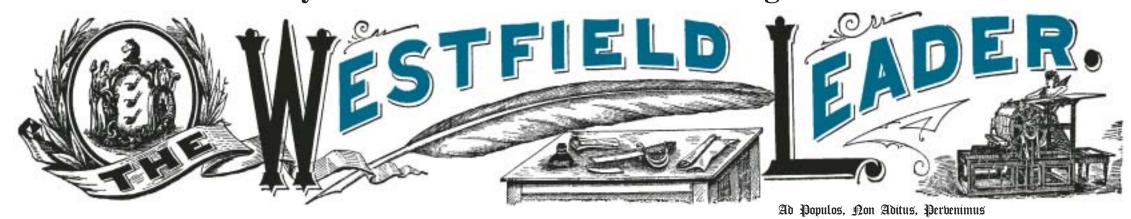
Merry Christmas and Season's Greeting



OUR 120th YEAR – ISSUE NO. 51-2010

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SEVENTY FIVE CENTS



Courtesy of Jackie Walters/ Wilson School 99 RED BALLOONS...In celebration of Read Across America and the school's 75th birthday, students, faculty and staff of Westfield's Wilson Elementary School launch several hundred biodegradable balloons with tags asking persons who find the balloons to call in with their location. To date, reports were received from the docks in Elizabeth. Birthday T-shirts designed by fifth grader Katherine Whipple were worn by all, with each grade in their own color.



SUPER FROSTY...This nine-foot snowman was built by a Westfield resident during the February 10 snowstorm that dropped 17.5 inches of snow on the



Year In Review: January Through May

JANUARY Westfield

An overflow crowd, filled with dignitaries, greeted Westfield's two newest council members, Sam Della Fera and Keith Loughlin, at the governing body's annual reorganization meeting. The most high-profile guest, Lieutenant Governor-elect Kim Guadagno, swore in Mayor Andrew Skibitsky, who two months earlier had won his reelection bid by defeating Democrat Bill Brennan.

The Westfield school district decided to issue a memorandum of understanding to the state of its intent to be a part of the Race to the Top federal-funding program. However, the Westfield Education Association (WEA), as well as the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), did not support the program.

The planning board gave the go ahead to the Echo Lake Country Club to update its sanitary sewer system.

Six new Westfield police officers were added to the department to replace retiring officers. The new officers are Dennis Dasilva, Nicholas Bruno, Michael McCarthy, Paul Neri, Eric Popliek and Dana Black.

Westfield police arrested garbage hauler James Aiello, operator of Preferred Maintenance & Carting Inc. in Westfield, after video-surveillance footage found him allegedly taking garbage from two of his clients and dumping it in another hauler's receptacle.

Westfield Fire Department (WFD) Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) treated three office workers at 123 Quimby Street for carbon monoxide poisoning after the WFD found high levels of the chemical inside the

building. Needle Point Homes filed a "Builder's Remedy" lawsuit against the town council and planning board for properties at 466 West Broad Street and 440 North Avenue, East.

The BOE changed its transportation policy after Education Commissioner Lucille Davy agreed with a ruling by Administrative Law Judge Richard McGill that the district's transportation and attendance zone policies were "unlawful" because they denied transportation to Roosevelt Intermediate School (RIS) for those students who resided beyond two miles from the school. **Scotch Plains**

Mayor Nancy Malool said, "I can't promise you that taxes won't go up," in her New Year's message at the governing body's reorganization meeting.

Ken Anderson was selected as chairman of the zoning board of adjustment and Tim Livolsi was chosen to serve as vice-chairman at the board's reorganization meeting.

The first stage of construction work on the Route 22 bridge connecting Park Avenue with Bonnie Burn and New Providence Roads got underway two weeks after the scheduled start date.

An insurance company representing former Scotch Plains Republican Mayor Martin Marks paid \$10,000 to settle a defamation lawsuit brought against Mr. Marks by 2006 Democratic township council candidate Neal LeStrange.

A federal jury found that the township government had improperly retaliated against a public works employee, but the municipal government prevailed on three other claims filed against it in connection with events that occurred in 2006 and 2007. Nicholas DiNizo, who worked for the township since the mid-1980s, claimed he had been subject to a hostile-work environment, namely ethnic slurs directed at him and others in 2006 by then-Public Works director Charles Čerami.

Seven out of the district's eight schools met 41 out of 41 indicators required through the federal government's No Child Left Behind Act(NCLB). Park Middle School failed to meet NCLB standards in the 2009 test, according to data released by the state Department of Education. Park missed one indicator (40 out of 41.)

Fanwood

Republican Councilmen Robert Manduca and Michael Szuch took their oaths of office during the governing body's annual reorganization meeting. Both men began their inaugural terms on the council following their surprise double GOP win in November. Russell Huegel was named council president for the year.

Fanwood Police Lieutenant Richard Trigo was appointed acting police chief following the retirement of Police Chief Donald Domanoski.

Garwood Democratic Councilman Keith Sluka was sworn in to his second term, and Republican Councilman Tim Hak began his first term on the borough council. Councilman Stephen Napolitano was nominated and elected as the 2010 council president.

The Garwood public schools decided to offer a tuition-based pre-kindergarten program for the 2010-2011 school year for 3- and 4-year-olds. The board voted unanimously to charge \$2,500 for a half-day program and \$5,000 for a full-day program.

County

Dan Sullivan was chosen as the new Board of Chosen Freeholders chairman for the third time at the Union County reorganization meeting.

A year after geese struck and forced US Airways Flight 149 to land in the Hudson River, the freeholders approved a two-year, \$347,239 contract with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Services, to manage the Canada geese problem in its parks.

Region

Given the magnitude of New Jersey's fiscal problem, "everything is on the in terms of remedying it Richard Bagger of Westfield, chief of staff to Governor-elect Chris Christie, told The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times in a sit-down interview.

The Cranford Township Committee approved a court-ordered payment to a consultant for her report in connection with ongoing affordable-housing litigation, but members vowed to carefully review both the report and the consultant's billings.

New Jersey came under new leadership with the swearing-in of former Westfielder Chris Christie as the state's 55th governor. Faced with a \$1-billion shortfall in 2010 and \$10 billion starting in July, Mr. Christie promised, "One person can make a difference; I will make a difference.

The selection of former Westfield resident and 2001 Republican gubernatorial candidate Bret Schundler, a proponent of school vouchers, school choice and charter schools, as education commissioner drew a mostly positive reaction from local school officials, although concerns regarding possible school aid reductions and spending limits were foremost on their minds.

FEBRUARY Westfield

Resident Thomas Walsh was sworn in as the newest judge of the state Superior Court in Elizabeth.

The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) said it would forego plans for a new car show and instead lend its support to the WNC to sponsor the

The BOE voted to apply to the state for permission to make adjustments in its spending plan that would exceed state-mandated restrictions. The governor reduced school aid for the 2009-2010 budget by \$475 million statewide to deal with the state's current budget

The DWC approved a preliminary \$390,600 budget, with DWC Executive Director Sherry Cronin saying the budget was flat for the sixth straight

Scotch Plains

Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE officials conducted 22 residency investigations of students over a three-month an resulting in four students being removed from the school system.

The township council planned to meet with officials from the Scotch Plains Management Corp. (SPMC) to discuss possible changes to the ordinance that created the special improvement district two years ago.

The SPMC hired a professional consultant and a township resident to serve as joint managers of the commercial business district. Mayor Malool and township council members questioned the hirings and, specifically, the hiring of a board member's spouse, as well as the amount of money being paid to the two managers.

Residents and parents of school-age children weighed in on a proposal to eliminate mid-day crossing guards in the vicinity of five schools in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district.

Concerned about setting a precedent that could lead to numerous similar applications from owners at the Southwick Village condominium de-

velopment, the zoning board of adjustment denied a request by a condominium owner to create a third bedroom in his unit by splitting in half an existing bedroom.

In a move by the township council, Township Attorney Brian Levine and Assistant Attorney Lawrence Woodruff were replaced. The new township attorney, Jeffrey Lehrer, is a member of the Warren-based law firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, a firm headed by former Scotch Plains resident and former state Senate President Donald DiFrancesco.

Concerns about adequate parking dominated a meeting regarding the proposal to merge the Scotch Plains and Fanwood libraries and then expand the present Scotch Plains Library on Bartle Avenue into a \$26.5-million, state-ofthe-art joint facility that would serve

Approximately 300 members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA) attended a BOE meeting to encourage a contract settlement. The SPFEA's one-year contract expired in June 2009.

Fanwood

The borough council considered the creation of a borough purchasing agent position as well as the status of town redevelopment efforts following the demolition of the former Sovereign Bank building on South Avenue.

After 20 years of service on the Fanwood Planning Board, 17 of those years at the head of the dais as chairman, Greg Cummings retired from the nine-member body.

Garwood

The BOE discussed the deficit in its proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year. The board considered balancing the budget by re-opening salary negotiations, laying off staff, closing Washington School and reducing supplies.

The resignation of a borough police officer drew a heated discussion between resident Bruce Paterson and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud.

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Officer Gennaro Mirabella, the brother of Union County Freeholder Al Mirabella, was charged with two disorderly persons offenses. All the charges were dropped at the request of Borough Police Chief William Legg following Gennaro Mirabella's resigna-

Mountainside

The board of education was told it must make up \$529,184 in tuition undercharges over the past three years to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education for borough students attending Governor Livingston High School.

A Mountainside man was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after allegedly striking another man in the head with a beer mug. Police arrested Michael Patrick Debbie, 28, the son of Mountainside Police Chief and Borough Administrator James Debbie, at The Office Beer Bar and Grill on North Avenue in Westfield.

County

It was announced that Union County taxes would increase by \$11.5 million, or 4.38 percent, to \$276.7 million to support a \$469-million proposed executive budget. The freeholder board continued its

purchase of land along Madison Hill oad in Clark with the \$600,000 acqui sition of a single-family home located next to St. Agnes Church.

Andrew Moran, a retired Berkeley Heights police captain, was hired as the county's public safety director. The freeholder board introduced an

ordinance authorizing the construction of additional bunkers at Galloping Hill Golf Course in the amount of \$200,000.

Region

The Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) asked its 11 member towns if they were interested in the RVSA commissioning a study to review the way RVSA bills municipalities. The changes being offered were for bills based on water usage or bills based on the number of households. Municipalities are currently billed based

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April 8, 2010 Edition

Horace Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* SPIRITED DISCUSSION...Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield) held a fundraiser last week at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. The guest speaker was Michael Chertoff, former secretary of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush.





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Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

From Our Home to Yours Wishing Our Customers and Friends the Happiest of Holidays and Prosperity in the New Year. Thank You for Making Us Your Preferred Real Estate Company.





Courtesy of Jim Lowney /County of Union LUCK OF THE IRISH...Union County Police and Fire Pipes and Drums march in the 14th annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on Morris Avenue in Union on Saturday, March 27. The parade was rescheduled due to a severe rainstorm that struck the area March 13.

Year In Review Continues from Page 1 -

on flow rate.

Area elected officials had differing views on whether or not legislation introduced in Trenton to abolish the state's Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) and transfer most of its powers to the state planning commission was the right approach.

State Senators Raymond Lesniak (D-20, Union) and Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R-16, Somerville) introduced legislation to abolish COAH and reform procedures concerning the provision of affordable housing.

Reaction was swift to Governor Christie's plan to eliminate a \$2.3billion budgethole by withholding \$475 million in aid to 500 school districts. while slashing \$62 million in aid to state colleges and universities and \$32.7 million to NJ Transit.

Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) kicked off his re-election campaign for a second term.

RVSA Executive Director Michael Brinker resigned due to health reasons. MARCH Westfield

Board of Education President Ginny Leiz, Vice-President Julia Walker and board member Richard Solomon were joined by challengers Mitch Slater and Susan Conover in filing for the April school board election. Ms. Conover dropped her candidacy a week later.

Town Council Finance Policy Committee Chairman Mark Ciarrocca said three full-time custodians at town hall had left for various reasons. He said those positions would not be refilled.

The town announced it was consolidating its Human Services Department with the Union County Division of Social Services. Long-time director of human services, Lillian Corsi, eventually retired from the \$91,000 position. Ms. Corsi, 62, was arrested in the parking lot of the Westfield Municipal Building and charged with driving under the influence (DWI), subsequent to the investigation of a motor-vehicle acci-

The board of education ratified a three-year contract with the teachers' union - the Westfield Education Association (WEA) – by a vote of 8-0-1. The new contract gave teachers pay increases of 3.9 percent for each of the next three years (12.2 percent total compounded.) School officials said the contract included a reduction in health insurance costs of \$977,498.

Business Administrator Robert Berman said salaries would rise \$1.9 million to \$53,219,586, with health insurance (including prescriptions and dental) dropping slightly by \$173,647 from \$13,147,500 to \$12,973,853 for a total salaries/benefits of \$66,193,439, accounting for 70 percent of the proposed \$93-million budget.

Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan announced that Westfield's state aid had been slashed by \$4,250,000, representing a 92-percent cut. The BOE approved a tentative 2010-2011 budget of \$88.75 million. To create more revenue, a student-activity fee would be implemented to generate \$125,000 in funding.

Mayor Skibitsky said the town's state aid had been cut by \$941,000.

Scotch Plains

Following a battle with some members of the township council and Mayor Malool, the Scotch Plains Management Corp. (SPMC) announced that FirsTEAM Management would serve as SPMC manager and Lisa Schiller as program coordinator instead of having two co-managers.

Five SPMC board members, including Chairman Jim Watson, resigned from the 13-member board after council members and the mayor questioned the size of the board.

Board of Education incumbents Nancy Bauer and David Gorbunoff of Scotch Plains were unchallenged in their quest for second terms. Jeffrey Lehrer was installed as the new township attorney after the township council approved his appointment by a 3-1 vote, with Deputy Mayor Dominick Bratti abstaining and Councilman Jeff Strauss casting the dissenting vote.

The zoning board of adjustment held the first hearing on an application by T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless to install a cellular antenna tower in Hillside Cemetery. The proposed 125-foot-high monopole would house nine T-Mobile antennas at the 118-foot level and 12 Verizon antennas 10 feet lower.

The BOE adopted a tentative school budget of \$80,958,048 for 2010-2011, with a tax levy of \$74,967,662. The budget followed a \$3,847,136 cut in state aid, or 84 percent, over 2009.

During a discussion of the BOE baseball-field project, a parent said the field was unplayable and that Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi had not contacted any athletic personnel regarding the project and its timeline. Mr. Del Sordi said Assistant Principal of Athletics Rob Harmer had been "involved since day one," to which Mr. Harmer called out from the back of the room, he "couldn't listen to this anymore," saying he was not consulted about the project.

Fanwood

Fanwood BOE incumbent Amy Winkler faced challenges from Michael Lewis and Christopher Pflaum. Incumbent Rob O'Connor was unchallenged for the one-year unexpired Fanwood

The borough council approved a resolution setting a \$100 commercial sewer rate for local businesses for up to 80,000 gallons of water used instead of the current 90,000 gallons. The council had considered increasing the rate to

Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council discussed a draft proclamation to have Fanwood participate in Earth Hour later in the month. Republican Councilman Robert Manduca authored a letter alluding that the proclamation came from Democratic Mayor Mahr's office and was part of a statewide political campaign to set the stage for increasing gasoline and electricity

Mayor Mahr said she was, "very concerned with how this issue...has actually resulted in attacks on my character; I cannot allow that to go unchecked," to which Mr. Manduca asked, I don't get to respond to your theater crap?" "No," Mayor Mahr replied.

Garwood

Board of Education incumbents Susan Groning and John Sullivan filed for re-election along with newcomers Thomas Evelina and Brendan McDermott in a race for three available board seats.

Mayor Dennis McCarthy announced that he had met with members of the consultant team for a possible train station and development project.

Councilman Jonathan Linken announced that testing samples taken at the proposed site of the athletic complex showed elevated levels of a banned pesticide in the southwest area, and contaminated "historic fill" in the parking lot area and south of the baseball field.

The Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation announced plans to build a 72-unit apartment complex for people age 62 and over on the former St. Anne's School property.

Mountainside

Incumbent Board of Education member Carmine Venes filed for reelection to the school board. Also filing were Lauren Elmblad, James Ruban, Jr., Marilyn Atlas-Berney and Christopher Minks. Incumbents Gene Nagel and Raymond Hagel did not seek reelec-

The BOE presented a \$14.2 million budget for the 2010-2011 school year, \$13.1 million of which would be raised through local property taxes, an increase of \$171 for the average assessed home in the borough. The district's aid was slashed by \$722,000, leaving \$38,000 for this year. The school dis-



trict also faced an increase of \$665,938 in tuition charges for sending students to Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights.

County

Union County Freeholder Chairman Dan Sullivan announced that the troop program for young horse riders at the Watchung Stable in Mountainside would stay at least through 2010. The stable ran at a \$700,000 deficit in 2009.

John Bury of Kenilworth said a budget panel for the Union County Watchdog Association, which he chaired, questioned \$5.8 million in expenditures of the \$469-million county executive budget. Among them was \$200,000 in lobbying costs and \$250,000 in legal fees.

Officials announced that Union County would see cuts of \$12 million in state funding in this year's budget. Region

The Cranford Township Committee passed a resolution requesting the state establish municipal service fees that would be paid to a municipality by students attending colleges and universities – such as Union County College - that would offset local costs for various services used by the college and its students [such as police and fire ser-

Cranford Commissioner Mark Dugan said state aid to the municipality was cut by 20.4 percent, or \$746,000, to \$2.9 million this year.

At a forum, State Education Commissioner Bret Schundler said it would be "very difficult" for the state to keep school aid flat, as the state was faced with having to cut the overall state budget by \$2 billion. Governor Christie later announced that, in an effort to reduce \$11 billion in state debt, he would slash \$820 million in school aid.

The Union County College (UCC) Board of Governors and Board of Trustees announced the closure of the Sperry Observatory on UCC's Cranford campus in order to use the facility for additional classroom space.

Citing a looming \$300-million budget deficit for the coming fiscal year, NJ Transit announced plans to increase fares by 25 percent system-wide and trim service.

Westfield

Following the announcement in March of a \$941,000 cut in state aid, Westfield continued to look for ways to compensate for that loss. Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, chairman of the governing body's Finance Policy Committee, said officials would look at "all appropriations" and would have to 'partner the best we can with our bargaining units." The committee also reviewed multiple cost-cutting options, including decreasing overtime for Public Works employees, eliminating crossing-guard positions and increasing various parking revenues by raising commuter-parking and on-street parking

The planning board approved the expansion of Cosimo's Family Restaurant on East Broad Street and construction of a new three-story building on Central Avenue that would house retail or commercial space on the first floor and apartments on the second and third

Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan announced the receipt of Westfield High School Athletic Director Edward Tranchina's retirement notice. Sandy Mamary subsequently succeeded Mr. Tranchina when she was named supervisor of athletics.

Westfield voters passed an \$81.4million school tax levy, with tallies of 3,461 to 3,114. Additionally, incum-

bents Julia Walker and Ginny Leiz, along with newcomer Mitch Slater, were elected to the board of education. Mr. Slater won the seat held by threeterm incumbent Richard Solomon, who lost his reelection bid.

Scotch Plains Zoning Officer

Robert LaCosta confirmed that a total of four cellular telephone providers - including T-Mobile, Vertical Solutions, AT&T and Verizon – had expressed interest in erecting a new monopole on municipal building property.

Park Middle School PTA President Maggie Savoca resigned over what she perceived as intimidation by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA) following comments she had made regarding teacher contract negotiations and the school budget. In a letter, the SPFEA argued that these comments had failed to respect the contributions of teachers in educating district students.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood residents defeated a \$75-million tax levy to support an \$81-million school budget by a vote of 3,210 to 2,512. Scotch Plains incumbents Nancy Bauer and David Gorbunoff were unopposed in their reelection bids for the board of educa-

With a 4-1 vote, the township council formally set 2010 sewer fee rates, which called for all properties – commercial and residential - to be charged in a similar manner.

Approximately 115 community members attended the April 29 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education meeting, expressing strong support for the re-hiring of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's Assistant Principal of Athletics, Robert Harmer, after word had spread through the district that he would not be rehired. Mr. Harmer's contract ultimately was not renewed, and Ryan Miller now holds the posi-

Fanwood

In a three-way race, incumbent Amy Winkler beat back challenges from opponents Michael Lewis and Christopher Pflaum to continue representing Fanwood on the board of education. Rob O'Connor ran unopposed for the one year remaining on the Fanwood seat of former Board Vice-President Sasha Slocum.

Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council unveiled an \$8,567,121 municipal budget, with \$5,819,175 to be raised through local taxes. As introduced, the spending plan called for municipal taxes to increase \$228,000 in total. As introduced, the spending plan would increase municipal taxes for the average Fanwood taxpayer by 3.6 percent, or \$78.

Mayor Mahr also announced that Fanwood would switch its police dispatching services from civilian dispatchers to the system run by Union County. She said the borough would be the "pilot" municipality to join the program, which would save the community \$76,000 annually.

Mountainside

Borough residents passed a \$14-million school tax levy by a 799-719 tally. Newcomers Christopher Minks and James Ruban, together with incumbent Carmine Venes, were elected to the Mountainside Board of Education. The following week, as the three were sworn in, the board reappointed Mary-Beth Schaumberg as president. Cathy Jakositz was chosen as vice-president. Jeanette Baubles was appointed again as chief school administrator for 2010-

Garwood

Residents, business owners, commuters and others were invited to participate in establishing a vision for Garwood's railroad station area, through a partnership between the borough, Union County, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and NJ Transit

Voters defeated a proposed \$6.5million school tax levy in a close margin of 357 to 353. Races for the Garwood Board of Education saw incumbents John Sullivan and Susan Groning retain their seats, while newcomer Brendan McDermott won the seat vacated by Sandro Villaraut, who did not run for re-election.

In an unexpected vote, the board of education renewed the contract of Superintendent of Schools Teresa Quigley. In a 5-3 vote, the board agreed to rescind her current contract, which was set to expire June 30, 2011, and to approve a new term, beginning immediately and lasting until June 30, 2014.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders was asked to provide financial support for a new, online records management system for the county's Board of Taxation and the county's 21 municipal tax assessors, along with the clerk of the board's office.

It was revealed that nine candidates had filed for three available seats on the freeholder board, with another three each having filed for county clerk and sheriff.

Regional

The board of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) opted to reduce its budget by \$1.1 million, to be given back to member communities on a proportional basis.

Rep. Leonard Lance faced a challenge from three candidates in his bid for the Republican nomination in the Seventh Congressional District. Mr. Lance had won a seven-candidate Pri-

mary race two years ago and went on to defeat Assemblywoman Linda Stender Fanwood.) He again received his party's nomination in June.

State and local officials remembered former fourterm congressman and six-term state assemblyman Bob

Franks for his strength as a politician, as well as his compassionate nature. Mr. Franks died April 9 at the age of 58 after a brief battle with an aggressive sarcoma

MAY Westfield

The town council approved new contracts with the Teamsters and the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) unions which include 0 percent increases for 2010. Town Administrator James Gildea announced a pay freeze or all non-union employ-

Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan said the district is looking to instate a student activity fee to support the cost of extra-curricular activities.

The town council Finance Policy Committee unveiled a \$39.1-million municipal budget, representing a tax increase of \$181 on the average home (assessed at \$185,100). This follows a reduction of \$941,470 in state aid.

Stop & Shop's sought modifications to its Westfield store including razing two older buildings that formerly housed Merrill Lynch and the legislative offices, relocation of the store's parking lot, an additional entrance on Cowperthwaite Place, construction of two freight elevators and a exterior "Garden Center."

Scotch Plains

Township Manager Chris Marion unveiled a municipal budget of \$22.9million with \$15.1-million to be raised in taxes, up \$740,185 from 2009. Mr. Marion said while a township salary



PROUD OF WIN NUMBER 500...Fans, including Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky, who is holding up the "5", January 30 after the Westfield High School wrestling team defeated Elizabeth, 45-22, in Elizabeth, to record the in the history of the program and the 100th win for head coach Glen Kurz.

freeze would be imposed on all department heads and non-union personnel, there would be no layoffs as part of the 2010 budget.

The council announced that funding for the cultural arts committee's summer concert program would be eliminated this year as would \$1,500 for a youth summer play program. In addition, the library faced early closings two nights a week.

Approximately 115 community members attended the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education meeting to support the re-hiring of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's (SPFHS) Assistant Principal of Athletics Rob Harmer after word spread that Mr. Harmer would not be re-hired for next

During a special joint meeting the mayors and councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, and the board of education, it was announced that \$860,000 would be cut from the 2010-2011 \$77.3-million school tax levy that was defeated by voters. Board members and the mayors emphasized that no teachers would be laid off as a result of this decision and that they would only cut "around the edges" without affecting what goes on in the classroom.

As part of its proposed budget cuts, the BOE said two stipend marching band positions would be eliminated as would the middle school sports

The southside senior citizens housing complex faced a \$150,000 revenue shortfall.

Fanwood

A consultant-prepared final report on the \$48,000 grant-funded shared services study for Scotch Plains and Fanwood was completed, but not yet made available to the public. Mayor Mahr said the report "looked at 11 potential areas" for shared or merged services between Fanwood and Scotch

The council discussed a resolution authorizing the shared services consultant, Jersey Professional Management, to receive an additional contract for \$5,000, to be split between the two municipalities. Councilman Anthony Parenti said since the report was done, "not one nickel" should be paid to the consultant for any additional work.

The borough council adopted a municipal budget of \$8,610,975 which increases municipal taxes 3.6 percent or \$228,000 to \$5,819,175 or \$78 on a home assessed at \$84,595.

Garwood

The borough council agreed unanimously to cut \$9,500 from the proposed \$6.5-million school tax levy that was defeated by voters in April by a 357-353 vote. The school levy will raise taxes on a borough home assessed at \$100,000 by \$125.

Garwood council members voted 4-2 to adopt a \$7,035,666 municipal budget, with \$5,298,501 to be raised in local taxes - an increase of \$222,000 over 2009. The adopted budget will lead to a \$118 tax increase for the average assessed borough home.

Mountainside

The Board of Education (BOE) approved cuts to reduce or abolish six staffing positions in 2010-2011. At a BOE meeting, about 30 teachers, parents and students in the audience sat for hours to hear the decisions after a second straight week of an executive session prior to the public meeting.

Suzanne Jenks, president of the Mountainside Education Association (MEA) said, "While the intent of the administration may have been to protect staff members from the truth, the actual result is a staff that feels as if [its] input and ideas on the current budgeting crisis are irrelevant and unwanted."

County

The county's health insurance premium for its 2,800 employees (plus for another 650 retirees) jumped \$11 million, or 34 percent, to \$44.9 million under a new, one-year contract with Cigna, the county's insurance carrier. Matthew Presutti of Brown & Brown, the county's insurance broker, said the increase was due to a "surprisingly high number of very high-level claims in such a short period.

The freeholders approved a resolution to move forward with the \$495,000 acquisition of a half-acre of land, located at 112 Park Drive, that borders Nomahegan Park in Cranford. The property includes a one-level, singlefamily home, which will be demolished. The county planned to extend the park by closing off Park Drive, a dead-end street, where the home currently sits, so that the public does not have to walk in the street.

The freeholders adopted a \$472million budget with \$277 million to be raised in taxes, an increase of \$12.3 million over last year. Taxes will rise in all 21 towns, including a \$1.9-million jump in Westfield, \$899,210 in Scotch Plains and \$341,740 in Fanwood.

Region

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield) sponsored a roundtable discussion at Union County College in Cranford on how municipalities and school districts could save tax dollars by sharing services.

Panelist Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr., a Morristown lawyer who represents over 30 public entities, said towns such as Winfield or Garwood should have municipal employees do services such as plowing school parking lots rather than hiring private firms.

County Executive Superintendent of Schools Carmen Centuolo said a countywide busing system would be a practical alternative to reduce transportation costs.

The Cranford township committee, in a 3-2 vote, introduced an ordinance extending the boundaries of the special improvement district to the Garwood border. The ordinance extends the district boundary to South Avenue and then around to the Chase Bank property line at North and Lincoln Avenues.

Union County College (UCC) hired Brookdale Community College vicepresident Margaret McMenamin as its new president, replacing the retiring Thomas H. Brown.

A divided Cranford township committee voted to introduce ordinances authorizing the purchase of the former Solomon Schecter Academy property on Orange Avenue. Commissioner David Aschenbach voted against the introduction, noting its \$1.9 million price tag, and saying the township 'can't afford to do this." Mayor Mark Smith, however, defended the move as a way for the municipal government to gain several acres of open

space real estate. Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) Secretary-Treasurer and Acting Co-Executive Director, Robert Materna, said the cogeneration facility at RVSA's wastewater treatment is not likely to produce cost savings and that "running the cogeneration facility as intended may actually in-

crease the RVSA's operating costs." The Cranford township committee was set to introduce an ordinance creating a separate sewer utility to bill property owners for their water usage, but withdrew it from the agenda for further discussion. The proposal would impose a flat \$190 fee on all properties and remove the sewer fee paid to local utilities from the township budget.

The UCC Board of Trustees and Board of Governors and Amateur Astronomers Inc. (AAI) came to an agreement upon the usage of the William Sperry Observatory on the college's Cranford campus. The agreement is for two years, commencing on July 22, 2010 and ending July 21, 2012.



POWER RANGERS...The Westfield Youth Baseball parade on Saturday featured the Texas Rangers sq

Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings

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Merry Christmas

SEVENTY FIVE CENTS





SUPER FROSTY...This nine-foot snowman was built by a Westfield resident during the February 10 snowstorm that dropped 17.5 inches of snow on the community.

Year In Review: January Through May

JANUARY Westfield

An overflow crowd, filled with dignitaries, greeted Westfield's two newest council members, Sam Della Fera and Keith Loughlin, at the governing body's annual reorganization meeting. The most high-profile guest, Lieutenant Governor-elect Kim Guadagno, swore in Mayor Andrew Skibitsky, who two months earlier had won his reelection bid by defeating Democrat Bill Brennan.

The Westfield school district decided to issue a memorandum of understanding to the state of its intent to be a part of the Race to the Top federal-funding program. However, the Westfield Education Association (WEA), as well as the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), did not support the program.

The planning board gave the go ahead to the Echo Lake Country Club to update its sanitary sewer system.

Six new Westfield police officers were added to the department to replace retiring officers. The new officers are Dennis Dasilva, Nicholas Bruno, Michael McCarthy, Paul Neri, Eric Popliek and Dana Black.

Westfield police arrested garbage hauler James Aiello, operator of Preferred Maintenance & Carting, Inc. in Westfield, after video-surveillance footage found him allegedly taking garbage from two of his clients and dumping it in another hauler's receptacle.

Westfield Fire Department (WFD) Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) treated three office workers at 123 Quimby Street for carbon monoxide poisoning after the WFD found high levels of the chemical inside the building.

Needle Point Homes filed a "Builder's Remedy" lawsuit against the town council and planning board for properties at 466 West Broad Street and 440 North Avenue, East.

The BOE changed its transportation policy after Education Commissioner Lucille Davy agreed with a ruling by Administrative Law Judge Richard McGill that the district's transportation and attendance zone policies were "unlawful" because they denied transportation to Roosevelt Intermediate School (RIS) for those students who resided

beyond two miles from the school. **Scotch Plains**

Mayor Nancy Malool said, "I can't promise you that taxes won't go up," in her New Year's message at the governing body's reorganization meeting.

Ken Anderson was selected as chairman of the zoning board of adjustment and Tim Livolsi was chosen to serve as vice-chairman at the board's reorganization meeting.

The first stage of construction work on the Route 22 bridge connecting Park Avenue with Bonnie Burn and New Providence Roads got underway two weeks after the scheduled start date.

An insurance company representing former Scotch Plains Republican Mayor Martin Marks paid \$10,000 to settle a defamation lawsuit brought against Mr. Marks by 2006 Democratic township council candidate Neal LeStrange.

A federal jury found that the township government had improperly retaliated against a public works employee, but the municipal government prevailed on three other claims filed against it in connection with events that occurred in 2006 and 2007. Nicholas DiNizo, who worked for the township since the mid-1980s, claimed he had been subject to a hostile-work environment, namely ethnic slurs directed at him and others in 2006 by then-Public Works director Charles Cerami.

Seven out of the district's eight schools met 41 out of 41 indicators required through the federal government's No Child Left Behind Act(NCLB). Park Middle School failed to meet NCLB standards in the 2009 test, according to data released by the state Department of Education. Park missed one indicator (40 out of 41.)

Fanwood

Republican Councilmen Robert Manduca and Michael Szuch took their oaths of office during the governing body's annual reorganization meeting. Both men began their inaugural terms on the council following their surprise double GOP win in November. Russell Huegel was named council president for the year.

Fanwood Police Lieutenant Richard Trigo was appointed acting police chief following the retirement of Police Chief

Donald Domanoski.

Garwood Democratic Councilman Keith Sluka was sworn in to his second term, and Republican Councilman Tim Hak began his first term on the borough council. Councilman Stephen Napolitano was nominated and elected as the 2010 council president.

The Garwood public schools decided to offer a tuition-based pre-kindergarten program for the 2010-2011 school year for 3- and 4-year-olds. The board voted unanimously to charge \$2,500 for a half-day program and \$5,000 for a full-day program.

County

Dan Sullivan was chosen as the new Board of Chosen Freeholders chairman for the third time at the Union County reorganization meeting.

A year after geese struck and forced US Áirways Flight 149 to land in the Hudson River, the freeholders approved a two-year, \$347,239 contract with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Services, to manage the Canada geese problem in its parks.

Region

Given the magnitude of New Jersey's fiscal problem, "everything is on the table" in terms of remedying it, Richard Bagger of Westfield, chief of staff to Governor-elect Chris Christie, told The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times in a sit-down interview.

The Cranford Township Committee approved a court-ordered payment to a consultant for her report in connection with ongoing affordable-housing litigation, but members vowed to carefully review both the report and the consultant's billings.

New Jersey came under new leadership with the swearing-in of former Westfielder Chris Christie as the state's 55th governor. Faced with a \$1-billion shortfall in 2010 and \$10 billion starting in July, Mr. Christie promised, "One person can make a difference; I will make a difference."

The selection of former Westfield resident and 2001 Republican gubernatorial candidate Bret Schundler, a proponent of school vouchers, school choice and charter schools, as education commissioner drew a mostly positive reaction from local school officials, although concerns regarding possible school aid reductions and spending limits were foremost on their minds.

FEBRUARY Westfield

Resident Thomas Walsh was sworn in as the newest judge of the state Superior Court in Elizabeth.

The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) said it would forego plans for a new car show and instead lend its support to the WNC to sponsor the

The BOE voted to apply to the state for permission to make adjustments in its spending plan that would exceed state-mandated restrictions. The governor reduced school aid for the 2009-2010 budget by \$475 million statewide to deal with the state's current budget

The DWC approved a preliminary \$390,600 budget, with DWC Executive Director Sherry Cronin saying the budget was flat for the sixth straight

Scotch Plains

Scotch Plains-Fanwood BOE officials conducted 22 residency investigations of students over a three-month span, resulting in four students being

removed from the school system.

The township council planned to meet with officials from the Scotch Plains Management Corp. (SPMC) to discuss possible changes to the ordinance that created the special improvement district two years ago.

The SPMC hired a professional consultant and a township resident to serve as joint managers of the commercial business district. Mayor Malool and township council members questioned the hirings and, specifically, the hiring of a board member's spouse, as well as the amount of money being paid to the two managers.

Residents and parents of school-age children weighed in on a proposal to eliminate mid-day crossing guards in the vicinity of five schools in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district.

Concerned about setting a precedent that could lead to numerous similar applications from owners at the Southwick Village condominium de-

February 25, 2010 Edition

velopment, the zoning board of adjustment denied a request by a condominium owner to create a third bedroom in his unit by splitting in half an existing bedroom.

In a move by the township council, Township Attorney Brian Levine and Assistant Attorney Lawrence Woodruff were replaced. The new township attorney, Jeffrey Lehrer, is a member of the Warren-based law firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, a firm headed by former Scotch Plains resident and former state Senate President Donald DiFrancesco.

Concerns about adequate parking dominated a meeting regarding the proposal to merge the Scotch Plains and Fanwood libraries and then expand the present Scotch Plains Library on Bartle Avenue into a \$26.5-million, state-ofthe-art joint facility that would serve both towns.

Approximately 300 members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA) attended a BOE meeting to encourage a contract settlement. The SPFEA's one-year contract expired in June 2009.

Fanwood

The borough council considered the creation of a borough purchasing agent position, as well as the status of downtown redevelopment efforts following the demolition of the former Sovereign Bank building on South Avenue.

After 20 years of service on the Fanwood Planning Board, 17 of those years at the head of the dais as chairman, Greg Cummings retired from the nine-member body.

Garwood

The BOE discussed the deficit in its proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year. The board considered balancing the budget by re-opening salary negotiations, laying off staff, closing Washington School and reducing sup-

The resignation of a borough police officer drew a heated discussion between resident Bruce Paterson and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud.

News 2-3

Officer Gennaro Mirabella, the brother of Union County Freeholder Al Mirabella, was charged with two disorderly persons offenses. All the charges were dropped at the request of Borough Police Chief William Legg following Gennaro Mirabella's resigna-

from the Léader/Times

Office Staff

Mountainside

The board of education was told it must make up \$529,184 in tuition undercharges over the past three years to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education for borough students attending Governor Livingston High School.

A Mountainside man was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after allegedly striking another man in the head with a beer mug. Police arrested Michael Patrick Debbie, 28, the son of Mountainside Police Chief and Borough Administrator James Debbie, at The Office Beer Bar and Grill on North Avenue in Westfield.

County

It was announced that Union County taxes would increase by \$11.5 million, or 4.38 percent, to \$276.7 million to support a \$469-million proposed executive budget. The freeholder board continued its

purchase of land along Madison Hill Road in Clark with the \$600,000 acquisition of a single-family home located next to St. Agnes Church.

Andrew Moran, a retired Berkeley Heights police captain, was hired as the county's public safety director.

The freeholder board introduced an ordinance authorizing the construction of additional bunkers at Galloping Hill

Golf Course in the amount of \$200,000. Region

The Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) asked its 11 member towns if they were interested in the RVSA commissioning a study to review the way RVSA bills municipalities. The changes being offered were for bills based on water usage or bills based on the number of households. Municipalities are currently billed based

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Obituary 6



IN THE SAME BOAT...Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School thespians perform a singing-and-dan the Same Boat," from Saturday's rendition of Rupert Holmes' Curtains. See overview on page 22.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night



Courtesy of Jim Lowney /County of Union LUCK OF THE IRISH...Union County Police and Fire Pipes and Drums march in the 14th annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on Morris Avenue in Union on Saturday, March 27. The parade was rescheduled due to a severe rainstorm that struck the area March 13.

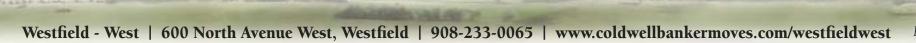
Have a happy and healthy 2011

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



Jossica Jaskula for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
SEEKING A NEW DEAL....Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association members asked the board of education last Thursday
night to work with the union to reach a settlement for a new contract. The union's previous agreement expired last June.

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I SWEAR...Freeholder Alexander Mirabella of Fanwood is sworn into his fifth, three-year term as a county freeholder during the 153rd annual reorganization meeting held in the Union County Courthouse on January 3. His wife, Phyllis, and their children, Alex and Micayla, hold the Bible.

Year In Review Continues from Page 1

on flow rate.

Area elected officials had differing views on whether or not legislation introduced in Trenton to abolish the state's Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) and transfer most of its powers to the state planning commission was the right approach.

State Senators Raymond Lesniak (D-20, Union) and Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R-16, Somerville) introduced legislation to abolish COAH and reform procedures concerning the provision of affordable housing.

Reaction was swift to Governor Christie's plan to eliminate a \$2.3billion budgethole by withholding \$475 million in aid to 500 school districts, while slashing \$62 million in aid to state colleges and universities and \$32.7 million to NJ Transit.

Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) kicked off his re-election campaign for a sec-

RVSA Executive Director Michael Brinker resigned due to health reasons.

MARCH Westfield

Board of Education President Ginny Leiz, Vice-President Julia Walker and board member Richard Solomon were joined by challengers Mitch Slater and Susan Conover in filing for the April school board election. Ms. Conover dropped her candidacy a week later.

Town Council Finance Policy Committee Chairman Mark Ciarrocca said three full-time custodians at town hall had left for various reasons. He said those positions would not be refilled.

The town announced it was consolidating its Human Services Department with the Union County Division of Social Services. Long-time director of human services, Lillian Corsi, eventually retired from the \$91,000 position. Ms. Corsi, 62, was arrested in the parking lot of the Westfield Municipal Building and charged with driving under the influence (DWI), subsequent to the investigation of a motor-vehicle acci-

The board of education ratified a three-year contract with the teachers' union - the Westfield Education Association (WEA) – by a vote of 8-0-1. The new contract gave teachers pay increases of 3.9 percent for each of the next three years (12.2 percent total compounded.) School officials said the contract included a reduction in health insurance costs of \$977,498.

Business Administrator Robert Berman said salaries would rise \$1.9 million to \$53,219,586, with health insurance (including prescriptions and dental) dropping slightly by \$173,647 from \$13,147,500 to \$12,973,853 for a total salaries/benefits of \$66,193,439, accounting for 70 percent of the proposed \$93-million budget.

Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan announced that Westfield's state aid had been slashed by \$4,250,000, representing a 92-percent cut. The BOE approved a tentative 2010-2011 budget of \$88.75 million. To create more revenue, a student-activity fee would be implemented to generate \$125,000 in funding.

Mayor Skibitsky said the town's state aid had been cut by \$941,000.

Scotch Plains

Following a battle with some members of the township council and Mayor Malool, the Scotch Plains Management Corp. (SPMC) announced that FirsTEAM Management would serve as SPMC manager and Lisa Schiller as program coordinator instead of having two co-managers.

Five SPMC board members, including Chairman Jim Watson, resigned from the 13-member board after council members and the mayor questioned the size of the board.

Board of Education incumbents Nancy Bauer and David Gorbunoff of Scotch Plains were unchallenged in their quest for second terms. Jeffrey Lehrer was installed as the new township attorney after the township council approved his appointment by a 3-1 vote, with Deputy Mayor Dominick Bratti abstaining and Councilman Jeff Strauss casting the dissenting vote.

The zoning board of adjustment held the first hearing on an application by T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless to install a cellular antenna tower in Hillside Cemetery. The proposed 125-foot-high monopole would house nine T-Mobile antennas at the 118-foot level and 12 Verizon antennas 10 feet lower.

The BOE adopted a tentative school budget of \$80,958,048 for 2010-2011, with a tax levy of \$74,967,662. The budget followed a \$3,847,136 cut in state aid, or 84 percent, over 2009.

During a discussion of the BOE baseball-field project, a parent said the field was unplayable and that Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi had not contacted any athletic personnel regarding the project and its timeline. Mr. Del Sordi said Assistant Principal of Athletics Rob Harmer had been "involved since day one," to which Mr. Harmer called out from the back of the room, he "couldn't listen to this anymore," saying he was not consulted about the project.

Fanwood

Fanwood BOE incumbent Amy Winkler faced challenges from Michael Lewis and Christopher Pflaum. Incumbent Rob O'Connor was unchallenged for the one-year unexpired Fanwood

The borough council approved a resolution setting a \$100 commercial sewer rate for local businesses for up to 80,000 gallons of water used instead of the current 90,000 gallons. The council had considered increasing the rate to

Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council discussed a draft proclamation to have Fanwood participate in Earth Hour later in the month. Republican Councilman Robert Manduca authored a letter alluding that the proclamation came from Democratic Mayor Mahr's office and was part of a statewide political campaign to set the stage for increasing gasoline and electricity

Mayor Mahr said she was, "very concerned with how this issue...has actually resulted in attacks on my character; I cannot allow that to go unchecked," to which Mr. Manduca asked, 'I don't get to respond to your theater crap?" "No," Mayor Mahr replied.

Garwood

Board of Education incumbents Susan Groning and John Sullivan filed for re-election along with newcomers Thomas Evelina and Brendan McDermott in a race for three available board seats.

Mayor Dennis McCarthy announced that he had met with members of the consultant team for a possible train station and development project.

Councilman Jonathan Linken announced that testing samples taken at the proposed site of the athletic complex showed elevated levels of a banned pesticide in the southwest area, and contaminated "historic fill" in the parking lot area and south of the baseball

The Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation announced plans to build a 72-unit apartment complex for people age 62 and over on the former St. Anne's School property.

Mountainside

Incumbent Board of Education member Carmine Venes filed for reelection to the school board. Also filing were Lauren Elmblad, James Ruban, Jr., Marilyn Atlas-Berney and Christopher Minks. Incumbents Gene Nagel and Raymond Hagel did not seek reelec-

The BOE presented a \$14.2 million budget for the 2010-2011 school year, \$13.1 million of which would be raised through local property taxes, an increase of \$171 for the average assessed home in the borough. The district's aid was slashed by \$722,000, leaving \$38,000 for this year. The school dis-



trict also faced an increase of \$665,938 in tuition charges for sending students to Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights.

County

Union County Freeholder Chairman Dan Sullivan announced that the troop program for young horse riders at the Watchung Stable in Mountainside would stay at least through 2010. The stable ran at a \$700,000 deficit in 2009.

John Bury of Kenilworth said a budget panel for the Union County Watchdog Association, which he chaired, questioned \$5.8 million in expenditures of the \$469-million county executive budget. Among them was \$200,000 in lobbying costs and \$250,000 in legal fees.

Officials announced that Union County would see cuts of \$12 million in state funding in this year's budget. Region

The Cranford Township Committee passed a resolution requesting the state establish municipal service fees that would be paid to a municipality by students attending colleges and universities – such as Union County College - that would offset local costs for various services used by the college and its students [such as police and fire ser-

Cranford Commissioner Mark Dugan said state aid to the municipality was cut by 20.4 percent, or \$746,000, to \$2.9 million this year.

At a forum, State Education Commissioner Bret Schundler said it would be "very difficult" for the state to keep school aid flat, as the state was faced with having to cut the overall state budget by \$2 billion. Governor Christie later announced that, in an effort to reduce \$11 billion in state debt, he would slash \$820 million in school aid.

The Union County College (UCC) Board of Governors and Board of Trustees announced the closure of the Sperry Observatory on UCC's Cranford campus in order to use the facility for additional classroom space.

Citing a looming \$300-million budget deficit for the coming fiscal year, NJ Transit announced plans to increase fares by 25 percent system-wide and trim service.

Westfield

Following the announcement in March of a \$941,000 cut in state aid, Westfield continued to look for ways to compensate for that loss. Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, chairman of the governing body's Finance Policy Committee, said officials would look at "all appropriations" and would have to 'partner the best we can with our bargaining units." The committee also reviewed multiple cost-cutting options, including decreasing overtime for Public Works employees, eliminating crossing-guard positions and increasing various parking revenues by raising commuter-parking and on-street parking

The planning board approved the expansion of Cosimo's Family Restaurant on East Broad Street and construction of a new three-story building on Central Avenue that would house retail or commercial space on the first floor and apartments on the second and third

Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan announced the receipt of Westfield High School Athletic Director Edward Tranchina's retirement notice. Sandy Mamary subsequently suc-

ceeded Tranchina when she was named supervisor of athlet-

Westfield voters passed an \$81.4million school tax levy, with tallies of 3,461 to 3,114. Additionally, incumbents Julia Walker and Ginny Leiz, along with newcomer Mitch Slater,

were elected to the board of education. Mr. Slater won the seat held by three-term incumbent Richard Solomon, who lost his reelection

Scotch Plains

Zoning Officer Robert LaCosta confirmed that a total of four cellular telephone providers – including T-Mobile, Vertical Solutions, AT&T and Verizon had expressed interest in erecting a new monopole on municipal building

Park Middle School PTA President Maggie Savoca resigned over what she perceived as intimidation by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA) following comments she had made regarding teacher contract negotiations and the school budget. In a letter, the SPFEA argued that these comments had failed to respect the contributions of teachers in educating district students.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood residents defeated a \$75-million tax levy to support an \$81-million school budget by a vote of 3,210 to 2,512. Scotch Plains incumbents Nancy Bauer and David Gorbunoff were unopposed in their reelection bids for the board of educa-

With a 4-1 vote, the township council formally set 2010 sewer fee rates, which called for all properties - commercial and residential - to be charged in a similar manner.

Approximately 115 community members attended the April 29 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education meeting, expressing strong support for the re-hiring of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's Assistant Principal of Athletics, Robert Harmer, after word had spread through the district that he would not be rehired. Mr. Harmer's contract ultimately was not renewed, and Ryan Miller now holds the posi-

Fanwood

In a three-way race, incumbent Amy Winkler beat back challenges from opponents Michael Lewis and Christopher Pflaum to continue representing Fanwood on the board of education. Rob O'Connor ran unopposed for the one year remaining on the Fanwood seat of former Board Vice-President Sasha Slocum.

Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council unveiled an \$8,567,121 municipal budget, with \$5,819,175 to be raised through local taxes. As introduced, the spending plan called for municipal taxes to increase \$228,000 in total. As introduced, the spending plan would increase municipal taxes for the average Fanwood taxpayer by 3.6 percent, or \$78.

Mayor Mahr also announced that Fanwood would switch its police dispatching services from civilian dispatchers to the system run by Union County. She said the borough would be the "pilot" municipality to join the program, which would save the community \$76,000 annually.

Mountainside

Borough residents passed a \$14-million school tax levy by a 799-719 tally. Newcomers Christopher Minks and James Ruban, together with incumbent Carmine Venes, were elected to the Mountainside Board of Education. The following week, as the three were sworn in, the board reappointed Mary-Beth Schaumberg as president. Cathy Jakositz was chosen as vice-president. Jeanette Baubles was appointed again as chief school administrator for 2010-

Garwood

Residents, business owners, commuters and others were invited to participate in establishing a vision for Garwood's railroad station area, through a partnership between the borough, Union County, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and NJ Transit.

Voters defeated a proposed \$6.5million school tax levy in a close margin of 357 to 353. Races for the Garwood Board of Education saw incumbents John Sullivan and Susan Groning retain their seats, while newcomer Brendan McDermott won the seat vacated by Sandro Villaraut, who did not run for re-election.

In an unexpected vote, the board of education renewed the contract of Superintendent of Schools Teresa Quigley. In a 5-3 vote, the board agreed to rescind her current contract, which was set to expire June 30, 2011, and to approve a new term, beginning immediately and lasting until June 30, 2014. **County**

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders was asked to provide financial support for a new, on line records management system for the county's Board of Taxation and the county's 21 municipal tax assessors, along with the clerk of the board's office.

It was revealed that nine candidates had filed for three available seats on the freeholder board, with another three each having filed for county clerk and

Regional

The board of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) opted to reduce its budget by \$1.1 million, to be

given back to membercommunities on a proportional ba-

Rep. Leonard Lance faced a challenge from three candidates in his bid for the Republican nomination in the Seventh Congressional District. Mr. Lance had won a seven-candidate Primary race two

years ago and went on to defeat Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-Fanwood.) He again received his party's nomination in June.

State and local officials remembered former four-term congressman and sixterm state assemblyman Bob Franks for his strength as a politician, as well as his compassionate nature. Mr. Franks died April 9 at the age of 58 after a brief battle with an aggressive sarcoma.

MAY

Westfield

The town council approved new contracts with the Teamsters and the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) unions which include 0 percent increases for 2010. Town Administrator James Gildea announced a pay freeze or all non-union employ-

Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan said the district is looking to instate a student activity fee to support the cost of extra-curricular activities.

The town council Finance Policy Committee unveiled a \$39.1-million municipal budget, representing a tax increase of \$181 on the average home (assessed at \$185,100). This follows a reduction of \$941,470 in state aid.

Stop & Shop's sought modifications to its Westfield store including razing two older buildings that formerly housed Merrill Lynch and the legislative offices, relocation of the store's parking lot, an additional entrance on Cowperthwaite Place, construction of two freight elevators and a exterior "Garden Center."

Scotch Plains Township Manager Chris Marion

unveiled a municipal budget of \$22.9million with \$15.1-million to be raised in taxes, up \$740,185 from 2009. Mr.



WALKING FOR LIFE...Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's ninth annual Walk for Cancer, organized by Student Movement Against Cancer, was held Friday night. This year's goal was \$110,000 as of Friday prior to the start of the all-night Relay for Life walk. The students were already at \$94,000 and are able to continue collection into June.

Marion said while a township salary freeze would be imposed on all department heads and non-union personnel, there would be no layoffs as part of the 2010 budget.

The council announced that funding for the cultural arts committee's summer concert program would be eliminated this year as would \$1,500 for a youth summer play program. In addition, the library faced early closings two nights a week.

Approximately 115 community members attended the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education meeting to support the re-hiring of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's (SPFHS) Assistant Principal of Athletics Rob Harmer after word spread that Mr. Harmer would not be re-hired for next

During a special joint meeting the mayors and councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, and the board of education, it was announced that \$860,000 would be cut from the 2010-2011 \$77.3-million school tax levy that was defeated by voters. Board members and the mayors emphasized that no teachers would be laid off as a result of this decision and that they would only cut "around the edges" without affecting what goes on in the

As part of its proposed budget cuts, the BOE said two stipend marching band positions would be eliminated as would the middle school sports program.

The southside senior citizens housing complex faced a \$150,000 revenue shortfall.

Fanwood

A consultant-prepared final report on the \$48,000 grant-funded shared services study for Scotch Plains and Fanwood was completed, but not yet made available to the public. Mayor Mahr said the report "looked at 11 potential areas" for shared or merged services between Fanwood and Scotch

The council discussed a resolution authorizing the shared services consultant, Jersey Professional Management, to receive an additional contract for \$5,000, to be split between the two municipalities. Councilman Anthony Parenti said since the report was done, "not one nickel" should be paid to the consultant for any additional work.

The borough council adopted a municipal budget of \$8,610,975 which increases municipal taxes 3.6 percent or \$228,000 to \$5,819,175 or \$78 on a home assessed at \$84,595.

Garwood

The borough council agreed unanimously to cut \$9,500 from the proposed \$6.5-million school tax levy that was defeated by voters in April by a 357-353 vote. The school levy will raise taxes on a borough home assessed at \$100,000 by \$125.

Garwood council members voted 4-2 to adopt a \$7,035,666 municipal budget, with \$5,298,501 to be raised in local taxes - an increase of \$222,000 over 2009. The adopted budget will lead to a \$118 tax increase for the average assessed borough home.

Mountainside

The Board of Education (BOE) approved cuts to reduce or abolish six staffing positions in 2010-2011. At a BOE meeting, about 30 teachers, parents and students in the audience sat for hours to hear the decisions after a second straight week of an executive session prior to the public meeting.

Suzanne Jenks, president of the Mountainside Education Association (MEA) said, "While the intent of the administration may have been to protect staff members from the truth, the actual result is a staff that feels as if [its] input and ideas on the current budgeting crisis are irrelevant and unwanted."

County The county's health insurance pre-

mium for its 2,800 employees (plus for another 650 retirees) jumped \$11 million, or 34 percent, to \$44.9 million under a new, one-year contract with Cigna, the county's insurance carrier. Matthew Presutti of Brown & Brown, the county's insurance broker, said the increase was due to a "surprisingly high number of very high-level claims in such a short period."

The freeholders approved a resolution to move forward with the \$495,000 acquisition of a half-acre of land, located at 112 Park Drive, that borders Nomahegan Park in Cranford. The property includes a one-level, singlefamily home, which will be demolished. The county planned to extend the park by closing off Park Drive, a dead-end street, where the home currently sits, so that the public does not have to walk in the street.

The freeholders adopted a \$472million budget with \$277 million to be raised in taxes, an increase of \$12.3 million over last year. Taxes will rise in all 21 towns, including a \$1.9-million jump in Westfield, \$899,210 in Scotch Plains and \$341,740 in Fanwood.

Region

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield) sponsored a roundtable discussion at Union County College in Cranford on how municipalities and school districts could save tax dollars by sharing services.

Panelist Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr., a Morristown lawyer who represents over 30 public entities, said towns such as Winfield or Garwood should have municipal employees do services such as plowing school parking lots rather than hiring private firms.

County Executive Superintendent of Schools Carmen Centuolo said a countywide busing system would be a practical alternative to reduce transportation costs.

The Cranford township committee, in a 3-2 vote, introduced an ordinance extending the boundaries of the special improvement district to the Garwood border. The ordinance extends the district boundary to South Avenue and then around to the Chase Bank property line at North and Lin-

coln Avenues. Union County College (UCC) hired Brookdale Community College vicepresident Margaret McMenamin as its new president, replacing the retiring Thomas H. Brown.

A divided Cranford township committee voted to introduce ordinances authorizing the purchase of the former Solomon Schecter Academy property on Orange Avenue. Commissioner David Aschenbach voted against the introduction, noting its \$1.9 million price tag, and saying the township "can't afford to do this." Mayor Mark Smith, however, defended the move as a way for the municipal government to gain several acres of open space real estate.

Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) Secretary-Treasurer and Acting Co-Executive Director, Robert Materna, said the cogeneration facility at RVSA's wastewater treatment is not likely to produce cost savings and that "running the cogeneration facility as intended may actually increase the RVSA's operating costs."

The Cranford township committee was set to introduce an ordinance creating a separate sewer utility to bill property owners for their water usage, but withdrew it from the agenda for further discussion. The proposal would impose a flat \$190 fee on all properties and remove the sewer fee paid to local utilities from the town-

ship budget. The UCC Board of Trustees and Board of Governors and Amateur Astronomers Inc. (AAI) came to an agreement upon the usage of the William Sperry Observatory on the college's Cranford campus. The agreement is for two years, commencing on July 22, 2010 and ending July 21, 2012.



Tom Fortunato for The Westfield Leader and The Times TEA ANYONE...Citizens meet in Scotch Plains near the library last Saturday to discuss if there is interest in forming a Union County T.E.A. Party.

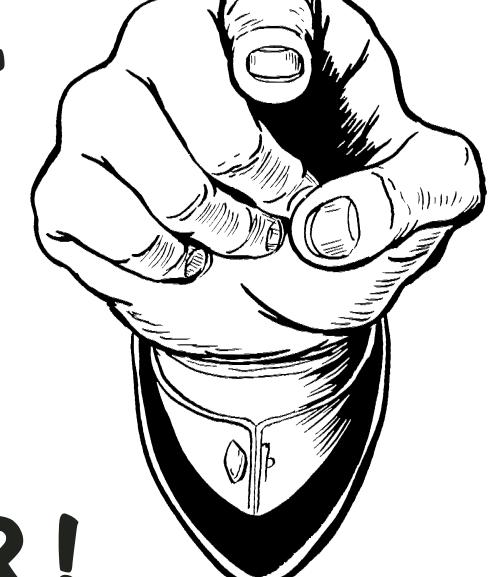
The Mestfield Leader and The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES

Thursday, December 23, 2010

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AT THE COURTHOUSE...The Union County Courthouse rotunda is adorned with a blue spruce tree donated by Linda and Janet Somers in memory of their father, Richard Somers, a long-time resident of Union. A crew from the Union County Shade Tree Bureau cut the tree and loaded it onto a flatbed truck. The public is invited to view the tree on weekdays until it is removed New Year's Day.



REJOICE, IT'S CHRISTMAS...St. Bartholomew Academy rejoiced in Christmas earlier this month; family and friends were entertained by the St. Bartholomew Academy's instrumental band, choir and kindergarten through eighth-grade students, as they performed traditional Christmas songs. The academy's eighth-grade students, pictured, re-enacted the nativity story. The evening concluded with the entire congregation singing "Joy to the World."



SANTA COMES TO FANWOOD...The Fanwood Fire Department gave Santa a ride through town this weekend to help him deliver presents to the children.

Navy Seaman Recruit Erika Grausso **Of Scotch Plains Completes Training**

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SCOTCH PLAINS — Navy Seaman Recruit Erika Grausso, the daughter of Stanley Grausso, of Scotch Plains, recently completed U.S.

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"Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a sailor.

Erika is a 2007 graduate of Scotch-Plains-Fanwood High School.

Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Erika completed a variety of training, which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and sur-

An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations."

LUNAR ECLIPSE... A total lunar eclipse occurred around 4 a.m. Tuesday. The moon turned red, as the Earth's shadow passed over the moon. The eclipse coincided with the winter solstice, an event that occurs once every 400 years.

Garwood BOE Recognizes Students for Academics

By MANDY L. RUSSELL

GARWOOD—The Garwood Board of Education Tuesday night discussed next year's budget and recognized students who excelled in academics.

Superintendent Teresa Quigley said that the budget for next year will be extremely tight, with no surplus left over from this year's budget.

"It will be a tough economic year for Garwood school district," Ms. Quigley said, "but I have a motto: you do what you can, where you are, with what you have, and you can survive. Garwood will survive; we have a great school."

The multi-purpose room was filled with students and their families, as Board President Adele Lewis introduced Ms. Quigley, who awarded the students' certificates.

"We love nothing more than to take time to recognize our students for their hard work and achievements," Ms. Quigley said.

Ms. Quigley has been at the school for 21 years, and in the early 1990s she was the basketball coach. "In the two years that I coached, we only won one game," she laughed. "From time to time, I still run into some of my old players, and they ask me if I remember that one game we won," she said.

She mentioned that Matt Murphy was now coaching both the boys and girls basketball teams, and he was doing a "great job" of it.

"I know I am going off on a tangent," she said, "but I really want to take a moment to recognize our basketball teams, who beat Winfield tonight, a little while ago, in fact."

Ms. Quigley pointed out that three of the girls from the basketball team were in attendance to be recognized for their excellence in academics.

"It is one thing to do well in sports, but it is another to do well in sports and still maintain straight A's, and you girls should be proud of yourselves," Ms. Quigley said.

Ms. Quigley addressed the parents by saying that she was so glad they take the time to work with their children on their academics. She encouraged them to be both proud of their children and also themselves.

"And if any of you want to give me any tips, I welcome them, I have three boys at home," she laughed.

Students were called up to the front of the meeting one by one to accept an award for their commitment to academics. Some students had perfect scores, while others maintained honor

Eighth grader Vanessa Rosky was recognized for having a perfect score in LAL (Language Arts). She was the only student to receive a perfect score in this section.

"It feels awesome to receive this award and be recognized," Vanessa said. Her father said, "You'll be reading her stuff someday; she wants to be an author, and she loves to read and write."

Ms. Quigley announced that five students earned perfect scores in math.

"We teach our students here at Garwood to be lifelong learners and to work toward their goals, and I have 14 out of 240 of my students with perfect scores," Ms. Quigley said.

Ms. Quigley noted the success of the school's "Pair-share" program, in which older students meet with younger students to read and do other activities.

"It's kind of like a big brother, big sister program. I have eighth graders who read with third graders, and when they see each other in the hall, they say hello to one another. It's really nice to see the bonds that are made," Ms. Quigley said.

Correction

A caption concerning a photo taken at a Christmas celebration for children at Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) Pediatric Medical Day Care Program in Roselle Park incorrectly identified the elf. Amy Jester, a volunteer from Westfield, dressed as the elf. The hospital's president and chief executive officer, Amy Mansue, does not appear in the photo. We apologize for the error.

Voters Approve \$73 million In School Construction

TRENTON — Voters approved six of the eight school district bond referendums on December 14 for a total of \$73.1 million in school construction, the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) has

A total of \$194 million was on the ballot. Of the total amount approved, \$25.2 million will qualify for state funds, either through one-time school-construction grants, annual "debt service aid" payments to school districts, or other aid.

School boards may hold special elections on five specific dates a year. The next date on which a school board may schedule a bond referendum question is January 25.

Among those referendums that passed were Buena Regional and Somers Point in Atlantic County, National Park and Woodbury Heights in Gloucester County, and South River and Woodbridge in Middlesex County. Referendums iwere rejected in Fort Lee, Bergen County, and Kingsway Regional in Gloucester

According to NJSBA, the proportion of construction proposals ap-

proved by voters for all of 2010 comes to 50 percent. Overall, 17 of 34 bond referendums were approved in the five school-construction election dates this year. The 50-percent success rate for 2010 – the lowest on record since NJSBA began tracking school-- construction proposals in 1998 – reflects voters' reluctance to take on additional debt during a struggling economy. The highest success rate was in 2003, when voters approved nearly 79 percent of school

construction proposals.
For 2010, a total of \$832.11 million in school construction was proposed to voters. Only 26.3 percent of that amount, \$218.66 million was approved. That figure is also the lowest on record. The highest level of school-construction spending took place in 2003, when voters authorized \$1.4 billion in school construction projects - 84 percent of the proposed dollar amount for that year, according tothe NJSBA.

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ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL...A driver of a caravan fell asleep at the wheel and struck seven parked cars on Central Avenue on Sunday afternoon, according to police. The driver had to be cut out of the vehicle by the Westfield Fire Department. According to police, the Westfield Rescue Squad at the scene treated the driver, his wife and two small children. Central Avenue was closed for over 90 minutes for crews to clean up the busy thoroughfare.

Christie, Dems Reach Accord **On Arbitration Reform**

TRENTON - Governor Chris Christie and legislative Democratic leaders have reached a bipartisan agreement last week on arbitration reform, one of the critical elements of his "tool kit" reforms to control property tax hikes. Municipal unions, such as those representing police and firefighters, will be limited to 2-percent increases when they enter arbitration, a third-party negotiation that helps facilitate settlements in the case of an impasse. The state Assembly passed the legislation on Monday by a tally of 74-1. Assemblyman Charles Mainor (LD-31, Jersey City), a detective in the Jersey City Police Department, was the lone dissenting vote.

"We have shown that once again, by putting the interests of New Jersey's hard-working men and women first, we can achieve real, sustainable reform. Building on the first steps we took to reduce property taxes with [a 2-percent cap on property-tax levies], we are transforming the interest-arbitration process and providing a longterm solution that will help local governments keep property taxes down and costs under control," Governor Christie said. "Today's agreement is a positive step in that direction, but we still have more work to do before the end of the year.

According to a press release from the governor's office, the bipartisan agreement on interest arbitration requires that a 2-percent cap be applied to all salary items, such as acrossthe-board and cost-of-living increases, step increment payments and longevity pay. While pension and health costs are exceptions, the Governor has called for measures to modernize and improve the pension and benefit system. Democrats have said they will take up those discussions

The agreement creates a prohibition on allowing non-salary economic issues to be arbitrated above the cap, unless already included in an existing contract. The agreement also includes concrete deadlines to help eliminate delays in the arbitration process from contract negotiation to the receipt of the actual award in an effort to eliminate labor costs that often mount when contact talks stall.

State Senator Minority Leader Tom Kean, Jr. (LD-21, Westfield) praised the arbitration-reform agreement. "By working together, we have restored balance to the arbitration process to better control property taxes for middleclass families," he said. "Too many families have reached a breaking point with their ability to afford the costly expenses of local government. With this agreement, public employees and taxpayers can continue to live, work and raise their families in a state that is more affordable for all. This is truly a historic day for New Jersey."

Under the reform, arbitrators would have 45 days to make a ruling. Arbitrator pay would be capped at \$1,000 per day and \$7,500 per case. A task force would examine the impact of interest arbitration reform and the effectiveness of the cap on restricting municipal spending.

The law would take effect January

1, 2011 and expire April 1, 2014.

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Dr. Mira Stotland Joins Team At Advanced Dermatology

Mira Stotland

WESTFIELD – Advanced Dermatology, Mohs and Laser Surgery Center is pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Mira Stotland. Dr Stotland is a board certified dermatologist who specializes in general dermatology for adults and children, skin cancer and cosmetic dermatology. She has received extensive training in laser treatments for hair removal, acne and scars, chemical peels, Botox treatments and filler injec-

including tions Restylane and Juvederm. After completing her

undergraduate education at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Stotland graduated summa cum laude from the State University of New York (SUNY), Downstate Medical Center, in Brooklyn. She completed her internal medicine internship at St.

Vincent's Medical Center in New York and then returned to SUNY Downstate to complete her residency in dermatology, where she was named Chief Resident in Dermatology in her final year of training.

Dr. Stotland has published on various topics including acne treatments, sunscreen safety and laser treatments. She is an active member of the American Academy of Dermatology and of Alpha Omega Alpha, the prestigious national medical honor society.

She joins the practice of Dr. Sabatino Ciatti, Dr. Susan McFalls and Rachel Cittone, P.A.-C. Dr. Ciatti is a board certified dermatologist and fellowship trained Mohs Surgeon who specializes in the removal of skin cancer, plastic reconstructions, dermatologic surgery, laser procedures and cosmetic dermatology. Dr. McFalls is a board certified dermatologist specializing in general dermatology for adults and adolescents. Rachel Cittone, P.A.-C is a certified Physician Assistant who specializes

in dermatology.

Advanced Dermatology, Mohs and Laser Surgery Center is a comprehensive dermatology center providing patients with a wide range of medical and cosmetic services. Apart from skin screenings, general dermatology and surgical dermatology, we offer laser treatments for hair removal, acne, nail fungus, tattoo removal, spi-

der veins and broken blood vessels, dark and age spots. We perform chemical peels, microdermabrasion, Botox and Dysport and dermal fillers like Restylane and Juvederm.

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THINKING OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE...Members of the Union Catholic High School Student Council collected 30 baskets of food and 30 turkeys from fellow students, faculty and staff during their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The baskets and turkeys were donated to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Scotch Plains for distribution to needy families in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. Pictured are members of the Union Catholic Student Council.

SP-F BOE Discusses Upcoming Repairs for District's Schools

By AILEEN DRUM
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader of

SCOTCH PLAINS — During the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education meeting last Thursday night, the board discussed repairs to be made in all of the district's seven schools.

Starting with Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, the board said plans include replacing fire doors for safety measures, asbestos removal and drainage work at the school's practice football field. Officials said minor renovations and maintenance work would be completed at Park Middle School over the next three years. In addition, repairs and painting will take place at Terrill Middle School.

Officials said the district's four elementary schools would also undergo

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repairs. Asbestos removal will take place at Brunner, with handicappedaccessible improvements made at Coles. New lights and drop ceilings will be completed.

Maintenance work will be completed on lockers at the middle schools and the high school. The work will be completed by the district's maintenance staff as well as outside contractors. Funds for the work will come out the current and 2011-2012 budgets along with monies from capital and maintenance reserves.

Locker and hallway improvements were budgeted for in the 2010-2011 budget, while asbestos removal will be done next year.

In other news, the district's 2011-2012 academic calendar has been posted on the spfk12.org website. The dates for Back to School night and parent-teacher conferences are listed. The Creative Summer Workshop courses will be sent out to parents electronically.

Sean Downey Named New Director for Dems

TRENTON - The New Jersey Democratic State Committee has named Sean Downey as its new executive director. He will take over the helm at the state committee on

"He will direct our day-to-day efforts to build a more grassroots focused organization, coordinating with county and municipal parties, constituency groups, civic organization and elected officials to strengthen our party from the base up," New Jersey Democratic State Committee Chairman John Wisniewski said.

Mr. Downey, who was raised in Long Valley, was most recently senior political and field advisor on New Hampshire Governor John Lynch's successful campaign for a fourth term. Mr. Downey previously served as northeast political director for U.S. Senator Evan Bayh's All-America PAC and as New Hampshire political director for the Chris Dodd for President campaign. Mr. Downey also worked in the United States Senate, serving as deputy scheduler to U.S. Senator Joseph

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News From the Capitol



Vote Prevented Massive Tax Increase on Jan. 1

Rep. Leonard Lance 908-518-7733

The House of Representatives, this past week, passed a measure, 277-148, to prevent a massive, job-killing tax hike from kicking in on January 1 bringing some much-needed economic certainty to our economy.

Prior to the vote, I gave the following speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives:

"Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the underlying bill that ensures that taxes will rise on no one in America on New Year's Day, 15 days from now. What a terrible New Year's present that would be to the Ameri-

This bill creates greater certainty in the business community so that businesses across America can create the jobs this country so desperately needs, especially given our current 9.8-[percent] unemployment rate. New jobs will lower our annual deficits.

"Almost 85 percent of this bill provides tax relief, including preventing the job-killing tax hikes; enacting the AMT patch — extremely important to the district I serve and to New Jersey as a whole; and reducing the federal estate tax from the scheduled 55 percent rate on January 1 down to 35 percent — also extremely important to New Jersey, where residential real estate is so expensive.

This bill has been endorsed by leading conservatives, including our new reform Governor in New Jersey, Chris Christie. It will give us time in the new Congress to enact fundamental reform, including deficit reduction, a permanent extension of existing tax rates and the elimination of the federal estate tax."

On another matter, this past week, the U.S. Senate Republicans forced Senate Leader Harry Reid to withdraw the 1,924-page, \$1.1-trillion omnibus-spending bill containing nearly 7,000 earmarks.

I commend the U.S. Senate Republican leadership for holding the line on fiscal responsibility. The 'omnibus' catch-all spending measure was filled with pork and bad policy that no elected official had either read or examined. I applaud those who opposed and ultimately defeated this misguided measure.

According to press reports, the Senate proposal was a 1,924 pages spending bill that would have cost \$1.1 trillion (\$575 million per page) and included nearly 7,000 earmarks.

The American people sent a message in November that they wanted their elected officials to cut spending and enact measures to expand our economy and create jobs. Yet, despite the Election Day results, lame-duck Democratic congressional leaders continue to put forth policies that tax, borrow and spend. Rest assured, U.S. Senate Republicans and the new House Republican Majority are listening and are committed to bringing fiscal responsibility to Washington beginning in January.

New Social Security Tax Withholding Takes Effect In January, IRS Says

MOUNTAINSIDE - The IRS has released instructions to help employers implement the 2011 cut in payroll taxes, along with new incometax withholding tables that employers will use during 2011.

Workers will see their take-home pay rise during 2011 because the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act Of 2010 provides a 2-percentage-point-payroll-tax cut for employees, reducing their Social Security tax withholding rate from 6.2 to 4.2 percent of wages paid.

The IRS said employers should start using the new withholding tables and reducing the amount of Social Security tax no later than January 31, 2011. Notice 1036 contains the percentage method income tax withholding tables, the lower Social Security withholding rate, and related information that most employers need to implement these changes. Publication 15, (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide, containing the extensive wage bracket tables that some employers use, will be available on IRS.gov in a few days.

For any Social Security tax over withheld during January, employers should make an offsetting adjustment in workers' pay as soon as possible, but not later than March 31, 2011. Employers and payroll companies will handle the withholding changes, so workers typically won't need to take any additional action, such as filling out a new W-4 withholding form.

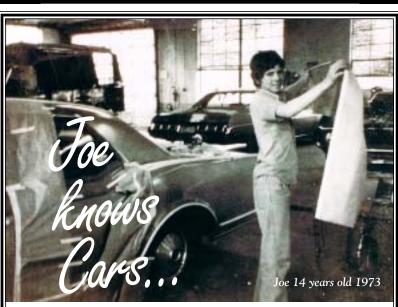


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FAREWELL...Scotch Plains Deputy mayor Dominick Bratti, left, and Councilman Jeffrey Strauss, center, bade farewell at Tuesday night's Scotch Plains council meeting. Mr. Bratti was appointed in January 2009 and won a special election a year ago to fill out the remaining year of an unexpired term, while Mr.

Strauss was elected to a four-year term in 2006. Both gentlemen ran for re-election

Scotch Plains Council Bids Farewell to Bratti, Strauss

By FRED T. ROSSI

SCOTCH PLAINS — At its final meeting of the year, the township council on Tuesday bade farewell to two council members who were unsuccessful in their re-election bids.

Deputy Mayor Dominick Bratti and Councilman Jeff Strauss were lauded by Mayor Nancy Malool, who said both had "contributed greatly" to council deliberations as well as brought "new perspectives."

"I always valued what they've done," she added. Mr. Strauss, elected four years ago as a Democrat, and Mr. Bratti, elected last year as a Republican, both bucked their parties this year, unsuccessfully seeking reelection as Independents.

Councilwoman Mary DePaola told both gentlemen it had been "a real pleasure" serving with them, and joked that she hoped both will "enjoy having free Tuesday nights.'

In brief remarks, Mr. Strauss said it had been "an honor and a privilege" to serve and expressed well wishes to the two incoming council members, Republican William Vastine and Democrat Michael Marcus. Mr. Bratti echoed Mr. Strauss, saying he was "very grateful for the opportunity" to serve, and singled out as a "real privilege" his work as liaison with Scotch Plains Television.

The council's reorganization meet-

ing will be held on Saturday, January 1, at 1 p.m., during which Mr. Vastine and Mr. Marcus will be sworn in to their four-year terms while Democratic Councilman Kevin Glover will begin his second term.

In other business, Township Manager Chris Marion said the third and final round of leaf collection would likely be completed by week's end. The council also approved a \$143,976 bid from Giordano Co., Inc. to provide recycling services in 2011.

The one-year contract includes an option for two additional years, according to Mr. Marion, who also injected a bit of levity and team boosterism by citing, as item number five of his six-point manager's report, the Philadelphia Eagles' late game rally against the Giants last Sunday. In moving for the manager's report's approval, Councilman Strauss specifically asked his council colleagues to approve the report, but not before striking any mention of the football game.

Later, in response to a question from resident Frank Festa, Mayor Malool said she had "no idea" about an investigation that Mr. Festa said was being planned by Councilman Glover into the finances of the senior-citizen housing corporation, which experienced financial difficulties that necessitated municipal assistance.

Mr. Glover was not present at Tuesday's meeting.



Dental Update

by Kenneth W. Arida, D.D.S. Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

GOING THROUGH A ROUGH PATCH Sores in the mouth that linger for construct crowns, perform root ca-

more than a week should be exam- nals, place implants, and make deneeth or rough surfaces on dentures. fillings, and crowns. It may also result from smoking or other tobacco use (smoker's keratosis). Because it can progress to cancer, the dentist may want to take a biopsy. Patients should also contact the dentist for an immediate examination if they should notice a persistent sore or irritation that does not heal, color changes (such as the development of red and/or white oral lesions), or pain or tenderness anywhere in the mouth or lips.

Dentists do more than fill cavities.

ined by the dentist. "Leukoplakia," a tures. If you have questions about thick, whitish patch that occurs on white patches or sores in your the cheeks, gums, or tongue, is mouth, or you're experiencing uncaused by irritation due to rough usual discomfort, we can help you address these concerns and otr Centrally located in Westfield at 131 South Euclid Avenue, we are wellversed and up-to-date on today's health care issues and we offer comprehensive dental services. Please call us at 908-654-6262 for an appointment. Major credit cards and insurance is welcome, and we have flexible payment plans available including CareCredit.

P.S. The typical white patch of leukoplakia develops slowly over weeks to months.

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I Tried to be Careful, Mr. Jones; Thank You Santa for Understanding

When I was a young boy, admittedly a long time ago, Christmastime was a time of great joy, wonderment, warmth and merriment. True, Santa Claus was on my mind. I thought I'd been good most of the year and that Santa would be good to me.

He'd understand that when I broke Mr. Jones' window with the foul ball that it was an accident. I was sure Santa would also understand that when we heard the shattering glass, there was a moment of panic. Yes, we all ran and even thought we'd get away with it – undiscovered.

Our mothers knew about that broken window before we even got home. A stern lecture and direct orders to go over to Mr. Jones and confess that I did it – that's what I got. Mr. Jones tried to be very stern and asked if I'd rake and weed his garden to help pay for it. I did. He then thanked me for owning up and asked that I be more careful next time. I think he even smiled, now that I look back on it.

It must have been the right thing to do because Santa did get me the Lionel train that I had so longed for. And next year I got the red Western Flyer bicycle.

Christmas then was also such a happy time of the year - everyone smiled and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For a moment at least, there was "Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards Men."

I didn't understand political correctness back then. The only thing I believed was that "Merry Christmas" was the warmest possible greeting that one person could give to another. It was only pure good in the intent.

Well, after all those years, I might have broken a few other windows since - but I always owned up. I tried to be careful, Mr. Jones. And thank you Santa for understanding. I still think it's okay to say "Merry Christmas."

In the warmest sense, Merry Christmas everyone – and Happy New Year!

'Twas the Night Before Christmas, Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas

Major Henry Livingston, Jr. (1748-1828)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads; And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below; When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on

the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my hand, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot; A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a ped-

dler just opening his pack. His eyes — how they twinkled! His dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath; He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

as white as the snow;

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

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 dic-

tion? 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. Gyneconitis – A place or apartment reserve for women

2. Saurophagous - Subsisting on liz-

3. Isopiestic - Indicating equal pres-

4. Kopje – A hill with a steep side and a flat top

ZADDICK

1. In Judaism, a righteous and just man

2. An arrow or arrowhead 3. A type of sweet onion

4. A water wheel with buckets CHEONGSAM

1. A Chinese warlord of the seventh

through tenth century 2. Chinese high-necked, closefitting

dress with the skirt part way up the sides 3. A Chinese playwright

4. A Chinese saber of the Han Dynasty **ABDAL**

1. A carpet maker

2. An Arabic street vender

3. A Mohammedan fanatic 4. An Islamic cleric

POMOLOGY 1. The study of the various types of soil

2. The art or science of raising fruit 3. The study of widespread epidemics of catastrophic proportions

4. The art of fermenting flowers or grasses to produce wine or liqueur

The Mestfield Leader & The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES

Seasons Greetings to all of you from the Audio Visual team at WestfieldAV.com! James Rossiter jimr@westfieldav.com

Best wishes for a very happy holiday season from the writing and reporting staff at Ivy League Communications. Ted Ritter tritter@njtpa.org

Merry Christmas/ Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year to the readership of our newspaper. Thanks for keeping the pressure on us to remain trustworthy and keep others honest. Someone has to! Michael Pollack ae@goleader.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends here at The Leader/Times! Suzette Stalker community@goleader.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Ciarrocca family. Mark Ciarrocca markciarrocca@comcast.net

God blessing to all of you regardless of your religion. Remember that this season is about the spirit and good will towards all men, regardless of where you worship. Michael Boyle mboyle@icinj.com

Residents at Fellowship Village Senior Living, Basking Ridge. Enjoy! Nina Updegrove nupdegrove@fellowshipvillage.org

May you have a Blessed Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Staff and

Joy and blessings from The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The Presbyterian Church info@westfieldpc.org

Wishing all of our friends in Westfield a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Holiday and 2011. The Slater-Trainor Group at UBS Financial Services, Westfield. Mitchell Slater mitch.slater@ubs.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends and neighbors! We wish you a peaceful and prosperous 2011. Frank Smith and staff: Betty, Joyce and Dick Francis Smith frank@franksmithlaw.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our "Good Hands" to yours! Your friends at Ron Bansky and Associates Allstate Agency wish you all the best this season. We look forward to serving you in 2011. Ron Bansky RonBansky@allstate.com

Happy Holidays to you and your family from all of your friends at ShopRite! Greg Bernard Greg.Bernard@wakefern.com

Be light of heart, bountiful in friends, swift to give and humble to receive and may you bask in the glow of a healthy family during this most wonderful time of year. 16 Prospect wine bar & bistro. Timothy Boyle wychwoodcatering@aol.com

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy and Healthy New Year from all of your friends at Bellini Baby and Teen Furniture. Bellini Baby and Teen Furniture of Short Hills. bellinishservice@verizon.net

All of us at Taormina Ristorante joins in saying Thank You and sends holiday greetings with every good wish for the new year. Donna Taormina dmtaormina@yahoo.com

Adlers Jewelers wishes all a happy holiday season. Jeffrey Arkin adlers.jewelers@verizon.net

The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in North Edison, Central Jersey's finest independent Pre-K to 12 school wishes you a warm and wonderful holiday season! Check us out on the web at www.whschool.org! Michelle Daino michelle.daino@gmail.com

We Wish You a Merry Christmas & healthy New Year. We, as Voted the #1 Meat Market in the State of New Jersey, Thank You! We treat you like our family. Johns Meat Market Serving the area since 1939 over 71 years! Vincent Losavio primemeat02@aol.com

Wishes of Peace, Love & Good Will to all from the Friends of Mindowaskin Park. Are you part of our Memory Walk project yet? Take a stroll there this holiday season. It makes a great gift for any Westfield Family! Debby Burslem info@mindowaskinpark.org

Happy Holidays! Michael Serico, CPA. Michael Serico michael@sdcpanj.com

Christmas Blessings from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield. Join us to celebrate Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. (Christmas Pageant) or 10:00 p.m.(brass instrumentalists.) Additional information available at www.stpaulswestfield.org St. Paul's Episcopal Church cbanks@stpaulswestfield.org

Calderone School of Music wishes all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all! May the New Year be filled with wonderful things - good health and happiness! May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Music! Kathleen Calderone calderonemusic@optonline.net

All of us from The Westfield School of Dance wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous, healthy and Happy New Year! Joanne Carey westfieldschoolofdance@yahoo.com

May your Christmas find all well, healthy and happy. And may the New Year find a better year for us all. Greg Ryan gryan@goleader.com

Merry Christmas!! To all!!! Tucker Corbin bcorbin@goleader.com

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday and Very Happy New Year from Councilman Keith Loughlin keith.loughlin@gmail.com

Daunno rudy3@daunnodevelopment.com Wishing you and your families joy as you celebrate the Traditions of the Season! Thank you for you support throughout the seasons! Westfield Kitchen

& Bath Co. 232-3500 John Tyahla john@westfieldkitchenandbath.com

We at Daunno Development Company would like to thank all of our clients

for another prosperous year! Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year! Rudy

Our favorite job this season is helping pack all of Santa's goodies and get them shipped to children around the world. Greetings from Boxer Express. Thomas Pizor boxerexpress@verizon.net

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. From your Good Neighbor State Farm agent Joe Lorenzo and staff: Lily, Ann, Judy and Dina. Joe Lorenzo joe@josephlorenzo.com

Wishing you All a Joyous Holiday Season and a New Year of Good Health,

Happiness and Prosperity. With Sincere Best Wishes. Irene Katz irenekatz@aol.com A Contagious Drama Workshop wish...that everyone's creative spirit can

rejoice this season and always! Peace, love and great joy for the new year! Beth

Painter contagiousdrama@yahoo.com May everyone have a great holiday season! Frank Arena farena@juniper.net

The staff of the Carolyn Klinger-Kueter Music Studio wishes all a delightful Holiday Season and The Happiest of New Years. Carolyn Klinger Kueter carolynklingerkueter@mac.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the younger Kearney family of East Westfield! Vincent Kearney njvinnie@aol.com

Thanks for all your support to our historic downtown! Downtown Westfield Corporation. Beth Brenner b.brenner@westfieldtoday.com

DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your friends at Michael Kohn Jewelers. Lester Kohn lak@mkohnjewelers.net

The families and friends of Wesley Hall School for Early Childhood located at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield, wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year! Patricia Fowler director@wesleyhall.org

Happy Holidays to all of my family, friends and clients that make life so enjoyable!!! John Wiley john.wiley@cbmoves.com

Wishing you a world of good wishes this holiday season! From your friends at The Goddard School. Tracy Brace fanwoodnj@goddardschools.com

The First Congregational Church of Westfield wishes you and yours a blessed Christmas. We wish all our brothers and sisters, regardless of faith, the peace and love that Jesus taught and lived in 2011 and beyond. First Congregational Church jaruzelski@aol.com

Happy Holidays and Peace on Earth from Ed, Bill and all the farmhands at The Farmhouse Store. We Love Westfield! The Farmhouse Store. Ed Menapace ed@thefarmhousestore.com

To all our dear friends - Thanks for the memories - We look forward to a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. We love calling Westfield our home. John, Carol and Robin Lepore Noga3@verizon.net

The Arc of Union County would not have seen such success without your unwavering support. Thank You for helping us to raise over \$200,000 in 2010! Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year.

Evalyn Dunn's Gallery wishes all a Happy Holiday and best wishes for a happy New Year. Excitement in 2011, watch our progress as we expand our gallery. Jaclyn Civins framer397@aol.com

Debbie Dreher ddreher@arcunion.org

Elegant Homes Realty would like to thank the residents who live at The Savannah. Thank you for the wonderful letters expressing your happiness with your new home. Happy Holidays! Eileen Ward-Conway & Josie Ward-Gallagher 908-233-5900 eleganthomesnj@aol.com

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all of our Westfield friends! The Ward Family wishes you and your family a Healthy and Happy New Year from The James Ward Mansion. Josie Ward-Gallagher james wardmansion@aol.com

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Dr. Sunita Merriman and staff. We sincerely thank our patients for their continued trust in our practice. Wishing the community a happy and healthy 2011! Sunita Merriman DDS dbivens@optonline.net

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season....from all of us at Gialluisi Homes 908 294 2128 Peter Gialluisi gialluisihomes@yahoo.com

Happy Holidays! Sleep well and enjoy time with family and friends. From your friends at The Mattress Factory. Ron Shovlin mattressfac@aol.com

Best wishes to all our "neighbors" for a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! Christine Cosenza and her team at State Farm Insurance. Christine Cosenza christine@christinecosenza.net

The Club at Autumn Ridge by Millennium Homes wishes you Happy Holidays! Lisa Macchi lmacchi@mhomesonline.com

The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company, sends Season's Greetings to our loyal supporters. Thanks for your continued support of our uniquely intimate, high-quality and live theatrical affordable offerings. theaterprojectpr@gmail.com

Merry Christmas And Seasons Greetings

Estate needs in 2011! Happy Holidays from Everyone at Prudential New Jersey Properties. Marge Cuccaro marge.cuccaro@prudentialnewjersey.com

Happy Holidays from the Moderne Academie of Fine Arts. Thank you to everyone that dances with us. Helen Watts helenwatts1@verizon.net

On behalf of the Jeffrey Craig Entertainment Family, we want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday and prosperous new year!!! Scott Sica scott@jeffreycraig.com

Best wishes this holiday season from the Doctors and Team Members of Dentalcare Associates, 567 Park Ave., Scotch Plains 908-322-7800. New Year's Special Free Exam, Digital X-Rays and Case Presentation through Jan. 15, 2011 (\$295 Value) Robert Scalera Jr the2thline@aol.com

One of the joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to thank you for making my success possible & wish you a New Year of health, happiness & prosperity. Frank D. Isoldi, Broker/Sales Associate, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Frank D. Isoldi isre@aol.com

The warmest of holiday greetings to you and your "The first time I saw Santa Claus," family. Betty Lynch at Coldwell Banker-East hopes this Ho and Honey Corbin, Spokane holiday season brings you all of your wishes along with Peace and Prosperity in the New Year. Betty Lynch bettlync@att.net

Wishing you and yours every joy and blessing of the Season! Warmest wishes for 2011 from my home to yours! From Virginia Garcia at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Virginia Garcia virginia.garcia@cbmoves.com

Wishing Everyone in our Community a Bright, Happy Holiday Season and the Blessing of a Prosperous New Year. From all of us at Union County College. Sara Bontempo bontempo@ucc.edu

Wishing you Peace, Joy and Wonderful skin during this holiday season and in 2011. Facial Reality Spa, 221 Lenox Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090. Pat Brading allface@verizon.net

Merry Christmas to all. Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!! Gino Jannotti gene@uniquecruiseandtravel.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Wishing you health and happiness from Carol Bevere Kearney and the staff of Unique Cruise and Travel, Garwood, NJ. Carol Bevere Kearney carol@uniquecruiseandtravel.com

Happy Holidays. May this joyous season bring you and yours an abundance of peace, health and happiness. Happy New Year. With warm regards, Hye-Young Hye-Young Choi hyeyoungchoil@gmail.com

With all of the stress, hustle and bustle of the holidays...please cherish quiet moments with family & friends and enjoy the beauty of Christmas! Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year! Traci Kastner tkastner@westfieldnj.gov

Happy Holidays to all our volunteers and supporters and thank you for making a difference in so many Union County families' lives in 2010. We are looking forward to an equally rewarding 2011. The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield. Mimi Morris mimimorris@optonline.net

Wishing Our Customers and Friends the Happiest of Holidays and Prosper-

Please Recycle All Of Your **Christmas Paper This Season** carbon imprint!

Remember, there is no reason for the amount of garbage we residents put out at the curb for pickup the day after Christmas to be any more than what we usually put out. All of the wrapping paper that we receive is just that – paper; it all can and

should be recycled. All of the cardboard toy and gift box packaging is paper. That too can be recycled. So can Christmas cards and envelopes. If we were to take a look at the plastic wrapping around our gifts, most of it (I'll admit not all) has the recycling symbol and numbers 1 or 2 inside it. This

too can and be should be recycled. Remember, plastic comes from oil. Recycle our plastic and maybe we can reduce our oil use, dependency, cost and

In these days when we taxpayers continue to complain about high taxes, and we pay for our garbage by weight and volume, I urge all of us to try to remember that the two thoughts go together. If we reduce the amount of garbage we generate, we pay less for it in our taxes. We also become more environmentally responsible and caring citizens.

Let's see if we can all increase our recycling piles after Christmas this year instead of our garbage piles. Save a tree! And make it an annual habit! Merry Christmas to all.

Bill Nierstedt

Thank you for your business this year...looking forward to serving your Real ity in the New Year. Thank You for Making Us Your Preferred Real Estate Company. Coldwell Banker Westfield - West www.coldwellbankermoves.com/ westfieldwest Tracy Devine tracy.devine@cbmoves.com

> Merry Christmas and Health, Happiness and Prosperity throughout the New Year!!!! Patty O'Connor pattyoconnor@weichert.com

> Because the goodwill of those we serve is the foundation of our success, it is a true pleasure at this Christmas season to say "Thank You" as I wish you and your family a year filled with Love, Health, Happiness and Prosperity. Joyce Taylor joyce.taylor@cbmoves.com

> Have a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year from Dr. Timothy McCabe and the staff of Westfield Pediatric Dental Group, Westfield Pediatric Dental Group, Timothy McCabe wpdg@wpdg.net

> The Westfield United Fund thanks all of our contributors for their generosity and wishes a happy and healthy New Year to the entire Westfield community! Remember, "Your gift goes far, but not far away." Westfield United Fund lmaggio@westfieldunitedfund.org

> Happy holidays to all and may 2011 find you in good health and cheer. Warmest Regards, Todd Annis - Simpsons Builders toddsannis@gmail.com

Merry Christmas! Wishing all a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year! From all of us at Palimpsest Architecture. Gregory Blasi, R.A. and Staff www.blasiarchitecture.com. Gregory Blasi gblasi@blasiarchitecture.com

Best wishes for health, joy and peace in the New Year. Creative Dental Care, PA, Dr. Joseph Banker contact@creativedentalcare.com

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. - Calvin Coolidge. Dale Neseman dnes255@aol.com

Happy! Happy! Merry! Merry! Thanks to all who have put their faith in me as their architect (what were the rest of you thinking!). The best to you and yours at this special time of year and the best for 2011. Robert Algarin, Architect robarchitect@comcast.net

May your Christmas be picture perfect. And your New Years be all you would like it to be. Greg Ryan gryan@goleader.com

> Happy Holidays and a big Thank You to all our wonderful, loyal customers who have made it possible for us to provide Westfield with the last independent bookstore in Union County, now in our 76th year! The Town Book store anne@townbookstore.com

> Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all! Frank Arena farena@westfieldnj.gov

The happiest of Holidays to all! I can't even Liszt all the Gounod concerts that 2011 will bring. But now, Bach to reality....Barbara Thomson, classical music reviewer. Barbara Thomson Bctbct@aol.com

Wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year! The Barr Family - Lauren, JH, Ainsley & Leah. Lauren S. Barr lbarr@goleader.com

I wish you all the happiness and good fortune that Christmas is meant to bring. And may your New Year be very promising. Merry Christmas and

Happy New Year! David Corbin dcorbin@goleader.com May your holidays be filled with smiles and joy! Wishing you and your

family all the best in 2011 from Photography by Carolyn Ann Ryan. www.carolynannryan.com Carolyn Ryan carolyn@carolynannryan.com

Chair of County Utilities Authority Comments on Trash Contracts

Under the lease extension terms, there will also be an immediate rate reduction in the disposal fee providing relief to all Union County residents. As per your editorial, the Borough of Garwood already delivers its required tonnage to the UCRF, and no municipality has ever paid a penalty for under-delivery — in fact it has been the opposite — many towns have exceeded the tonnage limits that they

Further, in the event of under-delivery (which has never happened), tonnage from other towns that over-deliver may be

used as an off-set. Finally, we have also

As some of you may recall more than a decade ago, the County of Union took the lead In restructuring the Resource Recovery Facility, completely turning around what was a bankruptcy situation into millions in waste disposal savings. We achieved this by contracting with 14 municipalities that had the foresight to sign contracts for waste disposal.

Our current plan presents yet another such scenario, where we will be able to extract savings from this facility through a lease extension with Covanta, its operator. The Union County Utilities Authority will continue to own the facility, with Covanta holding the lease, and we have included protection clauses in our con-

What's best is that our plan would provide tax relief while guaranteeing that our municipalities maintain low disposal rates, currently among the lowest in the

John Kulish, Chairman **Union County Utilities Authority**

included an option for contracted municipalities to increase tonnage on a voluntary basis.

region.

Westfielder Writes That Board of Ed **Must Live Within Its Means**

Letters to the Editor

We have now been told that in June, Dr. Dolan told the Westfield Board of Education that she would leave unless they gave her a contract that would endload her salary to maximize her pension. This is a practice that is decried by a large majority of voters, none of whom seem to sit on the Westfield BOE. One of the items they claim went into their consideration was the cost of a search team to replace Ms. Dolan. They estimate the cost at \$20,000, at least.

The Board has constantly sung the praises of Ms. Dolan as the quintessential superintendent. Both the Board and Ms. Dolan must have considered the problems attendant to Ms. Dolan's mortality. What plans were made by her and/or the Board in the event of Ms. Dolan's absence? This Board which plans so well in advance and this quintessential Superintendent must have considered some member of the superintendent's staff as a substitute to take over in the event of Ms. Dolan's absence.

While the Board obviously abhors the thought of replacing Ms. Dolan, it certainly had to consider the problems of prolonged absence due to illness or accident. Why not look to the talented people chosen by Ms. Dolan whom she would recommend to take over? That way, the Board could take the \$20,000 it might have to spend on a search team and put it into the capital fund its auditor told it to start building up.

The Board could also deposit the sav-

ing obtained in negotiating a new contract with the replacement within the boundaries set by the State. It might be interesting to determine how many roofs you could repair without seeking a bond

The Board's own projection of spending seems to exceed its budget by \$2.5-\$3 millions. How does the Board ignore this over-spending in its battle to castigate Trenton for economic sanity? While it is none of our business, don't you wonder if the members of the Board treat their own finances in the same manner they treat your tax dollars?

Which of us would not like to buy our spouses a sable coat or a Masserati for Christmas? Would we be stupid to buy it and say, "It's for our loved one"? Is it not more sane and proper, not to mention a better example to the children, to present our spouse with a cashmere sweater or a

When the Board's own projection puts it in the hole by millions of dollars, how does it think it serves the public by its profligate spending to attack economic policies considered reasonable by the majority? If it would take a poll of all the voters of Westfield rather than the captive audience of parents from whom they normally seek approval, the Board might find that "Living within one's means" is considered a virtue by the large majority.

A. John Blake

County Solar Energy Projects Need More Light Shining Through

There were two points that you failed to mention in your story regarding \$28.6 million that Union County is planning to bond to put up solar panels. First is that these bonds will default and Union County taxpayers will pick up at least another \$20 million in debt on top of the \$560 million we have already. In Morris County, the company responsible for repayment of their bonds is called 'Tioga Solar Morris County 1, LLC' which expects to get 57.8 percent of the amount needed to make those payments from the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) to utilities that need solar credits.

Look at the name of the company and tell me it's not a shell. Now look at the law firm pushing both deals — DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick and Cole, LLP — and Google their names with the words 'EnCap',

'Xanadu', or 'Wayne Bryant'. Finally, look at all the solar panels that PSE&G is putting up on any telephone pole steady enough to support them and tell me they're going to be in the market to buy SRECs. It's absurd. With the collapse of the SREC market, this deal makes absolutely no sense to anyone with halfa-brain and no ulterior motive - which means it will likely pass by another 9-0 margin in Union County - assuming of course that all nine freeholders bother to show up.

The other point to be made is that, with the first solar panel still months from seeing the light of day, DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick and Cole, LLP has already billed \$283,137 and the Birdsall Services Group another \$222,500. This project will be worth millions to those dependable campaign donors and, hence, thousands to the war chests of their benefac-

Hopefully that knowledge will light up a few bulbs.

John Bury

Free Parking Arrangements Detailed For Westfield Holiday Shopping

The Town of Westfield will provide free Parking for the holidays at all onstreet meters from December 19, 2010 through January 2, 2011. The meters and the South Avenue/Westfield Avenue paystations located street side will be covered during this time, which will provide free parking up to 2 hours at all on-

The provision of free holiday parking is an effort to encourage shoppers and patrons of our town to enjoy shopping, day advertisements by the Downtown Westfield Corporation and holiday events will include the free parking program and we encourage you [downtown business

owners] to use the same in your business Thank You for The **Season Beauty**

I keep meaning to write this letter - on my way to train station, I drive down Central Avenue under the railroad bridge twice each day. That ride has been made so pleasant due to the beautiful decorations on the wrought iron fences.

I assume it's the DWC, Downtown Westfield Corp., that has put the effort into it. The summer flowers in baskets were so beautiful and now the pine branches with silver bows - I just want to say "thank you" for taking the time. It's been noticed!

Gwen Kealy Westfield advertisements as well. Please do you

Please monitor your employees to ensure that your customers and not your employees are using the parking spaces. This is critical, especially during the holidays but also during any time of the year. In order to encourage turnover for your customers, the Town of Westfield will be enforcing the time limits by chalking tires. Please call 789-4044 to report any abusers so that we can help to ensure the ccess of the program for co in future parking promotions.

On behalf of the Downtown Westfield Corporation, we wish you Happy Holidays and successful business!

Sherry Cronin Executive Director **Downtown Westfield Corporation**



To Reach Us E-Mail - editor@goleader.com **Phone** - (908) 232-4407 **Deadlines**

General News - Friday 4pm Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm Classifieds - Tuesday 12pm Ad Reservation - Friday 4pm

For more information, see www.goleader.com/help



Correct is: Dec 7, 2010 Garwood - The Annual Re-organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood for year 2011 will be held on Sunday, January 2, 2011, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 403 South Avenue, Garwood, NJ. The public is encouraged to attend. For information call 908-789-0710.

Your State Legislators

---LD-21---

Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 425 North Ave. E. Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-3673 Asm. Jon Bramnick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-2073 Asm. Nancy Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, N.J. 07901 (908) 918-0414

---LD-22---Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036

(908) 587-0404 Asw. Linda Stender (D) 1801 East Second St. Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076 (908) 668-1900 Asm. Jerry Green (D) 17 Watchung Ave. Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757

7th Congressional District

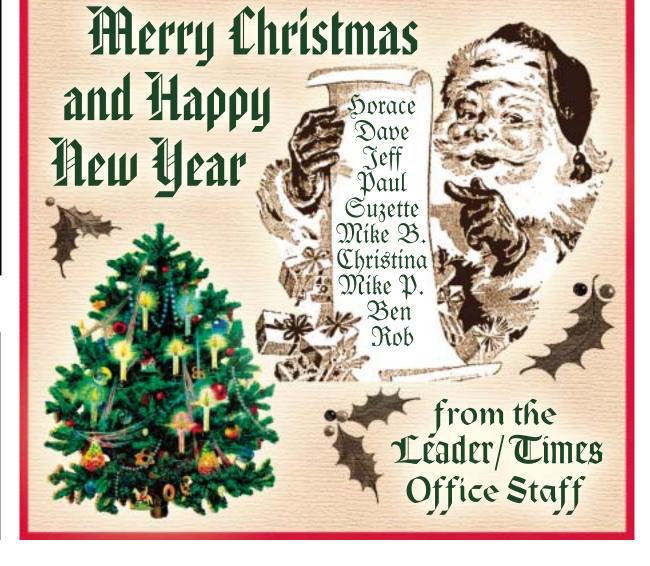
LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.

LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark and Linden.

E-mail

senkean@njleg.org senscutari@njleg.org asmbramnick@njleg.org aswmunoz@njleg.org aswstender@njleg.org asmgreen@njleg.org

Representative Leonard Lance, 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733



Robert L. Scully, 91, Was Bank Retiree; **Active With Knights Council and IHM**

Robert L. Scully, 91, died peacefully on Sunday, December 19, 2010. Mr. Scully was a lifelong resident of

Westfield. He attended the Westfield Public Schools and was a graduate of Holy Trinity High School. He later furthered his studies at Fordham University.

A veteran of World War II, he served in the Pacific Theatre as a member of the 8th Army with the rank of staff sergeant. Mr. Scully was employed by what was first known as the Westfield Trust and retired in 1981 as an employee of Fidelity Bank.

Mr. Scully was a member of the Westfield Council of the Knights of Columbus and a member of the Holy Name Society of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. He also served as an usher and extraordinary

minister at IHM. A devoted husband and father, he is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Beatrice (Grogan) Scully; his daughters, Julie Speck and her hus-

band, Brian, Anne Smeaton and her husband, Jim, and Bea Lisa McNally and her husband, Stephen. He was

grandfather to Abigail (Speck) Folcik and her husband, Thomas, Brad Speck, J. Robert, Daniel and Kevin Smeaton and Victoria, David and John McNally.

He was predeceased by his parents, John and Margaret Scully, and his siblings, John, Julia Scully and Elizabeth Kern.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered to-

Robert L. Scully day, Thursday, December 23, at 10 a.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1571 South Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements are by the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Food Pantry or the charity of one's choice.

Donald Ciliotta, 78, Devoted to Family; Was Businessman and Blue Devils Fan

Donald W. Ciliotta, 78, of Old Bethpage, N.Y., formerly of Westfield, passed away at

home on Sunday, December 12, 2010, surrounded by his adoring family. He was a family man first

and foremost, but spent his working years as co-owner/ operator of Old Country Ceramic Tile in Westbury Donald W. Ciliotta emptier place without him. and Port Jefferson, N.Y.

Donald and his two brothers founded the company in 1978 and their families continue to operate it today.

Donald retired at the age of 62 and

Michael J. Rojek, 51

Michael J. Rojek, 51, of Clark passed away on Monday, December 13, 2010, at home.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Scotch Plains for 28 years, and the past 12 years in Clark.

Mr. Rojek was a data processor for Bed Bath and Beyond in Union for 12 years.

He was the beloved husband for 24 years of JuneAnn (Holmgaard) Rojek; the devoted father of Haleigh and Michael Rojek, both of Clark; loving son of Fredrick Sr. and Josephine (DeStefano) Rojek of Scotch Plains; dear brother of JoAnn Rojek Minnicino and her husband, Martin, of Scotch Plains and Fredrick Rojek, Jr. of Haddonfield, and the cherished uncle of Marissa Minnicino, Eva, Nicholas and Gabriel Rojek, Wayne and Amber Holmgaard, Steven Wise and Casey and Kendall Holtz. Also surviving are several cousins.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 18, under the direction of the Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home, 2124 East St. Georges Avenue, Linden, N.J. 07036, (908) 352-9190.

spent his days golfing and enjoying his grandchildren. He never missed a

game or an event, and he was their biggest fan. He spent many happy years supporting the Blue Devils through the Westfield Booster Club. Donald lived a full and wonderful life, and the world will be an

He is survived by the love of his life, Josephine, to who he was married for 56 wonderful years, and his loving children, Carol (Kevin), DJ (Janet), Mark (Laurie) and Janice (Jeff). He also was the cherished Poppy to Ali, Kara, Grace, Erik, Steven, Keith, Brandon, Benny and Ryan; brother of Richard and Gerald, and uncle of many loving nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church in Plainview, N.Y. Interment was at St. Charles Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y.
December 23, 2010

Sierra Club to Hear Talk on Conservancy

AREA - The Sierra Club Loantaka Group will meet on Wednesday, January 12, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at The Library of The Chathams, located at 214 Main Street in Chatham. There will be no admission fee and the public is invited to attend.

Barbara McCloskey will discuss the work of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey – preserving open space land and water resources throughout the state. She also will cover how Partners for Parks, the Conservancy's stewardship program, achieves community service projects. For more information, call (908) 233-2414.





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John-Michael "J.M." Jones N.J. Lic. #4869 Director

www.grayfuneralhomes.com

- Obituaries -

Honor your loved one by placing an obituary in The Westfield Leader and Scotch Plains Fanwood Times newspapers.

Submittals can be sent via email. Please include a daytime telephone number. Payment may be made by cash, check or over the phone with a credit card.

We can assist you with further information regarding the write-up and photographs or authority in charge.

908.232.4407

community@goleader.com

Obituaries

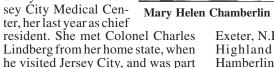
The Mestfield Leader and The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES

Dr. Mary Helen Chamberlin, Writer; Had Practiced Ophthalmology in NYC

Dr. Mary Helen Chamberlin of Westfield, N.J., formerly of Madison, Wis., passed away on Saturday, December 18, 2010.

Born in Madison, Wis., Mary Helen graduated from West High School in 1937. She re-

ceived a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1942 and her medical degree in a wartime commencement in August 1944 from the University of Madison-Wisconsin. All the young men in her class were in the V12, so classes were continuous, with no summer breaks. She served an internship and three-year residency in EENT at Jersey City Medical Center, her last year as chief



the medical center. The fiancé of her chief nurse introduced her to his friend and co-worker, Earl Chamberlin, in the fall of 1946, and six months later they married. Mary Helen practiced ophthalmology in New York City from 1947 to 1949 with Dr. Boyes on Madison Avenue and served as a clinician on the staff of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary on 13th Street and Second Avenue. One of her patients was Dick Button, a 19-year-old Gold Medal Olympic ice skater who got a cinder in his eye walking down Fifth Avenue. In the 1960s, she volunteered at Plainfield Eye Clinic, and took a twoweek refresher course in medicine at the Philadelphia Medical College for

of his entourage during his tour of

Mary Helen was a member of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club, the L.I.F.E Center at Union County College, the Westfield Senior Citizens and the New Jersey Medical Association and was a life member of the Wisconsin Alumni Association. She also volunteered at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Since 1980, she and her husband,

Earl, were world travelers. In retirement, she was a writer of physics, neurophysiology, cosmology, theology and history, including family history, and a September 11, 2001 history. She was an enthusiast of bridge, cooking, gardening and computer graph-

Surviving are Earl, her husband of 63 years; four daughters, Karen Chamberlin (Mark Wooles) of

Exeter, N.H., Ann Davis (Steve) of Highland Park, N.J., Jennifer Hamberlin (Randy) of Franklinton, N.C. and Penelope Hamner (J.W.) of Fort Mill, S.C.; three sons, Earl Martin, Jr. (Caroline) of Herndon, Va., Geoffrey (Linda) of Apex, N.C. and Philip of Huntersville, N.C.; two sisters, Lois Evans and Sister Carol Coenen, OP; one brother, Rodney Coenen; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Kimberly Calabrese, RN and the staff at Homeside Hospice and Sunrise Senior Living of Westfield for their loving care of Mary Helen.

Mary Helen was a lifelong learner and the family requests that memorials be given to the scholarship fund of the donor's choice.

A memorial service was held yesterday, Wednesday, December 22, at the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home in Westfield. Private interment took place at Upper Octorara Cemetery in Sadsbury Township, Pa. December 23, 2010

Registration Now Underway For Free Senior Classes

AREA – Union County College is offering free classes to senior citizens through its Senior Scholars community enrichment program. Registration for the spring 2011 session currently is underway.

The spring session will feature many computer-related subjects and visual arts courses, along with cooking, dance and special interest topics. New offerings will include the popular Zumba Latin dance program, a book club and a birding course.

Classes will begin during the third week of January. Participation is limited to residents of Union County age 60 and older.

"Union County College is an outstanding community resource, and the Senior Scholars program helps to ensure that our seniors have an opportunity to update their skills,

relaxing hobby," said Union County Freeholder Board Chairman Daniel Sullivan.

at Union County College offices and may be done as follows: Main Campus, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (summer hours are Monday through Thursday only, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.); Elizabeth Campus, 40 West Jersey Street, Elizabeth, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (summer hours are Monday through Thursday only, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

enrich their knowledge or enjoy a

In-person registration is required

For more information, visit the Union County College Department Continuing Education, www.ucc.edu/ContinuingEducation.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Wednesday, December 15, approximately \$550 worth of power tools was reported stolen from the rear of a pickup truck while it was parked at a business on the 600 block of West North Avenue. The incident occurred at about 4 p.m. the previous day.

Thursday, December 16, a Frances Terrace resident reported that one or more unknown persons attempted to gain entry to his home. The attempt to gain entry was unsuccessful, according to police.

Thursday, December 16, Kavon Casey, 19, of Plainfield was arrested during a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue at the Scotch Plains border and charged with possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS). Casey, who also was wanted on multiple Plainfield warrants, was turned over to the Plainfield Police Department.

Friday, December 17, Stanley Guillaume, 20, of Linden was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue and Crossway Place and charged with possession of CDS, identified by police as less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. He was released with a sum-

Monday, December 20, an employee at a business on the 400 block of West South Avenue reported being assaulted by a customer during a verbal argument. The suspect pushed the employee and then spit in his face before fleeing the scene in his brown Toyota Land Cruiser. He was described as a white male, 5 feet, 8 inches to 5 feet, 10 inches tall, with a muscular build and wearing a hat. Scotch Plains

Monday, December 13, a resident of Prospect Avenue reported being the victim of criminal mischief after someone broke the rear window of her motor vehicle while it was parked in front of her house.

Monday, December 13, a resident of Hill Road reported that two charges, totaling approximately \$200, were made on her Visa card at a store in New York without her authorization.

Monday, December 13, a resident of Mountain Avenue reported that his landlord has harassed him multiple times by asking him to pay his rent early.
Wednesday, December 15, a resident

of Victor Street reported being the victim of harassment after a friend posted negative comments about her on Twit-

Wednesday, December 15, Jose Bardilio-Zaldivar, 35, of North Plainfield was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice after a motor vehicle stop on St. Ann Street, at which time he allegedly gave the officer a false name. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after post-

ing bail.
Thursday, December 16, a resident of Lake Avenue reported being the victim of criminal mischief after someone punctured the tires on his motor vehicle while it was parked in front of his house.

Thursday, December 16, a resident of Spruce Mill Lane reported that someone entered his unlocked motor vehicle while it was parked in his driveway and removed a GPS unit valued at approximately \$120.

Thursday, December 16, Dashana Cooper, 22, of Jersey City was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Newark in the amount of \$350 following a motor vehicle stop on Woodland Avenue. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Thursday, December 16, Joseph Mullen, 36, and Thomas Harris, 42, both of Newark, and Edwin Shealey, 48, of East Orange were arrested and charged with soliciting without a permit and obstruction of justice after a resident of Montague Avenue reported that individuals were knocking on doors. They were transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Saturday, December 18, Jason Fruhschien, 21, of Edison was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana after police responded to a report of a suspicious motor vehicle on Swans Mill Lane. According to police, when the officer arrived, he smelled the strong odor of burnt marijuana coming from Fruhschien's vehicle. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Saturday, December 18, Michael Perez, 18, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana after an officer responded to a report of a suspicious person on Cicilia Place. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Saturday, December 18, a resident of Buttonwood Lane reported that, sometime overnight, someone entered his motor vehicle while it was parked in his driveway and removed approximately \$25 in cash.

Saturday, December 18, a resident of Winding Brook Way reported that, sometime overnight, someone entered his unlocked motor vehicle while it was parked in his driveway and removed an iPod. Mountainside

Tuesday, December 14, a resident of Belair Court reported that he placed his GPS system on his front porch to get a better signal to program it, and that after two men who came to install a dishwasher exited his residence through the front door, the GPS was missing. According to police, the resident confronted the men regarding the GPS, and they stated they had no knowledge of it. The resident asked the men if he could search their truck, and after they gave him permission, he claimed he found the GPS on the front seat, police said. When an officer arrived at the scene, the two workers claimed that the resident planted the GPS in the truck in order to cause trouble, authorities said.

Tuesday, December 14, Joseph C. Guglielmino, 37, of Staten Island was arrested following a dispute on Belair Court on an outstanding warrant out of Perth Amboy in the amount of \$620. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Tuesday, December 14, the mother of a patient at a local hospital reported that since October 20, multiple personal items have been removed from her son's room.

According to police, approximately 10 DVDs, several sweatshirts, approximately 10 videos, Air Jordan sneakers, pajamas and several stuffed animals, with an approximate value of \$570, were reported missing.

Tuesday, December 14, Terrill A. Ross, 49, of East Orange was picked up at the Essex County jail on an outstanding warrant out of Mountainside in the

Wednesday, December 15, Juan Rivera, 25, of Union City was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on

Wednesday, December 15, Lale Laypan, 30, of Randolph was picked up at the Holmdel State Police barracks on multiple outstanding warrants out of

Thursday, December 16, a resident of Route 22 reported that someone damaged her motor vehicle while it was parked in her driveway. According to police, the victim had reported two similar incidents in the past and feels she knows who is causing the damage.

Friday, December 17, a female individual from out of state who was visiting a friend in Mountainside flagged down an officer to report an incident that occurred after she left her purse on the roof of her vehicle and drove off. According to police, the victim retraced her route and located her purse in the roadway on New Providence Road, and it was evident it had been run over. The victim reported that someone had unzipped the purse and removed her card case, which contained multiple credit cards, insurance card and her Texas driver's license, police said. The card case is described as being square shaped and gold in color.

Saturday, December 18, the Plainfield Police Department issued an alert on a motor vehicle driven by a suspect who was believed to be in possession of a handgun. According to police, an officer on routine patrol spotted the vehicle and, after calling for backup, initiated a motor vehicle stop. Jemal Fenner and an unidentified passenger were ordered to exit the vehicle and lay on the ground, at which point the Plainfield Police Department was notified and took custody of Fenner.

Sunday, December 19, Brendan E. Reichenbacher, 24, of West Orange was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle accident on Summit Road. According to police, Reichenbacher failed multiple field sobriety tests and was transported to police headquarters, processed and released to a responsible adult. Sunday, December 19, Windel U.

Westlock, 49, of Hillside was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, December 19, Nestor P. Zapata-Chavez, 41, of Westfield was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, December 19, Evan A. Fernandez, 21, of Westfield was transported to police headquarters by the Westfield Police Department on an outstanding warrant out of Mountainside.

Monday, December 20, a contractor working on Knollwood Road reported that someone removed a 20-foot-long roll of 19-inch copper flashing from the garage of the residence where he was working sometime between Friday, December 17, at 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. on December 20.

Fanwood

Monday, December 13, Angel Rivera, 25, of Roselle was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Midway Avenue on an outstanding warrant out of Cranford and violation of a restraining order out of the Union County Superior Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and turned over to the Union County jail.

Tuesday, December 14, a resident of LaGrande Avenue reported that he observed a thin black male, wearing a black coat and black knit cap and driving a black SUV, exit his vehicle, remove a package from his neighbor's front porch and flee in his vehicle. According to police, the approximate value of the pack-

Wednesday, December 15, an employee at a gas station on the 200 block of South Avenue reported that an individual driving a silver Mercedes ordered \$20 worth of gas and then fled without paying after receiving the gas.

Friday, December 17, Penny Cadlett, 49, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting after police responded to a store on the 100 block of South Avenue on the report of a theft in progress. According to police, Cadlett was apprehended after she exited the store and was found to be in possession of the stolen merchandise, which totaled approximately \$40. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and

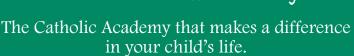
released with a summons Saturday, December 18, a church on Martine Avenue reported the theft of approximately \$150 worth of food from the church kitchen.

Monday, December 20, Gregory Eldridge, 49, of South Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on an outstanding New Brunswick warrant. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and

released after posting bail. Monday, December 20, Kimani Hamilton, 36, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on an outstanding Watchung warrant. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after

Monday, December 20, a resident of the 20 block of Chetwood Terrace reported the theft of a Christmas Santa awn decoration, valued at approximately

Tuesday, December 21, an employee of a gas station on the 200 block of South Avenue reported that an Asian male received \$48.16 worth of gasoline and attempted to pay with a credit card that was declined. According to police, when the attendant asked for an alternate form of payment, the suspect fled the scene.





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Additional Obituaries

Dr. Robert Scalera, Honored Rotarian; Had Longtime Local Dental Practice

Dr. Robert V. Scalera of Peapack died at his home on Sunday, December 19, 2010, with his wife of 48 years, JoAnn, at his side.

Dr. Scalera was born June 5, 1932 in Newark, the youngest of eight children of the late Vito and Maria Scalera.

Dr. Scalera was a graduate of Barringer High School, received his Bachelor of Science degree and a master's degree in micro-paleontology from Rutgers University, and was bestowed his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Temple University School of Dentistry in June of 1959.

He practiced dentistry for 49 years in Scotch Plains, from 1959 until his retirement in 2008. In addition to private practice, he served as the school dentist for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education from 1962 to 1981.

Dr. Scalera was a member of the Rotary Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains since 1961 and served as president in 1967 and 1968. He also was the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow Award, Rotary's highest honor. Dr. Scalera additionally was the chairman and trustee for the Rotary-Garbe Foundation from 1994 to 2009, responsible for awarding scholarships to Scotch Plains and Fanwood students. He was a charter member of Enterprise Bank and served on its board of directors.

In his spare time, Dr. Scalera enjoyed the outdoors, from the mountain ski slopes to sailing the ocean blue, and spending time with his family at his pool.

He was predeceased by his parents, his brothers, John and Frank, and his sisters, Edith, Lynette, Rosalie and Jetta.

Surviving are his wife, JoAnn; son Robert V. Scalera, Jr. and his wife, Cindy; daughter Lisa Scalera; son David Scalera and his wife, Michelle; son Matthew Scalera and his wife, Shelby, and daughter Dorianne Horvath and her husband,

Trinity Schedules Christmas Services

CRANFORD – The Trinity Episcopal Church invites everyone to join its congregation in celebrating the Christmas season. The Reverend Gina Walsh-Minor, rector, will celebrate all services.

On Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve, the Blessing of the Creche and Holy Eucharist: Rite II will take place at 4 p.m. A Carol Sing will be held at 10:30 p.m., and Holy Eucharist: Rite II (choral) will occur at 11 p.m.

On Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist: Rite I with Carols will be held at 9 a.m.

On Sunday, December 26, a Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist: Rite I will take place at 9 a.m.

On Sunday, January 2, 2011, Holy Eucharist: Rite I will be held at 9 a.m. Beginning on Sunday, January 9, Liturgy Hours will return to Holy Eucharist: Rite I at 8 a.m. and Holy Eucharist: Rite II at 10 a.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at the corner of North and Forest Avenues in Cranford. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information about Trinity, call (908) 276-4047 or visit trinitycranford.org.

Steve; his sister, Marietta; 12 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held yesterday, Wednesday, December 22, at Higgins Home for Funerals, 752 Mountain Boulevard in Watchung. A Mass of Resurrection followed at St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church in Peapack. Entombment took place at Holy Cross Cemetery in Basking Ridge.

Donations may be made to: The Smile Train, P.O. Box 96231, Washington, D.C. 20090-6231.

To send condolences, go to www.higginsfuneralhome.com.

Olivia Wolf Cohen, 10

Olivia Grace Wolf Cohen, 10, of Westfield passed away after a short illness on Monday, December 20, 2010, at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick.

Olivia was a joyous and affectionate girl and she shared these qualities with everyone who met her. She was a student at P.G. Chambers School and an avid swimmer who recently was accepted as a participant in the Special Olympics. Olivia also was a wonderful reader and loved music.

Surviving are her parents, Andrew Cohen and Lara Wolf; her siblings, Matthew, 14, and Isabelle Cohen, 12, and many loving family members.

A service was conducted yesterday, Wednesday, December 22, at the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, the family would be grateful for donations in her memory to the Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation or the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick. To express condolences or to sign the guestbook, please visit www.fanwoodmemorial.com.

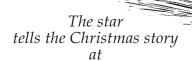
FCC Reveals Services Celebrating Christmas

WESTFIELD – The First Congregational Church invites visitors to celebrate the Christmas season with services tomorrow, Friday, December 24, and Sunday, December 26, in the sanctuary at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield.

Christmas Eve services will begin at 5 p.m. tomorrow with the annual children's pageant. This year's pageant, entitled "The Innkeeper's Son," will be an original production about a young boy who takes charge when two unexpected visitors arrive at his family's inn. At 10 p.m., a traditional candlelight service of Lessons and Carols will take place.

A family-style worship service on Sunday at 10 a.m. will feature scripture readings and an old-fashioned Carol Sing. Members of the congregation are invited to request popular or seldom-heard hymns and carols to be performed by organist and Music Director Barbara Thomson.

The First Congregational Church is a member of the United Church of Christ. Its sanctuary is accessible by a wheelchair ramp and offers infrared listening devices for the hearing impaired. For additional information, call (908) 233-2494 or visit fccofwestfield.org.



Calvary Lutheran Church 108 Eastman Street Cranford, NJ (908) 276-2418

<u>Christmas Eve</u>

5 p.m. Children's Service of the Nativity 7 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion 10 p.m. Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion

Dec. 26 & Jan. 2

10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay, Pastor





CHRISTMAS KIDS...Holy Trinity Interparochial School Cub Scout Pack No. 73 and Girl Scout Troop No. 55 participated in Operation Christmas Child this year, an outreach program of the charity "Samaritan's Purse." Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes filled with assorted items and toys to needy children all around the world. The local collection center is at the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains. More than 10,000 boxes were collected in the local region this year. Pictured helping load the shoeboxes collected at Holy Trinity are Cub Scouts Connor and Jack Chase.

Oasis Church Announces Christmas Eve Service

MOUNTAINSIDE – Oasis-Church-NJ.com will celebrate its candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Friday, December 24, at 6:30 p.m. An informal, contemporary Christian church, Oasis is located at 1180 Spruce Drive in Mountainside. Fun and safe children's programs are among the church's offerings.

"This will be our very first Christmas celebration as a new church," said Pastor David Butler, "and we are very excited about this. We consider Christmastime a great opportunity to let our community know what we offer to families and singles in our community.

"Especially during this holiday season, I think folks need an extra dose of love with no strings attached, and we are hoping to provide that for them," he added. "We will be using some of this season's favorite Christmas movies and TV shows as touch points for our messages," Pastor Butler continued. "This will be a fun, healing and uplifting time for those of us who have been looking for more in life, going through loneliness in the holiday season or just want to experience Christmas in a deeper, more meaningful

Oasis partners with multiple charitable organizations in the area that help the poor and less fortunate. Therefore, the church requests that attendees bring along to church, over the next few weeks, non-perishable food items to be distributed to those in need. For more information or directions, call Pastor Butler at (732) 406-7821 or go to Oasis-Church-NJ.com.

Literacy Volunteers Present Revised Workshop Schedule

AREA – Literacy Volunteers of Union County (LV-UC) has announced a revised schedule for its upcoming New Tutor Training Workshop, to be held at the Linden Public Library, located at 31 East Henry Street in Linden.

The dates for the workshop are now set for Saturdays, January 29, February 5 and 19. This is a change from previously scheduled dates. A snow day of Saturday, February 26, has been slated if one is needed. The sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m.

A non-profit organization, LV-UC recruits and trains volunteers to work with adults seeking to improve their reading, writing or English conversation skills. New Tutor Training Workshops provide new volunteers with the skills needed to work with adult learners in Union County.

Through LV-UC's network of

volunteer tutors, adult learners in the program have been able to get better jobs and become more productive members of the community, according to the organization. Although tutors meet at libraries throughout Union County, the greatest need for tutors is in Elizabeth and Plainfield.

Volunteer tutors must be at least 18 years old. Individuals need not have prior teaching experience, and no knowledge of a foreign language is required. To find out more about how literacy changes lives, visit lyaunion.org.

Those interested in registering

Those interested in registering for the Linden workshop are asked to click on the link in Upcoming Events. There is a \$40 non-refundable registration fee. Needbased scholarships are available to cover this charge. Individuals also may register by calling Susan at (908) 755-7998 or e-mailing susan@lvaunion.org.

www.Oasis-Church-nj.com



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- Extensive youth programs that make a difference
- Christian Education for kids and adults
- Childcare during worship
- Sunday Worship times at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for Christmas Eve Children's Service at 5 p.m. and Candlelight Services at 8 & 11 p.m.

140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield 908.233.0301 - www.westfieldpc.org Sr. Pastor, Rev. Ray Roberts



Calvary Lutheran Invites All to Christmas Services

CRANFORD – The Calvary Lutheran Church, located at 108 Eastman Street in Cranford, invites the community to celebrate the joy of Christmas at services designed for all ages on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Reverend Carol Lindsay, pastor, will preside and preach at all services. Music will be presented under the leadership of Jeanne Elmuccio, organist and choir director.

There will be three opportunities for family worship on Friday, December 24, starting with a young children's Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m. This service will include simple carols, the reading of the Christmas story and the placing of the nativity figures by some of the children.

The 7 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion will feature seasonal music provided by the Children's Choir. Instrumental accompaniment will in-

clude organ, trumpet, violin and piano.
The 10 p.m. Candlelight Service of
Holy Communion will feature music
by the Calvary Hand Bell Choir and
seasonal anthems and carols by the
Calvary Choir, accompanied by or-

gan, trumpet and bassoon.

A Festival Service of Holy Communion with seasonal music will be celebrated on Saturday, Christmas Day, December 25, at 10:30 a.m.

On the two Sundays following Christmas, December 26 and January 2, Calvary will offer a single worship service with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. The church will return to its regular Sunday worship schedule of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on January 9.

Calvary Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving the Cranford-Westfield area and surrounding communities for 82 years.

Red Cross Chapter Reveals Upcoming Lifesaver Courses

WESTFIELD – The Westfield/ Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross has scheduled multiple December courses/classes in lifesaving skills. Certification certificates are given to those who successfully pass the courses. All trainings will take place at the chapter house, located at 321 Elm Street in Westfield.

Adult CPR with AED (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator) class will be held on Thursday, December 30, from 6 to 10:30 p.m. This course teaches participants how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in adults. It also includes training in AED (automated external defibrillation) use.

A review course of community CPR

(adult, child and infant) with First Aid training will be held on Wednesday, December 29, from 6 to 10:30 p.m. This class is for those who are currently trained but need to re-certify. It teaches participants how to recognize and care for breathing and choking emergencies involving adults, children and infants, and also includes recertification in first aid. The CPR review portion of this class can be taken without the First Aid portion.

A Babysitters Training class for those ages 11 to 15 will run on Wednesday and Thursday, December 29 and 30, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants must attend both days. Among the topics will be: what to do in an emergency, basic infant and child care (holding, feeding, burping and diapering), age appropriate activities, safety issues, how to handle breathing emergencies and some basic First Aid. Participants will re-

ceive a handbook with a CD-Rom and a small first aid kit.

Additionally, the chapter will host a Pet First Aid class on Monday, January 10, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. The course will provide information needed to keep pets (cat/dog) safe. It will teach participants to act with confidence during an emergency until their pet reaches veterinary care. Participants will work hands on with "pet" manikins and receive a dog or

cat handbook (with a DVD).

Payment and advance registration is required and space is limited. For more information, visit the Chapter House, call (908) 232-7090 or e-mail the Director of Health and Safety at johnsonsafety@comcast.net. To register for any of these classes, call (908) 232-7090 or e-mail johnsonsafety@comcast.net. For a full listing of classes and courses being

listing of classes and courses being offered in January, visit the chapter website: westfieldmtside-redcross.org.

Church Thrift Shop

To Close For Holidays

FANWOOD – The Fanwood Presbyterian Church Thrift Shop will be closed for the holidays on December 29. It will reopen on Wednesday, January 5, at 10 a.m. A large selection of winter clothing and other items will be featured, including kitchen equipment, bedding and decorative items.

Located on McDermott Avenue in Fanwood, the shop is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., September to June. Ample parking is available. All the shop workers are volunteers, and the proceeds support local charities.

Join Us This Holiday Season...

Friday, December 24, 7:30pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of readings and carols

(w/ music for meditation at 7)





Celebrate Christmas at First Congregational Church

December 24 Christmas Eve services

Children's Pageant, 5 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols, 10 p.m.

December 26, 10 a.m.
Scripture Reading & Carol Sing

Visitors are Always Welcome!

Member, the United Church of Christ.

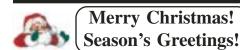
The sanctuary is accessible by a wheelchair ramp.

Infrared listening devices are available

for the hearing impaired.

125 Elmer Street, Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 233-2494

www.fccofwestfield.org



Merry Christmas! Season's Greetings! THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section Pages 9-11

NAPOLITANO'S, BALIKO, DUNN, GAJDZISZ PREPARE

Raider Swimmers Gear Up For Blue Devil Showdown

By DAVID B. CORBIN

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys and girls swim teams honed their skills in preparation for a showdown in Westfield on December 21 with the Westfield High School boys and girls. The Raider boys destroyed Delbarton, 115-55, and the girls sank Kent Place, 105-65, on December 14 to boost their records to 2-0.

The Raider boys touched first in

nine of the 11 events against the Delbarton Green Wave, beginning with the 200-yard medley relay when Greg Baliko, Dan Napolitano, Ryan Gaidzisz and Joe Dunn finished in 1:45.5. Baliko followed with a victory in the 200-freestyle with a time of 1:56.22 then Dunn touched first in the 200-individual medley at 2:03.17.

Mike Napolitano won the 50freestyle with a time of 23.53, and Raider Keith Monteiro won the 100butterfly in 58.13. Gajszisz took top

honors in the 100-freestyle with a time of 53.36, and Mike Rizzo touched first in the 500-freestyle at 5:16.8. Raiders Ryan McKenna, Ryan Henkels, Jason Schaub and Matt DeBiasse won the 200-free relay at 1:40.82, and Dan Napolitano won the 100-backstroke in 1:00.18. Delbarton's Michael Li won the 100breaststroke in 1:03.54 then his teammates Greg Keiser, Clark LaRaia, Ethan Gerstman and John Russell



WARMING UP FOR THE WINTER SEASON...The Blue Devil boys and girls winter track teams run a few laps around the track prior to a scrimmage meet with Millburn at Kehler Stadium in Westfield.

HENRY, KIRNA, LEAHY, EDWARDS WILL REAP POINTS

Blue Devil Boys, Girls Have **Good Mix in Winter Track**

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Veterans mixed with promising underclassmen comprise this year's Westfield High School boys and girls winter track teams. Coming off a superb cross-country season, the boys are expected to be very strong in the distance and middle-distance events, while the girls should be effective in the distance and sprints.

Last year, the Blue Devil boys placed third in the Union County Tournament (UCT) and second in the Group 4, Section 2 meet. This season, seniors Andrew Kirna, Zach Lizmi and Sam Tooley, along with juniors Jack Leahy, Dave Carville and Evan Tarlow are expected to reap a lot of team points in the distance

"They will be going, probably, from the 8[00] to the 32[00]," said Blue Devil Head Coach jack Martin, who added, "In the 400 and 800, we have Jon Henry. He is one of the top [runners] in the state. He is going to have a great season.'

During the 2010 spring track season, Henry was the UCT champion in the 400 meters and placed second in the event at the sectional meet. He also took top honors in the 800 at the conference meet and the sectional

Junior Kyle Star has shown well in the sprints, and Mike DePaola has been achieving some fine clearances in the high jump. Will Cronin is expected to be strong in the shot put. Others expected to contribute are Alex Hay, Bob Ciardullo and Jake Vergara, along with co-captains Bryan Reilly and Mike Foley.

"We have some sprinters, who are still untested. Mike DePaola in the high jump, we should be pretty solid,"

Coach Martin said. The Lady Blue Devils have a large wave of youth mixed with veterans. "We currently have 71 girls, 32 of

whom are freshmen, so we have a young team this year," Blue Devil Head Coach Jen Buccino said. "They are very enthusiastic and excited about learning the sport, so the prospects for the future are bright. We also have a decent core of returnees to show them the way. And we have several with background from the spring that will add a little depth."

Seniors Ashley Edwards (sprints), Alyssa Hatch (distance), Alex Hawkins (high jump, sprints) and Jen Porch (high jump, middle distance)

have been selected as team captains. Edwards had a very strong 2010 spring season, and Hatch came into the limelight during cross-country in

"Edwards set a new school record in the spring in the 400 meters at 57.6, so she has high hopes for the winter season. Hatch had her best cross-country season to date this fall and comes in strong and ready to race," Coach Buccino said. "Hawkins has consistently improved in the high jump in the winter season. All four captains come in with a cross-country season of distance training under their belts, which should prove helpful for each of them this year."

Veterans Danielle Grimes (junior) and sophomore Leigh Heinbokel, in addition to Hatch and Porch will com-

See it all on the web in color. www.goleader.com

pete in the distance events. Seniors Daniella Ciampa and Sirena VanEpp, juniors Sarah Collins and Eileen Cook, and sophomore Lily Burtness, in addition to Edwards and Hawkins will compete in the sprints.

Coach Buccino expects to receive added support from some newcomers, along with some girls who were standouts on the soccer team. Senior Ellie Tanji will compete in the distance events. Seniors Hannah Kronick, Samantha Costello and Anne Maguire will compete in the sprints. Juniors Kat Fox and Kaitlyn Johnson will add depth for the middle distance events. And sophomores Oria Alexander and Sophia Barry will toss

the shot put. The large freshmen class has yet to be tested, but Morgan Wilcox looks promising in the middle distance and Sophia Goldschmidt has looked promising in the sprints. Coach Buccino believes there is more potential with a little more experience down the road.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times BEING CLOSELY GUARDED...Blue Devil point guard Danielle Miller, No. 4, is closely guarded by Linden Tiger guard Shannon Wheeler, No. 3. The Tigers won the season opener in Westfield, 49-31.

DeVITA SCORES 8; CULLINAN, MARCOTULLIO 6 EACH

Linden Lady Tigers Pounce On Blue Devil Cagers, 49-31

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Some bad passes that led to steals and fast breaks put the Linden High School girls basketball team in the driver's seat early en route to a 49-31 victory over the Westfield Lady Blue Devils in Westfield on December 17.

Junior guard Shannon Wheeler led the 1-0 Lady Tigers with 20 points. Senior guard Tamara Todd sank 16 points, and sophomore forward Jada Lewis put up eight points.

"We knew it was going to be a battle. Every time we play Linden, it's always a battle to the end. Those girls just beat us to the boards today. They got rebounds. They were quick, and they got some quick shots off. They played well," Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino said.

Junior forward Sophie DeVita led the 0-1 Blue Devils with eight points, all in the first half. She also added a rebound and an assist. Junior guard Amanda Marcatullio and sophomore forward Ellie Cullinan (3 rebounds, assist) each netted six points. Senior guard Martina Landeka pulled five rebounds and had three points, a steal and two assists. Senior Charlotte Lorentzen had six rebounds, two blocked shots, an assist and three points. Senior point guard Danielle Miller finished with three points, two rebounds, a steal and an assist. Senior forward Krista Embrett had three rebounds and a blocked shot, and Kelly Culnan added two points.

Taking advantage of the bad passes, the Lady Tigers converted several steals into an 11-2 lead with two minutes remaining in the first quarter. DeVita answered with a rebound, drove the length of the court and rolled in her first lay-up. Just before the buzzer, DeVita added another layup on Miller's assist.

In the early part of the second quarter, the Blue Devils went on the offensive and took a number of shots under the basket, but none hit the mark. As a result, the Tigers added six more points to extend their lead to 17-6. DeVita and Marcatullio each hit for two points, and Miller added a lay-up and a free throw to close the gap to 17-13, but once again, steals to fast breaks and a 3-pointer at the buzzer by Wheeler gave the Tigers a 25-15 lead at the half.

"We didn't make our shots. We had opportunities. We didn't make them.

Hopefully as the season goes on, we will make those shots happen," Coach Marino said.

Linden continued its acts of thievery and opened up a 37-16 lead midway through the third quarter, then Cullinan got into the act with a lay-up and Marcatullio followed with a pair of two-pointers as the quarter ended, 39-22. Late in the fourth quarter, Cullinan pulled a few rebounds and put in four more points with assists from Landeka and Lorentzen. Culnan sank her two-pointer and Landeka nailed the Blue Devils' only 3-pointer of the game.

"Ellie played hard, got some rebounds and made some shots," said Coach Marino, who added, "They beat us on the fast breaks. We turned it over a couple of times with bad passes, but overall my girls played hard."

Linden





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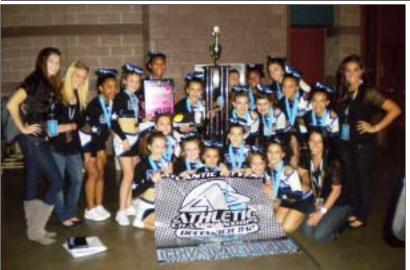
Westfield...Totally renovated 7 RM, 3 BR, 2 ½ BTH Colonial. New granite kitchen w/center isle and spacious dining area over looking patio and yard. Master BR w/bath & walk-in closet, hardwood floors, all new windows, siding, elec & plumb, 2 zn HEAT & CAC. Close to schools. \$669,000.

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251 North Avenue West, Westfield NJ 908-654-3300

Located in the North Avenue Train Station Parking Lot



The Central Jersey Cheerleading All-Stars

CJA Cheerleaders Sweep Championship

ons. Small Youth 1 received Best

Dance Choreography, Small Junior 1

received Innovative Choreography

and Best Stunts, Large Senior 4 re-

ceived Best Stunts and Small Senior

Central Jersey Allstars (CJA) is an

cheerleading organization for boys

and girls of all ages and skill levels.

CJA on Market Street in Kenilworth.

SPF Matmen Get 6th

At Annual U.C. Brawl

ior High wrestling team placed sixth

in the Fourth Annual Union County

Brawl at Cranford High School on

December 12. The overall winning

team was Roselle Park with 117

points. The Raiders totaled 58 points

and Westfield placed eighth with 41.5

Of the 10 boys from Scotch Plains-

Fanwood, four won team points by

placing in their weight-bracket:

Alex Mirabella

Brian Lapham J.T. Bierne

Jack Defoun Matt Oslislo

Owen Martin

John Delsordi

The Middle School wrestling team

is coached by SPFHS wrestling-alum

Sal Gano. Any 7th or 8th graders

interested in joining the team should

go online to www.spfpal.com for more

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

has awarded a Contract without competi-

or Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i). This

it, are available for public inspection in

AWARDED TO: Hatch Mott MacDonald;

SERVICES: Engineering Services for

BOZENA LACINA

Municipal Clerk

27 Bleecker Street; Millburn, New Jersey

Scotch Plains Township NJDEP Waste-

1 T - 12/23/10, The Times Fee: \$19.89

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Board of Adjustment adopted Resolutions

at its December 13, 2010 meeting for the

following applications heard at its Novem-

ber 8, 2010 and November 15, 2010 meet-

Andrew & Cheryl Davlouros, 418

Westfield Avenue, Applicant requested

an extension of Board approval of a minor

subdivision with variance granted October

14, 2009, memorialized November 9, 2010.

Jamie & Marc Lemberg, 537 Elm

Street, Applicant sought permission to

construct a two-story addition to the rear of

the house contrary to Sections 11.07E14.

11.07E12, 11.07E8 and 11.07E13 of the

Land Use Ordinance to allow no garage

where a one car garage is required; to allow an eave height of 23.5 feet where a

maximum of 22 feet is allowed; to allow a

building height of 3 stories were a maxi-

mum of 2.5 stories is allowed and to allow

a continuous side wall length of 41.25 feet

where 25 feet is allowed. Application ap-

Adam & Maribeth Shell, 415 Lenox

Avenue, Applicant sought permission to

construct a single story addition to the rear

of the house contrary to Sections 11.08E10

(12.04F1) and 12.04F3 of the Land Use

Ordinance to allow a building coverage of 23.7% where a maximum of 20% is al-

lowed and to allow a maximum building

coverage with a porch of 27.7% where a

maximum 24% is allowed. Application

Vincent & Danielle Corso, 609 Downer

Street, Applicant sought permission to construct a second floor addition contrary

to Sections 11.12E6 and 11.12E13 of the

Land Use Ordinance to allow a side vard

setback of 5.2 feet where 10 feet is re-

quired and to allow a maximum continu-

ous side wall length of 38 feet 4 inches

where 25 feet is allowed. Application ap-

Kevin & Laura Callahan, 553 Fairmont

Avenue, Applicant sought permission to construct a single story addition to the rear

of the house contrary to Sections 11.07E6

and 12.04F1 of the Land Use Ordinance to

allow a side yard setback of 5.5 feet where

10 feet is required and to allow a building

coverage of 22.7% where 20% is allowed.

Grace & Dean Roth, 917 Fanwood

Avenue, Applicant sought permission to install a 7 feet x 7 feet hot tub on the

existing patio contrary to Sections 12.04F1

and 13.02B1 of the Land Use Ordinance

to allow a building coverage of 20.8% were 20% is allowed and to allow a shed to $\,$

be located in the side yard where shed are

required to be located in the rear yard.

Citibank, 240 - 42 North Avenue, Ap-

plicant sought permission to remove the

Application approved with conditions.

Application approved with conditions.

proved with conditions.

approved with conditions.

proved with conditions

Approval extended to April 1, 2011.

Notice is hereby given that Westfield

water Management Plan

TIME PERIOD: 2010-2011

DATE: December 7, 2010

The TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

Name Jason Wendel

Others who competed: 125 lbs: Jeff Lieblich 125 lbs: Anthony Pares

160 lbs:

125 lbs:

information.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Jun-

competitive

Placement:

(Fourth) (First) (Second)

5 received Best Pyramid.

award-winning

KENILWORTH. – The Central Jersey All-Star Cheerleading teams (Small Youth Level 1, Small Junior Level 1, Small Junior 3, Large Senior 4 and Small Senior 5) took first in their division at the Athletic Championships in Atlantic City on Decem-

Small Junior Level 1 and Large Senior 4 came home Grand Champi-

Westfield PAL Excels At U.C. Mat Brawl

It was a banner day for the Westfield PAL Elementary School wrestling team at the Fourth Annual Union County Brawl, as the work of first year coaches Colin Mackay and Ethan Powell was on display for all to see. The team had its best showing ever by producing six finalists and placing second in a highly competitive tournament that included some of the state's best wrestlers.

Leading the way for Westfield was a quartet of champions: Luke Hoerle, CJ Composto, Ishmael Glasco and Phillip Ricca. Placing second was Jack Miller and Jack Albin. Jack DiFilippo and Alistair Kapadia took home third place and Jake Bencivenga placed fourth.

The Westfield Middle School team also had three place winners, with Vincent DiFilippo and Stevie Bonsall winning their brackets and John Fuller taking a third place. This was DiFilippo's second consecutive Union County Brawl championship and Bonsall's second in three years.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY **CHANCERY DIVISION** UNION COUNTY **DOCKET NO. F-30087-10** FILE NO. 12333-10

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:

JAIME CARBAJAL; MRS. JAIME CARBAJAL, WIFE OF JAIME CARBAJAL; ISABEL F. RAMIREZ:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, LLC, plaintiff's attorneys whose address is 290 BOUTF 46 WEST DENVILLE NEW JERSEY 07054, an Antion, in which FT PROPERTIES, LLC is the plaintiff and JAIME CARBAJAL, ET ALS; are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, UNION County and bearing Docket No. F-30087-10 within thirty-five (35) days after December 23, 2010 exclusive of such date. If you fail to answer or appear in accordance with Rule 4:4-6, Judgment by Default may be rendered against you for relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your Answer and Proof of Service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Proce-

You are further advised that if you are unable to obtain an attorney you may communicate with the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of Venue and that if you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of Venue. The telephone number of such agencies are as follows: Lawyer Referral Service 908-353-4715 - Legal Services Office 908-354-4340.

THE ACTION has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing the following tax sale certificate:

1. A certain tax certificate no. 080496, sold on 04/15/2008, dated 04/23/2008, and was recorded on 06/16/2008 in Book 12513 at Page 254, made by MARIA GLAVAN, Collector of Taxes of PLAINFIELD, and State of New Jersey to FIDELITY TAX, LLC and subsequently assigned to plaintiff, FT PROPERTIES, LLC on 04/20/2010 and was recorded on 04/29/2010 in Assignment Book 1383 at Page 793. This covers real estate located in PLAINFIELD, County of UNION, and State of New Jersey, known as LOT 24 BLOCK 230 as shown on the Tax Assessment Map and Tax Map duplicate of PLAINFIELD. and concerns premises commonly known as 61214 W FRONT ST, PLAINFIELD, New Jersey.

YOU, JAIME CARBAJAL, are made party defendant to the above foreclosure action because you are the owner of a property which is the subject of the above entitled action.

YOU, MRS. JAIME CARBAJAL, WIFE OF JAIME CARBAJAL, are made party defendant to the above foreclosure action because plaintiff has been unable to determine whether defendant JAIME CARBAJAL is married, and if married, the name of JAIME CARBAJAL's spouse. If JAIME CARBAJAL is married, the plaintiff ioins MRS, JAIME CARBAJAL, WIFE OF JAIME CARBAJAL as a defendant for any possessory or marital rights you may have

YOU, ISABEL F. RAMIREZ, are made party defendant to the above foreclosure action because on August 3, 2004, a child support judgment was entered in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Atlantic County, by Isabel F. Ramirez against Jaime Carbajal. Said judgment was entered as Judgment No. J-198843-2004. Said judgment is subordinate to the Plaintiff's lien. DATED: December 17, 2010

Jennifer M. Perez, Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.

Denville Law Center 290 Route 46 West Denville, New Jersey 07834 1 T - 12/23/10, The Leader Fee: \$82.62

WBA Fifth Grade Boys Basketball League Results:

St. John's 39, Kentucky 13 Behind the scoring of Jack Dobosiewicz, Niko Romano and Connor Trower, undefeated St. John's topped Kentucky, 39-13. The Red Storm received strong rebounding from their big front line of Sean Corson and Chris Wagner. Thomas Borner Du Cane and the point guard play of Matt Viscido led the Wildcats. Michigan State 26, Villanova 20

Michigan State held off Villanova's late surge. The Spartans were led in scoring by Luke Spellman and Harrison Bailey, and received a solid games from gritty point guard Connor Fallon, Thomas Gannaway and Cory Billings. The Wildcats were led in scoring by Evan Schaefer, Jake Obsgarten and Diamantopoulous, and the defensive

efforts of Ryan Palmer. Duke 16, Syracuse 13

Duke defeated previously unbeaten Syracuse. Syracuse jumped out to an early lead behind the shooting of Danny Russo and the defense of Payton Schlewitt. The Blue Devils rallied and took control, utilizing a balanced offensive attack led by Nate Reyes, Charlie Billek, Shea Elliot and Alex Pinkowski. A late run by the Orange was thwarted by the defen-

sive efforts of Jacob Dayon.

Notre Dame 28, Cincinnati 18

Notre Dame withstood a late game rally from Cincinnati to collect a 28-18 win. The Irish received outstanding offensive games from Matt Barmakian and Lee Papadopoulos, as well as a solid defensive effort from the always-hustling Eric Bebel.

WBA 3rd Grade Girls Hit **Hardwood at McKinley**

GETTING INTENSE...The Westfield Basketball Association third grade teams,

Villanova and Notre Dame, get intense during a game on December 17.

Westfield Basketball Association's In-Town Recreation League for third-grade girls took place at McKinley School on December 17. Scores are not kept, but the competition is real.

Coach Dave Schlewitt's Notre Dame squad faced Villanova coached by Jeff Koetje. Notre Dame's lineup consisted of Kaitlyn and Noelle Laskaris, Julia Člark, Lindsay Sherman, Jessica Schlewitt, Amanda Wagner, and Carly Sherman. Theresa DiFalco, Madeline Cohen and Lauren Gaudin with Assistant Coaches John Clark and Peter Laskaris. Villanova's team featured Natasha Koetje, Katherine Troutman, Rylie Corson, Anastasia Fowler, Zoe Žorilla, Morgan Giardina, Avery Moore, Brooke Walden, Megan Rafter, Amanda Ludwig and Emma Roth, supported by Assistant Coach Scott Giardina.

Coach Neil Horne's UMass squad faced Michigan State led by Coach Liz Loder. The UMass lineup included Jackie LaMastra, Julia Horne, Regan Schultz, Lily Kaplan, Sara Wheatley, Grace Dabulas, Chelsea Birkel, Amanda Paden, Erin Harris and Julia

Gagliardi with Assistant Coach Tim Birkel. Michigan State players included Maggie Lapolla, Morgan Angelo, Emily Plump, Jasni McGrail, Ashley Amman, Claire Loder, Sofia Carayannopoulos, Allison Temo, Alexis Evans, Madision Marano and Mikaela Buoscio with Assistant Coach Andy Plump.

The Pittsburgh team coached by Kyle Baker faced Cincinnati's crew of Coach Jim Ahern. Cincinnati was led by Megan Prasek, Sarah Melone, Grace Hutchinson, Lauren Ahern, Maggie Maguire, Grace Demers, Olivia Conti, Ingrid Peters, Greta McLaughlin, Caroline Gallager and Amy Hitzel with Assistant Coaches Barbara Maguire and Dennis McLaughlin. Pittsburgh brought shooting and dribbling prowess, while Cincinnati countered with a strong rebounding effort, impressive ball movement and sharp outside shooting. Pittsburgh included Faith Dobosiewicz, Avery Knauss, Tate Fallon, Aliyah Feinberg, Emily Rossi, Brianna Weber, Elizabeth Ferguson, Shannon Baker, Anna Swartz and Kiley Parker with Assistant Coach Kirsten Fallon

SPF PAL A Raiders Play In NYFC Championships

Twenty-seven Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SP-F) PAL A Team football players participated in the National Youth Football Championships (NYFC) in Daytona Beach, Fla. over

the Thanksgiving holiday.
The SP-F Raider eighth-graders played Londonderry, N.H. and scored in the first quarter and the defense held on two goal-line stands. The second goal-line stand was with 3:42 left in the game with the running back being stripped of the ball at the oneyard line. The Raiders were able to run the clock out and won a hardhitting game, 6-0, to earn the next round in the championship.

In the championship game, the Raiders played a tough (undefeated) AG Gaston from Huntsville, Ala. The Raiders were fourth and five from the Gaston nine-yard line, but ended up a foot short of the first down losing, 13-6. The Raiders were awarded the title of best sportsmanship in the NYFC, and returned home with a 24-8 record of their three competitive years to-

Eleven cheerleaders cheered on the boys in both games. In addition to the 36 football players and cheerleaders, over 50 family members and friends traveled to Daytona Beach to chaperone and cheer them on.

Hurricanes, Bulldogs Win In FSPY Men's Basketball

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" (FSPY) Men's Basketball League opened its second season on December 12 with a doubleheader tip-off classic. The Hurricanes defeated the Slams, 37-22, and the Bulldogs beat the Heat, 40-31.

Rookie captain Dennis Wall's Slams took a 16-14 lead in the first half. Hurricane captain Jason Shann pumped in five of his six 3-pointers after the break and went three for four from the free-throw line for a gamehigh 27 points. Troy Sims and Micheal George added three apiece for the Canes, now 1-0.

Jason Holley lead the Slammers with 14-points and Adam Mertz tossed

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD

The Tax Assessment List for The Borough of Fanwood for the 2011 Tax Year will be open for inspection on Thursday, February 17, 2011 between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. in the Municipal

Michael A. Ross, CTA Tax Assessor 1 T - 12/23/10, The Times Fee: \$10.71

in seven, but the Slam were a combined three-for-15 from the foul line.

Game 2 featured Bulldog captain Marlon Brown and reigning league champion captain Marc Rogoff for the Heat. A well-played first half featured up-and-down action, few fouls and some spectacular individual and team play – none more so than 2010 League MVP and Heat player Jamal Berry's dunk/tech (basket-hanging). Diminutive Gene Tavera blocked one of Berry's shots. The first stanza closed with the teams deadlocked at 17.

The second half saw tighter defense and fouls as the Bulldogs spread the ball around getting all six players into the scoring column led by Brown with 19, Joe Negley with seven and Jerry Baglien with five.

The Heat cooled in the second half with Berry posting 12 of his teamhigh 15 points, but only newcomer Jeff Genebazco joined him in the scoring column.

For more information about the league, please call FSPY at (908) 889-8880

FSPY Men's Basketball **League December 19 Results:** shooting 46 percent from the line and

The Bulldogs barked their way to 2-0 and the Grizzlies growled in their season opener in the Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" (FSPY) Men's Basketball League on December 19.

Bulldogs 40, Slams 34

Playing without rookie captain, point guard Marlon Brown, the Bulldogs were led by rookie Jerry Baglien (17 points, 6 rebounds) and Joe Negley (10 points, 9 rebounds). Gene Tavera added timely shooting and defense (6 points, 9 boards) and the team shot 50 percent from the charity stripe to improve to 2-0.

The Slams never got untracked,

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at the meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Scotch Plains held on December 16, 2010, the Board adopted the following resolutions:

Ray William D'Amato, approved, for a Use Variance to construct an addition at 1975 Valley Avenue, Block 1902, Lot 15.

T. Mobile Northeast, New York SMSA, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, denied, a Use Variance and Height Variances to construct a 125 feet wireless telecommunications monopole with related improvements at the Hillside Cemetery, Woodland Av-

enue, Block 16501, Lot 1. Barbara Horev, Secretary

Zoning Board of Adjustment
1 T - 12/23/10, The Times Fee: \$19.38

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that on the 5th day of

January, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. a hearing will be held before the Westfield Planning Board, in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, on Application #PB-10-15(V) on behalf of Chipotle Mexican Grille of Colorado, LLC for preliminary and final major site plan approval for properties identified as Block 2505, Lots 24, 25.01 and 30 as shown on the Town Tax Maps pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Westfield and for zoning variances and waivers as follows: (a) as to 109 East Broad Street, Block 2505 Lot 25.01: (i) rear entry wall sign dimension: permitted 4 feet, proposed 12 feet 4 inches (Section 16.04E.6e); and (ii) parking based on utilization: required 54 spaces, provided 0 spaces (Section 17.02C); (b) as to 112 Prospect Street, Block 2505 Lot 30: (i) concrete curbing material installed rather than granite block permitted (Section 17.07); (ii) parking spaces: required 15, provided 6 (Section 17.02B5); (iii) parking space set back: required 2 feet, proposed .18 feet (Section 17.03B.5); and (iv) maintaining existing lighting in parking area (Section 17.10); all as detailed on plans and applications on file with the Clerk of the Planning Board; and (c) such other variances and/or waivers that may be reguired so as to permit the Applicant to operate a Chipotle Mexican Grille restaurant at premises located at 109 East Broad Street, Block 2505, Lot 25.01, Westfield, New Jersey.

Any interested party may appear in person or by agent or attorney and present any objections to the granting of this application in accordance with the rules of the Planning Board. All papers pertaining to the application may be seen in the office of the Secretary of the Planning Board of the Town of Westfield between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. located at 959 North Avenue

32 percent from the floor. Jason Holley had 20 points and nine boards, but the Slams fall to 0-2.

Grizzlies 35, Hurricanes 33 Both teams searched for shots, end-

ing the first stanza tied 13-13. The Grizzlies won the second half, 22-20. Grizzled veteran Eric Halpin had 13 points and five boards to go along with 2-for-3 from the free-throw line in the closing minutes to keep the Hurricanes to a tropical depression. Kevin Adams netted seven points and four rebounds. Pete Chemidlin pulled seven boards. Adams and Grizzlies captain Dave Berger, having gone winless in the inaugural season, got their first win in the league.

The 'Canes were led by Jason Shann (13 points, 9 boards) and Troy Sims (6 points, 9 boards). Despite shooting 31 percent from the floor, 29 percent from the line and going a combined 3-for-21 from 3-point land, the 'Canes pulled to within 2 points with 10 seconds to play. 'Canes slipped to 1-1.

For more information about the league, please call the FSPY at (908) 889-8880.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

TAKE NOTICE that 201 Central Avenue. LLC has made an application to the Town of Westfield's Board of Adjustment in connection with the alteration and a third floor addition to an existing building on property in the Town of Westfield, located at 201 Central Avenue, Westfield, Block 3114, Lot 1, which requires the following bulk variance relief:

1. The existing building and the third floor addition will not meet the minimum side yard setback requirement (Sec. 11.25E.2). The minimum required is 10

feet and 2.8 feet is provided. 2. The existing building and the third floor addition will not meet the minimum side yard setback requirement along Central Avenue (Sec. 11.25E.2). The minimum required is 10 feet and 2.4 feet is

provided. 3. The existing building and the third floor addition will not meet the minimum rear yard setback requirement (Sec 11.25É.3a). The minimum required is 19.25 feet and 0.4 feet is provided.

4. The proposed store front window area will not meet the minimum area requirements (Sec. 11.25F.1). The minimum window area required is 40% of the storefront and 32.4% is provided.

5. The proposed main public entrance sign will be installed higher than the maximum permitted (Sec. 16.04E1.b). The maximum sign height is 12 feet and the

proposed sign is set at 13 feet. 6. The minimum required off-street parking spaces for the proposed uses will not

be met (Sec. 17.02C). The minimum required off-street parking spaces required is 15 and none are provided. The Applicant may also seek other vari-

ances and waivers as the need may arise during the course of the hearing on this Application. The application is scheduled or a hearing on **January 5, 2011 at 7:30pm** in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey. All documents relating to this application are on file in the Planning Department at 959 North Avenue West, Westfield available daily between the hours of 8:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Any interested party may appear at said hearing and participate in accordance with the rules of

Salvatore Imbornone, Jr. (Owner)

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE existing "Citibank" sign in the window and to install one 24 inches H x 16 feet L "Citibank" sign on the storefront with external strip lighting contrary to Sections 16.03C3 and 16.04E1b of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance does not allow signage on the lower slope of a mansard

tion approved as amended with condi-Kenneth Ramos & Christine Ramos, 428 Lenox Avenue, Applicant sought permission to extend the existing ridge of the main roof, terminating in a new gable roof end facing the street and creating additional attic space contrary to Sections 1.08E8 and 12.04E1 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a building height of 35 feet where a maximum of 32 feet is allowed; to allow a building height of 3 stories where 2.5 stories is allowed and to allow a habitable floor area of 38% where a maximum of 37% is allowed. Application

roof. Proposed is signage on the lower

slope of the mansard roof. Ordinance al-

lows a maximum mounting height of a sign

to be 12 feet. Proposed is 14 feet. Applica-

approved with conditions. Charles Dixon, 52 Mohican Drive, Applicant sought permission to construct a two story addition with a basement contrary to Sections 11.06E7, 11.06E9 (12.04E1) and 11.06E13(2.11G) of the and Use Ordinance to allow a rear yard setback of 24 to 34 feet where a minimum of 35 feet is required and two allow a habitable floor area of 37.6% where a maximum of 30% is allowed. Application approved with conditions.

Andrew & Jennifer Fecowycz, 500 Highland Avenue, Applicant sought pernission to construct an attic addition contrary to Sections 11.08E5 and 11.08E8 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a side vard setback of 13.67 feet where a minimum of 20 feet is required and to allow a building height of 3 stories where 2.5 stories is allowed. Application approved with

Joan Peiffer, 634 Raymond Street, Applicant sought permission to retain one person other than a household family member as an employee in a home occupation and to construct a single story addition contrary to Sections 14.02B, 12.04F1 and 11.08E13 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a person other than a household family member to be employed in a home occupation; to allow a building coverage of $\pm 21.7\%$ where a maximum of 20% is allow and to allow a continuous side wall length of +28.5 feet where a maximum of 25 feet s allowed. Application approved with con-

Michael & Eileen Blancato, 18 Carol Road, Applicant sought permission to relocate the garage doors from the side of the existing structure to the front of the existing structure and to move the driveway to the front of the house contrary to Section 11.06E14 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a garage setback of 0 feet behind the main façade where 2 feet is required. Application approved with con-

Brent Livermore & Carmel Ryan, 1033 Grandview Avenue, Applicant sought permission to construct an addition to the rear of the house contrary to Section 11.09E10 (12.04F1) of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a building coverage of 21.7% where a maximum of 20% is allowed. Application approved with condi-

Clint & Tracy Factor, 440 Kimball Turn, Applicant sought permission to construct a single story addition contrary to Sections 2.11.G, 11.06E6 and 11.06E14 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a continuous sidewall of 38.6 feet were a maximum of 25 feet is allowed; to allow a side yard setback of ±7.2 feet where a minimum of 12.5 feet is required and to allow a one car garage where a two car garage is required. Application approved with condi-

First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm Street, Applicant sought approval of a preliminary and final major site plan with a d variance to construct an addition to house an elevator and to install new pavers immediately adjacent thereto contrary to Section 18.08D of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a building coverage of 63% where 50% is allowed. Application approved with conditions

Ikhab Saleh, 528 Cumberland Street, Applicant sought approval to construct a second story addition and a stairway to the same contrary to Sections 11.12E12 and 11.12E11 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow an eave height of 27.08 feet were 22 feet is allowed and to allow an all improve-ment coverage of 67.7% where a maximum of 50% is allowed. Application approved with conditions

Alexander Schmidt & Candace Coccaro, 735 Girard Avenue, Applicant sought c variance approval to demolish the existing dwelling and reconstruct a new dwelling using a portion of the existing foundation. Applicant sought variance relief from Sections 11.09E5, 11.09E7 and 11.09E13 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a front yard setback from Girard Avenue of 26 feet 2 inches where a minimum of 30 feet is required; to allow a rear yard setback of 17.89 feet where 35 feet is required and to allow a continuous wall length of 27 feet 2 inches where 25 feet is allowed. Application approved with condi-

Thomas and Maura Lezynski, 226 Canterbury Road, Applicant sought approval to demolish the existing house and construct a new home contrary to Section 9.5 feet where 12.5 feet is required. Application approved with conditions.

Secretary, Board of Adjustment 1 T - 12/23/10, The Leader Fee: \$177.99

11.06E6 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow side yard setbacks of 11.64 feet and Kathleen Nemeth

West, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

MAX SHERMAN, Attorney for Applicant, Chipolte Mexican Grille Of Colorado, LLC 1 T - 12/23/10, The Leader Fee: \$44.88

the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

201 Central Avenue, LLC (Applicant) 1 T - 12/23/10, The Leader Fee: \$50.49



STRONG LEADERSHIP...Four returning starters will lead this year's Raider boys basketball team. Pictured, left to right, are: Charles Oliver, Tim Bonacum, Pat Dougher and Matt Jegede.

Raider Boys Visualize Conference Hoops Title

By JOSEPH SCHACKMAN

Expectations are high for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team, despite a tough season last year. The Raiders finished the 2009-2010 campaign with an unimpressive 6-16 record, but have built up experience that will prove to be extremely valuable this season.

"I think we have a chance to be pretty good this season," Head Coach Dan Doherty said at recent aftenoon practice. "We have a lot of people back who have a ton of varsity experience. We had a real good summer as well, playing almost 30 games. This team is balanced as well. We are not overloaded in any one area. We have some big guys down low and some strong guards, and they are all figuring out how to play together."

There are five seniors on the Raiders' squad, Charles Oliver, Tim Bonacum, Patrick Dougher, Darnell Brown and Matt Mann.

Dougher, one of the Raiders best guards, had a great performance to close out the last season. In a 62-58 win over the Somerville Panthers, Dougher scored a game high 22 points, highlighted by nine 3-point-

Dougher will most likely find him-

Raider Cagers Defeat Plainfield Girls, 50-31

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team opened its season on the right footing with a 50-31 victory over Plainfield on December 17 in Plainfield. Senior forward Aysia Peterson pulled 22 rebounds and put up 11 points.

Renee Oliver netted 13 points and grabbed six boards. Senior point guard Evie Klotz scored three points and added seven assists, five steals and four rebounds. Senior Rebecca Kreyer had six points, Taylor Sebolao had seven points, Tara Sweeney bucketed four, Katie Harped had three, Alyssa Riporti had two and Madison Maisel scored one point.

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood 15 13 15 7 50 Plainfield 11 4 7 9 31

self in the starting lineup again this year, but the other starting four are up in the air. Coach Doherty said he has not settled upon a starting five. "We are still tweaking, but it is very competitive. We can really go 10 deep and that makes us better. You know, in the first quarter I could realistically sub in all 10 at some point. It makes us better in practice, but it will also really help us wear teams down."

Joining forces with the five seniors is Matt Jegede, the 6'5" forward that recently finished up the fall football season as a wide receiver. Jegede will be expected to be a force under the boards and help the Raiders start the fast break.

The Raiders have a lofty goal for this season; to win the conference championship. "Every conference game is huge this season... if we want to win the conference we have to come to play for every game," said Coach Doherty, who is starting his 10th season as head coach of the Raiders. "We have picked up a few extra games, but the real key are those conference games. We haven't won a conference title in awhile."

Coach Doherty added one more thing before heading back to practice. "We don't shy away from anything. We know we are good. Now we just have to prove it.'

Raider Hoopsters Top Highlander Boys, 55-38

Three-pointers highlighted the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team's 55-38 victory over Governor Livingston in Scotch Plains on December 17. Charles Oliver banged in five 3-pointers en route to a 22-point game, and Pat Dougher, who finished with 14 points, sank three of his four 3-pointers in the first quarter when the Raiders

commanded a 25-8 lead. Raider Matt Jegede scored five points, while Dominic Gonzalez and Brandon Langston each netted four points. Kevin Ferguson led the Highlanders with 12 points and Logan

Gov. Livingston Sc. Pl.-Fanwood

Blue Devil Swim Girls Top BrH2O, Westfield Boys Fall

The Westfield High School girls swim team recorded a resounding, 101-69, victory over Bridgewater-Raritan at the Somerset Valley "Y" on December 17. The Westfield boys came up on the short end of a 115.5-54.5 decision to the powerful Panther

The Blue Devil girls aced nine of the 11 events against the Lady Panthers. Sarah Cronin took top honors in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 2:08.54 and the 100-freestyle at 58.97. Anna Fetter touched first in the 200-individual medley at 2:28.25 and the 100-butterfly at 1:06.38. Becky DeLaFuente won the 400freedtyle in 4:42.31, and Kylie Bangs won the 100-backstroke in 1:09.67. Caroline Baldwin touched first in the 50-freestyle at 27.42.

Blue Devils Meg Kaveney, Cronin, Baldwin and Loren Ball won the 200free relay with a time of 1:52.57. Ellie Reinhardt, Cronin, DeLaFuente and Fetter touched first in the 400-free relay at 4:04.84. Panthers Ashley

Blue Devils Take 3rd At Nutley Mat Tourney

The Westfield High School wrestling team placed third and claimed five champions at the Nutley Tournament on December 18. Nutley took first in the eight-team tournament with 192.5 points. Passaic Tech took second at 188.5 and the Blue Devils totaled 157.

Blue Devil junior Mike Kalimtzis pinned Austin Sisco (Pope John) in 0:49 to claim the 103-lb. title. Pat Currie won the 125-lb. crown with a 7-2 decision over James Bohn (Pope John). Nick Rotundo pinned Matt Salerno (Nutley) in 4:20 for the 135lb. title. Heavyweight Kyle Kania pinned Mohamed Traore (West Side) in 0:28, and Christian Barber pinned Eric Payne (Passaic Tech) in 4:21 for the 152-lb. title. Pelal Deeb (Passaic Tech) pinned Blue Devil Troy Skibitsky in 4:19 for the 145-lb. crown. Blue Devil Nick Valez placed third at 112 lbs.

Atherton, Mary Valenzuela, Emma Sommers and Dana Yu won the 200free relay in 2:02.5. Atherton won the 100-breaststroke in 1:20.21.

In the boys' meet, the Panthers grabbed top honors in every event except the 50-freestyle where Blue Devil Jack Lorentzen touched first with a time of 24.7. Panther Brian Barr was a double individual winner with times of 1:58.37 in the 200freestyle and 58.49 in the 100-free. Victor Luo won the 200-individual medley in 2:11.44 and the 100-breaststroke in 1:07.7. Matt Kendall won the 400-free in 4:21.17, and Evan Newbold won the 100-free in 55.78. Tom Rinaldi won the 100-backstroke in 1:00.64. The Panthers won the 200medley relay in 1:50.51, the 200-free relay in 1:41.7 and the 400-free relay

J.P. Stevens Defeat Raider Matmen 45-33

The J.P. Stevens High School wrestling team defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 45-33, in Edison on December 18. Nick Sebolao (135-lbs.) pinned Lou Fabionar in 58 seconds. Mike Steinfeld (140) pinned Anthony Rienzo in 3:20. Sean Cannon (145) pinned Greg Niemeyer in 1:56. John Devia (152) decisioned Justin Dean, 5-0. Luke Mineo (215) pinned Brandon Halper in 38 seconds, and heavyweight Anthony Tufaro received a forfeit. Freshman Mike Lettieri dropped a close, 11-7 decision.

See it all on the web in color. www.goleader.com

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

The Tax Assessment List for The Town-

ship of Scotch Plains for the 2011 Tax Year will be open for inspection on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. in the Tax Assessor's Office, RM. 122, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. Michael A. Ross, CTA

Tax Assessor 1 T - 12/23/10, The Times Fee: \$10.71

SPF Raider Swimmers Gear Up for Showdown with Blue Devils

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

took first in the 400-free relay at 3:49.42.

Bruce Johnson, who writes the 'Devils' Den" for The Westfield Leader and The Times, pointed out in his most-recent article on December 16 that the Raider boys swimming team may be the best in the history of the school. The dual meet showdown between the two rivals would also be a good indicator of who would prevail in the Union County Tournament (UCT), which is scheduled for January 29 at Rutgers University

The Westfield boys have dominated the UCT, winning 53 of 54, but it was the Raiders who snapped their 42year winning streak in 1999. With such names as Dave Russ, Steve and Chris Swenson, Jeff Wagner, Steve Berkowitz, Charlie Rowe, Chris Smith and Chris Karelus, the Raiders nipped the Blue Devils, 323.5-304, for the title on February 6. They also defeated the Blue Devils, 94-76, in a dual meet a few weeks before.

If this year's Raider boys team is possibly the best in school history then how do they stack up against the 1999 Raider team?

"Overall, the times from this team are faster. Most of the records the 1999 team had were broken by this team," said Raider Head Coach Jessica Hulnik, who has coached both teams.

"Also, our second- and third-lane swimmers are faster as well. However. there are some similarities as well. The swimmers on the current team like the ones on the 1999 team, are also very versatile. While they all have their specialties, we have many lineup options and rely heavily on our depth, much like we did back then."

The Raider girls won six of the 11 events against the Kent Place Lady Dragons, beginning with the 200medley relay where Jodie Thompson, Caitlin English, Caroline Lesce

Raider Boys Hold Off Newark Tech in Hoops

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team held off a furious surge to edge Newark Tech, 60-59, at the Hoop Group Tip Off Classic in Plainfield on December 18. Charles Oliver sank a game-high 23 points to lead the 2-0 Raiders.

The Raiders seized a 34-21 lead at the half, but watched it slip away in the fourth quarter. Oliver made good on eight free throws, especially in the final quarter, to hold off the Tech boys' surge. Pat Dougher scored 10 points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Matt Jegede scored seven points.

8 13 15 23 59 18 16 13 13 60 **Newark Tech** Sc. Pl.-Fanwood

and Ana Bogdanovski finished in 1:59.43.Dragons Hannah Benn at 2:02.57 and Jenna Immormino at 2:19.74 won the 200-freestyle and the 200-individual medley, respectively. Bogdanovski won the 50freestyle at 25.45 and the 100freestyle at 56.03, while Immormino won the 100-butterfly at 1:05.34.

English touched first in the 500freestyle with a time of 5:58.79. Dragons Olivia Wolff, Benn, Immormino and Blair McDonald won the 200freestyle relay in 1:54.68. Benn won the 100-backstroke in 1:05.87, and Raider Maddy Krema touched first in the 100-breaststroke at 1:18.15. Raiders Caroline Leahy, Demi DeBonis, Melissa Harris and Emily Ho touched first in the 400-freestyle relay with a time of 4:28.75.

The Raider girls' task would be much more difficult against the returning Public A Co-Champions, who easily leveled Summit, 111-59, when the Blue Devils won eight of the 11 events on December 14. The Hilltoppers touched first in the 200medley relay, the 100-freestyle and the 100-breaststroke. Blue Devil Kylie Bangs won the 200-freestyle with a time of 2:07.77, and Audrey Bangs won the 200-individual medley in

Blue Devil Loren Ball won the 50-

freestyle in 25.51, and Megan Kaveney touched first in the 100butterfly in 1:03.41. Allie Rose won the 500-freestyle in 5:46.51. Catherine Kerr, Kaveney, Maeve Maloney and Becky Zhang touched first in the 200freestyle relay at 1:48.11. Jess Cronin took top honors in the 100-backstroke at 1:02.98. Margaux Fleschler, Ball, Cronin and Kylie Bangs touched first

in the 400-freestyle relay at 3:56.1. "Westfield is returning a very strong team and seems to have several newcomers. After graduating a strong senior class last year, we will look to our returning swimmers and some new swimmers to step up and take on some new roles," Coach Hulnik said.

Raider Swim Boys Win, **Blue Devil Girls Win**

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys swim team defeated the Westfield boys, 109-61, and the Blue Devil girls defeated the Raiders, 120-50, at Wallace Pool in Westfield on December 21. See complete stories in the December 30 issue of *The* Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times.

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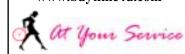
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The Mexifield Leader and The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES



ZANFARDINO, FEENEY, HOWARD SET TO MAKE WAVES

Cougar Boys Are Getting Used To Winning in Track and X-C

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Two straight North Jersey, Group 2, Section 2 cross-country championships has given this year's Cranford High School boys winter track team a ravenous appetite for success.

Veterans of the championship cross-country team, sophomore Tom Feeney, junior Eli Howard and seniors Mike Cassidy and Bill Haussner will be the base of the 1,600- and 3,200-meter events.

"They are getting used to winning. That means a lot, especially in the longer races. They have the mental attitude, the confidence to sit on the

guy's shoulder, pass him when you have to pass him [and] make your move. They are running confidently. They are in phenomenal shape," Cougar Head Coach Peter Kane said.

Another veteran, junior Mike Zanfardino, would appear to be able to compete in almost any event needed from the 55 hurdles up to the 800 meters, and maybe higher if needed.

"They are more than motivated. A couple of guys, like Mike Zanfordino, all he is talking about is nationals," noted Coach Kane.

The Cougar boys have a large contingent of underclassmen with only a few seniors on the squad, but the influx of multi-sport athletes should promise a fine season.

"The sophomores and juniors are all over the place. A couple of freshmen have impressed us. We do loose some seniors this year. They will be missed, but we have a lot of people right behind them. They want to be recognized. They want to be good," Coach Kane said.

Junior Walter James, a defensive back on the football team, sophomore James Bodries, senior Tom Folger and freshman Nelson White are expected to compete in the hurdles and sprints. Juniors Chris Witwick

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Merry Christmas to All!

VERY CLOSE ACTION INSIDE...A Roselle Ram, left, keeps the ball away from Cougar junior forward Kurt Rutmayer after grabbing a rebound in the first half. The Rams got a good lead in the first half to hold off the Cougars, 60-48.

TROTTER PUTS IN 30 POINTS, OSOFSKY BUCKETS 12

Roselle Ram Hoopsters Butt Cranford Cougar Boys, 60-48

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Acts of theft that led to two-point conversions by the visiting Roselle High School Rams boys basketball team were abound early, and it led to a 60-48 victory over the Cranford Cougars on December 17.

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Because of their apparent height disadvantage in the conference, the 0-1 Cougars needed to be an effective perimeter team, but on several occasions, the 1-0 Rams disrupted their strategy with timely steals. Ram senior center Shaquille Copeland bagged seven of his 11 points in the first quarter, including a steal to a slam-dunk that gave Roselle an 8-3 lead midway through

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Senior guard Sean Trotter banged a pair of 3-pointers and scored all eight of the Cougars' first-quarter points as the Rams rolled to a 16-8 lead. In that quarter, Trotter managed to take a charge, commit and act of theft and grab a rebound. Trotter finished the game with a careerhigh 30 points.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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A RAVENOUS APPETITE FOR SUCCESS... The Cougar boys winter track team is getting a ravenous appetite for success.

Some of the veterans pictured, left to right, are: front row; Tom Feeney, Eli Howard, Walter James, Rob Mullen and Paul Cassaro; back row, Billy Haussner, Mike Cassidy, Mike Zanfardino, JD Foye, Greg Miller and TJ Nichols.

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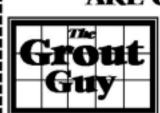
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Cougar XC Boys Are Getting Used to Winning

and Rob Mullin, sophomore Marvin Lewis and freshman Joe DaSilva are expected to focus on the 200- and 400-meter events, as well as the 4x400. A mob of athletes will compete in the 800, along with Zanfardino, which includes junior soccer player George El-Khoury, juniors Carl Lieberman and Paul Cassaro and freshman Vinnie Papandrea.

A pair of football players, juniors T.J. Nichols and J.D. Foye, will head the big boys in the shot put event, which will include juniors Greg Heller and Greg Miller, and freshman Rob O'Shaugnesy.

The Cougar boys have been savoring the success of the cross-country team, but they are keenly aware of the success of the girls track team the past few year, so their hunger has not yet been satisfied.

"The boys are getting tired of hearing about the girls, girls, girls.

They want to make their mark too. So is the coaching staff. We will never get tired of the girls being successful, but we want to have some guys out there. We want some guys to be known. Now that we have two back-to-back sectional champs from cross-country, these guys want to be a part of it. We make a big deal out of being a successful team, and that's contagious," Coach Kane said.



Cougar Christmas Snacks:



Bishop Ahr Matmen Top Cranford Cougars, 37-25

The Cranford High School wrestling team opened its season with a 37-25 setback to Bishop Ahr in Edison on December 18. The 0-1 Cougars won two bouts by fall, one by major decision and three by decision.

Cougar senior Joe Giaccio, an NJSIAA state tournament qualifier last year at 112-lbs, defeated Greg Mcrystal, 6-0, at 125-lbs. Three-time District 12 champion Kyle Markovitch decked Ryan Puff in 1:56 at 135-lbs. At 140-lbs, senior Eric Knight grabbed a 4-1 decision over Dan McAuley.

Cranford Cougars Dunk Rahway Swimmers

The Cranford High School co-ed swim team improved to 7-0 with a 117-50 dunking of the Rahway Indians on December 20. The Cougars took top honors in nine of the 11

Cougars Dan Couto, Eric Walano, Rob Lento, and Bill Bender touched first in the 200-medley relay with a time of 2:06.27. Emily Harvan won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:39.21. Ivanna Gomez touched first in the 200-individual medley with a time of

Cougar Owen Vaughn won the 100butterfly in 1:08.16, and Dmitriy Kotov touched first in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 55.32. Woo won the 500-freestyle with a time of 6:08.97. Couto, Jennifer Heine, Vaughn and Gabriel Nino won the 200-freestyle relay in 1:55.31. Lucas Jayne touched first in the 100-yard backstroke in 1:15.42. Gomez, Nick Kalafatis, Sam Scher and Andrew Schneider touched first in the 400free relay in a time of 4:14.28.

Cougar senior Matt DiGiovanni took another step forward by claiming a 14-5, majority decision over John Dean at 145-lbs. At 160-lbs. junior J.P. Christiano came up with a big, 6-3 victory over junior Taylor Black, who was also a state qualifier last year. Cougar sophomore Rob Kessler recorded a 3:45 fall over Kyle Whittaker at 189-lbs.

Bishop Ahr received a forfeit at 103-lbs and added another six team points when Kyle Brady pinned Mike Helmstetter in 1:34 at 112-lbs. Brian Mcrystal earned an 8-2 decision over Cougar Corey Birch at 119-lbs. Cougar Ian Henry dropped a 10-4 decision to Tyler Ringwood at 130-lbs. Cougar Jim Dwyer was burned, 5-4, by Corey Lorentzen at 152-lbs. Bishop Ahr's CJ Hart won by fall at 171-lbs, Steve Price decisioned Jeff Weiss, 10-7, at 215-lbs and heavyweight Jack McAdoo pinned Ryan Farrell in 1:32.

Cougar Swimmers Sink Iselin Kennedy, 95-75

The Cranford High School co-ed swim team sank Iselin Kennedy, 95-75, on December 14. The 6-0 Cougars touched first in six of the 11

Cougars Nick Kalafatis, Rob Lento, Eric Walano and Christian Woo touched first in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:52.66. Walano won the 50-freestyle in 23.99, and Dmitriy Kotov touched first in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 56.48. Kalafatis took top honors in the 500freestyle with a time of 5:37.2. Kotov, Lento, Kalafatis and Walano won the 200-freestyle relay in 1:41.92. Woo won the 100-backstroke in 1:10.6.

Cougar Cagers Crush

The Cranford High School girls Wischesun each added two points.

Lady Pioneers Defeat Cougar Cagers, 52-36

cluding a pair of 3-pointers, for the 1-2 Cougars. Jess McCoy had 10 points, Kate McGovern put in eight and Jenna Goeller had six points. Cassandra Squeri led the 2-0 Pioneers with 16 points, and Kaitlyn Cresencia added 14 points.

New Providence

Cranford Cougars, 2-1

ice hockey team nipped the 3-3 Cranford Cougars, 2-1, at Warinanco Arena in Roselle on December 15. Mendham scored twice in the second period, the first by John Gionco and the second by Matt Farina. Russ Harvey scored in the third period for the Cougars.

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Hudson Catholic Girls

basketball team evened its record to 1-1 with a 48-7 victory over Hudson Catholic in Cranford on December 18. Junior guard Morgan Miller sank 14 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and made seven steals for the Cougars. Senior guard Sara Gugliucci scored eight points freshman forward Carly Maucione bucketed seven points. Sophomore guard Jess McCoy had six points, Mairead McKeary had four points and Jenna Goeller had three, while Jackie Monteagudo, Kate McGovern and Aaron

The New Providence High School girls basketball team jumped out to a big first-quarter lead, withstood a second-quarter comeback and added a strong third-quarter surge to defeat the Cranford Cougars, 52-36, in Cranford on December 21.

Morgan Miller sank 12 points, in-

16 4 17 15 52 9 11 6 10 36 Cranford

Mendham Icemen Ice

The 4-2 Mendham High School



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ON THE VERGE OF A BIG GAME...Cougar senior guard Sean Trotter, right, scored a career-high 30 points against the Roselle Rams in Cranford on December 17.

Roselle Rams Cagers Butt Cougar Boys, 60-48

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Cougars were more effective under the boards in the second quarter. Senior forward Bryan Fitzsimmons had five rebounds in the first half. Senior guard Joey Papandrea added three rebounds an assist and a steal, and junior guard Sean Babos had a pair of rebounds

Senior guard Mark Osofsky also got into the long-range act in the second quarter and hit a pair of 3pointers, but the Cougars' shooting percentage was not up to the grade that it needed to be. Osofsky, who also had a steal in the first half, finished with 12 points. Trotter added three free throws, but the Rams won the quarter, 12-9, to take a 28-17 lead at the half. "We had some opportunities but

could not make the big shot," Cougar Head Coach Ryan Huber said. "We cut the lead to nine, had a great look, but it did not fall. We have to improve and [we] cannot shoot five for 21 in the first half."

The Cougars held their own on the scoreboard in the second half. After the Rams won the third quarter, 18-14, the Cougars won the fourth quarter, 17-14. Cougar junior forward Kurt Rutmayer finished with four points, and sophomore forward Reggie Green finished with two points. Roselle Ram senior guard Dwight Bostic, who hit nine points in the first half, finished with a teamhigh 22 points.

After competing in the Crusader Classic Holiday Tournament on December 27 through December 29, the Cougars will host Elizabeth on Tuesday, January 4, at 4 p.m. On Thursday, January 6, national power St. Patrick's will roll into town to take on the Cougars at 4 p.m.

16 12 18 14 60 8 9 14 17 48 Roselle



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times COUGAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK...Brandon Chan, freshman on the varsity bowling team who has had a tremendous season so far, bowled a third game 204 last week, which resulted in another Cougar win.







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EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL First Marking Period

WESTFIELD - Principal Cheryl O'Brien has announced Edison Intermediate School's First Marking Period Honor Roll.

Grade 7 Distinguished Honor Roll

Robert Abbott, Sophia Alvarez, Isaac Amador, Quentin Barbarat, Sydney Barber, Jake Barrow, Noelle Blackford, Sarah Broughton, Courtney Casale, Albert Chen, William Cook, John Cote, Ryan Daniel, Theodore Dannevig, Evan Davis, Marina De Cotiis, Abigail Demers, Isabella Depalma, Elisabeth Diamantopoulos, Elena Elliott, Lucas Fan, Alan Fang, Tyler Faris, Sara Fetter, Jack Fico, Jared Foley, Lauren Freidenrich, Ben-jamin Friedman, Rachel Geskin, Michael Guarnuccio, Hannah Haar, Michael Healey, Jordan Hindes, Allison Hopper, Tiffani Hui, Kelly Jiang, Stephanie Jung, Natalie Karter, Shanna Kelly, Eden Kettleson, Raquel Levy, Robert Li, Justin Lin, Johnny Link, Briana Litchholt, Jesse Liu, Celeste Loffredo, Neil Makhija, Felicia Mermer, Carlee Miller, Allyson Morgenthal, Kathleen Nogan, Shannon O Donnell, Kevin Palmer, Anthony Pericolo, Julia Pikaart, Nova Qi, Jenna Rediker, Jenna Reed, Mackey Rembisz, Lauren Rigney, Christopher Rinaldi, Amelia Ritter, Fiona Rosenthal, Claudia Savickas. Nathan Simon Julia Simpson, Elizabeth Smith, William Stern, Emma Stierhoff, Alexa Stiles, Kelsey Swingle, Katherine Tang, Evan Trott, Megan Troutman, Gillian Wadman, Marisa Wang, Allison Worms, Connie Wu, Justin Yoon

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Maggie Ahern, Madison Albin, Ariana Alvarado, Matthew Baker, Caroline Barry, Ryan Bass, Chloe Beauchamp, Luke Beaulieu, Samantha Beurer, Christopher Boutsikaris, Isabella Bowen, Kevin Bronander, Katherine Brown, Samuel Brown, Ife Campbell, Amanda Canavan, Victoria Cappo, Michael Carides, Christopher Cerrachio, Michelle Ciampa, John Ciarrocca, Isabelle Cohen, Brendan Collum, Nicole Cristiano, Isabella D'Olier-Lees, Ryan Dang, Brian Decristofaro, Leo Delaney, George Devanney, Julia Di Bella, Cristian Dobosiewicz, Kelly Dorry, Kevin Dougherty, Paul Dunham, Carlie Fasano, Alicia Ferrullo, Celine Fitzpatrick, Madeline Flaherty, John Frankola, William Frey, Julia Frontero, Danielle Gabuzda, Sean Gallagher, Daniel Gigon, Katharine Gillen, Alex Gold, Ryan Hach, Bridget Harrington, Tadj Hayward, Alexander Heber, Liam Heinbokel, Jackson Hughes, Paul Jakobovic, Carly Kandel, Yeoun Ju Kim, Jake Klofta, Nedim Kocagil, Emily Labrozzi, Christopher Lamanna, Max Landau, Brian Lawrence, Brandon Leuthold, Jakob Lorenzo, Jessie Luterbach, Cody Lynes, Madeleine Lysek, Christian Mancheno, Michael Masciale, Sara Massimo, Patrick Mc Cormack, Nicholas Mele, Megan Melillo, Raquel Mennella, Amanda Mo, Amalia Montes, Evan Moore, Emily Mordkovich, Gali Moritz, Matthew Mulvey, Morgan Nitti, Emma Ohlig, Matthew Osment, Samuel Pastuzyn, Merve Pekdemir, Hailey Reilly, Eric Reynolds, Tyler Ricci, Nicholas Rizzi, Michael Rossi, Hope Rothenberg, Holden Sabato, Thomas Sabato, Marcella Sabino, Danielle Sawyer, Lauren Schnepf, Dylan Scott, Devin Simpson, Molly Skowron, Bradley Smith, Douglas Smith, Ethan Smith, Ryan Soldati, Camryn Sullivan, Robert Suriano, Aaron Tavasi, Shelby Taylor, Kelly Travers, Eric Varakian, Michael Vricella-Stokes, Sara Webber, Matthias White,

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Mountainside PTA Holds Bingo Night

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learning issues.

Kean Students Complete

at Kean University joined forces with more than 30 students from nearly a dozen groups on campus on Novem-

Christmas Child. A program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child assembles shoeboxes filled with gifts for boys and girls, ages 2 to 14, across the globe. While the Hu-

man Rights Club set out to fill 50 boxes in their inaugural participation in this event, they succeeded in assembling 126 boxes.

dent and founding member of the Human Rights Club, the group was overjoyed that so many people came

'This will change many children's lives this Christmas," said Ms. Rivera, a senior psychology major from

"Operation Christmas Child is an

Grade 8 Honor Roll

iams, Mikayla Williams, Harry Williamson. Eli Wirtshafter, Katelyn Zelko

Mountainside PTA has invited all families to its Bingo and Board Games-Family Fun Night on Friday, January 7, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Deerfield School.

There will be games and snacks. Entrance is free. For more information, contact Sherri DeNora at chuchi3671@comcast.net.

WESTFIELD-The Westfield Public School District recognizes the importance of providing services to children with special needs through its Project Child Find efforts.

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Nicole Yacek, junior dual special edu-

cation/P-3 major from Rahway, who

helped bring the initiative to Kean.

dren receive a book in their own lan-

guage that talks about Jesus and how

He gives the greatest gift of all -

The filled shoeboxes were deliv-

ered to the Christ Fellowship Church

in Elizabeth, a nearby Operation

Christmas Child drop-off location,

Club are to protect and address hu-

man-rights issues through empower-

ing students through education and

For more information about Op-

eration Christmas Child, visit

operationchristmaschild.org.

The objectives of the Human Rights

love," she added.

the following day.

awareness.

In addition to the shoeboxes, chil-

tion and listening and/or significant

Operation Christmas Child Sometimes, it is the first gift these UNION – The Human Rights Club children have ever received," said

ber 18 in Downs Hall for Operation

According to Janine Rivera, presitogether to create so many boxes.

Donations included basic packing supplies such as shoeboxes, wrapping paper, tape and other materials needed to prepare the boxes for shipment. Inside each box was an assortment of school supplies, hygiene items, toys, candy, clothes and other essentials along with a personalized note or Christmas card for the recipient.

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More Letters to the Editor

A Clink of The Glass As a **Way of Giving Thanks**

A New Jersey Christmas Story

There is a lot of running around that occurs this time of year. Families gather, friends host party and it seems that we all spend a little more time in the car. Of course at these gatherings it is not uncommon that people will have a drink or two, a toast to friendship and love. A clink of

the glass as a way of giving thanks. Inevitability, some people will drink too much and get behind the wheel. This action will put countless people at risk and will likely cause great heartbreak for many. The limit for a person's blood alcohol content under the law is .08. No

exceptions Since it is unlikely that people carry with them monitors, it is up to the person having the drink and the person serving them to make sure that anyone taking to the road is physically and mentally able to do so. It is unfortunate that letters like this are still necessary. With all the facts,

'Twas the night before Christmas, when

not a legislator was stirring, not even a

Their stockings were hung by their

in hopes that special interests and lob-

The legislators were all comfy and

while visions of payola, patronage and double-dippensions danced in their heads.

The majority of the public couldn't

while trying to figure out how to pay

When out in the street there arose such

I emerged from my depression to see

In the street was a sleigh pulled by a

of convicted felons, corrupt politicians

With a rather large driver so lively and

I knew in a moment it was Gov. Chris

More rapid than eagles his felons they

he whistled and shouted and called

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE

CONSTRUCTION

BOARD OF APPEALS

(IN COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN

PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, CHAPTER

231, P.L. 1975)

NOTICE is hereby given by the Town-

ship of Scotch Plains of the following 2011

schedule of meetings of the Construc-

tion Board of Appeals to be held in the

Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue,

Scotch Plains, New Jersey on the first

Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m.,

Wednesday, January 5th - 8:00 a.m.

February 2nd

March 2nd

April 6th

May 4th

June 1st

July 6th

August 3rd

September 7th

October 5th

November 2nd

December 7th

The above schedule allows the option of

calling a special meeting when necessary. 1 T - 12/23/10, The Times Fee: \$27.03

PUBLIC NOTICE

unless otherwise indicated.

all through the state house

byists soon would be there.

offices with care,

snug in their beds,

their property tax.

what was the matter.

real motley crew,

to name just a few.

them by name.

a clatter,

all the dangers and warnings and the constant police presence, I would hope that people would be responsible.

As they always are, officers will be on the roads looking for impaired drivers and taking them off the roads quickly, hopefully before they can do any harm to others. Those arrested will face stiff pen-

alties. No exceptions. Please have the strength to do what is right when out celebrating. Find a designated driver, think ahead and have the name of a taxi company programmed into your cell phone or, if you decide to have an extra drink, first ask someone

responsible to hold onto your car keys. There is no shame in doing the right thing. There are serious consequences if you do not.

Now Sharp James, now Bryant, now Lynch, and Steele did I see,

and Janiszewski.

a bullish mad hatter.

reforms too.

masses

interests a**e*.

he turned with a jerk.

conviction.

addiction.

out of sight.

a good night.

gave a command,

on Mattison, on Van Pelt on Hackett

So up to the state house roof the felons

with Gov. Christie and his tool kit of

His girth made a chimney descent an

A sack full of changes he had flung on

he looked like a reformer just opening

to make some changes and kick special

His opponents they squealed and the accusations they flew, from the NJEA, the unions, to name

He paid them no heed and went straight

cutting spending, setting tax caps, then

He gave me a stern look and spoke with

"We just have to stop this spending

He sprang to his sleigh to the felons he

and away they all flew like Springsteen's E Street Band.

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove

Merry Christmas New Jersey and to all

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

has awarded a Contract without competi

tive bidding as a Professional Service and/

or Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service pursuant to **N.J.S.A.** 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i). This

Contract, and the Resolution authorizing

it, are available for public inspection in the

AWARDED TO: Edward Dunne, Esq.;

410 Route 10 West, Suite 214, Ledgewood,

Scotch Plains Municipal Building.

SERVICES: Hearing Officer

TIME PERIOD: 2010-2011

DATE: December 21, 2010

New Jersey 07852.

The TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

Greg Cummings

Fanwood

his pack. "I've come to Trenton elected by the

obvious moot matter, so he burst through the front door like

Theodore J. Romankow **Prosecutor of Union County**

Honor Roll for First Quarter AREA-Ann Hergenrother, Middle John Anderson-Schmitt, Cecily D'Amore, Deblina Mukherjeeand and Max Needle; and Mountainside

Wardlaw Announces

The Mestfield Leader and The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES

School head at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in North Edison, has announced the names of students from Westfield, Mountainside and Scotch Plains who have been placed on the Honor Roll and Honor Roll with Distinction for the first trimester of the 2010-2011 academic vear.

The students named to the Honor Roll with Distinction earned an average of 93 or higher.

These students include: Westfield resident Carlin Schildge: Scotch Plains residents

The students named to the Honor Roll earned an average of 87 or higher. These students include:

resident Christopher Hillenbrand.

Handzy, Michael Kieselstein, Nelson Schildge, Alejandro Vollbrechthausen and Christopher Zdenek; and Scotch

Club is Saving Lives

'One Leaf at a Time'

High School (WHS) Oddjobs for

Charity Club has been hard at work

through the fall raking leaves to

The club was founded last year

by a small group of sophomores

looking to make a difference in the

world. Through shoveling, raking

and other chores, the club, with a

variety of other fundraisers, raised

The students' goal is to raise

\$5,000 by the end of their senior

year to fund the construction of a

clean-water well in Africa. The

students have managed to expand

their club this year and are just

wrapping up their raking season.

Although the raking season is

almost over, the club is open to

any miscellaneous chores and also

offers a snow-shoveling service.

If one would like to donate to the

club or is interested in its ser-

vices, the club can be contacted at

www.goleader.com

oddjobsforcharity@gmail.com.

See it all on the web in color.

raise money for charity.

almost \$2,000 last year.

WESTFIELD - The Westfield

Westfield residents Matthew Plains residents Rida Aziz, Nicholas D'Amore, Claude Djan, Claire Greaney, Jake Payami, Joshua Schlisserman and Brandon Yin.



LEAVE IT TO THIS CLUB...Volunteers, shown from left to right, Brandon Levan, Wilson Cheung, Tom Edwards, Brian Duffy and Scott Sullivan take part in the Westfield High School (WHS) Oddjobs for Charity Club and are ready, willing and able to take on snow-shoveling projects once all the leaves have been raked.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinance was finally adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey, on the 21st of Decem-

> ORDINANCE NO. 24-2010 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING SECTION 23-2 ENTITLED "GENERAL PRO-VISIONS" BY CREATING NEW SUBSECTION 23-2.4 **ENTITLED "REQUEST FOR** REZONING.

> ORDINANCE NO. 25-2010 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER II OF THE TOWN-SHIP CODE ENTITLED, "AD-**MINISTRATION" BY AMEND-**ING SECTION 2-3.9 EN-TITLED, "PURCHASING" BY
> (I) DEFINING THE PURCHAS-ING FUNCTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, AND
> (II) DEFINING THE PURCHAS-ING FUNCTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER IF DESIGNATED TO SERVE AS QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT (QPA) IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PUB-LIC CONTRACTS LAW.

Municipal Clerk 1 T - 12/23/10, The Times Fee: \$18.36

BOZENA LACINA, RMC

BOZENA LACINA

1 T - 12/23/10, The Times Fee: \$34.17

PUBLIC NOTICE

COST: not to exceed \$5,000.00

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES 1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 605 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on 1/11/11, downloaded, and publicly opened and read, from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.1 et seq.; in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton,

New Jersey 08625; for: Maintenance Roadway Repair Contract Central, Sub-Region C-2, Contract No. C203, Routes 12, U.S. 22, 27, 28 & U.S. 206; Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties; 100% State; DP No: 10437

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 N.J.A.C 17:27. The awarded bidder must provide a completed Contractor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form(s) according to both P.L 2205, C.51 and Executive Order No. 117 within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Executive Order No: 117 is effective on November 15, 2008. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue, Business Registration, as of the date of bids. The awarded bidder must provide proof of valid business registration within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act", N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance, at the time of bid. The awarded bidder must provide proof

of PWCR within fourteen (14) days from the award date. The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the project award.

Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bidx.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe follow the instructions on the website. 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:

Mt. Arlington, NJ Freehold, NJ 973-770-5141 732-308-4025 3 T - 12/23/10, 12/30/10 and 1/6/11, The Leader

200 Stierli Court

Route 79 and Daniels Way 1 Executive Campus Rt 70W Cherry Hill, NJ 856-486-6624 Fee: \$201.96

MUNICIPAL CLERK **PUBLIC NOTICE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES 1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 605 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on 1/13/11, downloaded, and publicly opened and read, from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.1 et seq.; in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625: for:

Maintenance Regional Milling Contract, North - 2011, Various Location in the Counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren (Including and North of Route57); 100% State; DP No: 10486

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 N.J.A.C 17:27. The awarded bidder must provide a completed Contractor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form(s) according to both P.L 2205, C.51 and Executive Order No. 117 within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Executive Order No: 117 is effective on November 15, 2008. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue Business Registration, as of the date of bids. The awarded bidder must provide proof of valid business registration within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act", N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c 91), all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of age and Hour Compliance, at the time of bid. The awarded bidder must provide proof of PWCR within fourteen (14) days from the award date.

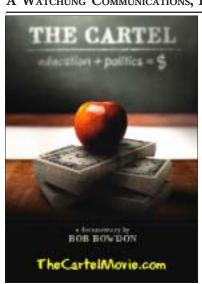
The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the project award.

Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bidx.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe follow the instructions on the website. 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:

Route 79 and Daniels Way Freehold, NJ Mt. Arlington, NJ 973-770-5141 732-308-4025 3 T - 12/16/10, 12/23/10 and 12/30/10, The Leader

200 Stierli Court

1 Executive Campus Rt 70W Cherry Hill, NJ 856-486-6624 Fee: \$201.96



Year-In-Review Continues

Westfield Community Players (WCP) continued its 75th season with Dial "M" for Murder by Frederick Knott.

Blackmail, murder, hidden identities, with a few twists thrown in for good measure, made Westfield's Murder, directed by Steve Lemenille, an evening of intrigue.

The play's plot is based on the ageold convention of a cheating spouse who lusts for money and concocts "the perfect crime." Act I was overly ripe with exposition, but a suspenseful Act II was faster-paced, with twists in the plot that peel away like layers of a Bermuda onion. Fine acting throughout held the production together.

 Susan M. Dougherty The Victorian setting was taken to the extreme when Westfield High School presented *The Mystery of Edwin* Drood, for even the lobby was bedecked in a lace -curtained ceiling and

The play, written by Rupert Holmes, is based on the uncompleted final novel of Charles Dickens, and utilized two period theatrical techniques: a "Principal Boy," and pantomime. While the intended ending remained a mystery, Mr. Holmes let the audience decide on three aspects of the ending. By an audience vote, two of the three were selected at the end of Act II. Even during intermission, the cast members juggled and entertained the audience with their interaction, giving all members their much-deserved moments to shine.

the ushers were costumed.

~ Susan M. Dougherty

April

Earth science and Project '79 teacher Sara Soriente, a passionate, demonstrative educator at Westfield High School, spent her spring break in Fond Parisien, Haiti, serving those affected by the January earthquake.

Her trip was sponsored by Foundation for Peace. Mr. Soriente's efforts CDs," said one Sound Station patron. ~ Eric Nierstedt

The Artist Framer was the venue for an eclectic group of work by the Watchung-based Contemporary Art Group. From portraits to sculpture, from encaustic to photography, 80 exquisite creations of this diverse and multitalented group were displayed. Several of the participating artists were from

Artist Framer proprietor Stefanie Lalor was as pleased to host the CAG exhibit as the group was to be there. The CAG Exhibit is a fun show by a fun and talented art group," she said. ~ Marylou Morano

The Cartel, a movie by filmmaker Bob Bowdon that sheds light on corruption and waste in New Jersey public schools, was screened for one night only on April 19 at the Rialto Theatre.

A winner of seven film-festival awards, including the Jersey Shore Film Festival and the Washington, D.C. Visionary Award, The Cartel is an indepth look at how the system is failing students, parents and teachers.

Mr. Bowdon employed a journalistic approach on his quest to find how tax dollars are being spent in the public-education world. While there are a myriad of factors that have led to - what Mr. Bowdon believes is – a gradual deterioration of the public-school system, his movie follows the money trail.

Mr. Bowdon said his instinct was to approach preserving the status quo in education from a satirical perspective. "The only problem was," he said, "the more I got into the topic, the less funny I thought it was.'

~ Michael Pollack

Westfield author Josie Vargareleased her second book, "Visits from Heaven," a collection of first-person accounts from people who have received communiqué from loved ones who have passed over to "the other side."

"Visits from Heaven" contains more than 60 poignant – and joyful – stories of dreams, signals and signs from the dead to the living. Ms. Varga realizes that some people may not be comfortable reading a book that addresses conversing with the dead and believes this is because people are generally afraid of the unknown.

It is these people who she especially hopes will find solace in the book.

"I want people to understand that there is no real death. We are so much more than our physical bodies. We are spiritual beings having a human experience, not the other way around," she

~ Marylou Morano

Twenty-four brides walked down the aisle at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) on April 24 when the United Methodist Women presented "Here Come the Brides – 100 Years of



A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS...The Washington School Players donned Beatles-inspired attire to perform "With a Little Help from My Friends" during the 62nd annual show fundraiser, Believe, starting in late January. The story centered around a Westfield High School student who becomes a contestant on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" to raise money to save Mindowaskin Park. The faith and support of her family and friends help make her a winner.

were embraced by the Westfield community, which held several fundraisers to help finance her trip. As part of her volunteer activities, Ms. Soriente taught 60 students in each of two tent school sessions.

"I can't imagine doing anything else during spring break," she said.

~ Maggie Fram

Paul Grellong's Manuscripts - which was performed by Union County College's professional theater company, The Theater Project - was literally "puzzling" to the members of the audience. They were given pieces of a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle and, in 90 minutes, needed to arrange them from what was revealed throughout the

Billed as a mystery, Manuscripts deals with the death of friendship. Everything in playwright Grellong's script was meaningful. The dialogue often funny and filled with wit and, at other times, a bit long – was precise in detail. The play asked the characters, as well as the audience, to question where their moral compass lies. The time of the play was present day, but the heart of the age-old situation of duplicity, jealousy and revenge was timeless. ~ Susan M. Dougherty

Westfield's Sound Station Records took part in a celebration of the independent record store on April 17.

The day was designed to foster a celebration of music and the musicstore operators, who still play a vital role in music distribution, even in a digital age.

To mark the day, the store received special shipments of vinyl records to sell to collectors. A group of performers, sponsored by New York radio station 101.9 RXP and led by station personality Rich Russo, performed acoustically. The nearly 30-year-old vinyl-music form has undergone a major resurgence in the last few years.

"They just have a better sound than

Walking Down the Aisle," a fundraiser to benefit various church-related projects. Women from the congregation and its associated ministries modeled wedding gowns or those of their friends and relatives.

Charlotte Broadwell of Westfield, affectionately known as the FUMC's "grandmother of all brides," organized the event, which was based on a similar show held at FUMC 25 years ago. ~ Marylou Morano

<u>May</u>

The Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) held a performance on May 8 at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield entitled "We the People." The performance marked the culmination of the WSO's two-season initiative, "Sound Partnerships," which featured collaborations with other arts organizations and resulted in unique performances that neither organization could present by itself.

WSO Music Director David Wroe led the orchestra in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, while his wife, Shuang Guo, the music director of The Chinese American Music Ensemble and Zhiyin Chorus, conducted Xian's "Yellow River Cantata, a suite of six programmatic movements. The title of the concert, "We the People," referred to the messages conveyed by both pieces human camaraderie, human dignity and the struggle for justice against oppres-

~ Greg Waxberg

In May, the photography of Cranford resident and Westfield Leader/ Times photographer Paul Lachenauer was on exhibit at the Johnson & Johnson World Headquarters Gallery in New Brunswick. The exhibit was a compilation of two of Mr. Lachenauer's projects: "Recent Landscapes," a color series of modern urban and suburban infrastructure made between 2008 and 2009, and "Recent Street Portraits," a black-andwhite series made between 2003 and

Both series were shot with mediumformat film cameras and highlighted everyday objects and people.

"The landscapes and portraits are beautiful and thought-provoking in the way they reveal the nuances of the environments and people we come across every day," commented Monvan Hu, arts administrator and exhibits coordinator for the corporate art program at Johnson & Johnson.

~ Marylou Morano

The Alliance Repertory Theater Company, in residence at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway, perfomed Drunken City, a romantic comedy by Adam Bock. Under the tight direction of Michael Driscoll, six talented actors discovered the meaning of friendship and authentic feelings during one drunken night.

The play was not weighed down with scenery or props in this black-box production, but it worked because the lighting units, upstage of the actors, set various moods. The drunken night easily could have become a literary conceit that did not work, with so much of the play being told via the girls' drunken stupor. With fine acting, however, and Michael Driscoll's smart direction, it did work, and by the end, Bock's characters woke up and saw something that causes them to realize that they cannot continue to live the way they once did. ~ Susan M. Dougherty

The Westfield Community Players' WCP) May offering of the British farce Caught in the Net moved with the energy and speed of an out-of -control locomotive running downhill, crashing to a surprise ending. There was no subtlety or sensitivity here; parodies and a running gay gag contributed to the clever mayhem. The play was directed by comedic actor John Correll, who grabbed the audience with the comedy and did not let go until the last surprising lines of the play.

~ Susan M. Dougherty

The Westfield Public School District's Fine Arts Show (FAS), held at Westfield High School from May 18-20, was one of the highlights of the academic year, providing members of the educational community, as well as the general public, the opportunity to see the immense artistic talent of Westfield public-school students and the focused direction of their instruc-

The event featured more than 500 pieces of artwork, created by students representing all 10 public schools and grades ranging from kindergarten to 12. "The FAS provides an opportunity for our students to not only admire their own work in a public setting but to aspire to the heights reached by our Art IV students at the high school," said Linda King, supervisor of fine arts in the Westfield Public Schools.

~ Marylou Morano In late May, Westfield's Full Count Jazz Band returned to the Crossroads to play a tribute set to legendary bandleader/composer and Jersey native, Count Basie. Full Count played classic compositions expertly, turning out excellent renditions of Basie's work, including two unnamed numbers. Full Count has noted that its strength lies in its members playing not only Big Band standards, but also more recent songs arranged from that style. Overall, the tribute was gripping and well-performed.

~ Eric Nierstedt

June

The Friends of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra presented its annual Notable Homes Tour on June 5, featuring four Westfield homes and one in Cranford. Since the tour was held one month later than usual, there was the opportunity to also see the homes' spectacular gardens.

Elizabeth Ryan, WSO marketing director, said she was thrilled to see the large turnout for the tour. "This year, we had people from all over New Jersey," she said, "with much appreciation for the annual fundraiser. "The orchestra wouldn't be the orchestra it is without the critical support of the Friends...." ~ Christie Storms

The Crossroads played host to a bevy of bands as part of a benefit to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The night showcased five very different bands that all played their hearts out for the cause. The Ugly Club, Tattle Tales, the Ben Folds Five Martian and Bah Bah Baran performed.

~ Eric Nierstedt The Continuo Arts Foundation's Children's Chorus, a group of 6 to 13year-olds from Westfield and the surrounding area, performed at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall on June 20. The chorus performed with world-famous violinist and conductor André Rieu, his Johann Strauss Orchestra and Brazilian singing sensation Carmen Monarcha.

The children accompanied Ms. Monarchain singing Michael Jackson's "Earth Song," in an epic musical tribute to the late pop star who died almost exactly a year prior to the performance. The Continuo Children's Chorus was chosen to perform alongside Rieu and Monarcha because of its "reputation for excellence and previous national and international performance experience on world-class stages," said Candace Wicke, the Continuo Arts Foundation's president and executive director.

~ Tom Fortunato

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (HTGOC) held its fourth annual Fine Art and Photography Exhibit at the



Susan M. Dougherty for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* LISTEN UP....Co-producer of *Robbin' Hood* Carmen Bernstein (Julia Babis), bedecked in furs, set the cast and crew straight in March in Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's Curtains by Rupert Holmes. The show-within-a-show coproducer Christopher Belling (Michael Harrison), pictured far left, choreographer Bobby Pepper (Charles Centinaro) and ingénue Niki Harris (Madeline Dillon) got a lesson on show people from Carmen.

church's Bouras Center. The event, which was sponsored by the church's Ladies Philoptochos (Friends of the Poor) Society, spotlighted the artwork of 11 artists of Hellenic heritage.

One of the missions of the Philoptochos Society is to provide a forum for Greek-American artists and all students and collectors interested in the visual arts. The society is also well known for its charitable help to those in need. Proceeds raised by this year's Fine Art and Photography Exhibit were used to support the Arts and Philoptochos' humanitarian efforts, which included relief to Haiti.

~ Marylou Morano

Westfield's First Methodist Church was filled with the sounds and languages of peoples all across the world, as the eclectic Guy Mendilow Band (GMB) performed the final date of Coffee with a Conscience. The Community Food Bank of New Jersey was the beneficiary.

Formed by lead singer, guitarist and musical bow player Guy Mendilow, the band's music reflected the longtraveled life of its namesake, who was born in Israel and has lived in various countries, including South Africa, Bra-

zil, Mexico and the United States. "I don't look at my music as mixing cultures. It's simply who I am and where I've been," Mr. Mendilow said of his band's unique approach. "Music is a natural language. People just speak with different dialects.

~ Eric Nierstedt

Art was literally in the air throughout Cranford when the entire town morphed into an outdoor studio for its first annual "Paint the Town Plein Air Event and Art Sale.'

Jointly sponsored by Jersey Central Art Studios (JCAS), the Cranford Chamber of Commerce and the Cranford Downtown Management Corporation, the event drew 30 painters from nine states; they set up easels on Cranford street corners and other picturesque locations throughout the town.

Spectators were allowed to watch the artists in action and chat with them as they worked during the four-day event, which was held from June 11 to June 13.

"The event was a huge success, and I was pleased that we had so many talented artists participating," said Deb Leber, JCAS president.

Editor's Note: Ms. Morano culled the arts year-in-review to-

~ Marylou Morano

Celebrity Soloists to Join WSO on New Year's Eve

WESTFIELD - On Friday, December 31, at 7 p.m., the fully professional Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO), under the baton of Maestro David Wroe presents The Great American Songbook, a revue of American musical theater classics featuring four soloists from the Broadway stage and beyond.

WSO will welcome back renowned American baritone Leon Williams. who received a spontaneous mid-concert standing ovation for his rendition of Old Man River at last year's con-

Mr. Williams has performed as a soloist with the National Philharmonic, Honolulu Symphony and the Florida Orchestra, as well as the Baltimore, Reading, Grand Rapids, Hartford and Colorado Symphonies; he is a regular performer at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall.

Michele Ragusa will also join the WSO. A soprano known for her stage presence and musical intelligence, Ms. Ragusa, a Mountainside resident, was recently seen on Broadway starring as Elizabeth in Young Frankenstein, Penny and Hope in Urinetown and Evelyn in *Ragtime*.

She has toured nationally with Fiddler On The Roof, West Side Story and Nunsense II, and has numerous regional credits. Many will know her for her frequent starring roles in Paper Mill Playhouse productions, including The Full Monty and She Loves Me.

The New Year's Eve celebration also features the husband-and-wife duo of Gary Mauer and Elizabeth Southard, who recently starred together in Broadway's Phantom of the Opera.

Mr. Mauer most recently starred in the Broadway production of The Phantom of the Opera, playing the Phantom. Broadway and National tour credits also include Les Miserables, The Music of Andrew Lloyd Weber, Show Boat, Jesus Christ Superstar, Sweeney Todd and Pirates of Penzance.

Mr. Mauer has traveled extensively with Marvin Hamlisch and has sung "All I Ask of You" on ABC's "Live with Regis and Kathy Lee" and "The View," as well as NBC's "The Today Show." Mr. Mauer has also performed with symphonies all over the world, including Brazil, Cleveland, Utah and with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops.

Ms. Southard most recently starred on Broadway as Christine in Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera, a role she also performed in the Vancouver production and the national tour. She was chosen by Harold Prince to star in his latest revival of

She has been guest soloist with orchestras throughout the United States, including the Pittsburgh Symphony with Hamlisch and has also toured in Germany and performed at the Opera Comique in Paris.

Showboat in the First National Tour.

An event for the whole family, this cabaret-style concert starts at 7 p.m. at Westfield High School. The concert is made possible in part by the support of the Friends of Westfield Symphony, a social organization of communitybased volunteers dedicated to the expansion of the orchestra's audience and projects leading to its fund development. The Friends will also present a raffle at intermission.

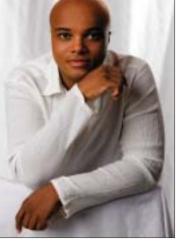
The WSO recommends making reservations as soon as possible; tickets are selling fast, and last year's concert was a sellout. Tickets in advance are \$35 for general admission and \$65 for preferred seating (\$40 and \$70 at the door, if available.)

Tickets may be purchased directly from the WSO by calling (908) 232-9400 or visiting the office at 224 East Broad Street between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are also available from The Town Bookstore in Westfield and Martin Jewelers in Cranford.



SOLOISTS (STARTING AT TOP): GARY MAUER, MICHELE RAGUSA ELIZABETH SOUTHARD, LEON WILLIAMS





'Race to Nowhere' Offers **Insight Into Children's Stress** thing for my children?" she won-

By ABBIE GOLDRING

WESTFIELD — "Race to Nowhere," a documentary designed to raise awareness about the pressures facing children and adolescents in today's society, was screened at Westfield High School (WHS) earlier this month.

Parents and students in 8th grade and up were invited to attend the event, hosted by the Edison Intermediate School (EIS), Roosevelt Intermediate School (RIS) and WHS principals. An open discussion between parents and administrators followed.

Documentary director Vicki Abeles decided to make the film after her 12year-old daughter was diagnosed with a stress-induced illness. This "wakeup call" forced her to consider that the amount of homework her children received was having negative effects on her family life, according to racetonowhere.com.

The movie featured student and professional opinions on topics such as college admissions and cheating, in addition to real-life stories about depression and suicide.

Though Ms. Abeles resides in California, the information and viewpoints presented are relevant across the nation, especially in communities like Westfield. RIS Woodshop Teacher Laura Segedin was among one of the seven Roosevelt staff who had seen the movie previously. She said she "felt like [she was] watching Westfield students. I feel the issues brought up in the film occur in Westfield.

Local resident Amy Damast has two teenagers in the Westfield school system. "I am a teacher and I am a parent, so I'm wearing both hats here. Are we doing the right thing for our students, and am I doing the right

Many parents and administrators expressed similar worries during the open forum following the film. They shared personal stories about their children and urged others to voice their concerns to the schools. RIS Principal Stewart Carey said parents need to get involved in order to make a change.

Westfield Board of Education member Mitch Slater said, "[There are] great school districts, but what goes along with it is stress." Mr. Slater said he hopes the impact from the movie is "radical."

Ms. Segedin also said she hopes a change "will start with teachers and give them good insight into what kids are like now."

At the discussion, WHS freshmen Sarah Davidson and Rebecca Plotkin spoke about an experiment at RIS last year that some of their teachers helped institute. The program allowed students to retake quizzes and retry homework if they did not understand it, instead of receiving a zero.

RIS science teacher Jeffrey Robbins said he did not assign homework and found that his students enjoyed learning more. He tried to focus more on "content than grades."

Similarly, "Race to Nowhere" suggests reforming homework and grading policies in order to reduce stress in children and increase their desire to learn. Many parents and administrators agreed that the film would generate conversation. As Mr. Robbins put it, "I want to light a fuse."

Due to the high level of interest, there will be another screening of Race to Nowhere on Monday, January 10, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the high school, with a snow date of January

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David Samsky for The Westfield Leader and The Times MAKING TANGO FANTASY A REALITY...The passion and energy of Latin-based music were the foundation of Westfield Symphony Orchestra's "Variations on a Latin Beat," performed at the Union County Performing Arts Center in February. The night featured tango masters Carolina Jaurena and Diego Blanco and their company of dancers, who all



Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader and The Times CRACKING THE MYSTERY...At the end of Act II, the principal performers got to kick up their heels in Westfield High School's production The Mystery of Edwin Drood. They performed the play this past March.

took the stage for a multifaceted "Tango Fantasy." **Entertainment Year-In-Review Part 1:** January Through June, 2010

January

Weekends in January found the Westfield Community Players (WCP) celebrating its 75th season by presenting a comedy, The Second Time Around, by Henry Denker.

For the audience, the trip down memory lane to the late 1960s suggested a time period in which there was a clear double standard of morality: the swinging free love of college-age kids versus that of the married, monogamous older generation. The play centered on a widow and widower living together instead of marrying, and the reaction of their children. The WCP playbill called the play "a pertinent comedy," even though this live-in relationship might not raise eyebrows in today's world.

~ Susan M. Dougherty



on display in January

On January 16, Pat Wictor and Toby Walker brought their fabulous fingerpicking guitar playing and breezy rapport to the Coffee with Conscience Concert Series, held monthly at the First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Wictor, a calm, folksy singer/ songwriter, and Mr. Walker, a charismatic, mischievous blues singer, called their tour "The Saints and Sinners," reflecting their opposite personalities and styles. The two performed solely and together and even got the audience involved in a final sing-along. "Remember folks, the blues is not about feeling bad...it's about me making you feel bad," said Mr. Walker. All proceeds from the show went to charity. ~ Meredith Mannino

In early January, the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) gave a special showing of nine of the best short films of the Garden State Film Festival. Though the longest film was 10 minutes, the minimovies managed to expertly grasp drama, comedy, or a

combination of both. While each of the films was different, all showed what a director with enough skill and a good enough story could do, even with a few minutes of time. Diane Raver, a representative of the film festival, commented on how short films function as a springboard for many emerging directors, and mentioned that they are filmed out of love, with little thought of profit. ~ Eric Nierstedt

The Choral Arts Society of New Jersey presented John Knowles Paine's Mass in D at the First Presbyterian Church in Westfield on January 23. Under the direction of James Little, the artistry and loveliness of the singers' operatic voices, the orchestra and the traditional church setting created a celestial vibe that was thoroughly entrancing. Bass soloist Andrew Martens, lyric tenor Kurt Alakulppi, alto Ellen Goff Entriken and Mezzo-soprano Sharon Lynne Byrne were featured in the performance.

~ Meredith Mannino

The Washington School Players' 62nd annual show, Believe, held on January 30, employed a quiz-showstyle format to tell the fictitious story of a brave Westfield High School (WHS) student. The script, which centered on events to prevent the conversion of Mindowaskin Park into a gated activeadult community, was written by Julie Shanebrook.

Student Abigail Rhoades hatches a plan to raise enough money to fight the transaction by becoming a contestant on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Parents handled every aspect of the performance, from writing, directing, producing and performing to choreography, instrumental music and set design for the event, which is held annuWroe conducted a suite of Spanish ballet music, a choreographed sym-

Scotch Plains resident Clara Liss Manheim's multimedia work, titled "Having Tea with Toot (Tut)'

ally at Roosevelt School.

'I think everyone wants a piece of it," Ms. Shanebrook said. "Whether you're on stage or selling t-shirts or tickets...to be involved is gold."

~ Christie Storms

February

Celebrating its 90th season, the Cranford Dramatic Club presented *The* Light in the Piazza, one of the finest productions ever offered at the playhouse. With vigor and professionalism, producer Elizabeth Howard, musical director Clifford Parrish and di-

Jeffrey rector Fiorello placed themselves and the cast on a pinnacle equal to few in local or regional the-

The play was lauded for its unforgettably passionate songs and smart physical settings, designed by Marc Chandler. The poignancy of a fairy tale that begs for a happy ending will remain in the hearts of anyone who saw this stellar production.

PEGGY EHRHART Susan M. Dougherty Fanwood poet Tom Plante released the 16th edition of Exit 13Magazine, an anthology of poetry that he edits and publishes annually. This year's edition contained contributions from 51 poets,

ranging in age from 19 to 92. Mr. Plante believes that seemingly disparate topics addressed by the poetry in Exit 13 Magazine are actually connected by the passion of the poets. Fanwood poets featured in this year's edition included Liza Katz, Gary Szelc and Adele Kenny. "What the contributors all have in common is that they all write down their ideas, and they appreciate the printed word on paper," Mr. Plante explained.

~ Marylou Morano

The passion and energy of Latinbased music were the foundations of phonic tango fantasy, a new piece by a younger American composer and an American piano concerto with roots in South America.

the Westfield Symphony Orchestra's

(WSO) "Variations on a Latin Beat,"

which was performed at the Union

County Performing Arts Center on

February 21. Music Director David

Following the second suite of dances from Manuel de Falla's ballet "The Three-Cornered Hat," tango masters Carolina Jaurena and Diego Blanco and their company of dancers took to the stage for a multifaceted "Tango Fan-

tasy."
"[This fantasy is] a marriage of Argentinean folk music and symphonic sound, which we believe is enticing for our audience, and

it's an example of an artistic offering that we, the symphony, could not present by our-selves," Mr. Wroe said, referring to the WSO's efforts to bring classical music to a wider audience by partnering with other arts organizations.

> ~ Greg Waxberg

On Valentine's Day, Fanwood residents and professional actors Ann Minski and Leslie Minski read Love Letters, A.R. Gurney's Pulitzer

Prize-nominated play, to two appreciative audiences at The Chelsea in Fanwood as a fundraiser for the Fanwood Memorial Library.

The letters take the fictitious characters, Melissa and Andrew, through years of friendship, exploring their various comments on the world around them from elementary school, boarding school and college to life as adults. The poignancy of the play, Mrs. Minski feels, is the fact that Andrew and Melissa never get to realize fully the potential of their relationship. "It gets me that their lives keep missing one another," she said. It is that very fact that resonated with audiences and had them wiping their eyes by the end of the moving performances.

~ Susan M. Dougherty

"A Walk to Beautiful," an Emmy Award-winning documentary that details how five Ethiopian women deal with the condition of obstetric fistula, was shown at the Fanwood Memorial Library (FML) on February 10. The film was produced and directed by Mary Olive Smith, the wife of FML director Dan Weiss. Ms. Smith was also the documentary's cinematogra-

The film tells the story of the women's search for the only available treatment: surgery. Ms. Smith, who traveled to Ethiopia several times during the filming of "A Walk to Beautiful," was touched by the women's plight. "[S]itting on the ground sharing the women's most intimate stories reminded me of how similar we all are at a very human level," she explained. ~Marylou Morano

Bruce Graham's two-act play about relationships, secrets and reality, The Champagne Charlie Stakes, was performed by the Alliance Repertory Theater at the Union County Performing Arts Center during weekends in February.

Charlie a lovable chap who sometimes needs to be jolted back to reality, places a monumental bet on a horse in the sixth race – a race that his bookie middleman, has named for him. The storyline was unimpressive, but the relationships of the characters brought poignancy to the show. David Christopher's portrayal of Charlie was both comic and tragic, and he slipped into this role "like he's sipping into a comfortable pair of well-worn loaf-

~ Susan M. Dougherty

March

In the early March run of Paper Mill Playhouse's production of Lost in Yonkers, you did not have to be Jewish or a native New Yorker to be drawn into the drama of playwright Neil Simon's fictional family.

The play blossomed under director Michael Bloom's golden touch. He encouraged his actors to develop characters that smack of real life. A warm setting by scenic designer Michael Schweikhardt captured the flavor of shabby wartime décor, complete with mahogany-colored crown molding and doors, a small Tiffany lampshade in the dining room and requisite doilies on the upholstered parlor furniture. Expert lighting by designer Paul Miller set the mood from day to night.

Lost in Yonkers will never be out of date because it is undergirded by the universal wish that all seek - approval from a parent, no matter how old one

~ Susan M. Dougherty

Westfield High School (WHS) junior Catalina Gaglioti released her first pop album, Catalina, on March 5, at a

galaevent at the Westwood in Garwood. Catalina showcased a few songs off her album at the event, including her favorite, "Ready for Love to Come." Her repertoire ranges from fun pop songs to beautiful ballads, including a mature and vocally challenging love song, "Return Again."

As first-place champion in the National High School Teen Idol Competition, Catalina won the opportunity to record an original song with record producer Blake Althen of Human Factor, thus launching her professional solo career and setting the gears in motion for the release of her first album. "It's very youthful and fun," Catalina said of her album. "I feel like it's an accurate representation of my personality.... Every song spoke to who

~Rennie Wolters

ScotchPlains-FanwoodHighSchool (SPFHS) performed the Rupert Holmes musical Curtains for two weekends in

Utilizing a play-within-a-play format, Mr. Holmes takes the audience into the world of Robbin' Hood, a show that is not thriving. Then, when the leading actor in *Robbin' Hood* dies under mysterious circumstances, the entire theatre becomes a crime scene.

Curtains featured an improbable and contrived plot with archetypes one might expect of a behind-the-scenes Broadway story. The show is top-heavy, with those stereotypes that the audience recognizes immediately from TV stories or old films of theate in the 1950s. The orchestra, many of whom were members of the musical ensemble groups at the high school, did a superior job. Robbin' Hood is a proverbial turkey, but SPFHS's production of Curtains was a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings.

~Susan M. Dougherty

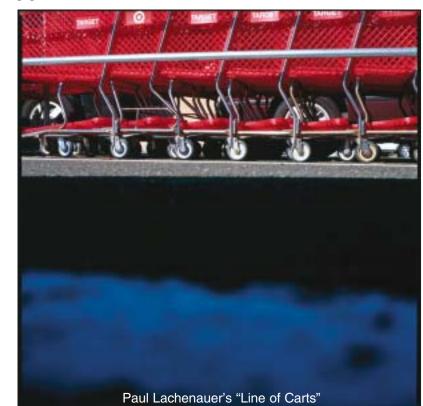
Early in March, the Garwood Crossroads was "bardified" by the folk-rockfunk group The Wandering Bards. The evening also served as the unofficial release party of the Westfield band's new album, All-New Good Time Monkey Puzzle Revue, which the band celebrated in full force.

The album was recorded "live" (all members in the same room, playing at the same time) in Red Bank's Retromedia Studios. The night's performance had at least one patron out of her seat and dancing up near the stage.

"The [album] title actually comes from vaudeville and New Orleans,' said guitarist Colin McKay. "Back then, they said if you could play a gig in New Orleans and get paid – as well as keep your dignity – then you'd 'cracked the monkey puzzle."

~ Eric Nierstedt

With Alfred Hitchcock's theme music playing in the background, the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**



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