

Westfield School Traffic Safety Discussion Set for January 27

By **KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL**
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD—The board of education (BOE) held a short meeting Tuesday evening before the start of the snowfall.

Board President Julia Walker said that there will be a traffic safety meeting on Thursday, January 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Westfield High School auditorium. Residents are invited to attend the meeting on traffic and parking issues that affect the streets near Westfield High School and Edison Intermediate School.

A traffic safety consultant commissioned by the Westfield Town Council will hear from residents regarding their concerns and recommendations.

In addition to Mrs. Walker, Councilwoman JoAnn Neylan, Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee chairwoman, will be in attendance, along with other representatives from the school district and the town.

Mrs. Walker announced that in observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., all Westfield public schools will be closed on Monday, January 17. She noted that an interfaith service will be held at the First Baptist Church at 1 p.m.

Preceding the service will be a procession assembling at the Martin Luther King monument on the South Avenue Circle at 12:15 p.m. Students will be given awards for essay, poetry and art submissions during the service following the march.

School Superintendent Margaret Dolan announced that after 45 years of custodial service at McKinley Elementary School, Giovanni Scelma will retire. His last day of employment will be June 30. Mrs. Dolan said Mr. Scelma had "provided service for the McKinley School with as much care as most of us do for our own homes."

Westfield High School senior Katherine Frega addressed the audience, announcing that January 16 is now the official beginning of NJ Teen Cancer Awareness Week. Katherine stated that last May she was diagnosed with Stage 2B Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She said that at first, she was misdiagnosed with arthritis. She found comfort in the support of students and teachers, and especially her fellow teammates and friends on the field hockey team.

She was able to re-attend the high school in October, and is "feeling great - emotionally and physically." She said that she was active in the Tomorrows Children's Fund at Hackensack University Medical Center, and thanked the council for the chance to promote the NJ Teen Cancer Awareness Week and everyone impacted by it.

Superintendent Dolan thanked Katherine, and noted that by bringing her story and request to honor the new Teen Cancer Week, "it makes us all more aware and helps to bring a quicker diagnosis, which can bring a quicker treatment."

The next BOE meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, at 8 p.m. at 302 Elm Street in Westfield.



SECOND STORM...Downtown Westfield Wednesday morning is picture perfect after the storm Tuesday night deposited about eight inches of snow. Benjamin B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader*

Developer Relieved of Agreement To Preserve Circa 1785 House

By **LAUREN S. BARR**
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD - In December the Westfield Planning Board voted 5-3 to allow developer Michael Mahoney to be relieved of having to preserve a circa 1785 house located on the corner of Karen Terrace and East Broad Street.

In 2000, the planning board granted Mr. Mahoney a fully conforming three-lot subdivision, and while it was not required of him, he agreed to move the existing structure, which has never received historic designation, to one of the three subdivided lots and restore the home.

According to reports in *The Westfield Leader*, it was estimated by Mr. Mahoney that the restoration of the house - formerly owned by the parents of former State Senator and current chief of staff to Governor Chris Christie, Richard Bagger - would cost upwards of \$75,000.

In the years since the approval of the subdivision, Mr. Mahoney has constructed two new single-family homes on the property and built a foundation for and moved the former Bagger family home, placing it up on cinder blocks.

In November, Mr. Mahoney came before the board to gain permission to demolish the house, saying that when he had the house moved, at a cost of \$40,000, he discovered that it is structurally "not in good shape." After consulting with the town's construction official, he hired engineering firm CEC, Inc. to evaluate the house, which he testified confirmed his findings that the house could not be saved.

Upon questioning by board members, Mr. Mahoney explained he did not get around to moving or fixing the house because he had "seven good years" of construction and there were other projects he was working on. Mr.

Mahoney also admitted to the board that "it was a bad deal" to agree to save the home and is something he regrets.

After the November meeting, the board hired Paul Beck of PBA Engineering, PC to evaluate the viability of the house. Mr. Beck cited a number of areas of the house that were severely deteriorated or broken, including the roof, rafters and second-floor framing. His report concluded that, "The cost to selectively remove the damaged materials, effect repairs to the structural and mechanical systems, and replace finishes will be equal to, or exceed, the existing value of the structure."

Councilman James Foerst, the governing body representative to the planning board, voted against granting Mr. Mahoney the relief he sought,

along with board members Robert Newell and Mark LoGripio. Mr. Foerst told *The Leader* that while the board was split on whether Mr. Mahoney could have rehabilitated the house, it would likely be more of a replica than a restoration.

Mr. Foerst said that his "no" vote was because, if Mr. Mahoney had not agreed to restore the house when he applied for the subdivision 10 years ago, residents and neighbors would have had other legal options that are not available to them today.

Mr. Foerst also told *The Leader* that, "I don't think there was anything nefarious" in Mr. Mahoney's actions, given that he spent the money to move the home and build a foundation for it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Board OKs Chipotle For Former Leader Store Space

By **THOMAS S. FORTUNATO**
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD—The town's planning board approved an application by Mexican restaurant chain Chipotle Mexican Grille on January 5 for variances involving two properties, one at 109 East Broad Street and the other at 112 Prospect Street, involved with the eventual installation of a Chipotle franchise at 109 East Broad Street.

Both these properties are owned by Westfield-based company, Al Spector LLC. Its managing member, Joseph Spector, testified at the meeting. Mr. Spector previously operated The

Leader Store where the restaurant is proposed.

Specifically, Chipotle, represented by attorney Max Sherman, needed variances for an oversized wall sign at the rear entrance to the building, the usage of concrete curbing in the parking lot as opposed to granite curbing, insufficient parking at both properties and maintenance of lighting fixtures in their parking lot.

According to Chipotle's plans, the 109 East Broad Street property would be used as the store itself, while the 112 Prospect Street property would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

PAGE INDEX		Police Blotter...6			
Regional	2-3	Obituary	6	Real Estate	11-13
Editorial	4-5	Education	8-9	Classifieds	15
Community ...	6-7, 16	Sports	11-14	A&E	17-18



MORNING WALK...This deer family takes their morning stroll in the woods at Union Street bordering Garwood and Westfield. David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader*

Scanlon Elected Freeholders Chair, Mirabella Vice-Chairman for '11

By **PAUL J. PEYTON**
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

ELIZABETH—Deborah Scanlon took leadership of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders on Sunday as the board's chairman for 2011. In addition, Linda Carter was sworn in as the newest freeholder and Dan Sullivan and Bette Jane Kowalski began their sixth and third terms, respectively.

Mrs. Scanlon, a Union resident, is serving her fifth term and was chairwoman in 2003 and vice-chairwoman last year. Ms. Carter, who was elected in November along with Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Kowalski, replaces Rayland Van Blake, who did not receive the Democratic Committee's endorsement for a second term. Freeholder Carter was previously Plainfield City Council president. Freeholder Al Mirabella of Fanwood was elected as vice-chairman for the year.

Also sworn in to new terms on Sunday were Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, who has served for 33 years, and Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, who has been clerk for 15 years after serving as registrar of deeds and

mortgages for 12 years.

A number of federal, state and municipal elected officials were in attendance, including United States Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th), Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th), Rep. Donald Payne (D-10th), state Senator Ray Lesniak (D-20, Elizabeth), Assemblywomen Annette Quijano (D-20, Union) and Linda Stender (D-22, Fanwood), Assemblymen Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield), Joseph Cryan (D-20, Union), Jerry Green (D-22, Plainfield) and Albert Coutinho (D-29, Newark), Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, Cranford Mayor Dan Aschenbach, Westfield Councilman David Haas and Plainfield Councilman Adrian Mapp, a former freeholder.

Sunday's meeting was held one day after the shootings in Arizona that killed a federal judge and a 9-year-old girl and seriously injured a congresswoman and two members of her staff. Her outreach coordinator also was killed, along with three senior citizens.

Mr. Pallone said it was important

that constituent services events, such as the one Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) was holding, continue.

"She was doing constituency outreach...It is really important that continues," Mr. Pallone said, noting adults and children alike should continue to have the opportunity to meet their elected representatives. "We have to ensure that process continues."

Speaking on the "rhetoric" of the national health insurance debate, Mr. Pallone said it was important that people think about what they say. He said violence should never be used as a tool to get a message across.

Rep. Lance, who represents 16 of the 21 towns in Union County as part of his Seventh District, said, "Government service is what is at the essence of our Democracy." He quoted new House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) as saying the shootings were an "inhuman" and "heinous" act of violence.

Mr. Lance also mentioned the shootings of Congresswoman Giffords' staff, saying that Congress-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



REORGANIZING...During Sunday's Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders reorganization meeting, pictured from left to right, Photo 1: Officials, including U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), far left, and Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-20, Union), watch the proceedings; Photo 2: 2011 Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah Scanlon of Union is pictured with her family, and Photo 3: Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski of Cranford takes the oath of office for a third term from Robert Renaud. Greg Ryan for *The Westfield Leader*



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ALL SMILES...Linda Carter is shown with her family following her swearing in as the newest member of the Union County Freeholders at the county's re-organization meeting on Sunday.



CONGRESS AND COUNTY...Rep. Leonard Lance, NJ 7th Congressional District, offers congratulations and thoughts on government at the county's re-organization meeting on Sunday.



COUNTY CLERK...Joanne Rajoppi, re-elected as Union County Clerk, provides her remarks after being sworn in at the county's re-organization meeting on Sunday.

GW Looks to Budget Cuts To Help Impact on Taxes

By ROBERT BETHEA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The first Garwood borough council meeting of the new year started Tuesday night with Patricia Quattrocchi serving as the borough's newly elected mayor. One of the main concerns going into 2011 is the need to restore the community's economic balance through cuts in the municipal budget.

Mayor Quattrocchi and the council, while still in the process of finding helpful ways to fully resolve this issue, are aiming to accomplish this goal with a new strategy called "the master plan."

The plan will be used to carry on with budget cuts without financially affecting working-class citizens in the borough. Councilman James Mathieu said he believes that the strategy will aid in cutting the budget without "raising taxes, layoffs or having any negative circumstances upon the services of the residents."

Mayor Quattrocchi expressed her gratitude on behalf of council members and said she was "very pleased that they are reaching out to the department heads to encourage them to be actively involved in [the master plan]." Additional updates on the budget will be further discussed at the next council meeting on Tuesday, January 25.

Another concern at Tuesday's meeting was the effects of the recent snowstorms, which have caused a total of 16 traffic and parking related incidents in Garwood. For instance, school faculty members were unable to park in their assigned spaces due to various unauthorized vehicles having already parked in their specific parking spots, due to the lack of available space.

Police Chief William Legg said he wants to solve this problem by setting a two-hour parking limit from 1 to 7 p.m. on school grounds.

Scanlon, Mirabella

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sional staffers often do much of the important work behind the scenes.

"I am committed to working in a civil way on civic matters," Mr. Lance said.

Union County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo said she was concerned over heightened rhetoric in political circles. She specifically mentioned former Republican vice-presidential contender Sarah Palin's website during last year's campaign, which she said "targeted" Ms. Giffords for defeat. She also mentioned, although not by name, Nevada United States Senate Republican candidate Sharon Angle, who was supported by Tea Party members in her race against Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

"I say I am not surprised (by the shootings)," Ms. DeFilippo said. She called for a "higher level" of political discussions in the future. She quoted

1785 House

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Board Chairman Vincent Wilt, who voted in favor of granting Mr. Mahoney relief, told *The Leader* that, over the past 10 years, the board "didn't have the authority to make him build the house." He said that the only recourse the town had was enforcement of the town's Property Maintenance Code, which, according to Mr. Wilt, was enforced and Mr. Mahoney did receive citations for property upkeep over the years.

Mr. Wilt said that the majority of the board and its attorney felt that while Mr. Mahoney had promised to restore the house, given that it was a fully conforming three-lot subdivision and the house was never designated as historic, if the board tried to force him to rehabilitate the house, "he could take it to court and would more than likely win."

former President Clinton, who once said, "You can't love your country and hate your government."

During the reorganization meeting, Mrs. Scanlon outlined five initiatives for 2011: opening a child immunization clinic in Plainfield, development of a childhood obesity program as part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension's existing "get moving, get healthy" program, and partnering with the county prosecutor's office to develop a DVD on cyberbullying.

The new chairman said the county would create an Advisory Board for the Prevention of Youth Violence "to oversee, implement and sustain Christopher's Program," a program initiated by Freeholder Nancy Ward last year aimed at preventing gang violence. Mrs. Scanlon also said the county will create a pilot program "that would enable high-school students to see real-world applications of their studies in county government." She said this would include leaf composting for students taking environmental classes and offering students studying sociology and gerontology the opportunity to observe patient care at Runnells Specialized Hospital.

During the business portion of the meeting, Bruce Paterson of Garwood questioned a resolution awarding a \$150,000 one-year contract to Winning Strategies Washington/Hoboken Strategy Group to provide "comprehensive federal government relations and lobbying services." He said elected officials, not paid lobbyists, should provide these types of services.

Mr. Paterson also listed his opposition to a \$322,125 contract to the Union County Alliance. He said the organization publishes the *Union County Directions* newsletter, which comes out around election time. Both resolutions passed.



GIVING THOUGHT...Members of the Westfield Planning Board give thought to applications during the January 5, 2011 meeting.

Westfield Planning Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

become the restaurant's rear parking lot, with six dedicated parking spaces and a dumpster enclosure. Currently, that property houses a garage, which will be demolished.

Mr. Spector commented that, "After we bought [the garage] at the end of 2007, we found that it was in such disrepair. I spent thousands of dollars to make it look nice [and] make it structurally sound." Mr. Spector explained that the demolition of this garage is a "beautification project" that his company had planned well before Chipotle was ever interested as a potential tenant.

The board, which was hesitant to approve the variance for Chipotle's 12-foot by four-inch rear sign, decided to do so in exchange for Chipotle's agreement that it would redesign the front facade to make it more fitting with the rest of the architecture in downtown Westfield.

The original design called for an aluminum facade, which board member Robert Newell commented, "looks like it would be on Route 22."

"Your identity should be in your

sign, and your aluminum facade is what we have an issue with," board member and Town Councilman Jim Foerst stated. "And I would much rather [Chipotle's name] be housed in your conforming facade on the front, and a variance-approved sign on the rear, than a small sign on the rear, and a nice aluminum facade on the front which is what you requested."

Chipotle's Real Estate Manager Lori Madzin stated, "With respect to the facade, we're happy to take it back to our designers...and come up with another suggestion and bring it back." Ms. Madzin also serves on the zoning board of adjustment in Tinton Falls, where she resides.

The planning board approved Chipotle's application, with the agreement that Chipotle show them three new alternate designs for its front facade when it returns to the board at a later date to obtain building permits. The application is expected to be adopted at the February 7 planning board meeting. Chipotle does not have to be present at that meeting.

Mayor Samuel Raia Elected New NJGOP Chairman

PRINCETON — In a press release from the New Jersey Republican Party, it was announced that the New Jersey Republican State Committee elected Saddle River Mayor Samuel Raia in a vote of 20 to 1 as the new Republican State Chairman on Tuesday night.

Governor Chris Christie said, "I look forward to working with Chairman Raia in the months ahead, as we continue to grow the party and build on the accomplishments of the last two years."

Mayor Raia said, "I am incredibly honored for the opportunity to lead the party, and thank Governor Christie and the State Committee for placing their trust in me. There is no doubt this is an important election year. During the coming months, I plan on working closely with the party leadership to win back control of the State Senate and Assembly this fall."

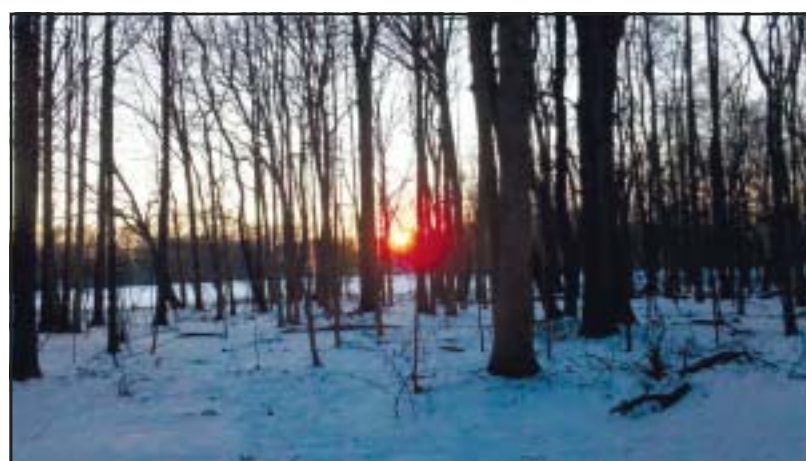
"Tonight is only the latest example of how eager and motivated the party is to continue the reforms that began just over a year ago when the Governor was sworn into office," said

NJGOP National Committeeman Bill Palatucci of Westfield. "As a successful business owner and seasoned elected official, Sam is a good fit to lead the State Committee and brings a lot to the table. He (Governor Christie) couldn't have chosen a better person to run our party in this important election year and I look forward to working alongside him."

Chairman Raia announced then that Amanda De Palma would be the new Executive Director of the New Jersey Republican State Committee.

Mrs. De Palma was most recently the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Governor Christie. She has served in numerous political and campaign roles, including: Christie for Governor (Political Director, 2009), Scott Garrett for Congress (Campaign Manager, 2008), Rudy Giuliani for President (N.J. Executive Director, 2008) and Tom Kean, Jr. for U.S. Senate (Statewide Field Director, 2006).

Mrs. De Palma resides with her husband in Clark.



TAMAQUES PARK SUNRISE...Courtesy of Alan Shineman, Westfield.

Cranford Proposes to End Parking Fees On Centennial

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The township committee on Tuesday introduced an ordinance to end paid parking on Centennial Avenue.

"This is something we need to do for businesses along Centennial Avenue," said Commissioner Edward O'Malley. The ordinance, the first to be introduced this year, would remove the pay stations on that thoroughfare; a move that Mayor Daniel Aschenbach said was needed to boost business activity there. He also said the cost of owning and operating the stations outweighed the revenue collected.

The vote to introduce the ordinance, which will be voted on after a public hearing on Tuesday, February 8, was 4-1, with Commissioner David Robinson voting "no." Two other commissioners — Mark Dugan and Kevin Campbell — voted to introduce, but said they wanted to receive more information on the financial ramifications of removing the pay stations.

Before next month's public hearing, the parking committee and the Centennial Village Committee will have a chance to weigh in on the proposed ordinance.

In other business, a host of appointments were announced, both by the mayor and by the committee, including nine residents named to a citizens finance strategy team headed by Commissioner O'Malley that will undertake a line-by-line review of

the municipal budget and suggest cuts. Mayor Aschenbach also named eight residents to an affordable-housing task force headed by Commissioner Campbell that the mayor said will "help set the stage" for opportunities for additional affordable housing in Cranford.

The mayor announced that the township committee would meet on Saturday, January 22, to review a variety of 2011 municipal budget recommendations. That session will be a follow-up to last week's special budget meeting that featured a PowerPoint presentation showing that the township budget, as presently constituted and prior to the township committee's upcoming review, would require a 13.3-percent increase in the property-tax levy — well above the state-mandated 2-percent property-tax cap.

Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Theriault said that, at present, the governing body will only be able to increase the municipal portion of the property-tax levy by about \$450,000, and pointed out that the fees paid to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority are set to rise by about \$200,000.

A squabble arose at the end of the meeting when resident Tina Renna criticized Mayor Aschenbach and called him a "liar" for what she said were his "misstatements" about a program in which Ms. Renna appears on Cranford TV-35.

The township committee's next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 25.

SPMC Proposed Budget Includes TV Ads, Magazine and Promos

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Management Corporation (SPMC) has submitted a 2011 budget to the township council that it proposes to be financed by the flat \$400 assessment per property that was in force in 2009.

SPMC is beginning its third full calendar year of operations, and according to its annual report that also was submitted to the council, is seeking to "capitalize and expand upon the momentum of its first two years." The \$85,600 operating proposal would be financed by about \$67,000 in property assessments and \$18,000 in funds carried over from last year.

David Biagini, president of FirstTEAM Management, SPMC's manager, told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that this year's proposed budget includes funding for three issues of *Simply Scotch Plains*, the quarterly magazine that debuted last summer, with an equal amount of money for a fourth issue earmarked instead for other promotional purposes.

The proposal also includes funds for a "student ambassador" program, enlisting students to assist in, among other things, distributing information to SPMC members. Advertising and promotion efforts comprise 57 percent of the budget proposal, which the council will examine in coming weeks. Management expenses account for about one quarter of the budget.

Mr. Biagini said the cable television commercials featuring the business district, which ran on several networks last month, resulted in a "good response," although it is unclear how much actual interest the spots garnered from businesses interested in possibly relocating to Scotch Plains. He told *The Times* it was important nonetheless for visibility purposes — "to get our name out there" and "spark some interest to show what Scotch Plains is doing."

He said the SPMC's board of directors, which next meets on Wednesday, January 19, will discuss possibly fine-tuning the television spots, airing them on different channels and

whether the ads are indeed the most effective way of spotlighting the business district. The proposed 2011 budget includes \$10,000 for additional commercials.

SP Considers Cell Tower at Public Works

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township government is considering a proposal by cellular telephone service provider Metro PCS to erect an antenna tower at the public works department property on Plainfield Avenue. Council members raised a host of issues needing to be addressed before more formal talks can proceed. A primary question concerns whether the township or the company should construct the tower. The municipal government built the cell tower at the southside firehouse in 2005, a project that faced several cost overruns, but yields the township in excess of \$100,000 annually from fees paid by carriers to house their antennas on the monopole. The cost of building that tower, about \$500,000, was recovered within the first several years.

Township Attorney Jeffrey Lehrer said that from a monetary standpoint, it would be "more beneficial" for the township to build and then lease space on the tower versus MetroPCS building the tower and renting space, with lesser fees paid to the municipal government.

Another concern is whether cell companies will have a need to rent space on a new tower, especially given that a number of carriers already lease space on a tower at the nearby Elizabethtown Water Co. property. There is speculation, though, that the utility, for facility security purposes, is pushing to have cell antennas taken off its property, a move that would require those companies to locate a new, and nearby, spot for their antennas.

Mr. Lehrer also noted that the public works property, which is part of the adjacent Scotch Hills Country Club property, may be deemed to be land protected by state Green Acres regulations, which he said would make the property off limits to a cell tower. Mayor Nancy Malool noted that some residents living near the property are likely to be opposed to a tower, much as residents elsewhere in Scotch Plains have rallied against similar towers in their own neighborhoods. "I'd love to know what the public thinks" about a possible tower at the public works property, the mayor said.

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Fanwood Council Lauds Police Work on Burglaries Arrest

By TED RITTER
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD – The Borough Council held its first regular monthly meeting of 2011 on Tuesday night. Mayor Colleen Mahr noted that the flags in front of Borough Hall on Martine Avenue were flying at half-staff following the recent shootings in Tucson, Arizona, which she called “a senseless tragedy.”

Mayor Mahr announced that suspects in a January 7 burglary and attempted burglary in Fanwood were apprehended Monday evening. The mayor said the investigation “took us into two separate counties” and seven different jurisdictions.

“My hats go off to the Fanwood Police Department,” said the mayor, who noted that Police Chief Richard Trigo made use of a police “intelligence system” to alert other departments and coordinate the investigation.

Mayor Mahr said the Fanwood Police Department’s website, fanwoodpolice.org, is being upgraded to help “get accurate information out there” and also enable residents to sign up for “e-mail blasts” to stay informed about local incidents and police news.

The mayor encouraged residents to call the police if they see anything suspicious. “If something doesn’t

look right, chances are something isn’t right,” she said.

Regarding the municipal budget process, Councilman Anthony Parenti, who heads up the Administration and Finance Committee, said all borough department budgets are expected to be submitted by department heads and then reviewed by the committee “as quickly as possible” with the mandated 2 percent municipal budget cap in mind. “I think by next Monday we will have something...positive to say,” Mr. Parenti said.

Mayor Mahr said that a shared services “summit” will be held by Union County at the county’s vocational-technical complex in Scotch Plains on February 2. Fanwood and other Union County municipalities have been invited and asked to share their “areas of interest” regarding shared services opportunities.

The mayor said the summit will look at “what shared services look like today...and where we all go from here.” On a related note, Councilman Russell Huegel reported on a handful of recent shared services activities.

Mr. Huegel said the county recently did some tree work at Fanwood’s train station, while the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education is now responsible for snow plowing at Borough Hall and recently provided an electrician to complete some lighting work.

Council President Joan Wheeler reported that the borough’s Planning Board holds its first agenda meeting of the year on January 18 and will elect a new chairman; in addition, she said longtime Planning Board member Jack Molenaar is stepping down and will join the Recreation Commission.

Councilman Mike Szuch reported that the Recreation Commission, working with the borough engineer, is “embarking on a parks master plan” to look at ways to “change or improve our parks.”

Mayor Mahr also announced plans to mark Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a “day of service” on Monday, January 17. The day begins with an opening program from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA, followed by various volunteer activities in Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

For example, the mayor said volunteers have signed up for indoor painting work at the Forest Road and LaGrande Park buildings.

Members of the governing body took turns expressing their condolences and sharing their reactions regarding the shootings in Arizona. Given that the alleged gunman is a troubled young man suffering from mental problems, Ms. Wheeler said, “I hope, as a result of this, we don’t look at mental illness in a different light.”

Ms. Wheeler, whose daughter and granddaughter live in Arizona, said she didn’t know if she was more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



MR. VICE-CHAIR...Freeholder Al Mirabella of Fanwood is sworn in by State Sen. Ray Lesniak (left) as the vice-chairman of the Union County Freeholder Board for 2011 as his wife, Phyllis, and children, Alexander and Micayla, hold the Bible during Sunday’s reorganization meeting.

Scanlon Elected County Chairman, Freeholder Mirabella Vice-Chair

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

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Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township government will give further consideration to a proposal by cellular telephone service provider MetroPCS to erect an antenna tower at the public works department property on Plainfield Avenue.

At the governing body’s first conference meeting of the year on January 4, council members raised a host of issues needing to be addressed before more formal talks with MetroPCS can proceed. A primary question concerns whether the township government or the company should construct the tower itself. The municipal government built the cell

tower at the southside firehouse in 2005, a project that faced several cost overrun issues, but yields the township government in excess of \$100,000 annually from fees paid by various cell carriers to house their antennas on the monopole. The cost of building that tower, about \$500,000, was recouped within the first several years.

Township attorney Jeffrey Lehrner said that from a monetary standpoint, it would be “more beneficial” for the township to build and then lease space on the tower versus MetroPCS building the tower and renting space, with lesser fees paid to the municipal government.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



CLEARED EARLY...Pictured above, in the early morning hours after yet another snowstorm, is Martine Avenue in Fanwood. Martine, as well as many of the other major arteries and side streets, was easy to navigate do to the plows working all night to clear the snow.

Benjamin B. Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SPMC Proposed Budget Includes TV, Magazine Ads

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Management Corporation (SPMC) has submitted a 2011 budget to the township council that it proposes to be financed by the flat \$400 assessment per property that was in force in 2009.

SPMC is beginning its third full calendar year of operations, and according to its annual report that also was submitted to the council, is seeking to “capitalize and expand upon the momentum of its first two years.” The \$85,600 operating proposal would be financed by about \$67,000 in property assessments and \$18,000 in funds carried over from last year.

David Biagini, president of FirstTEAManagement, SPMC’s manager, told The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times that this year’s proposed budget includes funding for three issues of Simply Scotch Plains, the quarterly magazine that debuted last summer, with an equal amount of money for a fourth issue earmarked instead for other promotional purposes.

The proposal also includes funds

for a “student ambassador” program, enlisting students to assist in, among other things, distributing information to SPMC members. Advertising and promotion efforts comprise 57 percent of the budget proposal, which the council will examine in coming weeks. Mr. Biagini said the cable television commercials featuring the business district, which ran on several networks last month, resulted in a “good response,” although it is unclear how much actual interest the spots garnered from businesses interested in possibly relocating to Scotch Plains. He told The Times it was important nonetheless for visibility purposes – “to get our name out there” and “spark some interest to show what Scotch Plains is doing.”

He said the SPMC’s board of directors, which next meets on Wednesday, January 19, will discuss possibly fine-tuning the television spots, airing them on different channels and whether the ads are indeed the most effective way of spotlighting the business district. The proposed 2011 budget includes \$10,000 for additional commercials.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



REORGANIZING...During Sunday’s Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders reorganization meeting (pictures, left to right) Freeholder Linda Carter poses with her family after being sworn in to her first term; 2011 Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah Scanlon is pictured with her family; and officials, including U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), far left, and Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-20, Union), watch the proceedings.

Greg Ryan for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times



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Paul Lachenaer for the *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*
ANOTHER TERM...Daniel Antonelli is sworn in as Fanwood's municipal prosecutor for another one-year term by Mayor Colleen Mahr at the borough council's reorganization meeting on January 2.



David B. Corbin for *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*
MORNING WALK...This deer family takes their morning stroll in the woods on Union Street bordering Garwood and Westfield.



Paul Lachenaer for the *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*
TAKING THE OATH...Michelle Jaker takes the oath from Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr for another one-year term as Fanwood's municipal public defender at the borough council's reorganization meeting on January 2.

Cranford Proposes to End Parking Fees on Centennial

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

CRANFORD — The township committee on Tuesday introduced an ordinance to end paid parking on Centennial Avenue.

"This is something we need to do for businesses along Centennial Avenue," said Commissioner Edward O'Malley. The ordinance, the first to be introduced this year, would remove the pay stations on that thoroughfare; a move that Mayor Daniel Aschenbach said was needed to boost business activity there. He also said the cost of owning and operating the stations outweighed the revenue collected.

The vote to introduce the ordinance, which will be voted on after a public hearing on Tuesday, February 8, was 4-1, with Commissioner David Robinson voting "no." Two other commissioners — Mark Dugan and Kevin Campbell — voted to introduce, but said they wanted to receive more information on the financial ramifications of removing the pay stations.

Before next month's public hearing, the parking committee and the Centennial Village Committee will have a chance to weigh in on the

proposed ordinance.

In other business, a host of appointments were announced, both by the mayor and by the committee, including nine residents named to a citizens finance strategy team headed by Commissioner O'Malley that will undertake a line-by-line review of the municipal budget and suggest cuts.

Mayor Aschenbach also named eight residents to an affordable-housing task force headed by Commissioner Campbell that the mayor said will "help set the stage" for opportunities for additional affordable housing in Cranford.

The mayor announced that the township committee would meet on Saturday, January 22, to review a variety of 2011 municipal budget recommendations. That session will be a follow-up to last week's special budget meeting that featured a PowerPoint presentation showing that the township budget, as presently constituted and prior to the township committee's upcoming review, would require a 13.3-percent increase in the property-tax levy — well above the state-mandated 2-percent property-tax cap.

Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Theriault said that, at present, the governing body will only be able to increase the municipal portion of the property-tax levy by about \$450,000, and pointed out that the fees paid to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority are set to rise by about \$200,000.

A squabble arose at the end of the meeting when resident Tina Renna criticized Mayor Aschenbach and called him a "liar" for what she said were his "misstatements" about a program in which Ms. Renna appears on Cranford TV-35.

The township committee's next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 25.

Freeholders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

national health insurance debate, Mr. Pallone said it was important that people think about what they say. He said violence should never be used as a tool to get a message across.

Rep. Lance, who represents 16 of the 21 towns in Union County as part of his Seventh District, said, "Government service is what is at the essence of our Democracy." He quoted new House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) as saying the shootings were an "inhuman" and "heinous" act of violence. Mr. Lance also mentioned the shootings of Congresswoman Giffords' staff, saying that Congressional staffers often do much of the important work behind the scenes.

"I am committed to working in a civil way on civic matters," Mr. Lance said.

Union County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo said she was concerned over heightened rhetoric in political circles. She specifically mentioned former Republican vice-presidential contender Sarah Palin's website during last year's campaign, which she said "targeted" Ms. Giffords for defeat. She also mentioned, although not by name, Nevada United States Senate Republican candidate Sharon Angle, who was supported by Tea Party members in her race against Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

"I say I am not surprised (by the shootings)," Ms. DeFilippo said. She called for a "higher level" of political discussions in the future. She quoted former President Clinton, who once said, "You can't love your country and hate your government."

During the reorganization meeting, Mrs. Scanlon outlined five ini-

tiatives for 2011: opening a child immunization clinic in Plainfield, development of a childhood obesity program as part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension's existing "get moving, get healthy" program, and partnering with the county prosecutor's office to develop a DVD on cyber bullying.

The new chairman said the county would create an Advisory Board for the Prevention of Youth Violence "to oversee, implement and sustain Christopher's Program," a program initiated by Freeholder Nancy Ward last year aimed at preventing gang violence.

Mrs. Scanlon also said the county will create a pilot program "that would enable high school students to see real-world applications of their studies in county government." She said this would include leaf composting for students taking environmental classes and enabling students studying sociology and gerontology the opportunity to observe patient care at Ruml's Specialized Hospital.

During the business portion of the meeting, Bruce Paterson of Garwood questioned a resolution awarding a \$150,000 one-year contract to Winning Strategies Washington/Hoboken Strategy Group to provide "comprehensive federal government relations and lobbying services." He said elected officials, not paid lobbyists, should provide these services.

Mr. Paterson also listed his opposition to a \$322,125 contract to the Union County Alliance. He said the organization publishes the *Union County Directions* newsletter, which comes out around election time. Both resolutions passed.

GW Looks to Budget Cuts To Help Keep Taxes Down

By ROBERT BETHEA
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

GARWOOD — The first Garwood borough council meeting of the new year started Tuesday night with Patricia Quattrocchi serving as the borough's newly elected mayor. Officials said one of the main concerns going into 2011 is the need to restore the community's economic balance through cuts in the municipal budget.

Mayor Quattrocchi and the council, while still in the process of finding helpful ways to fully resolve this issue, are aiming to accomplish this goal with a new strategy called "the master plan."

The plan will be used to carry on with budget cuts without financially affecting working-class citizens in the borough. Councilman James Mathieu said he believes that the strategy will aid in cutting the budget without "raising taxes, layoffs or having any negative circumstances upon the services of the residents."

Mayor Quattrocchi expressed her gratitude on behalf of council members and said she was "very pleased that they are reaching out to the department heads to encourage them to be actively involved in [the master plan]." Additional updates on the budget will be further discussed at the next council meeting on Tuesday, January 25.

Another concern at Tuesday's meet-

ing was the effects of the recent snowstorms, which have caused a total of 16 traffic and parking related incidents in Garwood. For instance, school faculty members were unable to park in their assigned spaces due to various unauthorized vehicles having already parked in their specific parking spots, due to the lack of available parking spaces.

Police Chief William Legg said he wants to solve this problem by setting a two-hour parking limit from 1 to 7 p.m. on school grounds.



Robert Bethea for *The Times*
NEW LEADERSHIP...Garwood Mayor Patricia Quattrocchia signs documents following Tuesday night's council meeting.

FW Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

angry or sad about the shootings. "The world is so upside down," she added.

Councilman Parenti, a former Fanwood police chief, pointing to gun violence in the United States said, "Too much of it's going on and we need to figure out a way to stop it."

Councilman Szuch said the incident highlights "how important it is to be aware of yourself and your surroundings."

Mayor Samuel Raia Elected New NJGOP Chairman

PRINCETON — In a press release from the New Jersey Republican Party, it was announced that the New Jersey Republican State Committee elected Saddle River Mayor Samuel Raia, by a vote of 20 to 1, as the new Republican State Chairman on Tuesday night.

Governor Chris Christie said, "I look forward to working with Chairman Raia in the months ahead, as we continue to grow the party and build on the accomplishments of the last two years."

Mayor Raia said, "I am incredibly honored for the opportunity to lead the party, and thank Governor Christie and the state committee for placing their trust in me. There is no doubt this is an important election year. During the coming months, I plan on working closely with the party leadership to win back control of the state Senate and Assembly this fall."

"Tonight is only the latest example of how eager and motivated the party is to continue the reforms that began just over a year ago when the Governor was sworn into office," said

NJGOP National Committeeman Bill Palatucci of Westfield. "As a successful business owner and seasoned elected official, Sam is a good fit to lead the state committee and brings a lot to the table. He (Governor Christie) couldn't have chosen a better person to run our party in this important election year and I look forward to working alongside him."

Chairman Raia announced then that Amanda De Palma would be the new executive director of the New Jersey Republican State Committee.

Mrs. De Palma was most recently the director of intergovernmental affairs for Governor Christie. Mrs. De Palma has served in numerous political and campaign roles including: Christie for Governor (political director, 2009), Scott Garrett for Congress (campaign manager, 2008), Rudy Giuliani for President (N.J. executive director, 2008), and Tom Kean, Jr. for U.S. Senate (statewide field director, 2006).

Mrs. De Palma resides with her husband in Clark.

Scotch Plains Cell Tower

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another concern is whether cell companies will have a need to rent space on a new tower, especially given that a number of carriers already lease space on a tower at the nearby Elizabethtown Water Co. property. There is speculation, though, that the utility, for facility security purposes, is pushing to have cell antennas taken off its property, a move that would require those companies to locate a new, and nearby, spot for their antennas.

Addressing other issues, Mr. Lehrer also noted that the public works property, which is part of the adjacent Scotch Hills Country Club property, may be deemed to be land protected by state Green Acres regulations, which, he said, would make the property off limits to a cell tower. Mayor Nancy Malool noted that some residents living near the property are likely to be opposed to a tower, much as residents elsewhere in Scotch Plains have rallied against similar towers in their own neighborhoods. "I'd love to know what the public thinks" about a possible tower at the public works property, the mayor said.

In other business at the conference meeting — which was held for the first time in the council chambers in an effort to encourage more residents to attend — Township Manager Chris Marion and Public Works Director Kevin Ward provided the council with a review of snow removal efforts during and after the Sunday, December 26 blizzard that left more than two feet of snow. Mr. Ward said the township is applying for state and federal aid to help defray some of the costs involved, much of which went to pay personnel. He noted that public works employees working on that Sunday were paid double time due to it being a holiday weekend.

"Our equipment performed wonderfully," he said, and praised his staff including several who were on scheduled vacation who, nonetheless, called and offered to come in to assist in the snow removal efforts.

Mr. Ward noted several operational difficulties his department faced, including a private contractor slated to plow certain streets who never showed up. That was not found out until Monday, Mr. Ward told the council,

when public works department inspections found a number of southside streets on the contractor's route had not been plowed.

Several township plows also got stuck in the deep and drifting snow, Mr. Ward said, adding that poor visibility during the height of the storm made it nearly impossible for plows to remove snow right up to the curbsides. Nevertheless, he said, "I think we got through it well."

Mayor Malool told Mr. Ward that his department had done "a damned good job." Deputy Mayor Mary DePaola, noting some criticism from residents but sympathizing with Mr. Ward's staff given the depth of the storm, said it was important for people to "have some sort of understanding of human capability" when it comes to snow removal.

Councilman Kevin Glover, though, said he had driven through neighboring Fanwood and Edison four days after the storm and said that, compared to Scotch Plains' streets, he had seen "lots of blacktop" in those communities. He showed a few photographs he had taken of unidentified township streets he said were still snow-covered as of December 30 and asked why streets in Fanwood seemed to have been better cleared.

Mr. Ward pointed out that Fanwood's public works team has one-square mile to cover while Mr. Ward's department is responsible for nine square miles. Mr. Glover also complained to Mr. Marion that he had not received any updates during the storm on conditions in town, snow removal efforts being made or any other pertinent information he felt he and his council colleagues should have received. Mr. Marion said he had been in close contact with Mr. Ward and the mayor while Mr. Marion was snowbound at his Monmouth County home, but had limited communication resources with which to provide ongoing updates to the council.

Mr. Ward pledged, as part of a wider effort at improving communication within the township, to better inform the council during any future weather-related events.

The council's first regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 18.

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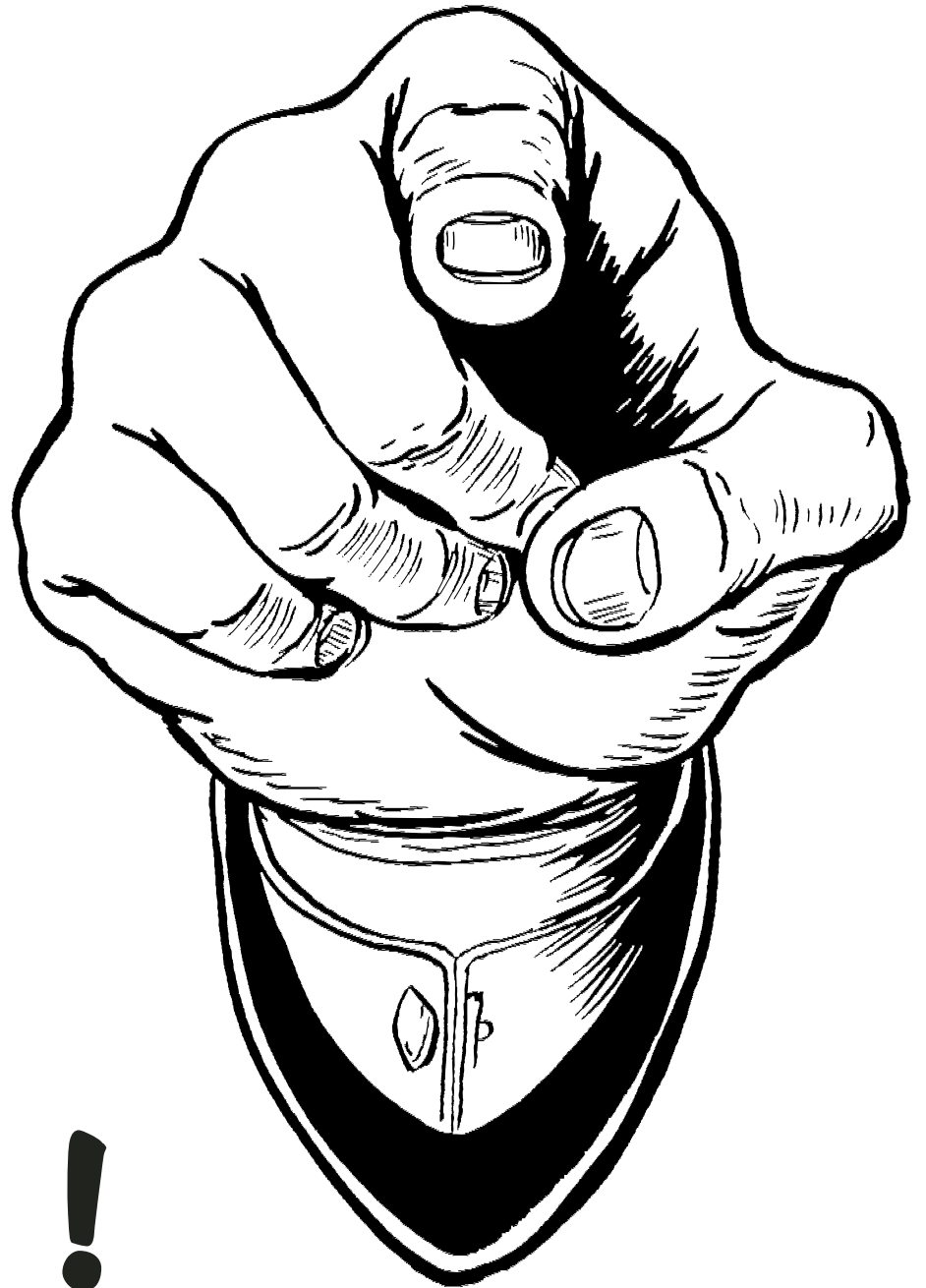
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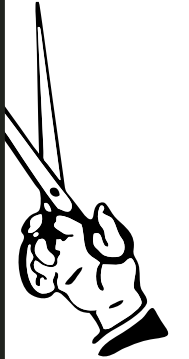
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Westfield Appointments Told

WESTFIELD – The following appointments were made at the reorganization meeting of the Westfield Town Council:

Planning Board, James Foerst (council representative); Board of Adjustment, Mark Doherty, Mary Alice Ryan, Jack Schwetj (alternate) and Andrew Wasserman (alt.)

Special Improvement District Board, Jamie Chaves, merchant; Lee Hale; Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, Shawn Hanna (mayor's designee) and Town Administrator James Gildea.

Employee Appointments: Town Attorney, Robert Cockren; Municipal Prosecutor, Anthony Prieto; Public Defender, Gavin Handwerker, and Labor Attorney, Frederick Danser, 3rd.

Board appointments: Board of Health, Dr. Seymour Koslowski, Mitchell Beinhaker, Sam Della Fera (council liaison); Recreation Commission, James Marvin, Chairman; Larry McDermott, Peter Echausse, Gary Fox, Kevin Neylan (alt.), Brett Glenn (alt.), Frank Arena (council liaison).

Historic Preservation Commission: Christopher Miele, Dave Lovato, Eric Diddel, Kelly Kessler, Vicki Kimmins (council liaison); Tree Preservation Commission, Mike Schumann, David Haas (council liaison); Memorial Library Board, Stacey Weinman, Doug Stokes, and Keith Loughlin (council liaison).

Communications Advisory Board: Dierdre Malacrea, Ed Stellingwerf, and Councilwoman Vicki Kimmins; Westfield Housing Commission, David Oliviera, Joseph Farella, Katherine Clifford, and Ronald Banský.

Planning Board: Robert Newell, Thomas Walsh, Dan Clifford (alt.); Mark LoGrippe (mayor's designee), Town Engineer Kris McAloon; Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee, David Oliviera and Town Engineer Kris McAloon; Insurance Advisory Board, Ronald Banský and Joseph Dazzo; Solid Waste Advisory Board, Vincent Spera; Union County Transportation Advisory Board, John Morgan and George Lanzano; Air Traffic Advisory Board, Jerome Feder and Rosemary Millet.

Council liaisons: Chamber of Commerce, JoAnn Neylan; Union County League of Municipalities, Mayor Andrew Skibitsky; Board of Education, Mark Ciarrocca; 2nd Senior Citizens Housing Corporation, Mayor Andrew Skibitsky; Municipal Alliance/PANDA, JoAnn Neylan.

Town Council standing committees: Finance Policy Committee, Mark Ciarrocca, chairman; Sam Della Fera, vice-chairman; JoAnn Neylan and David Haas; Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee, JoAnn Neylan, chairman, Keith Loughlin, vice-chairman, Mark Ciarrocca and Jim Foerst; Code Review and Town Property Committee, Jim Foerst, chairman; Vicki Kimmins, vice-chairman; Frank Arena and Sam Della Fera; Public Works Committee, Frank Arena, chairman; David Haas, vice-chairman; Vicki Kimmins and Keith Loughlin.

Pallone Seeks President To OK Aid for Blizzard

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6th) has sent a letter calling on President Barack Obama to approval federal disaster aid for the state in response to the blizzard that recently struck New Jersey. Mr. Pallone ask the President to make a formal declaration of major disaster areas in order for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to immediately provide assistance to New Jersey residents impacted by the storm. The text of the letter appears below:

In his letter Mr. Pallone told the President, "The winter snow storm has left as much as 32 inches of snow in certain areas and created snow drifts up to five feet. The winter storm has created dangerous circumstances that have caused human and material harm... it is important that all the resources necessary are provided without delay."

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WITHSTANDING CHALLENGE Union County Sheriff's Officer Luis Alfaro, left, of Elizabeth shows Sheriff Ralph Froehlich the award he received for completing the John H. Stamler Police Academy Red Brick Road Physical Challenge. Officer Alfaro was the 17th recruit in recent academy classes to complete the demanding voluntary challenge that included timed races, weight lifting and finishing the academy's obstacle course in one minute.

Gov. Christie Signs Bills Including Anti-Bullying

TRENTON – Governor Chris Christie signed the following bills into law on January 4:

S-104/A-1758 — Requires state entities to examine opportunity of minority and women-owned financial institutions to serve as senior managing underwriters.

SCS for S-514/ACS for A-1592 — Permits bids for public works contracts to be withdrawn due to mistakes in certain circumstances.

S-911/A-2309 — Upgrades penalties for assaulting certain health care professionals and workers at health-care facilities and human services and veterans' facilities.

S-1537/A-3264 — Clarifies that gang related incident offense report is to be forwarded to Superintendent of State Police for inclusion in Uniform Crime Report.

A-2305/S-1179 — Expands "Jersey Fresh" program to include "Made with Jersey Fresh" designation of certain baked goods and other food products.

On January 5, Governor Chris Christie signed into law:

S-1557/A-3294 – Revises statutes concerning public adjusters.

S-1931/A-2811 – Establishes New Jersey Aphasia Study Commission.

S-2380/ACS for A-3450 – Requires four weeks pre-notification of exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

A-410/S-1846 – Revises the "construction lien law."

A-483/S-175 – Establishes the "Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact."

A-1637/S-2309 – Permits advertising on exterior of school buses.

A-3466/S-2392 – The "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act."

The Governor conditionally vetoed the following legislation:

S-1248/A-2900 – Requires local unit or authority to provide director of the Division of Local Government Services with report concerning lawsuits to which it is a party before budget is approved.

A-3359/S-2388 – Prohibits practice of excluding unemployed individuals in advertisements for job vacancies.

Lance Praises Reforms Passed By New Majority

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) said the reforms passed during the opening days of the 112th Congress shows that the new congressional majority is serious about bringing fiscal sanity to Washington, D.C.

Among the new reforms passed by Congress are "cut-as-you-go," which replaces the "pay-as-you-go" rule requiring new mandatory spending to be offset with cuts to existing programs and a spending cut "lockbox" which will apply to floor amendments that make cuts to appropriations bills. Cuts will go to a special account in effort to make it easier to reduce overall size of spending bills.

A Fiscal 2011 spending cap now requires the House Budget Committee chairman to establish a budget enforcement mechanism for the remainder of fiscal 2011. Also new is a debt limit which Eliminates the "Gephardt rule" that allowed the House to pass a debt ceiling increase upon adoption by both chambers of a concurrent budget resolution. In

addition, all bills will now have to be posted online for three calendar days before a final floor consideration.

Committees will now be required to post their rules online, provide three-day notice for markups, webcast all hearings and markups, post roll call votes within 48 hours and text of adopted amendments within 24 hours after a markup. In addition, sponsors of all legislation must submit statement in the Congressional Record explaining the bill's constitutional basis. The House voted last week to reduce the operating budgets of committees, leadership offices, and individual lawmakers' offices by 5 percent, saving taxpayers \$35 million in the first year.

"The House rules reforms coupled with [the House Majority's] action to trim congressional office budget spending makes it clearly evident to me that the new 112th Congressional majority is serious about cutting federal spending, reducing the deficit and restoring public confidence in the way the Congress does its business," Mr. Lance said.

Lance Focused on Federal Spending In New Term

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) began his second term in the House of Representatives last Wednesday, as the largest freshman class in Congress since the late 1940s was sworn in by new Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio).

Mr. Lance, a member of the House Financial Services Committee the past two years, said his focus remains on reining in federal spending. "I don't think we can balance the budget overnight, not this year or perhaps not next year, but I think we need a glide path toward a balanced budget," he said.

The Congressman said the annual current federal deficit is in the \$1.2-\$1.3 trillion range. "I would like to get these annual deficits down significantly," he said, saying he would like to see balanced annual federal budgets within the next few years. He gave credit to former President Bill Clinton and the Republican majority in Congress in the mid-1990s for balancing the annual budgets.

"I hope and believe that fiscal responsibility is on the minds of everybody in Washington (in 2011). It's certainly on my mind," Mr. Lance said.

The Congressman said he looks forward to working under the leadership of Mr. Boehner, saying the new speaker has advocated for "many more open rules that will permit the minority (party)" to offer amendments, which he said was not permitted in the last session of Congress under the Democratic majority.

Under new House rules approved by the new House majority, Mr. Lance said members also would not be allowed to vote on bills until after they have been released for review by the public 72 hours prior to a vote. "This is especially important for groups that follow legislation and make the general public aware of the contents of bills," he said.

Mr. Lance said the new GOP majority would "be much more business-friendly." He said Republicans hope "to enact policies that will help bring that (9.7 percent) unemployment rate down."

"The critical issue confronting the American people is the state of the American economy," Mr. Lance said. He also said he likes President Barack Obama's pick of William Daly

as chief of staff, replacing Rahm Emanuel, who left last year to run for mayor of Chicago. Mr. Daly, son of the late Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley and brother of current Mayor Richard M. Daley, served as commerce secretary in the Clinton Administration from 1997 to 2000. "This was an early indication that the President recognizes that he shouldn't be antagonistic toward business," Mr. Lance said.

The House Republican leadership postponed an expected vote on rescinding the health-care law following the Arizona shootings, including a Congresswoman and federal judge, on Saturday.

"I think we are going to have an up-or-down vote; that's what we promised the people in our campaign. I indicated in my campaign very vigorously that I wanted to start over (by redrafting a health-care-reform bill)." He admitted that with Democrats holding a 51-47 majority in the Senate (in addition to two Independents caucusing with Democrats), and with President Obama able to veto the bill if it reaches his desk, the health-care law would likely not be rescinded in this session of Congress.

"But I think (the GOP vote) is an opening indication that we want to engage in... repeal, replace and reform (of the health-care law)," Mr. Lance said. "The CBO (Congressional Budget Office) indicated that this is not budget neutral." The Congressman said he favors parts of the health-care law such as letting adult children stay on their parents' health-insurance policies until they are in their middle 20s and not denying health insurance to anyone for pre-existing conditions.

Mr. Lance said he was opposed to the total costs of the health-care law. "I think the promise was made this would lower the cost of health care. I don't think that has been borne out by the facts," Mr. Lance said.

"I hope that the White House and the Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services are willing to work with the new majority in the House," Mr. Lance said. "Time will tell, but I entered the new term in the hope that there could be bipartisan government in a way that did not exist these last two years the other party was in charge of all elected branches of (federal) government. Now the situation has been modified."

Volunteers Needed For C.H.I.L.D. At Recycling Ctr.

FANWOOD—The C.H.I.L.D. Organization of Scotch Plains and Fanwood helps to staff the Fanwood Recycling Center on Watson Road in Fanwood in return for a modest stipend.

Volunteers are needed to help with this staffing for only a few of hours for the next recycling day on Saturday, January 29. The money is used to help kids in Scotch Plains, Fanwood through informational programs for them and educational programs for their parents along with a special recognition event for the children at the end of the school year.

On Saturday, January 29 volunteers are needed to help on load recyclable materials (glass, plastics, cans) from the trunks of waiting cars and deposit them into the correct storage bins.

Two shifts are available, from

8:45 to 11:05 a.m. and/or 10:45 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. Volunteers should wear old clothes, sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. The outdoor facility is opened throughout the year regardless of the weather. Volunteers range from students, 6th, 7th and 8th through high school and adults.

All those interested in wanting to help should call (908) 322-4020 and ask for Susan.

Student volunteers who need letters of recognition regarding their student community service for their high school student portfolios, any senior projects or religious education programs can receive them by participating in this program.

For more information about C.H.I.L.D. programs and events, visit the C.H.I.L.D. website at www.childorgspf.org.

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Bramnick Hails Signing Of Bus. Retention Bill

TRENTON — New Jersey's rebuilding economy will have another powerful tool to keep businesses from heading to other states under a bill signed into law by Governor Chris Christie, which was sponsored by Assemblyman Anthony Bucco (LD-25, Randolph) and Republican Conference Leader Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield).

The bipartisan law, A-3389, makes New Jersey's Business Retention and Relocation Assistance Grant Program more favorable to job retention. This program played a large role in keeping Honeywell International, a \$33-billion international company, in its Morris Township headquarters where it now plans to build new office facilities, a hotel and residential units, according to a press release from Assembly Republicans.

The law revises the grant program, which awards tax credits against the corporation business tax and various taxes on insurers, most notably by increasing tax credits from \$1,500 per employee to up to \$9,000 depending on how many jobs are actually retained by businesses that have viable offers to move to another state, according to the press release.

"This is another signal that Trenton will no longer treat New Jersey businesses like a piñata. Beating up on businesses has only hurt the state's economy and cost people their jobs," Mr. Bramnick said. "Governor Christie will continue to fix New Jersey's broken economy and these incentives will go a long way toward repairing the damage done and jobs lost over the past decade."

Meanwhile Senate President Stephen Sweeney (LD-3 West Deptford), and Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver (LD-34, East Orange) hailed the passage of about 20 bills designed to create jobs and economic development throughout New Jersey. "Today we sent a strong message to residents and the business community that 2011 will not be another lost year for New Jersey's economy," Mr. Sweeney said. "This is the bold, aggressive effort we need to start the year right and to attract businesses and create good jobs."

The Assembly and Senate on Thursday approved bills that would, among other things: reform corporate business taxes to help New Jersey businesses stay competitive with those in other states, expand tax credits to promote economic development around mass transit systems, establish a new program to stimulate economic activity by encouraging businesses to stay, expand and move to New Jersey, create a new program to entice students to enter fields that have labor shortages.

The package also implements a

Business Owners Invited for Breakfast, Economic Discussion

WESTFIELD — District 21 Legislators will host a breakfast with local business owners in Westfield on Wednesday, January 19, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Rockin Joes in Westfield, 20 Prospect Street. Senator Tom Kean will join Assemblyman Jon Bramnick and Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz (all LD-21, Westfield and Summit) for a discussion with local business owners. All local business owners are invited to discuss economic growth, job creation and any issues with state government mandates.

program to allow the unemployed to receive on-the-job training to help learn new skills and find work, promotes investment in emerging technology companies in New Jersey, and revises and broadens the way financial assistance is handled under a business retention and relocation assistance program.

Democrats are also hailing of the Back to Work NJ job creation and economic development initiative.

The measure (A-1458) would create a "Banking Development District Program" to encourage the establishment of branches in areas where there is a demonstrated need for banking services. A municipality, in conjunction with a bank, would be able to submit an application to the commissioner for a banking development district within a specified geographic area.

A bank could submit an application to open a branch in the proposed banking development district simultaneously with submission of the application for the designation of a banking development district.

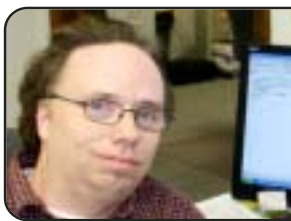
Republican lawmakers Legislation hailed Assembly approval of legislation that changes the formula used to calculate a business's corporate tax liability in New Jersey from three factors to one.

Under current law, the tax liability in New Jersey for a company with multi-state operations is calculated according to the percentage of its sales, property holdings and payroll in New Jersey, relative to its entire operation.

Bill Would Extend Bus, Housing Tax Credits

TRENTON — Legislation that would extend the eligibility of certain business and housing project tax credits available to New Jersey businesses has been approved by the state Assembly.

A-3143 would extend the eligibility of businesses to invest in certain business or housing projects for tax credits under the state's "Urban Transit Hub Tax Credit Act" (UTHTCA) and the "New Jersey Economic Stimulus Act of 2009." Under the UTHTCA, a business may receive a tax credit of up to 100 percent of its qualified capital investment in a business facility that is located in an urban transit hub and employs at least 250 people at the facility.



Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

Jersey Now raised \$624,000 before ceasing operations at the end of last year, nj.com reported.

Sweeney Resigns As Gloucester Freeholder
State Senate President Stephen Sweeney (LD-3, West Deptford) has resigned as Gloucester County freeholder. He had come under increased criticism for being a dual-office holder following a state law dating back three years that banned the practice for new state lawmakers, but grandfathered those in office at the time including Mr. Sweeney.

Mr. Sweeney said last August that he would resign as freeholder by the end of the year. He had one year remaining on his freeholder term and was freeholder director at the time of his resignation.

Ex-Assemblyman Acquitted Of Accepting Bribes

Former state Assemblyman L. Harvey Smith, a Hudson County Democrat, has been acquitted of accepting \$15,000 in bribes that he insisted were campaign contributions, according to nj.com. He is the second public official found not guilty of charges resulted from the largest corruption probe in state history by the United States Attorney's Office. Ridgefield Mayor Anthony Suarez was acquitted of all charges in October.

Mr. Smith had been accused of accepting bribes in 2009 from developer Solomon Dwek, who was working with federal investigators and posing as developer David Eisenbach. He was charged with conspiracy to commit extortion, money laundering, two counts of attempted extortion and two counts of bribery.

Wife of White House Staffer Found Dead in Car in Garage

Ashley Turton, 37, the wife of a White House aide was found dead early Monday in her SUV BMW, which was damaged by fire in the garage of the couple's Capitol Hill home, according to a *Washington Post* report. Ashley Turton was married to Daniel Turton, the White House's deputy director of legislative affairs for the U.S. House of Representatives. Police are saying she was victim of a "low speed" crash although homicide detectives were investigating.

Lautenberg Seeks to Ban High-Capacity Ammo Clips
Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) on Monday proposed banning high-capacity ammunition clips, similar to those used by Jared Loughner, 22, the shooter of 20 persons including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.), a federal judge and a 9-year-old, last Saturday, as well as by a Virginia Tech student who killed 32 classmates and himself in 2007. Mr. Lautenberg is working on the legislation with Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.), whose husband was killed and son seriously injured by a mass shooter on a New York train in the 1990s.

Webber Resigns As GOP Chair, Replaced by Saddle River Mayor

Jay Webber, a Morris county assemblyman, resigned last week as chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee. Governor Chris Christie named Sam Raia, mayor of Saddle River, as the new chairman.

Mr. Webber said he wants to focus on his role as chairman of the Republicans' redistricting efforts and as a member of the Assembly Budget Committee, according to newjerseynewsroom.com. Mr. Webber served as chairman since the summer of 2009.

Ferguson Nomination Dies In Senate Inaction

A number of Governor Chris Christie's nominations died this week following inaction by the state Senate. Among those were former Seventh District Rep. Mike Ferguson's nomination as chairman of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority and former Attorney General David Samson's appointment for chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Temper flared Monday morning during a state Senate Judiciary Committee hearing considering the nomination of Ron Gravino for commissioner on the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA), according to nj.com. But, in the end, the committee approved the nomination. Democrats were critical of Mr. Gravino's role as treasurer to Reform Jersey Now, an issues advocacy group promoting Christie Administration reforms and targeted some Democrats. Reform

Christie Puts Forth Trans. Plan; Sweeney Objects

TRENTON — Governor Chris Christie has put forward a five-year transportation capital plan (Senate Bill 1866) he says will improve critical infrastructure throughout New Jersey and begin to end the state's long over reliance on debt to finance transportation projects.

"Today, we are continuing to put New Jersey on the path towards fiscal health and proposing a sensible and responsible plan that prioritizes vital transportation projects, while limiting the already-heavy debt burden carried by the taxpayers of our state," Governor Christie said.

The plan consists of cash contributions from the general fund and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, bonding and \$1.8 billion in projects requested by the Governor to be undertaken by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) in conjunction with the state's Department of Transportation. As a result, the state will be able to provide \$1.6 billion each year for five years for transportation projects throughout New Jersey, including \$672 million for New Jersey Transit capital needs and \$200 million per year for local government projects, according to the Governor's press office.

Projects included in the plan are: Pulaski Skyway, Wittpenn Bridge (Route 7 Wittpenn bridge connecting Kearny between Routes 139 and 1&9 to the east, and the Turnpike Interchange 15W to the west); Route 139 (linking Holland Tunnel, Routes 1&9, I-78 Turnpike extension, and local roadways in Jersey City and Hoboken), and Portway New Road, a proposed roadway connecting St. Paul's Avenue along the CSX railroad crossing over New County Road and terminating at Secaucus Road in Jersey City.

The former plan, which is about to

expire, began in Fiscal Year 2007 and provided \$8 billion (\$1.6 billion per year) for transportation projects, including \$200 million per year for local government projects.

"This plan relied on a stable \$895 million annual general fund appropriation that became almost entirely devoted to making debt payments, instead of funding current transportation needs," according a press release from the Governor's office. "The Christie transportation capital plan begins to reverse this irresponsible practice." The Christie plan includes approximately \$1.8 billion in "pay as you go" cash contributions, providing almost 37 percent pay "as you go" funding.

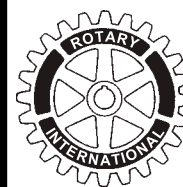
Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-3, West Deptford) was critical of the Governor's plan. "I thought debt was a dirty word to Republicans. Unless, as with other things, GOP fashions change as the Governor says they will. Billions of dollars in more borrowing is just pushing the real costs onto future taxpayers."

"There is nothing in the plan that will provide long-term fiscal stability to the TTF (Transportation Trust Fund)," Mr. Sweeney said.

Assembly Republican Leader Alex DeCroce (R-26, Whippany), however, called Governor Christie's five-year transportation program a "fiscally sound plan."

"The fact that taxpayers will not have to shoulder the burden in order to fund the \$8 billion program is something many skeptics didn't think could be done, but Governor Christie has proven them wrong...The governor's plan is a win-win and should be embraced for achieving the dual goal of investing in a critical need without increasing taxes or borrowing endlessly."

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Dental Update

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

YOU KNOW THE DRILL! OR DO YOU?

Many patients think that drilling away decay and filling cavities in teeth is an all-or-nothing matter. Those patients who hold this view may be surprised to learn that they have it in their power to reverse some instances of dental decay and avoid the drill entirely. The key point to remember is that regular dental checkups enable the dentist to identify tooth decay in its earliest stages. At this point, when the acid produced by bacteria-laden plaque has only partially penetrated the outer enamel surface, the damage can be reversed with better adherence to home oral care (brushing and flossing) and applications of fluoride that encourage calcium and phosphates in the saliva to "remineralize" the tooth surface.

Just as dental decay and gum disease are your teeth's worst enemies, routine brushing, flossing, and professional checkups are your teeth's best friends. Has it been so long since your last dental visit that you can't remember when it was? Then why not take charge of your dental health and call us at 908-654-6262 for an appointment. You'll find that nothing is more economical than regular professional attention to your oral hygiene. Committed to delivering the most current state-of-the-art care in a relaxed, friendly environment, we are centrally located in Westfield at 131 South Euclid Avenue, with plenty of free off-street parking available.

P.S. A drill-less procedure recently introduced to the United States from Germany, called Ioon, treats "intermediate" cavities with a clear resin that prevents the cavity from progressing. www.drarida.com

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2011 RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE				
	WARD 1 (Mondays)	WARD 2 (Tuesdays)	WARD 3 (Wednesdays)	WARD 4 (Thursdays)
January	10, 24	11, 25	12, 26	13, 27
February	7, 21	8, 22	9, 23	10, 24
March	7, 21	8, 22	9, 23	10, 24
April	4, 18	5, 19	6, 20	7, 21
May	2, 16, 30*	3, 17, 31	4, 18	5, 19
June	13, 27	14, 28	1, 15, 29	2, 16, 30
July	11, 25	12, 26	13, 27	14, 28
August	8, 22	9, 23	10, 24	11, 25
September	5*, 19	6, 20	7, 21	8, 22
October	3, 17, 31	4, 18	5, 19	6, 20
November	14, 28	1, 15, 29	2, 16, 30	3, 17
December	12, 26	13, 27	14, 28	1, 15, 29

* May 30th is a holiday. The pickup for Ward 1 will be on **Friday, June 3rd**
 * September 5th is a holiday. The pickup for Ward 1 will be on **Friday, September 9th**

The Westfield Leader THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD
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Letters to the Editor

Tiny Tim Fund Expresses Gratitude To All Carol Night Participants

The members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Tiny Tim Fund want to thank all those who participated in the annual Carol Night fund-raising event on December 8, 2010. Thanks to the involvement of many parents and children from our community, this was a particularly successful fund-raising event.


Special thanks are extended to Tom Britt, proprietor of the Stage House Inn and Tavern on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, who graciously invited us to use the restaurant as the drop-off site for the canisters. He and his staff provided delicious refreshments and arranged for the children to sing throughout the restaurant to the delight of many patrons.

The Tiny Tim Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains who are in need of medical care and cannot afford it. The organization was established in 1983 and is run by a volunteer board of trustees comprised of residents from Fanwood and Scotch Plains with diverse backgrounds in fields such as education, medicine, religion, social work and business.

Anyone may make a request for assistance by writing to: The Tiny Tim Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 181, Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

**Barbara Anilo, President
 Fanwood**

ABCDICTIONOPQRSTDECEPTIONUVWXYZ



Diction Deception

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

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

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

Answers to last week's arcane words.

1. Czardas – A Hungarian dance consisting of a fast movement and a slow movement
2. Zain – A dark-colored unspotted horse
3. Culpable – Guilty, blameworthy
4. Jako – The gray African parrot

FUCIVOROUS

1. In botany, the part that is soon shed; not permanent
2. Decaying; rotting
3. Aromatic; scented
4. Eating or subsisting on seaweed

INCOGITATIVITY

1. Without the power of thought
2. Inflexible; stern
3. That which cannot be felt or touched
4. Unobtainable; nonexistent

TUREEN

1. Swollen or bloated
2. A large deep dish with a lid
3. A ditch or canal
4. An auger used by coopers

TUFA

1. A species of palm used by Brazilian Indians for making bowstrings and fishing nets
2. A mound or hillock
3. A porous limestone formed by deposits from springs and streams
4. A thick tuft of twigs, grass, sedge, etc.

See more letters on page 5

Maybe We Are Becoming A Nation Of Wussies

Fiery Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell commented about the Eagles game being postponed by the recent snowstorm: "It's an absolute joke. I was looking forward to this. It would have been a real experience. This is what football is all about. We're becoming a nation of wussies." Stadium workers then piled the snow high on his seat, to the delight of Giants fans, when the game was subsequently played two days later.

The rest of us dug out from the blizzard and eventually found our way to work. We complained about snow removal by public workers and why our street wasn't plowed. Things were a mess. That Sunday and Monday, as 30 inches of snow pounded the area, a state of emergency was declared by New Jersey Governor... err New Jersey Lt. Governor... err New Jersey Acting Governor... err New Jersey Senate president.

Fire, police, rescue squads and public works department personnel worked throughout the storm to deal with the emergency. Rumors that these people sloughed off are untrue in this area. The storm was massive and we haven't had one such as that for a while – we forget how disruptive this can be. We did hear many good stories of how people helped others and their neighbors in distress.

It's true that municipal budget restraints limit the resources that are available to deal with these storms, and that we will always be inconvenienced. Could we learn how to better cope and to better manage during such circumstances? – Sure.

Merchants in downtown Westfield complained that the snow remained piled high on some streets, such as Quimby, for several days. This is true and perhaps the Chamber of Commerce or the Downtown Westfield Corporation could have organized an action plan with the merchants to deal with it while the town dealt with everything else. Sometimes, we must learn to help ourselves.

Little things can go a long way for better service and public relations during times of difficulty. As example, each day we observe (and help) a handicapped woman get out of her car into a wheelchair and try unsuccessfully to get to the paystation in the downtown Westfield parking lot. She couldn't get to it because snow was not removed. Perhaps before issuing parking tickets, the parking police should first shovel the snow from the paystations.

Come to think of it, why didn't we bring a shovel from home and clear it ourselves to help this lady and others?

While observing matters at the parking lot, we noticed a gentleman parking everyday in the handicapped spot then dispatching to the train. True, there was a handicapped sign dangling from his mirror. It's still the same red sedan every day in the same handicapped parking spot.

Maybe we are becoming a nation of wussies. The Giants didn't make the playoffs and the Eagles just got eliminated – Go Jets! Oh well, it's going to snow again Wednesday (yesterday). Let's see if we can do better.

Westfield Needs to Do Better Job In Coping With Effects of Storm

I have lived in Westfield for over 60 years, and have never seen a worse job of snow removal by our town. Yes, it was a terrible storm. However, it took days before we saw any plows on streets throughout the town.

Not only were some residential streets not plowed until days later but downtown parking lots and sidewalks next to the curbs were left covered with large piles of snow and ice – making for very dangerous conditions. The downtown business district was a disaster – shoppers trying to make their way to stores and restaurants climbing over mountains of snow. Crosswalks were left unshoveled. Where were our town municipal workers and town fathers?

This was a time for fast action, not a slowdown in services. This week's head-

lines in *The Westfield Leader* stated that town services would not be affected by budget cuts. What a joke!

Other towns adjacent to Westfield, with arguably fewer resources, seemed to respond to the crisis fairly well. Cranford looked great. The Westfield Board of Education got the job done, with walks and parking lots cleaned off quickly. Good job, board of education!

The management of our town has been slipping for years. Wake up, Westfield, and do the job we are paying you for! This is a serious health and safety issue that not only impacts our quality of life, but also the economic vitality of our business district.

**Warren Rorden
 Westfield**

Cranford TV Show Producer Laments Mayor Ashenbach's Comments

Now that Cranford TV Station Channel 35 is up and running, the *Citizen's Forum* show will resume production starting with a review of the December 2010 Freeholder meeting resolutions. It will be aired later this month.

Cranford Mayor Daniel Ashenbach recently appeared on another Channel 35 show, and he is still misrepresenting what the *Citizen's Forum* is about. The show, which featured only Democrats, former councilman George McDonough and Mayor Ashenbach, stated that the *Citizen's Forum* should be a debate with both sides represented, and that people need to know these aren't facts but "Tina Renna's" opinions.

Ironically, they aren't presenting facts or offering another side of their debate, just their opinions and misinformation. It is my opinion that Mayor Ashenbach's blind partisan rants in defense of the Union County Regular Democratic Committee is a disgrace to the Town of Cranford. There is no debating the truth. The *Citizen's Forum* consists of me reading Union County government resolutions as they appear in public records. How can this not be fact? There is no opinion. It's pure public information as provided by Union County government through the Open Public Records Act.

Instead of trying malign my efforts to bring public information to the public, why aren't Ashenbach and McDonough asking the county, who is spending over one and a quarter million dollars a day, to read the resolutions themselves during freeholder meetings? Why complain that a citizen's group is doing it for them, because they refuse to?

Freeholders are paid approximately \$30,000 a year for their part-time jobs. I volunteer to produce the *Citizen's Forum* in my precious spare time, free of charge.

Further, Mayor Ashenbach and Cranford resident, Freeholder B.J. Kowalski, never apologized for their misstatements made last year at public meetings regarding Channel 35's airing of freeholder meetings and the county's one-sided show – *The Freeholder's Forum* – in an attempt to tarnish the *Citizen's Forum* show.

It is outrageous that Mayor Ashenbach tells lies to malign a citizen of his hometown in the defense of his political machine. He was elected to serve the citizens of Cranford. Do we have the government we deserve? If so, I'm embarrassed.

Citizen's Forum shows, as they air on TV Channel 35, can be viewed at www.citizensforum.com.

**Tina Renna
 Cranford**

Westfielder Urges Rep. Lance to Oppose Health Care Repeal

Editor's Note: This letter was sent to Representative Leonard Lance and copied to this newspaper.

I am writing to urge you to oppose HR 2, the legislation that would repeal the recently passed health reform law and deny us much-needed health system improvements. During your tenure in the New Jersey Legislature, you were known for your willingness to oppose your party's leadership on matters of principal. I hope you will continue to be an independent voice in the House of Representatives and use the facts – not party loyalty – to guide your voting on this important issue.

As a Congressman, you voted in favor of continuing all federal income tax cuts because you believed that people and businesses needed the "certainty" of stable taxes. A vote in favor of repeal will cause uncertainty far greater than a marginal increase in tax rates.

Like about half of New Jerseyans, our family is insured through a self-funded employer-sponsored health plan that is exempt from state regulations. The current law's mandate for coverage of adult children through age 26 is the only thing that protects us from over \$7,000 in additional annual premiums to provide health care for our 20 year-old daughter. Repealing health reform will make seniors like my mom liable for significant additional out-of-pocket prescription drug expenses when they fall into the "donut hole."

The prevention and wellness programs and new investments in public health infrastructure in the current plan should save us billions in reduced health care costs and improve the quality of life for millions of our fellow citizens. Programs to objectively assess the benefits of new medical procedures will reduce wasteful health care expenditures.

Limits on health insurance company medical-loss ratios will help control premiums. Repeal will also cause great uncertainty for small businesses and entrepreneurs. The health insurance subsidies and insurance exchanges in the current plan help these job creators attract the best talent with less concern about whether they can afford a decent benefits package for their new hires.

Certainty in our health insurance system will help revive the economy and increase American competitiveness. In 1997, despite pressure from your own party, you opposed Governor Whitman's ill-fated and fiscally imprudent plan to fund the state pension with borrowing. The mess our state is in now vindicates your principled stand then. Similarly, repeal of the health care law is bad economics and, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, will increase the federal deficit by \$145 billion over the next 10 years, increase out-of-pocket costs for many people through the elimination of premium subsidies and leave 32 million Americans without health coverage in 2019.

I implore you to examine the facts and work with the President to build upon what's right in the law and not set the nation back years in our effort to ensure affordable and effective health care for everyone.

**Drew Harris
 Westfield**

Gov. Chris Christie

We have made great progress since January, but we can and must go further to fix our state. Here are some numbers:

- \$158,000,000,000 – The amount that the pension and benefit reform plan will save in the estimated pension shortfall in 2041 if implemented.
- \$11,000,000,000 – Budget shortfall closed without raising taxes
- \$518,000,000 – In financing assistance, business incentives and tax credits provided by New Jersey Economic Development Authority.
- \$64,800,000 – In assistance provided to small businesses.
- 2,334,420 – YouTube video views
- 174,943 – Constituents responded to by the Governor's Office of Constituent Relations.
- 104,000 – Students trapped in chronically failing schools.
- 28,929 – Fans on the Governor Chris Christie Fan Page.
- 23,457 – @GovChristie twitter followers.
- 357 – Days since sworn in.
- 269 – New Jerseyans nominated to authorities, cabinet members, judges, prosecutors, directors). Of which, 84 are still waiting for State Senate action.
- 121 – Bills signed into law.
- 85 – New Jersey towns visited.
- 58 – Percent of school budgets defeated after unions refused pay freeze.
- 52 – Executive Orders Issued.
- 34 – Manufacturing projects which received \$22.2 million in assistance.

Countless – Number of times Governor Christie has been asked if he is running for president; Number of times he has answered NO.

Letters to the Editor

Go Blue (Devils), Butch Woolfolk to Speak

I am president of the University of Michigan Club New Jersey Alumni – nnj.umclubs.com. For our annual meeting on Saturday, January 22 at the Teaneck Glenpointe Marriott at 12P-2P, former Westfield Blue Devils stand-out Butch Woolfolk will be our guest speaker.

Per Jenny Jaruzelski, Bo Schembechler came to Westfield to recruit him. Should you wish to publicize this event or need more information, please let us know.

Go Blue!

**Jeffrey Goldsmith
 Ridgewood**

Family Thanks All Who Aided Grandson

We would like to thank the Westfield Rescue Squad and Fire Department for their assistance in getting our four-year-old grandson to Overlook Hospital during the recent snowstorm after Christmas. He was treated, kept overnight and released the next day feeling much better.

We would also like to thank our very good neighbors, the Walsh family, the Carpetto family and the Johnson family, for their help and kindnesses to us during the storm.

**The Evans Family
 Westfield**

Lack of Snow Removal Discourages Shoppers

As Westfield merchants, it wasn't surprising that Quimby and Elm Streets were not cleared of snow to encourage people to come and patronize Westfield shops; however, the meters on those same streets were recalibrated for rate changes in a very timely [manner], only to discourage people to patronize Westfield. Surprise, surprise...

**Susan Cahn and Harriet Shafran,
 Knit-a-Bit
 Westfield**

Turn Up the Volume On TV-36 Programs

After being unemployed for a while, I have some time to surf the channels on TV and have found that Channel 36, which is Westfield's TV station, to be the only station among 34 (Scotch Plains), 35 (Fanwood) and 36 (Westfield) where the sound is unable to be heard unless one turns up the volume to shouting on other stations.

I can't fathom that Westfield (with all its resources) has not found someone to improve the volume of our station. I love David Martone of Classic Thyme, who has great shows on Channel 36, but you can never hear what he's saying unless you mega the volume up. I have asked other friends who reside in Westfield, and they say the same – someone has to change the volume on 36.

Please... we are a wonderful town and we want other people to realize our potential. We need to have everything in working order to attract new homeowners.

**Sally Van Why
 Westfield**

Deadlines

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

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 www.goleader.com/help**

Elected Or Not, Who Will Be The First to Tell It Like It Is?

Last week, state Democrats said that in order to save the pension system, they need to take it out of the hands of elected officials. This revelation leads us to ask several questions:

Who is "they?" – and if it were taken out of the hands of elected officials, why do we need these elected officials? They haven't been doing their job for more than a decade (Democrats and Republicans alike), worse, "they" have been exploiting the system and placed themselves and friends on top of the beneficiary list.

We haven't seen anyone post on the Internet, or anywhere else, a pension system model to contemplate, to examine and to see if it could work. Why not? Surely there are people and organizations out

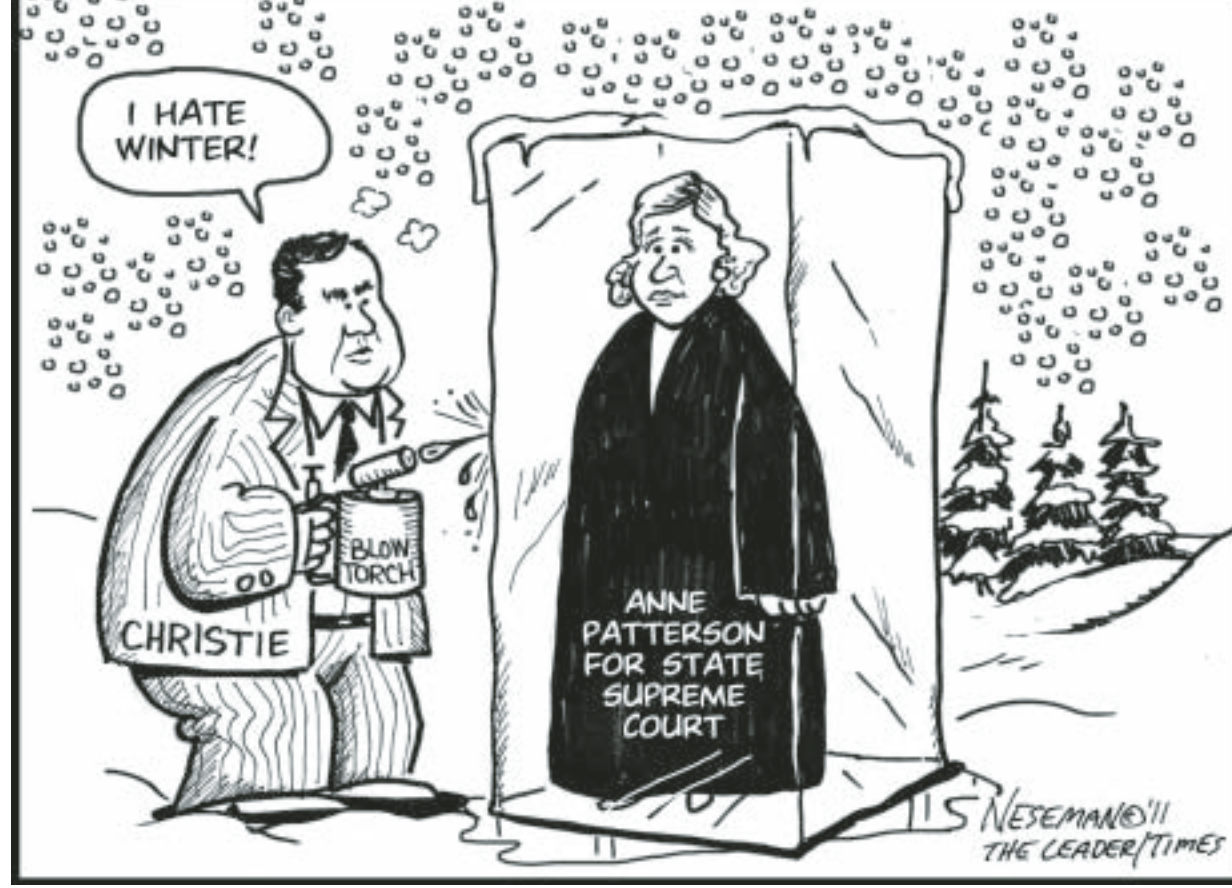
there that can construct pension models for review.

We have annuity sharpshooters in insurance companies throughout the state and nation. We have finance and business professors at Rutgers and Princeton. We have Wall Street gurus.

In all probability, any such model, to be workable, would be so far from that which exists – and any author involved would be subject to ridicule from those that have been promised the current irrational arrangements – Is this "An Inconvenient Truth?" Does the "King Have No Clothes?"

It's time to face up to the situation before our "goose is cooked" – all of us.

Elected or not, who will be the first to tell it like it is?



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

LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.
 LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark and Linden.

E-mail
 senkean@njleg.org
 sscutari@njleg.org
 aswbramnick@njleg.org
 asmunoz@njleg.org
 aswstender@njleg.org
 asmgreen@njleg.org

Union County Freeholders
 10 Elizabethtown Plaza
 Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207
 (908) 527-4000
 George Devanney, Mgr.
 gdevanney@ucnj.org
 Sebastian D'Elia, Public Info.
 (908) 527-4419
 sdelia@ucnj.org
 Deborah Scanlon, Bd. Chair

County Watchdog Urges Posting of Minutes in Searchable Format

Editor's note: The following e-mail was sent to the Union County Clerk of the Freeholders Board and copied to this newspaper.

Dear Mrs. Dirado:

Meeting minutes are being posted on the Union County government website in a format which isn't searchable though a find or through an Internet search engine such as Google. If you wanted to find information, you would have to know what date it occurred on and then read the minutes word for word.

Assuming this isn't being done on purpose, I respectfully request that the minutes be machine readable rather than a scanned image.

You can find instructions on how to do this on NJFOG.org for creating a machine readable PDF, in the video "For Records Custodians."

Scanned images are much less useful, require more bandwidth to download, and are subject to errors when OCR'd, even the best Optical Character Recognition software is typically no better than 90 percent accurate, which is unacceptable — especially when you are dealing with numbers.

Union County has appropriated \$136,000 to update their website in what was touted to make it more user friendly and easier to find on search engines. Arguably meeting minutes are the purest form of county government information — posting them in

this manner is counter to the freeholders' stated mission when justifying the expense of this project. Prior to the website update, meeting minutes were posted in a machine-readable format.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Tina Renna, Pres.
Union County Watchdog Assoc.**

Clerk of the Board Replies
Mrs. Renna:

The minutes have been scanned and converted to PDF images from TIF Images, created in the county's state-certified Electronic Data Management System, for several reasons:
1 - A scanned image allows my signature to be seen on the document, certifying that the document is official and approved by the freeholder board;
2 - A PDF allows for any attachments to the minutes (ie: PowerPoint presentations or items submitted to the board by a member of the public) to be viewable by the public; and
3 - A PDF ensures the integrity of the document, ensuring it is not altered in anyway way.

For your information, OnBase, the county's records management software, touts an OCR accuracy rate of 95 percent-98 percent.

**Nicole L. DiRado, CMC, MPA
Clerk of the Board**

Commentary, What Is a pdf, OCR? What is Government Transparency?

In the exchange of letters above between Mrs. Renna and Mrs. DiRado on the posting of Union County Freeholder minutes of meetings, we think Mrs. Renna has a valid point. We've seen more and more government entities publishing their documents as images though masquerading them as pdf files. These same government entities claim they wish to be more transparent in their operations and desirous of better serving the public. Even the Scotch Plains website seems to be doing this now based on recent submittals.

Is this a growing trend? We don't know if this is purposeful by these agencies, or if they are just uninformed. The county has very skilled information technology personnel. County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi is one of the best. Perhaps she could be consulted to resolve this matter.

On a technical note, pdf stands for "Portable Document Format." It was developed so that text, images and vectors can be combined into an electronic document, readable, searchable and printable by all computer systems. Correctly constructed, the text in the pdf is searchable on websites and able to be copied and pasted. It can also be password pro-

tected so that it can't be altered, should that be a concern.

With today's computer systems, a true pdf file is easy to create — just "print to pdf" from any computer program. The setup takes only a few minutes. In fact, it's difficult to actually create a pdf that is not searchable; reducing it to only an image — one would have to go out of one's way to achieve it.

With proper pdf production, there's no OCR involved. OCR stands for Optical Character Recognition, whereby for example a piece of paper is scanned to an image and computer software then tries to interpret the image and create words from it.

So it seems if the county and other government agencies are hiring outside firms (with taxpayer money) to create improper pdf's (images), scanning paper and making images, the whole effort becomes expensive for no reason — unless of course the intent is not to be transparent but appear to be transparent.

Presumably, minutes of meetings are composed by word processing software such as MS Word (where signatures and images can also be included). One could use almost any software available today to do this. Then, just "print to pdf" — no consultants required.

The county worker could then connect to their website by an ftp program, upload the file and the information is immediately available to the public in seconds — transparently.

It all boils down to the lyrics in a country and western song, *It's so simple, it done eluded me.*



PACKED HOUSE...Well-wishers fill the audience Sunday at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth as freeholders hold their reorganization meeting.

NJ School Board Assoc. Notes Work of Their Local School Bd. Members

TRENTON — The New Jersey State Board of Education last week marked School Board Recognition Month by approving a resolution that commends the hard work and dedication of the state's nearly 4,800 local school board members.

"New Jersey's boards of education are charged with the duty to provide students with the skills and resources necessary to achieve state standards, so they may compete in a global economy upon graduation," the resolution states. "The efforts of local boards of education, in partnership with stakeholders ranging from parents to teachers to state education officials, have fostered a public school system that has contributed to New Jersey's status as a leader in academic benchmarks such as elementary and middle school scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and college preparation through Advanced Placement offerings."

"School Board Recognition Month presents an opportunity to inform our communities about the complex and demanding job performed by local boards of education," said Raymond Wiss, president of the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA). "Our state's 4,800 local school members constitute the largest group of elected and appointed public officials in New Jersey," he added. "They are also the best prepared group — undergoing extensive state-mandated training that far exceeds requirements for other public offices. And, I have to point out, school board members receive no compensation for their service."

New Jersey's local school boards oversee the operations of the public schools that serve about 1.38 million students, according to the NJSBA, a sponsor of recognition month.

The National School Boards Association began School Board Recognition Month in the early 1990s, and various states dedicate a month to recognize the contributions of local school board members. 2011 marks the tenth year that School Board Recognition Month has been celebrated in New Jersey.

Because School Board Recognition Month coincides with the time when prospective school board can-

didates take the first steps to run for office, the state board's resolution "encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local boards of education." March 8 is the deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions to place their names on the ballot for the 2011 annual school election, which will take place on April 27.

For more information, please see www.njsba.org.

The New Jersey School Boards Association is a federation of 588 local boards of education and includes 44 charter school associate members. NJSBA advocates the interests of school districts, trains local school board members and provides resources for the advancement of public education.

According to NAMI (National Assoc. Mental Illness), the U.S. Surgeon General has reported that the likelihood of violence from people with mental illness is low. Acts of violence are exceptional. They are a sign that something has gone terribly wrong, usually in the mental healthcare system. Nationwide, the mental health care system is broken. Arizona, like other states, has deeply cut mental health services. It is essential to understand the nature of mental illness and to find out what went wrong.

New Jersey Borrows 40,000 Units Of Blood From Other States

TRENTON — According to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, fewer blood drives during the holiday season increase the need for blood donations in January. Currently, O negative blood is in critically short supply in New Jersey. However, blood donations are needed year round, and all blood types are needed. Blood donations have consistently failed to keep pace with need.

In 2009, New Jersey used 39,826 more units of blood than it collected and had to borrow from other states.

More than 60 percent of New Jersey adults are eligible to donate blood, yet only 3.6 percent donate on a routine basis. If New Jersey could increase its donor participation to the national average of 5 percent, the state would eliminate its blood shortage.



FROM AFAR...The Martin Wallberg Post No. 3 of the American Legion, Westfield, was presented a flag that flew over Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Specialist Carlos Granados of Alpha Co 2113 home, based in Newark, presented the flag in appreciation of the "goodies and supplies for children" that the Post sent to him in Afghanistan on his deployment and for when he was on deployment to Iraq a few years ago. Pictured, from left to right, are: Commander Bill Maines, Carlos and his friend Leidy Hernandez. Carlos had the flag framed in Afghanistan by a local artisan. To help the troops, call Pete Hogaboom at (908) 247-7630.



THANK YOU...Joseph Gibilisco, center, receives a plaque from RWJ Rahway Foundation President Marlene H. Lubinger and Kirk Tice, RWJ Rahway president and CEO, in recognition of his dedication, leadership and service as foundation chairman from 2008-2010.

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Dr. Merriman was recently voted by her peers as a Top Dentist in New Jersey Monthly's 2010 survey of New Jersey Dentists.

Dr. Merriman is a graduate of New York University, College of Dentistry and Long Island Jewish Medical Center in NY. Her professional affiliations include the American Dental Association, New Jersey Dental Association, American Association of Women Dentists, and the prestigious Dawson Alumni Association. She is a faculty member at The Center for Educational Excellence in NJ, and co-founder of the Dawson Study Club for Complete Dentistry. Dr. Merriman is also the author of the blog Dental Chronicles: www.dentalchronicles.com

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Edwin Ehlert, III, 50, Is Remembered For Love of Life, Humor and Activities

Edwin Ehlert, III, 50, of Bethlehem, Pa. died on Thursday, December 9, 2010, after a brief illness.

Born on August 12, 1960 in Summit, N.J., Eddie was a resident of the Good Shepherd Home in Bethlehem, Pa. since 2000, and prior to that the Good Shepherd Home of Allentown, Pa. since 1979.

Eddie became involved with many activities, among them the Good Shepherd Wheelchair Olympics (wearing his beloved fuzzy dog slippers), the bowling team, fishing trips, concerts and painting. He loved movies, pizza and rock and roll. His love of music landed him in the Glee Club, where he learned to play the snare drum.

Eddie touched the hearts of everyone whom he met, and you couldn't help but be drawn in by his love of life and infectious sense of humor.

He will be sorely missed by his family who survive him, his father, Edwin Ehlert, Jr., and his wife, Karen, of Manassquan, N.J.; his mother, Natalie L. Ehlert of Wilmington, N.C., and his sisters and their families, Allison, Jeffrey and Justin Wark, Heidi, Chris, Ally and C.J. Mazzocco, and Judy Doyle and her son, Robert, his wife, Brandi, and son, Jaxon, along with many other loving family members and friends.

A private service was held on Wednesday, December 15, at Greenwood Cemetery in Allentown, Pa., where Eddie is interred. J.S.

Burkholder Funeral Home of Allentown handled the arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made in Eddie's memory to Good Shepherd Home, 850 5th Street, Allentown, Pa. 18103, Attn: Development Dept. Please note on check: "Long Term Care."

January 13, 2011

Elizabeth Harrison, 92

Elizabeth T. Harrison (née McGall), 92, of Westfield passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

A lifelong resident of Westfield, Elizabeth was a graduate of Holy Trinity High School in Westfield. She was a homemaker who was devoted to her family.

Her beloved husband, Robert John Harrison, predeceased her.

Surviving are their four loving daughters, Patricia Hechler, Mary C. Peterson, Kathleen Robbiano and Elaine Bradley. Elizabeth also will be deeply missed by her brother, Robert McGall, and her sister, Dorothy McGall, along with her eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A private family service was held under the direction of the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

January 13, 2011

Rose Polito, 89, Was Committeewoman; Founding Member of Ambulance Squad

Rose M. Polito, 89, died on Saturday, January 8, 2011, at Greenbrook Manor in Green Brook.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived most of her life in Roselle.

Rose worked as a payroll supervisor for PSE&G in Elizabeth before retiring in 1991. She was a founding member of the Roselle Volunteer Ambulance Squad; served as a committeewoman with the Borough of Roselle and was a longtime member of the Roselle Democratic Club.

She also was a member of the Rosary Society of the Church of St. Joseph the Carpenter in Roselle and was a volunteer for the International Office of Renew in Plainfield.

Surviving are her daughter, Nancy Arvizzigno, and her husband, Joseph, and her granddaughter,

Francesca and Angela Arvizzigno.

The funeral will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 15, from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. A Mass will be offered at 10 a.m. at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, 1600 Rahway Avenue in Westfield. Interment will follow at St. Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

Visitation will be tomorrow, Friday, January 14, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Center for Hope Hospice, 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076. For additional information or to express condolences, please visit www.fanwoodmemorial.com.

January 13, 2011

Brenton Harries, Had Been Executive, Decorated Veteran and Active Alumnus

Brenton W. Harries of Poinciana, Fla., formerly of Westfield, Mantoloking Shores and Wilson Point, So. Norwalk, Conn., passed away on Sunday, December 26, 2010, after an extended illness.

The son of Harrison and Ethel Harries, he grew up in Hartford, Conn. Brent attended Trinity College on a football scholarship and graduated in 1950. He then attended the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, where he received his Master of Business Administration degree. He received three battle ribbons as an officer in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict.

Brent had a long and distinguished career. In 1955, he joined the Blue List Publishing Co., a Wall Street publication serving the Municipal Bond industry, and was elected its president in 1966 after its acquisition by Standard & Poor's Corporation. He subsequently held several positions with Standard & Poor's. Brent was president and CEO from 1973 to 1981.

In 1974, during his tenure as president, S&P took the unprecedented step of suspending New York City's credit rating during its great financial crisis, which ultimately led to the creation of The

Municipal Assistance Corporation. In 1981, while remaining chairman of S&P, Brent was elected Group President of Information Companies at McGraw-Hill, which acquired S&P in 1967.

Brent retired in 1987 and served on several commercial and non-commercial boards including the Alliance Capital Group. He also was past president of The Municipal Bond Club of New York.

Brent was a strong supporter of Trinity College, serving as past president of the Alumni Association, and was a member of its board of trustees.

He was predeceased by his wife of 43 years, Vivian Johnson Harries, in 1996.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Kienle Harries; his sons, Bradford and his wife, Pamela, of McLean, Va., Mark and his wife, Mary, of Westfield and William and his wife, Linda, of San Diego, Calif., and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 15, 2011, at the Trinity College Chapel in Hartford, Conn.

Memorial donations may be made to The American Diabetes Association.

January 13, 2011

Obituaries

Joy E. Krauss, 79, Volunteer With CSH; Had Been Executive at Advertising Firm

Joy E. Krauss, 79, died on Friday, January 7, 2011, at the Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Krauss lived in Cedar Knolls and Florham Park before moving to Westfield 50 years ago.

She was vice-president of J.M. Kesslinger Advertising in Springfield, where she worked for 25 years, retiring in 2000.

Mrs. Krauss graduated from Smith College with a bachelor's degree. She was a volunteer at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside and

did press relations for the New Jersey Symphony.

She was the beloved wife of the late Mitchell; the devoted mother of Bill Krauss and his wife, Stephanie Voss, Susan Krauss and her wife, Linda Benson, and Caroline Bogart and her husband, John, and the loving sister of Mickey Levine and Judy Deitz.

Services were held on Sunday, January 9, 2011, at Menorah Chapels at Millburn, 2950 Vauxhall Road in Union. Interment was at Beth Israel Cemetery in Cedar Knolls.

January 13, 2011



Irwin and Suzanne Rosenthal, 1967 founders of CCFa, congratulate Dr. Michael Margolin

Dr. Margolin Is Named 'Physician of the Year'

CRANFORD — At its 32nd Annual Awards Dinner, the New Jersey Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation (CCFA-NJ) presented Michael Margolin, MD with its 2010 "Physician of the Year" award. Dr. Margolin, a Westfield resident and a gastroenterologist with an office in Cranford, is only the third recipient of this prestigious award in the eight years since its creation.

According to Rosemarie Golombos, the Foundation's New Jersey executive director, "This award recognizes the honoree for the medical care, commitment and expertise he provides to his patients and their families, for the example he sets for his peers, and for his contributions and service to the New Jersey chapter and the Foundation at large."

The "Physician of the Year" award is named in memory of Dr. David Kaufman, a noted New Jersey gastroenterologist who was one of the CCFA-NJ chapter's first physician

members and served on the CCFA Medical Advisory Committee for nearly 25 years, until his death in 2002.

Honey Kaufman, the wife of Dr. Kaufman, presented the award to Dr. Margolin, stating that Dr. Margolin not only shared her husband's particular interest in treating these difficult diseases, but that he also treats his patients with the great skill and true compassion that her husband had valued so highly.

Also speaking at the event was Suzanne Rosenthal, who founded the CCFA in 1967 as one of the country's first patient advocacy organizations. Ms. Rosenthal praised Dr. Margolin's dedication to all his patients, and in particular thanked him for his support of the summer camps for children coping with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, two chronic disorders that cause potentially debilitating inflammation of the digestive tract.

Dr. Margolin studied at New York University Medical School and at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York (with the inventor of modern colonoscopy), and he has practiced in New Jersey since 1987. He is on staff at both Overlook Hospital and Trinitas Regional Medical Center, and he was Chief of Gastroenterology at Union Hospital prior to its recent closing. Dr. Margolin can be reached at (908) 272-6300.

CCFA is dedicated to finding a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and to improving the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases. CCFA sponsors research and provides education and support to patients and their families. The CCFA office number is (732) 786-0060.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Tuesday, January 4, an attempted burglary of a business was reported on the 1000 block of West North Avenue. Pry marks were discovered on the door jam, according to police.

Tuesday, January 4, a motor vehicle on the 300 block of First Street sustained damage as the result of criminal mischief. There was a dent on the side of the vehicle.

Tuesday, January 4, Daxuan Wang, 57, of Livingston was arrested during a traffic stop on Frazee Court near Central Avenue and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). He was transported to police headquarters, processed and held until the morning of January 5, because he was unable to contact an adult to whom he could be released.

Wednesday, January 5, prescription drugs were reported stolen from the room of a guest at a West North Avenue lodging facility.

Thursday, January 6, William Fields, 52, of New York City was arrested after turning himself in at police headquarters on outstanding warrants from Bordentown and Scotch Plains. He was processed and turned over to the Scotch Plains Police Department.

Friday, January 7, Randy R. Reese, 46, of Plainfield was arrested at Cranford police headquarters on an active Westfield traffic warrant in the amount of \$1,100. Reese was transported to police headquarters and processed on that warrant, as well as on traffic warrants from Dunellen and Roselle Park, each in the amount of \$500. He was released after posting bail.

Friday, January 7, Jobina L. Smith, 35, of Roselle was arrested at Roselle police headquarters on a Westfield traffic warrant, for \$500; Clark criminal warrant, for \$250; Newark criminal warrant, for \$500, and a no-bail Middlesex County Sheriff's Office warrant. Smith was transported to the Union County jail in lieu of bail on the Westfield warrant. All the other warrants served as detainers.

Saturday, January 8, police arrested a man and a woman after responding to the area of Clark Street and Dudley Avenue on a report of two suspicious people pushing a baby carriage without a baby. The couple had left the sidewalk multiple times to approach residences, and went into the backyard of at least one home, according to police.

Upon arrival at the scene, police located the individuals a short distance from each other. Police discovered the male suspect, SaintLouis Moore, 30, of Elizabeth, had \$925 in warrants issued for him by Newark. After an investigation, the female suspect, Wendy Murray, 54, of New York City, also was arrested on a charge of hindering apprehension, for allegedly giving police a false name, as well as on a no-bail Union County Sheriff's Office warrant and on criminal warrants from Elizabeth totaling \$1,660. Moore was released on his own recognizance, while Murray was turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Scotch Plains

Monday, January 3, a resident of Prospect Avenue reported that he was the victim of criminal mischief after someone keyed his motor vehicle sometime overnight while it was parked in his driveway.

Monday, January 3, a resident of Lamberts Mill Road reported that a former co-worker has been harassing her by calling her on multiple occasions and then hanging up when she answers.

Tuesday, January 4, a resident of Country Club Boulevard reported that someone made several hundred dollars worth of unauthorized purchases on his credit card.

Thursday, January 6, William Fields, 28, of New York City was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on East Second Street for \$800 in warrants out of Scotch Plains. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Thursday, January 6, a resident of Portland Avenue reported that, sometime in the afternoon, someone entered her home and removed several thousand dollars worth of jewelry. According to police, it is unknown how entry was gained.

Friday, January 7, Chante O'Neal, 20, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Plainfield Avenue for \$665 in outstanding warrants issued by the South Plainfield Court. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Saturday, January 8, Neeadokwe Allotey, 36, of North Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22, at which time the officer smelled the strong odor of marijuana. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Saturday, January 8, a patron of a Lamberts Mill Road gym reported that someone removed her jacket, valued at approximately \$185, from a hook in the women's locker room.

Sunday, January 9, a resident of Country Lane reported that, sometime overnight, someone damaged his motor vehicle while it was parked in front of his apartment.

Monday, January 10, Ryan McCleod, 20, of Somerville was arrested on an \$81 warrant out of Scotch Plains after a motor vehicle stop on Park Avenue. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Mountainside

Tuesday, January 4, a resident of Montville, who previously resided on Hedge Row, came into police headquarters to report a suspicious letter she received at her former address. According to police, the letter contained personal information about the victim's life. The return address on the letter appears to have originated from a jail cell in Atlanta, Ga.

Tuesday, January 4, Leshir Sizemore, 39, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on New Providence Road for allegedly driving with a sus-

pending license. She was processed and released at the scene.

Wednesday, January 5, Omar Egerton, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22. He was processed and released at the scene.

Wednesday, January 5, a resident of Sunny Slope Drive came into police headquarters to report that he has been receiving harassing phone calls from a company purporting to be a collection company. According to police, an officer called back the number and verified that the caller was indeed from a collection agency and that the calls were in regards to a credit card in his daughter's name. The victim stated that his daughter has not lived with him for years and did not have a credit card with the company indicated by the collection agency, police reported. The officer advised that his daughter might be the victim of credit card fraud. The collection agency suggested that, in order for the calls to stop, the daughter should pay off the debt, authorities reported.

Saturday, January 8, a resident of New Providence Road reported that his girlfriend and their son have been missing since Wednesday, January 5. According to police, his girlfriend left a note stating that "she wants to be happy, and the keys and truck are in back." The victim reported that his girlfriend had left with their son in the past and stayed with relatives in Virginia for four months before returning home, police said. The officer advised the victim to determine if the missing parties' passports also were missing and to return to police headquarters with recent photos of both his girlfriend and their son, authorities said.

Saturday, January 8, Nyeasha S. Coleman, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license and on an outstanding warrant out of Plainfield after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Saturday, January 8, Bryan P. Callahan, 23, of Westfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) and having an open container of alcohol in a vehicle, after an officer responded to a motor vehicle accident on Summit Lane in which a vehicle struck a tree. According to police, Callahan was behind the wheel of the crashed vehicle when the officer arrived, and the officer found an empty 40-ounce can of beer and an empty bottle of Jaegermeister on the floor. When asked how much he had to drink, Callahan responded, "probably too much; I shouldn't have been behind the wheel," police said. He was transported to Overlook Hospital for his injuries sustained in the crash.

Fanwood

Monday, January 3, Tara Leahy, 38, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on an outstanding warrant out of New Brunswick. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Tuesday, January 4, Eric White, 39, of Budd Lake was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Garwood and East Hanover after a motor vehicle stop on Forest Road. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Wednesday, January 5, a business on the 100 block of South Avenue reported an incident of shoplifting after an individual described as a black male, approximately 30 years old, standing approximately six feet and three inches tall, and wearing a dark hoodie and dark pants removed baby formula from the store without paying. According to police, a search of the area did not produce the suspect.

Wednesday, January 5, John Brown, Jr., 53, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue on outstanding warrants out of Fanwood and Elizabeth. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Thursday, January 6, a patron of a store on the 100 block of South Avenue reported that she accidentally left her purse in the shopping cart and when she returned to retrieve it her wallet, containing cash, her driver's license and credit cards, was missing.

Friday, January 7, Walter Hunter, Jr., 41, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. According to police, Hunter failed multiple field sobriety tests at the scene and was transported to police headquarters, processed and released to a responsible adult.

Friday, January 7, police responded to a house alarm going off on the 40 block of Staggard Place and found a rear basement door window had been broken. According to police, when the homeowner arrived home, it was determined entry was not gained.

Friday, January 7, a resident of the 300 block of LaGrande Avenue reported that his residence was burglarized sometime between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. According to police, the rear door had been forced open and, once inside, the suspect removed multiple laptop computers, a flat-screen television and other items. Property determined to be from a previous burglary in Plainfield was found on the front lawn, leading police to believe that the suspect's vehicle was full, and previously stolen property had to be discarded to make room for items removed from the LaGrande Avenue residence.

Friday, January 7, a resident of Locust Avenue reported that his home was burglarized after a rear door was forced open. According to police, once inside the suspect removed cash and a coin collection, the value of which is still being determined.

Monday, January 10, Joseph Chapman, 44, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on an outstanding warrant out of South Plainfield. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

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Ms. Erin P. McCloskey and Captain John Paul Snook

Ms. Erin McCloskey to Wed Captain John Paul Snook

Mr. and Mrs. James McCloskey of Mountainside have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ms. Erin P. McCloskey, to Captain John Paul Snook. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Snook of West Chester, Pa. A 2005 graduate of Westfield High School, the bride-to-be received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md. in 2009. She is employed as an accountant with Verrex Corporation in

Mountainside.

The future bridegroom graduated from Devon Preparatory School in Devon, Pa. in 2003, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in German from Mount St. Mary's University in 2007. He also completed Army ROTC training and was commissioned in 2007.

After he completes his tour of duty in Germany, the couple will be married in September 2011.

Imperial Brass to Perform Concert at Willow Grove

SCOTCH PLAINS - Imperial Brass will perform its Winter Festival Concert on Sunday, January 23, at 3 p.m. at its home base, the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church. A 30-piece brass ensemble, Imperial Brass performs an array of musical selections.

The concert will feature classics of J.S. Bach, Mozart and George Gershwin, and will include arrangements by Mark Freeh, Erik Leidzen, Paul Nagle, Pat Burns and Joseph Turrin. Mitch Brodsky, Ryan Krewer, Barry Morrison, Gerard Wells, Mike Stephenson and Tobie Baldwin will perform as soloists. Originally formed under the auspices of Rutgers University, Imperial Brass has been appearing around the Metropolitan New York and Tri State area since 1991, with concerts and performances at churches, band festivals, schools and universities. Its repertoire includes classical, pop, Broadway and movie music, as well as big band jazz classics.

In its short history of 20 years, Imperial Brass has twice won the Northeastern Brass Band Competition held at West Point Military Academy and has performed at the New York Brass Conference for

Scholarships five times. The ensemble also established the Philip Smith Scholarship Chair, named after the principal trumpet in the New York Philharmonic. This position was formed to give a gifted student the opportunity to gather professional experience and at the same time provide some needed funds to help the student continue through college.

Imperial Brass has recorded four CDs, the most recent being "Bone-A-Fide Brass" with Joseph Alessi, principal trombone with the New York Philharmonic, and "Have Yourself a Brass Little Christmas." The concert will take place in the sanctuary of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. Afterward, there will be a reception with light refreshments in the church's Alexander Hall.

Tickets are on sale in advance and also will be available at the door. Prices are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for senior citizens and students, and free for children 12 and under. For tickets sales or further information, visit willowgrovechurch.org or call (908) 232-5678. For more information on the concert, go to imperialbrass.org.

King Day Events to Feature Breakfast, March, Service

WESTFIELD - Multiple events are planned in Westfield on Monday, January 17, to commemorate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Opening the day will be the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. annual Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Westfield Community Center, located at 558 West Broad Street. The public is welcome. Donations of \$5 for adults and \$4 for children and senior citizens are requested. For additional information, call (908) 232-4759.

The Martin Luther King Association of Westfield has announced that the annual Martin Luther King Memorial Service will begin at 1 p.m. The Reverend Father Peter Delvizio, presiding priest of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Westfield, will serve as guest speaker.

Preceding the service will be a march starting at 12:30 p.m. at the MLK Monument, located near the South Avenue circle. Participants will march through the downtown to the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield, where the service will take place.

The theme for this year's event will be "In the world house, local actions have global reactions." The program

Best Friend to Extend Sale Through Monday

SCOTCH PLAINS - Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption will hold a 50-percent-off sale Saturday and Sunday, January 15 and 17, at its thrift store. Located at 1750 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, the store normally is open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except Sunday and Monday. However, it will be open this Monday, Martin Luther King Day.

A not-for-profit organization run solely by volunteers, Best Friend is accepting donations of good-quality merchandise to re-stock its shelves. Requested items include jewelry, cosmetics, record albums, music CDs and DVDs, clothing, shoes and handbags. Antiques, small furniture and musical instruments also are welcome.

Additionally, Best Friend urgently needs donations of new dog mats and large-size leashes for their dogs in boarding, as well as dry and canned cat food. Best Friend also is in need of volunteers in the thrift store and is in desperate need of foster homes for cats.

For more information, call (732) 388-8930 or visit bestfriend.petfinder.org. Tax-deductible donations are urgently needed and may be sent to: Best Friend, P.O. Box 335, Cranford, N.J. 07016.

also will include multiple awards given to Westfield students for artwork, poetry and essays.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in animal biology at the University of Kentucky, Reverend Delvizio received the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Maximus to attend the seminary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. He completed his Masters of Divinity at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, then went on to complete postgraduate work at Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece, and became an ordained priest in 1994.

His first assignment was to the Cathedral of the Ascension in Oakland, Calif. In 1997, he became presiding priest of St. Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church in El Cajon, Calif. His five-year tenure in Southern California was followed by a two-year pastorate in Media, Pa., prior to his current position.

King Day of Service On Tap For Monday

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains/Fanwood Martin Luther King Day of Service will take place on Monday, January 17, with many volunteer opportunities available for both adults and children. The Opening Program and same-day registration will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, located at 1340 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. A movie, speakers, family activities, free giveaways and bake sales will be featured. Volunteer activities will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the Scotch Plains-Fanwood area. For more information, click on MLK Day at scotchplains.patch.com or e-mail spfdayservice@gmail.com.

Seniors Are Invited To Bake-Off, Bingo

SCOTCH PLAINS - Mayor Nancy Malool and the Community Relations Committee of Scotch Plains invite Scotch Plains senior citizens to a Bake-Off and Bingo event. It will be held on Saturday, January 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club, located at 820 Jerusalem Road in Scotch Plains.

Contest entries must be a dessert, homemade and ready to serve. Prizes and refreshments will be provided. To enter the contest, play Bingo or participate in both, call (908) 322-6700, extension no. 314, or e-mail mayormalool@scotchplains.org.



MR. AND MRS. CHRISTOPHER SELKIRK
(She is the former Laura Louise Sweeney)

Dr. Laura Louise Sweeney Marries Christopher Selkirk

Dr. Laura Louise Sweeney, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Sweeney of Westfield, was married on Saturday, October 23, 2010, to Christopher Selkirk. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Selkirk of Lake Placid, N.Y.

The afternoon ceremony was held at the Our Lady of Victories Church in Boston, Mass., with the bride given in marriage by her father. A reception followed at the Downtown Harvard Club in Boston.

Dr. Erin DeRose, college roommate of the bride, was the maid of honor. The bridal attendants included Ms. Elizabeth Struble, sister of the bride; Ms. Katie Liska and Ms. Allissa Kline.

Nicholas Leff, childhood friend of the groom, was the best man. Serving as groomsmen were Michael Selkirk, brother of the groom; Adam Rekrut and Tony Lin.

A 1997 graduate of Westfield High School, the bride received a bachelor's degree from Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. and her medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway. She did her residency in internal medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center in Boston. The bride currently is completing a fellowship in endocrinology, also at Beth Israel Medical Center.

The groom is a 1999 graduate of the Northwood School in Lake Placid. He

received his undergraduate degree in business from Northeastern University in Boston and currently is working on his Master of Business Administration degree at Babson College in Wellesley, Mass. He works at Wellington Management in the U.S. Client Service Group.

The parents of the bridegroom hosted a rehearsal dinner at Maggiano's in Boston. Following a honeymoon trip to Paris, the couple lives in Brookline, Mass.

Wnucks Welcome Son, Alexander George

Erik and Andrea Wnuck of Westfield have announced the birth of their son, Alexander George Wnuck, on Thursday, December 16, 2010, at 7:13 p.m. at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Alexander weighed 8 pounds and 6 ounces and measured 20 inches in length at birth.

The baby's maternal grandparents are George and Barbara Forese of Bloomsburg, Pa. William Wnuck of Edison and Linda Chakey of Fort Wayne, Ind. are his paternal grandparents.

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

The Good News

"Their Redeemer is strong. His name is the Lord Almighty. He will plead for them and see that they are freed to live again in quietness." (Jeremiah 50:34) TLB

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Annual Pancake Breakfast

The Westfield Community Center invites the public to our Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Pancake Breakfast on

Monday, January 17th between
8:00am and 10:30am

Donations of \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for kids and seniors are requested.

For more information, please call:

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Redeemer School to Present Art and Science Show

WESTFIELD - Redeemer Lutheran School in Westfield will present its annual student art show and the traveling science show, "Dancin' with the Honeybees" on Friday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m. Cliff Wright-Sunflower is a master beekeeper, environmental educator, storyteller and performer. In his audience participation program, "Dancin' with the Honeybees", he brings the scientific magic of the honeybee hive to life. Using honeybees as his focus, Cliff reaches all levels of students and adults with concepts, facts and ideas about the ecology of the natural world. "Dancin' with the Honeybees", uses storytelling, poetry, prose, puppetry, music, dance and participatory

theatre. The follow-up "Bee Touch Me Museum" lab program reinforces the science concepts presented in the program. Every participant makes a beeswax candle to take home.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour the school facilities this evening and visit specific classes on both Tuesday, January 25, and Wednesday, January 26 between 10 a.m. and noon each day. Redeemer School is in its 58th year and offering classes from pre-kindergarten (beginning at age 2 and a half) through Grade six.

Tickets are \$3 per person; \$10 per family (maximum) and are available in advance through the school office: (908) 232-1592.



CADETTES WITH A CAUSE...Cadette Troop 40345 of Westfield recently met with Junior Troop 40510 for some winter fun. The younger girls made a winter craft, enjoyed a homemade snack, and made twelve no-sew fleece baby blankets. The blankets, along with books donated by Troop 40510, will be donated to a local charity as part of Troop 40345's Silver Award project.

WHS Dance-A-Thon

Fundraiser Set for Feb. 11

WESTFIELD - The Westfield High School (WHS) Student Council is planning a six-hour Dance-A-Thon on Friday, February 11, as the main fundraiser for the state Student Council charity, the Spread the Magic Foundation.

Please support Spread the Magic by making donations to the WHS students who are in the process of forming Dance-A-Thon teams. With your help, a difference can be made in the lives of suffering children.

If you do now know a WHS student who is participating in this event, but

would like to donate to this cause, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be sent to the attention of the WHS Student Council, Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield, NJ, 07090. Make checks payable to WHS Student Council.

The Student Council sincerely appreciates your continued support of their organization.

For more information, contact the Student Council at westfieldstudentcouncil@yahoo.com.

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Photo courtesy of Michelle Daino

MATHEMATICS MARVELS ... Winners of the AMC8 Mathematics Competition from The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in North Edison are pictured, left to right: Brandon Yin of Scotch Plains and John Anderson-Schmitt of Scotch Plains, tied for third place; Sam Cheon of Edison second place; and Christopher Hillenbrand of Mountainside, first place.

Wardlaw-Hartridge Reveals AMC 8 Math Comp Winners

EDISON - Christine Cerminaro of Scotch Plains, the Middle School mathematics teacher at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in North Edison, recently announced the names of students who excelled in the AMC8 Mathematics Competition, which is sponsored by The Mathematical Association of America. This examination for eighth graders was held on November 16, 2010.

Christopher Hillenbrand of Mountainside earned first place, while Sam Cheon of Edison received second place status. There was a tie for third place between John Anderson-Schmitt of Scotch Plains and Brandon Yin of Scotch Plains.

The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-

minute multiple choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem solving skills. The examination provides an opportunity to apply the concepts taught at the junior high level to problems which not only range from easy to difficult but also cover a wide range of applications.

Many problems are designed to challenge students and to offer problem solving experiences beyond those provided in most junior high school mathematics classes. Calculators are not allowed starting in 2008.

High scoring students are invited to participate in the AMC 10.



MAGICAL VISIT ... Kindergarten students at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in North Edison were visited by the "tooth fairy" during their celebration of the 70th day of school. Portrayed by Renee Payami of Scotch Plains, the mother of Kapriana, a kindergartner, Briella, a fourth-grader, and Jake, a sixth grader, the tooth fairy sprinkled fairy dust on the children's heads before reading *The Night Before the Tooth Fairy* by Natasha Wing and *You Think It's Easy Being the Tooth Fairy* by Sheri Bell-Rehwoldt. She also gifted the students with magical glow-in-the-dark tooth-shaped boxes to use under their pillows for their very own tooth



FROM THE MOUTH OF BABES...Westminster Preschool in Fanwood recently performed "The Christmas Story" along with a holiday songfest for families and friends. Pictured is Mrs. Knierim's morning four-year class who participated as angels, wise men, shepherds and Joseph. For more information about upcoming events please contact the school at (908) 889-4405.

SP-FHS Teachers Recall Day in the Spotlight

by Julie Whitty and Amy Rutkowski
Specially Written for The ScotchPlains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS - That knot in our stomachs has stretched to its absolute limit of endurance. We have reviewed our own notes over and over. We really have little idea what to expect tomorrow. So, sleep is elusive.

Midnight, 2 a.m., 3 a.m. - Oh great, it's 3:45: time to get up, do hair and make-up. We are being picked up at 5:15 a.m. (really?) in front of the school.

The Lexus pulls up and the driver gets out and opens the door. For two high school teachers, this is quite a treat. As we glide along the road to our television debut, we go over our notes - again! What will they ask? Are we walking into friendly territory or a hostile environment? Well, too late now.

The Lexus effortlessly slides silently through the sleepy New York City streets. We pull up in front of 641 Avenue of the Americas; once again our driver gets out and opens the door for us. We could get used to this.

Inside the guard requests our identification, and then we wait for the intern to escort us to the green room. Up we go.

The green room really is painted green - what an interesting premise. For some reason, we expected the color to be a metaphor of some type. First one and then the other, we are ushered to the make-up artist so that our make-up can be camera ready. A friendly, amicable young lady performs her magic, and we are ready to face the lens.

While one of us is being brushed and painted, the other sits and "relaxes" and much to our surprise, the intern asks if we know another particular intern, who just happens to be a former student of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and a close friend of this young lady - somehow we breathe a little easier, as if we have found a haven of friendship. The haven is short lived.

"Excuse me. I need to mic you up." Being seen is one thing; we need to be heard as well. The microphone is snaked through our clothes, off we go, back comes the knot in our stomachs. "Don't worry, we take care of adjusting the sound. Just relax and speak naturally." Oh, if only that could happen.

We chat with Steve Doocy for what seems like 10 seconds, which was, in reality, about 60 seconds. Time really does fly.

"7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... You're on." Two blinks later, everything is over. We are whisked out a side door, and there sits our driver. How nice, the interview is over, and he still gets out and holds open the door for us.

Beep... Beep... Beep... our mothers, our friends (those up this

early) call and text to congratulate us: you looked so relaxed... everything went so well... so proud of you.

The smiles spread slowly across both our faces. Did we really just appear on Fox & Friends? Were we really just featured in the Sunday edition of the New York Times? Sometimes, life just doesn't get any better.

Exactly what is all the commotion about? Our venture into the limelight began with the best of intentions. Exactly what is inclusion? According to the online dictionary, "Include: part of a group or whole" "Inclusion: somebody or something included in a group or mixture."

Including students in the yearbook is something that all good advisers and staff have been doing for years. By definition, a yearbook tells the story of the year. In a school, that story is the story of the students. Therefore, inclusion as a yearbook concept is nothing new; it now just has a name in a we-love-to-name-everything era.

Our Jostens yearbook representative approached us in September and stated, "We would like you to be one of our pilot schools for our PYP program (personalize your pages)." This is a chance for students to create four pages of their own in their own book. How cool! And how cool for that quiet-I'm-not-ready-to-be-noticed student. Four pages just about "me," one of the absolute favorite topics of just about all high school students.

Those students who participate in a plethora of activities will be featured as many times as they always were; if someone is in three clubs, two sports, band, and is an officer of student government, then he will appear in the yearbook seven times—as it should be. No one is or wants to take that away from him. But that student who is just a little quiet and who may not be comfortable knocking on the yearbook classroom door to say "I really want to be in the yearbook," now has the opportunity to do exactly that to be in her yearbook. And that student who has no interest in being in school, and maybe rarely is, will not be in the book.

Those who say that such a way of thinking is akin to, "the same impulse that says every kid on a team should get a trophy, whether he or she played well or not" do not understand the outlook behind this viewpoint. The philosophy, and it is a philosophy, not a mandate, is simple: an attempt to include as many students as possible in their yearbook - and it really is as simple as that.

Editor's Note: Julie Whitty and Amy Rutkowski, are teachers at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and yearbook advisers. Their quest to have a more inclusive yearbook landed them in the spotlight.

SP-F Pre-School Registration Underway

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District is now accepting applications for its Preschool program.

In order to apply, children must be three- years old on or before October 1, 2011 and/or four-years old on or before October 1, 2011.

A non-refundable application fee of \$50 is required payable to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and must be returned along with the completed application in order to be considered for placement.

Applicants must be residents of Scotch Plains or Fanwood. Proof of residence is mandatory and is subject to review prior to acceptance into the program.

Registration does not guarantee placement in the preschool program. Class will meet five days per week following the kindergarten schedule from 8:35 until 11:20 for the morning session and 12:20 until 3:10 for the afternoon session.

Tuition for the half-day program will be \$300 per month and spaces will be reserved on a first come first served basis. Parents of "multiples" will receive a discount of 10 percent for the additional sibling(s). Tuition may be provided at no cost to families that qualify for free/reduced lunch. Proof of status is required after the application is received and determination of eligibility will be made by the district.

Scholarships will be available on a limited basis and district administrators will determine eligibility. Special Education students will be included in this Preschool program as determined by the District Child Study Team. Applications and additional information can be obtained at the district website, www.spfk12.org under the heading "Announcements" or by calling 908-889-8600 ext. 302. Applications will also be available at all district elementary schools.

Eight WHS Students Chosen for Region Orchestra/Band

WESTFIELD - Hundreds of students recently auditioned for participation in the Region II Band/Orchestra, with eight Westfield High School students selected in the prestigious program.

Out of 111 clarinetists, senior John Chae placed sixth in the region and tenth grader Jeff Marino placed thirty-six. Out of 52 alto saxophonists, eleventh grader Rory Fitzpatrick placed sixth. With 84 trumpeters auditioning, tenth grader Clayton Beyert placed eighth in the region and eleventh grader Christopher Walsh took the eleventh spot.

Out of 32 horn players, eleventh grader David Verchick was seventeenth in the region.

Out of 46 violists, tenth grader Edmund Han placed fifth and ninth grader Cindy Xiao placed twenty-second in a field of 115 violinists.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment and Westfield High School will be represented strongly in these high level playing ensembles," stated Dr. Linda King, Supervisor of Fine Arts.

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WF Public Schools to Hold Lottery for Preschool Prog

WESTFIELD—The Westfield Public School District is now accepting applications for the 2011–2012 Preschool Program located at Lincoln School Early Childhood Center, 728 Westfield Avenue. The program is comprised of general education students and students who have been found eligible for special education. General education students will be selected for this program by lottery.

Preschool classes will meet Monday through Friday, from 8:45 to 11:15 a.m. for the 3-year old morning session and from 12:30 to 3 p.m. for the 4-year old afternoon session.

Applicants must be residents of Westfield and be three or four years of age on or before October 1, 2011. Applications for the lottery are available on the district website at www.westfieldnj12.org/lincoln. During school hours, applications may also be obtained in person at Lincoln School and the main office of any of the elementary schools in Westfield. All applications must be returned to Lincoln School, 728 Westfield Avenue, no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 17.

The lottery drawing will be held at Lincoln School, on February 18, at 2 p.m. Parents of applicants are welcome to attend but need not be present

at the drawing. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance by phone.

Children who are not selected for the program will be placed on a waiting list. Special education students are included in the Preschool Program as determined by the District Child Study Team.

An original birth certificate with raised seal and proof of residency will be required for those students admitted to the program. A tuition fee of \$320 per month will be charged to those pre-school students selected in the lottery for the 2011-2012 school year. Students who qualify under the income eligibility guidelines set forth under the Federal Child Nutrition Program may be eligible for a reduced charge.

For more information, please call Lincoln School at (908) 789-4455.

Holy Family Class Posts 50th Reunion

AREA—The Class of 1961 of Holy Family Academy of Bayonne will hold a 50th Reunion weekend, April 8 to 10, in Ocean Grove. Classmates may contact committee members Valerie Martin at (973) 781-1133 or Judith Gantly at judithann13@verizon.net.



THE GOOD LIFE...The Four-Plus children catch up on their reading at St. Paul's Day School in front of a cozy fire.

Open House, Registration at St. Paul's Day School

WESTFIELD — St. Paul's Day School in Westfield will sponsor an Open House and registration on Thursday, January 20, at 9:30 a.m. for new families for our kindergarten and nursery school. Parents will have an opportunity to view the facility, see our Smart Boards in action, learn about our different programs and meet the director and staff. Registration will take place for the 2010-2011 school year right after the Open House.

St. Paul's Day School offers an outstanding program of pre-academic and creative activities in a setting of caring and love. Kindergarten has a wonderful well-rounded full day program. We offer well-equipped classrooms with Smart Boards and a low student-teacher ratio. Our 4 Plus program is tailored for the child who is

ready for more than a regular four-year-old program but not either ready or old enough for kindergarten.

Children are exposed to music, drama, movement, Spanish and computer classes. Children play in our outdoor playground, weather permitting, and enjoy sand play and riding toys as well as using their imagination and motor skill in the castle and slide area. When weather is not permitting we offer large indoor play area with bikes, scooters, and climbing toys. Arts and crafts, such as painting pasting and coloring are also enjoyed each day.

Registration forms for new families should be dropped off no later than January 20. St. Paul's is located at 414 East Broad Street. Registration forms may be picked up at the open houses.

Centuolo Dismissed in Gov's Overhaul of Ed Budget

By BETSEY BURG DORF
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

UNION COUNTY — The governor's office announced that Union County Executive County Superintendent of Schools Carmen Centuolo's contract, which expired on Friday, January 7, would not be renewed. This news came in the wake of seven other executive superintendents receiving their pink slips last week.

"We usually expect something like this when there is a change in governor," Ms. Centuolo told *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. She had served as Union County Executive County Superintendent for the past six years.

In addition to Ms. Centuolo, executive school superintendents from Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset counties were told their contracts were not being renewed.

The executive superintendents not retained had annual salaries of \$120,000 or more and three-year contracts that were coming to term.

According to a press release from the governor's office, new rules on superintendent pay will include the capping of salaries at \$175,000 for

all but the largest school districts, with the possibility of bonuses for strong student performance going into effect in February. Acting Education Commissioner Rochelle Hendricks has warned county leaders to not approve any new contracts before then.

"I was disappointed that I didn't have a discussion (with Governor Christie) on the decision. I didn't have the opportunity to present him with my ideas, or the status of the county," Ms. Centuolo said.

She was "unaware of a plan" when asked who would take over her position. She expressed her disappointment that she would "not see the fulfillment" of projects she had been working on, including the county reorganization bussing issue.

Ms. Centuolo, who resides in Mountainside, has worked in education for over 40 years. She began her career in a Catholic school in Hammonton, Atlantic County, before entering the public school domain.

When asked about her plans for the future, Ms. Centuolo was uncertain whether or not she would seek full- or part-time work, but stated, "I will still stay active (in education) on some level. It's my love, my passion."

Bucknell University Announces Dean's List

LEWISBURG, PA. — Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2010-11 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition. Those students from your circulation area who met this standard are:

Emily S. Budnick, Westfield, daughter of Lawrence and Karen Budnick of Westfield, and a 2010 graduate of Westfield High School.

Brendan P. Burgdorf, Westfield, son of Betsey Burgdorf of Westfield and Charles Burgdorf of Douglaston, NY and a 2009 graduate of The Pingry School, Martinsville.

Sarah E. Canfield, Scotch Plains, daughter of James and Lynn Canfield of Scotch Plains, and a 2010 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Bridget G. Cornwell, Scotch Plains, daughter of Curtis and Kathleen Cornwell of Scotch Plains, and a 2008 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Alexander K. DeRose, Mountainside, son of James and Elizabeth DeRose of Mountainside, and a 2010 graduate of Governor Livingston high School.

Andrew T. DeRose, Mountainside, son of James and Elizabeth DeRose of Mountainside, and a 2008 graduate of Governor Livingston H.S., Berkeley Heights, NJ.

Jonathan S. Erman, Westfield, son of Martin and Sheryl Erman of Westfield, and a 2010 graduate of Westfield High School.

Jaclyn M. Kirna, Westfield, daughter of Carl and Robin Kirna of Westfield, and a 2008 graduate of Westfield High School.

Caitlyn M. Oster, Westfield, daughter of Michael and Margaret Oster of Westfield, and a 2007 graduate of Westfield High School.

Lindsay A. Robinson, Fanwood, daughter of Christopher and Laura Robinson of Fanwood, and a 2010 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Blair A. Rolnick, Westfield, daughter of Lawrence and Kimberly Rolnick of Westfield, and a graduate of Peddie School, Hightstown, NJ.

FW Resident Finne Earns Masters Degree

FANWOOD — Maryjane Finne, of Fanwood was awarded a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree from Thomas Edison State College. Finne, who is a charter member of the Thomas Edison State College Kappa Delta Pi honor society, is a technical facilitator with Rahway High School in Rahway.

Union Catholic Students Share Christmas Spirit

SCOTCH PLAINS — This past Christmas the students at Union Catholic High School went above and beyond to help share the spirit of the season by arranging activities to support a number of organizations.

The UC Angels Club, the Key Club, the Senior Class and faculty members joined together to collect new toys, clothes and coats for 47 children. All donations were wrapped and given to Tri-City Newark who manages the program to distribute the gifts to various daycares and individual homes.

On Wednesday, December 22, the Cheerleading Team visited residents at the Cornell Hall Care and Rehabilitation Center located in Union,

New Jersey. The team performed cheer and dance routines for approximately 30 residents living at the center. They also delivered Christmas cards they had made during practice earlier in the week. "It was a great afternoon," states cheerleading coach and Union Catholic faculty member Rae Neshimka. "The girls brought a lot of Christmas spirit to the residents."

Other spirit sharing activities included creating Christmas cards for US troops serving overseas, assisting St. Mary's Parish in Rahway with preparations for their Christmas drive, a Blood Drive sponsored by the Health Club and a Christmas fund-raiser by the Fashion Club for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS...Students at Union Catholic High School went above and beyond to help share the spirit of the season by arranging activities to support a number of organization. Pictured, left to right are: Roland Johnson of Roselle, Naya Allen of Plainfield, Steven Thomas of Union and Alexander Milord of Newark assist with the gifts and coats for Tri-City Newark.

Mtsd's Buonaguro Named to Dean's List

LOCK HAVEN, PA — Senior Juliann F. Buonaguro, a resident of Mountainside, studying Sport Administration was named to the Lock Haven University Fall 2010 Dean's List.

Deadlines

News & Ads - Friday 4pm
Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm
Classifieds - Tuesday 2pm

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Mother Seton to Hold Open House

CLARK — Mother Seton Regional High School will hold an informal Open House on Tuesday, January 25, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. for all fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls and their parents. This is a last chance for a "final look" for eighth graders. The program will be informational and enjoyable for girls who are planning to enter high school in the near future. It is imperative that eighth graders who wish to apply, and who have not already done so, call (732) 382-1952 for application information as soon as possible or visit the Mother Seton website at www.motherseton.org.

Registration for the 2011-12 school year will be held on Saturday, February 5, at 9 a.m. Any eighth grade girl who wishes to be considered for admission should send her elementary school records to Mother Seton immediately. In the Archdiocese of Newark, acceptance letters are mailed on January 20.

Our open house is designed primarily for parents and for students who are interested in attending Mother Seton Regional High School or in exploring some of the high school options available to them. Parents and students will have an opportunity to tour the school, meet with administration, parents, guidance and faculty members, examine the curricular and co-curricular programs and investigate transportation. Parents or students are invited to come alone if the evening is not convenient for both.

An informal social will follow at which parents and daughters may mingle with faculty and students of Mother Seton Regional High School, which is located at Parkway Exit 135 in Clark, New Jersey.



HONORABLE MENTION...Students in Joseph Paradise's 4th Grade class at Westfield's McKinley Elementary School were awarded an honorable mention for Best East Coast Region Entry in the BookJam Digital Book Report Video Contest for their submission of a video book report on Judy Blume's "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing". For their video entry, the students spent three weeks assembling costumes and props, filming scenes, and editing their video down to 2.5 minutes. The entries were judged by a panel at Recorded Books K-12.

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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-14

OLIVER NETS 25 PTS; TOM BONACUM 13 PTS, 11 RBS

Raider Basketball Boys Settle Indians' Fast Pace, Win, 72-65

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

Fast-paced games usually lead to an inordinate amount of trips to the free throw line, and nothing was different when the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team hosted a feisty Rahway Indian squad that was intent on "running" the show on January 7. In the end, however, the 8-2 Raiders took control in the second half to grab a 72-65 victory.

The Raiders hit 29-for-37 (78 percent) from the charity line, and 20 of those points came in the second half when they controlled the tempo of the game. Senior guard Charles Oliver sank 19 of his game-leading 25 points in the second half and hit 10-for-13 (77 percent) from the line.

"We spend a lot of time in practice on free throws. That is one of the repetitions that we do in practice ev-

ery day. That's very important. We don't take it lightly. Free throws can definitely win the game," said Oliver, who also had six rebounds.

Senior guard Patrick Dougher (2 assists, steal, blocked shot, rebound) bucketed 14 points, including three 3-pointers, and hit 3-for-4 from the line. Forward Matt Jegede (4 rebounds, steal, blocked shot) had 11 points and sank 4-for-5 from the line. Six of Dom Gonzalez's eight points came from the charity line. He also added two assists and a steal.

Forward Tom Bonacum hit nine of his 13 points in the second half, but his biggest asset came underneath as he led the team with 12 rebounds.

"They were short, but they were strong. I boxed out. Jumped high. That was about it," explained Tom Bonacum, who also had two assists.

Rahway hit 11 of 18 free throws (61 percent). Myron Mayes led the 5-

3 Indians with 15 points. Hakeem Kornegay sank 14 points, Aaron Peters put in 12 points, Alix Similian scored eight points, and Jacob Zadek hit a pair of 3-pointers.

The rapid pace of the first quarter led to misplaced passing and off-the-mark lay-up attempts, but the Raiders managed to go 6-for-6 from the line and take a 10-8 lead. The Indians beat the Raiders to the punch and grabbed a 22-16 lead with 3:10 left in the second quarter. The Raiders crept closer, but Similian bagged a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Indians a 29-23 lead at the half.

The tempo changed in favor of the Raiders in the third quarter.

"Just slow down the tempo. Play our tempo. Don't let them run their stuff. Just run our stuff," Bonacum said.

Oliver set the pace for the remain-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GETTING THE REVERSAL...Blue Devil Brian Bulger comes around for the reversal on Panther Steve Loevsky in his 171-lb. bout. Bulger grabbed an 11-2 majority decision.

DEVILS KALIMTZIS, SKIBITSKY, KANIA RECORD PINS

Roselle Park Panthers Edge Blue Devil Wrestlers, 35-31

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

Yielding bonus points needed to be kept to a minimum if the Westfield High School wrestling team was to pull off an upset over Roselle Park, but the Panthers salvaged enough bonus points and won the chess match of weigh-class positioning to salvage a 35-31 victory in Roselle Park on January 5.

The match began at the 103-lb. class, and Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis built an 11-0 lead on Enrique Maron before he pinned him with an arm bar, walk around in 3:56. Panther Giovanni Ramirez scored a pair of takedowns to claim a 4-1 victory over Nick Velez, and Panther John DeVito tied the team score with a 6-0 decision over Anthony Aldana at 119 lbs.

The much-needed bonus points seized by the Panthers came primarily

in three bouts. Panther Brendon Leary was carrying a 10-2 lead into the third period, but he pinned Keith Peterson with a walk-around arm bar in 4:50 at 130 lbs., adding two team points. At 135 lbs., Panther Nick Longo tallied a takedown late in the third period to squeeze an 11-3 majority decision over Nick Rotundo to add another team bonus point. Panther Jon Acosta reaped more team bonus points when he stuck Colin Barber in 1:23 at 152 lbs. after taking him to the mat with a far arm, far leg takedown.

"This is the first time in forever that we were in a match with them. Is there any satisfaction in that? Very little! Am I happy that we lost by four points? No way! We didn't have to lose that match. This group of kids

has worked their butts off since last summer not to lose by four points," Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz said. "Can we learn from it? We better learn that we can't be giving up takedowns at the end of the third period when we are down by seven. We have to learn how to fight off our backs and not to give up pins."

Blue Devil Ellis Opoku recorded a pair of arm-drag takedowns and an escape to defeat Phil Woods, 5-1, at 140 lbs., and Troy Skibitsky recorded six takedowns, including a pair of double-leg lift takedowns, before pinning Karn Patel in 3:14 with a low lateral drop at 145 lbs.

The Panthers did harvest additional bonus points, but they were expected. Dan Pisaura, an NJSIAA state qualifier last year, amassed three takedowns and a series of tight-waist

Probitas Verus Honos

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ABOUT TO MAKE HIS MOVE...Raider Charles Oliver, left, prepares to drive toward the basket against the Rahway Indians. Oliver scored 25 points in the 72-65 victory.

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Park Panthers Edge Blue Devil Matmen, 35-31

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

tilts to claim a 14-1, majority decision over Pat Currie at 125 lbs.

Additional bonus points also came with the chess match of weight-class repositioning. With the Panthers holding a 26-15 lead, the Blue Devils chose to present Brian Bulger at 160 lbs. and jump Christian Barber, fourth in the state rankings at 152 lbs., to 171 lbs. for a possible showdown with Vic Pozsonyi, ranked seventh in the state at that weight.

Bulger put together three double-leg takedowns, an ankle-pick takedown, a switch reversal and an escape to grab an 11-2 majority decision over Steve Loevsky to make the score 26-19. The Panthers chose to forfeit to Barber, making the score, 26-25, and bumped two of their strongest wrestlers, Pozsonyi and Connor Gabriel, up a class to virtually insure the team victory.

Pozsonyi used a walk-around maneuver to pin Luke Gibbons in 57 seconds at 189 lbs., but Gabriel had a much tougher time with Kieran Cline

at 215 lbs., but did pull out a 9-2 victory.

"That was a good bounce back effort after last night [a 42-19 setback to Ocean Township, the top-ranked team in Monmouth County], so I give the guys a lot of credit. That's the mark of a good team. We wrestled well in some spots. We are trying to

mature, because with four freshmen in the lineup, you are going to go through your growing pains," Panther Head Coach John Ranieri said.

With the Panthers safely leading 35-25 heading into the final bout, heavyweight Kyle Kania gave the Blue Devils expected bonus points when he pinned Vinny Picarelli in 27 seconds.

"The match was there. Some of us did a really good job to put us in a position to win, and some of us let that slip away," Coach Kurz said.

"We have some strong leadership, and I think we are coming around. Any wrestling season is a journey. We will just have to see where this journey takes us," Coach Ranieri said.

Westfield/SPF Match Will Benefit SMA

The Westfield High School wrestling team's match against Scotch Plains-Fanwood that will be held tomorrow, Friday, January 14, at 7 p.m. in Westfield will be a fundraiser for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). All money from admission, concessions and 50/50's will go to SMA.

The Blue Devils' wrestling team is on the rise, which includes a strong junior varsity squad that will host the Raider JV's at 6 p.m. The JV match should be a great warm-up for the varsity showdown between the Blue Devils and the Raiders.

- BOUQUET SEQUENCE:**
 103: — Kalimtzis (W) p Maron, 3:56
 112: — Ramirez (RP) d Velez, 4-1
 119: — DeVito (RP) d Aldana, 6-0
 125: — Pisuro (RP) md Currie, 14-1
 130: — Leary (RP) p Peterson, 4:50
 135: — Longo (RP) md Rotundo, 11-3
 140: — Opoku (W) d Woods, 5-1
 145: — Skibitsky (W) p Patel, 3:14
 152: — Acosta (RP) p Colin Barber, 1:23
 160: — Bulger (W) md Loevsky, 11-2
 171: — Christian Barber (W) won forfeit
 189: — Pozsonyi (RP) p Gibbons, 0:57
 215: — Gabriel (RP) d Cline, 9-2
 Hwt: — Kania (W) p Picarelli, 0:27

Raider Matmen Maul N. Pr. Pioneers, 44-26

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team moved up a few notches in the Union County (UC) standings ladder and improved to 4-2 with a 44-26 victory over New Providence (ranked sixth on the UC ladder) in Scotch Plains on January 5.

- BOUQUET SEQUENCE:**
 160: — Luke Vuono (S) p Vince Sidoli, 3:48
 171: — Matt Blank (S) p Kris Castaldo, 5:34
 189: — Max Sidoli (N) p Sebastian Rosen, 2:57
 215: — Luke Mineo (S) p Pat O'Keefe, 1:22
 Hwt: — Zach Troutman (N) md Anthony Tufaro, 8-0
 103: — Dan Zimmerman (N) p Sid Ni, 4:46
 112: — Adriel Lazaro (N) won forfeit
 119: — Tim Terrezza (N) tf Mike Lettieri, 17-2
 125: — Dan Cardoza (S) won forfeit
 130: — Nick Sebolao (S) md Dan Smith, 15-7
 135: — Dom Natale (S) md Joe Cirrocca, 12-0
 140: — Mike Steinfeld (S) p Jeff SanFilippo, 2:32
 145: — Sean Cannon (S) p Jacob Jankow, 1:43
 152: — Harry LaPlanche (N) d Jon Devia



USING SOME LEVERAGE...Raider Dom Natale, top, works a power half and a single grapevine on New Providence Pioneer Joe Cirrocca in the 135-lb. bout. The Raiders defeated the Pioneers, 44-26, on January 5.



WORKING TO GET THROUGH...Raider Evie Klotz, right, looks to work her way through a few Warriors. Klotz scored 14 points, but the Raiders lost 64-58 in overtime to Watchung Hills.

KLOTZ HITS 14; PETERSON, SEBOLAO 13; OLIVER 12

Warrior Lady Cagers Sting Raiders in Overtime, 64-58

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

Warrior Amy Park sank a 3-pointer at the buzzer to force overtime then the visiting Watchung Hills girls basketball team sank eight of 10 free throws and added a lay-up to sting Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 64-58, on January 8.

Several factors steered the course of the game. First, the 4-3 Raiders set up a strong outside-inside offensive attack that led to a 16-4 lead with 2:22 remaining in the first quarter. During that stretch, sophomore guard Taylor Sebolao, who finished with 13 points, nailed three 3-pointers, but she also ran into foul trouble with three fouls. The Raiders won the quarter, 18-10. Sebolao had to sit out the entire second quarter, which the Warriors won, 12-9, to make the halftime score, 27-22.

"Whenever you have somebody, who just scored nine points get out of the first quarter with three fouls, it's going to make a little bit of difference in the game, but I thought we held it together

with her out," Raider Head Coach Jennifer Ryan said. "In your head, it's hard to back into the game after sitting out a whole quarter, knowing that whatever happened has to be put behind you. It really didn't hurt us in the first half. I started to come around in the second half when we were trying to keep her out of foul trouble. That aggressiveness that she had in the first quarter wasn't there as much."

Second, the busy hands of the Warriors' defense in the second half created confusion, led to steals and caused the Raiders to make bad passes. The Raiders did, however, win the third quarter, 12-9, to extend their lead to 39-31. The Warriors rolled with an 11-5 run to cut the Raiders' lead to 44-42 with 3:16 remaining in regulation. Senior guard Evie Klotz (14 points [8-for-9 free throws], 4 assists, 4 steals, 4 rebounds) then went 6-for-6 from the free throw line to give the Raiders a 54-51 lead before Park sank her 3-pointer.

"We had the lead most of the game doing what we were supposed to be doing, but our turnovers just killed us. One of the things that we talked about before the game was that they get their fingers on a lot of things. There should be no passing over the top, and we did that," Coach Ryan said. "We turned the ball over. They got the steals. We went back on our heels a little bit with the press. In the beginning, we weren't having a hard time with it."

The third factor was free throws. Although the Raiders sank 16-for-23 (70 percent) from the line, the Warriors drew many fouls and sank 25-for-29 (86 percent) from the line.

"Teams are going to hit foul shots. Teams are not going to hit foul shots. When you are talking about the fouls, we are playing man-to-man. We are

going to come out and be as aggressive as possible. If we are getting beat to the basket, we weren't there to help. When you are behind on the help, you tend to reach, and that got us in a bind. Once we start doing those kinds of things, it prevents us from being as aggressive defensively," Coach Ryan said.

Senior forward Aysia Peterson (13 points, 3 assists, 3 steals, 2 blocked shots) led the Raiders with 10 rebounds, but sophomore forward Renee Oliver (12 points, assist, block) also had success underneath with eight rebounds.

"Renee has worked on getting in shape. Last year, she had a tough time getting around people, but not any more. She wants the ball. She does such a great job, but sometimes it goes unnoticed, unless you are watching what she is doing underneath the basket," Coach Ryan pointed out.

Freshman forward Alyssa Riporti had four points, four rebounds and a steal, and freshman guard Katie Harper finished with four points, four assists, a steal and two rebounds.

"She is a very tough basketball athlete. She is going to make plays that are going to look like big time plays, and she's going to make some mistakes too, like any freshman would," Coach Ryan said of Harper.

Park led the Warriors with 18 points. Brielle Macallera bucketed 17 points and Kelsey Conway added 13 points.

"We have to move on from this game. Take it as a lesson and hope that down the road if this opportunity comes around when we are in an overtime game, that we start focusing on not turning the ball over," Coach Ryan said.

Wat. Hills	10	12	9	23	10	64
SPF	18	9	12	15	4	58

Lady Raiders Wreck Rams in Hoops, 45-35

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team improved to 4-2 with a 45-35 triumph over the Roselle Lady Rams in Scotch Plains on January 6. With the Lady Rams keying on inside threat Aysia Peterson, the Raiders baffled them with a barrage of six 3-pointers.

Sophomore Taylor Sebolao pumped in four 3-pointers and finished with 19 points, and senior point guard Evie Klotz nailed a pair of 3-pointers and finished with 12 points. Peterson, Renee Oliver and Tara Sweeney each had four points. Rebecca Kreyer had two points.

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LANDEKA NETS 13 PTS, 11 RBS; MILLER 11 PTS, 7 RBS

Lady Blue Devil Cagers Rout Cardinals in Foul Fest, 49-37

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

Free throws turned out to be the main course in an all-you-can-eat "foul fest" between the Westfield High School girls basketball team and Plainfield in Westfield on January 6. But in the end, it was the Lady Blue Devils' ability to penetrate inside and successfully roll in the lay-ups en route to a 49-37 victory.

nals sank only 11 of 28 attempts for 39 percent.

"They were fast. They just took the ball to the basket. We were playing aggressive, and so were they. The refs let them play," Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino said. "We were cold today. Usually we hit those shots. We were ice cold."

Blue Devil senior guard Danielle Miller, however, had more success

two assists and a pair of steals. Junior guard Amanda Marcotullio had three assists, two rebounds and two points. Senior forward Char Lorentzen, who had two points and an assist, had four rebounds and blocked two shots. Junior power forward Ellie Cullinan had two points and a steal, and junior guard Tess Lukowiak converted a steal to a lay-up then banged a 3-pointer at the buzzer to end the second quarter.

Drew Winter and Jasmine Griffith led the Cardinals with 14 and 12 points, respectively. Breanna Spencer sank six points, Daniella Jno'Rose had three points and Brittany Hooks had two.

The Blue Devils and the Cardinals were deadlocked in a 7-7 tie in the first quarter until timeout was called with 2:00 on the clock. Landeka scored on a put back, assisted Miller on a lay-up, then grabbed an offensive rebound and converted it to a lay-up to make the score 13-7.

Miller got especially tough under the boards in the second quarter and pulled three rebounds as the Blue Devils extended their lead to 20-10 with 3:00 on the clock. As halftime approached, Miller added a free throw and Lukowiak sank her lay-up and 3-pointer to give Westfield a 26-14 lead.

The third quarter was mostly a tradeoff of trips to the charity line mixed with a handful of lay-ups. The Blue Devils sank three of six from the line, and Embrett led the scoring with five points. The Cardinals sank four of 11 attempts from the charity line. Westfield won the quarter, 15-13.

Much of the same occurred in the fourth quarter with the exception that one of the trips to the free throw line was a result of a technical foul by the Cardinals. Miller went to the line and hit both free throws, then sank two more free throws with less than a minute remaining.

"We missed a couple of puppies again. We are getting a lot of shots off. If we make a third of those shots, it will be a wonderful thing," Coach Marino said.

Junior guard Sophia DeVito sank six points, took a charge and added



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WONDERING HOW TO GET AWAY...Blue Devil Nick Rotondo, bottom, tries to figure out how to escape the cross-body ride set up by Cougar Kyle Markovitch in his 135-lb. bout. See more pictures on Cranford Online pages.

CH. BARBER, KANIA, MATT CURRIE RECORD FALLS

Cranford Shocks Blue Devils In Mat Showdown, 38-24

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

Enough swings bouts and a stunner went in the direction of the Cranford High School wrestling team in a 38-24 victory over host Westfield on January 10.

Crafty weight-class shifting was also involved in the process, which began in the opening bout of the evening at 171 lbs. Blue Devil Christian Barber, ranked fourth in the state at 152 lbs., bumped up in hopes of facing off with Cougar J.P. Christiano, who usually competes at 160 lbs. Cougar Head Coach Darren Torrone, however, had different ideas and bumped Christiano up to 189 lbs. in order to beef up his more inexperienced heavier weight classes.

Barber took care of business and pinned Rob Kessler in 3:46 with a tight waist and an arm bar. Christiano also took care of business, recording two takedowns, two near-falls and a reversal to grab an 11-0, majority decision over Mike DeLouisa.

The first toss-up bout, 215 lbs., went in favor of the Blue Devils.

Kieran Cline had a reversal and added two stalling penalty points to beat Ray El-Khoury, 4-0, but he had difficulties turning him to his back with a half nelson.

"I felt like he was clamping up a lot. At one point, he actually figure-

foured my legs just so he didn't get pinned. I think they were working on not getting pinned by our half nelsons," explained Cline, who added, "We aren't there yet, but I know we are going to work harder, and we are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DRIVING TOWARD THE BASKET...Blue Devil Martina Landeka, No. 15, drives past a Cardinal defender as Amanda Marcotullio, No. 22, observes.

The trips to the charity line were relatively even throughout the game, and the Lady Blue Devils went to the line and hit only 12 out of 32 attempts for 38 percent, while the Lady Cardi-

from the line as she hit five of six in the second half to finish 7-for-11 (64 percent). Miller, who had two assists and four steals, also showed moxie under the boards with seven rebounds and 11 points.

"She's a tough girl, and she's not going to be pushed around. She may not be big, but she definitely has some heart. She will get on the floor with people," Coach Marino said.

Senior guard Martina Landeka had a bang-up afternoon across the board with a team-leading 11 rebounds and 13 points. She also had three assists and one theft. Senior forward Krista Embrett battled on both sides of the ball and finished with eight points, three rebounds, a steal and a tipped pass.

Junior guard Sophia DeVito sank six points, took a charge and added

Raider Cagers Roll Over Lions, 59-56

Senior guard Charles Oliver banged in eight 3-pointers and finished with 28 points to lead the 7-2 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team to a 59-56 victory over Roselle Catholic in Roselle on January 6. Tom Bonacum and Patrick Dougher each scored eight points, including two 3-pointers, and Dom Gonzalez added six points, including four free throws late in the game.

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	9	17	18	15	59
Roselle Catholic	13	11	12	20	56

Plainfield	7	7	13	10	37
Westfield	13	13	15	8	49

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CRANFORD COUGAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

TROTTER, GREEN NET 15 PTS EACH; 'PAP' 4 ASSISTS Minutemen 'Steal' 49-35, Win Over Cougar Basketball Boys

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

Thievery was abound on both teams; however, the Elizabeth High School boys basketball team seized the lion's share, along with dominating the boards, to outpace the hosting Cranford Cougars, 49-35, on January 4.

Minuteman Hakeem Rogers was the chief thief with nine steals, including four in the first quarter. Rogers also finished with 13 points, as did teammate PJ Walker (5-for-6 free

throws), who also had a pair of steals. Jermaine West added seven points and two steals, and Jamel Harmon put in eight points and added two steals.

Senior guard Sean Trotter had the most steals for the Cougars with four. Senior forward Bryan Fitzsimmons (3 rebounds, assist) took two charges and had a steal. Senior Joey Papandrea (rebound, tipped pass) also took a charge and had a steal. Senior guard Mark Osofsky (2 assists), junior

guards Sean Babos and Eric Garguilo, and sophomore forward Reggie Green, who led the team in rebounds with four, each had a steal.

Trotter and Green led the 2-3 Cougars with 15 points each, and Papandrea bucketed five points. Usually relying on hitting from 3-point range, the Cougars sank only two - one by Trotter and one from Papandrea. But they did find some success, especially in the first half,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



PRESSURING A MINUTEMAN...Cougar senior guard Joe Papandrea, No. 2, tries to prevent a Minuteman from making a move toward the basket or passing inside to a teammate.

SHIMONOV, SCHETELICH, GRANT, CACCHIONE EXCEL

Cougars Jump to Good Start In Winter Indoor Track

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

Smiles lit up the faces of the Cranford High School boys and girls winter track teams and their coaches after the Cougars got a great jump start in their meets in December and their first meet of the new year on January 4.

"We had a few split squad meets earlier in December that we 'knocked the rust off' for the Indoor season," Cougar Head Coach Peter Kane said.

Junior Rebecca Shimonov placed first and sophomore Bryanna Grant finished third in the 55-meter hurdles at the Ultimate Sports Track Meet in December. Grant also placed second

in the triple jump. The next day a small group of Cougars went to the Bishop Loughlin Games in New York City (NYC). Shimonov, Megan Schetelich, Gillian Burke and Grant competed in the 55-hurdles. In the triple jump, Grant jumped a county-leading 34'5. Kate Evans ran the 300-meters in a county-leading time of 45.81. Senior Natalie Englese ran a county-leading 1:40 in the 600-meters. Shimonov soared a county-leading 15'4" in the long jump. Mike Zanfardino and Billy Haussner competed in the 1000-meter event.

"This was for a training a competition experience that was awesome for all of them," expressed Coach Kane.

The same day the bulk of the team went to Toms River for the Merli Invite. Kristen VanBenschoten had a personal record (PR) toss of 29'7" in the shot put. Tom Feeney at 10:21 and Mike Cassidy at 10:23 finished 1-2 in the 3,200 meters, and Eli Howard at 10:34 crossed fourth. George El-Khoury placed fourth in the 1,600 with a time of 4:47.

On January 4, the Cougars traveled to Toms River again for the Burns Relays, because the meet was postponed from December 29 due to the snow.

"It gave us a chance take a look at what we can do in the relays and take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



HANGING ON TO PREVENT A REVERSAL...Cougar Cory Markovitch, top, hangs onto Blue Devil Brian Bulger's arm to prevent a reversal in the 160-lb bout. Markovitch won, 11-6.

HELMSTETTER STUNS KALIMTZIS, DWYER CLINCHES

Cranford Shocks Blue Devils In Mat Showdown, 38-24

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

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Crafty weight-class shifting was also involved in the process, which began in the opening bout of the evening at 171-lbs. Blue Devil Christian Barber, ranked fourth in the state at 152-lbs, bumped up in hopes of facing off with Cougar J.P. Christiano,

who usually competes at 160-lbs. Cougar Head Coach Darren Torsone, however, had different ideas and bumped Christiano up to 189-lbs in order to beef up his more inexperienced heavier weight classes.

Barber took care of business and pinned Rob Kessler in 3:46 with a tight waist and an arm bar. Christiano also took care of business, recording two takedowns, two near-falls and a reversal to grab an 11-0, majority decision over Mike DeLouisa.

The first toss-up bout, 215-lbs, went in favor of the Blue Devils. Kieran Cline had a reversal and added two stalling penalty points to beat Ray El-

Khoury, 4-0, but he had difficulties turning him to his back with a half nelson.

"I felt like he was clamping up a lot. At one point, he actually figure-fouled my legs just so he didn't get pinned. I think they were working on not getting pinned by our half nelsons," explained Cline, who added, "We aren't there yet, but I know we are going to work harder, and we are going to come out stronger to make up for our loss today."

"He did not listen to what we told him to do. Half nelson! We told him to stay with that series!" Blue Devil

CONTINUED ON PAGE ??

Probitas Verus Honos



WORKING THE WRIST/HALF NELSON MANEUVER...Blue Devil Kieran Cline, top, attempts to turn Cougar Ray El-Khoury to his back with a half nelson in his 215-lb bout but has trouble freeing his leg for more leverage. Cline won, 4-0.

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TAKING A QUICK GLANCE...Cougar Matt DiGiovanni, top, takes a quick glance at the ref during his 145-lb bout with Blue Devil Troy Skibitsky. DiGiovanni won, 7-1.



ARCHING OUT TO GET THE PIN...Blue Devil Brendan Currie, top, arches to apply more pressure on Cougar Ryan Espuga in the 103-lb bout. Currie pinned Espuga in 1:47.

Cranford Cougars Shock Westfield Blue Devils in Wrestling Showdown, 38-24

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Head Coach Glen Kurz said. Blue Devil heavyweight Kyle Kania did the expected with a 3:52 fall over Ryan Farrell when he turned him with a three-quarter nelson. The Blue Devils increased their team lead to 21-4 when Brendan Currie pinned Ryan Espuga with a wristlock and

half nelson in 1:47 at 103-lbs. The stunner came next! Undefeated Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis, a Union County and District 12 champion at 103-lbs last year, bumped up to 112-lbs to face Mike Helmstetter, who had defeated him in a dual match last year. Kalimtzis turned Helmstetter to

his back with a wristlock/half nelson, but Helmstetter threw a hard bridge and turned the tables for a four-point move. In the third period, Helmstetter controlled Kalimtzis from the top position and added a penalty point to win, 5-3.

"He and I have a long history together, so we have been going back and forth. It was a really close match right up to the end," Helmstetter said. "He caught me on my back then I used all the strength I could so I could bridge and flip him over right to his back. Coach said I'm doing well riding the guy out, so I stuck with that."

"We knew that was going to be a big match. He [Kalimtzis] wrestled tough. I think it is just a clash in styles," Coach Torsone said.

"He had the kid on his back. That's a nine-point swing, but it wouldn't have mattered. As a team, we didn't show up today," Coach Kurz said. "No heart! No fire! No enthusiasm! Making such dumb mistakes!"

The very next bout proved that the tide had shifted to the Cougars, when Cory Birch took Nick Velez straight to the mats and clamped him in a cradle in 33 seconds at 119-lbs.

At 125-lbs, Cougar Joe Giaccio picked up his 102nd career win with a tight waist stack pin in 43 seconds over Anthony Aldano. Cougar Ian Henry followed with a 3:15, head smother fall over Pat Currie at 130-lbs, and Kyle Markovitch scored a takedown in the final second to claim

a 9-1, majority decision over Nick Rotundo at 135-lbs to give the Cougars a 29-21 lead.

Blue Devil Ellis Opoku slowed down the bleeding with a 3-0 win over Eric Knight at 140-lbs, but Cougar Matt DiGiovanni recorded three takedowns and an escape to earn a 7-1 decision over Troy Skibitsky at 145-lbs. Down 32-24 with two bouts remaining, the Blue Devils still had an outside chance of pulling out the team victory, but Cougar Jim Dwyer scored an escape in the third period to eke out a 1-0 decision over Colin Barber at 152-lbs.

"Jimmy seemed like he wanted it out there on the mat today. He went out there and showed a lot of heart, a lot of guts. He went after him. He didn't back down," Coach Torsone said.

In the final bout at 160-lbs, Corey Markovitch scored five points in the third period to grab an 11-6 decision over Blue Devil Brian Bulger.

"The swing bouts were obviously Mike Helmstetter and Cory Birch getting a pin for us. Getting bonus points as a freshman in a big match like this was huge. There were a lot of swing bouts, and tonight we won the

ones that could have gone in their favor."

BOUT SEQUENCE:

- 171: — Ch. Barber (W) p Kessler, 3:46
- 189: — Christiano (C) md DeLouisa, 11-0
- 215: — Cline (W) d El-Khoury, 4-0
- Hwt: — Kania (W) p Farrell, 3:52
- 103: — M. Currie (W) p Espuga, 1:47
- 112: — Helmstetter (C) d Kalimtzis, 5-3
- 119: — Birch (C) p Velez, 0:33
- 125: — Giaccio (C) p Aldano, 0:43
- 130: — Henry (C) p P. Currie, 3:15
- 135: — K. Markovitch (C) md Rotundo, 9-1
- 140: — Opoku (W) d Knight, 3-0
- 145: — DiGiovanni (C) d Skibitsky, 7-1
- 152: — Dwyer (C) d Co. Barber, 1-0
- 160: — C. Markovitch (C) d Bulger, 11-6

Cougar Matmen Top Clifton, Fall to Hackettstown, 40-32

The Cranford High School wrestling team nipped Clifton, 35-32, and fell to Hackettstown, 40-32, in a Quad match in Cranford on January 8.

- HACKETTSTOWN 40, CRANFORD 32**
- 103: Tony Figueroa (H) p Ryan Espuga, :10
 - 112: Ryan Nicotra (H) p Mike Helmstetter, 1:06
 - 119: Corey Birch (Cr) p Khilian Bernard, 2:43
 - 125: Joe Giaccio (Cr) p Tyler Mercurio, :22
 - 130: Brandon Rothman (H) d Ian Henry, 9-4
 - 135: Kyle Markovitch (Cr) md Jordan Perrine, 9-1
 - 140: Rob Napolitano (H) d Eric Knight, 6-4
 - 145: Matt DiGiovanni (Cr) p Matt Malejko, 5:23
 - 152: Jason Rothman (H) md Jim Dwyer, 14-0
 - 160: Corey Markovitch (Cr) md Jacob Deleasa, 15-5
 - 171: JP Christiano (Cr) p Rob McGeorge, 3:04
 - 189: Kyle Kathenes (H) p Rob Kessler, 1:09

- 215: Fred Jennings (H) p Jeff Weiss, 2:00
 - 285: Steve Giraldo (H) p Ryan Farrell, :33
- CRANFORD 35, CLIFTON 32**
- 103: Jean Dubois (Cl) p Espuga, :59
 - 112: Helmstetter (Cr) md Maurice Marsilla, 10-0
 - 119: Anthony DePasque (Cl) tf Birch, 4:27
 - 125: Giaccio (Cr) tf Ahmad Obeidallah, 3:36
 - 130: Henry (Cr) p Rich Naut, 2:41
 - 135: Markovitch (Cr) p Eynar Ledezma, 2:50
 - 140: Knight (Cr) d Francisco Jimenez, 9-2
 - 145: DiGiovanni (Cr) tf Aaron Millan, 2:32
 - 152: James Sonzogni (Cl) d Dwyer, 5-3
 - 160: C. Markovitch (Cr) d Orkan Karimov, 12-8
 - 171: Christiano (Cr) d Ahmad Bidas, 11-9
 - 189: Christian Castano (Cl) p Kessler, 2:26
 - 215: Edgar Ordonez (Cl) p Weiss, 5:08
 - 285: Farrell (Cr) p Tom Trommolen, 1:15

*** Cranford Cougar Snacks: ***

Cougar Matmen Beat Woodbridge, 38-25

The Cranford High School wrestling team defeated Woodbridge, 38-25, in Woodbridge on January 5. Joe Giaccio pinned Nick Carbanaro in 2:42 at 125-lbs. Ray El-Khoury pinned Andrew Visas in 2:15 at 189-lbs. Jimmy Dwyer pinned Brandon Griffin in 3:23 at 152-lbs. Heavyweight Ryan Farrell pinned John Alcott in 58 seconds.

Matt DiGiovanni recorded a 17-1, technical fall over Felipe Ramirez in 5:57 at 145-lbs. At 160-lbs, Corey Markovitch recorded a 13-0, majority decision over David Sandoval. Kyle Markovitch decisioned Allen Jordan, 7-1, at 135-lbs, and Rob Kessler won by decision over David Zboyan at 171-lbs.

Cougar Cagers Stop Crusader Boys, 67-49

Senior guard Sean Trotter sank 26 points, including three 3-pointers, and sophomore forward Reggie Green put in 20 points and added eight rebounds to lead the 3-4 Cranford High School boys basketball team to a 67-49 victory over A.L. Johnson in Clark on January 8.

Senior guard Joe Papanarea scored five points and had seven assists, while adding seven rebounds and four steals. Mark Osofsky hit a pair of 3-pointers and Kurt Rutmayer scored two points.

Cranford	16	14	8	11	49
A.L. Johnson	14	25	8	20	67

Cougar Cagers Reject Lady Crusaders, 39-23

The Cranford High School girls basketball team improved to 4-2 with a 39-23 victory over A.L. Johnson in Cranford on January 4. Jess McCoy had a strong evening across the board with 12 points, seven rebounds and four steals. Sophomore forward Kate McGovern pumped in 10 points and added five rebounds and a pair of thefts. Morgan Miller had five points, Jenna Goeller had three points, Mairead McKeary had two and Aaron Wichelns added one point.

A.L. Johnson	3	0	9	11	23
Cranford	6	10	14	9	39

Probitas Verus Honos

Cougar Swimmers Rip Crusaders, 101-89

The Cranford High School swim team elevated its record to 9-0 with a 101-89 victory over A.L. Johnson on January 5.

- 200 medley relay: Cranford (Nick Kalafatis, Rob Lento, Eric Walano, Christian Woo) 1:52.44
- 200 free: Kalafatis (C) 57.91
- 200 IM: Anthony Triguero (J) 2:20.2
- 50 free: Walano (C) 23.71
- 100 fly: Walano (C) 59.68
- 100 free: Nick Venditto (J) 55.01
- 500 free: Kalafatis (C) 5:20.41
- 200 free relay: Cranford (Lento, Dmitriy Kotov, Kalafatis, Walano) 1:42.22
- 100 breast: Gabi Levine (J) 1:02.72
- 100 back: Triguero (J) 1:15.26
- 400 free relay: ALJ (Venditto, Anthony Pacheco, Dylan Rutter, Levine) 3:56.72

Cougar Cagers Stifle Lady Vikings, 33-16

Sophomore guard Jess McCoy rolled in 13 points, and junior guard Morgan Miller sank seven points and added five rebounds, six steals and four assists as the 5-2 Cranford High School girls basketball team stifled 4-2 Union Catholic, 33-16, in Scotch Plains on January 6.

Sophomore Jenna Goeller had five points, while Mairead McKeary, Sara Gugliucci, Kate McGovern and Carly Maucione each added two points for the Lady Cougars. Jasmine Serrano led the Lady Vikings with seven points.

Cranford	12	7	6	8	33
Union Catholic	9	0	5	2	16



BREAKING HIM DOWN TO THE MAT...Cougar JP Christiano, top, covers the ankle and begins to take Blue Devil Mike Delusa to the mat in his 189-lb bout. Christiano won, 11-0.

Cougar Icemen Chill Dayton Bulldogs, 6-0

The Cranford High School ice hockey team improved to 4-6 with a 6-0 shutout over the Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs at Warinanco Rink in Roselle on January 5. Jake Zimmerman notched two goals, and Tom Fitzgerald added a goal and three assists. Eric Pawlik and Cody Reiber also had goals.

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

YOU KNOW THE DRILL! OR DO YOU?

Many patients think that drilling away decay and filling cavities in teeth is an all-or-nothing matter. Those patients who hold this view may be surprised to learn that they have it in their power to reverse some instances of dental decay and avoid the drill entirely. The key point to remember is that regular dental checkups enable the dentist to identify tooth decay in its earliest stages. At this point, when the acid produced by bacteria-laden plaque has only partially penetrated the outer enamel surface, the damage can be reversed with better adherence to home oral care (brushing and flossing) and applications of fluoride that encourage calcium and phosphates in the saliva to "remineralize" the tooth surface.

Just as dental decay and gum disease are your teeth's worst enemies, routine brushing, flossing, and professional checkups are your teeth's best friends. Has it been so long since your last dental visit that you can't remember when it was? Then why not take charge of your dental health and call us at 908-654-6262 for an appointment. You'll find that nothing is more economical than regular professional attention to your oral hygiene. Committed to delivering the most current state-of-the-art care in a relaxed, friendly environment, we are centrally located in Westfield at 131 South Euclid Avenue, with plenty of free off-street parking available.

P.S. A drill-less procedure recently introduced to the United States from Germany, called Icon, treats "intermediate" cavities with a clear resin that prevents the cavity from progressing. www.drarida.com

Minutemen 'Steal' 49-35, Win Over Cougars

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with fine passing inside to get lay-ups. Unfortunately for the Cougars, their success was limited in the second half.

"We had a couple of nice plays, but we were not consistent enough. We got to put it together as a whole. It just wasn't us," said Papandrea, who led the team with four assists.

The Minutemen with their board

pointer, Papandrea had a driving lay-up and Green rolled in a lay-up.

The Cougars' defense totally shut down the Minutemen's attack and won the second quarter, 8-2, to knot the score, 21-21, at halftime. Trotter and Green each put up four points.

Very little went well for the Cougars in the third quarter, and the Minutemen reverted to their acts of thiev-

went 0-for-6 in the quarter. Papandrea nailed his 3-pointer and Green added a lay-up. The Minutemen won the final quarter, 11-9. The Cougars hit three of five from the line to finish 5-for-13 (38 percent) for the afternoon.

"Turnovers and rebounding. We have to control the tempo better. We didn't make any free throws. We have to shoot better. We will get better. We



DRIBBLING PAST A MINUTEMAN...Cougar senior guard Sean Trotter, No. 1, begins to dribble past a Minuteman defender toward the basket. Trotter scored 15 points.

dominance and Rogers with his steals and nine points gave Elizabeth a 19-13 lead after the first quarter. Trotter sank nine points, including a 3-

ery and board dominance to reel off a 17-5 run to make the score, 38-26. The Cougars, who were 2-for-2 from the free throw line in the first half,

will work hard in practice. Get back to work! We know that we can play with anybody when we come to play. Today we didn't. It's frustrating, but it is what it is," Papandrea said.

After a home game with nationally ranked St. Patrick's on January 6, the Cougars were to go on a seven-game road trip before returning to Cranford to host Metuchen on January 24 at 7 p.m.

Elizabeth	19	2	17	11	49
Cranford	13	8	5	9	35

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

COUGAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK...Joe Giaccio, a senior on the varsity wrestling team won three matches at the Cougar Quad on January 8. He pinned his opponent from North Bergen in 42 seconds on his way to his 100th career win. With his recent win over his opponent, Anthony Aldana, at Westfield on January 10, his career record rose to 102-11.

Cougars Jump to Good Start in Winter Track

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a look at some of our new faces that could impact our team. This ended up being a great beginning for us," Coach Kane said.

First on the track was the shuttle hurdle relay.

"Our girls lost Kelly [Burke] to graduation, and the foursome of Shimonov, Schetelich, Devon Cacchione and Grant wanted to establish that they were still awesome. They did it," Coach Kane said.

Not only did the foursome win the event in 35.5, but that time also qualified them for the New Balance Indoor National meet held in NYC in March.

Evans, Schetelich, Shimonov and Engle also placed fifth in the 4x200 event with a time of 1:51. Ana DiGiovanni, Evans, Engle and Megan Byrnes recorded a time of 13:38 in the distance medley relay (DMR). Some girls who dropped

some good times were: freshman Ashley McGuire (28.0 in the 200 meters) and sophomore Casey Donahue (67.0 in 400 meters).

The DMR team of El-Khoury (1200), Chris Witwick (400), Haussner (800) and Zanfardino (1600) placed fifth in a time of 11:19.

"The best part was after the race. They were relatively happy about their first DMR of the season, but they were already explaining to me and each other how they can all drop seconds off their times to be better," Coach Kane said. "They were not overall thrilled with the time and they want to improve. I love it."

Junior T.J. Nichols PR'd in the shot at 38'7" and his football teammate

Mike Klimek, in his first season on track, PR'd in the 200 meters at 24.3 and the 400 meters at 60.0. Freshman Pat Lynch and Joe DaSilva looked good in the 200 and 400 and so did Dan VanOstenbride.

"These are all new names to our team that are stepping up to improve the sprint core that we need to have an overall successful boys team," Coach Kane noted. "The season is young and we have a lot of improving to do. The Burns Relays let the kids and the coaches know we are on the right path. It raised our confidence going into the county relays this weekend, especially after a long winter break with limited opportunities to practice."

Cougar Girls Finish Second Devil Boys 3rd at UCT Relay

The Cranford High School girls indoor track team finished second with 39 points, and the Westfield High School boy tied for third with 34 points at the Union County Relays held at the Jersey City Armory on January 10. Summit won the girls race with 51 points, and Union Catholic won the boys race with 59 points. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls placed fourth with 27 points.

Cougars Kate Burns, Megan Schetelich, Rebecca Shimonov and Natalie Engle crossed third in the 4x200 with a time of 1:52.02. Blue Devils Ashley Edwards, Hannah Kronick, Sam Costello and Sirena VanEpp finished fifth at 1:55.28. Evans, Schetelich, Shimonov and Engle placed third in the 4x400 at 4:20.57, while Costello, Kronick, VanEpp and Edwards finished sixth at 4:28.06.

Blue Devils Kaitlyn Johnson, Eileen Cook, Gabrielle Tonji and Alyssa Hatch took sixth in the 4x800 at 10:56.16. SPF Raiders Isabel Crystal, Christine Miklas, Emily Nagourney and Erin Pierce placed second in the sprint medley relay (SMR) at 4:32.36. The Raiders also placed second in the distance medley relay (DMR) at 13:15.79, and the Cougars took sixth 13:37.93.

Cougars Shimonov, Schetelich, Devon Cacchione and Bryanna Grant placed second in the shuttle hurdles

at 34.06, and Raiders Leah Salituro, Avia Shadmi, Hailee Sciara and Miklas took sixth at 37.01. Grant and Schetelich placed fourth in the high jump with a height of 9'6". Raiders Osa Ebose (best toss of 34'9.25"), Sam Renfree and Terri Clarke won the shot put with a distance of 90'10.25". Cougars Kristen Vanbenschoten, Nicole Somma and Grant placed second at 86'0.25".

For the boys, Blue Devils Sam Tooley, Zach Lizmi, Tom Edwards and Andrew Kirna took first in the 4x800 at 6:32.18. Jacob Vergara, Rob Ciardullo, Jason Isbit and Jon Henry crossed third in the 4x400 at 3:34.52. Henry, Kyle Star, Vergara and Ciardullo also took third in the 4x200 at 1:37.38. Lizmi, Isbit, Tooley and Kirna took second in the DMR at 10:45.98. Mike DePaola and Chris Jimenez took fourth in the high jump with a height of 11'4".

Raiders Jeff Marks, Ahmed Channaoui, Moussa Channaoui and Alex Parker took fourth in the SMR at 3:50.74. Andre Krema, Mike Parada, Bill Schaver and M. Channaoui placed sixth in the shuttle hurdles at 35.25. M. Channaoui and Sebastian Valdes placed sixth in the high jump with a height of 11'1". Valdes, Chris Burke and Chris Orozco took fourth in the shot put at 121'0.5, and Cougars TJ Nichols, JD Foye and Greg Miller placed fifth at 116'8".

Dr. Margolin Is Named 'Physician of the Year'

CRANFORD - At its 32nd Annual Awards Dinner, the New Jersey Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation (CCFA-NJ) presented Michael Margolin, MD with its 2010 "Physician of the Year" award. Dr. Margolin, a Westfield resident and a gastroenterologist with an office in Cranford, is only the third recipient of this prestigious award in the eight years since its creation.

According to Rosemarie Golombos, the Foundation's New Jersey executive director, "This award recognizes the honoree for the medical care, commitment and expertise he provides to his patients and their families, for the example he sets for his peers, and for his contributions and service to the New Jersey chapter and the Foundation at large."

The "Physician of the Year" award is named in memory of Dr. David Kaufman, a noted New Jersey gastroenterologist who was one of the CCFA-NJ chapter's first physician members and served on the CCFA Medical Advisory Committee for nearly 25 years, until his death in 2002.

Honey Kaufman, the wife of Dr. Kaufman, presented the award to Dr. Margolin, stating that Dr. Margolin not only shared her husband's particular interest in treating these difficult diseases, but that he also treats his patients with the great skill and true compassion that her husband

had valued so highly.

Also speaking at the event was Suzanne Rosenthal, who founded the CCFA in 1967 as one of the country's first patient advocacy organizations. Ms. Rosenthal praised Dr. Margolin's dedication to all his patients, and in particular thanked him for his support of the summer camps for children coping with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, two chronic disorders that cause potentially debilitating inflammation of the digestive tract.

Dr. Margolin studied at New York University Medical School and at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York (with the inventor of modern colonoscopy), and he has practiced in New Jersey since 1987. He is on staff at both Overlook Hospital and Trinitas Regional Medical Center, and he was Chief of Gastroenterology at Union Hospital prior to its recent closing. Dr. Margolin can be reached at (908) 272-6300.

CCFA is dedicated to finding a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and to improving the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases. CCFA sponsors research and provides education and support to patients and their families. The CCFA office number is (732) 786-0060.

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Arts & Entertainment

Grab a Ride on this Streetcar in Chatham

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Far too often a director auditions people for a show, directs them for five or six weeks and only gets to dress the stage perhaps a week or 10 days before the opening night curtain. Not so with actor and first time director Brian Remo, whose set for *A Streetcar Named Desire* is nearly done one month before the curtain rises in the Fellowship Hall Theatre at the United Methodist Church on Main Street in Chatham.

"I want the actors to have time to work with the set and have it become a natural part of what they do during rehearsals so they won't have to even think about it during performances," he said.

His detailed set of Stanley and Stella Kowalski's two-room flat is loaded with hand-picked items adorning the walls and floors. Mr. Remo has a clear vision for the upcoming Tennessee Williams' show that runs weekends in January through the first weekend in February. "Over here's where the jazz musicians will perform...this is the upstairs of the neighbors that the audience will see through this landing." And he goes on and on with those details.

But according to Leslie Eve Price, who plays Blanche DuBois, the details of set and props are just "stuff." The director's real talent lies in his communication skills. "Brian Remo is a gifted director," she said before a rehearsal recently. "He articulates his vision well through the use of metaphors. Through the comparisons he makes for the actors, he's able to nail exactly what he wants and what we need to make it happen. He's found his calling and is in his element."

In readying for the monumental role of Blanche, Ms. Price says her best preparation is "the fact that I've lived a long time." She continued, "I understand her: she's brave, courageous. The poetry she gets to speak I have trouble saying without tearing up. The words speak to Blanche (and to me) personally. You only get this insight from living."

The woman director Remo cast as Stella, Blanche's younger sister, is Angel Duncan, who also understands her character from the inside out. By day, Ms. Duncan deals with people with mental problems, so she "gets"



Photo by Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SHARING THE VISION... Director Brian Remo speaks to his cast at a recent rehearsal of *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. The play will be presented by the Fellowship Hall Theatre in the United Methodist Church on Main Street in Chatham weekends, from Thursday through Saturday, from January 20 through February 5 at 8 p.m. For ticket information, call producer Gil Ranbach at (908) 489-4911.

her character's sister Blanche who often sees life through her own reality. "Stella is strong. She wears the pants, but lets Stanley think he does," she explained. She likened the relationship of Stella and Stanley to that of Alice and Ralph in the '50s TV show, "The Honeymooners." The third lead in the iconic work is played by Matt Monihan who is tackling the role made famous by Marlon Brando. He sees Stanley as "a product of his environment to an extreme." He says the toughest part of playing the well-known role is "the varying emotions he (Stanley) experiences. It's a challenge," he said, "to harness those emotions so that they build logically." Producer Gil Ranbach, who has

been with Fellowship Theatre for over 20 years when it was located in the Red Bank area, has served as somewhat of a mentor for director Remo.

"He's laid the foundation for what needs to be done for a top-notch production," Mr. Remo said, "and I've taken his lead."

'Streetcar' Info: Jan 20 - Feb 5
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
Nights. Curtain at 8 p.m.
Tickets are available at the door
for \$16 each.
Advanced tickets and group
sales are available at \$10 each
by calling producer
Gil Ranbach at (908) 489-4911.

Choral Art Soc. to Perform Bach's Christmas Oratorio

WESTFIELD - The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. will perform Cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach's Christmas Oratorio on Saturday, January 22, at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street.

James S. Little, musical director of the Society, will conduct the

evening's performance. Soloists include Ellen Goff Entriken, soprano; Jeffrey Mandelbaum, alto; Stephen Sands, tenor and Mark Watson, bass. The Choral Art Society Orchestra will accompany the chorus. Admission is \$20, \$15 for seniors and students at the door. For information call (908) 654-5737 or visit www.thechoralartsocietyofnj.org

No Changes Needed at WCP's *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*

By SUSAN M. DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD—Perfection is hard to come by, but the cast in the Westfield Community Players' (WCP) latest offering has pretty close to being there in "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," a musical comedy by Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts. There may be two dozen or more characters presented throughout the night, but like the original Off-Broadway production that premiered in New York City in 1996 and didn't close until 2008, director Sherrie Ahlin uses only a cast of four. The insightful director asks the two men and two women to portray a spectrum of emotions and they don't disappoint.

The show itself is loads of fun with comic sketches or vignettes mixed with moments of musical theater. After a brief, if slightly awkward cosmic introduction set in the dark, (Think a reading of Genesis with "In the beginning..."), the show jumps into the central theme as the cast members musically get ready for a date.

The play's tag line is "Everything you have ever secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws, but were afraid to admit." This obviously has hit a chord of reality since the show's been translated into 13 languages and ran for over 5,000 performances in New York alone. Some of the satire includes what it means being a part of the hopeless single scene, having pre-wedding jitters, dealing with in-laws, and other aspects of the dance we humans call love.

Paul Salvatoriello as Man 2 is a hoot, especially in "Tear Jerk" where he's in a movie theater with his date, watching a chick flick. His internal struggle unfolds as he gets drawn into the sappy story and actually blubbers all over the girl. Later, in the song "On the Highway of Love," both Mr. Salvatoriello as the father and Janet Swaim (Woman 1) as the mother share their views of his driving ability and her criticism of it. The laugh level meter in the theater was off the Richter scale for that number.

The awkwardness of two socially inept people on a first date is brought to life in the hilarious song "A Stud and A Babe" where Man 1 (Chris Mortenson) and Ms. Swaim are adorably nerdy while they fantasize about being the antithesis of who they are. Ms. Swaim later plays a gal who is in agony as she waits for a promised phone call from last night's date in the song "He Called Me."

Donning a black wig for another number, Ms. Swaim transforms herself into Rosie Ritz, a woman recording her video for a dating service. The adorably performed monologue is crammed with honesty, heartbreak and laughs.

Jennifer Hanselman, playing Woman 2, shows range and versatility with her singing voice and laudable acting in portraying women from 12 to 70. The song "Always a Bridesmaid," done with country flavor by Ms. Hanselman, has a clever twist as do many of the songs.

Throughout the evening, all four actors get to showcase their vocal

talents. The most poignant of the night's numbers is "Shouldn't I be less in Love with You?" with Mr. Salvatoriello and Ms. Hanselman sipping coffee while reading the morning paper. After 30 years together, they have weathered "brutal, futile fights and sleepless nights." Mr. Salvatoriello's voice soars with strength and emotion.

Themes of love and relationships have been explored to death in every medium, so it's impressive to see a show that features relatively fresh angles on those hackneyed themes. The intimate WCP playhouse on North Avenue West is the perfect venue for this clever show because with just piano accompaniment — played masterfully by musical director Seth Saltzman — there isn't need for amplification. Each juicy, delicious, satiric line is audible. This show, produced by Kay Macrae and choreographed by Meridith Johnson, has something for anyone who hopes to be in love or who has been in love, real or imagined.



Photo by Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SUNDAY DRIVE... As a typical dysfunctional family in *I Love you, You're Perfect, Now Change*, Chris Mortenson playing the son, Janet Swaim as the mother, Paul Salvatoriello as the father and Jennifer Hanselman as the daughter, take a ride in the car. The foursome's rendition of "On the Highway of Love" brought down the house with the clever lyrics and familiar phrases of Joe DiPietro. The formerly Off-Broadway musical comedy, *A Series of Vignettes*, runs weekends on January 15 and 16 and 21 and 22.

Tickets to SP-FHS's *Hairspray* on Sale Now

SCOTCH PLAINS - Rat your hair, throw on a poodle skirt or skinny tie and join "The Nicest Kids in Town" as Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's Repertory Theatre stages *Hairspray*. Tickets for the March production are now on sale.

Hairspray is the story of "pleasingly plump" Tracy Turnblad, who dreams of dancing on the "Corny Collins Show" on television in 1962 Baltimore. When that dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star, but must use her newfound power to vanquish the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob Link Larkin and integrate a TV network — all without denting her "do! *Hairspray* is a family-friendly, infectious musical with a message that's as relevant today as it was at the time the show is set in.

When *Hairspray*, with music and lyrics by Scotch Plains native Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Scott Wittman opened on Broadway, The New York Times' Ben Brantley wrote: "Stocked with canny, deliriously tuneful songs by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman... Shaiman is taking the infectious hooks and rhythms from period pop and R&B and translating them into the big, bouncy sound that Broadway demands."

Performances will be held on Friday, March 11, at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 12, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 13, at 2 p.m. (new time); Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m.; Friday, March 18, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 19, at 8 p.m. All shows will take place at the Many Anger Memorial Auditorium at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School located at 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains.

Tickets can be purchased by e-mailing reptix@verizon.net. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (age 60 and up) and \$10 for students. Please include desired performance

dates, number and type of tickets and total amount due. Checks should be made out to Scotch Plains-Fanwood Repertory Theatre. Payment may be mailed with ticket orders or made at the time of ticket pick-up in the front lobby of SPFHS on Monday or Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning Wednesday, February 2 (no pick up on Monday, February 21).

For questions, call Randi Traiman at (908) 322-6533

St. Pat's Parade Comm. to Host Bartenders Party

KENILWORTH - The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will host its annual Celebrity Bartenders fundraiser this Sunday, January 16, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Kenilworth Veterans Center located at 33 South 21st Street, Kenilworth.

The party will honor long-time Elizabeth resident Jim Sinnott and salute the Union County Emerald Society on their 30th Anniversary. Entertainment will include The Willie Lynch Show Band and bagpipers and drummers.

The Celebrity Bartenders party will benefit the 2011 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade, which steps off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, on Morris Avenue in Union.

Admission is \$5 per person and includes coffee, tea, cake and hot dogs.

For tickets or more information, contact Kevin Dowling at (732) 594-1763 or Kathy Noonan-Rotando at (908) 352-1477. Tickets are also available at the door. For more information about the 2011 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade, visit unioncountystpatricksdayparade.com.

St. Bart's Invites All To Pancake Breakfast

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Holy Name Society of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church will hold its annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 23, in the St. Bartholomew Cafeteria after the 7:30, 9, 10:30 and noon Masses. All are welcome.

"Marco" of the Highlander Restaurant will prepare pancakes and sausages. The cost is \$6 for adults and children age 13 and older; \$5 for children ages 4 to 12, and free for children ages 3 and under. The maximum cost per family will be \$14.

All teachers and staff of St. Bartholomew Academy and the religious education program are invited as guests of the Holy Name Society. St. Bartholomew Church is located at 2032 Westfield Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Plf. Sym. to Perform Perform Free Concert

PLAINFIELD - The Plainfield Symphony will perform a free concert on February 5, 3 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield.

The concert, Classical Gems, is a one-hour interactive pops concert led by guest conductor Roger Stubblefield with a special guest performance by the Union County TEAMS Charter School Choir.

The concert is free but donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted at the door. All collections will be donated to Starfish and the Lord's Pantry, Plainfield's local food pantries.

For more information, visit www.plainfieldsymphony.org or call (908) 561-5140.

The Plainfield Symphony, established in 1919, is New Jersey's oldest community symphony and the third oldest in the country.

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