their own 32. Brown hit Csorba for 22 yards and eight yards. Cerro's reception plus a 15-yard face mask penalty put the ball on

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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more photos next page

Hillsborough Raider's Big Plays Jar Blue Devils' Grid Hopes, 28-7

the 22 then Brown hit Colby on the left side where he galloped into the end zone with 36 seconds on the clock. Henry Hipschman kicked the point after, narrowing the gap to 14-7.

Early in the third quarter, Brown's pass was picked off by Amankwaa but thanks to another sack by Price, the Raiders' offense went nowhere. But neither did Westfield's next offensive. Fortunately Csorba got off a great punt and the ball came to rest at the Raider seven. But the wind was whisked right out of their sails when Amankwaa broke a pair of tackles at the line of scrimmage and soared 93 yards to up

the lead to 21-7.

From that point onward the Raiders' defense refused to give Brown a chance and the sacks would follow for the remainder of the game. In the meantime, the Raiders converted a five-play, 63-yard drive into another score when Mazuera connected with Donoghue for his 27-yard touchdown.

"We had a lot of energy at halftime, 14-7. It's a close game. That's a game right there and we just let the energy die. Two bad plays. You could just see it on the sideline. We just can't let that happen. Everyone on the team has to keep their energy up. We

can't let deficits define who we are. We got to keep playing," Price emphasized.

"We got to put it behind us and move forward. We have a new game next week. New opponent. That's what we got to focus on right now," Csorba added.

"We just have to hold each other more accountable for things, especially with the sideline like Jack said. Everybody's heads dropped and that just can't happen. It's a whole team sport. It's not just the 11 guys on the field, it's everybody on the sideline too and we just let two big plays get to us too much," offensive lineman/co-captain Duke

Edmondson said.

The Blue Devils have been stung before when facing teams with a lot of speed like Hillsborough and the Linden Tigers when they had two 60+ touchdown runs right at the beginning of the game. And next week will be the Elizabeth Minutemen, who are sure to have some speedsters.

"It's been an issue with us this year. We got to stay contained, spot the ball," Csorba said.

"Like he said, we got to read our keys. Too many guys watch the play happen and just wait for other guys to make plays. We all got to run to the ball. Even if the

guy doesn't make a block, then you are there. We got to play faster, play smarter and read our keys and play," Price stressed.

"It's definitely going to be a rough film session but for next week, it's going to be a lot during the week of practice just watching their guys, know who has speed, know what plays they like to run and we just have to prepare for that next week. Put this behind us," Edmondson said.

Hillsborough	14	0	7	7	28
Westfield	0	7	0	0	7

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Hillsborough Raider's Big Plays Jar Blue Devils' Grid Hopes, 28-7





Hillsborough Raider's Big Plays Jar Blue Devils' Grid Hopes, 28-7





Hillsborough Raider's Big Plays Jar Blue Devils' Grid Hopes, 28-7





Hillsborough's Big Plays Jar Blue Devils' Hopes, 28-7 - *photos by Charles Mulrooney* *more photos next page*





Hillsborough's Big Plays Jar Blue Devils' Hopes, 28-7 - *photos by Charles Mulrooney*





* Lady Blue Devils Rally Past Governor Livingston in Soccer, 4-1 *





*** Lady Blue Devils Rally Past Governor Livingston in Soccer, 4-1 ***



*Story on page 9
of The Westfield Leader*

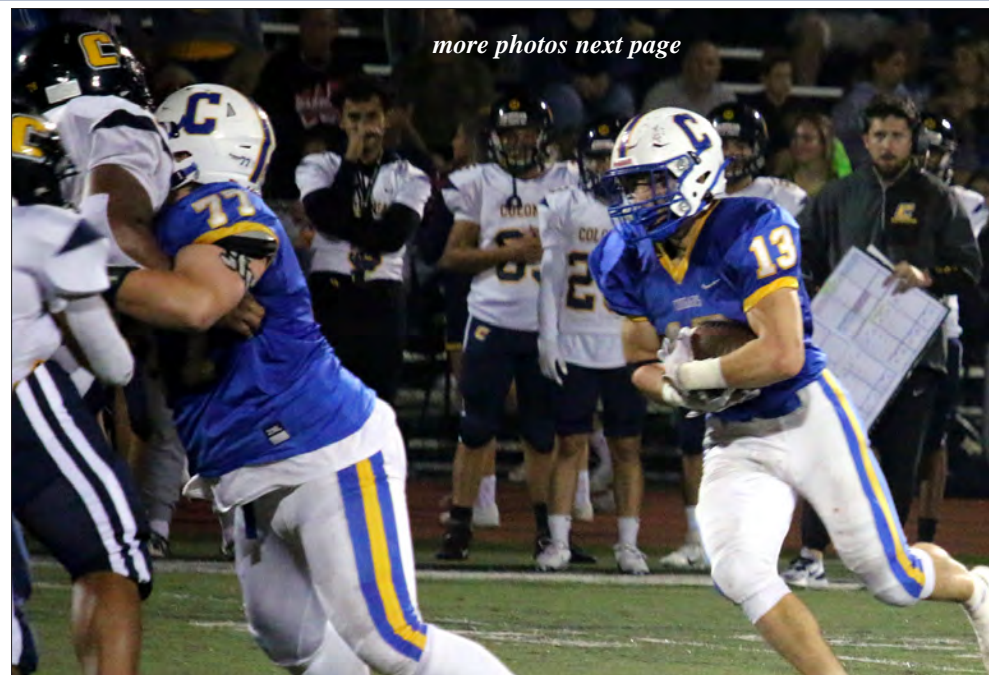


more photos next page



Cougars' Pass/Run Combo Stops Colonia Patriot Gridders, 27-14





Cougars' Pass/Run Combo Stops Colonia Patriot Grididders, 27-14





Cougars' Pass/Run Combo Stops Colonia Patriot Gridders, 27-14





Cougars' Pass/Run Combo Stops Colonia Patriot Gridders, 27-14





Cranford Lady Cougars, SPF Raiders Battle to 0-0 Soccer Deadlock





Cranford Lady Cougars, SPF Raiders Battle to 0-0 Soccer Deadlock





Cranford Lady Cougars, SPF Raiders Battle to 0-0 Soccer Deadlock





Cranford Lady Cougars, SPF Raiders Battle to 0-0 Soccer Deadlock





Westfield Blue Devils' Shelling Downs Cardinals in Boys Soccer, 1-0





more photos next page

Westfield Blue Devils' Shelling Downs Cardinals in Boys Soccer, 1-0





Westfield Blue Devils' Shelling Downs Cardinals in Boys Soccer, 1-0

