

## Westfield Eyes Infrastructure; Increases Fines for Bias Crimes

By JESSE WINTER  
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — In the wake of the devastating flooding damage Hurricane Ida wreaked on Union County and storm-water infrastructures throughout the county, Westfield is wasting no time formulating plans to prepare the town for the next major weather event.

Storms like Ida, which struck New Jersey on September 1, represent a major challenge for New Jersey's municipalities. Catastrophic storms like Ida, Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy are no longer once-in-a-lifetime weather events, but are the new reality for New Jerseyans. During the Westfield Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, Mayor Shelley Brindle announced that the town will form the Westfield Infrastructure Resiliency Committee (WIRC).

The new committee "will be tasked with assessing our current town-wide storm-water infrastructure and its capacity to handle these severe weather events in the future," according to the mayor's opening remarks at the council meeting. "Storm-water systems were simply overrun, not only in Westfield but around the state, with many towns suffering catastrophic losses. While this storm is far beyond what the average municipal drainage system is expected to handle, we have to act with urgency

to fortify our infrastructure to manage the severity of storms that are happening more frequently."

Mayor Brindle said the WIRC would examine "all contributing factors," such as engineering, the town's current zoning bylaws and construction practices and future town-wide development.

The mayor announced the WIRC would be co-chaired by Councilwoman and Finance Committee Chair Linda Habgood and Councilman and Public Works Committee Chair David Contract. Also included on the committee will be Town Administrator Jim Gildea, Director of Public Works Greg O'Neil, Town Planner Don Sammet, Town Engineer Dave Battaglia and Construction Official Frank Vuoso.

In total, according to the mayor's address to the public on Tuesday, the region encompassing Westfield received 7.3 inches of rainfall, or 164 percent of an entire average month, in just 24 hours. More than four inches of rain fell in just two hours, between 7 and 9 p.m.

Mayor Brindle was not alone during Tuesday's meeting in reacting to the damage caused by Ida. Janet Onishi of Knollwood Terrace, a neighborhood bordering Robinson Creek, addressed the governing body and fellow Westfielders during the public portion of the meeting.

"The evening of Wednesday, September the 1st, was a terrifying experience for many in our town and our local area," said Ms. Onishi. "I hope you can set up a dialogue with residents most affected throughout town, because everybody is so traumatized," she said. "We want information; please keep in contact with us."

The mayor took time to react to public comment, much of which was related to her opening statements and the announcement of the WIRC.

"I think one thing we achieved a lot of consensus on tonight is climate change is real," said Mayor Brindle. "I can only assure you, when we talk about infrastructure and the mission of this work group that we are putting together, it is all about talking to residents," she explained. "It's gone on far too long and now it's got to the point where it's urgent."

In separate business, the town council took swift action in unanimously introducing an ordinance on first reading meant to penalize and curtail residents from renting out outdoor amenities such as pools after a resident on Carleton Road in recent weeks rented out their pool, causing significant disturbances to neighbors. The homeowner in question used the Swimply app, explained neighbors on Tuesday, allowing complete strangers to rent their pool by the hour.

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Westfield Crossing Rendering Courtesy of Elite Properties

## Westfield Planning Board OKs South Avenue Site Plan Application

By JESSE WINTER  
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The South Side Redevelopment Plan, known as Westfield Crossing, moved one step closer to commencing construction after the Westfield Planning Board approved an application September 8 for a site plan for South Avenue East, Block 3307, Lots 1 and 2.

The site plan, entitled "Westfield Crossing North," according to renderings submitted by the architect for real estate development firm Elite Properties of Warren, is for a mixed-use, residential and commercial property consisting of 156 residential units, with

17,000 square feet of commercial space.

All attending planning board members, including Chairman Michael Ash, Michael La Place, Anastasia Harrison, Matthew Ceberio, Ross Goldstein, Town Council Liaison Linda Habgood, Alexandra Carreras and Ann Freedman, voted yes. Mayor Shelley Brindle and Fire Chief Anthony Tiller were not in attendance and did not cast a vote.

The site plan approved during the September 8 meeting was for the "subzone" of the project on the north side of South Avenue. This includes 156 residential units and the 17,000 square feet of retail space. Additionally, 26 out of the 32 affordable-housing

units within Westfield Crossing will be situated in the north subzone, as indicated by the site plan.

The second "subzone," on the south side of South Avenue, will include an additional 37 residences and no retail space.

"The second phase consists of the properties on the southern side of the redevelopment area (those on the south side of South Avenue). They still need to apply for approval from the planning board for that second phase," explained Town Planner Donald Sammet, speaking to *The Westfield Leader* on September 10.

Pending site-plan approval for the second subzone at a future date, Westfield Crossing will include a total of 193 residential units, 32 of them affordable housing, as stated by the redevelopment plan.

Moreover, according to the testimony given on September 8 on behalf of Elite Properties, affordable-housing units will be interspersed throughout the residential floors and not segregated in any way throughout the site's buildings.

As part of the planning board's site-plan approval for the north subzone, a variance was granted to the applicant for both a freestanding monument sign and wall-mounted sign. Westfield's Land Use Ordinance permits a free-standing sign as an alternative to a wall-mounted sign. The variance relief will allow Westfield Crossing to have both.

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## Rec. Hears Concerns About Edison Turf Project

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
For The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Many neighbors and Westfield residents came to the recreation commission's monthly meeting, held Monday evening, to voice their concerns over the new turf field project at Edison Intermediate School.

Timothy Eaton, a resident of Knollwood Terrace for the last 34 years, said that he was concerned over increased traffic and increased lighting that would come from the fields. Mr. Eaton added that he had concerns about chemical run-off from the turf fields when it rained, and said he felt that natural grass was safer.

During his time at the podium, Mr. Eaton also stated that he felt the project would have a direct negative impact on Knollwood Terrace in that there would be increased parking on Knollwood Terrace itself and potentially turn his block into a "parking lot."

Other residents had similar concerns. As previously reported in *The Westfield Leader*, residents and neighbors attended a series of lengthy informational public discussions held throughout the summer. The recreation commission said that these sessions helped with the proposed plans. It was noted that the plans have already been "scaled back" from the original proposal in July.

It was further announced that the last informational session is scheduled for Monday, September 20, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at Edison School.

In other business, the recreation commission announced that on Sunday, September 26, there will be a "Tour de Westfield" biking event. This three- to four-mile bike parade will be led by local police through the town and will be followed by a "Bike Safety Rodeo" for children.

It was noted that the event is sponsored by the Westfield Police Department, the Green Team, the Westfield Recreation Department, the town council and Jay's Cycle Center of Westfield.



Ruth E. Maloney for The Westfield Leader

**HONORING CHARLES...**In the 1960s, Charles R. Morrison, Sr. founded the Westfield Civic Improvement Association to advocate for the creation of the area that became the Westfield Memorial Park and Park Complex. Mr. Morrison's family was on hand for the plaque and bench dedication on Tuesday, including his widow, Shirley Morrison, who still lives adjacent to the park. The dedication came after Mr. Morrison's grandson, Mark Bishop, brought the story to Mayor Shelley Brindle's attention last year. Mr. Bishop shared with the crowd a telegram sent to his grandfather by a Westfield mayor in the 1960s telling him to "stop causing trouble." At the time, the town was considering turning the site into a town yard and dump, according to *The Westfield Leader* archives from 1962.

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**SYMBOL OF PEACE...**The Reverend Alison Philip, senior pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Westfield, holds a red origami crane, explaining it is a symbol of peace. A Westfield firefighter then placed the origami crane next to the wreath after the Memorial Ceremony on September 11.

Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

Ms. Avallone's reports come as Covid-19 and its Delta variant continue to be a major health concern in Union County. In addition to Westfield, the Westfield Regional Health Department serves the communities of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountinside, Chatham Borough, New Providence, Roselle Park and Summit. Right now, the area falling under the purview of the health department, "the central east region," is one of two regions in New Jersey with "high" Covid-19 "activity," explained Ms. Avallone. The other area in question is the southeastern region, with the rest of the state experiencing "moderate activity."

Concerning the use of pop-up clinics, Ms. Avallone does not anticipate any shortage of vaccines going forward into the fall months. The Westfield Regional Health Department was in Chatham and Westfield this week and plans on hosting pop-up clinics at Roselle Park High School today, September 16, and at the New Providence Town Hall on Thursday, September 23.

With students back in the classroom, and masking weighing heavily on the minds of parents in New Jersey and much of the country, Monday's meeting saw frustration directed at board of health officials during the public portion of the meeting.

Much of the public frustration from parents comes in the wake of Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Order 251, mandating "masking in the indoor premises of all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary school buildings, with limited exceptions," as stated on the Office of the Governor's website. The order went into effect on August 9.

While the Westfield Regional Health Department does not have the authority to counteract the top-down policy of such a mandate, and can only advise local school boards, as was explained by Ms. Avallone during Monday's meeting, that did not stop residents and parents from airing their indignation at board members.

"I'm a Westfield mom who would like to put her son back in school," said Christine Binder, addressing the Westfield Board of Health during public comment. "I'm not comfortable with him being in a mask; he's not comfortable with it."

Ms. Binder explained that her son has a medical exemption for a mask, and she has decided to home school him. "Are we wasting our time coming here?" she asked. "I can't have my son sitting with a mask on his face for six to seven hours a day... We come here, we spend a lot of time trying to speak to you guys with the hopes you really care what we have to say as constituents," said Ms. Binder. "I don't know what to do, I don't know where to go. I'm home schooling my son."

In separate board business, the restaurant 1958 Cuban Cuisine of South Avenue West, Westfield came before the board on Monday after repeated violations spanning the last few months.

On hand to outline a plethora of violations against the restaurant was Principal Health Inspector Helen Mendez, who described the restaurant as "lacking daily oversight."

Health violations she witnessed while visiting the restaurant twice in June and once in July and August were characterized as a "pattern of non-compliance." These violations included workers not washing their hands, issues with the cooling of food, the dishwasher not sanitizing properly and "out of temperature food holding," which,

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# Pools, Kitchen Renovation Gain Zoning Approval

**By JESSE WINTER**  
*For The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Adjustment held its monthly meeting Monday inside the council chambers at the Westfield Municipal Building. For the second month in a row, the board was only able to field five members to hear applications for variance relief from town residents.

Board Chair Chris Masciale, Vice-Chair Frank Fusaro and members Michael Cohen, Matt Sontz and Samuel Reisen were in attendance and voted on the night’s applications.

The evening saw multiple residents going homesatisfied with variance relief for outdoor improvements, especially swimming pools, reflecting a post-pandemic trend of residents improving outdoor recreational spaces.

Albert and Karen Rimondi of 533 Clark Street were granted approval to construct an in-ground pool, a patio and fencing with a landscaped buffer. All attending board members voted in the affirmative. The Rimondis received relief for the side-yard setback for their proposed pool. The town’s Land Use Ordinance requires 15 feet, with the Rimondis granted the proposed 11.4-foot setback variance.

The hardship communicated by the homeowners and their hired engineer and land surveyor was there was no other place to put the pool due to a storm sewer easement on their property. The Rimondis were represented by James Watson of EKA Associates of Scotch Plains. They also testified in front of the board on their own behalf.

The application also passed with the condition that the easterly property line side-yard setback be maintained at five feet, ultimately reducing the proposed eight-foot patio to 6.4 feet — which eliminated the need for the variance.

The property will include a six-foot fence surrounding the property, in conformity with the town’s Land Use Ordinance.

In more pool-related applications, Ben and Dina Ebel of 465 Channing Avenue were granted approval, by a margin of 3 to 2, to enclose a swimming pool with open fencing and natural shrubbery screening. The municipal Land Use Ordinance calls for six-foot solid fencing. Two of the applicants’ neighbors testified that they were in support of the proposed four-foot fence utilizing natural vegetation as a screening device.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Masciale articulated his approach to applications involving such screening.

“These fences are always challenging; we have the ordinance in place for safety and privacy,” said Mr. Masciale, after the applicant’s testimony. “All these cases, when they come in front of the board, we look at them individually and judge it on its own merits,” he said.

The 3-to-2 vote saw Mr. Masciale, Mr. Cohen and Mr. Reisen voting yes. Mr. Fusaro and Mr. Sontz voted no.

Mr. Sontz cited his previous votes on related variances regarding relief from six-foot fencing and did not see a reason to deviate from the ordinance.

Mr. Cohen’s yes vote found the screening to be satisfactory. He also commended the applicants for making a significant effort, expending “more additional resources than necessary” to assuage their neighbors’ privacy concerns.

The only D-variance application heard by the board was for 116 Barchester Way, the property of Harry Lampart.

Mr. Lampart was granted variance relief to enlarge and renovate his kitchen and construct a rear-yard deck with a roof. The variance was granted through a unanimous vote, with the condition that the deck remain open on three sides. According to Mr. Masciale, prior to casting his yes vote, his justification for allowing Floor Area Ratio relief from the town’s Land Use Ordinance was due to the “slope” and “grading” of Mr. Lampart’s property.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader  
**A SONG FOR OUR SORROWS...Westfield High School Chorale sings during the Westfield 9/11 Memorial Ceremony in downtown Westfield this past Saturday.**

# Site Plan

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Critically, the bulk requirements outlined in the earlier redevelopment stages were adhered to, Mr. Ash maintained during closing board comments prior to the vote. This led to the only requested variance being related to signage.

Overall, the site plan presented on September 8 for the Westfield Crossing North site plan includes two, four-story buildings, East and West. The first floor, in both buildings, will feature 8,500 square feet of retail space. Additionally, both buildings will include 139 garage parking spots, according to the site plan submitted by Elite Properties. In total, the gross building area for Westfield Crossing North will be 287,667 square feet. The remaining three floors will be for residential units.

The total height of the structure, for both buildings, to the top of the copper seamed roof, measures 64 feet and 10 inches, according to the site plan.

Both buildings will include a court yard and various amenities, including a gym located in the western building and a pool in the eastern building. The site also will feature a cul-de-sac meant to accommodate pickups and drop-offs for services such as Uber, Amazon and Grubhub, according to the testimony of professionals representing Elite Properties during the meeting.

A traffic-impact study presented to the planning board last week, on behalf of Elite Properties and conducted by Stonefield Engineering and Design, LLC, concluded “that the proposed development would not have a significant impact on the traffic operations of the adjacent roadway network. The site driveways and on-site layout have been designed to provide for effective access to and from the subject property.”

According to the Stonefield traffic study, “parking memorandum,” the entire site, north and south, would include 320 parking spots. Of these, 277 parking spots will be in the north zone, with the remaining 43 situated in the south zone.

During the conducted traffic study, Matthew Seckler, an engineer with Stonefield, said the peak traffic times for the South Avenue Redevelopment area were Monday through Friday, 8 to 9 a.m. and 4:45 to 5:45 p.m.; and Saturday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

As part of the board’s acceptance of the site plan, stipulations were attached to the application. This included ensuring the trees used on site would not adversely affect visual elements of the retail space.

Additionally, street lamps on site must be consistent with neighboring street lamps on Westfield’s South Avenue.

In another important aspect of the meeting, when prompted by Mr. La Place, the planning board engineer said “there was no concern,” regarding the storm-water plan and drainage connected to Westfield Crossing North.

The decision rendered by the planning board on September 8 comes in the wake of a PILOT agreement passed by the Westfield Town Council in June authorizing a financial agreement, granting long-term tax-exemption status for Elite Properties for construction of the sites outlined in the South Side Redevelopment Plan.

The PILOT agreement would require Elite Properties to pay the town 10 percent of its total revenues for the first six years, with incremental percentage increases beyond that. Year seven will see an 11-percent payout; year 13, a 12-percent payout, and year 21, a 13-percent payout to the town. As per New Jersey law, the town retains 95 percent of the revenue and 5 percent goes to Union County each year. Under state law, PILOT revenue does not have to be shared with the board of education.

The PILOT agreement passed in June and the included 32 units of affordable housing goes towards fulfilling part of a court-mandated obligation to provide affordable-housing opportunities within the municipality.

Mr. Ash offered his take on the application prior to the passage of Westfield Crossing North’s site plan.

“I think this project was originally presented to the town as an obligation to satisfy an affordable-housing requirement,” he said. “And I think we’ve really taken that obligation, through the redevelopment process, through this administration’s efforts and certainly through Don Sammet’s individual effort, and turned that obligation into a very attractive gateway to the south side of our town.”

# Supt. Addresses Covid Guideline Questions

**By JULIA BONAVITACOLA**  
*For The Westfield Leader*

CRANFORD — Superintendent Scott Rubin, Ed.D., fielded questions from parents about measures being taken to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines in Cranford schools during Monday night’s board of education meeting. The questions came just days after the start of school in the township.

Superintendent Rubin started the meeting with his superintendent’s report. He praised the custodians and maintenance staff who allowed the schools to open back up for in-person learning, both in the midst of the pandemic as well as the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. “We saw those pictures and we thought, ‘Oh my gosh, they’re never going to be able to open up some of those schools.’ Tremendous, tremendous kudos to the custodians and maintenance staff...They just did incredible work to make sure the schools were ready for school to start,” he said.

Superintendent Rubin said that he had visited all of the schools and remarked that it was “heartwarming” to see all of the students and teachers back in the hallways. He credited the partnerships between teachers, staff and parents for getting the school year off to a great start. The superintendent said that there are still unknown variables that they will have to take note of throughout the year and that flexibility will be key in keeping students attending classes in person.

Public comment featured many residents asking questions of the board and Superintendent Rubin in particular about the way that the schools were operating.

One resident of Cranford asked about available budget money for installing air ventilation systems that would help filter the air, which, the resident said, is “a heck of a lot more effective than [masks].”

Robert Carfagno, business administrator and board secretary, said that the grant money that had been received was not used for any air ventilation. He said that while another round of grant money would be coming and would be “earmarked” for looking into better ventilation, he could not guarantee that all of the funds would be used for such a purpose. He did say that repairs and minor improvements for air flow have been performed, especially in the high school, over the summer.

The resident also asked about the excessive-heat policy for the schools. Schools are allowed to go mask optional if the day’s temperatures fall into the category of “excessive heat” — 80 degrees Fahrenheit in Cranford. “My understanding is that an 11 a.m. switch to mask optional for the day based on that 80-degree marker and then the predicted temperature, humidity, heat index, what have you...When I looked at that forecast yesterday...it could be 80 degrees by 9 o’clock...I would like an explanation for why 11 o’clock was the marker and why that mark wasn’t adjusted considering the prediction,” said the resident.

Superintendent Rubin explained that the executive order did not define “extreme heat” when it carved out that exception. “The only guidance that we’ve ever seen from the state is that, what you’re talking about in May that actually had to do with child care or camps. And they talked about actually not 80, but exceeding 80 degrees,” he said. The township health officer said that temperature was a part of the puzzle but that relative humidity, heat index and related statistics also had to be taken into consideration. “We’re trying to apply (the rules) in good faith and to try and figure out when to make that exception,” the superintendent said.

Superintendent Rubin said that he made the call for extreme weather with the township health officer by looking at the numbers. He said that Cranford uses WeatherWorks, based in New Jersey, to get weather-related numbers. He said that it is an imperfect science and that the township is trying its best using the data that it has.

Another resident asked what guidelines the superintendent is following to determine how recess is being run. Recess currently is held in cohorts to reduce the amount of cross transmission from class to class. Superintendent Rubin said, “We have been working with our township health office, New Jersey Road Forward, CDC guidelines, and NJ DOE...The reasoning behind cohorting during recess is we’re trying to limit the amount of students who can possibly be identified as a close contact and we want to make sure that kids are staying in school.” With Covid-19 guidelines, those who are identified as close contacts to someone with a positive case also will have to quarantine for 14 days.

Superintendent Rubin additionally addressed concern over students eating lunches across from empty folding chairs by saying that the board and faculty were still working everything out and would look into other options for eating lunch.

The next board of education meeting will be in two weeks, on Monday, September 27.

# Infrastructure

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“I’m one of the residents affected by the Swimply app and the pool,” said Lauren Kolaya of Carleton Road, addressing the mayor and council. “We’re disappointed something like this happened in such a nice, quiet neighborhood.” Ms. Kolaya went on to commend the mayor and council for their help.

Another neighbor, Lisa Friedman of Carleton Road, described the music from the house in question on Carleton Road as “ear-splitting” and described the experience of enduring the disturbances caused by the pool being rented as “torture.” Ms. Friedman also described people coming in and out of the pool in question as severely intoxicated.

“I wish it on no one, what we’ve endured,” said Ms. Friedman, who said neighbors were left with no choice but to contact the police and reach out to the governing body after the homeowner was not receptive to the pleas of neighbors.

Voting in favor were Mayor Brindle and the entire council, including James Boyes, Ms. Habgood, Michael Dardia, Mark Parmelee, Mr. Contract, Mark LoGrippo, Scott Katz and Dawn Mackey.

“We’re so glad we could address this,” said Mayor Brindle. “I don’t think ever, in a gazillion years, would we have contemplated people renting out their pools. Such is the world we live in, in the shared economy.”

In more news, the governing body took a significant step in combating anti-Semitism ahead of Yom Kippur by passing a resolution and introducing an ordinance meant to combat anti-Semitism.

While the resolution acknowledges “the growing problem of anti-Semitism in America,” the ordinance would amend the town’s code and increase the fines for bias crimes from \$200 to \$2,000.

Passage of the resolution and ordinance was unanimous.

“I think it’s important to all of us that this particular ordinance has been amended to increase the potential fine from \$200 to \$2,000,” said Councilman Dardia. “It speaks to the letter I submitted to the editor last week regarding the swastika that was etched into the playground at Mindowaskin. We certainly need to address intolerance that takes place in town and I think this is a step forward.”

In two pieces of town business, the governing body passed two special ordinances on final reading authorizing land sales to residents. The governing body was unanimous in passing both ordinances.

Special Ordinance No. 2222 authorizes the sale of undeveloped vacant property formerly known as Block 4001, Lot 93, 121 Myrtle Avenue, to Christian Olguin and Marie Zito for a price of \$20,000, according to the ordinance. The sale, authorized by the ordinance, comes after the married couple petitioned the town. Mr. Olguin and Ms. Zito are contiguous property owners. The sold property measures 12,500 square feet and contains what was a town-owned storm drain swale running the length of the property, according to the ordinance.

Special Ordinance No. 2223 authorizes the sale of undeveloped vacant property formerly known as Block 2608, Lot 26.01, 650 Hort Street to Robert and Lisa Braddock for a price of \$50,000. The Braddocks are contiguous property owners, according to the ordinance. The purchased property measures 8,570 square feet.


Westfield repealed in its entirety Section 8.06 (G) of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance. The repeal, which was authorized through an ordinance passed on second reading, unanimously, by the governing body, comes after a section of the ordinance was invalidated by former Superior Court Judge Karen Cassidy back in May.

The ruling came after Stuart and Charlene Schnitzer filed a lawsuit against the Town of Westfield and the planning board, alleging their proposed subdivision was conforming to the town’s zoning requirements and did not require a variance.

The next town council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, with the regular meeting beginning at 8 p.m.


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# House App. Hearing Halted Due to Unclear Status of Street

By FRED T. ROSSI  
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

SCOTCH PLAINS — A zoning board hearing on an application to build a new house ended abruptly last week after the legal status of the street where the dwelling was to be built was called into question.

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

The two-family home will include side-by-side driveways separated by a low stone border and will be accessed by front doors within covered porches, according to engineer Thomas Quinn. Mr. Quinn spent the bulk of his 75 minutes of testimony explaining the storm-water management plan for the property and answering questions from board members before Board Attorney Vincent Loughlin inquired about the status of the street itself and whether it was recognized by the township. Several board mem-

bers noted that they had entered Gables Street into their smartphone in order to visit the site and that it had not appeared on any maps.

Mr. Angeleri’s attorney, Richard Cohen, said he would need time to research the street’s status, and Mr. Loughlin surmised that the township council may have to weigh in on the street’s status. It was agreed to end the hearing in order to ascertain the actual status of the street before proceeding further.

In other business, the zoning board will hold a special meeting next Thursday, September 23, to continue its hearing on an application to build an assisted-living facility on Raritan Road. Capital Seniors Housing Development LLC is proposing to build a three-story, 86-unit assisted-living facility at 1814, 1820 and 1830 Raritan Road, which is situated across from its intersection with Black Birch Road and east of the county vocational-technical school campus.

At previous hearings, neighborhood homeowners spoke about traffic congestion on Raritan Road and their concerns that the proposed facility will worsen those conditions.

# Planning Board Approves Grand Street Subdivision

By FRED T. ROSSI  
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

SCOTCH PLAINS — The planning board on Monday gave its unanimous approval to an application to subdivide an oversized lot into three lots so that new single-family houses can be built on each of them.

Woodlawn Partners LLC will split the lot at 2005 Grand Street, where a one-and-a-half-story house and masonry garage currently sit, into three nearly equal-sized parcels. Planner James Watson told the board at the 45-minute hearing that the newly-configured lot at the northwest corner of Grand Street and Montague Avenue will be split into lots measuring 5,013 square feet, 5,409 square feet and 5,400 square feet — all larger than the 5,000-square-foot minimum required in that zone.

Two of the new lots will face Montague Avenue and the third will face Grand Street. Mr. Watson said that single-family houses of 1,500 square feet to 1,620 square feet will be able to fit on the lots without the need for any setback variances.

There was a brief discussion about

storm-water drainage from the new lots, but Mr. Watson noted that the property is “pretty flat” and not located in a flood zone. He said the plan is for all three houses to be built at the same time after the existing dwelling is razed.

Earlier in its meeting, the board discussed the pros and cons of in-person meetings versus the virtual sessions that have been held since early last year due to the pandemic. State regulations continue to mandate virtual meetings for land-use boards, and it is not known if those rules will be altered in the coming months. Some board members said they favored in-person meetings for applications that are especially complicated and have intense interest from the public. But it also was noted that some interested residents may still be uncomfortable with attending an in-person hearing in a crowded room.

Mayor Joshua Losardo suggested that he, Board Chairman Joseph Doyle, Vice-Chairman Jeffrey Strauss and Township Manager Al Mirabella meet to discuss ideas for how board meetings could be structured.

# Serious Accidents Occur in Scotch Plains

SCOTCH PLAINS — Police officers responded to the 300 block of Henry Street on a report of an injured adult male. Upon arrival, they found a 74-year-old male, identified as Ismael Oliva of Plainfield, lying in the roadway with a severe head wound.

Residents in the area had already started providing life-saving efforts. An ambulance and paramedics transported the victim to Overlook Medical Center in Summit, where he was later pronounced dead.

A preliminary investigation concluded that the victim, who was employed by A&S Sanitation out of Fanwood, was riding on the rear platform of a 1997 International garbage truck and fell off the back

after the truck hit a speed bump in the roadway.

This incident is still under investigation by the Union County Crash Team as well as the Scotch Plains Police Department.

In a separate incident, officers responded to Westfield Avenue on a report of a child struck by a motor vehicle. Upon arrival they found a 15 year old male in the roadway suffering from injuries to his head, legs and arms.

An ambulance was dispatched and transported him to the Scotch Plains Fanwood High School where a medevac helicopter landed. The child was then flown to University Hospital in Newark.

The driver involved in the accident was operating a 2019 Honda and was not injured.

This incident is still under investigation by the traffic bureau.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS  
COUNTY OF UNION

**TAKE NOTICE** The Township of Scotch Plains will expose for sale at Public Auction, in accordance with Title 39:10A-1, at the times and locations specified below, the following motor vehicles which came into the possession of the Scotch Plains Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

All the vehicles on the following lists are offered in strictly “as is” condition, with no representation as to condition or fitness for any particular purpose. Minimum bid for each vehicle will be all towing and storage fees due to the towing agency.

Purchase must be made by cash or certified check. A 10% deposit must be given at time of auction. Balance must be paid by 4:00 p.m. the same day.

The public auction shall be held on Friday, 24 September 2021 in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey pertaining thereto.

MAKE	YEAR	VIN NO.	MINIMUM BID
Honda	1997	JHLRD 1853V C0297 59	\$1,000.00

Bozena Lacina  
Township Clerk  
Fee: \$38.76

1 T - 09/16/21, The Times

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Email - owen.brand@santander.us  
NMLS # 222999

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## WESTFIELD

Sunday, September 5, a resident of the 500 block of Hillcrest Avenue reported that her motor vehicle was burglarized and found to have approximately \$8 in coins stolen from the interior. The vehicle was parked in the driveway of the residence. A motion sensor reported motion in the area of the vehicle at 2:24 a.m. on the morning of September 5.

Wednesday, September 8, a resident of the 900 block of Willow Grove Road reported being a victim of an attempted motor vehicle burglary by unknown suspects; entry was not made into the vehicle(s).

Wednesday, September 8, a victim on the 100 block of Cacciola Place reported an attempted fraud against them in which funds were deposited and withdrawn from their bank account. At this time, the victim has not suffered a monetary loss. However, this activity by the suspect(s) was consistent with similar fraud incidents in which victims had lost substantial funds.

Wednesday, September 8, an employee of a residence on the 100 block of Barchester Way reported a suspicious incident that occurred. The witness stated that between 9:30 p.m. and 9:35 p.m., she observed two individuals running out of the driveway of the residence in the area. She went on to state that the two suspicious individuals ran to a white-colored SUV that was waiting in the area and fled the area. The one suspicious individual was described as wearing a gray-colored, hoodie-style sweatshirt with the hood up and the other was described as wearing a black-colored, hoodie-style sweatshirt with the hood up. Two of the motor vehicles in question were, in fact, locked, while the third vehicle was observed to be unlocked. None of the vehicles appeared to have been tampered with at that time.

Thursday, September 9, a juvenile male was placed under arrest on the strength of an outstanding ATS warrant out of Newark Municipal Court, in the amount of \$200, pursuant to an investigation on the 400 block of East Broad Street. The juvenile male was processed and released on his own

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recognizance.

Thursday, September 9, a resident of Kimball Circle reported a suspicious incident with a suspicious person as well as a suspicious motor vehicle. The resident stated that they observed the suspicious person on their front lawn and it seemed that the person was looking into the resident’s parked vehicles in their driveway. The resident yelled towards the person, who then ran to the roadway. Once there, the person entered a vehicle and fled the area. As per the resident, no items were taken from the vehicle, as the vehicle was locked.

Thursday, September 9, a suspicious incident occurred in the area of the 100 block of Barchester Way. Further investigation revealed that the suspicious incident was actually a motor vehicle burglary. The suspect(s) entered the victim’s vehicle, which was parked and unlocked. At this time, no items were reported to have been taken from the vehicle. One suspect was described as wearing a gray-colored sweatshirt and the other suspect was described as wearing a black-colored sweatshirt. The suspect vehicle, being driven by another person, was waiting in the area and later fled the scene with the other two suspects.

Friday, September 10, the owner of a stolen motor vehicle reported that someone notified him that his vehicle was seen in the area of Golf Edge. The vehicle in question, a 2019 black-colored Mercedes-Benz, was reported to have been in that location for a period of 10 minutes. The stolen vehicle appeared to be traveling down various streets throughout the town. Due to the excessive rate of speed of the vehicle, officers were unable to obtain any further information.

Friday, September 10, a resident of Westfield reported the theft of a bicycle in the area of West North Avenue and Elm Street. The resident stated that

between the hours of 3:55 p.m. and 5:33 p.m., her child’s dark-green-colored Trek Marlin 7 Mountain bicycle with red, white and blue pipe cleaners wrapped around the front and rear spokes was parked and secured in that area. She also stated that the bicycle had a damaged rear brake cable as well. Upon his return, the bicycle as well as the lock were no longer in that location. The bicycle is valued at approximately \$900 and the lock was valued at \$12.99.

Friday, September 10, officers were dispatched to the area of the south-side train station on a report of a passenger refusing to pay a fare. Pursuant to an on-scene investigation, Jennifer Moyd, 36, of Plainfield was placed under arrest on the strength of one outstanding ATS warrant and one outstanding ACS warrant. Moyd later was released on her own recognizance from both jurisdictions.

Saturday, September 11, Roderic Carson, 55, of Plainfield was placed under arrest and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI), pursuant to an investigation in the area of the 500 block of Summit Avenue. Carson was transported to the Westfield Police Department, where he was processed and released to a responsible, sober adult.

Saturday, September 11, a resident of Harrow Road reported that an unknown suspect(s) contacted the United States Postal Service claiming to be the resident. The suspect then changed all mail being delivered to the resident to another address in New York. The resident stated that they have suffered no monetary loss.

Saturday, September 11, during the nighttime hours of September 11, two motor vehicles were burglarized, then stolen out of a resident’s driveway on the 600 block of Prospect Street. The incident is believed to have occurred between 8 and 10:30 p.m. Both vehicles were recovered on the streets of

# FEMA Designates Union County as Major Disaster Area in Wake of Hurricane Ida

COUNTY – The Union County Board of County Commissioners notifies all residents that President Joseph Biden and FEMA have designated Union County as a major disaster area following the destruction caused by Hurricane Ida from September 1 to 3.

Earlier this week, when an initial declaration for the State of New Jersey was approved and released by the federal government, Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella, on behalf of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, called upon President Biden and FEMA to include Union County in the New Jersey Disaster Declaration. Today’s announcement comes on the heels of FEMA and NJ Office of Emergency Management damage assessments throughout the course of the past week.

“The County of Union was hit hard by Hurricane Ida and the damage is extensive,” said Union County Commissioner Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella. “The updated declaration to include Union County will provide our residents with federal funding that is crucial to recovery and rebuilding.”

As part of the efforts to provide support, Union County has launched a series of pop-up Hurricane Relief events around the County, providing assistance and case work directly to affected residents.

The County will also be coordinating with FEMA to establish a Disaster Recovery Location within the Union County where residents can meet directly with FEMA representatives.

In addition to mobilizing emergency

responses from various Federal Agencies, inclusion of Union County in the Major Disaster Declaration unlocks three main streams of federal funding to affected counties via FEMA:

Individual Assistance - Assistance to individuals and households;

Public Assistance - Assistance to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster damaged facilities;

Hazard Mitigation Assistance – Assistance to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards.

Available assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Residents can also consult the FEMA Fact Sheet for more information.

Union County homeowners and renters affected by Hurricane Ida could be eligible for help from FEMA. If residents have homeowners or renters insurance, they are advised to file a claim through their insurance company as soon as possible as FEMA cannot duplicate benefits covered by insurance. Those that are uninsured or underinsured may be eligible for federal assistance.

The fastest and easiest way to apply

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD  
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2227**

**NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**

General Ordinance No. 2227, a summary of which is included herein, was introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield held on September 14, 2021 and was read for the first time. This Ordinance will be further considered for final passage by said Town Council at a meeting beginning at 8:00 PM on September 28, 2021 in the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.

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

A summary of General Ordinance No. 2227 is as follows:

**Title: ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TERMINATION OF A CERTAIN SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT DATED AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1994, BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK AND THE RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY, THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, KENILWORTH AND ROSELLE PARK, THE CITY OF RAHWAY, THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD AND THE TOWNSHIPS OF CRANFORD, SPRINGFIELD AND WOODBRIDGE**

**Summary:**

Authorizes the Mayor and Town Clerk of the Town of Westfield to execute a certain amendment (“Amendment”) to the Settlement Agreement, dated September 1, 1994, between Clark Township, and the municipalities of Garwood, Kenilworth, Roselle Park, Rahway, Westfield, Cranford, Springfield, Scotch Plains and Woodbridge, and the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (“Settlement Agreement”), for the purpose of terminating the Settlement Agreement.

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$46.92

Newark on the morning of September 12.

**SCOTCH PLAINS**

Tuesday, September 7, a resident of Harwich Court reported a case of fraud. The victim received a call advising her that she won a multi-million-dollar sweepstakes, but that in order to claim the prize, she would have to deposit several thousand dollars into a bank account. The victim complied and then realized it was a scam. The matter is under investigation.

Wednesday, September 8, a resident of Grand Street reported a case of fraud. The victim was contacted by several banks regarding fraudulent loans that were applied for in the victim’s name. The matter is under investigation.

Thursday, September 9, a business on the 400 block of Terrill Road reported damage to their building. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, September 11, a resident of the 200 block of Willow Avenue reported the theft of a catalytic converter from their motor vehicle. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, September 11, a resident of Elm Court reported the theft of a catalytic converter from their motor vehicle. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, September 11, a resident of Taylor Way reported that several cell phone accounts were opened in their name. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, September 11, a resident of Clinton Lane reported the theft of a 2019 white Mercedes S56. The motor vehicle was left unlocked with the keys in the vehicle. An orange Range Rover was seen in the area just prior to the theft, and both vehicles were seen fleeing the area at approximately 6:59 p.m. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, September 11, a resident of Victor Street reported that someone had fraudulently applied for unemployment benefits in their name. The matter is under investigation.

Sunday, September 12, a Virginia resident visiting friends on Richmond Street reported the theft of a cell phone. The matter is under investigation.

Monday, September 13, the management at the CVS store located on Park Avenue reported a shoplifting. A Black male entered the store and stole numerous items, placing them in a backpack before leaving the store. The matter is under investigation.

Monday, September 13, a resident of Hunter Avenue reported the theft of a catalytic converter from their motor vehicle. The matter is under investigation.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS  
COUNTY OF UNION

**TAKE NOTICE** The Township of Scotch Plains will expose for sale at Public Auction, in accordance with Title 39:10A-1, at the times and locations specified below, the following motor vehicles which came into the possession of the Scotch Plains Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

All the vehicles on the following lists are offered in strictly “as is” condition, with no representation as to condition or fitness for any particular purpose. Minimum bid for each vehicle will be all towing and storage fees due to the towing agency.

Purchase must be made by cash or certified check. A 10% deposit must be given at time of auction. Balance must be paid by 4:00 p.m. the same day.

The public auction shall be held on Friday, 24 September 2021 in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey pertaining thereto.

MAKE	YEAR	VIN NO.	MINIMUM BID
GMC	2002	1GTHG 35RX2 12028 48	\$3,590.00

Bozena Lacina  
Township Clerk  
Fee: \$38.76

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD

**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2222**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD REQUIRING THE SUBMISSION OF A DIGITAL COPY OF APPLICATIONS TO THE PLANNING BOARD AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, presently the Town Land Use Ordinance requires the submission of paper copies and a digital copy of required application forms and accompanying documents as part of applications submitted to the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment, however, submission of a digital copy is not required for individual lot applications for detached one- or two-family dwelling unit buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to provide a greater ease of access to all applications submitted to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment to the general public, Board members, and interested parties, copies of all applications submitted should also be readily available by digital means including through the Town of Westfield website; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability in a digital format of applications and their placement on the Town of Westfield website would allow for review of materials submitted outside of the offices of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment providing convenience, greater transparency, and more efficient use of staff time.

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council does hereby further find that the public interest of the Town of Westfield will be served by amending the Land Use Ordinance of the Town of Westfield in the manner set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield, in the County of Union and the State of New Jersey, as follows:

**SECTION I. Article 9, Section 9.02 entitled “General Requirements; Supporting Documentation, subsection A,** is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. For purposes of completeness review only, three (3) paper copies of the appropriate application form(s). Thereafter, if the review determinations that the application is complete, the applicant shall submit three (3) completed and signed paper originals and eighteen (18) paper copies (if submitting to the Planning Board) or one (1) completed and signed paper original and ten (10) paper copies (if submitting to the Zoning Board of Adjustment) of the appropriate application form(s). A digital copy in PDF format of the appropriate application form(s) shall also be submitted. Notwithstanding the above, the Board Secretary may require a greater or



## Top 6 Financial To-Do's After a Divorce

Divorce is an unfortunate reality, yet we all know someone who has experienced it. To get back on track to meeting your long-term goals, below are my Top 6 Financial To-Do's after a divorce. Each one plays an essential part in rebuilding your finances.

### 1) Build Your Balance Sheet

Start by building your personal balance sheet to help track what assets you now own and how they can serve to meet your long-term financial goals.

The best resource to identify your assets is the marital separation agreement. This document includes every asset and account along with who kept it post-divorce. These assets include bank accounts, investment accounts, individual stock, retirement accounts, real estate, business interests, personal property and so much more. Remember to include any debt that is now yours, such as a mortgage, auto loan or credit card debt.

### 2) Retitle Assets

Do not delay in moving accounts/investments that were awarded as part of the marital settlement to a new account in your individual name, preferably at a different financial institution to give yourself a fresh start. When you transfer the assets, make sure to keep records of the cost basis of your investments for income tax purposes.

The sooner you begin this process the less likely it is that something will be left behind.

### 3) Establish a New Budget

To begin designing your future, you should first understand how much you can afford to spend. Begin by assessing all sources of monthly income available. It is also important to identify which sources are fixed, such as salary and alimony, and which might fluctuate, such as commissions.

Once you have compiled your sources of income, compare the income amount to your fixed monthly expenses as well as your variable monthly expenses. Be sure to factor in a monthly savings amount to help you continue to grow your wealth. The goal is to have remaining funds at the end of every month after contributing to savings.

### 4) Rebalance the Investment Portfolio

You now need a plan to grow your assets while also staying on track to meet your long-term goals. If you have never made investment decisions in the past, consider the benefit of working with a professional financial advisor who can provide guidance on current market conditions. Assess whether your current investment accounts are fully invested or holding cash. Are the investments appropriate for your level of risk tolerance? Aside from set-

ting up a budget, this is probably the most important step to get back on track to help reach your long-term financial goals.

### 5) Review Your Beneficiaries/Estate Plan

As you start to become more organized, now is the time to make a concerted effort to review your estate plan. You will most likely name your ex as the beneficiary of your estate. This needs updating along



**Mariella Foley, CFP® is a Partner and Wealth Advisor with Round Table Wealth Management in Westfield. She can be reached directly at Mariella@roundtablewealth.com or 908-374-2570.**

with all your retirement accounts, pension benefits and possibly life insurance policies. You should also work with an attorney to update your other estate planning documents such as any Trusts, Health Care Proxy, and Power of Attorney.

### 6) Check Your Personal Credit

Maybe it's been a while since you last checked your credit. Start by requesting a copy of your credit report with one of the three credit agencies: Equifax, Experian, or Transunion. See which accounts are still reported as open and which have been closed. If you don't have a credit history and need to start building one, make it a gradual process in obtaining credit. Don't rush to apply for several credit cards at once, as this can have the opposite effect and lower your credit score. Try waiting three-six months between credit card applications.

What's ahead each of these areas play an important role in securing your financial future. If you need assistance, recruit the help of a professional financial advisor (look for the CFP® credential) to help you focus on the whole picture as well as help you navigate the more complicated details.

The most important item is to not procrastinate. Get started today in planning the next chapter of your life!

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## Red Cross Assistance Available for Ida Damage

STATE – The American Red Cross continues to help people in New Jersey facing the difficult task of picking up the pieces after the devastating flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida.

Trained Red Cross workers are supporting relief efforts by serving meals, distributing critical relief supplies, helping families plan their next steps and supporting those who are grieving loved ones. Red Cross teams are working closely with local officials to help assess the damage left behind and make recovery plans for the coming days and weeks.

Since September 1, 2021, the Red Cross New Jersey Region has: provided safe shelter with 734 overnight stays; served 7,170 meals and snacks; distributed 8,193 clean up kits and 5,350 emergency supplies such as

rakes, tarps, shovels and gloves; provided health and/or emotional support to 514 individuals; and activated 169 Red Cross disaster workers.

Recovering from a disaster can be a confusing process, and it's not always easy for survivors to find the help they need. These resource centers will bring agencies such as FEMA, the Red Cross and other community organizations involved in recovery efforts together in one location.

Families are struggling to cope with the devastation left behind by Ida. To help people affected by Hurricane Ida, visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), call 1-800-RED-CROSS, or text the word IDA to 909999 to make a \$10 donation.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF HEARING

You are hereby notified that upon the application of Nicholas Viscuglia (the "Applicant"), the Board of Adjustment of the Borough of Mountainside will conduct a hearing on September 28, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time in person in the Mountainside Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, New Jersey, to consider an application at the existing dwelling having an address of 275 Knollcrest. Such premises are also designated as Block 16.11, Lot 3 (the "Property"). The Property is located in the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant seeks variance relief for front yard setback in order to build front addition that matches existing front yard garage setback line required no less than 30 feet - Existing 30.5 feet - New Proposed 24 feet-6 inches, variance for foundation coverage of 17% whereas 15% is allowed, and variance for lot coverage of 33% whereas 30% is allowed. The applicant will also seek such other variances, exceptions and/or design waivers as may be required upon an analysis of the plans and the testimony at the public hearing.

Copies of the Agenda and Application, including any supporting plans and other documents are available by emailing Theresa Snyder at [tsnyder@mountainside-nj.com](mailto:tsnyder@mountainside-nj.com), viewing the Borough website, or inspecting the files in the Office of the Planning Board in the Mountainside Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, New Jersey, between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:30PM Monday through Friday, except legal holidays or summer office hours.

Applicant  
Nicholas Viscuglia  
275 Knollcrest Road  
Mountainside, New Jersey 07092  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$39.27

## Welcome to Our Neighborhood

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**KW**  
KELLER WILLIAMS  
REALTY

### 10 Homes Sold Sep 5 – Sep 13, 2021 in Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield

TOWN	ADDRESS	STYLE	RMS	BRS	BTH	GAR	SALE PRICE
Garwood	408 Hemlock Ave	Split Lev	9	3	2.0	1	\$370,000
Mountainside	448 New Providence Rd	Ranch Ras	9	5	3.0	1	\$665,000
Scotch Plains	2038 Westfield Ave	Cape Cod	7	3	2.0	2	\$469,000
Scotch Plains	52 Canterbury Dr	Ranch	7	3	3.0	2	\$670,500
Scotch Plains	1510 Rahway Rd	Colonial	10	5	3.0	2	\$960,000
Scotch Plains	1248 Sleepy Hollow Ln	Split Lev	12	4	3.0	2	\$885,000
Scotch Plains	1270 Cooper R	Contemp	11	5	3.1	2	\$990,000
Westfield	1004 Irving Ave	Colonial	8	3	1.1	1	\$625,000
Westfield	848 Embree Crescent	Colonial	12	6	3.2	2	\$1,135,000
Westfield	8 Kent Pl	Colonial	11	5	2.1	2	\$1,350,000

\*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 9/5/21 – 9/13/21. 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](mailto:susan@susanmassa.com) or [susanmassa2@gmail.com](mailto:susanmassa2@gmail.com). [www.NJHomeShowcase.com](http://www.NJHomeShowcase.com) [www.summitwestfieldhomes.com](http://www.summitwestfieldhomes.com).

## 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 free shredding service makes it easy and convenient for Union County residents to dispose of sensitive documents while also supporting our countywide recycling efforts, and we strongly encourage everyone to participate," said Commissioner Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

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 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.

Union County's free paper shredding events are drive-up only. Paper for shredding should be placed in the trunk or cargo area, where it can be easily accessed. Staff at the site will unload the papers. Drivers must remain in their cars with their windows rolled up, and wear a face mask as a precaution against Covid-19.

All Union County residents can use the free paper-shredding events, regardless of their home

town. In an effort to accommodate everyone, there is a limit of four 10-pound bags or boxes per vehicle. Preferably, documents should be brought in paper bags.

Participants are reminded that pre-shredded, damp, or wet paper will not be accepted. Bindings, large plastic or metal clips, and other paraphernalia should be removed.

The program will continue through October with visits to Scotch Plains and New Providence. For the complete schedule and more information on all recycling programs hosted by Union County, visit [ucnj.org/recycle](http://ucnj.org/recycle) or call the Union County Recycling Hotline at 908-654-9889.

Union County's free shredding events are intended for personal, sensitive documents only. Residents can recycle magazines, junk mail and other waste paper with their municipal recycling program. For information, contact the local municipal recycling coordinator.

For the latest news and updates on all municipal and countywide recycling programs in Union County, download the free Recycle Coach app. More information is available at [ucnj.org/recycling/recycle-coach-app](http://ucnj.org/recycling/recycle-coach-app).

Quick links to all Union County environmental programs and activities are available at [ucnj.org/green-connection](http://ucnj.org/green-connection).

The mobile paper shredding program is paid for through Recycling Enhancement Act Grant funds, which are applied for by Union County and received from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY COUNTY OF UNION

OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK  
MS. PATRICIA DONAHUE  
8 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE  
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY 07016  
PHONE 908-709-7210  
FAX 908-276-4859  
EMAIL: [p-donahue@cranfordnj.org](mailto:p-donahue@cranfordnj.org)

#### NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR THE PROVISION OF 2022 VEHICLES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD POLICE COOP- ERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM, SYSTEM IDENTIFIER 47- CPCPS

The Township of Cranford is soliciting qualifications (bids) through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

Beginning on Thursday, September 16, 2021, submission packages may be obtained at the Township Clerk's Office, (908) 709-7210, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, or by downloading the documents on the Township's website: <https://www.cranfordnj.org/bids>. **Registration on the Township's website is required.**

Sealed bid proposals for the provision of patrol and administrative vehicles for the Police Department in the Township of Cranford and registered members of the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System, System Identifier 47-CPCPS, will be received by the Township Clerk on **Thursday, October 7, 2021** in Room 108 of the

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, at 11:00 a.m. prevailing time.

Sealed bid proposals shall contain: one original and one (1) digital copy (i.e., USB stick or thumb drive) of the submission. Such bid responses shall be enclosed in an opaque sealed envelope, plainly marked: "PROVISION OF 2022 VEHICLES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT" and shall show the name and address of the bidder. Bids may be hand-delivered to the Township Building or may be forwarded by personal service, certified mail, U.S. Post or other mail delivery service. If mailed, the sealed envelope containing the proposal and marked as directed above, must be enclosed in another envelope properly addressed for mailing as follows:

Patricia Donahue  
c/o October 7th Bid Opening –  
PROVISION OF 2022 VEHICLES FOR  
THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Township Clerk  
Township of Cranford  
Municipal Building  
8 Springfield Avenue  
Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27. A copy of the New Jersey Business Registration Certificate must be included with the Bid.

The Township of Cranford reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals or any part thereof, as in its judgment may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Township of Cranford. The Township of Cranford also reserves the right to waive any minor irregularity or technicality.

Patricia Donahue  
Township Clerk  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$75.48

### ARE YOU DIVORCING? DIVORCED? HAS THE CORONAVIRUS CAUSED A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN YOUR FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES?

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



Mario C. Guerrieri, Esq.



Kristin M. Capalho, Esq.



Jennifer L. Young, Esq.

Please contact us at (908) 272-0200

You may also visit us on our website at [www.dughihewit.com](http://www.dughihewit.com)

**DUGHI, HEWIT & DOMALEWSKI, P.C.**  
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## Virtual Guitar Lessons

One-on-one 60-minute guitar instruction: \$45.00.

### PJ Cotroneo

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Instagram, Search: PJ Cotroneo Band.

For information, please contact:

(908) 380-8438.

### About PJ:

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MFA in Jazz History/Jazz Research from Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey.

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## Additional Pop-Up Covid Vaccine Clinics, Testing

COUNTY – The Union County Board of County Commissioners informs residents that there will be additional free Covid-19 vaccines and testing available at convenient pop-up clinics throughout the county during the month of September. The upcoming clinics will be held in Westfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains, Roselle and Roselle Park.

Third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for eligible residents will also be available at the upcoming mobile clinics. To check eligibility for a third dose, visit: <https://ucnj.org/covid19/2021/08/14/union-county-will-offer-free-covid-19-third-shots-for-eligible-residents/>.

In addition to free vaccinations, residents can also get a free Covid-19 saliva test at any of the pop-up clinics. Residents can also get vaccinated for COVID-19 at Union County's permanent vaccine clinics. For an updated list of permanent sites, residents can visit: <https://ucnj.org/covid19/vaccinations-page/>. Vaccines are also available weekdays on a walk-in basis at the Union County Immunization Clinic located at 40 Parker Road in Elizabeth.

"Due to the new strains of the virus, all residents are strongly urged to get their vaccine as soon as possible," said Union County Commissioner Board Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "Immunocompromised residents who are eligible for a third dose should also make an appointment as soon as possible for added protection."

Union County began offering pop-up Covid-19 vaccination clinics in local communities earlier this year, in order to reach vulnerable populations including seniors, homeless individuals, and others who would have difficulty traveling to a centralized vaccine site.

"The Board of County Commissioners will continue to provide residents with opportunities for vacci-

nation and testing," said Commissioner and Chair of the Public Safety Committee Sergio Granados. "Easy access to vaccines and testing remains our focus as vaccination is key to keeping Union County residents safe as we continue to navigate Covid-19 and its variants."

The County's pop-up program has now expanded to include all age-approved Union County residents. Currently, any resident age 12 and older is eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Eligibility for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines begins at age 18. Those who receive the first dose of a two dose vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) at one of Union County's Mobile Vaccinations Clinics will receive instructions as to how and when to receive their second dose.

Any Union County resident can make an appointment at any of the following clinics, regardless of their home town:

Saturday, September 18 in Scotch Plains, Scotch Plains Farmer's Market, 430 Park Avenue, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Johnson & Johnson/Pfizer vaccines/Covid-19 Saliva Testing)

Wednesday, September 22 in Rahway at 7th and 8th Grade Academy, 1139 Kline Avenue, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Johnson & Johnson/Pfizer vaccines/Covid-19 Saliva Testing)

Wednesday, September 29 in Rahway at Rahway High School, 1012 Madison Avenue, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Johnson & Johnson/Pfizer vaccines/Covid-19 Saliva Testing)

Wednesday, September 29 in Roselle Park, 180 W Webster Avenue, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Johnson & Johnson/Pfizer vaccines/Covid-19 Saliva Testing)

Appointments at the pop-up clinics or permanent vaccine sites can be booked online by creating an account at [ucnj.org/vax](http://ucnj.org/vax). Residents looking to visit the Immunization Clinic for a free Covid-19 vaccine can walk in Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS COUNTY OF UNION

**TAKE NOTICE** The Township of Scotch Plains will expose for sale at Public Auction, in accordance with Title 39:10A-1, at the times and locations specified below, the following motor vehicles which came into the possession of the Scotch Plains Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

All the vehicles on the following lists are offered in strictly "as is" condition, with no representation as to condition or fitness for any particular purpose. Minimum bid for each vehicle will be all towing and storage fees due to the towing agency.

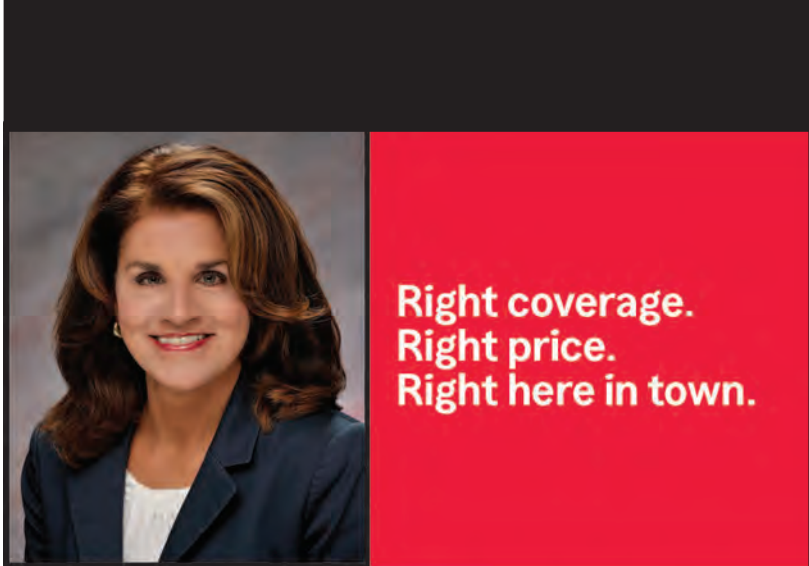
Purchase must be made by cash or certified check. A 10% deposit must be given at time of auction. Balance must be paid by 4:00 p.m. the same day.

The public auction shall be held on Friday, 24 September 2021 in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey pertaining thereto.

The following vehicle may be examined at JVD Towing, 1226 New Market Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 at 8:30 am. Public Auction will commence at 8:45 am.

MAKE	YEAR	VIN NO.	MINIMUM BID
Jaguar	2001	SAJDA 01N21 FM173 99	\$1,000.00
Bozena Lacina Township Clerk Fee: \$38.76			

1 T - 09/16/21, The Times



Christine Cosenza, Agent  
2 Elm Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
Bus: 908-233-9100  
[christine@christinecosenza.net](mailto:christine@christinecosenza.net)

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[sales@goleader.com](mailto:sales@goleader.com)



## The Westfield Leader

— Established 1890 —

## Union County HAWK

Since 1959

formerly The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

Legal Newspaper for the County of Union, New Jersey  
and for Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford and Garwood

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# Grateful for Gossip? Surprisingly, Yes!

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

Hearing gossip revs us up. We lean in for every detail: “Those parents leave their teens alone for the weekend, can you believe it?” “Did you see the over-the-top addition that couple just added to their house, right after they’d bought a new Mercedes and a BMW!” “My high school junior/senior stresses over getting into college. Meantime, Lori Loughlin and other celebrity parents pay bribes

to get their kids into fancy universities.” “That dad brings kegs of beer into the house every Friday for his high schoolers and their friends.” Gossip is ramping up now that we’re socializing in person again.

As we grew up, our parents, teachers, and even Thumper’s mom from the movie, Bambi, would say that “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” Today’s parents additionally caution their kids about the impact of social media, warning

that unkind comments posted on Instagram, TikTok, or other sites might boomerang back at them. As adults, we may remember Thumper’s mom’s admonition, but we jump ahead anyway to share juicy tidbits with friends.

So, if spreading whispered rumors is potentially hurtful and may prompt guilt when indulging in it, how and why is it positive? Surprisingly, new social psychology research shows that gossip can indeed be beneficial. It turns out that as we re-enter the social world, we can gossip freely *provided we follow good guidelines*. A recent article in the New York Times says that “gossip is deeply connected to human nature. And it might just help in navigating a post-pandemic world — at least in a social sense.”

Benefits of gossip: Research shows that gossiping promotes social bonding, vicarious learning, serves as a temperature check on our social world at large, and can be cathartic. The examples cited in the first paragraph may teach us about careless parental practices, overvaluing material goods, and cheating to get ahead. Plus, sharing social scandals with friends feels good and draws us closer to one another. We learn about community morals and values: what we should and should not do. “Some scholars view gossip as an opportunity for cultural learning, by offering teachable moments and providing people examples of what’s socially acceptable—and what’s not,” according to an article in Time.

The potential harm of gossip: The spreading of outright lies is never acceptable. Cruel comments about people’s physical or mental health maladies or terrible misfortunes should be out, along with statements that reinforce bigotry, xenophobia, or negative stereotypes. Spreading bigotry, racism, and xenophobia dehumanizes and harms both the subjects of those awful words as well as those who speak them.

So, go gossip with relish. Share tales of inappropriate behavior, greediness, cheating, infidelity, pushing others aside to get ahead, overly entitled celebrities, politicians who strike too low at their opponents, or CEOs who act out greedily, with abandon. But always stay away from words that harm others. Gossiping is human. We all do it. And we always will.

Share your gossip stories with *The Westfield Leader* and *The HAWK* 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



## Letters to the Editor

### Inability of Council to Negotiate With Developer Sets SP Back

Recently Democrat candidate for council Matt Adams stated, “The previous administration was elected four years ago on redevelopment, and nothing was ever redeveloped. The time is now to get it done after years of inexplicable delays and no tangible progress.”

Let me remind the recently appointed councilman of the downtown redevelopment accomplishments during the years that I was mayor.

Due to 35 years of inaction by several town councils and the confining availability of public property, I often stated that downtown redevelopment would be a “heavy lift.” Compounding the situation, I learned upon becoming mayor in 2017 that the town had several pending, hidden from the public, lawsuits for not meeting its affordable housing responsibilities under the NJ constitution. The court demanded that settlement negotiations begin in early 2017.

The Republican majority and I immediately established the Downtown Redevelopment Committee, a non-partisan mix of residents and business owners whose job was to be the public voice in the process. I held several public town halls designed to educate, include, and seek guidance from as many residents as possible. We ran a survey asking for input on proposed building designs for the downtown, and I made many appearances at the Farmers Market to get as many people as possible to take part. As this public-facing side was going on, behind the scenes I led our settlement Affordable Housing negotiations and worked with our experts to develop a redevelopment plan for both private and public properties.

Less than two years after taking office we had an Affordable Housing settlement that met our legal requirements while maintaining the suburban zoning of our town in its residential areas and locking in redevelopment of our downtown. With this foundational work in place, in September 2018, the township council unanimously approved our FIRST downtown redevelopment plan in 35 years and issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to developers.

In August of 2020 as part of our

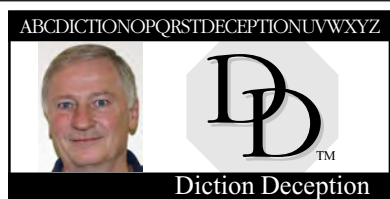
affordable housing settlement, the township council unanimously approved special redevelopment zones for our downtown. These zones are already spurring redevelopment by private property owners on E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Front Street, and Grand Avenue, with more to come.

However, for redevelopment of our outdated, inadequate public properties (parking lots, townhall, first responder buildings and library) which were supposed to “jumpstart” downtown redevelopment, it’s a different story. With the Democrats taking control of the council in 2019 on a platform to slow down and “responsibly” redevelop the downtown, little progress has been made for our public properties. The designated developer that was chosen in early 2019 based on the 2018 RFP was fired in June of this year by the all-Democrat council with no transparency after that developer had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars developing a plan that is both viable and very financially beneficial to the township. The inability of the all-Democrat council to negotiate an agreement with a willing developer is unfortunate and sets this town back in our efforts to compete with neighboring towns that have vibrant downtowns.

Al Smith  
Former Mayor  
Scotch Plains

### Republican Chair’s Logic is Convolved on Pot, Says Reader

In a recent letter to the editor Mr. Joe Sarno, the Scotch Plains Republican Committee Chairman chose to invoke partisan politics into a local Scotch Plains/Fanwood issue by promising to bring a “competent council”, (implying Republican), and thereby reversing the decision to allow the sale of recreational marijuana in Scotch Plains/Fanwood. Furthermore Mr. Sarno states that the Scotch Plains Democrats got this wrong and missed opting in under better conditions. But Mr. Sarno never mentions exactly what those better conditions would be. First, I would like to re-



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

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

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

Answers to last week’s arcane words.

1. Phocine — Relating to seals
2. Spoor — The tracks of a wild animal
3. Spraints — The waste or dung of an otter
4. Picaroon — A rogue, pirate, or thief

#### SPEAGHERY

1. The act of deriding or ridiculing
2. Violation of faith or allegiance
3. Cattle stealing
4. A cowardly, contemptible act

#### MATANZA

1. A slaughterhouse
2. An outside staircase
3. A concealed dungeon with a trap door at the top
4. A trap, snare

#### SULCATE

1. Interlaced or linked
2. Brittle
3. Relating to pigs; swine
4. Furrowed or grooved

#### BODEGA

1. A small shop that specializes in women’s clothing
2. A wine cellar or place where wine is sold or kept
3. A house of ill-repute
4. A meeting room for private conversation

## The Student View

A collaboration with the  
Westfield High School Journalism Program

### To Mask Or Not To Mask?

By: Molly Reilly  
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

As we return to school this fall, Westfield High School (WHS) students and everyone in our Westfield community are looking forward to a school year that is as normal as possible. A year with sports games, in-person instruction and lunch with our friends. However, one thing out of the ordinary has returned to school this year along with all the students: masks.

Masks have been implemented throughout our past school year and are mandated for this school year as well. This will require students to have a mask on for about seven hours of their day, even if they are vaccinated. Vaccinations have been the key to a return to some semblance of normalcy for the majority of Westfield residents, allowing us to go into Trader Joe’s without a mask and avoiding a half-hour-long line.

Over the past six months, vaccines have become available to high school-age students and their families, giving many Westfield residents the chance to get vaccinated. In July, kids ages 12-17 became eligible for vaccinations, which amounts to over 56 percent of Westfield’s population according to the *Westfield Patch*. This same article confirms that around 73 percent of the total Westfield population has been vaccinated. This information gives much of our community hope that a lot of the WHS population has been vaccinated or plans to do so.

Even with the majority of our town being vaccinated, the question of students wearing masks becomes more prominent. As a resident and employee in the Westfield community, I hear complaints surrounding the mask

requirement nearly every day. Questions like, “My child got the vaccine, why do they have to wear a mask all day?” or even comments such as, “Our children should be given the choice, being forced to wear a mask is like a punishment!” have surfaced recently. Even at my workplace, I have had parents ask me about my thoughts on the coming school year, and then regardless of my opinion, tell me that my school year won’t be normal at all with a mask on.

However, no matter what our parents think, masks are essential for school this year. As peers, keeping each other safe and respecting boundaries will be very important for us to consider as we enter our classes. While everyone should be vaccinated, the bottom line is, wearing a mask is courteous to our fellow students and teachers and creates a safer environment for everyone. If all staff and students abide by guidelines, the chance of a COVID outbreak this year won’t be a worry at all.

I think that my senior year can be as close to normal as it should be. I have spoken to other students about our school, and many of us agree that masks shouldn’t create social or political barriers between people, because they are simply a part of our lifestyle for the foreseeable future. However, those barriers are built up every time someone questions the decision of wearing a mask in school. Public health should be our biggest concern, and I personally am willing to do whatever it takes to keep my friends and family safe. Wearing a mask is such an easy way to ensure that they stay that way. Besides, who doesn’t love picking out a new mask?



Thanks to the countless neighbors helping neighbors stories we have heard following Hurricane Ida. From the elderly gentleman rescued from his car by a resident on Rahway Avenue, and taken to shelter; to friends and neighbors who showed up to clean up flood damaged homes without

being asked - the amount of care and concern showed for your fellow man is incredible and restores faith in humanity.

\*\*\*  
Share random acts of kindness you witness by emailing [editor@goleader.com](mailto:editor@goleader.com)

#### Deadlines

General News - Friday 4 p.m.  
Weekend Sports - Monday 12 p.m.  
Classifieds - Tuesday 12 p.m.  
Ad Reservation - Friday 4 p.m.  
Ad Submittal - Monday 12 p.m.

#### Letters to Editor Deadline

Monday 9 a.m.  
Letters should be no more than 500 words. Due to the volume of letters we receive we are unable to respond to each letter. Not all letters will be published.

Myron Freeman  
Scotch Plains

### Candidate Statements Welcome

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

### Policy on Political Endorsements

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

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

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



## The Next Four Years: Westfield Together

The original Westfield Together team, which includes Councilpersons Linda Habgood (ward 1), Mike Dardia (ward 2), David Contract (ward 3), Dawn Mackey (ward 4), and myself, is proud of the significant progress we've made since we were elected four years ago, including the lowest average four year tax rate in decades, a 33 percent reduction in crime, paving almost 50 miles of roads in Town, and so much more. We have worked hard to improve the overall quality of life for our residents while establishing a roadmap for a bright and prosperous future.

We are looking forward to building on our already proven record of accomplishments and finishing what we started for the betterment of Westfield. Our next four years will be focused on the following four Priorities for Success:

1. **PRESERVING** the fiscal integrity, social fabric, and inclusive and aesthetic character of our community

2. **PROTECTING** the safety of our residents as well as the health of the public and the environment

3. **PROMOTING PROGRESS** through smart growth, park and field improvements, and enhanced services for our residents

4. **PROMISING** to always fight for you on issues that matter to you

It's important to remember, however, that our most pressing challenge is still not over. We are in the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic, the largest challenge of our lifetimes. My goal throughout has been to lead with empathy, facts, and decisiveness, prioritizing transparent communication and the health, safety, and welfare of our residents, employees, and businesses, and pledge to always do so. Through it all, and in spite of the health crisis and financial setbacks, the Westfield Together team continues to work for you.

We are committed to ensuring that Westfield remains the special place that attracted so many of our residents here in the first place, defined

by our beautiful neighborhoods, our sense of community, our historic vibrant downtown, and our collective appreciation of our 300-year history.

But the world doesn't stand still, and neither can we, which is why we need to work together to reimagine and create a future that ensures Westfield remains a town to emulate, offering: a strong sense of community and engaged citizenry; a unique combination of hometown feel and modern amenities; an attractive quality of experience that compels visitors to keep coming back; fair, reasonable, and equitable property taxes coupled with high-quality services; a vibrant downtown supported by preeminent office space, curated shopping experiences, and top-shelf dining; dynamic array of housing options for all, including the newly married and retired; and one-of-kind entertainment, art, and cultural opportunities.

Our re-election platform "Preservation, Protection, Progress and Promise," which you can find at [westfieldtogether.com/platform](http://westfieldtogether.com/platform), reflects our priorities for the next four years and our commitment to keep fighting, listening, and advocating for you. I invite you to review our platform and reach out if you have any questions or comments.

The many challenges we have faced together over the past few years has not diminished my enthusiasm to serve as your Mayor for another term. I look forward to leading our community towards an even brighter and promising future, and I humbly ask for your vote on November 2.

With gratitude-

**Shelley Brindle  
Mayor, Westfield**

*More Candidate  
Statements on  
Page 12*

## Former BOE Member Endorses Dardia for Ward 2

As a Westfield Ward 2 resident for more than 40 years, I'd like to take this opportunity to voice my strong support for the re-election of Mike Dardia to the Town Council. Mike has been a diligent Council member and public servant over the last nearly four years, serving both the needs of his constituents and the community as a whole in a non-partisan way. He is truly here to help everyone.

I, too, have some experience with Westfield public service. I served for ten years on the Westfield Board of Education, eight of those years as President. I know first hand that experience counts! It takes time to learn the specifics of governance, to build relationships and to work towards solutions to the issues confronting our community. It takes a patient steadiness to negotiate competing interests within a community. Mike clearly has this approachable, agreeable willingness to sit down, listen, and find common ground.

Mike has knowledge and experience with Westfield's Parks Master Plan and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, along with the multitude

of topics and issues confronting the Council. Importantly, he has also served as liaison to both the Board of Education and the Board of Health. Mike has a strong track record working for Westfield. I sincerely appreciate his willingness to serve another term and to draw upon all that he has learned and contributed.

There are many important plans and initiatives in place that represent real progress for Westfield in the years ahead. I have every confidence that Mike will continue to work towards Westfield's most important priorities -- a safe community, an attractive and vibrant downtown, strong fiscal management, and great parks, athletic and recreational facilities. I wholeheartedly support the reelection of Mike Dardia to the Westfield Town Council Ward 2 and I hope that you will as well.

**Susan Pepper  
Westfield**

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## I Endorse David Contract For Ward 3 Councilman

I wanted you and everyone in Ward 3 know that I, along with my fellow Westfield Seniors, enthusiastically endorse Councilman David Contract for re-election to Ward 3 Council. I have lived in Westfield for eight years and David Contract has definitely been my best councilman ever.

I first met David when he was campaigning for Ward 3 Councilman back in the summer of 2017. I was visiting with a good friend of mine then and when I told David that I lived at the Westfield Senior Housing he asked a series of questions about the senior housing. He wanted to find out about my experience living there since campaigning is not allowed on the property of the housing complex. He asked me if I would introduce him to some of my neighbors to become more familiar with issues facing seniors living in the senior housing, which is located in Ward 3. I was happy that he showed so much sincere desire to understand the tenants in the senior housing and made sure that seniors would not be forgotten should he win. Not only has David followed through but has exceeded my expectations of him as a councilman.

First, I would like to state that he really has been the most communicative councilman I have known. His regular, almost daily email messages, have kept me informed about all happenings in Westfield. Moreover, during Covid I was looking forward to his continuous information on the latest science, health and safety news. I must say that his tone

was always upbeat and hopeful and may even include something unexpected that would make me smile.

Also, I feel that David has done even more than I had expected to help seniors. He created a Lifelong Westfield which is the town's first ever group focusing on the needs of Westfield's seniors. The group started in 2018 and has held countless events to inform seniors about the services and programs available to them in our area including educational seminars on protecting us all against scams, Covid vaccine safety and other health and wellness topics. Also, emails and newsletters were sent out regularly to ensure continuous information.

And lastly, I would like to mention that David is very responsive. Whenever I have emailed him with a question or even a thank you, he answered me immediately. If there was a question he was unable to answer, he would find out and was back to me with his response.

I hope that David wins the reelection because he has done an incredible job for me, for Westfield's seniors and all of the Ward 3 residents. No one could have been more effective for our town's council than David Contract.

**Gesine Ehlers  
Westfield**

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## Elections 2021

### LD-21 Candidates Releases Statement Regarding Masking in Schools

WESTFIELD – On August 6, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order (EO) 251, which mandated masking in the indoor premises of all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary school buildings, with limited exceptions. The announcement came amidst rising pediatric COVID-19 cases, the inability for children under 12 years of age to be vaccinated and the highly contagious Delta variant.

The Democratic candidates for legislative district 21 issued the following statements:

"I am incredibly happy to be back in the classroom with students and I would like to thank Governor Murphy for his decision to require that we wear masks in our schools. This decision will keep students, their families, my coworkers and our communities safe," said LD-21 Assembly candidate Elizabeth Graner. "I am proud to report that the majority of public educators I know are fully vaccinated, and would like to encourage everyone who can to take the vaccine — doing so is in the interest of keeping one another safe

and turning the page on this nightmarish chapter in our lives."

"The surging COVID-19 numbers in the state are causing uncertainty once again for parents and staff. It's not where we had hoped to be but keeping everyone healthy is of paramount importance," said LD-21 Assembly candidate Anjali Mehrotra. "We wish everyone a great and safe school year and I thank the Murphy Administration for taking proactive steps, given the science and the risks."

"I applaud the Murphy administration's decision to mandate masking in schools," said LD-21 Senate candidate Joseph Signorello, III. "This decision was made in favor of students, teachers, staff and their families. The only way we can beat this virus once and for all is by stopping it in its tracks."

Joseph Signorello, III is running for State Senate; Elizabeth A. Graner and Anjali Mehrotra are running for General Assembly from Legislative District 21. To learn more about their campaign, please visit [www.joesignorello.com](http://www.joesignorello.com) and [www.wind21in21.com](http://www.wind21in21.com) respectively.

### Garwood GOP Candidates Pledge to Bring DPW Home

Anybody that knows me knows I've spent a number of years paying attention to what's happening in our borough. I have gone to countless council meetings asked numerous questions to gain insight on purchases and policies. I have paid close attention to purchases made for every department including the DPW. I began to pay attention specifically to the DPW department when the Democrats chose to outsource our superintendent position, defund and dismantle our once whole department. The deal with Fanwood was renewed again by council in 2018 and is up for vote again AFTER the election. The Council has spent the last few years purchasing equipment we were told the shared service agreement was implemented for. Unfortunately my opponents have chosen to base their campaign on false allegations of me wanting to defund the DPW, which is exactly what they did and the exact thing I have been against for years. I have stood firm in my belief that our DPW should stay Garwood based completely. My husband is a life long resident and we have done nothing but support our DPW

over the years. My opponents do not want to draw attention to the fact that GARWOOD DPW can be a full functioning DPW within itself there is no need for us to have a \$43,000 per year agreement with a neighboring town, it serves our taxpayers no purpose. We need to focus on what is smart and most efficient, that is why I have spent years tracking what is purchased and what makes the most sense. Heather and I are committed to bringing this resource back to garwood and giving these men some much needed attention to their neglected building. Our current council has funded MULTIPLE vanity projects and those funds could have been allocated differently. Our DPW belongs in Garwood it should have never been outsourced. Heather and I are 100 percent committed to bringing home our DPW and making sure they have proper working conditions.

**Kimberly Salmon  
Heather Loffredo  
Republican candidates for  
Garwood Council**

## I'm Voting for My Community, Not My Party

I've voted Democrat for a long time. Many of my life experiences have shaped my political beliefs -- working in the inner-city for a number of years, running for my life on 9/11, marrying a veteran who admirably served our country in Iraq, and raising a family in Westfield. I proudly fly the American Flag as a sign of remembrance that what matters most is what unites us and not divides us.

As a leadership skills coach, I often talk with my clients about getting comfortable with the concept of: "I don't have to make you wrong to make me right." I have been giving a lot of thought to this mindset as it relates to our upcoming Mayoral and Town Council election on November 2. It has influenced my decision to vote for whom I believe is best for our community. Voting the Democrat party line will not do that. Instead, I am voting for JoAnn Neylan and Amanda Como (Ward 1). They are the candidates I know can bring much-needed, great change to Westfield. And for me, that is what is right.

Growing up in Cranford, I always envied Westfield's downtown, the great sports teams, the street fairs, the parades, and the restaurants. The Westfield of today is not the Westfield I once knew. Stores are disappearing and new restaurants are overlooking empty space in our once bustling town. Innovative and thoughtful sports field plans have been ignored after years of work and community input, forcing our Home team to play Home games in neighboring towns. We now offer tax abatements to developers, as these buildings continue to destroy the charm of our small town. And, most recently, and quite sadly, there is endless victim-shaming when a crime is committed against our neighbors. I am disappointed and frustrated.

Do I think anyone has a perfect plan to solve our town problems? No.

Do I think we need to embrace change for the possibility of making things better for Westfield? Yes, absolutely. For change to happen, we must do things differently.

The Working for Westfield team -- JoAnn (Mayor), Amanda (Ward 1) Denise (Ward 2), Shawn (Ward 3), and James (Ward 4) -- is the change we need. They have a solid plan that addresses our Town's biggest issues. How do I know? Because I showed up to a meet-and-greet undecided on who would get my vote, asked questions, and listened with an open mind. I emerged knowing this is the team who is relentlessly focused on our Town's future.

We need a Town Council made up

of independent thinkers who are not influenced to vote on town issues in a way that is aligned solely with their national political party. This practice has become the norm rather than the exception over the last four years. How can we expect our town to evolve if we keep doing things the same way? Nothing changes if nothing changes.

Let's be balanced, inclusive, and consider alternative points of view from people who see the world from a different lens. There is validity in approaching our major town issues from another angle.

JoAnn and the Working for Westfield team provide a crucial missing piece of the puzzle to get our town back on track -- a new and fresh perspective. Regardless of what side of politics you fall on, we all live in the same town and want Westfield to thrive. I encourage you to vote with your heart -- and while that may not align with your political party, you are not wrong. It is not about voting Republican or voting Democrat. It is about making the right choice for you, your family, and the town we love. And come November 2, my right choice is a vote for the Working for Westfield team.

**Rachel Lamb  
Westfield, Ward 1**

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## Candidate Neylan Pledges Infrastructure Improvements

During my 16 years on the Westfield Town Council, I helped to implement many critical enhancements to our Town's infrastructure and facilities. It takes a lot of planning, man power, and teamwork to keep a town like Westfield in tip-top shape, and I salute the Town professionals and workers who labored so hard to help me execute on our plans and accomplish the many goals set during my tenure.

Below is a list of some of the many improvements that I helped to make during my tenure:

Regarding parks and fields: built and upgraded Houlihan and Sid Fay turf fields; upgraded the bandstand, repaired and replaced lights, dredged the pond, and upgraded the playground at Mindowaskin Park; updated playground equipment in all other parks; built the Clark Park gazebo; replaced backstops at Tamaques Park and Memorial Park fields; constructed dugouts and added a scoreboard at Gumbert Park in partnership with the Westfield Baseball League; reconfigured and enhanced the Memorial Pool; replaced all six tennis courts in Memorial Park; replaced all eight tennis courts with lights in Tamaques Park; developed plans for the Tamaques Park renovations, to include a new building, lighted turf fields, basketball courts, and parking; replaced the bleachers at all Town-owned fields with grant money from Union County; added a new park, Foundation Park, to Memorial Plaza on South Avenue, with the assistance of the Westfield Foundation; and completed multiple Eagle Scout projects on town property.

Regarding Town machinery and equipment, a 9-year capital plan begun in 2015 to purchase new: bucket trucks, cardboard compactors, dump, pickup, and utility trucks, paving equipment, sewer jet trucks, and street sweepers.

Regarding improvements to Town buildings and facilities: renovated the Memorial Library roof, including adding solar panels, and interior; improved and added parking spaces to Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7.

Enhanced or added the following monuments: World War 2 Memorial, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, Paul Robeson Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Appar Park and Foundation Park.

I appreciate the substantial work that goes into keeping a town like Westfield up to residents' high standards. Unfortunately, over the last

four years under the leadership of Mayor Brindle, Westfield's physical condition has declined.

Despite promises to the contrary, we do not have one new athletic field. Instead, money was wasted on consultants and studies for ill-conceived plans like the \$18.2 million Edison School field debacle. At the same time, our existing fields were improperly maintained rendering them in many cases unsafe for our children to play on.

Our downtown has more empty storefronts than ever before, despite promises to attract new businesses. Quimby Street is an embarrassing hodge-podge of concrete barriers covered with \$16,000 worth of material paid for with Cares Act relief funds, which could have been used to help struggling businesses during the pandemic.

Much needs to be done to get us back on track, and I have the experience and the vision to get it done. If elected as your next mayor, I will make additional and improved playing fields at top priority. I will revisit the Tamaques Park plan that Mayor Brindle discarded, and take a more holistic, town-wide approach to field improvements. I will seek and obtain advance input from our local sports leagues, and neighbors will be shown the proper respect with a seat at the table in a transparent, inclusive process.

As for our downtown, I will create more open and green spaces. As just one example, I envision replacing the concrete expanse and chain-link fence along the side of the Rialto Theater with a new grassy area with café tables for people to gather and enjoy outdoor socializing. With the help of the town's many talented professionals, I will examine zoning restrictions that preclude new businesses downtown, much like I did to lift the restrictions against arcades and seating at restaurant bars. I believe in making common sense changes to meet the modern needs of our town and facilitate progress by updating allowable building uses and sizes while preserving the charm and character of our downtown.

Much needs to be done to get us back on track, I have the experience and the vision to get it done. Please vote for me on November 2, let me continue to do the work necessary to make Westfield the premier community it is meant to be.

**JoAnn Neylan  
Mayoral Candidate  
Westfield**

## Linda Habgood is an Encouraging, Inclusive Leader

Over the last three years I have watched my daughter, Nyah take a deep interest in history and government. Topics of conversation among her close friend group revolves around current events, politics and social justice issues. It was no surprise to me when she expressed interest in volunteering on a campaign and asked me to reach out to Mayor Brindle on her behalf. As per usual, the Mayor responded to me immediately and with great enthusiasm invited us to her campaign kick-off. When we arrived Nyah was welcomed with open arms and signed up for the internship program.

Nyah has been interning on Linda Habgood's campaign this summer and it has solidified her passion for government and public service. Linda is an encouraging and inclusive leader

who has demonstrated to my daughter what leadership and poise look like. The best is when Nyah joined Linda to canvass door to door. What a wonderful lesson on building relationships, inclusive listening and demonstration of dedication to community and hard work. I am deeply appreciative to the Habgood campaign. In these difficult and divisive times she is showing my daughter the positive side of politics and government.

Proud mom and Westfield Resident,

**Liz Lugones  
Westfield**

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**SPIRITUAL SESQUICENTENNIAL...**The parish community of The Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity is marking its 150th anniversary with a year-long celebration, beginning this Sunday, September 19, with a 3 p.m. live performance of Vivaldi's "Gloria." The commemoration will continue with events and activities for adults and youth, leading up to the anniversary itself in September 2022. Holy Trinity Church is located at 506 Westfield Avenue, Westfield.

## Holy Trinity Announces 150th-Year Celebration

WESTFIELD — A year-long celebration of Holy Trinity Parish's 150th anniversary will kick off this month, Father Anthony Randazzo, pastor, announced last week.

Throughout the next year, a full schedule of commemorative events and activities will roll out, among them the Holy Trinity Music Series starting this Sunday, September 19, at 3 p.m., with a live performance of Vivaldi's "Gloria" by the Holy Trinity Choirs and String Ensemble under the direction of Pat Merlucci. This program will be followed on Thursday, October 21, by contemporary Christian songwriter Steve Angerisano in concert at 7:30 p.m. Both performances will take place at the Holy Trinity Church.

Later events will include additional musical performances, a tour of the church's artwork, community outreach, a celebration of Mass with the Archdiocese of Newark's Cardinal Joseph Tobin, and several special children's events, culminating with the 150th anniversary in September 2022. To further highlight this historic anniversary, Westfield artist Linnea Rhodes will design and paint a special commemorative ornament.

Further information about the year-long celebration, including events, music, history and more, can be found at [htccc.org/150](http://htccc.org/150). Event

details will be updated regularly throughout the year.

Holy Trinity Parish was founded in September 1872 to serve Westfield residents whose only previous option for participating at a Catholic



Fr. Anthony Randazzo

Mass was to travel to churches in Plainfield, Rahway, Elizabeth and Stony Hill (Watchung), according to a 1972 article in the Diocesan newspaper *The Advocate*, on the occasion of Holy Trinity's 100th anniversary. Earliest Masses were held in the Westfield freight station of the Central Railroad (now NJ Transit) to accommodate a growing stream of new parishioners arriving at Holy Trinity by train. Some

time later, a white frame church was built on New York Avenue, now Trinity Place. Once again, the location was chosen for its proximity to the train station. An elementary school was built in 1916, followed by other structures including a rectory, convent and the current church, which was built in 1921.

"Throughout its history, Holy Trinity has been a vibrant and vital participant in the community," said Father Randazzo. "Our first 150 years have been rooted in faith. As we move ahead in love, my hopes and prayers for our people are that their faith will always be centered in the practice of Jesus' teaching with compassion and love, based in scripture but evolving in the Catholic tradition; that they continue our tradition of reaching out inter-religiously with all faith-based people, deepening our open dialogue and solidarity with all; and that they continue our strong commitment to educating and strengthening our young. We welcome all members of the Westfield community and beyond to join us in the celebration of our 150th anniversary."

The Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity is located at 506 Westfield Avenue, Westfield.

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## — Obituaries —

### Thomas James Spina, 86, Former Mountainside Resident, Councilman

Thomas James Spina, age 86, died peacefully, surrounded by family, in his Rochester, N.Y. home on Monday, September 6, 2021. Tom is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ruth Bleshey Spina; his two children, Rick (Barbara Giaimo) of Detroit, Mich., and Linda (David VanDeusen) of Glenmont, N.Y., as well as four grandchildren, Rebecca Chambers (Kirk Shimkin) of Downingtown, Pa., Andrew Chambers (Lauren Duda) of Denver, Colo., Jillian Spina of San Francisco, Calif., and Kendall Spina of St. Louis, Mo.

Tom was born to Lula and John Spina of Lowville, N.Y., on May 22, 1935. He was raised in the loving home of his grandparents, Mary and Frank Gould, in Lyons Falls, N.Y. Upon his 1953 graduation from Lyons Falls High School, Tom went on to complete a 1957 bachelor's degree at Syracuse University School of Management. Although having a job offer in hand, Tom took out time to fulfill his military commitment as an Air Force Special Investigator in Montgomery, Ala. Tom worked on both personnel and international tensions during his two-and-a-half-year stint. The Cuban Missile Crisis occurred during Tom's active duty, creating interesting memories. Returning to civilian life, he began a life-long career with Connecticut General Life Insurance Company (later known as CIGNA) within Group Sales. He rose in the company to become a Regional Vice President for large accounts.

This career saw Tom and his family moving from Ossining, N.Y., to Mountainside, N.J., to West Suffield, Conn. Yet his most cherished home was the "camp" he built and enlarged at Chase's Lake in the Adirondacks. Today it is viewed by all three Spina generations as a family center. Ruth and Tom spent 17 years living full time in the camp after their retirements. Large expanses of river rock masonry were

built there by Tom over the 55 years owning the camp. It has provided many years of fishing, hunting, skiing and generally enjoying North country living. Time "away from camp" for Tom and Ruth included traveling adventures with 17 self-guided road tours of Italy plus commercial tours of China and much of South America.

Tom was often chosen for committees and boards throughout his adult life, from Fire Commissioner, Board of Education member and Town Council rep in New Jersey to serving as a Trustee of Chase's Lake Shoreowners' Association for several decades, to the Lewis County Hospice Board, through being a board member of St. John's Foundation in Rochester, N.Y.

Tom's interests were many and wonderfully varied. He put forth his rich bass voice in choruses and church choirs. SPEBSQSA, the national organization of barbershop singers, claimed his membership and devotion. He was a loyal fan of Syracuse University sports, gardened, taught his grandchildren all about the woods and nature, enjoyed coaching Little League baseball, doing intricate jigsaw puzzles, and even created beautiful needlepoint. He never met an animal he didn't like, especially hummingbirds, cats and his beloved cocker spaniels.

Survived also by many extended family members and friends who loved and respected him, he will be missed by all. Tom was a gentle and generous man, devoted to family. He gave much richness to his world.

A funeral was held on Tuesday, September 14, at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Lowville, N.Y. Arrangements were under the direction of the Sundquist Funeral Home on State Street in Lowville.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to donate to The American Heart Association or to the National Wildlife Federation in Tom's memory.

September 16, 2021

## NAMI Event to Address Covid-Related Mental Health

WESTFIELD AREA — National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) invites the community to join a presentation by Carol M. Pedro on "Mental Health Issues as a result of COVID" and learn ways to navigate the uncertainty ahead for a loved one with a mental illness and for oneself.

The presentation will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m. A question-and-answer

### NAMI Invites Families To Zoom Meetings

WESTFIELD AREA — NAMI Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness.

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

To register, email Denise at [namiunioncounty@yahoo.com](mailto:namiunioncounty@yahoo.com) with one's name, town and phone number.

period will follow the program.

Ms. Pedro is the executive director of Youth and Family Counseling Service in Westfield (<https://www.yfcsnj.org/>). She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a graduate of Kean University, where she earned a Master of Arts degree in Counselor Education. Ms. Pedro specializes in counseling children, teens and adults who experience relationship issues, poor self-images, feelings of anxiety and depression.

Interested persons are asked to register in advance for this Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8165656565>.

An email reminder with a clickable link to register will be emailed to those who have provided an email address.

After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting. While the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., the Zoom site will open at 7 p.m.

For additional information, contact [namiunioncounty@yahoo.com](mailto:namiunioncounty@yahoo.com).

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## Caring Contact Training to Commence September 21

WESTFIELD — Caring Contact will offer its 99th volunteer listening training beginning on September 21 and continuing through December 14. Training will run once a week on Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will take place virtually and in person.

Participants receive 54 hours of comprehensive training by nationally-certified instructors in active listening and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Volunteers develop the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support to keep someone safe.

"This training and volunteering opportunity is ideal for retirees, empty-nesters, stay-at-home parents," said Mary Claire Givelber, Caring Contact's executive director. "Many of our listeners were looking for something meaningful to do after they retired or their children left home. They find that volunteering at Caring Contact not only gives them something to do with their newfound freedom but also gives them a sense of reward when they help someone in crisis.

## Cranford Jaycees to Sponsor Blood Drive This Afternoon

CRANFORD — The Cranford Jaycees will sponsor a blood drive today, Thursday, September 16, from 1 to 7 p.m., at the Cranford Community Center, located at 220 Walnut Avenue. The blood drive that had been scheduled for September 2 at the Cranford Community Center had to be canceled due to Hurricane Ida.

Donors may sign up at [nybc.org/njdribe](http://nybc.org/njdribe). Sponsor code: 16077, or they can call/text Genevieve at (732) 672-

Full-time professionals also participate, finding the flexible volunteer hours work well with their work obligations."

Following training, new volunteer listeners are supported by seasoned listeners during 24 hours of internship before they take calls on their own. Even once a volunteer is a certified listener, the hotline provides a range of support and training opportunities to allow him or her to keep honing his or her skills.

To register for the training, visit <http://caringcontact.org/volunteer-listener-application/>.

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community, providing active listening support and best-in-class training to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. More than 70 trained volunteer listeners answered over 15,000 calls last year from people in crisis, having suicidal thoughts or simply feeling depressed and lonely.

Anyone in crisis and needing someone to listen is urged to call (800) 273-8255. To learn more, visit [caringcontact.org](http://caringcontact.org).

5281 for an appointment. Appointments are preferred; however, walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.

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

Masks that cover mouth and nose are required for all donors regardless of vaccination status. For a full list of Covid-19 safety protocols, visit [nybc.org/coronavirus](http://nybc.org/coronavirus).

## Miller-Cory House to Get 'Crazy For Cranberries'

WESTFIELD — The Miller-Cory House Museum invites the community to kick off the Fall and get "Crazy for Cranberries" on Sunday, September 26, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Visitors to the museum will find out all about cranberries, discover the history of this all-American berry and learn how berries are harvested. Other cranberry-themed activities will include a story time, scavenger hunt, and crafts for the kids.

Members of the Cooking Committee will include herbs common to the 18th century in demonstrating open-hearth cooking for visitors, with the cranberry as the star of the event.

Authentic open-hearth cooking is a unique feature of the museum's programming. Volunteers prepare early-American recipes using utensils, tech-

niques and seasonal ingredients of the time in the Frazee Building, a separate structure on the grounds, which, like the museum, dates to the 18th century. Visitors also may view the kitchen and herb gardens, which include plantings common to colonial days.

Admission is \$5 for visitors age 13 and older; \$3 for those ages 3 to 12, and free to those under age 3.

The Miller-Cory House Museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue, Westfield. For more information, call (908) 232-1776 or email [millercoreymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:millercoreymuseum@gmail.com). Information about the museum also is available on the museum's Facebook site, [facebook.com/MillerCoryHouse](https://www.facebook.com/MillerCoryHouse), or Instagram at [instagram.com/miller\\_cory\\_house\\_museum/](https://www.instagram.com/miller_cory_house_museum/).

## Jamie Novak to Describe 'One-Notebook' Organizing

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will host an online class entitled "How to Organize Your Life in One Notebook" with Jamie Novak on Monday, September 27, at 7 p.m.

Ms. Novak, organizer and author of "Keep This Toss That," will show participants how to organize their life with a single notebook. They will learn how this technique can help them to remember things, get organized, prioritize tasks and stop misplacing important information.

## Margaret Gerlach Achieves Historical Society Milestone

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society has announced that Margaret Gerlach was re-elected president at its June board meeting for the 12th consecutive two-year term, through 2023, making her the longest-serving president to hold office since the incorporation of the Cranford Historical Society in 1927.

Ms. Gerlach joined the Cranford Historical Society as a member in 1996 and has chaired and co-chaired many events for the Society.

As president, she oversees the Cranford Historical Society, the Hanson House, the Crane-Phillips House Museum and the Hanson House Landscaping Committee.

In 2001, Ms. Gerlach was elected to the Cranford Historical Society Board of Trustees and in 2011 was elected president. Ms. Gerlach has said it is an honor to serve as president for this nonprofit educational organization that preserves and perpetuates the history of the Township of Cranford, especially being president during the township's 150th anniversary.

Ms. Gerlach hopes that more people from the community will join the Cranford Historical Society, as the organization needs their support. A lifelong resident of Cranford, she is a realtor associate with Century 21 Supreme Realty in Cranford.

Anyone interested in becoming a member can obtain a membership form

Ms. Novak suggests participants bring a notebook of their choice to the online class: spiral, three-ring, journal or other. She advises them to utilize a notebook they already own instead of buying a new one.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link for this virtual program. The registration form, along with information about the Scotch Plains Public Library's entire month of programming, can be found on the library's website, [scotplib.org](http://scotplib.org).

at the Cranford Historical Society office, located at 38 Springfield Avenue, Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and on its website, [cranfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://cranfordhistoricalsociety.org).

Individuals with questions are asked to call the Cranford Historical Society office at (908) 276-0082 or email [cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net).

### Volunteers Are Sought For Garwood Cleanup

GARWOOD — The 17th Annual Clean Communities Litter Cleanup Day will take place in the Borough of Garwood on Saturday, October 2, beginning at 10:30 a.m. This event will be held 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 have 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 email [Kathleen@garwood.org](mailto:Kathleen@garwood.org), by Monday, September 27.



## Westfield Library to Feature ‘Decoding Mystery of Cats’

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library will present “Decoding the Mystery of Cats, or Why They Do What They Do” via Zoom on Wednesday, September 22, from 7 to 8 p.m., featuring feline behaviorist Stephen Quandt.

Cats’ behaviors are often mystifying. This program will answer questions such as “Why does a perfectly friendly cat attack your ankles in the evening but ignore you during the day?” Mr. Quandt will enlighten his audience with fascinating facts, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Originally a theatrical lighting designer, Mr. Quandt began working with cats in 2002. For eight years he worked professionally with the ASPCA at its adoption center in New York City, working in feline behavior and adoptions, and nationwide with the Field Investigations and Response Team on large-scale criminal cruelty cases and natural disasters.

Most recently he worked as the feline behavior coordinator for the Animal Care Centers of NYC, a not-for-profit contracted by the city of New York to provide animal- and community-related services to the residents of New York City.

To access the Zoom link for the cat behavior program, visit the library’s website at [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org).

Current library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday hours will resume on September 19.

Further information about library programs and services for children and adults is available at [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/wmlnj](https://www.facebook.com/wmlnj). Library programs also can be viewed on the library’s YouTube channel, which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/westfieldmemoriallib>, or by clicking on the YouTube icon on the library’s website.



**NEW BEGINNING...**Westfield Superintendent of Schools Raymond González, Ed.D., welcomes back staff during an opening-day ceremony on September 1. Dr. González lauded attendees for their hard work and dedication during a challenging year, noting that the overall well-being of students and staff remains a priority as district schools reopen.

## Supt. Welcomes Back Staff Ahead of School Reopening

WESTFIELD — Superintendent Raymond González, Ed.D., welcomed back staff on September 1 as the Westfield Public School District prepared for the return of students on September 9.

During two opening-day ceremonies for elementary and secondary educators, Dr. González — who joined the district on August 2 — welcomed 42 new staff members and applauded the teachers and staff gathered in the Westfield High School auditorium for their dedication, perseverance and commitment to their students throughout the pandemic.

Dr. González reiterated that the educational, physical and emotional health and wellness of students and staff remains a priority, as outlined in A Safe Return, the district’s plan for the 2021-2022 school year, which is posted on the district and school websites at [westfieldnj12.org](http://westfieldnj12.org).

Westfield Education Association (WEA) President Gail Alston, WEA Negotiating Team member Lori Swanson and Board of Education President Amy Root also were on hand to welcome the educators and to praise their hard work and dedication, especially during a challenging year.

Following a delayed opening to allow staff time to address any matters in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, teachers and paraprofession-

als gathered again on September 2 for professional learning organized by Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Programs Paul Pineiro and facilitated by district administrators. Sessions and workshops focused on identifying/addressing student learning gaps, subject area curriculum reviews, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Covid protocols/procedures, among other topics.

On August 30 and 31, the 42 new staff members attended a two-day, in-house orientation as part of the New Staff Institute (NSI). The NSI is a two-year program designed to support first-time educators and those who are new to the district. The comprehensive program is organized by Human Resources Specialist Barbara Ball and her staff, along with a leadership team comprised of seasoned Westfield educators.

“During the month since I joined the Westfield Public School District, I have enjoyed meeting our extraordinary administrators, teachers and staff,” said Dr. González. “I am inspired, but not surprised, by their unwavering devotion to their students. I look forward to the 2021-2022 school year and to our continued partnership with our school community.”

## Blood Drive Set In Clark Next Week

CLARK — A blood drive will be held next Thursday, September 23, from 1 to 7 p.m., at the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, located at 875 Raritan Road, Clark. To sign up to donate, access [nybc.org/njdrive](http://nybc.org/njdrive), sponsor code 11959, or call/text Genevieve at (732) 672-5281. Appointments are preferred; however, walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.

Participants are reminded to eat and drink beforehand and to bring their donor identification card or identification with their name and photo to the donation site. Masks are required of all donors, regardless of vaccination status. For a full list of Covid-19 safety protocols, visit [nybc.org/coronavirus](http://nybc.org/coronavirus).

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center, has announced that all donors who register at a blood drive during the month of September will be entered into a sweepstakes for an Air B and B gift card.

## Five Local Residents Among Tufts University Graduates

MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE, Mass. — Tufts University recently awarded approximately 1,500 undergraduate students degrees in disciplines ranging from the sciences and engineering to the humanities and fine arts during its online degree conferral ceremony commemorating the accomplishments of the Class of 2021.

Five local residents were among the graduates of the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering. They include the following. Owen Bartok of Westfield, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Quantitative Economics Summa Cum Laude. Benjamin Albert Halevy of

Westfield, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

Daniel Hutt of Scotch Plains, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.

Amy Kaplan of Westfield, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Health.

Juliana Wagner of Scotch Plains, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biopsychology.

Tufts University, with campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Mass., and in Talloires, France, offers undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. For more information about the university, visit [tufts.edu](http://tufts.edu).

## Three Local Residents Are Among URI Graduates

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 4,000 of its newest alumni during the university’s 135th Commencement. More than 3,700 undergraduate degrees and 680 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during nine individual ceremonies held over three days, May 21 to 23.

Isaac Harris Amador of Westfield received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Cum Laude.

Peter Robert Coates of Cranford received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Emily Frances Riordan of Westfield received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Marketing. Founded in 1892, the University of Rhode Island is the principal public flagship research and graduate institution in Rhode Island, offering 203

## Brett Roessle Earns Degree From Hofstra

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Brett Roessle of Cranford graduated from Hofstra University in May 2021, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance.

A private university enrolling 11,000 students from around the world, Hofstra University is the only school to ever host three consecutive Presidential debates, in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

Students can choose from more than 165 undergraduate program options and 175 graduate program options. For more information about the university, visit [hofstra.edu](http://hofstra.edu).

academic programs. Its 14,500 undergraduate students and more than 2,250 graduate students represent 48 states and 76 countries across the globe. To learn more, visit [uri.edu](http://uri.edu).

## Lila Hutchins Among New Bates Graduates

LEWISTON, Me. — Lila Hutchins of Westfield graduated from Bates College after majoring in sociology and minoring in Spanish. Ms. Hutchins, the daughter of John C. Hutchins and Margaret N. Hutchins, is a 2017 graduate of Westfield High School.

Ms. Hutchins was inducted into the Bates Scholar-Athlete Society, an organization which honors graduating seniors who have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or have received special nomination from the faculty for outstanding academic achievement in their junior and senior years, and who have participated in a varsity sport for a minimum of three years.

Bates College graduated 469 students from 38 states and 43 countries on May 27. Students were split by where they fell in the alphabet between morning (A-K) and afternoon (L-Z) ceremonies in order to allow for social distancing among the graduates and their guests.

Founded in 1855, Bates is a liberal arts college attracting 2,000 students from across the United States and around the world. For more information about the college, visit [bates.edu](http://bates.edu).



**KEEPING UP TO DATE...**Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club members who served on the calendar committee were on hand to thank the new manager of Norman’s Hallmark, Christine Mine, for continuing to support sales of the College Club Community Calendar. As Irma’s Bag and then Norman’s Hallmark, the Fanwood store has supported the Community Calendar for more than 45 years. Pictured, from left to right, are: Ginger Rachko, Cathy Hirschhorn, Ms. Mine and Meril Davies.

## F-SP College Club Offering Community Calendar

FANWOOD/SCOTCHPLAINS — The 58th edition of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club Community Calendar is available for purchase.

Covering September 2021 through September 2022, the calendar provides the currently available dates of school events for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District Kindergarten through Grade 12, Union Catholic High School and St. Bartholomew Academy.

It also contains listings of local houses of worship, advertisements for local businesses, contact information for approximately 100 local organizations and a 2023 calendar preview.

Due to the loyalty and support of nearly 100 local advertisers, the entire purchase price of \$10 goes directly into the club’s scholarship fund for scholarships that are awarded annually. Calendar sales are a major source of scholarship funds each year. In May, the club was able to award \$31,500 in scholarships to 11 young women.

Community calendars can be purchased from College Club members, the Fanwood Memorial Library and from the following local merchants: Norman’s Hallmark, Apple Blossom Flower Shop, Fanwood Larder, Scotchwood Florist and Shear Magic.

## Notre Dame Recognizes Cecilia Guarnuccio

WESTFIELD — Cecilia T. Guarnuccio of Westfield has been named to the Dean’s List in the University of Notre Dame’s First Year of Studies for outstanding scholarship during the Spring 2021 semester.

Students who achieve dean’s honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college. For more information about the University of Notre Dame, visit [nd.edu](http://nd.edu).

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MURRAY WINNING TD, LIMEIRA TD, GALLAGHER TD

# Cougars Come Back to Shock Lion Footballers in OT, 43-37

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

Never give up! A logo that could be seen on the backs of many sports shirts became a reality in the season opener between the Cranford High School football team and the visiting North Hunterdon Lions at Memorial Field in Cranford on September 10. After a stirring remembrance of the 911 2001 attacks, both teams also put on a show to remember and the result was a 43-37 overtime victory by the Cougars.

Down by 16 points (2 touchdowns plus a pair of 2-point conversions) with only 5:11 remaining in the fourth

quarter, the Cougars never gave up, came back to knot the score in regulation, held the Lions in their first overtime series then claimed victory when senior running back Colin Murray took the handoff from senior quarterback Shane VanDam and sprinted 20 yards for the score.

That turning point when down by 16 points, seemed to arouse a very strong sense of determination by the Cougars' offense. Senior running back Lucca Limeira (10 rushes, 36 yards, TD) and Murray (4 TDs, 27 carries, 145 yards) were blasting through the Lion line, breaking tackles and mak-

ing key gains. Murray bashed into the end zone with 2:40 remaining then VanDam (17-for-25, 316 yards, TD, Interception) connected with wide receiver Jack Conley for the two-point conversion to make the score 37-29.

"We are great friends and great athletes. When I get tired, I say, 'Lucca come in. I'm tired.' When he's tired, he tells me to hop in. We both were going to run the ball as hard as we can. It was just nonstop on them," Murray recalled.

The Cougars' defense did its job and forced a punt and Cranford took

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



more photos at [goleader.com](http://goleader.com)  
Ballyhoo Sports

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

PREPARING TO MAKE CONTACT...Cougars senior Connor Ryan, No. 52, with Lucas Ruby, No. 34, prepare to make contact with a North Hunterdon Lion in Cranford on September 10. The Cougars skinned the Lions, 43-37, in overtime.

ECKERT 5 RBI; GANG 3-4, PIKAART 3-3, McKENNA 3 RUNS

# St. Sebastian 2-Peats; Muzzles St. Wolfgang, 13-9, for Crown

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

St. Sebastian may have had a shaky beginning but regained its composure to overcome St. Wolfgang, 13-9, at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on Labor Day, September 6, to claim its second straight St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League title. As the second seed, St. Sebastian barely edged the third-seeded St. Wolfmen, 12-11, in the second round to bounce them into the Losers' Bracket. The Wolfpack battled their way back to the championship game with respective wins over St. Anthony, St. George and St. Joseph. In the meantime, St. Sebastian knocked off St. Joseph in the upper bracket to advance to the title game.

Prior to the championship show-

down, St. Sebastian team Captain Wells Pikaart commented, "I have been in the league for eight years. This is fifth year captaining. We are looking to repeat this year as we took the whole thing last Labor Day."

Hoping that he could add another championship to his resume, St. Wolfgang's Tony Perconte, a Westfield resident, said, "I just got six foot of water in my basement, so it's good to be out here to get away from what's going on in life. Thank God for St. Bart's softball! This is my 23rd year here. This is my third championship and I am 1-1. They called me the 'Moosh' a couple of years ago when I won with St. George. The 'Moosh' is over but hopefully we get another one today."

However, Perconte did pick up

another nickname. "Pineapple! It's comes back to St. Bart's after eating pizza down here. Chris Sarno was eating pineapple pizza and being of Italian decent, I said, 'are you crazy putting pineapple on pizza!' So it just took off from there," Perconte explained. "It exploded all over the place. It kind of caught fire. I even saw it in The Westfield Leader, which you put in. It's pretty funny!"

Well aware of his competition, Pikaart added, "I have a great group of guys behind me. St. Wolfgang is a really good team. Wolfgang took the long road here but they deserve to be here. I give them a lot of respect. We are going out and play hard and have a lot of fun."

As to his team's chances, Perconte

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



more photos at [goleader.com](http://goleader.com)  
Ballyhoo Sports

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

GIVING IT HIS ALL...St. Wolfgang second baseman Tony Perconte dives in an attempt to put the tag on St. Sebastian's Glenn Gang during the St. Bart's Championship game at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on Labor Day, September 6.



more photos at [goleader.com](http://goleader.com)  
Ballyhoo Sports

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

HAVING A PRODUCTIVE AFTERNOON...Blue Devil running back Justin Colby, No. 4, takes the handoff from quarterback Trey Brown, No. 17, and scoots for a gain in the game against St. Joseph (Metuchen) on September 11.

COLBY 2 TDS; TREY-TO-TREY FOR TD; WRAGG TD, FG

# Blue Devil Adjustment Downs St. Joseph (Met) Falcons, 31-20

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

Adjustments offensively and defensively in the second quarter turned a St. Joseph (Metuchen) first-quarter dominance into a Westfield Blue Devil controlled game at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on the 20th anniversary of the 911 2001 attacks. After an inability to stop the penetrating Falcon defense in the first quarter, the Blue Devil offensive began to figure it out and, along with a swarming defensive effort, transformed a 7-0 deficit into a 31-20 victory.

Due to the Falcons' defensive pressure, the Blue Devils' offense sputtered on its first three series and totaled only 26 yards rushing, and junior quarterback Trey Brown, who was intercepted on his first pass, was unable to complete a pass until early in

the second quarter when he connected with running back Justin Colby on his 10th attempt. After the adjustment, Brown would go on to complete nine of his next 14 attempts (9-for-23 total) for 105 yards, which included 6-for-9 for 73 yards and a 33-yard touchdown strike to receiver Trey Constantinou in the second half.

Colby would total 105 yards, including a seven-yard touchdown run, on 19 carries. Brown carried 9 times for 34 yards and junior running back Dylan Wragg would carry seven times for 34 yards. Constantinou finished with four receptions for 71 yards. Junior receiver Paul Cerro had two receptions for 22 yards, senior Aidan Scheper had a 12-yard reception and Colby had two receptions totaling no yardage.

"Our kids made the adjustments. We were able to identify the things

that we struggled with. You hate being down early but we were able to turn it around. Our kids didn't quit," Blue Devil Head Coach Jim DeSarno emphasized.

The adjustment was especially difficult since the Blue Devils had their season interrupted and cut short last year, having experienced only two games with no scrimmages.

"After the first quarter, we just sat down on the bench. We were going through, 'Okay! Here's what we are doing well. Here's what we are not doing well.' We discussed their defense. We said, 'this is a really good team. If we do this, this could work.' Over time, we got better and got more confidence," Brown explained.

The Falcons struck early and scored on their first series. After quarterback

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



more photos at [goleader.com](http://goleader.com)  
Ballyhoo Sports

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

GETTING HIS HEAD ON IT...Raiders Patrick Watt, No. 4, and co-captain Ethan Koseoglu, No. 15, watch as Isaac Tu, No. 10, gets his head on the ball during the game with Union in Scotch Plains on September 9. The Raiders won 5-1.

KOSEOGLU NETS HAT TRICK, TU TWICE, KOIS 4 SAVES

# Coach 'Brez' Remembered In 5-1 Raider Win over Union

## Coach 'Brez' Remembered In 5-1 Raider Win over Union

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

Former Raider Head Coach Tom Breznitsky, who had been at the helm for 45 years, was definitely not forgotten when the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer team hosted the Union Farmers at Shimme Wexler Field on September 9. After a ceremony commemorating Coach Breznitsky, who passed away on January 21, 2021, the Raider boys certainly did their job by defeating the Farmers, 5-1

But first the ceremony featured Coach Breznitsky's wife Lynda, son Ryan and daughter Erin. Then a 20-second moment of silence followed.

During his tenure as head coach, Breznitsky had amassed an amazing 761-185-63 record to go with 17 Union County Tournament (UCT) titles, 15 sectional titles and 13 trips to the Group Championship game, winning seven of them (1987, 89, 91, 92, 95, 97, 98). (Note - the Raiders had 2 UCT titles and a few sectional titles prior to his involvement)

Coach "Brez" received his 500th win on October 20, 2004 when the Raiders shut out the hosting Cranford Cougars, 2-0. Victory No. 600 for Breznitsky came on September 20, 2011 with a 6-0 rout of the hosting Cranford Cougars. In the fourth game of the 2016 season, the Raiders awarded Breznitsky with his 700th career win when they beat Elizabeth, 2-1, in Scotch Plains on September 15.

Leading the charge for the Raiders

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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ST. BART'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS...St. Sebastian muzzled St. Wolfgang, 13-9, to claim the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League crown on Labor Day, September 6, at Brookside Park. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, John Greenblatt, Erik Hastrup, John Cholaneril, Lance Abramowitz, Dennis Reilly and Liam Nobile; back row, Wells Pikaart, Glenn Gang, Josh Baik, Bill Shneider, Kevin Coupe, Andrew Smyth, Kevin Caggiano, Dave Eckert and Mike McKenna.

## St. Sebastian Muzzles Wolfgang, 13-9, for Crown

replied, "We got the team but they have a good team. It should be a competitive game. We've had a rough time with them. Second playoff game we were up five going into the seventh and we lost when it went into extra innings. We are going to give it our all like we always do."

Both teams did give it their all offensively and especially defensively when several players put it on the line to pull off a number of spectacular plays. While playing second base, Perconte initiated a pair of double plays with shortstop Jim Barba and first baseman Vince Fumero. While playing third, Perconte added another third-to-first double play. Perconte also made a chest-diving stop that he converted to a putout at second. Wolfgang pitcher Gary Leichtling snagged a one-hopper and fired to first for an out.

St. Seb's infield of Mike McKenna (short), Pikaart (third) and Dave Eckert (second) also came up with a number of spectacular plays. Pikaart made a diving grab of Roger Billotto's liner in the first inning and added another unassisted putout in the seventh. McKenna robbed Don Rinaldo three times of hits, the final one re-

sulting in a double play. McKenna made a running catch midway down the third base line and was temporarily injured. Eckert worked well with McKenna to add several slick putouts. Playing shallow, leftfielder John Greenblatt fired to second to get a force out. Pitcher Glenn Gang also made a nice stop for an out but the finest acrobatic play of the day came from centerfielder Andrew Smyth, who performed a diving and backward rolling grab of Reinaldo Santiago's difficult fly ball.

All 16 of St. Sebastian's players got, at least, one hit to come up with a total of 24 hits. Eckert inflicted the most damage with a three-run double, an RBI single and an RBI sacrifice fly. McKenna singled twice, walked once, scored three times and had an RBI. Gang went 3-for-4 with a double and two runs scored. Pikaart went 3-for-3 with an RBI and Erik Hastrup doubled, singled and scored twice.

St. Wolfgang had 11 hits and Fumero led the pack with an RBI double, an RBI single and two runs scored. Perconte singled twice and scored once. Dan Roy singled once, walked once, scored once and had two RBI. Dan Margolis singled twice and Varo

Baboomian, who reached base safely all four times (3 errors, walk), scored twice. Santiago had two RBI.

St. Seb pitcher Gang had trouble finding the zone in the top of the first inning and the Wolfpack took advantage of six walks and an infield single (Fumero) to plate four runs. From that point onward, Gang would allow just two more free passes. The Sebs answered once. Gang drilled a double down the leftfield line then McKenna, who walked, later scored on Eckert's single to left.

St. Sebastian added a run in the second. Hastrup doubled to left then "small ball" followed with dinky infield singles from Pikaart, Josh Baik and Bill Scheiner, who got the RBI. Wolfgang scored once in the third when Perconte slashed a single over first and scored on Roy's sac fly to right-center.

But Sebastian battered the ball with five runs in the third to seize a 7-5 lead. John Cholaneril reached on an error and scored on Greenblatt's infield single. Gang singled to right and McKenna dropped an RBI single over first. Smyth beat out a no-play single and Eckert hammered a base-loaded double to left.

## St. Bart's Men's Softball League Semifinal Rounds:

**ROUND 4:**  
**St. Wolfgang 6, St. George 0**

With St. Sebastian established as the team to play in the championship on Labor Day, the action shifted to the Consolation Bracket to determine who would face Wells Pikaart's powerful Sebastian squad. Pitching and defense were strong for both teams through the first four innings.

The game was scoreless through four innings due, in part, to fine running catches in the outfield from Wolfgang's Ed DeFrancesco and Brian Weber, while Carlos DaCosta cut off a few "gappers" for the Georgies. The Wolf Pack received fine infield play from a ranging Donnie "shortstop?" Rinaldo, Jim Sosinski and Tony "Pinapple" Perconte, who turned a crisp inning double play to end an inning for St. Wolfgang.

Tension was high when rookie of the year Daniel Roy slugged an over the fence HR in the top of the fifth to get the scoring started for the Wolfies. The scored remained 1-0 until Wolfgang tacked on five runs in the seventh to secure the victory over St. George, who never seemed to recover from Roy's HR.

Gary Leichtling was sharp on the mound for St Wolfgang, allowing zero runs on eight hits and walking one. Jimmy Barba, Vru "Boom" Baboomian, Leichtling, and Dan Margolis each had multiple hits for St. Wolfgang. Tom Ulichny and Mike Surbrug collected multiple hits for St. George. Jeff Friedlander's St. George

team ends the 2021 season with a 18-7 record.

**ROUND 5:**  
**St. Wolfgang 23, St. Joseph 14**

A day after hurricane Ida dumped over 6" of rain in our area, the Scotch Plains DPW were hard at work making Jerseyland Field playable for a Thursday evening match-up to determine who would play in the St. Bart's Oldtimer's Championship game on Labor Day. In a highly entertaining game delayed by a forgotten glove, illegal bat, and wardrobe malfunction, St. Wolfgang prevailed as darkness set in and advances to Labor Day to face St. Sebastian.

Both teams came out hot in the early innings, drilling several line drives and trading runs. Leading 12-9, the Wolf Pack exploded for nine runs in the bottom of the fourth and cruised to victory. The game was delayed by several minutes in the fourth inning while punishment for a Wolfgang illegal bat was decided (bat was removed, runs were allowed).

St. Wolfgang's offense was led by Daniel Roy (4-4, HR, 4RBI), Tony Perconte (3B, 5RBI), Vinny Fumero, Jimmy Barba, Brian Weber, Vru "Boomer" Baboomian, and "steady" Eddie DeFrancesco, who all collected at least three hits apiece. Billy Aumenta, Chris "best outfielder" Millar, Brian Stitt and Nash "where's my wig?" Warfield paced the St. Joseph offense. Captain Tom Gryan's St. Joe's squad ends the 2021 season with a 12-11-1 record.

St. Wolfgang	401	013	000	9
St. Sebastian	115	204	00x	13

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**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing ordinance was approved for final adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a Regular Meeting held on September 14, 2021.

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk  
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## Coach 'Brez' Remembered in Raider, 5-1, Win

against the Farmers was senior co-captain Ethan Koseoglu, who notched a hat trick (3 goals). Senior Issac Tu added the other two goals. Junior Henrique Barbosa had a pair of assists, while senior co-captain Jason Trivissano and senior N'kem Okorie each had one assist. Raider sophomore goalkeeper Graham Kois recorded four saves and Union keeper Jake Sa was credited with nine saves.

Eight minutes into the game, Koseoglu banged a wicked header toward the goal but Sa made the stop. Within two minutes at 30:15 on the clock, Trivissano assisted Koseoglu to give the Raiders a 1-0 lead. Moments later, Koseoglu nearly did it again after a Raider defender launched a long shot that allowed him to make a run toward the box. As Sa was forced

to charge his assault, Koseoglu drilled a shot that just missed the mark.

The Raiders continued the attack. This time junior Giovanni Marra whipped a long throw-in from the left side that was deflected by a Union defender. With 26 minutes left in the half, Koseoglu ripped another shot that skimmed across the top of the crossbar. A minute later, Marra took a free kick on the right but Sa made the save.

Union finally got on the offensive and it eventually paid off when Oliveira knotted the score with 23:23 showing. Within 30 seconds, Oliveira nearly did it again but his shot was deflected. Four minutes later the Raiders reversed the flow. Junior Etienne Groom had a free kick on the right and sent it into a mob scene at the box

where Okorie tapped it to Tu, who made the score 2-1. Marra, Okorie and freshman Luca Passucci later added pressure but Sa and his defenders managed to ward off the attack. Tu had another shot that bounced off the left post. Then in the final minutes of the half, the Farmers had a corner kick on the left. After a short pass, the ball was lofted into the box but Kois was able to smother it.

The second half turned out to be all Scotch Plains-Fanwood. Tu scored his second goal unassisted 10 minutes into the half. Nearly 20 minutes of scoreless play followed until Koseoglu, on Barbosa's assist, nailed his second goal. Within 30 seconds Barbosa assisted Koseoglu on his third goal.

Union	1	0	1
Sc. Pl-Fanwood	2	3	5

## High School Sport Shorts:

### Johnson Beats Dayton In Boys Soccer, 3-1

The AL Johnson High School boys soccer team scored twice in the first half and once in the second half to overcome the Dayton Bulldogs, 3-1, on September 9. Corey Pires and Parker Reyes each netted a goal and an assist for the Crusaders, while Anthony Cundari scored once. Goalkeeper Carson Pires made six saves. Jake Smiatacz scored the Bulldogs' goal.

### ALJ Gridders Stop Metuchen, 16-6

The Al Johnson High School football team got good mileage out of three field goals off the foot of Brett Makowsky and added an 85-yard fumble return for a touchdown by Vince Pisano to emerge with a 16-6 victory over Metuchen on September 11. Metuchen quarterback Stephen Michaliszyn tossed a 40-yard touchdown pass to Aiden Holloway.



VERY TOUGH AT FIRST SINGLES...Raider Anna Szczuka defeated Blue Devil Savannah Cohen in her first singles match in Westfield on September 10.

### Blue Devils Nip Raiders in Girls Tennis, 3-2

The No. 10 Westfield High School girls tennis team had a battle with No. 13 Scotch Plains-Fanwood and prevailed, 3-2. Raider Anna Szczuka defeated Savannah Cohen, 6-2, 6-2, at first singles, and Raider Diya Nainwal stopped Natalie Zaleschowski, 6-2, 6-1, at second singles.

The Blue Devils won the remain-

der with Katey Peretz topping Diti Nainwal, 6-2, 6-0, at third singles. Annika Vesuna and Payton Silverman defeated Nikita Sahasrabudha and Elizabeth Diamond, 6-2, 6-2, and first doubles. Emily Shabinaw and Bianca Vesuna topped Jan Shim and Samantha Edelman, 6-0, 6-2, at second doubles.



READY TO MAKE A SERVE...Blue Devil freshman Savannah Cohen serves in her first singles match against Raider Anna Szczuka match in Westfield.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD**  
**WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY**

**SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2223**

**A SPECIAL ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF TOWN PROPERTY KNOWN AS 650 HORT STREET IN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing ordinance was approved for final adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a Regular Meeting held on September 14, 2021.

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$17.34

### Lady Blue Devils Stop Summit in Soccer, 4-0

The No. 17 Westfield High School girls soccer team spread the wealth in a 4-0 shutout of the Summit Hilltoppers in Summit on September 9. Junior attacker Alyssa Martinez, Kim DeFilippo, Ella Cadigan and Zhana Velkov each scored once and Emma Kelesoglu, Ellie Sherman and Elise Fox each added an assist. Goalkeeper Sutton Factor made three saves.

Westfield	2	2	4
Summit	0	0	0

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD**  
**WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY**

**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2223**

**NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**

General Ordinance No. 2223, a summary of which is included herein, was introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield held on September 14, 2021 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by said Town Council at a meeting beginning at 8:00 PM on September 28, 2021 in the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.

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

A summary of General Ordinance No. 2223 is as follows:

**Title: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 13, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

**Summary:**

Amends Chapter 13, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic", Section 13-20 of the Town Code by adding the following language in its entirety:

Name of Street	Side	Location
Central Avenue	Southwest	From 50 feet south of the southerly curbline of Washington Street and from 50 feet north of the northerly curbline of Washington Street
South Avenue	North	Beginning at the easterly curbline of Crossway Place and extending east along the northerly curbline of South Avenue for a distance of 70 feet

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$54.06

### Blue Devils Tame Bears In Girls Soccer, 3-0

Alyssa Martinez notched a hat trick all in the second half to lead the No. 17 Westfield High School girls soccer team to a 3-0 triumph over the East Brunswick Bears on September 11. Chiara Cosenza had two assists and CatAngel added one assist. Goalkeeper Sutton Factor made four saves.

### Royals Shock Raiders In Girls Soccer, 1-0

After 78 minutes of scoreless competition, the Oak Knoll Royals stunned the No. 2 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls soccer team, 1-0, in Summit when Sophie Zangara managed to find the inside of the Raider net. Goalkeeper Zoe Boggier made nine saves.

### Raiders Swarm Bees In Girls Soccer, 8-0

Incensed over their upsetting loss to Oak Knoll, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raider soccer girls swarmed all over the Bayonne Bees and came up with an 8-0 victory on September 11. Jasmine Gutierrez netted three goals and Leah Klurman scored a goal and had an assist. Francesca DiLollo, Emily Friscia, Gabby Palermo and Sydney Sadlereach scored once. Jamie Weinberg, Gia Milano, Alexa Fazio, Amanda Baylock and Angelina Amaya each added an assist. Goalkeeper Rebecca Kessler needed only to make one save.

### Raiders Top Oak Knoll In Girls Tennis, 4-1

The No. 12 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls tennis team overwhelmed the Oak Knoll Royals, 4-1, on September 9. All three Raider singles players won impressively beginning with Anna Szczuka stopping Kelly Troczynski, 6-0, 6-1, at first singles. Diya Nainwal topped Grace Schroeder, 6-0, 6-1, at second singles and Diti Nainwal defeated Ava Cusack, 6-1, 6-0, at third singles. The Raiders also won at first doubles.

### Blue Devils Beat Union In Boys Soccer, 3-0

Andrew Macik netted a goal and an assist, while Chris Cicca and Noah Fischer each scored once, to lead the Westfield High School boys soccer team past Union, 3-0, on September 11. Zach Preucil and Max Rokhsar each added an assist.

### Raider Boys Battle Mendham to 1-1 Tie

Patrick Watt with an assist from Etienne Groom, scored once as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer team battle Mendham to a 1-1, two overtime tie on September 11. Collyer McLoud scored Mendham's goal.

### Lady Cougars Defeat Watching Hills, 2-1

The 2-0 Cranford High School girls soccer team scored two second-half goals to overcome the Watching Hills Warriors, 2-1, on September 11. Riely Korzeneski, on Aislinn McGovern's assist, scored with 14 minutes left in the game and Meghan Normann on an assist from Gabby Baiada, scored six minutes later. Goalkeeper Grace Kallensee made five saves.

### Cougars Duel Dayton To 2-2 Boys Soccer Tie

Owen Maher scored two first-half goals for the Cranford High School boys soccer team but Dayton's James Garcia scored twice in the second half then neither team could find the net through two overtime periods, resulting in a 2-2 tie. Gavin Avella recorded six saves for the Cougars.

**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.**

**STATEMENT**

TAKE NOTICE THAT ORDINANCE NO. 21-14 WAS PASSED ON THE FINAL READING AFTER PUBLIC HEARING AT A MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD ON Thursday, September 9, 2021.

ATTEST:

Catherine D. Cameron, R.M.C.  
Deputy Municipal Clerk  
1 T - 09/16/21, UC Hawk Fee: \$20.40

# Rotary Club of Westfield

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Rotary is regularly supplying items for homeless veterans temporarily housed at Lyons VA. To date deliveries of socks, towels, toiletries, winter garments and other items have been made in an effort to help serve those who have served us.

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

This ad is graciously sponsored by:

Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Mary Ellen O'Boyle and Jayson Astel

Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Area stores that carry The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

<b>7-11 Central Ave</b> 800 Central Ave. (Leader) <b>King's Supermarket</b> 300 South Ave. (Leader)	<b>7-11 Garwood</b> 309 North Ave. (Leader/HAWK) <b>Krauszer's</b> 727 Central Ave. (Leader)	<b>7-11 Mountainside</b> 921 Mountain Ave. (Leader) <b>Kwick Mart Food Store</b> 190 South Ave. (HAWK)	<b>7-11 Westfield</b> 1200 South Ave., W. (Leader/HAWK) <b>Mountain Deli</b> 2385 Mountain Ave. (HAWK)	<b>Baron's Drug Store</b> 243 E. Broad St. (Leader) <b>Shoprite Supermarket</b> 563 North Ave. (Leader)	<b>Fresh Mart</b> 1928 Westfield Ave. (Leader/HAWK) <b>Westfield Mini Mart</b> 301 South Ave., W. (Leader)	<b>Westfield Tobacco &amp; News</b> 108 Elm St. (Leader)
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Cougars Come Back to Shock Lions in OT, 43-37

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

over on the 20-yard line with 2:12 on the clock. VanDam hooked up with Murray, who broke tackles and bolted 31 yards. He then added a 13-yard carry to the Lion 36. VanDam then hit senior receiver Will Gallagher (7 receptions, 146 yards) for the TD. Gallagher also grabbed the two-point conversion to knot the score with 1:39 left.

On Murray's reception, VanDam explained, "You just do what the coaches say all the time. We never ran that in practice. We put that in on the fly. It was necessary and it worked." "That was the first catch I had in my career. It was pretty crazy but

the game into overtime. "The intensity from all these people. It gets loud here and we embrace it," explained Gallagher. "We made big plays on the field, the field goal blocked, the touchdowns when we were down by 16. We scored two touchdowns in five minutes and converted two extra points. To convert under pressure and the support from these fans, it's great!"

The Cougars were moving the ball on their first series of the game until Murray fumbled and the Lions took over at their own 35 but the Cranford defense limited them to three-and-out. North Hunterdon's defense also



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

GETTING THE HANDOFF...Cougar Luca Limeira, No. 6, takes the handoff from QB Shane VanDam in the game against North Hunterdon on September 10

this whole game was just up and down. There were some points where it looked a little bad but I had faith the whole time in my teammates, myself, coaches," Murray said.

But the pressure was still on and the Lions moved down field and attempted a 33-yard field goal with :02.9 on the clock but Gallagher blocked it to send

held and took over at the 20. After a 10-yard completion, running back Kente Edwards galloped 70 yards for the TD with 1:45 left in the quarter for a 7-0 lead.

The Cougars came right back thanks to a 38-yard hookup from VanDam to Gallagher to the Lion 17. Four plays later, Limeira burst through from the

High School Sport Shorts:

Lady Volleyball Blue Devils Top Raiders, Fall to Kent Place Dragons

Chloe Kreusser recorded 14 service points with three aces, and added two kills, a block and a dig as the Westfield High School girls volleyball team defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 25-17, 25-10, on September 9. Carly Rodrigues had 10 service points with four aces, eight assists and a dig. Chelsea Duan recorded seven assists, two kills, two digs and two service points. Chloe Wiedman had five service points with two aces, four kills and six digs. Olivia Bryan scooped seven digs and had a service point. Caitlin Cabrales notched four kills, and added two digs and two service points with an ace. Taylor Addidis had four kills and a dig.

On September 13, the 2-1 Blue

Crusaders Top Royals In Girls Volleyball, 2-0

The AL Johnson High School Crusaders girls volleyball team defeated the Oak Knoll Royals, 25-10, 25-14, on September 9. Rebecca Fogle recorded 12 assists and four digs, while Sophia DiProffio recorded six kills, two blocks, two assists an eight service points with six aces.

Allie FitzHarris notched five kills to go with six digs and eight service points with four aces. Julianna Cistaro had two kills and four service points with an ace. Cassandra Gloster recorded five kills, eight digs, an assist and four service points with two aces. Valentina Guenter scooped 12 digs and had two assists. Melanie Lipari Pazienza had three digs and an assist.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS**  
**ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMISSION**  
**NOTICE OF TRANSFER APPLICATION**

Please take notice that an application has been made to the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains for a person-to-person and place-to-place transfer to Clark Circle Liquors & Lounge Inc., trading as Wine Anthology, of the Plenary Retail Distribution License Number 2016-44-009-008, for the premises located at 1985 State Highway Route 22 (spaces 7, 8 and 9), Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, hereto issued to N and M Chatham Inc., as a Pocket License.

The persons who will hold an interest in the license are:  
Alex Gorelik, 1833 Chapel Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, 70% Membership Interest  
Leo Gorelik, 19 Cunningham Drive, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932, 30% Membership Interest

Any objections, if any, should be made within immediately, in writing to Scotch Plains Municipal Clerk, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076 and to: William C. Fay, IV, Esq. Proetta Oliver & Fay 180 Kings Hwy Middletown, New Jersey 07748

2 T 09/09/21  
& 09/16/21, UC Hawk Fee: \$58.14

Football Raiders Top JFK-Iselin, 41-20

Junior quarterback Weston Fischer passed for 129 yards, including a touchdown pass to Justin Pastore as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team got back on the winning track with a 41-20 victory over the JFK-Iselin Mustangs on September 10.

Senior running back Anthony Robinson carried 16 times for 212 yards, including three touchdowns, and Matt Power carried three times for 66 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Defensively Power was involved in eight tackles, Nahdir Johnson made six tackles, including two solo sacks and an assisted sack. Robert Koch was involved in six tackles, including a sack and one assisted sack. Mike Judge made five tackles, including a sack and an assisted sack.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD**  
**WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY**  
**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2224**  
**NOTICE OF PENDING**  
**ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**

General Ordinance No. 2224, a summary of which is included herein, was introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield held on September 14, 2021 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by said Town Council at a meeting beginning at 8:00 PM on September 28, 2021 in the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.

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

A summary of General Ordinance No. 2224 is as follows:  
**Title: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN CODE FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD TO INCREASE FINES FOR BIAS CRIMES**

**Summary:**  
Amends Section 32-6 of Chapter 32, "Public Lands, Buildings, and Property", as follows:

Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 30 days; or both. The doing of each and every separate act prohibited herein shall constitute a separate violation.

Tara Rowley, RMC Town Clerk  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$39.27

two-yard line and Liam Godwin kicked the first of his three PATs to knot the score.

With 3:31 left in the half, the Lions nailed a 22-yard field goal but the Cougars quickly answered with a five-play, 75-yard drive when Murray scooted in from nine yards out. The Lions answered within two minutes on 10 straight passes that was concluded with quarterback Luke Martini spotting Hunter Paulter in the end zone for 14 yards for a 17-14 lead.

The Cougars gambled on their first possession and attempted a fake punt that failed. The Lions took over at the Cranford 37 and on the third play, Martini connected with John Sauchelli for a 19-yard TD. The PAT failed. Trailing 23-14, the Cougars came back with an eight-play, 77-yard scoring drive when Murray broke through from the four with 1:50 left in the third quarter.

Murray had a 21-yard go-ahead TD negated on a holding call then the Cougars' hopes dimmed somewhat when an attempted go-ahead field goal was botched and North Hunterdon took over.

"I was pretty angry. I just said you got to get another one. That's my mindset. But you just move forward," Murray commented.

The lights got even dimmer four plays later when Martini's pass to Paulter resulted in a 64-yard TD with 5:38 remaining. All hopes were nearly dashed 27 seconds later when VanDam's pass was intercepted and returned 45 yards for the TD to make the score 37-21. But there still was a glimmer of hope and the Cougars would find it.

"I actually thought we were going to lose. When I saw when it got to 16 points, I said, 'Oh no!' We were yelling at each other. We fought through the adversity and we got it done," Gallagher said.

"The game's not over until it's over! We just had to rally all the troops and finish up this game," Van Dam expressed.

"We all made mistakes tonight. I had a fumble, there was an interception. We just scratched out. We looked forward," Murray explained.

"It's a whole team effort. I would be lying if I would say it's just a few people. All 11 hats on the field! This couldn't be done without all 11 people," Gallagher emphasized.

"Everybody did their jobs. I just couldn't be more proud of our team. Everybody had each other's back," Murray said. "We never gave up!"

No. Hunt.	7	10	6	14	0	37
Cranford	0	14	7	16	6	43

Normann, Gallagher Cougars of the Week

Meghan Normann and Will Gallagher were named Cranford Cougars of the Week. Normann is a wing midfielder on the soccer team. She's scored two goals in the first two games of the season and plays a pivotal role in the Cougars' success to start. Gallagher, a senior wide receiver and defensive back on the football team, had seven catches for 139 yards, including the game-tying touchdown and two-point conversion to help the Cougars rally to beat North Hunterdon, 43-37, in overtime in the season opener

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS**  
**COUNTY OF UNION**

**TAKE NOTICE** The Township of Scotch Plains will expose for sale at Public Auction, in accordance with Title 39:10A-1, at the times and locations specified below, the following motor vehicles which came into the possession of the Scotch Plains Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

All the vehicles on the following lists are offered in strictly "as is" condition, with no representation as to condition or fitness for any particular purpose. Minimum bid for each vehicle will be all towing and storage fees due to the towing agency. Purchase must be made by cash or certified check. A 10% deposit must be given at time of auction. Balance must be paid by 4:00 p.m. the same day.

The public auction shall be held on Friday, 24 September 2021 in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey pertaining thereto.

The following vehicle may be examined at Ace Service Center, 1509 Front Street A, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076 at 8:30 am. Public Auction will commence at 8:45 am.

MAKE	YEAR	VIN NO.	MINIMUM BID
Honda	2000	2HKRL 1869Y H5527 68	\$500.00

Bozena Lacina Township Clerk  
Fee: \$38.76  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Times

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.2 via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on 10/07/21, downloaded, and publicly opened and read, in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:

**Maintenance Structural Steel and Aluminum Repair Contract, North - 2022, Various Locations, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren (Including and North of Route 57) Counties; 100% State; DP NO: 22412**  
Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 (P.L. 1975, c. 127); N.J.A.C. 17:27.

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

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

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

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

200 Sterli Court Mt. Arlington, New Jersey 07856 973-601-6690	One Executive Campus Rt 70 West Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002 856-486-6623
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3 T - 09/16/21, 09/23/21 & 09/30/21, The Leader Fee: \$168.30



Charles Mulrooney for The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

ONE OF TWO INTERCEPTIONS...Blue Devil defensive back Senu Glasco, No. 21, made two interceptions and nearly had another in the game against St. Joseph (Metuchen) at Kehler Stadium on September 11.

Blue Devils' Adjustment Downs Falcons, 31-20

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Christian Solino completed a 50-yard pass and a 13-yard pass, running back Omari Jones bashed in from the two-yard line with 8:32 on the clock. The point after was good.

The interception on Westfield's first series gave the Falcons good field position at midfield but this time with some key tackles from linebacker Dan Hanlon and defensive end Rion Murray and an interception by defensive back Senu Glasco, who nearly missed an interception earlier, the Blue Devils held. Glasco would add another interception in the fourth quarter and nearly scored before he was taken down at the two-yard line.

Glasco recalled, "The ball was right to me. At first it wasn't too good. I let up the first pass but I recovered it with two picks. I could have taken the second one to the house but he just happened to get me down."

"Senu definitely changed the momentum because his picks definitely helped us out," Brown added.

"Turnovers are big! We were able to take advantage of some of the turnovers. Coach (Marc) Ciccotelli, their offensive coordinator, had been around. Wherever he goes, he's going to score points and make it very difficult on defenses," Coach DeSarno said.

The momentum definitely changed. With short but steady running gains by Colby, the ball rested on the 15 where Wragg booted a 25-yard field goal to narrow the margin to 7-3 with 7:22 left in the half. With pressure from defensive linemen Brandon Love and Julian Montez and a fumble recovery by Hanlon, the Blue Devils were back in business at the St. Joseph 31. Five plays later, Colby slipped through for a seven-yard touchdown with 4:43 left, to put Westfield up 10-7.

Blue Devil defensive back Owen Shakal recovered a Falcon fumble at the 38 then after two running plays and an incomplete pass, Brown hit Cerro for 12 yards to the 11 where Colby sprinted in to up the lead to 17-7.

"He's a great player. Every day in

practice, everyone just looks at him and are stunned at how fast he is. Seeing him doing out here what he does in practice is awesome. Just seeing what we are doing at practice and seeing the mistakes that we make so we can learn," Brown said.

Despite a three-yard sack by Hanlon, the Falcons managed to score when Jones scooted in from the three. The point after failed.

After a scoreless third quarter, a Westfield fumble at midfield on the first play of the fourth quarter resulted in JoJo Hundley taking it in for the score to put the Falcons back on top, 20-17. Colby was injured and Wragg took over and perhaps the Falcons drew a sigh of relief but there was no let up.

A mix of strong running plays by Wragg and two receptions put the Blue Devils at the 33 then Brown hooked up with Constantinou for the touchdown to retake the lead 24-20 with 6:35 remaining.

"We were confident with a second stringer. He (Wragg) was awesome. We were all hungry because we didn't get to play a lot last year. This year during the off-season we were working hard. We made some mistakes but we will fix them," Brown promised.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD**  
**WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY**  
**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2226**  
**NOTICE OF PENDING**  
**ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**

General Ordinance No. 2226, a summary of which is included herein, was introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield held on September 14, 2021 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by said Town Council at a meeting beginning at 8:00 PM on September 28, 2021 in the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.

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

A summary of General Ordinance No. 2226 is as follows:

**Title: ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES OF THE RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**

**Summary:**  
Approving the revised Agreement with for the continued establishment and operation of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority to replace the Agreement adopted in 1995 by the then nine (9) member municipalities of the Authority.  
Tara Rowley, RMC Town Clerk  
Fee: \$35.70

1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$35.70

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF GARWOOD - NOTICE OF 2021 TAX SALE**  
**NOTICE OF LIEN SALE OF PROPERTY FOR UNPAID TAXES, ASSESSMENT OR OTHER MUNICIPAL CHARGES**

Notice is hereby given that the following described real property situated in the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, on which taxes and other municipal charges for the year 2020 remain unpaid, will be sold by the undersigned at Public Auction on **Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 11:00a.m.** in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 403 South Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey for the amounts of the 2020 municipal liens chargeable against the same.

Said properties will be sold subject to redemption at the lowest rate of interest but not to exceed 18% per annum. The payment for liens purchased shall be made prior to the conclusion of the sale by **cash, cashier's check or money order** or the property will be resold. Any parcel of real property, for which there is no purchaser, will be sold to the Borough of Garwood at 18% per annum. The Borough of Garwood makes no representation as to whether the properties being sold are under the protection of bankruptcy laws. In the event a lien is sold on a property under Bankruptcy protection, the purchaser shall be entitled to a refund of the money paid without interest.

Industrial Properties may be subject to the Spill Compensation and Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58: 10-23.11 et seq.), the Water Pollution Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58: 10A-1 et seq.) and the Industrial Site Recovery Act (N.J.S.A. 13: 1K-6 et seq.). In addition, the municipality is precluded from issuing a tax sale certificate to any prospective purchaser who is or may be in any way connected to the prior owner or operator of the site.

IN THE EVENT THE OWNER IS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE MILITARY, THE COLLECTOR SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.

At any time before the sale the Collector may receive payment of the amount due on any property with all interest and costs incurred by **cash, cashier's check or money order**. The names shown below are as they appear in the tax duplicate and do not necessarily mean that these parties are the present owners of the property.

BLK LOT OWNER OF RECORD	ADDRESS	TOTAL
305 7 LIFE-LONG INVESTMENTS, LLC	531 WILLOW AVE	193.24
305 8 LIFE-LONG INVESTMENTS, LLC	529 WILLOW AVE	773.67
310 9 WIETRY, FRANK W JR.	508 WEST ST	3,980.67
405 24 MARSHALL, JUDY	440 MYRTLE AVE	6,519.66
412 6 MBMBA, LLC	341 LOCUST AVE	8,561.41
614 22 HILARCZYK, HS-TR REYES	201 HICKORY AVE	14,127.35

Sandra Bruns, Tax Collector  
2 T - 09/09/21 & 09/16/21, UC Hawk Fee: \$132.60

Glasco added his second interception that he took to the two-yard line where Wragg burst in for a 31-20 lead with 3:20 remaining. Blue Devils senior linebacker Tyler Sontz silenced the Falcons with a 63-yard interception then Love made sure the Falcons would not score again with a 13-yard sack.

"My expectation is not to let up 20 points with the five turnovers we got but we did great," Glasco commented.

"We played good the second half. The whole team did it for us and turned it around," Brown added.

"A lot of kids stepped up today," Coach DeSarno said. "I told the team this is a team effort. We had guys stepping up on both sides of the ball. All over the place!"

"It feels amazing but we have many more to come," Brown concluded.

St. Joseph	7	6	0	7	20
Westfield	0	17	0	14	31

PUBLIC NOTICE

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY**  
**CHANCERY DIVISION**  
**UNION COUNTY**  
**DOCKET NO. F-010018-20**  
**FILE NO. 28131-20**

NOTICE TO REDEEM

**ACE PLUS LLC; PLAINTIFF**  
**VS. IRFAN HASSAN; THOMAS W CORE; DEFENDANT(S)**

**TO: THOMAS W CORE;**  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on September 10, 2021, the Superior Court Fixed November 9, 2021, or the next business day, between regular business hours, at the office of the Tax Collector of ELIZABETH, located at 50 WINFIELD SCOTT PLAZA, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY 07201 as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:

LOT 672 BLOCK 7 on the tax duplicate of ELIZABETH. Total amount required to redeem tax sale certificate no. 14-00250 is \$66,793.45, together with interest from August 31, 2021 and costs of \$1,632.32.

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

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

Deborah Feldstein, Esq. 030521994  
Attorney for Plaintiff

PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.  
290 Route 46 West  
Denville, New Jersey 07834  
(973) 586-2300

1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$45.39



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**246 North Ave. Garwood**

**Dates ~ September 17, 18, 19.**  
**11:00 ~ 5:00**

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY**  
**DOCKET NO. F-010009-20**  
**FILE NO. 28130-20.A**  
**NOTICE TO REDEEM**  
**ACE PLUS LLC; PLAINTIFF VS. LITTLE MASON PROPERTIES, LLC; CAPITAL ONE FSB; PNC BANK NA; KAMILA CUFFIE, G/A/L; KYSEEM CUFFIE, INF; M & I BANK N/A; A BMO HARRIS BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; COUNTY OF HUDSON; VNB LOAN SERVICES INC.; YELLOW BOOK USA; MONMOUTH BUILDING CENTER LLC; FERGUSON ENTERPRISES INC; STATE OF NEW JERSEY; DEFENDANT(S)**  
**TO: KAMILA CUFFIE, G/A/L; KYSEEM CUFFIE, INF; VNB LOAN SERVICES INC; YELLOW BOOK USA;**  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on September 10, 2021, the Superior Court Fixed November 9, 2021, or the next business day, between regular business hours, at the office of the Tax Collector of ELIZABETH, located at 50 WINFIELD SCOTT PLAZA, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY 07201 as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:  
LOT 1321 BLOCK 12 on the tax duplicate of ELIZABETH. Total amount required to redeem tax sale certificate no. 13-00432 & 16-00323 is \$81,641.71, together with interest from August 31, 2021 and costs of \$2,460.98.  
And that unless, at the same time and place, you or one of you redeem by paying the aforesaid sum so found due to plaintiff, then you, and each of you shall be debarred and foreclosed of and from all right and equity of redemption of, in and to the lands and premises above set out and described in the complaint and every part thereof, and that the plaintiff be vested with an absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple in said lands and premises.  
Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, redemption shall be permitted until the entry of final judgment including the whole of the last date upon which judgment is entered.  
Deborah Feldstein, Esq.  
030521994  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.  
290 Route 46 West  
Denville, New Jersey 07834  
(973) 586-2300  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$57.12

## REPORTERS WANTED

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

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY**  
**GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2225**  
**NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**  
General Ordinance No. 2225, a summary of which is included herein, was introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield held on September 14, 2021 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by said Town Council at a meeting beginning at 8:00 PM on September 28, 2021 in the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance.  
Copies of this ordinance are available in full at the Office of the Town Clerk, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
A summary of General Ordinance No. 2225 is as follows:  
**Title: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN CODE FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD TO ADDRESS THE RENTAL OF AMENITIES**  
**Summary:**  
Amends Chapter 9, "Business and Occupancies Generally," of the Town Code of the Town of Westfield as follows:  
**Sec. 9-19 Rentals of Amenities, Features, or Accessory Buildings or Structures.**  
Except as it relates to the holder or beneficiary of a film permit issued under Chapter 36 of Code of the Town of Westfield, the lease or rental of any amenity, feature, or accessory building or structure, appurtenant to or associated with a dwelling is prohibited, regardless of the purpose or length of time of said lease or rental.  
Sec. 9-20 Penalties for Violation.  
Any person shall, upon conviction of a violation of this article, be subject to a fine not exceeding \$2,000; or to imprisonment for not more than 90 days or both, in the discretion of the judge of the Municipal Court. Each and every day in which a violation of this article occurs shall be deemed a separate offense hereunder.  
Tara Rowley, RMC  
Town Clerk  
1 T - 09/16/21, The Leader Fee: \$49.98

# Elections 2021

## Amanda Como Seeks Support From Ward 1 Voters

Ah, it's that time of year again, back to school! If you are like me, you've been anxiously awaiting a return to, somewhat of a normal school year and routine.

It's a time of transition, a change from one phase to another. Change is good, but can also be hard. Like the "first day at a new school" hard. You don't know what to expect. What will your teachers be like? Will you make new friends? Will the people be kind? All of the normal unknowns of life.

This topic of change brings me to another upcoming transition, Election Day. A time to cast your vote for someone that aligns with your values, shares your sentiments and, in your opinion, will do the best job for the greatest number of Westfield residents.

You may know by now that I am running to be your next Councilwoman in Ward 1 and I hope you cast that vote for me.

Election Day is just now coming onto to some people's radars and won't be on others until October. But if you are engaged now, I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and why I decided to run.

The main reason I am seeking elected office is to try and help heal the toxic divide that has trickled down from the national political scene into our community. After seeing the nasty behavior on social media and talking with friends and neighbors, it's apparent to me that we are fractured. It seems we've forgotten how to respectfully "agree to disagree" and that there is more than one right way.

As your councilwoman, I am committed to leading by example and purposefully creating civic friendships with those that I may not always see eye to eye with across the aisle. I want to sustain a constructive dialogue during challenging discourse with my fellow council members that will result in compromise and win-win solutions benefiting as many constituents as possible.

I am running to help create a balance of ideas, thoughts and approaches on our town council. Currently, there are 8 Democrats and only 1 Republican in our administration. According to Union County, voter breakdown in Westfield is 38 percent Democrat, 23 percent Republican and the remaining voters are Unaffiliated, Independents, etc. When our leadership is more representative of the population, more neighbors feel seen and heard, and we are better able to serve them. When decision-making and processes are more aligned with a majority of residents, outcomes will land more in the middle instead of too far to one side.

For the past four years, it seems our current administration has transcended local public service and aligned themselves with bigger government influence and agendas. Most recently, noticeable by the State Democratic party headquarters on the South Avenue circle.

I stand for small government and keeping all things Westfield hyper-local and neighborly.

To me, this position is not about politics but public and community service. Helping to ensure you see a solid return on your taxpayer investment during your time living in Westfield. You should be enjoying our parks and playing on improved fields. Visiting a downtown that is fully occupied and bustling. Having the ability to renovate your homes as you choose. All the while receiving town services we've come to need, enjoy and expect.

Westfield deserves a more balanced, bipartisan town council to help make this happen.

I hope your interest has been piqued and you will vote for me on Tuesday, November 2nd.

To learn more, please visit my website @ [como4westfield.com](http://como4westfield.com)  
You can also find me on Facebook & Instagram @como4westfield  
Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting you!

**Amanda Como**  
**Candidate, Ward 1**  
**Westfield**

## Working to Keep Westfield Politics Local

I just returned home from a trip Downtown where I observed a series of signage off the traffic circle by the incumbent slate encouraging Westfield residents to "Vote Column A". In giving it some thought, I wondered - why are we voting a column? Why aren't we voting our priorities for our community?

The signage makes a strong statement to any passersby - whether residents or visitors - that our mayor and town council members with whom she is running on her slate are choosing to align with broader party politics - a clear overreach of focus on issues that are beyond what I believe should be in the scope of local concern. We have more than enough challenges in Westfield to manage to ensure our community is set up for success and our local leaders should not be diverting their energy and attention to matters of broader party level relevance. Our local leaders are basically asking the Westfield voting public to choose with limited effort and are comfortable that the role they are playing today can be evaluated solely on their party affiliation.

I believe strongly that one's national and state party affiliation does not and should not determine one's local views. When voters in a local election align purely with political parties, it is to the detriment of the community. Such behavior distracts local leaders from focusing on the issues and concerns that are right here in our own backyards! The impact of decisions made locally is what has the greatest and most meaningful impact on our daily lives.

I have always followed local politics from afar, but over the last four years I have observed changes within our town prompting me to work hard to earn your vote to represent Ward 2. My intent is to influence positive progress collaboratively and with the best interest of our community as my sole focus. Driving around Downtown daily seeing empty storefronts was a contributing factor into my decision to run, yet my most recent trip Downtown during which I saw the clear encouragement of party-line politics only further motivated me. When I made the decision to run I registered to be a part of the Republican Party when previously I was an Independent. I made this decision because I was impressed with how the Westfield Town Republican Committee was focused on keeping the message on local matters which I felt our current administration was veering away from. My participation at the local level has the greatest chance of making an impact and shifting our focus away from the influence of national level politics over our town and back to where it matters most - our community.

**Denise Garrett**  
**Ward 2 Candidate**  
**Westfield**

## Let the Numbers Tell the Story of Westfield's Financial Health

For 33 years, I have pursued my passion of bringing better financing solutions to the world. I received my undergrad degree from the College of William and Mary in International Political Economy (a major I designed to help me advance my goals) and an MBA with a concentration in Finance from the Wharton School.

My professional career took me from Wall Street to the US Government lending agency called the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and then finally, to my work today helping clients unlock the coffers of the world's development banks to advance new technology, cutting edge infrastructure and climate resiliency. I have traveled to and worked in more than 75 countries, but some of my most rewarding work is here in Westfield.

As the Chair of the Finance Committee, I have an important job watching over your tax dollars. Over the past four years, I have put my experience as an auditor and banker to work—focusing on the details, but not losing sight of the big picture. I have pushed every town department head to focus their individual budgets on cost savings, on shared service opportunities, on ideas for new revenue streams, and on long-term planning. I have put a million+ dollars previously held in special operating accounts to work for you—investing them in equipment, vehicles and roads that increase your quality of life. I have also worked diligently with my colleagues on the committee to right-size our savings (or surplus) from a bloated \$14.5 million to a more appropriate level.

The surplus is the most misunderstood number in our municipal budget. Like a savings account, its purpose is to ensure we have a "rainy day" fund to get us through unexpected future emergencies. Each year this account is replenished. It gets refilled by revenues we didn't expect and reductions in expenses we were able to realize. Then, in the budget process, we decide how much surplus to invest vs continue to keep in savings, taking into account a lot of other factors.

When I assumed office, our bloated surplus significantly exceeded what was deemed necessary by a number of finance professionals we approached, including our own auditors. Having too much surplus meant our residents were being unnecessarily overtaxed, and so we worked to right-size this account. We carefully invested the unneeded surplus in new equipment, new roads, enhanced services, and long range planning. We also used the excess surplus to reduce municipal tax rate increases that would have otherwise been borne by you and me.

The Covid pandemic proved to be the largest health and financial emergency the town has ever faced, and our non-tax revenues diminished significantly as a result. However, even after we had right-sized it, our surplus balance proved to be more than adequate. We ended the year 2020 with \$9.6 million in surplus, and became the envy of many other municipalities in the state. In 2021, we carefully tapped our surplus account again versus overly increasing your taxes, and, almost nine months into the year, we appear on track to replenish the surplus account fully.

The facts behind this administration's financial success over the last four years are clear. Due to our efforts:

Your average municipal tax rate increase over the last four years was 1.1 percent, less than half of the inflation rate over the same period.

The borrowing rate offered to the Town of Westfield in August 2021 was a mere 0.21 percent, the lowest interest rate ever paid by Westfield on a loan because the banks are impressed with the town's financial health.

Our AAA bond rating has been maintained even with a surplus level that is one-third less than it was four years ago.

In my job on the council, I feel a sense of shared responsibility regarding the wise use of our tax dollars, and I am proud of the successful stewardship proven out by the facts above. Somehow the numbers always manage to tell the story.

**Linda Habgood**  
**Chair of the Finance Policy Committee**  
**Ward 1 Councilwoman**  
**Westfield**

## Contract: I Will Continue to Bring Proactive Leadership to Westfield

I've helped drive significant positive changes in Westfield as your Ward 3 Councilman by bringing "Fresh Ideas and Proactive Leadership" to the Council. I'd like to continue doing this for the next four years in order to keep driving Westfield forward.

During my re-election campaign, I've talked to hundreds of Ward 3 neighbors and it's notable how many are new residents. This is quite a change from my first campaign four years ago (aside from the pandemic). I'd estimate that at least 10-20 percent of the residents I've talked to are new to Westfield, having moved here in the past year or two.

This is wonderful news because it shows that Westfield continues to attract young families just like it did nearly 17 years ago when I moved here with my wife and baby who is now a Westfield High School senior. And when I ask new residents if they are happy living in Westfield, the resounding answer I get is, "YES!" This is great to hear and gets right to the reason why I'm running for reelection.

When I talk to new residents about this, I always explain why I ran for Council four years ago. Back then, Westfield was stagnating under hands-off leadership. The former administration focused on the status quo, not on what was needed to move the town forward. Here are some of the examples I typically cite:

- Not enough roads were getting paved and when they were, decisions were sometimes based on political influence
- There was no town wide street sweeping program because the Council wouldn't invest in new sweepers
- The Green Team focused on parks clean-ups, not on addressing global warming
- There was no effort to develop and promote community-building events like AddamsFest
- There was little government transparency - Council meetings weren't live streamed and regular updates weren't provided to the public on social media or email
- Management of municipal finances, like other aspects of governance, was on perpetual autopilot. Sadly, it showed. Municipal taxes went up way too much alongside a bloated budget surplus.

Many of the new residents I've met find this "history lesson" hard to fathom considering the energy and community spirit that they have experienced since moving here in the last few years. And the reason for this is simple – the Fresh Ideas and Proactive Leadership that I've brought to the Town Council along with Mayor Brindle and my fellow Westfield Together teammates.

I will delve into examples of my leadership contributions and accomplishments in subsequent candidate statements between now and Election Day but one I'm particularly proud of is transforming the town's road paving program. This was my primary reason for running for council four years ago and this overhaul came about in part because of my role as Chair of the Public Works Committee.

Prior to my getting elected, the town's paving process was an old-fashioned hit-or miss affair that was prone to political influence and literally allowed residents to file petitions to get their streets paved regardless of condition. We overhauled this process, including objectively grading every road via a 3rd party engineering study, passing new ordinances requiring utilities to repave the areas they disturb on a curb-to-curb basis, and implementing three-year paving plans focused on paving roads "worst to first."

As a result of these efforts, the town has tripled road paving to 47 miles (nearly half of the town) during my tenure on the council compared to the prior four years. Even better, 50 percent of this paving has been done by utilities at no cost to taxpayers.

This is but one of many examples of the great outcomes that Fresh Ideas and Proactive Leadership has delivered for Westfield residents, especially those living in Ward 3. I'm asking for your vote on November 2 to continue this proactive approach and drive positive changes in Ward 3 and our town. This includes revitalizing our downtown, smartly strengthening our parks and recreation facilities, investing further in our infrastructure including storm/flooding mitigation, further emphasizing sustainability, continuing to be fiscally smart, and ensuring you are kept informed through regular communications.

Thanks. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**David Contract**  
**Ward 3 Councilman**  
**Westfield**

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# NJ Festival Orchestra to Present Outdoor Concert

WESTFIELD – NJ Festival Orchestra, under the baton of Music Director David Wroe, will be back outdoors on Saturday, October 2 with “Moonlit Serenades,” a superb live orchestral concert featuring internationally acclaimed classical guitarist Ana Vidovic. The performance takes place under the stars at the Hertell Gardens in Westfield.

Ms Vidovic will join NJFO to perform one of the world’s most well known and most loved guitar concertos, Roderigo’s Concierto de Aranjuez. A magical and rapturous

a limited access to a reserved section of NJFO chair seating close to the stage.

“The musicians and I can’t wait to be back at our favorite outdoor venue,” continued Maestro Wroe. “There is simply a no more beautiful setting to hear the NJ Jersey Festival Orchestra in full classical flight after all the challenges we’ve faced over the past year and a half.”

NJ Festival Orchestra is very concerned about the health and safety of all patrons, performers, staff and volunteers. Face coverings are re-



piece, the Concierto de Aranjuez performed in this romantic setting will surely be a rare treat for all! Rounding off the outdoor concert is another favorite: Mozart’s Symphony No. 40.

“The famous Roderigo guitar concerto and Mozart under moonlight! I can hardly imagine a more idyllic and heartwarming event,” exclaimed Maestro Wroe. “The Concierto de Aranjuez is the most famous work of classical music to come from Spain. Everyone will recognize it! Beautiful, haunting and intoxicating, it stands head and shoulders above all other guitar concertos, with a place in the top ten of concertos for any instrument, anywhere.”

Bring your own lawn chairs and refreshments and enjoy an unforgettable evening of glorious live orchestra in the gardens of one of Westfield’s most magnificent residences. VIP seating is available for those who wish to take advantage of

quired for patrons who are not fully vaccinated. Covid restrictions mandated at the time of the performance will be enforced.

Hertell Gardens are located to the rear of 241 E. Dudley Avenue in Westfield. Free on street parking and full accessibility.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.njfestivalorchestra.org](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org), by phone at (908) 232-9400, or in person at the NJFO office, 224 East Broad St in Westfield. For more information, go to [www.njfestivalorchestra.org](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org), contact NJFO by email at [patronservices@njfestivalorchestra.org](mailto:patronservices@njfestivalorchestra.org) or call (908) 232-9400.

Save the dates for NJFO Holiday concerts!

On Saturday, December 18, 2021 at The Presbyterian Church, Westfield, special guests The Three Holiday Tenors will be back with NJFO to present a host of much loved tenor songs to celebrate the holiday season. Traditional carols, signature versions of familiar fare and wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

On New Year’s Eve the NJ Festival Orchestra again presents one of New Jersey’s most popular musical events. This quintessential New Year’s celebration promises a superb revue of Broadway classics in glorious symphonic splendor.



## Community Calendar

Brought to you by Trinitas Regional Medical Center



**Anti-Racism Training** Friday, September 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).

**Dr. WM. Robinson Museum Annual Outdoor Vendor Event** Saturday, September 18, 9 a.m. Over 50 awesome vendors returning to 593 Madison Hill Road in Clark. For more information, please contact [Nnancypat@comcast.net](mailto:Nnancypat@comcast.net).

**Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek** Fridays, September 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).

**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 cookbook. 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 walk-

ing 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).

**“One Small Step: The Voyages of Apollo”** Tuesday, September 28 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The upcoming meeting at the Shady Rest Clubhouse at Scotch Hills Country Club is free and all are welcome. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the presentation. For further information, please contact Connie Klock at (908) 232-9489.

**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).

**Halloween Spook-tacular House Decorating Contest** Saturday, October 30. The “Beautiful Mountainside” Committee will once again kick off their Second Annual fun filled contest. Entry Deadline: October 20. Prize: \$100 gift card per winner. To enter, visit Beautiful Mountainside’s facebook page and click “Like.” Submit your home with your name/address/phone in the comments section or email your info to: [kulldonn@mac.com](mailto:kulldonn@mac.com).

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



**LIFE BEHIND THE LENS...**Joanna Naugle, a film, television and commercial editor, will share what it is like to be a woman in filmmaking during a Zoom program hosted by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains on Monday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

## College Club to Present ‘Women In Filmmaking’

FANWOOD/SCOTCH PLAINS

— The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will host a Zoom program on “Women in Filmmaking” on Monday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. The program will be presented by Joanna Naugle, a previous College Club scholarship recipient who attended New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and is now a film, television and commercial editor.

Ms. Naugle’s recent work includes the Emmy-nominated show “Ramy” (Hulu), “Big Mouth” and its spinoff, “Human Resources” (Netflix), John Krasinski’s “Some Good News” (YouTube) and “2 Dope Queens” (HBO).

She also has provided additional editing for “John Mulaney & the Sack Lunch Bunch” (Netflix) and

the film *Before You Know It*, starring Alec Baldwin, Mandy Patinkin and Judith Light. Her work has screened at Sundance, Slamdance, Tribeca and SXSW, and she has worked with clients including A24, FX, Apatow Productions, Vice, Vevo, Nike, Reebok, Vox and Refinery 29.

Ms. Naugle is the co-owner of Senior Post, an award-winning, Brooklyn-based post house that provides full post-production services.

She will explain what it is like to be an editor for film and television while sharing the most important lessons she has learned throughout her career using specific examples from her work.

This program is free and open to the public. To receive a Zoom link to view the program on September 20, send an email to [tishisack17@gmail.com](mailto:tishisack17@gmail.com).

## Middletown to be Presented At Vivid Stage September 18

SUMMIT -- Vivid Stage, formerly Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, in residence at Oakes Center at 120 Morris Avenue in Summit, will present a reading of Will Eno’s play *Middletown* on Saturday, September 18 at 8 p.m. All audience members will be asked to show proof of vaccination at the box office.

*Middletown* is a deeply moving and funny play exploring the universe of a small American town. As a friendship develops between longtime resident John Dodge and new arrival Mary Swanson, the lives of the inhabitants of Middletown intersect in strange and poignant ways in a journey that takes them from the local library to outer space and points between.

In *The New York Times* review, Charles Isherwood wrote, “Mr. Eno’s gift for articulating life’s absurd beauty and its no less absurd horrors may be unmatched among writers of

his generation...*Middletown* glimmers from start to finish with tart, funny, gorgeous little comments on big things: the need for love and forgiveness, the search for meaning in life, the long, lonely ache of disappointment.”

Directed by Betsy True (Belmar), the cast includes the entire Vivid Stage Ensemble. This reading marks the first time the group has appeared in its entirety since March 2020. Ensemble members include: Nicole Callender (West Orange), Clark Carmichael (Montclair), Harry Patrick Christian (Montclair), Laura Eksrand (Livingston), Noreen Farley (Clinton), Dave Maulbeck (Maplewood), Scott McGowan (Maplewood), Daria M. Sullivan (Montclair), Jason Szamreta (Rahway), Harriett Trangucci (Summit) and Emaline Williams (Hackensack).

Vivid Stage will require all visitors to show proof of vaccination and a photo ID for all events, and to mask throughout their time in the facility. Proof of vaccination may include a valid paper vaccination record, a photo of a valid vaccination record, the NJ Docket App, or equivalent app from your state. Visitors who are under 12 years old—and therefore ineligible for vaccination—are exempt from the requirement, but must be accompanied by a vaccinated adult and masked throughout the performance.

*Middletown* will appear at Vivid Stage at 120 Morris Avenue in Summit on Saturday, September 18 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20, and \$15 for students 25 and younger. For touchless advance ticket purchases, go to <https://www.vividstage.org/middletown-will-eno>. For more information, call (908) 514-9654. The theatre at Oakes Center is wheelchair accessible. The parking lot is accessible from Ashwood Avenue, behind the theatre. For information on any of Vivid Stage’s programs, please call (908) 514-9654, [www.vividstage.org](http://www.vividstage.org).

### Free History Lecture Series Begins Sept. 22

COUNTY — Union County history fans are in for a special treat this fall, as the Union County Board of County Commissioners kicks off a new history lecture series in collaboration with the Kean University Department of History and the Union County Historical Society. The free lectures cover a wide variety of topics beginning with “Liberty Hall, Ancient Rome and The Middle Ages: Perfect Together?” presented by Dr. Christopher Bellitto on Wednesday, September 22, at 7 p.m., at the new Liberty Hall Academic Center on the Kean University campus, at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union Township.

The lecture will also reveal how revolutionary Americans charting a new nation’s future wrapped themselves in the mantle of an epic past.

Dr. Bellitto is Professor of History at Kean University, and the author of ten books. He has also co-edited six volumes of collected essays.

As a frequent speaker and media commentator on religious history and contemporary Catholicism, Dr. Bellitto has been quoted in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, among other publications, and has appeared on numerous television and radio programs.

Dr. Bellitto is a member of the Speakers’ Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the former chair of the History Department at Kean. From 2010 to 2012, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities “Enduring Questions” grant.

For more information about the new history lecture series contact John Prescott, History Program Coordinator at the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 436-2912 or by email [jprescott@ucnj.org](mailto:jprescott@ucnj.org).

The Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs is a division of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation. For more information on all programs and activities visit <https://ucnj.org/parks-recreation/cultural-heritage-affairs/>.

# Bulb and Tuber Season Starts Now

By SHANNON WALSH

For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

When winter breaks and spring finally arrives, do you look around and wonder how some people have flowers blooming already? Their secret is that they planted bulbs in the fall. It may seem odd to be thinking of spring at the end of summer, but planting bulbs and tubers for spring and summer must be done in autumn. And the companies that produce bulbs often sell out fairly quickly this time of year.

Some garden centers and big box stores sell bulbs, but it’s better to order online for a couple of reasons. First, the variety at garden centers is limited, and some garden centers don’t bother with bulbs at all because it’s hard to keep them if they don’t sell. Second, I’ve bought many plants at big box stores that do just fine, but bulbs aren’t among them. It’s worth the time and slightly greater expense to go with a company that specializes in producing bulbs. This is because they require attentive care until they go in the ground-- where they then become virtually care-free.

Another reason to order online is that many bulb companies are small, family-owned businesses with plant knowledge and excellent customer service. They’ve built in questions to their order forms about your zone (we are zone 7), and they ship the bulbs at the right time for planting. For us, that’s usually in early November.

I’ve used a number of companies, but I’ve had particularly good experiences with Old House Gardens in Michigan. They specialize in heirloom varieties of flowers, meaning those that have been around for at

least decades. I also like new varieties, too, and Brent and Becky’s in Virginia has a terrific selection. Eden Brothers in North Carolina has a nice variety of bulbs (and seeds, by the way), as does White Flower Farm in Connecticut.

In addition to the spring favorites like daffodils and tulips, there are many flowers that grow from bulbs that you may never have seen or heard about. It’s possible to have a rainbow of color in early spring if you want it: Spanish Bluebells, Hyacinths, Fritillaries, Daffodils in whites, yellows, pinks and oranges, Tulips that run the spectrum, and so many more.

It’s also wise to buy any specialty Lilies or Dahlias in the fall. Even though they don’t bloom until later in the spring (Lilies) or later in summer (Dahlias) the tubers need to be kept over winter in a cool, dry place until they show some green in the early spring. I keep mine in a warm, dry basement. Bear Creek Farm in upstate New York has a wonderful selection of Dahlias.

I take a couple of days in the fall just to plant bulbs. As with any planting, pay attention to instructions: sunlight requirements, depth in the soil. Most bulbs need full sun, and should be planted at a depth two or three times the size of the bulb. Some go in the ground, but I grow many in pots which I store in an unheated shed over the winter, where I water them one or twice. I take my cues from nature and pull them out of the shed when I see green growth emerging from bulbs planted outside. With a bit of fall planning and a little work, early spring can be a beautiful time in the garden.

## Visual Arts Center Summit Foundation Grant

SUMMIT — The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey was recently awarded a \$10,000 Arts and Culture grant from The Summit Foundation. The grant, which was one of 22 awarded, was presented for general operating support to help the organization during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Art Center operates several programs with the goal of providing high-quality visual arts enrichment to residents of Summit, regardless of income level, ability to pay, age, or any other limitations. Some of the Art Center’s local Summit partners include SAGE Eldercare, Summit PEP Program, and Empowering Kids Organization. These programs include weekly art making with the elderly at SAGE’s Spend-a-Day program, an after-school arts enrichment and museum education program with Summit teens through PEP, and art viewing and art making with underserved Summit middle schoolers through Empowering Kids Organization.

“This grant from The Summit Foundation will make a considerable differ-

ence in the Art Center’s ability to continue to provide important in-community programs to Summit residents,” said Art Center Director Melanie Cohn. “After a uniquely challenging 18 months, The Summit Foundation’s continued support has helped the Art Center continue to serve its vision of creating an inclusive and welcoming community where lives are transformed and enriched through the shared experience of art, even when sharing that experience has been difficult.”

For more information on The Summit Public Foundation, visit [summitforever.org](http://summitforever.org).

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



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# Street Fair, Classic Car Show Returns to Garwood on Sunday

GARWOOD — Garwood Still Rocks! will take place this Sunday, September 19, in Downtown Garwood. For the first time ever, this event will be held in the Fall, thanks to the efforts of its key sponsor, Vermella at Garwood Station, according to the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC), the event organizer.

Vermella at Garwood Station, a new luxury rental community from Russo Development, will open this Fall in the borough. It will feature 296 apartments and 40,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor amenities.

Garwood Still Rocks! is returning after a one-year hiatus due to the pan-

demie, with a full day of family fun planned from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine. Among the highlights will be a classic car show, hosted by "Hot Rod Mike," that is expected to draw more than 100 cars this year. Additionally, there will be an all-day live stage, entertainment, vendors and festival food, including many area favorite food trucks. Artisans and craftspeople will display paintings, pottery, photography, handmade jewelry, furniture and many other unique gifts.

The Crossroads is sponsoring the Beer & Wine Garden and providing the main entertainment at the Garwood Rocks main stage. The music lineup will begin with perfor-

mances by two local music schools. Scheduled to perform are:

- 11 a.m. — Valencia School of Music.
- 12:30 p.m. — RMC Music.
- 2 p.m. — 4 Flight Rock
- 3:30 p.m. — Mushmouth.
- 5 p.m. — Riff Raff

"We're delighted to help support this wonderful event," said Ed Russo, chief executive officer of Russo Development. "This annual gathering of residents and visitors in a family-oriented setting, enjoying so many of the things that make Garwood special, is a great example of the strong sense of community that exists here which attracted us to this close-knit neighborhood. We came to town to be an active, contributing neighbor, and look forward to helping Garwood Still Rocks!"

"I am beyond excited for the return of our street fair with Garwood Still Rocks! happening in September," said Mayor Sara Todisco. "It's a highlight of the year to see our community and neighbors come together to enjoy the live music, car show, food and shopping. I'm very grateful for the key sponsorship by Vermella at Garwood Station, which helped make this day possible, along with all the other sponsors and the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce."

For more than 70 years, the GWACC has been connecting commerce and community. The GWACC promotes the economic prosperity of businesses primarily in Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. It is the largest association of businesses and nonprofits in the area.

Members include business owners, professionals, managers and operators. Membership cultivates the opportunity to build relationships, partner, make referrals, increase business, attend lunch-and-learns and support the community.

For more information about the GWACC, visit [gwaccnj.com](http://gwaccnj.com). Interested persons also can call the association's office at (908) 233-3021, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The office is now located at 212 Lenox Avenue, Westfield.

# Friends' Youth Book Sale, Anniversary Events on Tap

WESTFIELD — The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library have announced that the group's 10th Annual Children's and Teens' Book Sale will take place Sunday through Saturday, September 19 to 25.

This community event is an opportunity to update one's favorite reader's bookshelf or classroom library. At this used-book sale, visitors will find an ample selection of books for babies all the way through teens. An extra benefit to the sale is that all funds raised go directly back to the library via Friends' -sponsored programs.



The two-part event consists of donation days and sale days at the Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad Street. Donations of gently-used books, DVDs and CDs only will be accepted on Sunday, September 19, 1 to 4:30 p.m.; Monday, September 20, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Tuesday, September 21, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The book sale will take place Wednesday, September 22, and Thursday, September 23, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, September 24, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, September 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Special events will include Storytime on Thursday at 11 a.m.; Half Price Day on Friday, and Bag Day (\$8 fills up a bag of books) on Saturday.

To celebrate its 50th year of service, the Friends will hold an event for adults on Thursday, October 14, and an event for children on Sunday, October 17. To learn more and to stay up to date on all the Friends' events and programs, visit [fwmlnj.org](http://fwmlnj.org), like the organization on Facebook at Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library, and follow it on Instagram at [friendswmlibrarynj](https://www.instagram.com/friendswmlibrarynj).

# Here's 'To the future we create' Say Characters in Year One

SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY  
For The Westfield Leader and Union County HAWK

UNION -- A nip in the air, leaves begin to turn color, and suddenly, it's Fall. And after too long an absence, that means that the theatre season is starting to rev back up for the year. Premiere Stages' mission statement mentions that it is "committed to the support and cultivation of emerging playwright and theatre artists." And that's just what happened anew this past weekend at the theatre in Kean University in Union with the in-person presentation of the world premiere of *Year One* by playwright Erik Gernand. What a great feeling to be back in the theatre with the double bonus of seeing a thrilling new work.

What does it take to unify a country? A terrorist attack? Economic depression? A pandemic? "No one knows how to talk around anyone anymore," says one of the characters in this play that is presented without an intermission. Does that quote sound familiar? "We won't talk politics," another character promises. I think I've heard that promised in family circles.

"There's a darkness that has crept over this whole country," another character dares to speak aloud. These all may be utterances that we have heard over the past few years, but Mr. Gernand says in his "Playwright's Note" in the playbill that this play has been a long time in coming. "Early research, character work, and the germ of the idea began in 2011," he explained.

Yes, this was written a few years ago but has been constantly updated, tweaked, and revised, so it feels contemporary. That is until you realize as the lights come up that it is set in 1933 Germany. At that time, Germany's World War I reparations debt led to the economic collapse of the country which helped Hitler to rise to power. His rise caused division and strife among families. One such is the fictional family of this play. Rosemary (Kate Kearney-Patch) is the matriarch of the family who wants to keep the peace no matter what. Her thoughtful, surgeon daughter-in-law Anna (Kathy McCafferty), Anna's brother Max (Kevin Loreque), Anna's son Peter (Eric Phelps) all lock horns on the treatment of Jews and their individual views of the autocratic regime that is emerging around them. When a luscious cake that has been purchased from Bergman's Bakery is about to be cut, most of the family says they will pass on indulging in a piece of the chocolate confection. An argument ensues with Peter's prejudiced, "We shouldn't shop there," remark. His mother Anna reminds them all, "The Bergmans are citizens, our neighbors." It's just cake...or is it?

This terrific period piece rings alarmingly true because of the polarization of this nation today. People are divided over political policies and personalities. Yet it's not all politics. There's a sweet subplot of young romance where Peter falls for Claudia (Kaitlyn Lunardi). In one of the scenes, he seems depressed and confesses to Claudia when pressed that everything seems "too perfect." He is anxiously waiting for something awful to happen. She sees a hopeful

future for them under the new regime. "The future is ours," she speculates; "To the future we create." And ironically, this mantra is repeated by Max who has the opposite political bent.

Period costumes in style, color, and fabric designed by Premiere Stages veteran Karen Lee Hart are wonderfully authentic looking right down to the heavy, cotton stockings, clunky shoes, and an apron the style my grandmother wore. Sound design by Kean University Theatre Conservatory alum Greg Scaler melts birdsong and nighttime sounds to accompany the characters' evening strolls outside the family home. Zack Gage's lighting design lends ambiance with a leafy canopy of the outside night. It is especially perfect in the chilling scene with Peter upstage belting out his allegiance to the Nazi party while Max, espousing his opposition downstage in a circle of yellow light, is dramatically juxtaposed. Because of Matthew Eggleton's spot on scenic design and technical direction, the clean lines of furniture, complete with a 1930s radio, present the perfect backdrop for the projection later in the play.

Like any good production, the mounting of a new show needs a collaborative effort especially on the part of the director, writer, and actors. Producing Artistic Director John J.

Wooten, acclaimed playwright himself, knows the importance of that partnership. Mr. Wooten's artistic eye has brought fluidity and pacing to the superb Gernand piece. The actors were allowed the luxury of letting the audience see (and feel) the wheels in their character's mind spinning. Stellar acting always flourishes under brilliant direction.

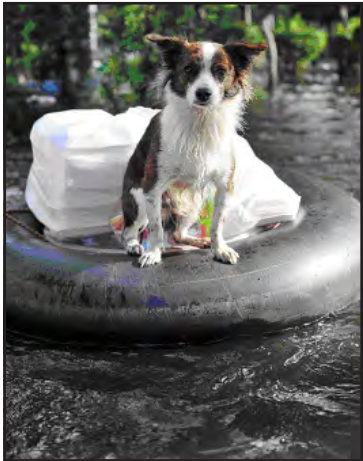
With a focused laser beam of truth, history is reflected magnificently in this play. "Where did everything go so wrong?" asks a character. One might echo that same query today.

For tickets for their upcoming performances that run weekends through Sunday, September 26 at the Bauer Boucher Theatre Center on Kean's campus in Union, call (908) 737-4092 or visit the theatre's website at [www.kean.edu/premiere-stages](http://www.kean.edu/premiere-stages). Seats are sanitized between performances. Hand sanitizing stations are available in the lobby. Patrons are encouraged to maintain social distance while in line at the Box Office, in bathrooms, and waiting to get to their seats. Hardcopy Playbills are available as well as digital ones. Although the actors will be maskless, masks by audience members must be worn throughout the performance. Email [premiere@kean.edu](mailto:premiere@kean.edu) with any questions about these safety protocols.



PLANTING SEEDS FOR A NEW WORLD...Eric Phelps as Peter and Kathy McCafferty as Anna, his mother, plant a sapling in memory of Peter's father, who died in World War I. Premiere Stages at Kean University mounted the world premiere of the riveting play, *Year One* by Erik Gernand.

# Protect Your Home from A Flood



In the wake of Hurricane IDA, many families have been thinking: What if it happened to us? What can we do? What steps should we take should there be a flood in our area? What can we do to protect our home from a flood? Here are a few steps to take.

**1. Look into flood insurance**  
People who live in an area that is more prone to flooding may be better prepared if they have insurance and take certain precautions. If you live in a "100-year flood" zone, insurance is a necessity. No state is safe to disaster, IE: floods, coastal erosion, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes and major snow storms according to FEMA the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Every homeowner and renter should look at their insurance policy and what is currently covered. Don't assume you are covered for flooding in your homeowner's insurance policy. You must pay for a separate flood insurance policy to be covered.

**2. Get to higher ground**  
It goes without saying that you should protect yourself in the case of a flood. But moving your important things to higher ground can help keep them safe as well. Only a little bit of water can do lasting damage. The best plan is elevation think about what you need to get to a higher elevation 2nd floor once the water reaches the first level and basement, even if it's an inch, you will have significant damage. You may not be able to keep the water out in every case, but moving furniture and important items to a higher floor or to the attic can help safeguard them.

If you are in a flood zone or flood plain you may consider permanently elevating the furnace, water heaters, circuit breakers and wiring. If you use oil - anchor that oil storage tank so there are no con-

taminates that can wreak havoc in the home, and the environment.

**3. Inspect the exterior of your home**  
Are there areas where water can easily get in to your house? Start patching and/or repairing any potential leak area. Figure out how the water flows away from the home. During the next rainstorm check the foundation. If you have a grade level attached garage - having sandbags handy to prevent water from getting into the garage area is a great strategy to have.

**4. Clear gutters, downspouts and all drains**  
As you are inspecting and checking around your home and foundation - make sure your gutters, downspouts and drains flow away from the foundation. This is a must even if you are not in a flood-prone area. This is one of the most important tasks and an easy one that will save you from much heartache and damage.

**5. Install a sewer line backflow valve**  
When there is a tremendous amount of water rushing through the main storm and sewer lines in the street, there is a possibility that water will seek levels and back into your basement - an automatic back flow valve will close and prevent damage. This is a simple installation.

**6. Do a major retrofit**  
Does your home flood frequently and moving is not an option? You may need to take prudent and drastic measures. That could mean raising your home on piers or columns so that the lowest floor is above the flood level (approximate cost: \$20,000). Waterproofing your home by installing foundation vents that would allow water to flow through the building instead of collecting and rising inside and causing more damage. Also think about dry proofing by applying coatings and sealant materials to your walls to keep out water.

**7. Install a battery powered sump pump system and/or base pump water sump pump system**  
If your electricity power goes out and your sump pump is electric powered then so does your ability to pump water out of your house. You need to install a battery backup system, and even better, a base pump water sump pump system. The battery powered back up has the capacity, depending on the water accumulations in the water pit, to last 2 to 3 days. If the power is out longer - have a second fully charged battery to switch too. The water base pump system works differently without power. Here's how it works: the base pump is powered by a siphon ejector system, which

uses city water pressure to create a vacuum source. This powerful vacuum siphons water out of your sump pit and the city water pressure discharges it from your house. When water rises above the normal high-water level in your sump pit, for any reason, the base pump float lifts. The float then opens a valve, sending municipal water through the base pump ejector. This water flow creates powerful suction, which draws sump water up from your pit and discharges it outdoors. Once the float returns to its normal level, a pre-set timing control keeps the base pump pumping long enough to completely drain the sump before switching off. This cycle repeats when the water level rises above normal again.

**8. Change your homes landscape**  
Use porous outdoor surfaces to help water seep into the ground instead of streaming toward your home. Depressions - a swale is a depression channelling storm water runoff away from your house. Convert concrete or asphalt driveways to gravel or brick. Use absorbent mulch that can help manage heavy rain and reduce potential flood damage. Placing a rain barrel beneath a gutter downspout will not only help in basement flooding, but also reduce flooding and pollution of local waterways. There's an innovative trend and the use of wisdom from nature to allow water to be absorbed when there's excess. Instead of using water-resistant concrete, permeable materials and green spaces will be used to soak up rainfall and rivers and streams will be interconnected so that water can flow away from flooded areas. This trend is becoming the norm.



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# Decoding the Mystery of Cats or Why They Do What They Do

Wednesday, September 22 at 7:00 to 8:00 pm  
On Zoom

Learn from feline behaviorist Stephen Quandt why cats behave in the mysterious ways that they do. Get your questions answered in a Q&A session after the talk. Visit [www.wmlnj.org](http://www.wmlnj.org) then Events for Zoom link.

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# Homemade Vegetable Crackers

These crackers are a bit time consuming to make, but they're really delicious! Eat them on their own (they have a spicy kick!) or pair them with some cheese or hummus. The key to this recipe is ensuring all the water is removed from your shredded veggies. Store leftovers in a Ziplock bag. Enjoy!

- Ingredients:
- 5 small potatoes
  - 1 carrot
  - 1 zucchini
  - 2 eggs
  - 1/4 cup plain breadcrumbs
  - 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese

- 1/2 tsp sage
  - 1/2 tsp black pepper
  - 1/2 tsp kosher salt
  - 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
  - 1/4 tsp cayenne
  - 1/4 tsp paprika
- Directions:
1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
  2. Peel the skin off your potatoes.
  3. Finely shred the potatoes, carrot, and zucchini using a shredder. In between shredding each vegetable, place the shreds in a tea towel and ring out all the water. Place the dehydrated vegetable shreds into a medium bowl.
  4. Add the eggs, breadcrumbs, cheese, and spices. Mix well using your hands. Make sure all your ingredients are well combined.
  5. Grab two cookie sheets and line each with parchment paper.
  6. Split the dough evenly between the two cookie sheets, forming a ball on each one.
  7. Place a sheet of parchment paper on top of each formation of dough and use the rolling pin to roll thin. Make sure to roll the dough evenly over the entire cookie sheet.
  8. Place in the oven and bake for ~3-5 mins.
  9. Remove from the oven and let them cool for ~5 minutes on a cooling rack.
  10. Use kitchen scissors or a knife to cut into squares.
  11. Place the squares back onto the parchment paper and bake for an additional 2 minutes, or until your desired crispiness.





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***COLBY 2 TDS; TREY BROWN-TO-TREY CONSTANTINOU FOR TD; WRAGG TD, FG; GLASCO 2 INT, SONTZ INT***

## Blue Devil Adjustment Downs St. Joseph (Met) Falcons, 31-20

By DAVID B. CORBIN

For The Westfield Leader and The  
Union County HAWK

Adjustments offensively and defensively in the second quarter turned a St. Joseph (Metuchen) first-quarter dominance into a Westfield Blue Devil controlled game at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on the 20th anniversary of the 911 2001 attacks. After an inability to stop the penetrating Falcon defense in the first quarter, the Blue

Devil offensive began to figure it out and, along with a swarming defensive effort, transformed a 7-0 deficit into a 31-20 victory.

Due to the Falcons' defensive pressure, the Blue Devils' offense sputtered on its first three series and totaled only 26 yards rushing, and junior quarterback Trey Brown, who was intercepted on his first pass, was unable to complete a pass until early in the second quarter when he connected with running back Justin

Colby on his 10th attempt. After the adjustment, Brown would go on to complete nine of his next 14 attempts (9-for-23 total) for 105 yards, which included 6-for-9 for 73 yards and a 33-yard touchdown strike to receiver Trey Constantinou in the second half.

Colby would total 105 yards, including a seven-yard touchdown run, on 19 carries. Brown carried 9 times for 34 yards and junior running back Dylan Wragg would carry seven times for 34 yards. Constantinou finished with four receptions for 71 yards. Junior receiver Paul Cerro had two receptions for 22 yards, senior Aidan Scheper had a 12-yard

reception and Colby had two receptions for no yardage.

"Our kids made the adjustments. We were able to identify the things that we struggled with. You hate being down early but we were able to turn it around. Our kids didn't quit," Blue Devil Head Coach Jim DeSarno expressed.

The adjustment was especially difficult since the Blue Devils had their season interrupted and cut short last year, having experienced only two games with no scrimmages.

"After the first quarter, we just sat down on the bench. We were

going through, 'Okay! Here's what we are doing well. Here's what we are not doing well.' We discussed their defense. We said, 'this is a really good team. If we do this, this could work.' Over time, we got better and got more confidence," Brown explained.

The Falcons struck early and scored on their first series. After quarterback Christian Solino completed a 50-yard pass and a 13-yard pass, running back Omari Jones bashed in from the two-yard line with 8:32 on the clock. The point after was good.

The interception on Westfield's first series gave the Falcons good field position at midfield but this time with some key tackles from linebacker Dan Hanlon and an

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## Blue Devil Adjustment Downs St. Joseph (Metuchen) Falcons, 31-20

interception by defensive back Senu Glasco, who nearly missed an interception earlier, the Blue Devils held. Glasco would add another interception in the fourth quarter and nearly scored before he was taken down at the two-yard line.

Glasco recalled, "The ball was right to me. At first it wasn't too good. I let up the first pass but I recovered it with two picks. I could have taken the second one to the house but he just happened to get me down."

"Senu definitely changed the momentum because his picks definitely helped us out," Brown added.

"Turnovers are big! We were able to take advantage of some of the turnovers. Coach (Marc) Ciccotelli, their offensive coordinator, had been around. Wherever he goes, he's going to score points and make it very difficult on defenses," Coach DeSarno

said.

The momentum definitely changed. With short but steady running gains by Colby, the ball rested on the 15 where Wragg booted a 25-yard field goal to narrow the margin to 7-3 with 7:22 left in the half. With pressure from defensive linemen Brandon Love and Julian Montez, and defensive end Rion Murray and a fumble recovery by Hanlon, the Blue Devils were back in business at the St. Joseph 31. Five plays later, Colby slipped through for a seven-yard touchdown with 4:43 left, to put Westfield up 10-7.

Blue Devil defensive back Owen Shakal recovered a Falcon fumble at the 38 then after two running plays and an incomplete pass, Brown hit Cerro for 12 yards to the 11 where Colby sprinted in to up the lead to 17-7.

"He's a great player. Every day in practice, everyone just looks at him and are stunned at how

fast he is. Seeing him doing out here what he does in practice is awesome. Just seeing what we are doing at practice and seeing the mistakes that we make so we can learn," Brown said.

Despite a three-yard sack by Hanlon, the Falcons managed to score when Jones scooted in from the three. The point after failed.

After a scoreless third quar-

ter, a Westfield fumble at midfield on the first play of the fourth quarter resulted in JoJo Hundley taking it in for the score to put the Falcons back on top, 20-17. Colby was injured and Wragg took over and perhaps the Falcons drew a sigh of relief but there was no let up.

A mix of strong running plays by Wragg and two receptions put the Blue Devils at the 33 then Brown hooked up with Constantinou for the touchdown to retake the lead 24-20 with 6:35 remaining.

"We were confident with a second stringer. He (Wragg) was awesome. We were all hungry because we didn't get to play a lot last year. This year during the off-season we were working hard. We made some mistakes but we will fix them," Brown promised.

Glasco added his second interception that he took to the two-yard line where Wragg burst in

for a 31-20 lead with 3:20 remaining. Blue Devil senior line-backer Tyler Sontz silenced the Falcons with a 63-yard interception then Love made sure the Falcons would not score again with a 13-yard sack.

"My expectation is not to let up 20 points with the five turnovers we got but we did great," Glasco commented.

"We played good the second half. The whole team did it for us and turned it around," Brown added.

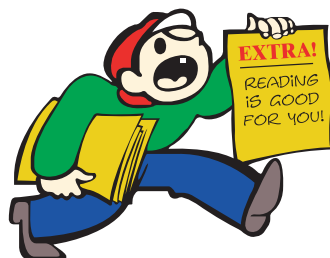
"A lot of kids stepped up today," Coach DeSarno said. "I told the team this is a team effort. We had guys stepping up on both sides of the ball. All over the place!"

"It feels amazing but we have many more to come," Brown concluded.

St. Joseph  
Westfield

7	6	0	7	20
0	17	0	14	31

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**Blue Devils Down St. Joseph (Met.), 31-20 - *photos by Charles Mulrooney***







## Blue Devils Down St. Joseph (Met.), 31-20 - *photos by Charles Mulrooney*



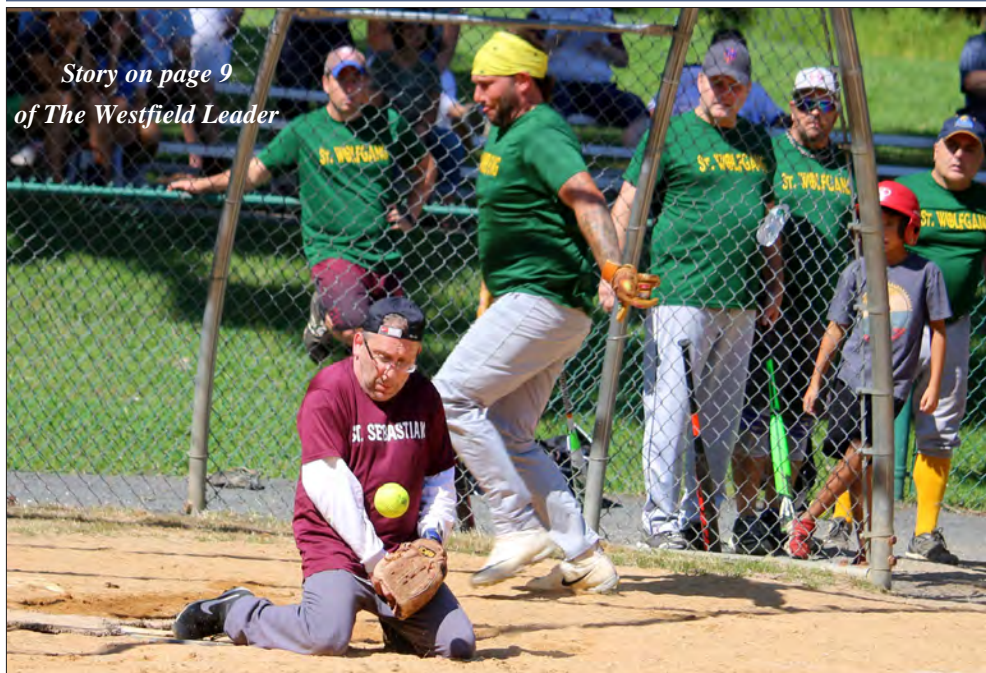




**Blue Devils Down St. Joseph (Metuchen), 31-20 - *photos by Dale Horton***







## St. Sebastian Muzzles St. Wolfgang for St. Bart's Championship, 13-9







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## Cougars Roar Back to Defeat North Hunterdon Lions, 43-37, in OT







## Cougars Roar Back to Defeat North Hunterdon Lions, 43-37, in OT







## Cougars Roar Back to Defeat North Hunterdon Lions, 43-37, in OT





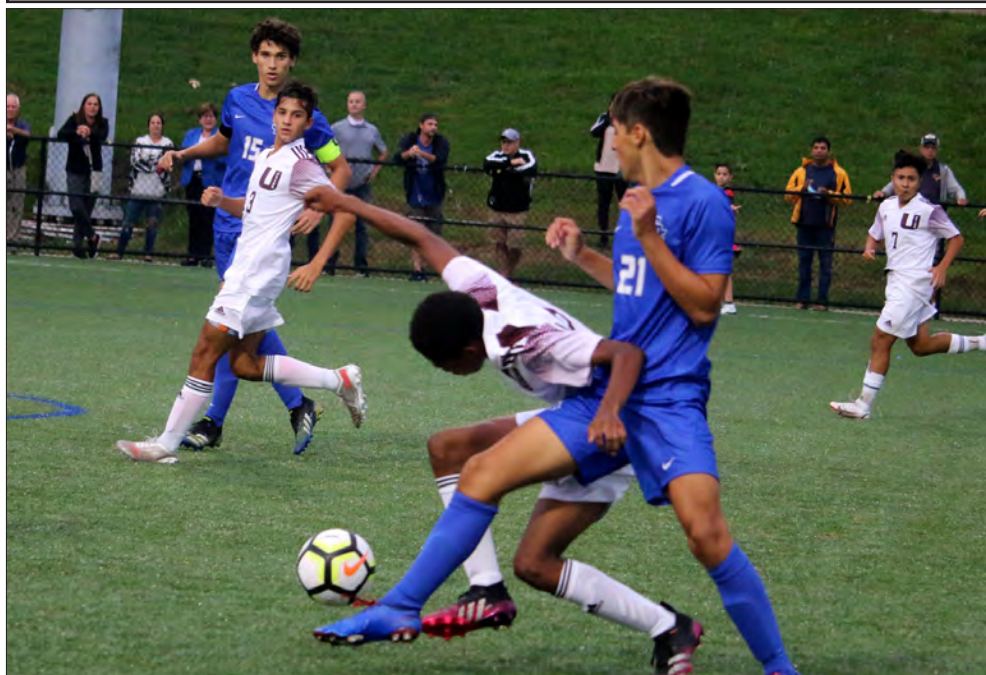


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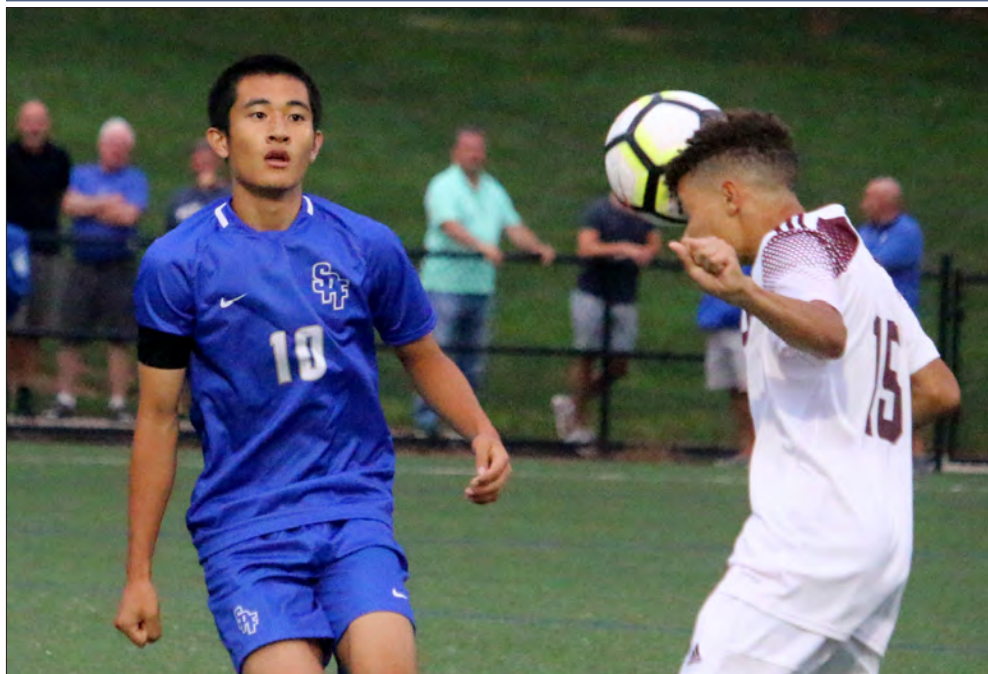


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## Raider Boys Remember Coach 'Brez' With 5-1 Victory Over Union







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*more photos next page*





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