



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader  
GENERALS IN WESTFIELD...Reenactors portray Lieutenant General Chastellux, French General Rochambeau and General George Washington with a young Westfield resident on August 29 during the March to Yorktown Reenactment.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader  
MARCHING THROUGH WESTFIELD...The March to Yorktown Reenactment took place this past Sunday to commemorate the 240th anniversary of the Continental Army's march through Westfield on August 29, 1781.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION...A reenactor greets a representative of the first Rhode Island Regiment, composed of African-American and Native American soldiers, during the 240th anniversary of the Continental Army's march through Westfield on August 29, 1781 on their way to Yorktown, Va.

## Residents Voice Concerns About Edison Field Project; School Policies

By JENNIFER GLACKIN  
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Westfield residents filled the board room and stood in the hallway during Tuesday night's board of education meeting, where concerns were raised regarding the district's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) curriculum, school-masking policies, and the Edison Field Project.

In a 5-to-4 vote, the board opted to table the district goals presented by Superintendent Raymond Gonzalez, Ed.D. As previously reported by *The Westfield Leader*, the four proposed district goals included a safe return to school, student achievement, professional development and clear communication with the community. Tabling the motion was first presented by board member Tara Oporto.

Ms. Oporto asked Dr. Gonzalez for more information on the recently-implemented Responsive

Classroom program. Dr. Gonzalez said he did not have the specifics in front of him and would be able to provide an update at a later date. Ms. Oporto said she would like more information on the professional development for the Responsive Classroom program before voting on the program as part of the district's professional development goal.

Residents voiced concern about previous professional development training in the district, particularly in regards to DEI. James Lucarelli said there were three different teacher trainings on diversity in the last school year while students were "floundering" during the pandemic school year. He asked why the board spent so much money on this particular style of training.

There also were many comments on the differentiation between Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Critical Race Theory. Robert

Benacchio, who is one of the candidates running for a seat on the BOE, said, "We want it (DEI) to mean diversity, equity, and inclusion. Not division, exclusion, and indoctrination."

Another BOE candidate, Emily Barker, made a similar statement. "Teaching children about different cultures is very different than teaching that one race is better or worse than another or that one race is an oppressor," she said.

The New Jersey mask mandate also was a point of concern for some residents. Gregg Mele, who is a Libertarian candidate running for Governor of New Jersey, spoke at the request of parents in the district, he said. Mr. Mele said there was no "appreciable benefit" to wearing masks and urged the board to follow the example of other towns and write a letter to Governor Phil Murphy urging him to reconsider the mask mandate.

BOE candidate Mary Wickens gave the opposite view in her comments, thanking the board for "following the science" and following the mask mandate.

Those in the crowd made their objections known during multiple interruptions through the course of the three and a half hour meeting. Dr. Gonzalez told the assembled that he appreciates the passion for education within the community. He said there will be other forums for community input and discussion. Dr. Gonzalez pointed to the webinars from school principals that occurred over the last week as an example of possible forum.

The Edison Field project, a proposed 400,000-square-foot athletic complex with turf fields and lights, brought many residents to the microphone. The environmental impact of the chemically-produced turf was a point voiced by many speakers.

Resident Norm Yang, a retired chemical engineer, said, "artificial turf has many hazardous chemicals" and "there's an increasing amount of evidence" that artificial turf will cause health risks. Many residents recommended updating the current Edison fields, and others around town in need of repair, with new grass instead of turf.

In addition to chemical concerns, residents raised the issue of increased traffic and exacerbated parking issues. With Kehler Stadium, Edison Intermediate School, Lincoln Early Childhood Center and Tamaques Elementary School all within a few blocks, the neighborhood is already a high-traffic area, residents said.

Quality of life was another matter brought to the board's attention. Jan Amici, a retired pharmaceutical and research scientist, said there are biological responses, such as inflammation, to noise and light irritants, which would increase if the project goes through.

Board member Gretchan Ohlig pointed out that while the board did sign a letter of intent with the town to begin exploring the project, it is not a formal agreement. It was a "willingness to allow the town to enter into a conversation with the public," because Westfield Public Schools owns the field. Ms. Oporto agreed with Ms. Ohlig, saying the letter of intent is "non-binding."

In other news, the board approved a new four-year contract with the Westfield Education Association (WEA). The agreement

## Candidates File For BOE Elections

By JESSE WINTER  
For The Westfield Leader

AREA — Summer is waning, the 2021 school year is here — and the Tuesday, November 2 General Election is approaching fast.

At the ballot box, communities across Union County will elect members of their local school boards. In addition to municipal government, local school boards play a significant role in shaping the policies of their communities. The individuals each community elects as school-board members represent the concerns of taxpayers and parents and the needs of students, according to the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA).

In Westfield, voters will choose three candidates from a field of seven to fill three-year terms. Incumbents Gretchan Ohlig and Tara Oporto did not file for reelection. Robert S. Garrison of Kimball Avenue is running for reelection under the slogan Because Experience Matters. Joining Mr. Garrison on the ballot are Mary Wickens of Tudor Oval, under the slogan Accountability and Integrity; Kristen T. Sonnek-Schmelz of Harding Street; Emily Barker of Longfellow Avenue; Robert H. Benacchio of Forest Avenue, under the slogan For Our Families; Kent Diamond of Nancy Way, under the slogan Because Experience Matters, and Ilya Eric Kolchinsky of

Barchester Way, under the slogan No Masks.

In Scotch Plains, voters will choose three candidates from a field of six to fill three-year terms on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education. Incumbents Karen Kulikowski of Watchung Terrace, board president; Tonya Y. Williams of Sycamore Avenue, and Debora Brody of Lake Avenue will face challengers David Levine of Chipmunk Lane, Michael R. Gromek of Inverness Drive, under the slogan Achievement, Community, Tradition, and Timothy J. Mehl, Jr. of Dogwood Drive, under the slogan For Our Kids.

In Garwood, Board President Ralph

Trentacosta and Vice President Maureen Scepkowski did not file for reelection. Three candidates have filed for the three open three-year-term seats: Jennifer Uva of Hazel Avenue; April Farrell of Third Avenue, under the slogan Children First, and Salvatore Piarulli of 4th Avenue. Additionally, Tracy Roland of Third Avenue is the sole candidate running for reelection to a two-year unexpired term, under the slogan Integrity Positivity Results.

Cranford voters will choose three candidates for three-year board terms. Incumbents Maria Loikith of Brown Terrace, William Hulse of Keith

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## Board Continues Hearing On Paperboard Apartments

By JULIA BONAVIDACOLA  
For The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The planning board met on August 25 to continue its hearing on the Paperboard Redevelopment Area. Previous hearings regarding the same site were held in June and July.

The latest hearing began with the presentation of plans for the Paperboard site to the planning board. These plans include a new apartment complex and a storage facility that will span the entirety of the currently empty lot. In the designs presented, the apartments were given a brownstone look to match the existing Paperboard building, while the storage facility was given a more modern look on the side of the railroad, with steel beams and faux white windows on one side, and a more brownstone look facing toward North Avenue.

After mockups of the exterior of the buildings were presented, Chairman Steve Greet said, "I'm actually quite disappointed. I thought tonight we were going to see a new design on the storage unit...The architecture vocabulary of this building was to match the residential apartment buildings. What we're seeing tonight hasn't changed at all." He also said he was concerned about the amount of stucco being used on the building, as there seemed to be more stucco than brick used on the apartment building.

"This is supposed to be a transit-oriented development...And yet what I just heard tonight is this transit-oriented development, they're treating the railroad users as second-class citizens. North Avenue gets this nice front. The south side is basically looking at a black ware-

house, which is what we used to have," said planning board member William Nierstedt. The planning board insisted that the front and back sides be similar in terms of design so that the building is pleasing to look at from either side.

Bailey Occhipinti, director of entitlements for Johnson Development Associates, Inc., presented the plans for the storage facility and the way that the storage facility would operate. According to her, customers will be able to reserve storage space online or be able to stop by. An access code will be provided to those who sign a lease with the Life Storage company. There will be a road that will allow visitors to drive up to the door to unload their items with ease.

The planned parking lot has not changed in the month since the last hearing. The parking lot will feature one parking space per each apartment. Each parking space can hold two cars back to back. There also will be single spaces allotted for visitors on the side of the building. Most of the parking will be in a below-ground parking deck.

Michael Dipple, civil engineer, pointed to some changes that were made to the overall area. "In general, we changed the landscaping. We basically tried to address prior professional reports...so we worked with the architects in order to ad-

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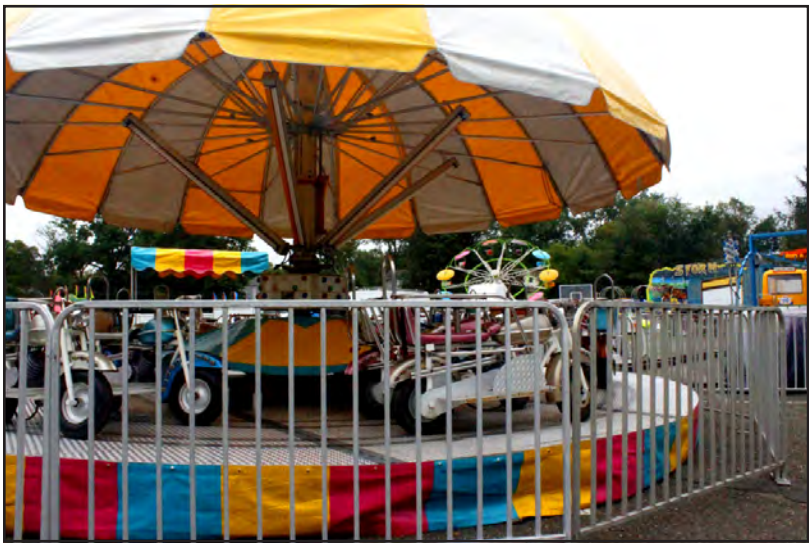
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Fred T. Rossi for The Westfield Leader  
READY TO RIDE...Rides and other amusements are ready to go for this weekend's four-day St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival, which is returning to Scotch Plains after being canceled last year due to the pandemic.

## Summer Giving Way to Busy Fall In Scotch Plains, Fanwood

By FRED T. ROSSI  
For The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — After a summer when many things returned to some semblance of normal, the fall calendar in Scotch Plains and Fanwood is a busy one, and one that will remain dependent on whether or not coronavirus-related restrictions need to be re-imposed as new cases rise.

The end of summer will be marked, after a one-year interruption, by the annual St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival over the Labor Day weekend, followed by the start of the 2021-2022 school year next week.

The festival, which has been held annually since 1974, honors San Nicola di Bari, the patron saint of Montazzoli, Italy, the town from which many emigrated to Scotch Plains in the early 1900s. It runs from 4:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Friday, September 3; Saturday, September 4, and Sunday, September 5, and from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Labor Day, Monday, September 6. Live music, food, games, rides and nightly 50-50 raffles will be featured at the festival.

School-age children will then have a few more days to buy supplies and enjoy their final days of freedom before the new school year starts on Thursday, September 9, with students, teachers and parents all hoping that the 2021-2022 school year will be a normal one after two years of on-again, off-again learning due to the pandemic.

Both Scotch Plains and Fanwood have a wide array of public events scheduled for September and October, beginning with the FanJam 2021 music festival and classic car show at La Grande Park on Saturday, September 11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The following week will feature Fanny Wood Day on Sunday, September 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., which will include music, amusements for children and food and craft vendors. A craft fair also will be held in the train station parking lot. A Vintage/Antique Fair will take place on Sunday, October 24, at the train station.

Scotch Plains Day is set for Sunday,

October 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and also will feature live music, craft vendors, amusements and food trucks. The day before, on Saturday, October 2, the Rose Checchio Walk to Wipe Out Breast Cancer will be held in the downtown. Additionally, it is hoped that the Halloween Trunk or Treat event can take place on Saturday, October 23, on Park Avenue.

Township residents needing to conduct business with the Motor Vehicle Commission will be able to do so at two mobile units that will be set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, September 24, at the south-side firehouse on Raritan Road and at the Scotch Hills Country Club.

Residents can apply for REAL ID, as well as driver's-license renewals and registration renewals. In addition, they can receive veteran, handicapped and Purple Heart recipient placards, as well as permits and non-driver identification. License-plate drop-offs also will be accepted. Appointments must be made in advance; interested persons can check the township website for more details.

The weekly Farmers Market continues every Saturday until Thanksgiving in the municipal parking lot adjacent to the municipal building. Fanwood's bulky waste pickup is set for Monday, September 20, in the northwest and northeast quadrants and Monday, September 27, in the southwest and southeast quadrants. Permits are due by Friday, September 3.

September also will see the kickoff of the local campaign season. A special election will be held in Scotch Plains to fill the remaining year of an unexpired term, with Democratic Councilman Matthew Adams facing Republican Deanna Dell Bene in the Tuesday, November 2 election to fill the remaining 13 months of the seat formerly held by Mayor Joshua Losardo, who vacated that seat when he ascended to the mayoralty in January.

In Fanwood, incumbent Democratic Councilwomen Erin McElroy Barker and Patricia Walsh are running unopposed for new four-year terms.

## Cranford Mayor Discusses Walnut Ave., Flood Mitigation

By JESSE WINTER  
For The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Following last week's township committee vote to keep the 750 Walnut Avenue project at four stories, and the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Irene's devastating flood damage to Cranford, *The Westfield Leader* interviewed Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty on Tuesday regarding the development and its potential impact on flooding in the township.

"The redevelopment plan that will be presented in mid-September is still a draft," emphasized Mayor Miller Prunty. "We are presenting that to the public for additional input that will put more meat on the bones than what's currently prepared."

The committee's vote is only the beginning of a process that will see residents and elected officials working to shape the future of the 750 Walnut Ave. Redevelopment Plan. The site at 750 Walnut Avenue will feature 250 residential units, 38 of which will be state-mandated affordable-housing units. The project also will include two sub-districts within the site, one designated for residential use and containing the 250 residential units, and a second containing 250 square feet of commercial space.

During the August 23 governing body meeting, Mayor Miller Prunty announced that in September, town-hall-style meetings would be held to obtain further input from the public and those Cranford residents impacted by the project to be built by Hartz Mountain Industries, Inc., the Secaucus-based commercial developer of the project.

Mayor Miller Prunty called the information presented to the public, which can be found on the township website, a "first draft," and said feedback from residents will further "fill out the project" as the project continues to evolve and eventually head towards the planning board. The mayor estimated that a final plan could be in place by the end of 2021.

"The final plan is a rather comprehensive document. It will be much more specific than the draft that is currently out there, right down to building material," noted the mayor. "A redevelopment plan can be as specific or as vague as a municipality wants. I can assure you this one will be specific."

The mayor said the township can indicate the building material it wants the developer to use. She said such steps were taken with other projects in town, such as Cranford Crossing, where building materials were chosen by the township through its planning.

On the topic of design philosophy and the appearance of redevelopment

ment projects in town, Mayor Miller Prunty emphasized the importance of a building's aesthetics fitting within the streetscape.

"You want it to look like it was always there," said the mayor. "That's something planners will advise us on."

Mayor Miller Prunty's comments held special significance, coming only days after the 10-year anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene. A storm system that devastated Cranford, Irene left 1,600 homes affected and \$100 million worth of damage for the township and its residents, according to the mayor.

Mayor Miller Prunty is a member of the Mayors Council Rahway River Watershed Flood Control, an organization that consists of mayors from towns such as Garwood, Cranford, Kenilworth, Union, Springfield, Maplewood and Millburn. The group, with the help of the state's federal representatives, Congressman Tom Malinowski and Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez, hopes to provide flooding relief in the form of engineering changes to the Rahway River. The organization's effort is contained within its "Flood Protection and Resiliency Plan."

As part of the proposal within the plan that seeks to mitigate damage from storms such as Tropical Storm Irene and other major weather events, Cranford is advocating for a "channelization" or a "deepening" river bed throughout the township, including "additional height of embankment dams in Lenape Park," according to a document released by the organization which outlines the resiliency plan.

"Where we are now, there has been a great deal of work by Congressman Malinowski and Senators Booker and Menendez," said the mayor. "Ten years have passed since Irene; last week we were worried about a storm coming," said the mayor. "We've been through a couple of really serious floods and they were devastating."

In regards to the 750 Walnut Avenue site, the mayor does not anticipate any major issues with flooding.

"Where 750 Walnut is located - is not a flood area at all," noted the mayor. Drawing upon the experiences of Tropical Storm Irene, the mayor pointed to the failure of the PSE&G station and the township's loss of power as a major reason why houses in parts of Cranford not located in a flood zone became flooded. The mayor used her own home, located on a hill, as an example. Without power and unable to use her home's sump pump, she was unable to remove water from her home.

Measures have already been outlined in the initial draft of the 750 Walnut Ave. Redevelopment Plan, found on the township's website, to ensure the site is storm resilient.

These clauses include incorporating "street trees and green infrastructure elements into building and landscaping designs to reduce stormwater runoff and improve local water quality," the presentation reads. Moreover, a second clause sets out to "reduce impervious coverage to prevent flooding and promote the absorption of stormwater runoff by constructing non-structural stormwater management systems that are integrated within planted areas, greenways, green roofs and swales that filter runoff and maximize on-site infiltration."

No date has been released for the mid-September town-hall meeting that will unveil a more detailed draft for further public input on the Walnut project.



Jennifer Glackin for The Westfield Leader  
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...Concerned residents fill the board room for Tuesday's Westfield Board of Education meeting.

## Garwood Mayor, Admin. Report Business Feedback

By JULIA BONAVITACOLA  
For The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The Garwood Council met on August 26, updating borough residents on various local issues. The meeting was held in Borough Hall, with masks required of those in attendance.

Mayor Sara Todisco opened the meeting with her report. Mayor Todisco and Borough Administrator Kyle Harris visited local businesses this past week in an effort to find out what Garwood could do to help local businesses thrive.

"The vast majority of the feedback we received was very positive about Garwood," Mayor Todisco said. In terms of improvements for these local businesses, she said, "We heard a couple people mention parking, specifically proper parking...We're looking at North Avenue in particular. Perhaps we can paint lines on it to delineate parking spots."

Mayor Todisco also announced that Garwood had seen 20 positive cases of Covid-19, with three people requiring hospitalizations in the past month. This is an increase of about 15 positive cases per month from July. "Please continue to keep yourself and others safe. I wish this was behind us, but it doesn't appear to be gone yet," said Mayor Todisco.

Mr. Harris said that they met with three vendors over the last week and a half regarding microphones in the council chambers. The existing system is not capable of maintaining the number of microphones needed for council and planning board meetings. A quote will be provided shortly for upgrades to the current system.

Councilman Michael Ince announced that seating around the flag pole will be installed starting next week. The seats will commemorate the 25th anniversary of Thomas P. Haughton's end of watch. Officer Haughton died in 1995 following a motor vehicle accident in the line of duty. A formal dedication will occur in October.

Councilman Vincent Kearney announced that the clock at the corner of North Avenue and Center Street "is about to be all wound up and correct at all times, rather than just two times a day." The repair work was delayed due to multiple parts being on backorder for several months. "I was also impressed to learn that part of the delay with getting parts was due to [the owner's] efforts to source as many components as possible from American manufacturers," said Councilman Kearney.

Council President Jen Blumenstock said that club meetings for senior citizens would resume today, Thursday, September 2, at the Knights of

Columbus hall. The senior director has arranged for a special menu and entertainment to welcome all seniors back to the club. Calendars for senior classes should have gone out in the mail, but the calendar also can be found online or by calling Borough Hall.

Councilman Marc Lazarow gave a report on library events that will occur in the month of September. Story time at Hartman Park will continue at 10:30 a.m. on consecutive Tuesdays, September 14, September 21 and September 28, weather permitting. On Monday, September 20, a book discussion group will meet via Zoom at 1 p.m., based on this month's book, "The Lions of Fifth Avenue" by Fiona Davis. Once registered, a Zoom link will be sent via email.

On Wednesday, September 29 and October 13, at 7 p.m., there will be an activity for participants to learn the basics of making crocheted stuffed animals. All supplies will be provided and must be picked up before September 29. This program is open to 10 teens and adults.

On Thursday, September 30, at 3:30 p.m., an activity called "Passport via Zoom" will be offered. Children in kindergarten to grade 6 will learn to make different works of art from around the world. Registration is limited to 20 youngsters and all supplies must be picked up by September 30.

Councilman Russ Graham said that the historical and celebrations committees are working together on a ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The ceremony, as it stands now, would take place at 8:30 a.m. in the Borough Hall parking lot. "Still working out some details...They're hoping to have the original fire chief who was here on September 11th to be a speaker. There'll be more to follow," said Councilman Graham.

The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, in Borough Hall. Residents also can watch the meeting via the Garwood Borough YouTube channel, where past meetings are archived as well.

## Concerns

Continued from page 1  
was created after three sessions, said Board Vice President Brendan Galligan, who thanked the teacher representatives, Business Administrator Dana Sullivan and Personnel Director Barbara Ball, their respective teams, and the board members for working together. The WEA's "initial proposals were very reasonable, which allowed us to reach a consensus as quickly as we did," said Mr. Galligan.

The next meeting of the Westfield BOE will be on Tuesday, September 21.

## Paperboard

Continued from page 1  
dress some of the comments," he said. One of these additions concerns storm-water management. The landscaping improvements also involve incorporating more types of trees on the side facing the railroad tracks, including Norway spruce, evergreens and arborvitae.

Due to some continued concerns about the plans for the planning board, the engineers for the buildings will meet to rectify and address all problems in the plans, with the possibility of new submissions by the next hearing.

The planning board has not voted on approving the plans for the apartment complex and the adjacent storage unit. The hearing is set to continue on Wednesday, September 22, when a vote will be taken. The next planning board meeting will be a special meeting on Wednesday, September 8, in order to hear the case of applicant South Avenue II Urban Renewal, which would add ground-floor apartments to the South Avenue Transit Oriented Redevelopment Area.

All planning board meetings take place at Borough Hall and are broadcast on YouTube through the Garwood Borough channel.

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# Blood Drive Today to Help Combat Urgent Shortage

CRANFORD — In response to a current emergency shortage, a blood drive will take place today, Thursday, September 2, from 1 to 7 p.m., at the Cranford Community Center. The center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford.

“In recent weeks, the blood supply has dropped from five days to a two- to three-day supply and one- to two-day supply of type O,” according to a release by New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), a division of New York Blood Center. The NJBS “warns this could signal more severe shortages in the weeks ahead.”

There has been “a chronic blood shortage throughout the pandemic, but NJBS had anticipated the supply would rebound soon when vaccinated people resumed some normal activities. NJBS also expected school and office blood drives to return this fall. The Delta variant has halted that recovery and threatens the blood supply,” the release continued.



NEW CAREERS...Karen Winter, RN, JFSCNJ Home Health Aide Training Program coordinator, center, is pictured with recent graduates of the program. The next training program will begin on Monday, October 4, and continue through Friday, October 29.

## JFSCNJ to Hold Training For Home Health Aides

ELIZABETH — Maria Mullen, RN, director of nursing for Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey (JFSCNJ), has announced that a four-week training program for certified home health aides will begin on Monday, October 4.

According to Ms. Mullen, “the course will put you on the path to a new career as a certified home health aide, a field that is rapidly growing and in high demand.” The program will end on Friday, October 29.

It will be determined if all lectures will be done remotely. The skills portion will be done on site in JFSCNJ’s state-of-the-art training lab at the JFS Halpern Building, located at 655 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth.

“Blood drives that had been planned by community organizations, businesses and schools are being cancelled and fewer donors are making appointments at donor centers.”

To schedule an appointment for today’s drive, visit [nycb.org/njdrive](http://nycb.org/njdrive), sponsor code 13721, or call/text Genevieve at (732) 672-5281. Participants are reminded to eat and drink beforehand and to bring a donor identification card or identification with their name and photo to the donation site.

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

All donors for the September 2 blood drive will get a voucher for a pair of Mets tickets.

# — Obituaries —

## John W. Flaherty

John Walter Flaherty, a resident of Westfield, N.J., for 50 years, passed away on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, New York. He was 83 years old.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, before moving to Westfield, he was the eldest son of John and Catherine Flaherty. His hard-working mother, Catherine, raised John and his brother, Edward, largely on her own after the untimely death of her husband when John was just four years old.

John proudly served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Verdun, France. He spent his entire professional career at J.P. Morgan, retiring as a managing director, where he ran the Global Corporate Trust business.

Known for his sense of humor and penchant for playing the harmonica (a birthday did not go by without a serenade), he lived a full life. After retiring early, John enjoyed extensive travel with his family and his abundant circle of friends. He enjoyed cycling, and relished bike tours through Provence and Virginia with his brother-in-law, Ed McCoy. He



John W. Flaherty

looked forward to his weekly bocce, bowling, and poker games with his group of friends. John was a long-time member of Saint Helen Catholic Church in Westfield, N.J., and a volunteer at the Holy Trinity Food Pantry in Westfield, N.J.

Above all, John cherished his family. He and Janet, his wife of 59 years, took full advantage of their retirement to participate in the lives of their children and grandchildren. They were present for all the milestones, including christenings, birthdays, Grandparents Day at school, lacrosse games, driving lessons and graduations. John set the standard for how to be a great father and grandparent.

John was predeceased by his brother, Edward, and is survived by the love of his life, his wife Janet; his sons, Shawn (Karla) of Westfield, N.J., Scott (Lucinda) of Boca Raton, Fla., and Brendan (Kara) of Colchester, Vt., and his grandchildren, Abigail, Jack, Patrick and Aidan.

The family requests that any donations go to Helping Hands and Hearts at St. Helen’s.

September 2, 2021

## Picture Book Palooza Set For September 25

CRANFORD — The Cranford Public Library invites the community to attend its third annual Picture Book Palooza, featuring Anne Appert, Mike Ciccotello, Rosanne Kurstedt and Laura Sassi.

This picture book authors will share books and crafts on Saturday, September 25, at 10 a.m., in the Cranford Community Center. The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue.

This free event, for children ages 4 to 8 and their families, will provide young readers with an opportunity to meet the story creators. No registration is required. Books will be on hand for purchase and autographing. Cash or checks only will be accepted.

### Green Team Collecting School Items For Needy

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Green Team is collecting used bookbags, reusable lunch bags, and new or gently-used school supplies to donate to the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless on Monday and Tuesday, September 6 and 7.

Bags must be clean and in good condition. Items can be dropped off in the bins by the front entrances of Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, and Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street. Donations can only be accepted on these dates.

Visitors are advised that masks, worn over the mouth and nose, are required for all patrons over the age of 2 at indoor and outdoor programs, regardless of vaccination status. Anyone who feels unwell, has a fever, or thinks he or she might have been in contact with someone who is sick is asked to stay at home.

### Cranford Hist. Soc. to Join ‘Four Centuries’

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society will once again participate in Union County’s Four Centuries in a Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, October 16 and 17, with tours of the Crane-Phillips House Museum from noon to 5 p.m.

The theme this year is the Township of Cranford’s 150th anniversary celebration. Featured will be before-and-after photos of different local sites and how Cranford evolved from farmland without electricity and plumbing to the suburb of today.



Dr. Ron Silver

## Dr. Ron Silver Lauded For CASA Service As New President Takes the Reins

ELIZABETH — After more than a dozen years championing Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County and its mission — whether as a volunteer advocate who served five youth or as a long-standing board member, Dr. Ron Silver of Mountainside has completed his tenure at the helm of the nonprofit’s board of trustees, and now begins a two-year post as ex officio.

“As a former dentist, I’ve provided care for many people, but nothing prepared me for the passion I found helping children thrust into the foster system through no fault of their own,” said Dr. Silver. “The best way to describe my years with CASA is ‘honored.’ I’m honored to have spent five years advocating for as

### William Jeremiah Kelly, Beloved Husband, Father and Papa

William Jeremiah Kelly, age 77, recently of Sparta, N.J., formerly of Westfield, N.J., and Brooklyn, N.Y., passed away on Saturday, August 28, 2021, surrounded by his loving family.

Bill is survived by his wife of 52 years, Alice Kelly (née McKenna); his daughter, Mary Alice Campbell, and her husband, Seamus, of Sparta, N.J.; his son, Michael Kelly, and his wife, Lorraine, of Phoenixville, Pa.; his grandchildren, Grace, Maura and Jane Campbell, Jack, Owen and Bridget Kelly (he was their “Papa”), and an extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Mary V. Kelly and John Kelly.

Bill was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was proud of it! He graduated from St. John’s Prep High School in 1961, served in the Army National Guard, and worked for over 40 years in the electrical industry. He and Alice moved to Westfield, N.J., in 1969, where they lived for 40 years. In 2010, they retired to Upper Lake Mohawk in Sparta, N.J.

Bill was an active original member of St. Helen’s Church in Westfield, from the time of its unofficial founding in 1970 until 2010. He and his wife, Alice, assisted in raising funds for the building of St. Helen’s, and Bill founded the St. Helen’s Basketball League upon the completion of the Parish Center building. The program ultimately served hundreds of parish youth. Until the time of his death he was a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Sparta.

To say that Bill was the consum-

mate caregiver would be an understatement. He and his wife dedicated many years of their lives to caring for their parents. He frequently, and quietly, performed hundreds of good deeds, supported family members, and donated to many charities of interest. He also boasted (not so quietly) about the accomplishments of his grandchildren, from whom he derived enormous amounts of joy.

Bill spent his free time meticulously fine-tuning the family tree, watching the New York Yankees, Giants, Knicks and Rangers with his wife, and enjoying the view of the lake from their deck. Their home is both a quiet, beautiful escape, and an active playground for their six grandchildren to enjoy family activities and great memories.

Bill was 100 percent devoted to his wife, children and grandchildren — he leaves behind a legacy of caring and giving to family and beyond.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, September 1, 2021, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Goble Funeral Home, 22 Main Street, Sparta, N.J. 07871. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 10:30 a.m., at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 294 S Sparta Avenue, Sparta, N.J. 07871. Interment will take place at Good Shepherd Cemetery, Airport Road, Green Township, N.J. 07821.

The family asks that any desired donations be submitted to National PKU Alliance (NPKUA) in his name — <https://www.npkua.org/Forms/General-Donation>.

The family is requesting that attendees wear masks.

September 2, 2021

## Clean Communities Day On Tap In Garwood Oct. 2

GARWOOD — The 17th Annual Clean Communities Litter Cleanup Day will be held in Garwood on Saturday, October 2, beginning at 10:30 a.m. This event will take place rain or shine.

Volunteer services, Scouts, social and school groups, as well as individuals, are invited to work together to reduce the amount of litter accumulating in various parts of the borough.

Supervision must be provided for all children’s groups, and all participants must provide their own transportation to the Municipal Building to get their supplies and site assignments.

Participants are asked to meet at the Borough Hall parking lot, located at 403 South Avenue, Garwood.

Interested persons are asked to call Borough Hall at (908) 789-0710

or e-mail [Kathleen@garwood.org](mailto:Kathleen@garwood.org), by Monday, September 27.

### Knights Seek Donations Of School Supplies

GARWOOD — The Garwood Knights of Columbus are collecting brand-new school supplies on behalf of the children of St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth. Donations can be dropped off from 4 to 6 p.m. weekdays at the Garwood Knights of Columbus Council Hall, located at 37 South Avenue, and Sundays after 1 p.m. in September.

Parking is available behind the hall off of Willow Avenue (turn at Pet Supplies Plus). Visitors are asked to use the side-door entrance. For more information, call (908) 789-9809 after 4 p.m., or Keith Gallagher at (908) 789-0931.



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# Start Thinking About Your Retirement Income Plan

If you're getting close to retirement, you're probably thinking about the ways your life will soon be changing. And one key transition involves your income – instead of being able to count on a regular paycheck, as you've done for decades, you'll now need to put together an income stream on your own. How can you get started?

It's helpful that you begin thinking about retirement income well before you actually retire. Many people don't – in fact, 61 percent of retirees wish they had done better at planning for the financial aspects of their retirement, according to an Edward Jones/Age Wave study titled Retirement in the Time of Coronavirus: What a Difference a Year Makes.

Fortunately, there's much you can do to create and manage your retirement income. Here are a few suggestions:

Consider ways to boost income. As you approach retirement, you'll want to explore ways of potentially boosting your income. Can you afford to delay taking Social Security so your monthly checks will be bigger? Can you increase your contributions to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, including taking advantage of catch-up contributions if you're age 50 or older? Should you consider adding products that can provide you with an income stream that can potentially last your lifetime?

Calculate your expenses. How much money will you need each year during your retirement? The answer depends somewhat on your goals. For example, if you plan to travel extensively, you may need more income than someone who stays close to home. And no matter how you plan to spend your days in retirement, you'll need to budget for health care

expenses. Many people underestimate what they'll need, but these costs can easily add up to several thousand dollars a year, even with Medicare.

Review your investment mix. It's always a good idea to review your investment mix at least once a year to ensure it's still appropriate for your needs. But it's especially important to analyze your investments in the years immediately preceding your retirement. At this point, you may need to adjust the mix to lower the risk level. However, you probably won't want to sell all your growth-oriented investments and replace them with more conservative ones – even during retirement, you'll likely need some growth potential in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation.

Create a sustainable withdrawal rate. Once you're retired, you will likely need to start taking money from your IRA and 401(k) or similar plan. But it's important not to take too much out in your early years as a retiree, since you don't want to risk outliving your income. A financial professional can help you create a sustainable withdrawal rate based on your age, level of assets, family situation and other factors.

By planning ahead, and making the right moves, you can boost your confidence in your ability to maintain enough income to last throughout your retirement. And with a sense of financial security, you'll be freer to enjoy an active lifestyle during your years as a retiree.

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TEEN SERVICE DAYS...Saint Michael Church youth join other teen volunteers during the "Days in the Diocese" service day at the Immaculate Conception Church in Elizabeth. They are joined by Bishop Elias Lorenzo, center, and Father Duverney Bermudez, church pastor, far right.

## St. Michael Teens Volunteer For 'Days in the Diocese'

CRANFORD — Teens from Saint Michael Church in Cranford were among the dozens of young Archdiocese of Newark parishioners who volunteered some of their vacation time this summer to assist with maintenance projects at sites throughout Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union counties.

Their efforts were part of "Days in the Diocese," a new program presented by the Archdiocese's Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry that offered one-day service immersion experiences to teens enrolled in a parish youth group or Confirmation program.

### Anthony J. Demarino Is Kutztown Graduate

KUTZTOWN, Pa. — Anthony Joseph Demarino of Cranford has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts in History/Paralegal Studies from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.

Kutztown University has conferred degrees for more than 1,300 students for the 2021 Spring semester. Founded in 1866, Kutztown University is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Students select from more than 100 areas of study within four colleges in a diverse liberal arts academic environment. For more information about the university, visit kutztown.edu.

### Three Graduate From Shenandoah University

WINCHESTER, Va. — Three local residents were among more than 1,200 students to celebrate their graduation during two days of commencement ceremonies held in May at Shenandoah University. These students graduated in May 2021, December 2020 and August 2020.

The graduates included Margaret Manhardt of Cranford, Sarah Strong of Scotch Plains and Brianna Virzi of Westfield.

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

### Three Earn Degrees From Miami University

OXFORD, Ohio — Miami University awarded degrees to students during Spring commencement held May 14 to 16. Three local residents were among the honorees.

Catie Barry of Westfield graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

Sarah Schneider of Westfield graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business, majoring in Human Capital Management and Leadership.

Pj Murphy of Mountainside graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business, majoring in Finance.

A public university located in Oxford, Ohio, Miami University has a student body of nearly 19,000. For more information about the university, visit miamioh.edu.

# Forty-Two Local Residents Among MSU Graduates

MONTCLAIR, N.J. — Montclair State University held 16 commencement ceremonies between June 7 and 13 at Sprague Field on campus to celebrate undergraduate and graduate students who completed their academic degrees in August 2020, December 2020, January 2021 and May 2021. Forty-two local residents were among the graduates.

Kayla Abella of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Bridget Bakie of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, having completed requirements as of Summer 2020; Michael Bellrose of Cranford graduated with a Master of Science in Accounting, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Frank Benimeo of Cranford graduated with a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, having completed requirements as of Summer 2020; Alexa Bergenfeld of Scotch Plains graduated with a Master of Arts in Communication Science & Disorders, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Dale Beyert of Westfield graduated with a BMUS in Music, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; TJ Bianco of Garwood graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, having completed requirements as of Summer 2020.

Diana Cabezas of Cranford graduated with a Ph.D. in Family Science and Human Development, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Patrina Caruana of Westfield graduated with a Master of Arts in Communication Science & Disorders, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Meghan Courtney of Garwood graduated with a MSW in Social Work, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Alina Delgado of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Diane Hagmann of Westfield graduated with a Ph.D. in Environmental Management, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Matt Hamelburg of Westfield graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Julia Higgins of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021.

Caroline Janssen of Scotch Plains graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Ashley Knudsen of Mountainside graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Stephanie Kwiatkowski of Cranford graduated with a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Steven Langer of Scotch Plains graduated with a Master of Arts in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Ryan Lo of Scotch Plains graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Marissa Lowe of Scotch Plains graduated with a MBA in Business Administration, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Kieran Lynch of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021.

Kayla McKeown of Scotch Plains graduated with a Master of Arts in Counseling, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Melissa Mirabelli of Mountainside graduated with a Master of Arts in Industrial and Organizational Psychology,

having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Michele Modugno of Cranford graduated with a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Joseph Norton of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Nicholas Parente of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Sarah Pavleszek of Westfield graduated with a Master of Science in Accounting, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021.

Samantha Rego of Fanwood graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Lawrence Rothweiler of Scotch Plains graduated with a Master of Arts in Counseling, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Matt Russomanno of Cranford graduated with a Master of Science in Accounting, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Lynn Schussel of Cranford graduated with a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, having completed requirements as of Summer 2020; James Sciortino of Westfield graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Brennan Sumner of Westfield graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; Nicole Sultatos of Scotch Plains graduated with a MAT in Teaching, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Amy Tamakloe of Scotch Plains graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021; David Tonda of Cranford graduated with a Master of Arts in Law and Governance, having completed requirements as of Winter 2021; Kaitlyn Turley of Westfield graduated with a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, having completed requirements as of Summer 2020; Brian Van Brunt of Fanwood graduated with a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, having completed requirements as of Summer 2020; Meredith Weischadle of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, having completed requirements as of Spring 2021.

## Rogers and Vargas Graduate From U. of Hartford

WESTHARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford congratulates Christine Rogers of Westfield and Andrea Vargas of Scotch Plains on their May 2021 graduation.

Spread across seven schools and colleges, the University of Hartford is a four-year, private university located on a 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city. Approximately 4,600 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students from 49 states and 47 countries are enrolled at the university.

Degree programs offered by the university span the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions. For more information about the university, visit hartford.edu.

# Endy Receives White Coat At Med. School Ceremony

SCRANTON, Pa. — Melissa Endy of Westfield was among the 115 new medical students who received their white coat and took an oath during ceremonies held by Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (GCSOM) on August 7.

The Class of 2025's future doctors participated in a ceremony, held in virtually every other medical school in the nation, that is designed to welcome new medical students into the profession. Students recited an oath acknowledging their responsibilities as future physicians and their obligations to future patients. They were then cloaked with the white coat — the mantle of the medical profession. White coats were provided by The Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., and Alan G. Goldstein Endowed Fund.

At the ceremony, GCSOM's president and dean, Steven J. Scheinman, M.D., reminded the students that, despite the pace of change and the wonders of new technology, "what needs to remain constant through, or even despite, all of this is your relationship with the patient. Many things in our brave new world of modern medicine conspire to separate you from them...this is where oaths come in."

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (Geisinger Commonwealth) offers a community-based model of medical education with campuses in Danville, Doylestown, Scranton, Sayre and Wilkes-Barre. Geisinger Commonwealth offers Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) degrees. For more information, visit geisinger.edu/gcsom.

# Twenty Local Residents Are On Gettysburg Dean's List

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Gettysburg College has honored those students who recently were named to the Dean's List. These students achieved semester averages of 3.6 or above. The following local residents have been awarded this outstanding academic honor for the Spring 2021 semester.

Samantha Alfano of Westfield, Caitlin Amman of Westfield, Samuel Arkin of Westfield, Michael Carracino of Cranford, Antoinette Chango of Fanwood, Aedan Collins of Westfield, Anthony DeCostello of Cranford,

Elizabeth Gately of Westfield, Maria Gerckens of Westfield, Devyn Heinzerling of Westfield, Jessica Ken-Kwofie of Westfield, Brendan Loder of Westfield, Catherine McCaffery of Cranford, Erika Muskus of Scotch Plains, John Rosenberg of Westfield, Justin Sawina of Westfield, Maria Schmidt of Scotch Plains, Paul Szanto of Fanwood, Lucas Toglia of Westfield and Dylan Weinstock of Fanwood.

Founded in 1832, Gettysburg College is a four-year, residential college of liberal arts and sciences. Alumni include Rhodes Scholars, a Nobel laureate and other distinguished scholars. The college enrolls 2,600 undergraduate students and is located on a 200-acre campus adjacent to the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. For more information about the college, visit gettysburg.edu.

## Five Residents Garner Dean's Commendation At Gettysburg College

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Gettysburg College has recognized those students who were named to the Dean's Commendation List for Spring 2021. Students with a quality point average in the range of 3.300 to 3.599 for a semester's work were placed on the list. Local honorees include the following.

Safiya Amin of Westfield, Tiffany Gonzalez of Cranford, Emily Kelly of Westfield, Claire Readie of Cranford and Jakob Wolf of Westfield.

Founded in 1832, Gettysburg College is a four-year, residential college of liberal arts and sciences. Alumni include Rhodes Scholars, a Nobel laureate and other distinguished scholars. The college enrolls 2,600 undergraduate students and is located on a 200-acre campus adjacent to the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. For more information about the college, visit gettysburg.edu.

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# Educator’s Corner: Buckets of Kindness

**By JENNIFER GLACKIN**  
*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

In the words of Fred Rogers, “There are three ways to ultimate success. The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.”

Be kind. That is the best educational advice I have as we start the school year. This will be a school year like no other. We’ve heard that before and it is true again.

People may agree with full-day, in-person school. Some may not. People may agree with mask mandates. Some may not. People may agree with mandatory vaccinations for educators. Some may not. All we can do is be kind. Work together to make this year better for our kids.

It can be hard to be kind when we’ve all experienced some level of trauma this year. Lost loved ones, job loss, rising food insecurity, even if you didn’t experience these personally. There is a stain from COVID that has touched virtually every part of our lives, from the simplest of errands to milestone events. Luckily though, stains come out.

Being kind is something you can prac-

tice. When we all felt stuck indoors in the early spring of 2020, doors were painted with rainbows. Handmade signs adorned windows with messages of hope and resilience. I know that I needed to see those as much as I needed to paint them on my own door.

I used to read a book called “Have You Filled a Bucket Today?” by Carol McCloud. Those and other “bucket filling” books talk about how we all have this invisible bucket – essentially a happiness meter. When your bucket is full, you are also full of good ideas and thoughts about yourself. The idea is that by being kind to others it fills their bucket with good thoughts and we feel good about ourselves, too.

Use your talents to spread kindness. Paint! Write! Draw! Knit! Bake! Play music!


Paint a rock and leave it in a park where your child’s friends play or near bushes by your local school.

In the first week of school, if your child comes home to tell you something good happened – a friend was extra nice, or their teacher did something fun – a text to the

other child’s parent or send an email to let your child’s teacher know. Promoting the positive will impact the kindness culture of your child’s classroom.

Don’t let the little acts of kindness fly under the radar. They need to be flown along the beach with a giant flag. The more we begin to highlight those, the better able we are to handle the tougher curveballs life (and this virus) throws our way.

Be kind to others. Be kind to yourself. Those little acts of kindness are big.



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# Gratitude For Wild Snails and Resilience

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

Imagine this: A gift of a wild snail in a flowerpot filled with mosses and fragrant purple field violets. An odd present, no? “What should I do with this snail?” wondered Elizabeth Tova Bailey, a nature writer and the recipient of the snail, “What right did my friend have to disrupt its life?”

What would you do with such a gift? Keep it? Put it in your garden? Tell the gift-giver to return it to its original habitat?

Bailey decided to keep the snail. Bedridden due to a debilitating illness, she was barely able to sit up. The snail became her steadfast companion. In her captivating and inspiring book, *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, she celebrates the life of this “non-descript brown creature.”

\*\*\*

Once again, we are all on edge due to the uptick in Covid cases from the Delta variant. New waves of anxiety radiate through our communities, and parents worry about their school children’s safety. Tired of fretting, we want our pre-Covid lives back.

Where does the snail story fac-

tor in, you might ask?

We all need boosts to our sagging spirits and better ways of coping with pandemic anxiety. Waiting for life to be different, though understandable, will not help us cope now. If, like Bailey, we develop new passions, fresh sources of fascination, novel well-springs of joy, we will have the power within us to transcend adversity.

Bailey, insatiably curious and an ardent nature-lover, turned her full attention to the tiny snail. Observing and studying its wondrous ways brightened her spirits and almost banished thoughts about her ill-health.

She learned that snails have thousands of teeth. They mate by shooting love darts to display their ardor. “The love darts are tiny, beautifully made arrows of calcium carbonate, and they look as if they’ve been crafted by the very finest of artisans,” wrote Bailey. Snails are survival experts. They have existed for half a billion years through multiple catastrophic events that destroyed other animals’ habitats.

Bailey became enamored of her shelled friend and mused:

If we Homo sapiens thought that we were in charge of the planet,

the humble snail and its clan have a far older and stickier foothold on the earth than we more recent creatures. It was clear to me that gastropods should make front-page headlines in the New York Times, and mammals, particularly the human sort, should be relegated to the back sections.

We can learn from Bailey by finding ways to experience the restorative gifts in nature. Make a terrarium. Add a snail. Craft flower arrangements to bring to homebound neighbors. Volunteer at animal rescue centers or Raptor Trust, the bird rehabilitation in Millington. Or simply observe a favorite tree or the way light changes throughout the seasons.

“Survival,” Bailey writes, “often depends on a specific focus: a relationship, a belief, or a hope balanced on the edge of possibility.” These wise words can guide us through adversity as they did for Bailey.

Share your nature joys with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* by writing Gratitude in the subject line and emailing: [press@goleader.com](mailto:press@goleader.com) or [pattisteckler@gmail.com](mailto:pattisteckler@gmail.com)

**Gratefully yours,  
Patti Steckler**

## Letters to the Editor

### The Fanwood Sewer Utility User Fee Fiasco

When a utility bill, or in this case a “User Fee” increases by upwards of 320+ percent over the previous year that’s a sign there’s a serious problem with that “utility.” It might be lack of planning or it might be mismanagement, it’s unclear which at this point, but it’s clearly a signal that there’s a problem. Utility bills don’t increase 320+ percent in a single year! But such is the case with the Fanwood Sewer Utility (FSU) User Fee.

It is not unreasonable to expect that any utility do its due diligence in planning and arriving at a consistent and equitable fee structure that supports the sustainability of the utility. There are numerous best practices and guidelines that the utility can leverage to inform its “User Fee.” Unfortunately, it seems that the Fanwood Sewer Utility has done none of that in coming up with its latest user fee schedule (By the way – the FSU has issued four different fee schedules in the four years of its existence).

The Fanwood mayor and the town council have been in full damage control mode, sending out various communications attempting to quell the outrage and explain the User Fee with something akin to a FAQ.

It’s particularly problematic that there’s been no transparency on how the FSU user fee methodology was arrived at or what other potential options were discussed in the process.

More importantly, it’s difficult to ascertain the financial status of the “utility” and the potential liabilities that may be driving the “user fee.” Regardless, a 320 percent increase in the user fee, in the case of Fanwood’s mayor, is a clear sign that someone was not paying attention.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of this entire user fee fiasco is the calculation that the “utility” is using as a basis for the user fee. The FSU stated that they were doubling the water usage from the last six months

(July-Dec) of 2020 to arrive at an annual usage number. That methodology knowing doubles the summer water usage. The FSU then goes on to insist that residents with landscape irrigation systems or pools are NOT being adversely affected by this calculation.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Summer water usage can be upwards of 75 percent over the Fall/Winter/Spring seasonal average; the FSU is knowingly doubling those summer numbers. Additionally, landscape irrigation and pool water does not end up in the FSU system, but the FSU is using that water usage to calculate the User Fee; in fact, again, they are doubling that number.

Almost every municipality in the United States that uses water usage as the basis for their Sewer Bills makes allowances for summer spikes in water usage by excluding the summer usage in some fashion e.g., Montgomery Township NJ annualizes the average November to April consumption, New Castle DE doubles the two lowest quarters of water consumption.

Using water usage as the sole basis for the sewer user fee is less than ideal and represents a stunning lack of imagination and sophistication. Other more appropriate determinates of sewer maintenance fee include frontage to sewer system itself, a connection fee, lot size, property value, or some combination of the above.

It’s unclear what the FSU was thinking when they arrived at this year’s user fee schedule but the failure of Fanwood Sewer Utility, the borough council and the mayor to arrive at a consistent equitable User Fee represent a negligence that is beyond disappointing.

Fanwood deserves better.

**Tomás Frias  
Fanwood**

## Development in Scotch Plains is Tranforming the Town

Recently your newspaper featured, the Scotch Plains Redevelopment Committee renditions of the buildings planned for our downtown. Many residents have voiced their concerns about the massive 350 apartment complex, including parking, and concerns about congestion, increased need for emergency services and school capacity. There is also current building in progress at Bowcraft and units planned for Parker Gardens. With this in mind, our town will be transformed from a quiet, historic town into something we don’t recognize.

To build the apartment complex in the center of town, the plan is to first move all emergency services including the fire, police and EMS services to town-owned land on Plainfield Avenue. This includes using 20 percent of designated Conservation Property. Moving the courthouse to the same site is also a possibility taking away even more of the conservation area, destroying a wooded area, displacing wildlife, and leading to more flooding which is already an issue for some residents in the area.

Of utmost concern and importance is that the emergency service buildings are being placed in an already congested area with a ballfield and five schools very nearby. Crossing guards are only available during school hours. We have witnessed speeding cars not always stopping at the guard’s signal. Even if speed limits are lowered on these streets the fire, police and rescue services will be driving at high rates of speed in emergencies. How will our school children be protected? Children are crossing the streets not only for school, but to go to playgrounds, friends homes, etc. We have alerted the town redevelopment committee that this plan is unsafe and puts our children at risk. Of note, we also have 18 wheelers and heavy construction vehicles increasingly using our streets.

Scotch Plains has also recently revealed that two sites for the new cannabis market have been ap-

proved. We were told one of the sites on Route 22 will be a dispensary. It remains unclear what the second site, to be located on Plainfield Avenue or Jerusalem Road bordering Westfield, could be used for. Might the site be used as a grow facility? If so, a similar facility located in Warren County has local residents up in arms regarding the smell of skunks emitting from the facility.

With all this in mind, 50 families have joined the Scotch Plains Neighborhood Alliance to voice concerns that any plan for redevelopment must be logical and make sense for our children, our families who have invested in our homes and community. Anyone interested is encouraged to visit our website: [www.scotchplainsna.org](http://www.scotchplainsna.org) and consider becoming a member.

**Connie Boruch  
Cindy Newman  
Co-Chairs Scotch Plains  
Neighborhood Alliance**

## Edison Field Project Missed Needs of Most of Westfield

As a 45 year resident, I am dismayed to find the town continuing to promote the environmentally troublesome Edison Field Project. This consolidates Westfield’s recreational future into a giant \$18.2 million dollar, artificial turf sports complex in a part of town already crowded with similar athletic facilities. The Project is promoted as satisfying needs found by consultant, Brandstetter and Carroll, in their Final Parks and Recreation Master Plan [<https://www.westfieldnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2494/Final-Parks-Plan>]. However, review of the actual 521 page Master Plan shows that, while the Edison Project may improve athletic sports field access for younger residents, it moves largely opposite to Brandstetter recommended planning directions for most of Westfield.

The careful “statistically valid mail survey” presented in the Plan’s Executive Summary, asked about “most important recreation facilities for households,” “improvements households would like to see,” and, “top priorities for investment.” It showed agreement that top recreational needs are walking/hiking trails, paved bike trails, natural areas/nature parks, shade structures, trees and landscaping, drinking fountains, and improved restrooms. These facilities serve broad age groups, individuals, and families. Across multiple survey methods, athletic field improvements wind up about halfway down in priority. Unfortunately, the Edison Field Project spends a large portion of our recreational budget, while only narrowly addressing recreational needs. Other needs such

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.**

**Churru** – A gum resin which oozes from the Indian hemp

**Chukker** – One of the periods into which a polo game is divided

**Lanate** – Covered with a hairy substance or wool

**Dichostasis** – Spontaneous subdivision

**VALISE**

1. A small suitcase

2. A sleeveless garment worn over or under armor

3. A type of sweet onion

4. A light, rounded helmet with a visor

**LAMPADEDROMY**

1. A large dolphin of the North Atlantic having few teeth

2. A torch in honor of Prometheus

3. A catfish native to the River Nile

4. An electric eel

**MAMMONISM**

1. Acting indiscreetly; carelessly

2. The act of defiling; corruption

3. Devotion to the greedy pursuit of riches

4. Passing on unfavorable genetic traits

**PHILTRE**

1. A pleasant stroll

2. To please, charm or delight

3. To scold or nag

4. A love potion

Letters to the Editor

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

All The News

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**Be Aware of NJ  
Unemployment Fraud**

I am one of many who received fraudulent Unemployment Appointment Notices. As instructed by Asm. Bramnick office, I notified the police department and checked with my bank to ensure no fraudulent transactions. I tried to advise the New Jersey Department of Labor (NJDOLE) of their problem, but phone number just provides recorded message, “Press 1 for English, Too busy, Call back another day. Good Bye.” Typical NJ dysfunction.

Thank you Bramnick office, they filed this problem with their contact and provided me link for filing online form to notify NJDOLE of the problem but form requires entering social security number. No way am I going to put that SS # on the form given the incompetence of the NJ DOLE.

Your readers should know of this fraud activity to beware.

**Horace Corbin  
Garwood**

**Jerome Feder  
Westfield**



## The Economic Necessity of Downtown Redevelopment in Scotch Plains

Did you know?

On a percentage basis, the tax revenue base of the Township of Scotch Plains is 93 percent derived from residential property taxes, 5.75 percent from commercial property taxes, and 1.25 percent from tax revenue from vacant properties, when exempt properties like schools and houses of worship are removed from the calculus.

What does this mean?

A disproportionate share of our municipal tax revenue base, which funds our municipal services, among other important functions, rests on the backs of hard working residential property owners like you and me. While, over the last couple of years, the municipal manager and council have maintained a steady tax rate that has not, to date, required dramatic tax increases, this lopsided revenue struc-

ture is a recipe for a problem if not addressed. We can and must do better.

How do we change it?

We are blessed with multiple commercial corridors in our town, and they are not being utilized to their potential. Despite the empty promises about redevelopment of the past, nothing has been redeveloped. For the first time in 40 years, we are ending the gridlock and petty political bickering that has stood in the way of the redevelopment of our downtown business districts. Our community, and the taxpaying public, deserve a vibrant downtown. Moreover, and perhaps most critically, the long term economic viability of our municipality depends upon it.

**Councilman Matt Adams  
Scotch Plains**

## Garwood Council Candidates Offer Four Point Plan

We are running for Garwood Council because we want to serve the town we love and be of help to our neighbors. We are excited to develop our own new ideas, as well as build on prior accomplishments and projects currently being completed by Mayor Sara Todisco and members of the council. Therefore, we thoughtfully propose the following four point plan and look forward to speaking with the residents over the coming months about these issues.

First, we understand there must be a balanced approach when looking at town finances. We must make fiscally responsible decisions to keep taxes as low as possible, while funding necessary projects such as roads, recreation facilities, and public buildings. We believe in supporting our police, fire, and department of public works by purchasing essential equipment and staffing these departments appropriately. We pledge to continue the work of the current council by wisely investing in Garwood's infrastructure to make a better future for Garwood.

Expanding community engagement is another cornerstone of our plan. Mayor Todisco and the council have worked to increase communication by holding town hall style meetings on important topics like the ladder truck for our volunteer fire department and more recently, on cannabis dispensaries. There will be another town hall meeting regarding public safety on Wednesday, September 15 at 7 p.m., which will be held virtually. We strongly believe in these efforts to keep the public informed in all matters pertaining to their town and will continue to work on public informational campaigns through direct mailings and Nixle alerts. Additionally,

we want to create an Arts & Culture Council in order to create projects and events which will celebrate our community through the arts.

Safety is an essential part of any community, so we will work to enhance public safety by continuing to support our police and by investing in additional traffic calming measures and pedestrian safety programs. We support the installation of the new flashing pedestrian beacons on key intersections around town and if elected, would continue to support such measures.

Finally, we will promote sustainability by supporting green initiatives to improve Garwood's environment. We will work for the reduction of waste and emissions in the Borough and identify cost savings through energy efficient technologies. We support the recent purchase of two hybrid police cars, which will not only reduce carbon emissions but will also save money in the long run by decreasing the amount spent on gas. If elected we would continue to look for ways to protect our environment.

We look forward to continuing the conversation and most importantly, hearing from you! Please look for us on your porches and on your phones as we lead up to Election Day. We would love to hear from as many residents as possible. To learn more about us and our vision for Garwood, please visit our website at [www.dems4garwood.com](http://www.dems4garwood.com) or reach out to us by email at [clarissa@dems4garwood.com](mailto:clarissa@dems4garwood.com) and [jeff@dems4garwood.com](mailto:jeff@dems4garwood.com) anytime!

**Clarissa Nolde  
Jeff Jotz  
Candidates for Council (D)  
Garwood**

## Keeping You Informed is One Of My Top Priorities

One of the most important aspects of my service as your Ward 3 Councilman is keeping residents informed about all aspects of Westfield governance. This responsibility became even more important and a major priority for me during the COVID pandemic when sharing public health information was vital to the community's well-being.

When I first took office back in 2018, I began posting a summary of every council meeting on social media. After receiving many requests, I started emailing my council meeting summaries in addition to posting on social media. I've done this after every council meeting – even meetings I couldn't attend in person like August 10, when I listened to the two and a half hour council meeting on Facebook Live and sent out a comprehensive meeting summary afterward.

When the pandemic started, I realized it was even more important to keep residents informed. So, I started re-sharing on email and social media the mayor's Daily Covid Updates as a way to make sure Ward 3 residents had the latest public health and safety information at their fingertips. Then, I decided to supplement the mayor's updates with other information I felt would be useful for Ward 3 residents including additional Covid information, as well as some light-hearted content about ways to successfully manage life under lockdown.

I have kept sending out regular email and social media updates even after the virus started to ebb this May because of the positive feedback I received from Ward 3 residents. Here are a few examples:

"I really appreciate and enjoy these updates. Thanks for keeping the third ward in the loop. You're an amazing council member."

"You have been so amazing and of course you have done so much to keep Westfield informed about this awful virus."

"Thanks for the daily emails. They are wonderful while staying at home. You have gone above and beyond."

"Thank you for all your hard work and relentless commitment to the really super daily updates you send.

Really appreciate it."

"Just a little note with sentiments of a BIG thank you for your updates, David!"

I am continuing to send out Covid and town updates on a regular basis to make sure you are informed and look forward to continuing to prioritize communication with you over the next four years. This is just one of the reasons I'm asking for your vote on Tuesday, November 2 to be re-elected as Ward 3 Councilman. And, if you're not getting my email updates and would like to (even if you don't live in Ward 3), please email me at [dcontract@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:dcontract@westfieldnj.gov) and I'll add you to my list.

**Councilman David Contract  
Ward3  
Westfield**

*See More  
Letters and  
Columns on  
Page 11*

## Elections 2021

### Local Candidates are More than Just a Letter

Rivalries in sports make things interesting. We have lots in our area: Yankees/Red Sox, Giants/Cowboys, Rangers/Devils. For fans, you have to pick a side, there is no neutral. You root hard for your team, sometimes talk a little trash. When the game is over, the winners celebrate and brag while the losers wait for the next game and the chance for revenge.

Unfortunately, some people take this same attitude into local politics. No neutral, only one team to root for. But politics is not sports and local candidates are not players on a team. Too often we are judged solely by the R or D after our name as if it is the name on the front of our uniform. Based on that letter we are either good or bad.

Local politics should be separate from what happens at the state and national level. Candidates are willing to put themselves out on the line, to do a job for the community and serve the town they live in. We are all residents, neighbors, members of the one community, regardless of affiliation. Win or lose, we will still be all those things after the election as well.

I encourage you to get to know all your candidates for mayor and coun-

cil. Attend a meet and greet, send an email, read our articles, make a phone call or invite us to knock on your door. Hear what we have to say, what our ideas are, and why we want to serve the town. Learn about us and what we stand for. Then, when you cast your vote, either in person or mail in, choose the candidate that you feel will do the best job. Choose the candidate that you feel will make the best decisions for Westfield, will best represent you and your ward, that has the best ideas for the future of your town.

Please feel free to contact me. Visit my website [www.restivo4westfield.com](http://www.restivo4westfield.com). Email me at [restivo4westfield@gmail.com](mailto:restivo4westfield@gmail.com). I would be happy to share my thoughts and views for Westfield with you and listen to what matters most to you, regardless of affiliation.

Westfield town politics isn't a contest that takes place inside MetLife Stadium, it is an exercise in democracy that occurs in our own neighborhoods. Let's not forget that.

**James Restivo  
Ward 4 Council Candidate  
Westfield**

## Transparency, Communication and Convenience are Good Governance

Transparency, communication, and convenience are hallmarks of good governance. And good governance requires public trust. To earn public trust you must be transparent in all public service, you must seek the input of the people you serve, you must listen to their voices and respect their wishes. This is how I served when I was on town council and how I will serve as your mayor.

I was proud to advocate for a public referendum on a proposed parking deck early in my town council tenure, and I will continue to seek public input on decisions that have a profound impact on Westfield. I will never just drop a plan on a neighborhood like the proposed \$18.2 million sports complex at Edison School, the mountain bike trails at Brightwood Park, or the ice-skating rink at Humbert Park without first seeking the input of local residents whose quality of life will be impacted.

Being transparent in how decisions are made is of the utmost importance to me.

Communication is also paramount to good governance. I will continue to employ and improve the various communication efforts that I implemented when I served as Councilwoman. Listed below are just some of the measures I helped to establish so that we had both transparency and open communication with residents:

Updated our 911 system to keep pace with technological advances.

Beginning in 2007, provided an annual budget presentation to the public.

Also since 2007, posted the budget presentation slideshow and the entire budget on the town website.

Improved TV36 programming.

Enhanced FIOS broadcasting capability.

Improved the town website and social media offerings (Facebook/Twitter/Nixle).

Increased communication with county officials and state officials.

Initiated Saturday morning and select evening office hours for meetings with the mayor and council members for those whose schedules did not accommodate weekday meetings.

Posted minutes and agendas of town council and other boards and commissions on the town website.

Drastically improved storm/emergency responses during Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy.

Established an Information Center on the town website.

Broadcasted information via Twitter and Nixle.

Printed and hand-delivered informational flyers to residents via volunteers. Expanded Library services/hours to serve as an information/charging/warming center.

Held town-wide conference calls.

Researched/purchased/installed backup power sources to ensure uninterrupted communications/services and sig-

naling.

In addition to keeping open lines of communication with residents and being accessible, I was on the first town council to establish online payment options for taxes, sewer fees, court violations, recreation programs, and pool registration. As technology improves and more convenient ways of connecting become available I will ensure we keep pace with those advances.

I promise to be an open, accessible, and transparent mayor. My administration will engage, respect, and listen to residents. Please cast your vote for a mayor committed to listening to all voices.

Please vote for me on November 2.

**JoAnn Neylan  
Mayoral Candidate  
Westfield**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

**The Board of Adjustment of the Town of Westfield, New Jersey** will meet on **September 13, 2021**, in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey at 7:30 p.m. to hear and consider the following appeals for bulk (c) and/or (d) variance relief from requirements of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance.

**Albert & Karen Rimondi, 533 Clark Street.** Applicant is seeking approval to construct an inground pool, patio and fencing with a landscaped buffer contrary to the Land Use Ordinance Section 13.02.D.3 where the minimum side yard setback for a pool is 15 feet and proposed is 11.40 feet and Section 13.02.1.1 in which the minimum setback from the property line for Patio is 5 feet and proposed is 3.4 feet.

**Frank & Camille Fortino, 1 Priscilla Lane.** Applicant is seeking approval to expand existing patio pavers and install a new spa contrary to the Land Use Ordinance Section 12.04G. Ordinance requires maximum coverage by improvements of 30% but not above 8,000 square feet. Proposed is 32.77% / 9,068 square feet.

**Ben & Dina Ebel, 465 Channing Avenue.** Applicant is seeking approval to enclose a swimming pool with fencing and screening contrary to the Land Use Ordinance Section 13.02.D where the permitted solid fence is 6 feet and proposed is 4 feet open style fence.

**Rachel Paris, 634 Norman Place.** Applicant is seeking approval to construct a front porch contrary to the Land Use Ordinance Section 12.03.C, D & E where the front yard setback permitted is a 38.56 feet and the proposed is 33.34 feet and Section 12.D4G where the maximum coverage by improvements permitted is 50% and the proposed is 56.2%.

Variances, waivers or exceptions from certain site plan details or relief from requirements may be sought as appropriate. Plans and application are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kristine Burd  
Board Secretary  
1 T - 09/02/21, The Leader Fee: \$49.98

## Mayor Losardo's Math is Foggy on Marijuana Revenue

In May of this year, Mayor Losardo and the all Democrat council led Scotch Plains to be one of the first township the state to opt into allowing for the sale of marijuana within its borders without public input. While surrounding towns could clearly see more expenses such as additional police overtime, officers, and updated equipment associated with the opening of a cannabis business in town, Mayor Josh Losardo is in a fog. He said, "A retail establishment of less than 2,000 square feet has the potential to generate \$8 million in business which would translate into about \$160,000 annually for township coffers. That could lead to more improved roads, improved recycling collection, and hiring another DPW worker."

The problem with this logic is twofold:

1. His projections are more than double than what the industry standard is for marijuana sales per square foot. According to the Marijuana Business Factbook, the average sales per square foot were \$1,773 in 2016, which would translate to \$3.5 million annually. If we account for inflation and round this figure up to \$4 million dollars annually the mayor's projection are half of his rosy estimates.

2. The police department alone will need to address the policing of driving under the influence of a controlled substance and may accom-

plish this with approval overtime shifts or additional officers who need the most advanced technology available to accurately judge whether a driver is operating under the influence of marijuana. Chief of Police Ted Conley was quoted as saying, "we are going to treat it like alcohol," and he also expressed concerns of these establishments were going to have their own security since it has to be an all cash business since marijuana is still illegal under federal law. If the department has to add overtime or another couple of officers, the funds the mayor is promising to fix other areas of his current budget will fall to the taxpayers and not on retail sales of marijuana.

Overall, the Scotch Plains Democrats got this wrong and missed opting in under better conditions for our town coffers. Now is this strictly a partisan issue? Not at all, Democrats in Westfield, Fanwood, Summit, Cranford and Garwood who have a 32-3 majority cumulatively, all opted out until further notice. Scotch Plains deserves a competent council and I promise to bring that option to you each election, so we won't be subjected to bad long-term deals like Mayor Losardo and his team got us in with Marijuana sales.

**Joe Sarno  
Scotch Plains Republican  
Committee Chairman**

## Crossing Guards -- Putting Safety First and Budget at Strong Second

Believe it or not, the first day of school is next week! As your Ward 1 council representative, I am often asked about school-related topics. I defer all these questions to the board of education except for those related to getting to school. It is the town council who has responsibility for ensuring that our kids get to school safely.

For many years, the Westfield Police Department (WPD) managed a town-wide program of crossing guards, including hiring, training, day-to-day operations, and handling payroll and benefits. When a crossing guard called in sick, a police officer was required to cover the post. In recent times, finding responsible and engaging adults like some of our beloved long-timers (Bob of Washington School, Jessica of Franklin and John of Wilson) became increasingly difficult. The situation was so challenging in 2018 that we were covering almost half of our ~45 crossing guard posts town-wide with WPD personnel.

This steady police coverage introduced new safety issues related to removing multiple officers from other duties 2x/day for a total of 3.5-4 hours....and frankly some cost issues. We needed to understand how we could improve safety while also managing costs. So, I asked the Investment Advisory Council, a Westfield resident group I established in 2018, to help us evaluate the investment and budget decisions surrounding the outsourcing decision. The IAC regularly assists the Finance Policy Committee (which I chair), and I also

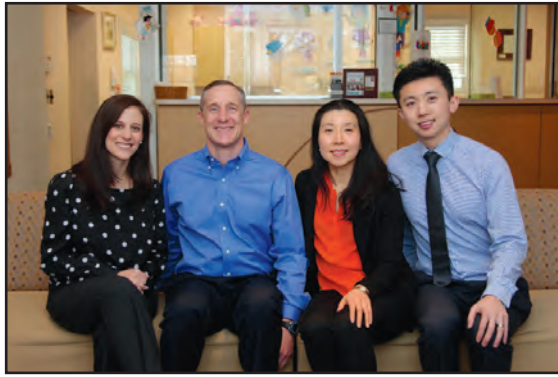
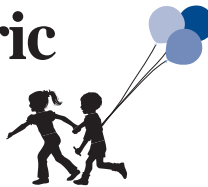
conferred with the Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee in order to arrive at a recommendation that put safety first, and budget a strong second.

The committees jointly assessed all the outsourcing options, as well as the direct and indirect costs, and built a proforma analysis which showed that we could hire the most respected crossing guard company in the US and still save some money. All City ([www.acmssafety.com](http://www.acmssafety.com)) has 33 years of experience running 260+ programs in 25 states. They have helped us to optimize the program significantly and have upheld our standards of safety. ACMS also offered wage increases and incremental training to all of our legacy crossing guards along with equivalent benefits. Moreover, they have collaborated very well with our WPD, which is still ultimately in charge of our children's welfare.

Understandably, some of the change has been hard, but having a safety expert on our side has been invaluable—particularly when we can also save taxpayers money and keep our police on the streets. We revisit this outsourcing decision annually to ensure it remains a net positive, so please pass along your feedback to me as school restarts. I want to make sure that this continues to be a win-win!

**Linda Habgood  
Ward 1 Councilwoman  
Chair, Finance Policy Committee**

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**John Chang, D.D.S.**  
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See All-Corbin Team  
In September 9 Edition

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
Pages 7-9

RUSSOMANNO, KORZENESKI, NORMANN THREATS ON ‘O’

Cougars Aim to ‘Strike’ Again  
For Great Girls Soccer Season

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
For The Westfield Leader and The Times

Completing a season the right way is what the Cranford High School girls soccer team did last year and this season, the Lady Cougars plan to be right in the thick of the action once again.

Despite the COVID 19 situation, cancellations and postponements to their soccer schedule did not occur but after a relatively slow beginning the Lady Cougars definitely peaked at the right time to run the table and capture the Central East D Regional

crown, finishing with a 9-5-1 record. Not only did they run the table but also they shutout all three opponents, beginning with a 7-0 blanking of Jackson Liberty. The Cougars then shut out Colts Neck, 2-0, and erased Brick Township, 4-0, for the crown.

The Lady Cougars have graduated a number of super four-year athletes with Abby Ahern, Kirsten Williams, Morgan Heim, Amanda Vath and Sophie Montague, but they still return a number of talented veterans.

“We have a really good mix of a lot of experienced players returning and

new players from JV stepping up to the plate. Our training has shown us we have a lot of potential this season. Now we just need to put it into action.” Cougar Head Coach Andrew Gagliaro expressed.

Junior Olivia Russomanno, who was an attacking midfielder last year, will prove to be a major scoring threat this season as a striker. Last year Russomanno scored once in the win over Colts Neck then again in the championship game against Brick Township. Senior Anna Constable will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



STRUGGLING FOR CONTROL...An IHA (Immaculate Heart Academy) girl, left, and a Cougar struggle for possession of the ball during a scrimmage game at Memorial Field in Cranford on August 27.

CAPTAINS - 4-YEAR STARTERS FRIEDBERG, ROKHSAR

Soccer Blue Devil Boys Have  
High Expectations This Season

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
For The Westfield Leader and The Times

What could be considered unfinished business from the previous year and fine off-season development seems to give the Westfield High School boys soccer team an excellent reason to believe that a very successful season is in store. Of the 22 boys on the roster, 12 are experienced seniors and they will be working with seven listed juniors and three sophomores.

As of August 25, the Blue Devils have just returned from their yearly trip in New York, a facility called Golden Goal, where they trained four days and three nights in preparation for the upcoming season.

“If we can continue to stay focused,

stay healthy and play for one another, great things can happen,” Blue Devil Head Coach Eric Shaw commented.

As far as the unfinished business, last year as with most teams around the state, the Blue Devil boys were

quite aware that its season may be interrupted or cancelled at any time. The team survived a two-week pre-season delay and a second delay in late October before having its season halted just after winning its Union County Tournament (UCT) semifinal game. The Blue Devils did manage to complete eight games to finish with a 6-2 record, but the missed opportunity to compete for the UCT title and a sectional title ate them inside. Their only two losses were to Elizabeth, 2-1 in two overtimes, and 1-0.

At the last line of defense as goal-keeper, senior four-year starter Ryan Friedberg, who has committed to play at Cornell University, has been selected as a team captain, along with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



HIGH EXPECTATIONS...The Blue Devils, in Blue, scrimmaged the Millburn Millers at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on August 26. The Blue Devils return 12 experienced seniors and expect a very successful season.



TRING TO STOP THE WAVE...The Blue Devil defense attempts to bring down a Long Branch Green Wave runner in their first scrimmage game of the season at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on August 24.

Blue Devils Test Their Readiness  
In Scrimmage Vs. Long Branch

Prepared By DAVID B. CORBIN  
For The Westfield Leader and The Times

A nearly non-season of action last year put the Westfield High School football team in an unfavorable position, so this year’s Blue Devils needed to test their readiness in a scrimmage against the Long Branch Green Wave at Kehler Stadium on August 24. The Blue Devils definitely showed some

promise on offense with their passing game, along with some impressive runs, and their defense made some good strides, although there may be a need to do some tweaking in the secondary, which is normal for the first scrimmage of the season.

No doubt about it that last year’s season was a disappointment in several ways due to the COVID situa-

tion. From the start, the Blue Devils had two weeks of practice cut off and their season opener cancelled. Next came a second bout of positive readings at WHS that halted practices and forced schedule cancellations. Then finally, the remainder of the season for all WHS sports was cancelled due to a third series of positive readings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

AUMENTA HR; GANO 2 2B’S; MERKEL, SWALES 3 HITS

St. Joseph Topples St. George  
In St. Bart’s Men’s Playoff, 12-6

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
For The Westfield Leader and The Times

It was music to their ears when fourth-seeded St. Joseph belled with six runs in the top of the sixth inning to snap a 6-6 tie then held on to topple top-seeded St. George, 12-6, from the upper bracket of the St. Bart’s Oldtimers Men’s Softball League playoffs at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 25.

With the victory, the Joe boys advanced to the semifinal round to face second-seeded St. Sebastian, who squeaked by St. Wolfgang, 12-11. A victory over St. Sebastian would guarantee them a slot in the St. Bart’s Championship Game to be held on Labor Day (September 6). In the meantime, St. George was cast into the Losers Bracket to face St. Ignatius, who ousted St. Vincent, 15-11.

St. Joseph totaled 18 hits and capitalized on one long drive that was mishandled. Leadoff hitter Sal Gano, Jr. whacked a pair of doubles, scored once and was the recipient of the mishandled drive that he crushed into deep right field. Billy Aumenta blasted a two-run home run and walked twice, one intentionally. Dave Merkel (2 runs, RBI) and Tom Swales (2 RBI, run) each had three singles and “Mu-

sic Man” Nash Warfield was in rhythm with two hit singles, while dancing across home plate three times. Another great confidence builder for the Joe boys was “Lucky” Lou Balestriere, who already has seven St. Bart’s titles stuffed into his pocket. Returning from play in the Union County Senior League playoffs,

Balestriere, who was a stalwart at second base, singled, walked twice and scored once.

Walt Patrylo led the St. George 13-hit attack, going 3-for-3 with a bases-loaded triple and a run scored. Paul Bifani singled twice and scored twice. Lou Blau rapped a two-run single and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



GETTING THERE IN TIME...St. George’s Russ Voorhees gets to second on time as St. Joseph second baseman Lou Balestriere snares the throw during the St. Bart’s Oldtimers Men’s Softball League Playoffs at Brookside Park on August 25.



UNION COUNTY 50+ A DIVISION CHAMPS...Deegan Roofing defeated Douglas VW in three games to claim the UC Senior 50+ A Division Softball Title. Pictured, left to right, are front row; Damon Roth, Marty Marks, Nelly Santiago, Doug Fischer and Joe DiFabio; back row, Charlie Collins, Joe Sheridan, Tom Baldowski, Marty Bernstein, Nick Russo, Scott Mugele, Pete Appolito, Kevin Spellman and Mike Juchnik. Absent are Steve Barba, Kevin Woodring and James Nardello.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

LAST LINE OF DEFENSE...Blue Devil senior goalkeeper Ryan Friedberg, left, concentrates on the path of the ball in the scrimmage against the Millburn Millers at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on August 26.

## Blue Devils Have High Expectations This Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

senior midfielder Max Rokhsar, also a four-year starter. Junior Mike Lieberman will also be in goal.

The Blue Devils possess powerful striking experience with senior forward Matias Arblaez, who has committed to play at Franklin and Marshall in Lancaster, Pa. According to Coach Shaw, “expect a lot of goals and assists.”

Another dangerous scoring threat will be senior forward Andrew Macik. Also adding fuel to the offensive fire is midfielder Murad Asaadi, who has returned from Cedar Stars Academy. Other varsity returners at the forward position are seniors Chris Cicca and Matt Lynch, and junior Anthony

Buoscio. Sophomore David Savransky will also be up front.

With Rokhsar at midfield will be juniors Mike Blake, Evan Crozier and Andrew Kornfeld, along with sophomore Zach Preucil.

The Blue Devils have a host of defenders with seniors Jake Root, Charles Iannuzzi, Alfonso Ferrara, Evan Tompkins and Daniel Riccardi, along with juniors Noah Fischer and Cooper DelGaudio and sophomore Derek Azevedo.

The Blue Devil boys will open their season at home with Plainfield on Thursday, September 9, at 4 p.m. Two days later they will be in Union to face the Farmers at noon then on Tuesday,

September 14, they will host rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood at 4:30. After hosting Summit on Saturday, September 18, at noon, the Blue Devils will have another big showdown against the Elizabeth Minutemen on Tuesday, September 21, at Kehler Stadium in Westfield at 4 p.m.

“We are excited about this groups potential. We have shown great growth in the past week and are looking forward to our preseason matches to see where we are at,” said Coach Shaw, who added, “We have high expectations every year and this year is no different. We want to win the Union County Tournament and our sectional tournament.”

## St. Bart’s Men’s Softball Playoff Results:

**PLAYOFF ROUND 2:**  
**St. Anthony 12, St. Francis 11**

Energized by the return of co-captain Joe LoBrace, St. Francis jumped out to a six-run lead over Bobby Camisa’s St. Anthony squad. Both teams traded runs until Todd Feinberg’s walkoff single won it for St. Anthony and sent St. Francis packing for the season. Ryan Peters (3-3, HR), Bobby Camisa (3-3, 2RBI), Gerry Reipe and Karl “Ant-Man” Grossmann paced the Ant’s offense. St. Francis’s offense was led by Nam Joe, Tom Fazio, Mike Markowycz, Mike Sutterlin, Bruce Logan, and “Irate” Nate Mangiris.

**St. Ignatius 15, St. Vincent 11**

St. Vincent watched the game slip away early and failed to recover. Captain Bob McGuiness continues to improve on the mound for St. Iggy, as he limited St. Vinny to five runs over six innings. The real damage was rendered by the middle of St. Iggy’s lineup, as Rich Reich, Joe Oporto, Joe DiBernardo, Luis Fraguas, Pete Chemidlin and Gerry Russo each collected multiple hits and knocked in at least one run apiece. St. Vincent was led by “Commish” Jim Killeen, Kevin “Friendly Son” Morris, Eddie Fernandez, Jack Kennedy, Daryl Palmieri, Ara Movsesian and caption Keith Karyczak who all managed multiple hits in their final game of the 2021 season.

**St. Sebastian 12, St. Wolfgang 11**

St. Sebastian was trailing 11-5 in the final inning before they tied the game in regulation and won it on a walkoff sac fly by Mike McKenna in extra innings. Sebastian’s seventh in-

ning rally started with consecutive hits from McKenna, Andrew Smyth, Liam Nobile, Erik “Nails” Hapstrup, and captain Wells Pikaart. Kevin Caggiano and John Cholankeril followed with clutch two out hits before



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

IN THE GROOVE...St. Joseph first baseman Nash Warfield does a little dance step after getting the putout on St. George’s Walt Patrylo on August 25.

Dennis Reilly tied the game on a run-scoring single in a true team effort. Despite the loss, St. Wolfgang out-hit Sebastian, 26-11. James Barba, Ed DeFrancesco, Rei Santiago, Vinny Fumero, Roger Billotto and VruBaboomian paced the Wolfpack, who dropped to the losers’ bracket.

**St. Joseph 12, St. George 6**  
*(see exclusive article for summary)*

**PLAYOFF ROUND 3:**  
**St. Sebastian 10, St. Joseph 8**

for good. St. Sebastian tallied 17 hits. Liam Nobile, Bill Scheiner, Mike McKenna, Josh Baik and Dave Eckert all managed multiple hits for St. Sebastian. St. Joe’s offense was paced by Chris “best outfielder?” Millar, “Sweet” Lou Balistere, Dave “Guido” Merkel, Sal Gano Jr. and Brian Stitt, who all managed multiple hits.

**St. Wolfgang 4, St. Anthony 2**

With both teams facing elimination, the tension was high, and the bats were quiet at Farley Park. Gary Leichtling toed the rubber for St. Wolfgang. The bulldog went seven innings, allowing two runs on eight hits. John Veglia was in the pitcher’s circle for St. Anthony. Veglia scattered 11 hits and struck out two. Jimmy Barba, Dan Margolis and Brian Weber all managed multiple hits for the Wolfpack. Ross Alpert, Gerry Reipe and Ryan Peters collected multiple hits for St. Ants. With the win, Wolfgang continues the long road to Labor Day in the consolation bracket, while St. Anthony is done for the season.

## St. Joseph Topples St. George in Playoffs, 12-6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

added another single. Carlos da Costa singled twice and had an RBI. Tom Ulichny singled and walked once and scored twice.

St. Joseph was ready to rock and gave a big “Shout” with four runs on five hits in the top of the first inning. Gano looped a double into shallow right field and Aumenta launched his two-run homer down the right field line. Bryan Stitt (2-for-4) singled to center and Warfield plopped a single over first. Balestriere walked, Merkel slapped a top-spinner for an RBI single into left and Swales grounded out to second as Warfield danced home.

a liner off pitcher Frank Chupko but Gano, at short, alertly scooped the ball and fired to first for the out. Mike Kozlowski singled to left and Shawn Yaney walked but a line out to Aumenta, who made a number of acrobatic catches, in left and a leaping grab by Gano ended the inning.

A couple of Joe boys did the “Stroll” across home plate in the fourth. Warfield reached on a force out, Merkel and Swales both tapped “Spinners” for short singles to load the bases then Dave Arnold poked an RBI single to center and Chris Paterek (2-for-3) punched an RBI single to right.

and Merkel pushed a single over third. Swales “Wiggle Wobbled” a short RBI single, Paterek got his second RBI with a single over first and Steve Pirella got an RBI free pass. Chupko brought home Swales with a groundout to third. Gano’s long fly to right was dropped and Aumenta was intentionally allowed to “Walk on By”. Chris Millar beat out a short RBI single then finally St. George stopped the bleeding when Ulichny chased down Stitt’s fly in right center.

St. Joseph was determined to “Hold On” to their lead. Although da Costa and Blau singled in the sixth, St.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

PREVENTING A GRAND SLAM...St. Joseph catcher Chris Paterek gets the relay from right field to rob St. George slugger Walt Patrylo from getting a Grand Slam in the fifth inning of the St. Bart’s Oldtimers Men’s Softball League Playoffs at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 25. St. Joseph defeated St. George, 12-6.

Bifani, Ulichny and Patrylo tapped singles to load the bases with no outs in the George first. After a popup to Balestriere, da Costa hooked an RBI single into left and Blau followed with a two-run single down the leftfield line.

A nice catch by second baseman Mike D’Amato and another putout at first initiated by leftfielder Gus Alvarez kept St. Joe silent in the second. St. George also failed to score in the inning. Frank Vecchione smashed

Shortstop Patrylo was involved in all three putouts in the fifth then the George boys knotted the score in the bottom of the inning. Jim Sosinski singled over third base, Bifani singled to left, Ulichny walked and Patrylo pounded a three-run triple to center and attempted to stretch it to a Grand Slam. “It’s a Shame” that he was gunned down at the plate.

Tied 6-6 in the sixth, Warfield got the beat going again with a bouncing single past short. Balestriere walked

George failed to score thanks to Chupko’s quick-handed play on the mound. Balestriere and Swales both singled but St. Joe failed to score in the seventh.

Chupko got Kozlowski to groundout to second and Yaney to groundout to short in the seventh. He then walked Russ Voorhees but Aumenta hauled in Sosinski’s liner for the final out.

|            |     |     |   |    |
|------------|-----|-----|---|----|
| St. Joseph | 400 | 206 | 0 | 12 |
| St. George | 300 | 030 | 0 | 6  |

## Cougars Aim to ‘Strike’ Again for Great Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

also be a striker.

Covering the midfield will be senior Riley Korzeneski, who was also quite a scoring threat last season, Keeley Patterson and juniors Aileen McGovern and Meghan Normann, who scored once in the victory over Colts Neck and once against Brick Township. McGovern on an assist from her twin sister Aislinn, also scored against Brick Township..

Taking command on defense will be juniors Caroline Morris, Gabby Baiada, Aislinn McGovern and Lily Young. Senior Grace Kallensee, who was the backup for Amanda Vath last year, will be the starting goalkeeper.

The Cougars will have their usual

Union County rivals on their schedule with Westfield, Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Oak Knoll and will open at Governor Livingston on Thursday, September 9, at 4 p.m. After another tough showdown at Watchung Hills on September 11, the Cougars will host Oak Knoll on Tuesday, September 14, travel to face the Raiders on Thursday, September 16, then host the Blue Devils on Tuesday,

September 21.

“We are expecting a competitive season and look to be right in the thick of things as far as the conference, county, and state tournament competitions go. The level of quality in our division and county is among the best in the state with no games off. We look forward to enjoying that environment again this season,” Coach Gagliardo said.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BOROUGH OF GARWOOD ORDINANCE NO. 21-14

**AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT ARTICLE IX (CERTAIN CANNABIS CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES PROHIBITED) IN CHAPTER 115 (MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to L. 2021, c. 16, municipalities may enact ordinances prohibiting certain consumption of cannabis items in public places; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood has determined to enact such a prohibition; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:48-1.2b, enacted by L. 2021, c. 16, sec. 77, permits a municipality to enact an ordinance making it unlawful for any person who is of legal age to consume, other than by smoking, vaping, or aerosolizing, a cannabis item available for lawful consumption pursuant to the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act,” P.L.2021, c. 16 (C.24:61-31 et al.), in any public place as defined in section 3 of that act (C.24:61-33); this prohibition shall not extend to school property described in section 1 of P.L.1981, c.197 (C.2C:33-16), for which unlawful consumption is a disorderly persons offense, or when not prohibited by the owner or person responsible for the operation of that public place; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to said statute, an ordinance may subject a violator to a civil penalty of up to \$200, which shall be recovered in a civil action by a summary proceeding in the name of the municipality pursuant to the “Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999,” P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.), with the municipal court and the Superior Court having jurisdiction of proceedings for the enforcement of the penalty provided by that section.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood:

**SECTION 1.** Article IX (Certain Cannabis Consumption in Public Places Prohibited) in Chapter 115 (Miscellaneous Offenses) of the Code of the Borough of Garwood is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE IX. CERTAIN CANNABIS CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES PROHIBITED:**

§ 115-31. Definitions.

“Public place” shall mean any place to which the public has access that is not privately owned; or any place to which the public has access where alcohol consumption is not allowed, including, but not limited to, a public street, road, thoroughfare, sidewalk, bridge, alley, plaza, park, playground, swimming pool, shopping area, public transportation facility, vehicle used for public transportation, parking lot, public library, or any other public building, structure, or area.

“Cannabis item” means any usable cannabis, cannabis product, cannabis extract,

### PUBLIC NOTICE

and any other cannabis resin. “Cannabis item” does not include: any form of medical cannabis dispensed to registered qualifying patients pursuant to the “Jake Honig Compassionate Use Medical Cannabis Act,” P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:61-1 et al.) and P.L.2015, c.158 (C.18A:40- 12.22 et al.); or hemp or a hemp product cultivated, handled, processed, transported, or sold pursuant to the “New Jersey Hemp Farming Act,” P.L.2019, c.238 (C.4:28-6 et al.).

§ 115-32. Cannabis Consumption in Public Places Prohibited.

No person of the legal age to consume cannabis items shall consume, other than by smoking, vaping, or aerosolizing, a cannabis item available for lawful consumption pursuant to the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act,” P.L.2021, c.16 (C.24:61-31 et al.), in any public place as defined in section 3 of that act (C.24:61-33); this prohibition shall not extend to school property described in section 1 of P.L.1981, c.197 (C.2C:33-16), for which unlawful consumption is a disorderly persons offense, or when not prohibited by the owner or person responsible for the operation of that public place.

§ 115-33. Penalty.

Any person violating this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$200, which shall be recovered in a civil action by a summary proceeding in the name of the municipality pursuant to the “Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999,” P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). The Municipal Court and the Superior Court shall have jurisdiction of proceedings for the enforcement of the penalty provided by this section.

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

**SECTION 3.** If any portion of this ordinance shall be determined to be invalid, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of said ordinance.

**SECTION 4.** This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.

### NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

Notice is hereby given that Ordinance No. 21-14 was introduced and passed on first reading at a meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, held on the **26th DAY OF AUGUST, 2021**, and that Ordinance No. 21-14, will be taken up for further consideration for final passage at the meeting of said Borough Council to be held at its meeting room in the Municipal Building, 403 South Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey, on the **9th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021** at 7:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter as said matter can be heard, at which time and place all persons who may be interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same.

**ATTEST:**

Catherine D. Cameron, R.M.C.  
Deputy Municipal Clerk

1 T - 09/02/21, The Leader Fee: \$124.44

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SCHUMANN, ROBINSON, FISCHER, POWER OFFENSE

Raider Gridders Open Early; Look for a Successful Season

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
For The Westfield Leader and The Times

Wasting very little time the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School foot-ball team opened its season against the Cedar Creek Pirates from Egg Harbor City on August 29. The Raiders have come off the most successful season in a decade, finishing with a 5-2 record which included winning their final five games, so there are high expectations this season.

The Raiders must meet those expectations without the fine senior class of last year, which included two-year

Matt Power, also a running back, will be safeties. Last year Schumann was selected Raider Defensive Player of the Year and recorded 22 solo tackles (2 throws for loss [TFL], sack), recovered three fumbles (1 for a touch-down), had two interceptions and broke up a number of passes. Power had 23 solo tackles (TFL), broke up several passes and had two interceptions.

Junior Weston Fischer has taken over the quarterback position and against East Brunswick, he showcased his accuracy to hook up with his re-

linebacker corps. Last year he had 17 solo tackles (2 TFL). Senior Robert Koch and junior Khadar Jackson will also be at linebacker. On the corners will be senior Kenny Agwu and junior Anthony Tittanegro.

Junior Kyle Brainard will assume all the kicking responsibilities, while Schumann, Pastore and Power will receive the kickoffs.

The Raiders did run into a buzzsaw against the Pirates of Cedar Creek. Due to flooding situations, the game was moved to Camden Catholic but it was the Pirates who gushed with a



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CONSIDERING PASSING OR RUNNING...Blue Devil junior quarterback Trey Brown, No. 17, considers whether to run or pass in the scrimmage against the Long Branch Green Wave Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on August 24.

Blue Devils Test Readiness Against Long Branch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Their opening day came a week late when they hosted St. Joseph (Metuchen) and the Falcons, fresh off a 17-12 win over the Elizabeth Minutemen, capitalized on a pair of interceptions, a long gun touchdown strike and a huge breakaway run to overcome the Blue Devils, 20-3. The following week, the Blue Devils traveled to face Bridgewater-Raritan and returned on the short end of a 27-14 score.

The Blue Devils did have a group of talented sophomores but the situation never allowed them the chance to gain valuable experience.

This season, the Blue Devils' offense will be spearheaded by junior quarterback Trey Brown, who showed accuracy in his long passing game as well as his short hookups. Senior Justin Colby, who had an impressive tackle-breaking touchdown run in the Long Branch scrimmage, will be the running back. Junior Mason Marino

looks to be top candidate for the tight end position. The split ends are expected to be senior Aidan Scheper and juniors Paul Cerro and Alex Tilyou. Filling the offensive line are: junior Brandon Love (tackle), senior Jack Price (tackle), seniors Jon Giglio and Nick Mase (guards) and senior center Duke Edmondson.

Others competing for time on offense are: junior Dylan Wragg (running back), junior Cary Pickett (tight end), junior Gabe Dayon (line) and senior Rinan Fowler, junior Ben Kelly and sophomore Peter DelRe at split end.

The front candidates on defense consist of juniors Rion Murray and Sergio Cabrera (defensive ends), Jack Price and senior Harrison Grom (tackles). At linebacker are senior Tyler Sontz and juniors Dan Hanlon, Jack O'Connor and Quinn Wojcik. The defensive backs are seniors Sean Czarniecki and James Csorba and jun-

ior Senu Glasco. Others in the mix are juniors Owen Shakal and Paul Tilyou and senior Theo Shapiro.

On special teams, the punter will be Csorba and the kickers may be Wragg, Leo Schwartz or Henry Hipshman. Colby and Wragg will be the returners.

After a special full pads scrimmage at Cranford tonight, September 2, at 6 p.m., the Blue Devils will host St. Joseph (Metuchen) in their season opener on Saturday, September 11, at 2 p.m. Next will be three Friday night away games, Watchung Hills (September 17), Linden (September 24) and Union (October 1) all at 7 p.m. A three-game Saturday home stretch follows with Hillsborough (October 9 - 12 p.m.), Elizabeth (October 16 0 1 p.m.) and Ridge (October 23 - 2 p.m.). A trip to Phillipsburg is next on Friday, October 29, the Thanksgiving Day season finale will be at Plainfield on November 25.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

EFFECTIVE OFFENSIVELY AND DEFENSIVELY...Raider senior Damon Schumann, right, proved to be quite effective offensively and defensively in the scrimmage against the East Brunswick Bears at Scotch Plains.

co-captain/quarterback Hayden Widder and outstanding running back Shawn Martin, along with rugged linemen Kenny Yeager and Liam Mahr. However, the Raiders do return talent on both sides of the ball.

Senior Anthony Robinson has become the heir apparent to fill Martin's

ceivers on the deep routes as well as connecting on short passes. Schumann, Power and senior wide receiver Justin Pastore were recipients of some of his deep touchdown throws.

Experience also returns on the offensive line with senior right guard/

deluge of touchdowns (TD) to emerge with a 52-0 triumph. Jo Jo Bermudez had an interception for a TD then added a 59-yard TD reception. Ja Quan Howard added a pair of rushing TDs before halftime and Zach Ricci had a 50-yard TD reception. Mekhi Harvey ran for a pair of TDs in the second half and Tom Shaheed bashed forward for a two-yard TD.

Next after the Cedar Creek game, the Raiders will host the Plainfield Cardinals tonight, September 2, at 7 p.m. The next home game will be against JFK Iselin on Friday, September 10, followed by an away game at North Hunterdon on Friday, September 17. After an away game at Warren Hills on Friday, September 24, the Raiders will scoot over to Cranford to face the Cougars on Friday, October 1.

A home game against the Linden Tigers will be the following Friday night then on October 15, the drive will be to Montgomery. The final regular-season home game will be against the Woodbridge Barrons on October 22 and the season finale will be at Colonia on October 29.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BEAR HUNTING...Raider No. 23 chases down a Bear during the scrimmage against the East Brunswick Bears at Scotch Plains.

shoes at running back. Last season, he averaged 7.6 yards per carry for 559 yards and six touchdowns. He was also influential as a linebacker on defense. In a scrimmage game this season against East Brunswick, Robinson proved that he could find the seams or just crash through the defensive line.

Offensively senior Damon Schumann will be at the wide receiver spot and defensively, he and senior

three-year starter Tom Schmidt and senior left guard and four-year varsity player Mike Banic. Senior Joe Monaco will do the snapping and senior Mike Judge and junior Amir Crawford could fill the tackle slots.

Defensively, Judge, Schmidt, junior Nadir Johnson and Crawford will be in the line. Last year as nose guard Schmidt recorded 13 solo tackles with two sacks and four TFLs. Veteran senior Isaiah Nathaniel will head the

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Public notice is hereby given that an Ordinance entitled "Ordinance Amending Section 5-13 of the Health Code of the Town of Westfield" of which the following is a copy was introduced, read and passed on first reading by the Westfield Board of Health at a regular meeting held on August 3, 2021. The Board of Health will further consider the same for final passage on September 13, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building located at 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey at which time and place members of the public will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

Megan Avallone,  
Board Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

ally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory in the amount of \$100.00 (first Conditionally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory posting); \$250.00 (second consecutive Initial Inspection resulting in a Conditionally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory posting); \$500 and mandatory Board Hearing (third consecutive Initial Inspection resulting in a Conditionally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory posting). Any three consecutive inspections resulting in a Conditionally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory posting or any three consecutive Initial Inspections that result in a posting of Conditionally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory shall also result in a mandatory Board hearing. Anytime the retail food establishment receives a Conditionally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory posting based on the re-inspection, there shall be an additional fee of \$450-\$200.

II. If any section, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the specific section, paragraph, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective immediately after publication in the manner provided by law.

III. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately after publication in the manner provided by law.

Strikethrough sections to be deleted:  
Underlined sections to be added.

1 T - 09/02/21, The Leader Fee: \$60.18

ORDINANCE NO. 02-2021

"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5-13 OF THE HEALTH CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD."

BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, as follows:

I. Subsection 1(c) of ARTICLE V, Food and Drink, Section 5-13, Licensing; fees, shall be modified as follows:

C. There is hereby established a fee for re-inspection of any retail food establishment receiving a posting of Condition-



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

UNION COUNTY 50+ A DIVISION RUNNERUP...Douglas VW gave Deegan Roofing a run for their money in the UC Sr. 50+ A Division Softball League. Pictured, left to right, are front row; Mario Lopez, Al Genova, Mike Shriner, Joe Caliguari and Rich Gaul; back row, Dan Righetti, Bill Buteau, Geno Antonucci, Pat Mooney, Hector Munoz and Farlin Alusik. Absent: Ralph Genova, Bill Dugan, Jim McCullough, Mike Hoffmann, Ed Rodriguez, Harold Zayas and Dean Battaglia.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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REPORTERS WANTED

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

Please take notice that on September 22, 2021 at 7:30 PM the Planning Board will hold a virtual hearing on the application of the undersigned. The property in question is located at: 170 Herbert Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block 85 Lot 9, as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map, owned by Craig and Carla Allen.

The applicant requests Enclosing deck over garage which is in violation of:

Section 184-115 (E4) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Front Yard Setback; Permitted: 30'; Present: 24.8'; Proposed: 24.8'.

Section 184-115 (E5) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Side Yard Setback; Permitted: 8'; Present: 3.8'; Proposed: 3.8'.

Section 118-115 (E1) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Lot Size; Permitted: 7,500; Present: 5,000; Proposed: 5,000.

Section 118-115 (E2) of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Lot Width; Permitted: 75'; Present: 50'; Proposed: 50'.

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

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

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

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

Applicant: Dana Sullivan  
Craig and Carla Allen  
170 Herbert Avenue  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
1 T - 09/02/21, The Times Fee: \$41.31

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Please contact Bob at 908-233-7900 or Bob@WestfieldCPAs.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

The School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary of the Westfield Board of Education, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, by authority of said Board, solicits sealed bids for student transportation. Bids to be received at the Business Office of the Westfield Board of Education, located at 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 up to 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

COACH BUSES FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR ATHLETICS AND SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Specifications and full information may be obtained upon application at the Business Office of the Westfield Board of Education, located at 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

All bids must be submitted on the bid form which will be furnished upon application at Office of the Westfield Board of Education. Bids which are not submitted on such form may be rejected.

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

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

By order of the Westfield Board of Education

Dana Sullivan  
School Business Administrator  
Board Secretary  
1 T - 09/02/21, The Leader Fee: \$36.21

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County to Honor the Memory of Residents Lost on September 11

COUNTY – The Union County Board of County Commissioners invites members of the public to attend a special ceremony to honor the memory of the 60 Union County residents killed in the attacks of September 11, 2001. The ceremony will be held at the Union County September 11th Memorial in Echo Lake Park, in Mountainside, beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 11.

“On this date, we join with those who lost loved ones in honoring the memory of our fellow Union County residents who perished in the attacks, we remember the many acts of courage that occurred in the midst of a terrible national tragedy,” said Union County Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the attacks, the ceremony will include the reading of the names of the deceased Union County residents by County Commissioners, a presentation of wreaths and the laying of flowers by all in attendance.

In accordance with Union County’s practice each year on September 11, the Union County Sheriff’s Office will also provide a uniformed Honor Guard standing watch at the Memorial from 6 to 9 p.m. The public is invited to participate in the lighting of candles in memory of those lost in the attacks. The Union County Department of Parks and Recreation will contribute candles for use by the public.

Dedicated on September 13, 2003, the Union County September 11 Memorial is located on a hilltop at the border of Mountainside and Springfield in Union County’s Echo Lake Park, near the Springfield Avenue entrance at the eastern end of the park.

The Union County September 11th Memorial incorporates elements that represent the three sites where the attacks took place on September 11, 2001. Two girders recovered from the ruins of the World Trade Center are arranged within a five-sided area representing the Pentagon. An Eternal Flame represents those who died in Pennsylvania along with members of the Armed Services and emergency responders. In addition to these elements, the names of the 60 deceased Union County residents are etched into the memorial.

Union County worked with residents of Cranford, Elizabeth, Kenilworth, Linden, Mountainside, Rahway, Scotch Plains, Summit, Union and Westfield to plan and build the Memorial. It was constructed through private donations including in-kind work by labor unions and materials at cost. For more details visit [ucnj.org/september-11th-memorial](http://ucnj.org/september-11th-memorial).

Visitors are reminded that masks and social distance are encouraged in outdoor settings during the Covid-19 pandemic.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BOARD OF HEALTH

The Garwood Board of Health will hold their regular meeting, September 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, at 403 South Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey.

Kathleen J. Wierzbinski  
Board of Health Secretary  
403 South Avenue  
Garwood, New Jersey 07027  
1 T - 09/02/21, The Leader Fee: \$12.24

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WESTFIELD

Sunday, August 22, a resident of the 1100 block of Boynton Avenue reported that they believe they were a victim of a theft by deception. The victim stated that an unknown caller contacted her and requested assistance. The resident then purchased two Visa gift cards (each valued at \$200) and provided the caller with the ability to access the gift cards remotely. There are no suspects at this time.

Wednesday, August 25, a resident of the 1600 block of Central Avenue reported that their black-and-orange Trek bicycle was stolen from their driveway. The value of the bicycle is approximately \$250. The bicycle was unsecured at the time of the theft.

Thursday, August 26, a resident of the 800 block of Kimball Avenue reported observing an unknown male walking in their driveway in the early morning hours. The observation was made after a review of the resident’s surveillance cameras. The video depicts a motor vehicle parked in the roadway in front of the resident’s driveway, and it is believed the suspect exited this vehicle prior to being captured on video. There were no signs of criminal activity, burglary, attempted burglary, etc., on the resident’s property.

Thursday, August 26, a resident of Wychwood Road reported observing two suspicious motor vehicles in the area of Canterbury Road. One vehicle was described as a red Honda CRV and the other was a white Honda Sedan. A search of the area for the vehicles produced negative results. There were no reported incidents of criminal activity surrounding this observation.

Saturday, August 28, a resident of the 900 block of Saint Marks Avenue reported that between August 26 and August 28, unknown suspect(s) entered his garage and stole a black 2016 men’s Trek 7.3 FX bicycle with a tool pouch attached to it. The total value of the items taken is approximately \$435.

Saturday, August 28, a resident of the 100 block of Ludlow Place reported that a package was delivered to his home on August 28. Upon opening the package, the ordered item, an Apple iPad, was missing. It is unknown at this time if the item was stolen or never sent by the seller.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Wednesday, August 25, Robert J. Pierce, 41, of Bridgewater was arrested on active warrants out of North Brunswick during a motor vehicle stop. Pierce was transported to police headquarters and processed.

Wednesday, August 25, the management at the Montessori School located on E 2nd Street reported that someone threw a rock through a window, shattering the window, during the daytime hours. The matter is under investigation.

Wednesday, August 25, a resident of Meadowlark Lane reported that someone had fraudulently applied for unemployment benefits in their name. The matter is under investigation.

Friday, August 27, the management at Country Club Village apartments reported the theft of money from a laundry room coin machine. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, August 28, a residence on Laurie Court was burglarized. Several motor vehicles on the property also were entered and had items stolen. These incidents occurred during the overnight hours and are under investigation.

Free Shredding for Personal Documents, Sept. 18 and 24

COUNTY – Union County residents can bring their personal documents and sensitive papers to the next free paper shredding events sponsored by the Union County Board of County Commissioners. The next two events will take place, rain or shine, on Saturday, September 18 and Friday, September 24.

The September 18 event will be held at the Union County College campus on Springfield Avenue in Cranford. Use the 1033 Springfield Avenue entrance and follow signs to the rear of campus.

The September 24 event will be held at the Westfield Memorial Pool, located at 713 Cumberland Street in Westfield. Each event is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m., but may finish earlier if the shredding trucks fill up to capacity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the planning board of the Borough of Fanwood, after public hearing on July 28th 2021 granted approval to Eugene Oppido for rear set back variances, for property at 2 Birchwood Terrace, Fanwood, being block 44 and lot 19.

Documents pertaining to this application are available for public inspection at borough hall during normal business hours.

Mr Eugene Oppido  
2 Birchwood Terrace  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
1 T - 09/02/21, The Times Fee: \$26.30

investigation.

Saturday, August 28, a resident of the 1500 block of Front Street reported damage to their front door. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, August 28, numerous car burglaries were reported on Terrill Road and Laurie Court. The incidents occurred during the overnight hours and the motor vehicles were left unlocked. The incidents are under investigation.

Sunday, August 29, officers responded to the Shackamaxxon Country Club on a report of a stolen motor vehicle. Witnesses stated that they observed four Black males wearing face masks in the parking lot, attempting to enter vehicles. Two of the males entered a grey Audi A4 and stole the vehicle, fleeing the parking lot at a high rate of speed. That vehicle was followed by the two other males operating a dark-colored Mercedes. The Audi has been entered as stolen. The matter is under investigation.

Monday, August 30, a 2018 Bravo box trailer was stolen from a construction site on Route 22 over the weekend. The trailer, which contained numerous tools and equipment, has been entered as stolen. The matter is under investigation.

CRANFORD

Friday, August 27, George Brown, 63, of Elizabeth was located on a bicycle near the 400 block of North Avenue East and apprehended on two active criminal warrants out of Cranford for burglary and theft. During this apprehension, it was determined that the bicycle Brown was riding was previously reported stolen out of Cranford. While conducting a search incident to his arrest, police also found Brown in possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS)/heroin and CDS paraphernalia. Brown was arrested on charges of receiving stolen property, possession of CDS heroin and possession of CDS paraphernalia. He was remanded to the Union County jail awaiting a detention hearing.

Friday, August 27, police units were dispatched to the area of North Union Avenue near Riverside Drive for the report of an individual bathing in the water. During this investigation, a patrol officer was directed by a witness to the male subject, later identified as Martin Luna, 39, of Roselle, who was observed to be fully nude on the riverbanks. Following an investigation, Luna was subsequently arrested and charged with lewdness. He was processed and given a municipal court appearance date.

Saturday, August 28, a 2017 Hyundai was stopped when the motor vehicle was observed operating erratically. Following an investigation on scene, police arrested the driver, Sarah Barnum, 28, of East Orange, who was charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). She was processed and provided with a municipal court appearance date.

In addition, Barnum was issued motor vehicle summonses for delaying traffic, careless driving, failure to keep right, failure to stop or yield, and having an obstructed windshield.

Saturday, August 28, police units were dispatched to the area of High Street near Chestnut Street on a report of an improperly-parked motor vehicle idling for three hours with its headlights on. Following a brief investigation, police arrested Arthur Cirino, 20, of Newark on charges of DWI and being under the influence of CDS. Cirino was processed and provided with a municipal court appearance date.

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

Narcotics Investigation Yields 19 Complaints

COUNTY -- A long-term investigation led by the Union County Prosecutor’s Office’s Major Crimes Division has yielded 19 complaints and the seizure of significant quantities of narcotics, Union County Prosecutor William A. Daniel announced Monday.

Search warrants were simultaneously executed at six locations early Wednesday last week within the Joanne Hollis Gardens community and other locations in Plainfield. Twelve of the 19 individuals charged in this investigation have been arrested. A total of over 100 grams of crack/cocaine, 800 glassine envelopes of heroin, 9 grams of raw heroin, 1.5 grams of fentanyl, and 1 firearm with a large capacity magazine were seized during the operation.

These arrests come as the result of a several months-long investigation led by Detectives in the Major Crimes Division’s Intelligence-Driven Prosecution Unit.

Legal guidance and supervision throughout the case was provided by Major Crimes Division Legal Supervisor Peter DeRose and Assistant Prosecutor Alaina Caliendo.

“I am grateful to the members of the Prosecutor’s Office for their tireless dedication throughout this investigation,” said Prosecutor Daniel. “Together with the partnership of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, our efforts to reduce violence and positively impact the communities we serve continue.”

This multi-agency investigation included collaboration and support from the ATF Newark Field Division under the supervision of Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey L. Matthews, the Plainfield Police Department under Officer-In-Charge Captain David Guarino, and with assistance from the Drug Enforcement Agency Newark Field Division High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Group 1, Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office, Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office, the Union County Sheriff’s Office, and the police departments of Summit, Westfield, Cranford, Union County, and Berkeley Heights. The Union County Emergency Response Team (UCERT) SWAT Unit assisted with search warrant execution.

“ATF will continue to work cooperatively with our local, state, and federal partners to strategically and proactively target individuals who contribute to violent crimes in our communities,” said ATF Special Agent in Charge Matthews. “The results of this investigation demonstrate the common goals and resolve of all the parties involved. I commend their efforts.”

The defendants arrested as a result of this investigation include:

Saad S. Spivey, 38, of Plainfield, is charged with first-degree leader of a narcotics trafficking network, four related second-degree narcotics offenses including conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances, and six related third-degree narcotics offenses.

Kiyan C. Cagle, 21, of North Plainfield is charged with three second-degree offenses including conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances, and four related third-degree narcotics offenses.

Norshawn Dorsey, 41, of Plainfield, is charged with three second-degree offenses including conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances, second-degree possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances within 500 feet of certain public property, and six related third-degree narcotics offenses.

Donald L. Muldrow, 55, of Plainfield, is charged with third-degree conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances.

Qiana C. Harriatt, 30, of Plainfield, is charged with second-degree conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances.

Tyejuan L. Taylor, 44, of Plainfield, is charged with three second-degree offenses including conspiracy to distribute controlled dangerous substances, and one related third-degree narcotics offense.

Jaquan S. Edwards, 22, of North Plainfield, is charged with second-degree possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances within 500 feet of certain public property, and four related third-degree narcotics offenses.

Jade B. Greene, 28, of Plainfield, is charged with third-degree possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

Rayjourn Johnson, 31, of Plainfield, is charged with second-degree possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances within 500 feet of certain public property, and four related third-degree narcotics offenses.

Jose Otero, 34, of Plainfield, is charged with two charges of second-degree possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances within 500 feet of certain public property, and five related third-degree narcotics offenses.

Darren Scruggs, 27, of Plainfield, is charged with two charges of second-degree possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances within 500 feet of certain public property, and seven related third-degree narcotics offenses.

Kyle S. Valentini, 25, of Plainfield, is charged with second-degree unlawful possession of a handgun, two third-degree offenses including receiving stolen property, fourth-degree possession of a large capacity magazine, and two disorderly persons offenses.

Convictions on first-degree criminal charges are commonly punishable by 10 to 20 years, second-degree criminal charges are commonly punishable by 5 to 10 years, and third-degree crimes can result in 3 to 5 years.

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

Rotary Club of Westfield

As part of their commitment to rise against hunger, the Rotary Club of Westfield collects food and raises funds each week for local food insecure families. Contributions benefit Saint Joseph’s Service Center, the Rotary Backpack Program, the Westfield Food Pantry and Union County College.

Donations of lunches or non-perishable foods can be dropped off every Wednesday morning before 11 a.m. at either 438 Poe Avenue or 529 Hanford Place in Westfield.

For more information or to donate, please visit [westfieldrotary.com](http://westfieldrotary.com).

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## Letters to the Editor

### Leaf Blowers, Some Information

By SHANNON WALSH  
For The Westfield Leader and The Times

Leaf blowers have become popular for the last decade or so as a primary tool for homeowners and landscapers. But are they worth the price of environmental health? Many of my closest friends use leaf blowers, and I don't advocate specific measures. Rather, as I always do in this column, I provide well-researched, scientifically tested information to add to your decision-making toolbox.

The singular selling point of leaf blowers is the purported speed of clean-up of grass clippings and leaves. In the fall for a few weeks, this may be true for leaf collection. But an average person can definitely sweep walks free of grass clippings faster than a leaf-blower takes to blow them. They're often not even not a clean-up tool at all because debris is merely blown into the street or into another person's yard. In house-cleaning, this method has taken on metaphorical proportions. "Sweeping something under the rug" means avoiding a problem. Leafblowers are actually worse than avoidance, though. They create more problems than they solve.

I've seen a lot of posts in social media about the noise, especially since so many people have had to work from home this past year. They are noisy. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the quietest leafblow-

ers are noise pollution, in the decibel range that hampers normal human activity. Extended exposure to the loudest ones are in the decibel range that can cause hearing loss. On a suburban street dense with houses, several leaf blowers can be going at once, and for hours, compounding the damaging noise exponentially.

Leaf blowers are massive polluters in more ways. Many gas blowers have a two-stroke engine. This means that fuel must be mixed with oil, and the exhaust from this produces carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, and hydrocarbons. These fumes are carcinogenic, cause smog, and produce acid rain. When you see photos of polluted streets in developing countries, it's because many of the vehicles use two-stroke engines. Tests show that leaf blowers are far more prolific air polluters than even the largest car and truck engines in the United States.

And that's just what's coming out of the engine. What about the debris blown into the air? Where does all that dust go and what's in it? So much of what leafblowers stir up you wouldn't want to breathe: heavy metals, construction dust, toxic lawn chemicals, toxic mosquito control chemicals, animal feces, all types of allergens including pollen and mold. Breathing these pollutants is particularly damaging to children and people with compromised health.

## A Shot in the Arm for Small Business Advertising Would Boost Local Economies

By Brett Wesner  
Chair of the National Newspaper Association,  
a community newspaper organization  
And President of Wesner Publications, Cordell, Oklahoma

A little-noticed initiative by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, and six other senators would boost local jobs, accelerate sales and improve economies. The Local Journalism Sustainability Act, S. 2434, is designed to help local news media support their newsgathering missions.

One provision goes far beyond offering aid to community newspapers, local news websites and other newsgatherers. It would help small businesses to dig out of the economic doldrums by supporting their advertising costs in local news outlets, which in turn will help publishers and broadcasters to hire journalists.

This provision would permit small businesses to claim a tax credit for a portion of their advertising purchases up to \$5,000 a year. Credits would remain, but in declining amounts, for five years.

The legislation, originally introduced in similar form by Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick, D-Arizona, and Dan Newhouse, R-Washington, would also help subscribers by providing them with a refundable tax credit up to \$250 a year. It provides financial support for hiring as well, assisting news organizations with journalists' salaries.

It is the advertising tax credit that is the unsung hero of this legislation. Like a pebble tossed into the pond of local economies, it will show the ripple effect of benefits in local jobs, enhanced spending, revenues to run local governments and a boost to get

American small businesses back in the game after a very tough couple of years.

Every dollar of advertising spending generates \$8.77 in sales, according to a 2010 study by IHS Global Insight, a firm that periodically measures advertising's impact on economies. Advertising is directly responsible for about 20% of the American economy by directly generating jobs in media sales, creation of materials and collateral work but it does far more by juicing activity in other businesses.

No surprise to anyone on Main Street: after the 2008 recession small businesses cut way back on their advertising campaigns, dropping from their normal 3-5% annual increases to a stunning 6% cut in 2009. It is too soon to know what the COVID-19 pandemic has done to this spending, but it would be no great revelation to learn that the cuts equaled or exceeded those following the Great Recession. Expense cuts are what businesses do to stay afloat.

But when they are ready to climb back into the cockpit for a new take-off, the spending needs to accelerate rapidly. Cash-strapped businesses may be in no position to fuel their journey though. That is why a little boost in the form of the Cantwell tax credit would be so timely. If the economy behaves as it usually does after economic retraction, the new spending will generate more sales and the public coffers will refill. The bill's benefits end after five years but the growth it generates will pay off for decades.

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REALTY

### 30 Homes Sold Aug 22 – Aug 29, 2021 in Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield

| TOWN          | ADDRESS              | STYLE    | RMS | BRS | BTH | GAR | SALE PRICE  |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Cranford      | 80 Centennial Ave    | TwnIntUn | 5   | 2   | 1.0 | 0   | \$315,000   |
| Cranford      | 130 Columbia Ave     | CapeCod  | 7   | 3   | 2.0 | 1   | \$530,000   |
| Cranford      | 210 Prospect Ave     | TwnEndUn | 6   | 2   | 2.1 | 1   | \$610,000   |
| Cranford      | 121 N Lehigh Ave     | Colonial | 10  | 5   | 2.1 | 7   | \$615,500   |
| Cranford      | 64 Livingston Ave    | Colonial | 9   | 3   | 2.1 | 2   | \$720,000   |
| Cranford      | 2 Amherst Rd         | SplitLev | 8   | 3   | 2.1 | 2   | \$684,023   |
| Cranford      | 1 Harvard Rd         | Custom   | 8   | 5   | 3.1 | 2   | \$825,000   |
| Cranford      | 305 Bloomingdale Ave | Colonial | 9   | 5   | 4.0 | 4   | \$775,000   |
| Cranford      | 4 Penn Rd            | SplitLev | 12  | 4   | 2.1 | 2   | \$750,000   |
| Fanwood       | 19 Glenwood Rd       | Ranch    | 6   | 3   | 1.0 | 1   | \$425,000   |
| Fanwood       | 122 Beech Ave        | SplitLev | 10  | 4   | 2.1 | 1   | \$725,000   |
| Fanwood       | 17 Cottage Way       | Colonial | 9   | 4   | 2.1 | 2   | \$695,000   |
| Garwood       | 64 4th Ave           | CapeCod  | 7   | 3   | 1.1 | 1   | \$465,000   |
| Mountainside  | 1647 Nottingham Way  | Ranch    | 8   | 4   | 4.0 | 2   | \$760,000   |
| Mountainside  | 1451 Orchard Rd      | Custom   | 11  | 4   | 3.1 | 2   | \$1,025,000 |
| Scotch Plains | 4 Riga Ct            | TwnIntUn | 6   | 2   | 2.2 | 1   | \$410,000   |
| Scotch Plains | 2442 Allwood Rd      | CapeCod  | 8   | 3   | 1.0 | 1   | \$499,000   |
| Scotch Plains | 2059 Coles Ave       | Bi-Level | 9   | 4   | 2.0 | 2   | \$600,000   |
| Scotch Plains | 2635 Deer Path       | Colonial | 11  | 4   | 3.1 | 2   | \$860,000   |
| Scotch Plains | 664 Emil Pl          | Colonial | 9   | 4   | 3.1 | 1   | \$849,999   |
| Scotch Plains | 16 Hidden Meadow Dr  | Colonial | 9   | 5   | 3.1 | 2   | \$1,075,000 |
| Scotch Plains | 1226 Cooper Rd       | Ranch    | 11  | 6   | 5.1 | 3   | \$1,670,000 |
| Westfield     | 815 North Ave        | Bungalow | 7   | 3   | 1.1 | 2   | \$566,000   |
| Westfield     | 136 Stanmore Pl      | Colonial | 10  | 4   | 1.1 | 1   | \$729,000   |
| Westfield     | 4 Sandra Cir         | Ranch    | 7   | 3   | 3.1 | 2   | \$875,000   |
| Westfield     | 702 E Broad St       | Colonial | 12  | 5   | 3.1 | 2   | \$900,000   |
| Westfield     | 11 Sandra Cir        | SplitLev | 7   | 4   | 2.1 | 2   | \$899,000   |
| Westfield     | 20 Mohawk Trail      | Colonial | 12  | 5   | 3.0 | 2   | \$1,426,000 |
| Westfield     | 227 Elizabeth Ave    | Colonial | 13  | 6   | 6.0 | 2   | \$1,495,000 |
| Westfield     | 533 Birch Ave        | Colonial | 9   | 5   | 3.1 | 2   | \$1,530,000 |

\*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 8/22/21 – 8/29/21. 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](http://www.NJHomeShowcase.com) [www.summitwestfieldhomes.com](http://www.summitwestfieldhomes.com).

## The Leader/Times Monthly Crossword Puzzle

By Ruth B. Margolin

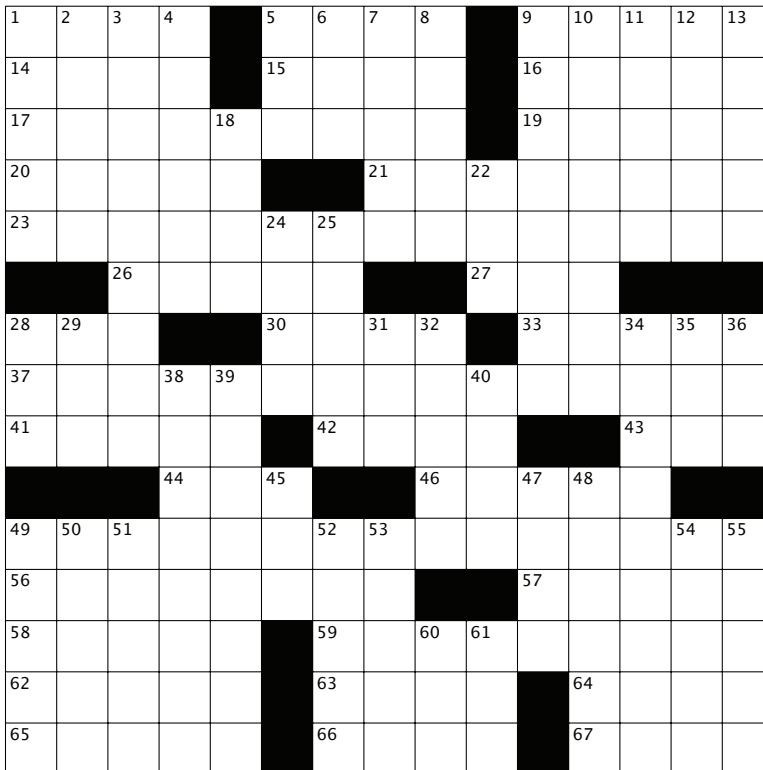
### Tanks but No Thanks

#### ACROSS

- Radio switch
- Pacific salmon
- Org.
- Actress Ward
- Neural conductor
- Ejects
- Agent Smart's winter wear?
- Catch some z's
- Preppy collars
- Inherit
- You hardly ever hear this – clucking is much more typical?
- Place for a jack and a spare
- CIA predecessor
- Strongman Amin
- Smarmy
- They replaced the 49-Down
- Wedding vows edited to cut the "for poorer" clause?
- Classic theater name
- Poses, as a question
- Thumbs down vote
- Part of L.G.B.T.Q.
- Hollywood extravaganzas
- Where "No matter what I do, the teacher gives me a B!" is actually true?
- "Go on, now...skedaddle"
- Big name in transmission repair
- Really, really love
- Oven protection for a Hell's Kitchen chef?
- Gunpowder ingredient
- Brewery beverage
- \_\_\_matic (powered by compressed air)
- Dated term for women in college
- Wineglass feature
- Police dept. members

#### DOWN

- In accordance with
- Maestro Zubin
- It's slippery when wet, typically after a shower



© 9/2/2021

- In a \_\_\_ of speaking
- It may be caught by a wave on a city street?
- Tic-tac-toe loser
- Moonshine
- En pointe, in ballet
- Evaluates
- Divides, as proceeds
- "\_\_\_ evil ..."
- "All that I am, or hope to be, I \_\_\_ my angel mother": Lincoln
- Hundred dollar bill, in older slang
- Biblical brother of Jacob
- 6 on a telephone
- Hoity-toity type
- Large Japanese dog
- Olympic skater Midori
- "Let's not and say we \_\_\_"
- Church based in SLC, Utah
- Harnessed, as oxen
- Redeeming a kidnapee
- "...\_\_\_ bad witch?"
- Hog house
- Like a used book, perhaps
- People whose "help" may actually be hurtful
- Init's on a mail truck
- 7'6" Ming of the N.B.A.
- "\_\_\_ hardly wait!"
- World Series winners
- Former French money
- Part of a zoom call that comes through the earphones
- Gov't. issued security
- Deliberately doesn't invite
- Certain wading bird
- Group of eight
- Yoga pose
- Honey maker
- It may be in a sleeve or a sling

## Community Calendar

Brought to you by Trinitas Regional Medical Center



**Anti-Racism Training** Fridays, September 3, 10, 17, 7 p.m. The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey Anti-Racism Ministry invites you to participate in 20 hours of online Anti-Racism Training streamed to your computer, tablet or mobile phone via Zoom. You do not have to be Episcopalian to participate. To register, please visit [dioceseofnj.org/anti-racism-training](http://dioceseofnj.org/anti-racism-training).

**Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek** Fridays, September 3, 10, 17, 24, 10 a.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library on Zoom for a different approach to exercise. All you'll need is a chair and sneakers to experience this gentle but effective approach to moving confidently. To register, please visit [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org).

**Bagels & Books** Monday, September 13, 10 a.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library outside the library to share what you have been reading or listening to and pick up suggestions for future reading. To register or for more information, please visit [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org).

**Evening Book Club** Monday, September 13, 7 p.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library via Zoom to discuss "Becoming Nicole: the Transformation of an American Family" by Amy Ellis Nutt. To register or for more information, please visit [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org).

**Garwood STILL Rocks** Sunday, September 19, 11 a.m. The Garwood Rocks Car Show & Street Fair returns on Center Street in downtown Garwood for live music, food trucks, vendors and more. For more information, follow [facebook.com/GarwoodRocks](https://facebook.com/GarwoodRocks) on Facebook.

**Afternoon Book Club** Tuesday, September 21, 1 p.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library via Zoom to discuss "Firefly" Lane by Kristin Hannah. To register or for more information, please visit [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org).

**Cookbook Club** Thursday, September 23, 6:30 p.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library outdoors to sample dishes and discuss the cook-

book. Participants should bring a serving utensil with their dish and a chair. To register or for more information, please visit [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org).

**Black Violin: The Impossible Tour** Friday, September 24 7:30 p.m. Kean Stage is celebrating its in-person return at Wilkins Theatre with a unique blend of classical, hip hop, jazz, R&B and reggae is often described as "classical boom." For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [keanstage.com/events](http://keanstage.com/events).

**Liberty Hall Dance Festival** Saturday, September 25, 1 p.m. Spend an afternoon outside walking along the beautiful museum grounds of Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University while enjoying professional dance performances inspired by moments in history. To purchase tickets, please visit [libertyhall.kean.edu](http://libertyhall.kean.edu) or call (908) 527-0400.

**How to Organize Your Life in One Notebook** Monday, September 27, 7 p.m. Join the Scotch Plains Public Library via Zoom when Jamie Novak, organizer and author of "Keep This Toss That," shows you how to organize your life with a single notebook. To register or for more information, please visit [scotlib.org](http://scotlib.org).

**Voctave** Sunday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m. An 11-member a cappella group will perform at Kean Stage's Enlow Recital Hall singing original arrangements of Disney and Broadway hits. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [keanstage.com/events](http://keanstage.com/events).

**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](http://keanstage.com/events).

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

As the Roaring Twenties progressed, the Black elite from all over the East Coast enjoyed Shady Rest for golf, tennis and horseback riding on its 31 acres in our town. Many assembled to listen to nationally recognized guest speakers, such as W.E.B. DuBois, who spoke at Shady Rest on Memorial Day in 1923. At the height of its fame, Shady Rest attracted the artistic elite of the contemporary Harlem Renaissance, drawing legends like Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, and Billie Holiday away from New York City to Scotch Plains where they could perform without fear of discrimination.

We recently welcomed the New Jersey Department of Education's Amistad Commission for a tour of Shady Rest. The commissioners enjoyed a presentation about the historic golf course as they consider whether to include the rich history of Shady Rest in the state's educational curriculum – a proposal I strongly advocate.

Much of the credit for keeping the history of Shady Rest from disappearing belongs to the Preserve Shady Rest Committee, particularly Ruby and Thurman Simmons and Sylvia Hicks. Their tireless dedication to building public awareness of the importance of Shady Rest has won national recognition for the course. And so, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of its opening, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to the Ruby, Thurman, Sylvia and the entire committee, on behalf of all the residents of Scotch Plains, for the work they have done and continue doing and urge residents to visit Shady Rest to learn more about this institution we are so lucky to have.

I look forward to sharing more news about Shady Rest as we continue the centennial celebration.

For the moment, however, my very best wishes to you and your family for a relaxing Labor Day and an easy transition to back to school. And, as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood football team takes on Plainfield this Thursday night (September 2) at home, I just have one thing to say: Go Raiders!

Mayor Joshua Losardo  
Scotch Plains

## Goods & Services Directory

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# Casting Announced for Premiere Stages’ Year One

UNION – Premiere Stages at Kean University will present Erik Gernand’s *Year One* September 9 through 26 in Kean University’s Bauer Boucher Theatre Center (Vaughn Eames Hall, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union). Selected as a finalist from the 2020/21 Premiere Play Festival, *Year One* will feature actors Kate Kearney-Patch, Kevin Loreque, Kaitlyn Lunardi, Kathy McCafferty and Eric Phelps. John J. Wooten, producing artistic director of Premiere Stages, directs.

In *Year One*, a populist’s rise to power exacerbates mounting political and social divisions. When Anna’s brother Max arrives unexpectedly, harboring a dangerous secret, the family matriarch is forced to choose between embracing a radical new country or saving those she loves. Although the play takes place in 1933, it explores some very topical themes and is a poignant reminder that the world must remain vigilant in confronting ignorance and bias.

Erik Gernand’s play *The Beautiful Dark* premiered at Premiere Stages to rave reviews in 2013. The production was nominated for an American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award and the play was subsequently produced in New York by the Barrow Group. Additional plays have been in production and/or development at theaters including Redtwist, American Theater Company, Chicago Dramatists, and Actors Theatre of Louisville. As a filmmaker, Erik’s award-winning short films have

screened at more than 100 film festivals around the world including SXSW, Chicago International Film Festival, and Cinequest, as well as been broadcast on IFC, PBS, and the Logo Channel. Erik is an Associate Professor of Instruction in Radio-TV-Film at Northwestern University.

“Erik’s important and poignant play is the perfect piece to welcome our audience back to Premiere” stated Mr. Wooten. “While our outdoor and virtual performances have been both successful and rewarding, there is nothing like sharing the magic of being inside a theatre.”

Mr. Wooten has been nominated as Best Director multiple times by the Newark *Star-Ledger* and has staged numerous productions that have been honored by the American Theatre Critics Association. As a playwright, Mr. Wooten’s widely published work has been produced commercially in New York, internationally and in regional theatres across America. This past January, he was awarded his second fellowship by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

The accomplished cast includes Kate Kearney-Patch, whose numerous television credits include “How to Get Away with Murder”, “Person of Interest” and “Law Abiding Citizen”; Kevin Loreque, most recently seen in “Godfather of Harlem” with Vincent D’Onofrio and on “Pose” opposite Billy Porter; Kaitlyn Lunardi, whose film and television credits include *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* and *In the Heights*; Kathy McCafferty, recently seen in the Broadway Tour of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and as *Blanche DuBois* in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Carbonell Best Actress Nomination) and Eric Phelps, who played the title character, Pip, in *Off-*

Broadway’s *Pip’s Island*.

To ensure the safety of all patrons and staff, Premiere Stages will be implementing specific safety protocols for all indoor performances. All artists and staff will be fully vaccinated. Masks will be required for audiences attending indoor performances, regardless of vaccination status. All seating will be sanitized between performances and hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the lobby. Touchless ticketing as well as, printed and digital playbills will be available for all patrons. Premiere’s safety protocols can be found on [www.premierestagesatkean.com/shows/safety-protocols](http://www.premierestagesatkean.com/shows/safety-protocols).

*Year One* runs September 9 through 26 in the Bauer Boucher Theatre Center on the Kean University main campus in Union. Performances take place Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Audience members are invited to engage more deeply with Mr. Gernand’s thought-provoking play in Premiere’s free talkbacks following the Sunday, September 12 and Sunday, September 19 3 p.m. matinees.

Tickets are \$35 standard, \$20 for senior citizens and Kean alumni and staff, and \$15 for students and patrons with disabilities. Significant discounts for groups of ten or more apply. To make reservations or to order a season brochure, please call the box office at 908-737-7469 or visit Premiere Stages online at [www.premierestagesatkean.com](http://www.premierestagesatkean.com).

Assistive listening devices and sign-interpretation are available upon request; please call (908) 737-4077 at least two weeks prior to your desired performance. For more information, please visit Premiere Stages online at [www.premierestagesatkean.com](http://www.premierestagesatkean.com).

# NJ Theatre Alliance Leads Re-Opening Campaign, ‘Opening Night, Opening Right’

STATE -- New Jersey Theatre Alliance (“The Alliance”), one of the state’s largest arts service organizations, announces its re-opening campaign, “Opening Night, Opening Right” as New Jersey theatres have opened back up after being closed to in-person performances for more than a year.

Throughout the pandemic, The Alliance and their theatre members have come together to outline guidelines to protect the health and safety of all who come through their doors, onto their stages, or work within their organizations.

All 40 members of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance as well as several of the state’s presenting venues have taken the Opening Night, Opening Right pledge to follow the most current medical advice, meeting or exceeding all local and national safety guidelines, such as: deep cleaning and disinfecting before all performances, clearly communicated mask policy, contactless transactions available, health screening before entry, flexible ticket policies for anyone feeling ill or at risk due to Covid-19 variants, and sanitation stations for all patrons and staff.

The following 25 New Jersey Theatre Alliance member theatre companies have also collectively announced that they will require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test and indoor masking at their venue: Art House Productions (Jersey City); Axelrod Performing Arts Center (Deal); Bucks County Playhouse (New Hope/Lambertville); Crossroads Theatre Company (New Brunswick); Eagle Theatre (Hammonton); East Lynne Theatre Company (Cape May); Epic Actor’s Workshop (Old Bridge); George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick); Hudson Theatre Works (Weehawken); Jersey City Theater Center (Jersey City); Luna Stage (West Orange); McCarter Theatre Center (Princeton); Mile Square Theatre (Hoboken); The New Jersey Play Lab; New Jersey Repertory Company (Long Branch); Paper Mill Playhouse (Milburn); Passage Theatre Company (Trenton); Pushcart Players

(Verona); The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey (Madison); Speranza Theatre Company (Jersey City); Women’s Theatre Company (Lake Hiawatha); Vanguard Theater Company (Montclair); and Vivid Stage (formerly Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, Summit); and American Theatre Group, which is in residence at the Cultural Arts Center at Fellowship Village Senior Living in Basking Ridge, will require proof of vaccination with no exceptions.

The following five presenting venues, which have partnered with New Jersey Theatre Alliance on their re-opening efforts have announced that they will adopt the announced policy as well: Count Basie Center for the Arts (Red Bank), Mayo Performing Arts Center (Morristown); New Brunswick Performing Arts Center (New Brunswick); South Orange Performing Arts Center (South Orange); and State Theatre New Jersey (New Brunswick).

Audience members over the age of 12 will be required to show proof that they are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 when entering these venues. Exceptions will be made for children under 12 and people with a medical or religious exemption to vaccination. These guests must show proof of a negative PCR test taken within 36 hours of the performance time or a negative antigen test taken within six hours of the performance time. All guests, regardless of age or vaccination status, will be required to wear masks while inside the theatre building.

These guidelines will go into effect immediately and will be updated as state and federal guidance develops. Before your visit, please check your theatre’s website for their specific policies and guidelines, as they may vary between venues.

“The professional theatre community in New Jersey has always been a collaborative one, and we have seen unprecedented engagement and cooperation during the Covid-19 pandemic,” said John McEwen, Executive Director of New Jersey Theatre Alliance. “The unified statement of the safety Pledge and the decision by many theatres to require proof of vaccination for audience members were made with great care, thought, and guidance from medical experts. I am pleased to see the member theatres of New Jersey Theatre Alliance working together to make their return to live performance a safe and joyful experience for all.”

According to a WolfBrown Survey conducted in July 2021, 95 percent of NJ theatregoers are now partially or fully vaccinated and continue to rise. Similarly, 95 percent of audience members pledge to cooperate with public safety standards overall.

Along with the study, the New

Jersey Theatre Alliance has enlisted the guidance and help from known expert in the field, Dr. Stuart Weiss. He has been working closely with The Alliance since early 2020, to ensure every measure taken by the member organizations is grounded in medical authority.

“Working with the New Jersey Theatre Alliance to bring performances back to New Jersey has been extremely rewarding both personally and professionally. Being a theatre lover myself, I know how crucial the arts are to the happiness and wellbeing of multitudes of people. Working with one of only a few statewide alliances in the country that has a well-organized coordinated effort across multiple venues has allowed the art community to come together to create safe performance spaces across the state. Throughout the year, theatre managers from member theatres and presenting venue partners have stayed focused on their work and together with my guidance, brought performances back to New Jersey quickly and safely”, says Dr. Weiss.

Dr. Weiss, MD, FACEP, FAAP, CBCP, an internationally-known expert in the fields of disaster and pandemic planning for large gatherings, is the founder of Intelligent Crowd Solutions, a consulting company specializing in business continuity planning, exercise development, and crisis management for special event and event production clients.

All theatres in the New Jersey Theatre Alliance are committed to safety, but specific policies vary per venue.

Visit [openingright.com](http://openingright.com) for more information on the campaign.

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## Historically Living

### Monumental Moves

By **Jennifer Jaruzelski**, Historic Preservation Commission Sponsored by **Carol Tener**, Coldwell Banker West & Town Historian



“Stanley Cottage” began as Sam Downer’s store in his backyard at Mountain Ave. and Broad St. before being moved to 617 E. Broad St. and converted to a residence. Invoices from the store were found in the walls during later renovations. The home was named by a subsequent owner for the African explorer then in the public eye; Arthur Pierson, whose father bought and moved the store in 1882, went on to develop Stanley Oval.

Most homeowners know the headache of moving households. But what about moving the house itself? Relocating buildings was once a common practice in the 19th century, when Westfield was still largely farmland. Some of our most iconic homes now sit proudly someplace other than where they were first built; in a few cases they even gave their name to the street.

It’s hard to imagine in a time of rampant teardowns, but in a more frugal era, buildings were often moved because the materials were more costly than labor; the absence of modern plumbing, wiring or even insulation no doubt simplified the effort. Open tracts and wide streets with a lack of impediments like mature trees and utility poles likewise made long, protracted moves more feasible than today.

A textbook example can be found in the French-Keeler House at 120 W. Dudley. Originally a modest plan-book house on the southwest corner of Prospect Street and Dudley Avenue, the home was purchased in the early 1880s by William Keeler, a prosperous NY businessman, who then moved it around the corner to a 3-acre plot. A pair of stout oxen harnessed to a giant winch slowly rolled the home over greased timbers to its new site; the move reportedly took all

summer. The house was then enlarged and remodelled with the latest Queen Anne detailing. Mr. Keeler sold off two-thirds of the property shortly before his death in 1912 and gave the Italianate barn to his caretaker, who in turn moved it to Trinity Place and made it his home.

House moves became less common in the early 20th century as real estate developers began to shape Westfield’s neighborhoods, with one notable exception. Arthur Rule, developer of Wychwood and an early preservationist, relocated two historic properties to Westfield as the focal points of his 1920s development: The Ball-Platt House, built in Maplewood in 1784, and the Sip Manor House, built in Jersey City around 1664, now believed to be the oldest home in New Jersey.



This iconic Queen Anne, seen in its original location at the corner of Dudley and Lawrence Avenues, was purchased in 1887 by one of Westfield’s first commuters for its proximity to the train depot. It changed hands several times before being moved in the early 1900s to 730 Lawrence Ave. by a lumber merchant who built the Mediterranean Revival home now on the lot.

### Service and Integrity

“Well known and respected for her sales and marketing expertise and commitment to superior service, Carol Tener has been annually recognized as one of the area’s top Realtors for more than 35 years. Carol’s passion for Westfield can easily be seen through her continued dedication to serving the town in various ways. Carol’s ambitious work in preserving the history and all that is wonderful about Westfield is readily evident as she is an active member of the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission and the Westfield Historical Society serving on its board.

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**Visit Westfield’s New Art Gallery, Wallitsch Art**

The gallery’s first exhibition titled “Unmasked” features original oil paintings (abstract expressionism) by artist Shirley Wallitsch.

The opening reception is September 24, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Location: 100 Elmer Street, Downton Westfield, NJ 07090.  
Website: [wallitsch-art.squarespace.com](http://wallitsch-art.squarespace.com).

The gallery is open daily by appointment.  
For further info, contact artist Shirley Wallitsch at [wallitsch@mac.com](mailto:wallitsch@mac.com).

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**Wallitsch Art**  
Art Gallery

Photo courtesy of Shirley Wallitsch  
**WELCOME TO TOWN...New Art Gallery in Westfield.**

*Mixing With Zest*

By **HILLARY SHOPE**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*

**Baked Zucchini Fries**

This recipe is a fun way to enjoy any vegetables you might have lying around! I used two beautiful zucchini from my share of

**Ingredients:**

- 2 zucchini
- 1 1/2 cup p a n k o breadcrumbs
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp sea salt (+ a little extra for salting the zucchini after you slice it)
- 2 eggs

**Directions:**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. Whisk two eggs in a small bowl and set aside.
3. Slice the zucchini down the middle creating two halves. Then, cut each of those again. Slice your four quarters into skinny ‘fries’.
4. Lay the zucchini out on a hard surface and sprinkle with salt.
5. On a small plate, mix breadcrumbs, pepper, paprika and salt.
6. Take a slice of zucchini and fully submerged it in the whisked eggs.
7. Then, place the zucchini into the breadcrumb mixture and roll or pat to coat the entire piece in batter.
8. Place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper to prevent sticking.
9. Once you’ve lined the entire baking sheet, bake in the oven for ~35 minutes, flipping the fries half way through.





Story on page 7  
of The Westfield Leader



**AUMENTA HOMER, 3 RBI; GANO 2 2B'S; MERKEL, SWALES 3 HITS; WARFIELD 3 RUNS; PATRYLO 3-RUN 3B**

# St. Joseph Topples St. George in St. Bart's Men's Playoff, 12-6

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

*For The Westfield Leader and The Times*

It was music to their ears when fourth-seeded St. Joseph belted with six runs in the top of the sixth inning to snap a 6-6 tie then held on to topple top-seeded St. George, 12-6, from the upper bracket of the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League playoffs at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 25.

With the victory, the Joe boys

advanced to the semifinal round to face second-seeded St. Sebastian, who squeaked by St. Wolfgang, 12-11. A victory over St. Sebastian would guarantee them a slot in the St. Bart's Championship Game to be held on Labor Day (September 6). In the meantime, St. George was cast into the Losers Bracket to face St. Ignatius, who ousted St. Vincent, 15-11.

St. Joseph totaled 18 hits and capitalized on one long drive that

was mishandled. Leadoff hitter Sal Gano, Jr. whacked a pair of doubles, scored once and was the recipient of the mishandled drive that he crushed into deep right field. Billy Aumenta blasted a two-run home run and walked twice, one intentionally. Dave Merkel (2 runs, RBI) and Tom Swales (2 RBI, run) each had three singles and "Music Man" Nash Warfield was in rhythm with two hit singles, while dancing across home plate three times. Another great confidence builder for the Joe boys was "Lucky" Lou Balestriere, who already has seven St. Bart's titles stuffed into

his pocket. Returning from play in the Union County Senior League playoffs, Balestriere, who was a stalwart at second base, singled, walked twice and scored once.

Walt Patrylo led the St. George 13-hit attack, going 3-for-3 with a bases-loaded triple and a run scored. Paul Bifani singled twice and scored twice. Lou Blau rapped a two-run single and added another single. Carlos da Costa singled twice and had an RBI. Tom Ulichny singled and walked once and scored twice.

St. Joseph gave a big "Shout" with four runs on five hits in the top of the first inning. Gano looped a double into shallow right field and Aumenta launched his

two-run homer down the right field line. Bryan Stitt (2-for-4) singled to center and Warfield plopped a single over first. Balestriere walked, Merkel slapped a top-spinner for an RBI single into left and Swales grounded out to second as Warfield danced home.

Bifani, Ulichny and Patrylo tapped singles to load the bases with no outs in the George first. After a popup to Balestriere, da Costa hooked an RBI single into left and Blau followed with a two-run single down the leftfield line.

A nice catch by second baseman Mike D'Amato and another putout at first initiated by leftfielder Gus Alvarez kept St. Joe silent in the

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## St. Joseph Topples St. George in St. Bart's Men's Playoff, 12-6

second. St. George also failed to score in the inning. Frank Vecchione smashed a liner off pitcher Frank Chupko but Gano, at short, alertly scooped the ball and fired to first for the out. Mike Kozlowski singled to left and Shawn Yaney walked but a line out to Aumenta, who made a number of acrobatic catches, in left and a leaping grab by Gano ended the inning.

A couple of Joe boys did the "Stroll" across home plate in the fourth. Warfield reached on a force out, Merkel and Swales both tapped "Spinners" for short singles to load the

bases then Dave Arnold poked an RBI single to center and

Chris Paterek (2-for-3) punched an RBI single to right.

Shortstop Patrylo was involved in all three putouts in the fifth then the Georgie boys knotted the score in the bottom of the inning. Jim Sosinski singled over third base, Bifani singled to left, Ulichny walked and Patrylo pounded a three-run triple to center and attempted to stretch it to a Grand Slam. "It's a Shame" that he was gunned down at the plate.

Tied 6-6 in the sixth, Warfield got the beat going again with a bouncing single past short. Balestriere walked and Merkel

pushed a single over third. Swales "Wiggle Wobbled" a short RBI single, Paterek got his second RBI with a single over first and Steve Pirella got an RBI free pass. Chupko brought home Swales with a groundout to third. Gano's long fly to right was dropped and Aumenta was intentionally allowed to "Walk on By". Chris Millar beat out a short RBI single then finally St. George stopped the bleeding when Ulichny chased down Stitt's fly

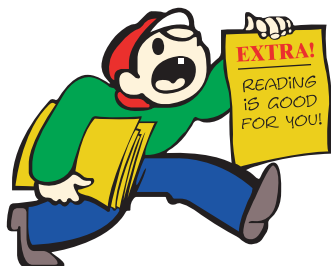
in right-center.

St. Joseph was determined to "Hold On" to their lead. Although da Costa and Blau singled in the sixth, St. George failed to score thanks to Chupko's quick-handed play on the mound. Balestriere and Swales both singled but St. Joe failed to score in the seventh.

Chupko got Kozlowski to groundout to second and Yaney to groundout to short in the seventh. He then walked Russ Voorhees but Aumenta hauled in Sosinski's liner for the final out.

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|------------|-----|-----|---|----|
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## St. Joseph Topples St. George in St. Bart's Men's Playoff, 12-6







## St. Joseph Topples St. George in St. Bart's Men's Playoff, 12-6





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## Blue Devils Test Their Readiness in Long Branch Scrimmage







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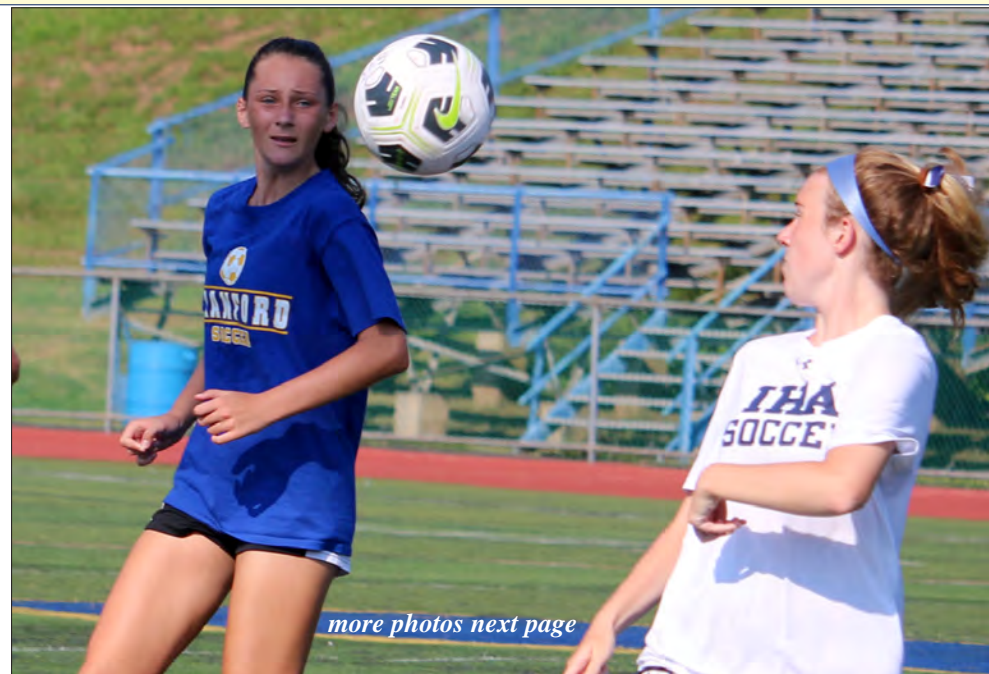




## Cougars Aim to 'Strike' Again for Great Girls Soccer Season







## Cougars Aim to 'Strike' Again for Great Girls Soccer Season





*Story on page 9 of The Westfield Leader*



## Raider Gridders Open Early; Look for a Successful Season







## Raider Gridders Open Early; Look for a Successful Season





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## Raider Gridders Open Early; Look for a Successful Season







## Raider Gridders Open Early; Look for a Successful Season







*Story on page 7  
of The Westfield Leader*



*more photos next page*

## Soccer Blue Devil Boys Have High Expectations This Season







## Soccer Blue Devil Boys Have High Expectations This Season

