

## Third Ward Politics Flare At Westfield Council Meeting

By LAUREN S. BARR  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—At Tuesday night's public meeting of the Westfield Town Council, Mayor Andy Skibitsky opened the public comments portion of the meeting asking residents to refrain from shouting to the audience. He said that, "its very disruptive" and that if residents were not able to control themselves, he will adjourn the meeting, as he did at the August meeting.

Matt Sontz, who is the Democrat candidate for the third ward council seat, said that the "council should reassess its judgment" and "find the money" to reinstate the crossing guards that were cut last year at the Central Avenue intersections of Park

Street and Grove Street. He said that he doesn't understand why the guard is remaining at the Central Avenue pedestrian crossing signal as it is not an intersection.

Greg Kasko, who is also running for the third ward council seat as an independent candidate, said that the mayor singled him out at the last meeting, even though he was not the only resident that was out of order. He told Mayor Skibitsky "you engaged in conduct unbecoming a mayor" by making a "personal attack on me" when at the August meeting he pointed out that Mr. Kasko is running for council and asked him to release a disciplinary hearing report from when Mr. Kasko was a Westfield police officer.

Mr. Kasko said that he has been coming to meetings for over a year to bring issues to the public forum. He said that he felt he could help Adina Enculescu and Maria Carluccio with their issues pertaining to the pedestrian crossing signal in front of Ms. Enculescu's home. Mr. Kasko added that the women were "misled and abused" and that his job isn't done until the light is moved.

Lisa DeCicco of Cambridge Road said, "I feel what this board did was wrong" in reference to the placement of the light in front of Ms. Enculescu's house. According to Ms. DeCicco, "you took something away from her" and questioned what the process would be the next time the town wants to put up a light.

Mayor Skibitsky said that none of Ms. Enculescu's property was taken from her. The light and sidewalk were installed in the county right of way.

Ms. DeCicco said that residents assume their property goes all the way to the street since they take care of it, and they don't expect to wake up one day to find it taken away.

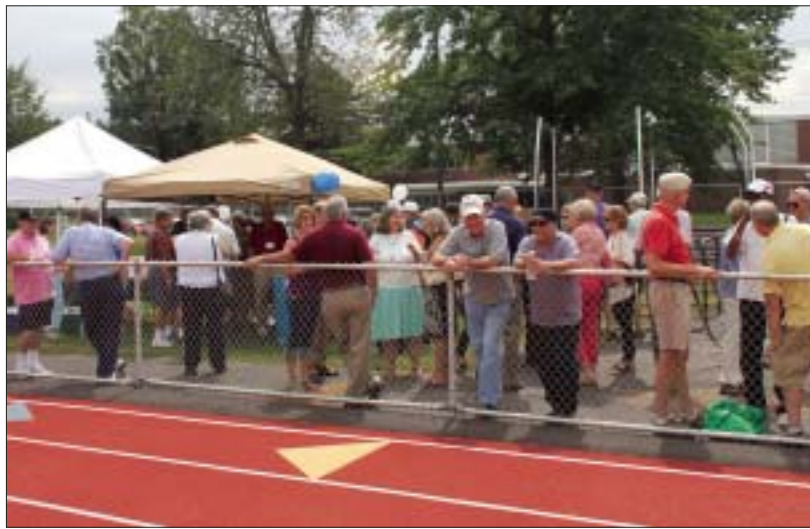
Ms. Carluccio said that there was a three-car accident at the pedestrian crossing signal on Monday because the white striping confuses drivers. She said that, "the hand of God is going to move that light." She added that having the chief of police, who was appointed by the mayor and council, author a report on the pedestrian crossing signal is akin to "hiring a pedophile to care for your children."

After Ms. Carluccio took her seat, Mayor Skibitsky began responding to some of her comments and Ms. Carluccio began shouting to the audience that it is "unbelievable that you can't talk to me when I'm standing at the microphone."

While Mayor Skibitsky said that if the light was moved to the corner of Clover and Central the goals would not be met, Third Ward Councilman Dave Haas disagreed, saying the objectives would still be met if the light were moved to the corner.

In other business, the council approved a resolution authorizing payment to the members of the ward

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HELLO, OLD FRIEND...Members of the Westfield High School Class of 1961 gather at Gary Kehler Stadium on Saturday for a tailgate before the WHS football season opener against Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

## CF Mayor Cites Flood Among Most 'Significant Challenges'

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD - Mayor Daniel Aschenbach, in the wake of Hurricane Irene but with the storm's aftermath still evident, praised the "resilience of our residents" and said the recovery from the late August flooding is "one of the most significant challenges the township has had to face."

On Tuesday, at the township committee's first regular meeting since the hurricane resulted in what he estimated will be more than \$3 million in clean-up costs, the mayor said the municipal government's main focus is on the residents and making certain they recover. "This is quite a challenge for our community," he stated.

The mayor praised the efforts of the township department of public works, and thanked Union County for being a "partner" in the clean-up efforts. Mr. Aschenbach also lauded the assistance of Congressman Leonard Lance, who he termed an "incredible ally for Cranford," Assemblyman Jon Bramnick and county freeholders Alexander Mirabella and Bette Jean Kowalski. He additionally

thanked neighboring towns, specifically Union Township, for their assistance.

Mr. Aschenbach said a new program - the Broom Patrols - will get underway this weekend "to get glass and other debris out of the streets." And a task force is being formed to address matters regarding the municipal building, the first floor of which was severely damaged by floodwaters.

At the start of the meeting, Police Chief Eric Mason provided an overview of recovery efforts over the past two weeks. He said more than 70,000 tons of household debris is still on the streets, and said he expects that two rounds of pickups will be required. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Small Business Administration have representatives at the disaster recovery center that has been set up at the community center and is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. Township department heads were set to meet with FEMA officials yesterday to discuss recovery efforts.

Chief Mason said the cleanup of the municipal building's first floor

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PITCHING IN...County workers remove debris from in front of homes along Springfield Avenue in Cranford. Dozens of trucks and front-end loaders assisted Cranford, which had hundreds of homes and businesses damaged during severe flooding.

## County Reports Hurricane Damage and Cleanup Efforts

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY - County officials announced that a complete report summarizing costs and services rendered for Hurricane Irene would be provided to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for tonight's regular meeting.

During the board's September 8 agenda meeting, Joseph Graziano, director of engineering, public works and facilities, said the county lent municipalities everything from equipment to personnel to assist with emergency and cleanup efforts following the August 27-28 storm that caused significant flooding throughout the county and state.

The board is expected to vote on a resolution at tonight's regular meeting to enter into a mutual aid agreement between the county and its 21 municipalities for "assist and recovery efforts" from the hurricane.

"We are working overtime helping out," Mr. Graziano said. "Obviously, we have been in Cranford since day one with multiple forces."

He said county public works and engineering crews have also been helping out in Kenilworth, Westfield, Springfield and Union. "We have been around any town that asks," Mr. Graziano said. "Anyone who wants to come to us we are going to figure out a way to help them out."

Mr. Graziano said the storm damaged county bridges on Madison Hill Road in Clark over the Clark Reservoir and Pine Grove Avenue in Sum-



NEVER FORGET...Members of the Westfield Police Department Color Guard and Fire Department march in the 9/11 ceremonies held at Memorial Park on Sunday commemorating the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

## Westfield BOE Hears Complaints From Parents on Bus Routes

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - Many parents came to Tuesday's Board of Education meeting to express their concern over school bus routes that are making 17 stops, busses coming 20 to 30 minutes late, bus drivers who did not know the routes and children being dropped off far from their homes. Parent after parent came to the microphone to have their concerns heard.

Parent Diana Dobosiewicz stated that 46 children were left behind on the first day of school because a small 15-seat bus was mistakenly sent for children that were re-districted and going to the Edison Intermediate

School. After the fifth day she said, "The bus run is still not running properly." She stated, "I am quite frankly horrified."

Parent Marie Guarmuccio said her son sits on the bus for approximately 37 minutes while the bus makes 17 stops. She stated that he does not arrive home until 3:55 p.m. on a daily basis. "If he were on the bus just five more minutes he could be at Port Authority," she said.

Parent Barbara Sgro said, "Someone needs to take ownership of these bussing problems. Bus drivers don't know where they are going and have a hard time communicating because they don't know the language."

Board member David Finn reported that he and Acting Business Administrator Vincent Yaniro have a meeting scheduled the next day (Wednesday) to help solve the bussing issues.

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FALLEN PATRIOTS...The Union County Fire Chiefs' Association hosted a memorial last weekend at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, where 343 American flags, representing each FDNY firefighter who perished, were displayed.

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For Listings  
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**343 IN MEMORY...**The Union County Fire Chiefs' Association hosted a memorial throughout last weekend to honor the 343 New York City firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001. The memorial displays 343 American flags (made in America, Texas) 3'x5', one for each FDNY firefighter who perished. They are placed across the grass field in Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Businesses and individuals from the region and as far away as Kentucky have made this possible. A sizeable donation will be made to the St. Barnabas Burn Center in Livingston, N.J. Any person or group wishing to participate should contact Deputy Chief Steven Ruhl, (908) 380-2981.



**WANTED...** Anyone with information on the above individual who is wanted in connection with a TD Bank robbery that occurred on Sunday at approximately 2:10 p.m. is asked to call the Westfield Police Department at (908) 789-4000. See story page 6.

### Garwood Reviews Hurricane Damage; Considers Underpass Generators

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**GARWOOD**—The borough incurred in excess of \$75,000 in expenses due to Hurricane Irene. Borough Council Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman Victor DeFilippo reported Tuesday night. Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma said that the borough would seek reimbursement from its insurance company and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Councilman DeFilippo said trees took out power lines and pulled up sidewalks, and the cleanup of the trees cost \$3,200. Laptops at the police department were destroyed costing approximately \$6,000 to replace. It is also estimated to cost in excess of \$1,000 to haul out damaged goods from flooded basements.

The municipal building, pump station and underpass on Center Street, as well as North and South Avenue businesses, were without power for one week.

Included in the recommendation being written up is a generator for the pump station. Since it was flooded, Councilman DeFilippo said, access was not available to connect a portable generator.

"Our hearts go out to our neighbor Cranford," Councilman DeFilippo said.

With Cranford's severe flooding, first and second graders from Brookside Elementary School are being displaced to Garwood's Washington School. Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi said the township is using three classrooms there. Cranford is paying for the insurance and expenses, but currently is not being charged a fee to use the space. A contract was signed that stated that Cranford would pay \$1 for use of the space, the mayor said. Cranford has discussed the possibility of using the borough's crossing guards and police, and should they move forward Ms. Ariemma said Cranford would need to pay for those services.

The mayor said the Garwood Fire Department pumped out water from 40 houses in the borough. The mayor said three borough trees fell and the borough incurred minimal flooding. No homes were condemned and there were no evacuations, she told *The Westfield Leader*.

Fire Committee Chairman Lou Petruzzelli said that 43 of 53 incidents this month that the Fire Department tended to were the result of Irene. Streets and Roads Committee Chairman Timothy Hak said the borough's street sweeper was lent to Cranford to help in the township's effort to clean up after the hurricane. He also said some preventive sewer treatments are being performed this week.

Prior to the meeting, the mayor swore in new police sergeants Douglas Stoffer, Samuel Rocco and James Wright.

Former mayor Dennis McCarthy asked about the recent roadwork completed by the Department of Transportation on the underpass on Center Street, noting that it looked like a spot in the work was not done properly and he thought the paved area may come up.

Resident Angelo Alimonti asked why

the problem with the underpass flooding was not rectified. Mayor Quattrocchi said that during Hurricane Irene power went out causing the electric pump to go out, and the borough does not have a generator. She said the borough is looking into getting backup power, calling the flooding of the underpass a "safety issue."

Municipal Engineer Donald Guarriello said the two manholes that are not level with the street on 3rd Avenue and Gallows Hill Road are being looked into. He also reported that the Willow Avenue utility problems are being addressed this week and the next. The Center Street project is underway, he said, and noted that the pipes are not sealed and need to be to ensure the water does not freeze in the winter.

Municipal attorney Joseph Triarsi said he is scheduled to meet with Superior Court Judge Karen Cassidy this month to discuss proceedings on the lawsuit presented by The Pointe at Garwood, which filed a lawsuit earlier this year for payment of snowplowing services, lighting and cleaning, etc.

During public comment of the meeting, resident Bill Nierstedt opposed the ordinance for a bulk waste program. He said taxpayers are paying for the salaries of Department of Public Works (DPW) workers to haul the bulk when the workers time could be better used elsewhere, as well as the wear and tear on the DPW trucks. He said the work should be done by a private hauler. He said the council needs to "develop a backbone."

The council voted 5-1 to pass the ordinance, with Councilman James Mathieu being opposed. Councilman Mathieu said from a financial standpoint he is a "little queasy" with the \$55 fee.

Councilwoman Sara Todisco commented before the vote that she was not in favor of using DPW staff and vehicles. "By using our own truck I am concerned about injury to our DPW staff," she said.

Councilman Lou Petruzzelli also said he did not like using DPW staff. Both voted in favor of the ordinance.

Residents will pay a \$55 fee for up to 750 pounds of bulk waste to be picked up at their curbside. Councilman Mathieu said he thought August's finance scenario was "depressing," saying tax collections were flat in August, year after year. He also reported that 100 properties were delinquent in paying their tax bill, resulting in a deficiency of \$422,000.

The council also adopted on the consent agenda to appoint former Garwood policeman, Leonard DiStefano, as zoning code enforcement officer, replacing former Police Chief William Legg. Mr. DiStefano will be paid \$6,000 a year; Chief Legg was paid \$7,000.

The council also discussed the state's recently added Best Practice Inventory Form, which has asked the borough a list of questions to determine its efficiency of operations. Ultimately, should a municipality fail to meet certain criteria, the state would hold back a percentage of state aid, Ms. Ariemma said.



**MAINE...**Jennifer Lee lives in North Carolina. She lived in Westfield for 55 years. While on vacation this summer, she brought *The Westfield Leader* with her to Bremen, Me.

## County Storm Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community or senior centers.

Mr. Guzzo said the county manager's office prepared an emergency declaration in order to fill the void by contracting temporarily with Long Island-based Whitsons, which provides Meals on Wheels for four other counties. Whitsons has a local facility in Elizabeth. He said Whitsons

has been providing the meals since September 1 and will continue until the Linden facility is up and running, which he hoped would be within a week.

On another matter, the county is purchasing four Jeeps with plows for the Department of Administrative Services, one of which will be given to the Westfield Department of Public Works.

"Westfield did not have a small plow truck there to take care of the parking lot and the surrounding area," said Matthew DiRado, director of personnel.

The county will spend \$149,396 for the purchase of the four vehicles from Flemington Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, LLC.

Mr. DiRado also requested a resolution to pre-qualify Rahway Travel to provide travel agent services "to all county entities" per a state statute. He said Rahway Travel has gone through the requests for quotations and requests for proposals processes so that its rates would be set.

Mr. Faella added that the county has implemented "justification methods for all individuals who will be traveling." He said employees are now required to list the purpose for the travel and, once they return from the trip, provide a "post-event report as to what benefit they've derived for the county to make sure that we're really justifying all these expenses."

"Terrific," responded Freeholder Al Mirabella, chairman of the board's fiscal affairs committee.

The board also considered a resolution request to conduct an online auction for commercial natural gas per the state's Local Unit Electronic Technology Pilot Program. Mr. DiRado said the previous contract saved the county \$800,000 in energy costs over what was previously provided by public utilities.

"This (auction) is just to lock in a price for the next 24 months," Mr. DiRado said.

The board also reviewed a resolution for the county to enter an agreement between Runnells and New York University. Under the agreement, Runnells would provide clinical training for students in NYU's occupational therapy training program.

## Westfield Board of Ed.

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Board President Julia Walker told the parents that they would be notified right away via e-mail of their findings and if there were new routes added.

In other business, a report was presented by Mark Freidberg, chairman of the Parent Teacher Council Technology Committee. Mr. Freidberg is said to have experience in Information Technology (I.T.) Management. He reported that there were representatives from each of the 10 Westfield schools on the committee and that there is an open spot for Lincoln School. He added that the committee also consists of the district's Chief Technology Officer Brian Auker and Lorre Korecky, the district's community relations representative.

He said the committee was working in conjunction with the BOE's Ad hoc Technology Committee and that the goal is to "help meet the district's technology needs and implement fundraising and financial plans to meet those needs." He said in the last three years "spending for new computer equipment has been cut by 80 percent and that 70 percent of the district-wide installed base of computers are four years or older."

He said a longtime goal is to provide additional computers, stay modern and to provide a wireless network within two to three years. "The group would like to see a wireless network everywhere throughout the Westfield public schools in order to support mobile computing," he said.

Mr. Friedberg said that the state average for school computers four years old or younger was 3-1 and that Westfield's was two to three times higher. He said the estimated cost to implement such a program would cost about \$500 to \$1,000 per seat. This, he stated, would include an estimate of 1,500 additional computers and 500 replacement computers bought annually.

Board member Rosanne Kurstedt asked if the ultimate goal was to have a 1-1 ratio for students to which Mr. Friedberg replied "other schools have done this with the use of laptops."

A presentation was given by Susan Driscoll, coordinator of Safe Kids Union County, along with Westfield's Deputy Fire Chief David Kelly regarding fire safety education for middle school aged students. "Fire and burns were the third leading cause of unintentional death among children ages one to 14 years of age," Ms. Driscoll said.

Ms. Driscoll said there were many media misconceptions about fire with Hollywood movies such as "Backdraft" and that not only small children, but older children needed proper age appropriate and realistic fire safety education. She said the new program, entitled "Fire Is," would "enhance already existing programs within the district at no additional cost to the district." She noted that Cranford has already begun a similar program.

To see more 9/11 photos, please go to [GOLEADER.COM/PHOTOS](http://GOLEADER.COM/PHOTOS)

## Cranford Flooding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will last well into next week, and pointed out that some township services, such as the municipal court, are now located in temporary trailers set up in the parking lot behind the building.

Speaking later in the meeting about flood control efforts to date and in the future, Mayor Aschenbach said there would be "big dollars to fix this problem." In response to a former township engineer's long statement criticizing the mayor's record on flood control issues over the past two decades, the mayor defended his record and the ongoing five-phase flood control program.

Other members of the township committee issued similar praise for municipal employees and township residents. Commissioner Mark Dugan called it a "trying two weeks for everyone" and thanked police and other public safety personnel as well as county and state officials and legislators for their efforts.

Commissioner David Robinson called the storm's effects a "community-wide issue."

"We're all hurting," he said, regardless of whether individuals were affected by flooding or not. He praised public employees as well as neighbors helping those most affected by water damage.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Campbell praised the "dedication and hard work" of township officials. "I can't commend them highly enough," he said. Commissioner Edward O'Malley similarly lauded township personnel, some of whom he said remained on duty even while their own homes may have been damaged.

[WWW.GOLEADER.COM/NEWS](http://WWW.GOLEADER.COM/NEWS)



By Paul Lachenauer



By Jonathan O'Hea



By Greg Ryan



By Jonathan O'Hea



Courtesy of Michele Modestino



By Susan Dougherty

**REMEMBERING...**Above, Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky addresses the crowd at the 10th Anniversary 9/11 ceremony held Sunday at the Monument. Below, the New Jersey Empty Sky 9/11 Memorial at Liberty State Park in Jersey City on Saturday appears to recreate the Twin Towers amongst the Manhattan skyline in the distance.

**REMEMBERING...**Above, 746 flags were displayed at Liberty State Park in Jersey City on Saturday representing each New Jersey resident that was lost on 9/11. Below, light beams commemorating 9/11 are stunning against a cloud formation overhead with the new Freedom Tower lit up in red, white and blue as seen from a cruise.

**REMEMBERING...**Above, firefighters observe a moment of silence at Union County's 9/11 Memorial Ceremony held over the weekend at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Below, at the conclusion of the ceremony, relatives of the victims of that fateful day were asked to place red roses on the granite monument.

## FW-SP Shared Services Is Not ‘Forced Consolidation’

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

FANWOOD — At their regular monthly meeting Tuesday night, Mayor Colleen Mahr and the borough council held a discussion that will keep shared services in the local spotlight well past Election Day.

Prior to the portion of the meeting agenda devoted to new business, Mayor Mahr emphasized that the borough's ongoing discussion with Scotch Plains about potentially sharing police, construction, municipal court or other services "is not about forced consolidation."

The mayor said the two municipalities have been meeting on shared services since June and, although potentially merging police departments is just "one focus," she indi-

cated that both towns' police chiefs at this point "are confident" that they can present an "operations plan" for a shared department.

"We will never abdicate our position of having a police department in Fanwood," said Mayor Mahr, but, pointing to budget realities, she added, "You have to be creative."

Mayor Mahr said the joint shared services committee, set to hold its next meeting later this month, would be charged with developing a "governing structure" that is "equal to both towns" in terms of police services.

"We don't have all the [shared services] answers," the mayor said. "But we are certainly moving in the right direction."

The mayor then asked each coun-

cil member for their shared services comments.

Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell acknowledged that shared services "probably won't solve all of our problems, but," she said, "I feel that we have to pursue this."

Councilman Robert Manduca said, "I'm proud that we're taking a look at [shared police services]; there should be no sacred cows in Fanwood."

But, Mr. Manduca said, he would like to see "documented savings" projections first. He also cautioned that, "The pitfalls are many," noting that shared-service ventures can be "hard to undo once you do it."

Councilman Mike Szuch emphasized the importance of "looking at everything fairly" before making final decisions, but he said shared departmental services "could save us some tax money and still provide us with the service we're used to having in Fanwood."

Councilman Anthony Parenti said "efficiency and economics" should be Fanwood's two main shared-services considerations regarding police and other departmental services.

"If you're not going to get both, it's not worth doing," said Mr. Parenti.

Councilwoman Joan Wheeler responded, "I think we will see efficiency and economic rewards for this community."

Mrs. Wheeler pointed to Fanwood's decision last year to join Union County's police dispatching system as a recent example of successful shared services.

Councilman Russell Huegel said he is "frustrated that we're not further along" in determining the economics of shared police services.

"We need to roll up our sleeves and get in the numbers," said Mr. Huegel.

During public comments, resident Joe Nagy asked when there would be more "specifics" on potential shared services for police operations.

"What would be the minimum savings required? You have to have a number," suggested Mr. Nagy.

Mayor Mahr said more information should be available next month.

Resident Michael Lewis also suggested that shared services "costs should reflect that Fanwood is... built-

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CANDLELIGHT SERVICE...Area residents attend a candlelight 9/11 memorial service held at the Alan Augustine Village Green in Scotch Plains on Sunday, at which time the 9/11 Memorial was dedicated.

## Union County Reports Hurricane Damages and Cleanup Efforts

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Mr. Graziano said the storm damaged county bridges on Madison Hill Road in Clark over the Clark Reservoir and Pine Grove Avenue in Summit. Mr. Graziano said the heavy rains "washed away everything from underneath the footing [of the Madison

Hill Bridge] and it was in a precarious position." He said an engineering firm has been working on the repairs. Madison Hill has been closed to through traffic since the bridge was shut.

Mr. Graziano said 75 percent of the costs incurred by the county from Irene would be eligible for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He said the county's FEMA disaster aid application is being handled by the Union County Office of Emergency Management in the Department of Public Safety.

County Manager Al Faella said  
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DEDICATION...Bagpipers perform at the dedication of the 9/11 Memorial at the Alan Augustine Village Green in Scotch Plains on Sunday.

## CF Mayor Cites Flood As a Most ‘Significant Challenge’

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

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The mayor said the Garwood Fire Department pumped out water from approximately 40 houses in the borough. The mayor said three borough trees fell and the borough incurred minimal flooding. No homes were condemned and there were no evacuations, she told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

Fire Committee Chairman Lou Petruzzelli said that 43 of 53 incidents this month that the Fire Department tended to were the result of Irene.

Streets and Roads Committee Chairman Timothy Hak said the borough's street sweeper was lent to Cranford to help in the township's effort to clean up after the hurricane. He also said some preventive sewer treatments are being performed this week.

Prior to the workshop meeting, the mayor swore in new police sergeants Douglas Stoffer, Samuel Rocco and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



FALLEN HEROES...The Union County Fire Chiefs' Association hosted a memorial last weekend in Echo Lake Park in Mountainside where 343 American flags, representing each FDNY firefighter who perished, were displayed.

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**343 IN MEMORY...**The Union County Fire Chiefs' Association hosted a memorial throughout last weekend to honor the 343 New York City firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001. The memorial displays 343 American Flags (made in America, Texas) 3'x5', one for each FDNY firefighter who perished. They are placed across the grass field in Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Businesses and individuals from the region and as far away as Kentucky have made this possible. A sizeable donation will be made to the St. Barnabas Burn Center in Livingston, N.J. Any person or group wishing to participate should contact Deputy Chief Steven Ruhl, (908) 380-2981.



**WANTED**

Anyone with information on this individual who is wanted in connection with a TD Bank robbery that occurred on Sunday at approximately 2:10 p.m. is asked to call the Westfield Police Department at (908) 789-4000. See story page 6.

**Union County Freeholders**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Runnells Specialized Hospital and the Department of Human Services also have storm-related costs and/or services that will be detailed in the report.

Frank Guzzo, director of human services, said the county's Meals on Wheels kitchen in Linden had to be shut down due to flooding. Although run by non-profit Meals on Wheels, Inc., Mr. Guzzo said the facility has been owned by the county for "well over 35 years." The facility prepares and delivers 1,500 meals daily to homebound seniors and congregate meal sites "throughout the county." He said the workers are provided by Meals on Wheels, Inc. Congregate meals are nutritionally-balanced meals served at locations such as community or senior centers.

Mr. Guzzo said the county manager's office prepared an emergency declaration in order to fill the void by contracting temporarily with Long Island-based Whitsons, which provides Meals on Wheels for four other counties. Whitsons has a facility in Elizabeth. He said Whitsons has been providing the meals since September 1 and will continue until the Linden facility is running, which he hoped would be within a week.

On another matter, the county is purchasing four Jeeps with plows for the Department of Administrative Services, one of which will be given to the Westfield Department of Public Works.

"Westfield did not have a small plow truck there to take care of the parking lot and the surrounding area," said Matthew DiRado, director of personnel.

The county will spend \$149,396 for the purchase of the four vehicles from Flemington Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, LLC.

Mr. DiRado also requested a resolution to pre-qualify Rahway Travel to provide travel agent services "to all county entities" per a state statute. He said Rahway Travel has gone through the requests for quotations and requests for proposals processes so that its rates would be set.

Mr. Faella added that the county has implemented "justification methods for all individuals who will be traveling." He said employees are now required to list the purpose for the travel and, once they return from the trip, provide a "post-event report as to what benefit they've derived for the county to make sure that we're really justifying all these expenses."

"Terrific," responded Freeholder Al Mirabella, chairman of the board's fiscal affairs committee.

The board also considered a resolution request to conduct an online auction for commercial natural gas per the state's Local Unit Electronic Technology Pilot Program. Mr. DiRado said the previous contract saved the county \$800,000 in energy costs over what was previously provided by public utilities.

"This (auction) is just to lock in a price for the next 24 months," Mr. DiRado said.

The board also reviewed a resolution for the county to enter an agreement between Runnells and New York University. Under the agreement, Runnells would provide clinical training for students in NYU's occupational therapy training program.

**Garwood Council**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

James Wright.

Former mayor Dennis McCarthy was in attendance and asked about the recent roadwork completed by the Department of Transportation on the underpass on Center Street, noting that it looked like a spot in the work was not done properly and he thought the paved area may come up.

Resident Angelo Alimonti asked why the problem with the underpass flooding was not rectified. Mayor Quattrocchi said that during Hurricane Irene power went out, causing the electric pump to go out, and the borough does not have a generator. She said the borough is looking into getting backup power, calling the flooding of the underpass a "safety issue."

Municipal Engineer Donald Guarriello said the two manholes that are not level with the street on 3rd Avenue and Gallows Hill Road are being looked into. He also reported that the Willow Avenue utility problems are being addressed this week and the next. The Center Street project is underway, he said, and noted that the pipes are not sealed and need to be to ensure the water does not freeze in the winter.

Municipal Attorney Joseph Triarsi said he is scheduled to meet with state Superior Court Judge Karen Cassidy, the assignment judge for Union County, this month to discuss proceedings on the lawsuit presented by The Pointe at Garwood, which filed a lawsuit earlier this year for payment of snowplowing services, lighting and cleaning, etc.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, resident Bill Nierstedt opposed the borough's ordinance for a bulk waste program. He said taxpayers are paying for the salaries of Department of Public Works (DPW) workers to haul the bulk when the workers time could be better used elsewhere, as well as the wear and tear on the DPW trucks. He said the work should be done by a private hauler. He said the council needs to "develop a backbone."

"It simply is not government's job to get rid of their bulk materials," he

said. The council voted 5-1 to pass the ordinance, with Councilman James Matthieu being the only council member opposed. Councilman Matthieu said from a financial standpoint he is a "little queasy" with the \$55 fee.

Councilwoman Sara Todisco commented before the vote that she was not in favor of using DPW staff and vehicles. "By using our own truck, I am concerned about injury to our DPW staff," she said.

Councilman Petruzzelli also said he did not like using DPW staff. Both voted in favor of the ordinance.

Residents will pay a \$55 fee for up to 750 pounds of bulk waste to be picked up at their curbside.

Councilman Matthieu said he thought August's finance scenario was "depressing," saying tax collections were flat in August, year after year. He also reported that 100 properties were delinquent in paying their tax bill, resulting in a deficiency of \$422,000.

The council also adopted on the consent agenda to appoint former Garwood policeman, Leonard DiStefano, as zoning code enforcement officer, replacing former Police Chief William Legg. Mr. DiStefano will be paid \$6,000 a year; Chief Legg was paid \$7,000.

The council also discussed the state's recently added Best Practice Inventory Form, which has asked the borough a list of questions to determine its efficiency of operations. Ultimately, should a municipality fail to meet certain criteria, the state would hold back a percentage of state aid, Ms. Ariemma said.



**MAINE...**Jennifer Lee lives in North Carolina. She lived in Westfield for 55 years. While on vacation this summer, she brought *The Westfield Leader* with her to Bremen, Me.

**FW Council**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out," while there is still potential for new development in Scotch Plains.

In other business, the governing body honored local first responders for their work during and after Hurricane Irene.

Mayor Mahr paid tribute to the borough's police, fire, public works and rescue squad personnel as "your boots on the ground" who "worked non-stop...putting their lives on hold...putting their lives in danger."

"We are fortunate to have such dedicated first responders; they deserve public recognition," said Mayor Mahr. "It could have been a lot worse for us in Fanwood...they worked their asses off, really, for all of us," she said.

Police Chief Richard Trigo responded, "It's easy to command a situation when you have people who know their job...and do it."

As expected, the governing body approved contracts for a new walkway at Forest Road Park, engineering and design work at LaGrande Park, environmental engineering services for the former Livingston-Wilbor property, and architectural services at the Carriage House and Community House buildings, among other administrative actions.

Mayor Mahr also administered an oath of allegiance to the borough's newest police officer, Michael Rusin, 23, of Scotch Plains.

Also, Katherine Balch was honored as the borough's volunteer-of-the-month for her longtime work with the Friends of the Fanwood Library group.

**Cranford**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will last well into next week, and pointed out that some township services, such as the municipal court, are now located in temporary trailers set up in the parking lot behind the building.

Speaking later in the meeting about flood control efforts to date and in the future, Mayor Aschenbach said there would be "big dollars to fix this problem." In response to a former township engineer's long statement criticizing the mayor's record on flood control issues over the past two decades, the mayor defended his record and the ongoing five-phase flood control program.

Other members of the township committee issued similar praise for municipal employees and township residents. Commissioner Mark Dugan called it a "trying two weeks for everyone" and thanked police and other public safety personnel as well as county and state officials and legislators for their efforts.

Commissioner David Robinson called the storm's effects a "community-wide issue."

"We're all hurting," he said, regardless of whether individuals were affected by flooding or not. He praised public employees as well as neighbors helping those most affected by water damage.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Campbell praised the "dedication and hard work" of township officials. "I can't commend them highly enough," he said. Commissioner Edward O'Malley similarly lauded township personnel, some of whom he said remained on duty even while their own homes may have been damaged.

Courtesy of Debbie Nilas

**FIRE...**Westfield firefighter Lt. James Ryan discusses safety with Dillon O'Conner at Harding Street block party.



By Brooks Crandall



By Jonathan O'Hea



By Greg Ryan



By Jonathan O'Hea



Courtesy of Michele Modestino



By Susan Dougherty

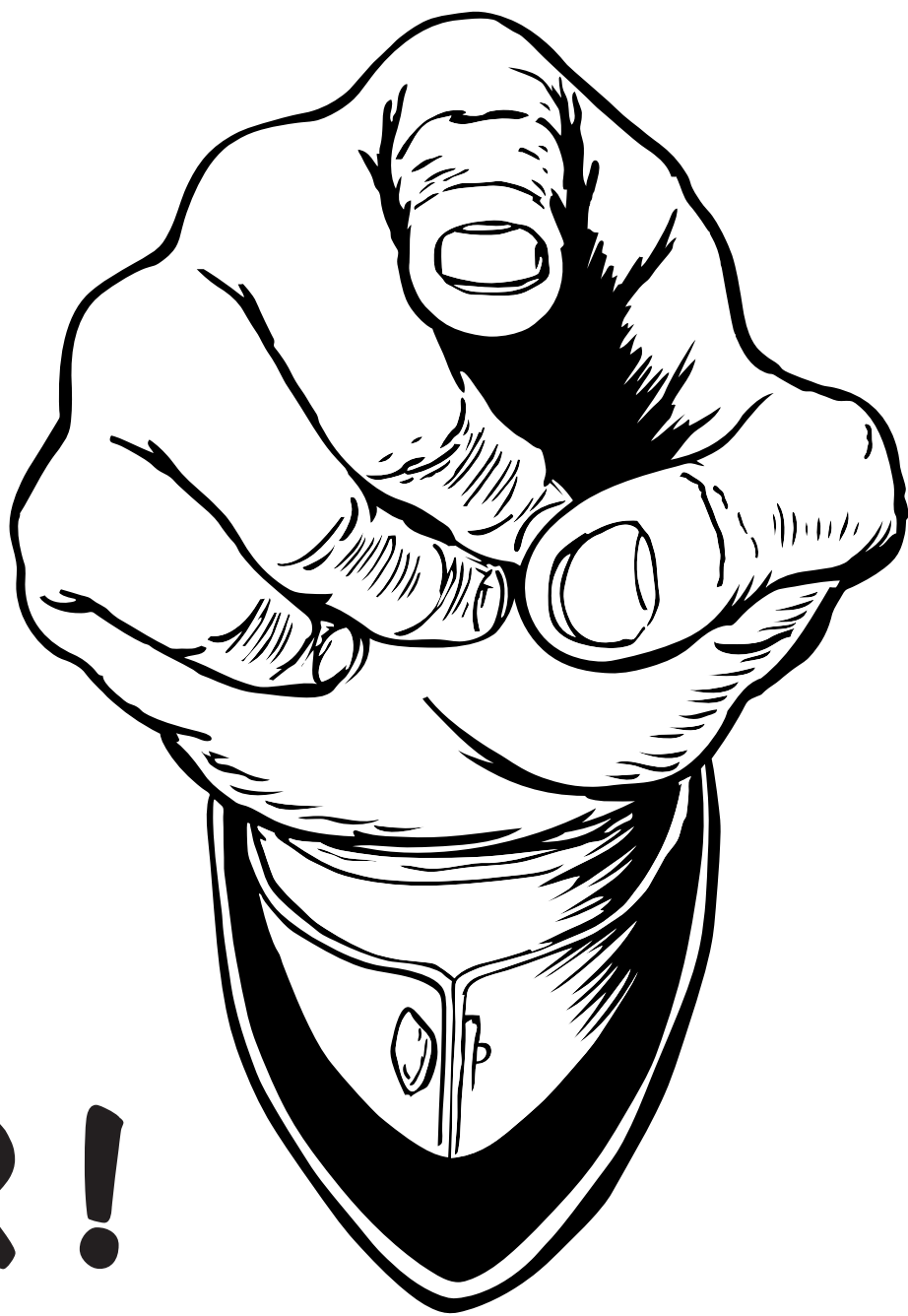
**REMEMBERING...**Above, the newly dedicated 9/11 Memorial in the Alan Augustine Village Green in Scotch Plains. Below, the New Jersey Empty Sky 9/11 Memorial at Liberty State Park in Jersey City on Saturday appears to recreate the appearance of the Twin Towers amongst the Manhattan skyline in the distance.

**REMEMBERING...**Above, 746 flags were displayed at Liberty State Park in Jersey City on Saturday representing each New Jersey resident who was lost on 9/11. Below, light beams commemorating 9/11 are stunning against a cloud formation overhead and the new Freedom Tower lit up in red, white and blue as seen from a cruise.

**REMEMBERING...**Above, firefighters observe a moment of silence at Union County's 9/11 Memorial Ceremony held over the weekend at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Below, at the conclusion of the ceremony, relatives of the victims of that fateful day were asked to place red roses on the granite monument.

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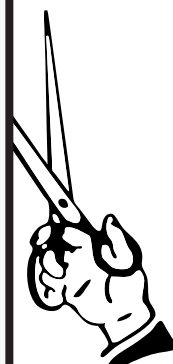
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# Fire Damages Cumberland Home, Displaces Occupants

By BETSEY BURGENDORF  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — One week after Hurricane Irene flooded basements causing damage to area homes, a September 3 fire originating in the basement of a two-family home in the 500 block of Cumberland Street caused serious structural damage, displacing all occupants, Fire Chief Dan Kelly said.

The fire department received the emergency call at approximately 11:57 p.m. Chief Kelly told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* that the fire quickly escalated to a three-alarm fire and mutual aid from surrounding towns was received. The EMS Task Force was also at the scene, as well as the Union County Fire Prevention Task Force.

Chief Kelly stated when firefighters arrived at the scene, fire was visible from two sides of the residence from basement windows and from a first floor window in the rear.

Three of the five adult occupants of the owner-occupied two-family dwelling were home at the time of the

fire and managed to escape with minor injuries, Chief Kelly said. Two escaped through a first floor window, while the second floor occupant was forced to egress down an exterior portion of the building. All three were transported to Overlook Medical Center in Summit where they were treated for shock and smoke inhalation, Chief Kelly reported.

The apartments located on the first and second floor sustained substantial fire, smoke and water damage. Evidence of an unauthorized third floor dwelling was found, which sustained smoke damage, the chief said. Being that the residence was zoned for a two-family dwelling, the information has been turned over to the building department for review, the chief reported.

The Raritan Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross assisted in relocating one tenant and the additional occupants sought shelter with relatives.

According to Chief Kelly, the report on the cause of the fire has not yet been received, but it does not appear to be suspicious in nature.

## Charter Schools Forum On Sept. 20 LWV

CRANFORD — Charter schools will be the focus of a program to be presented by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of the Union Area at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20 in the Cranford Community Center, located at 220 Walnut Avenue.

Sandy Matsen, a former president of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey and co-chairwoman of the state League's Education Committee, will be the speaker. Her topic will be "Charter Schools: A League Perspective." The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will be the first of three Union Area League programs being held as part of a national League study on education. It will be followed by membership meetings in October and November when a special committee formed for the study will present additional information on various aspects of education. At the end of the November meeting members will try to reach consensus on a series of questions concerning education from national League headquarters.

The national League will then take an official position on education and lobby elected officials in support of it. The Union Area League is comprised of members from Union, Cranford, Linden, Springfield, Westfield and other communities. Membership is open to all citizens, men as well as women, 18 and over. Call (908) 925-9784 or visit wvnj.org.

## Irene Victims Could Be Reimbursed for Food

COUNTY — County residents who suffered losses due to Hurricane Irene may be eligible for a one-time food benefit ranging from \$200 to a maximum of \$1,202, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced.

Residents meeting the Federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program income guidelines can apply from Monday, September 12 at three locations including the Union County's Social Services offices in Elizabeth, 342 Westminster Avenue, and Plainfield, 200 West Second Street in Plainfield, along with a temporary site at 65 East Cherry Street in Rahway that has been established specifically for this purpose.

The amount of the assistance varies according to gross monthly income to family size. Monthly income restrictions range from \$1,503 for one person to \$3,748 for a family of eight. County social services staff has received training from the state and will assist eligible residents in completing a short application. If approved, the benefit will be electronically applied to a debit/credit card and will be available within three days of completing the application.

For residents already receiving SNAP benefits, the one-time benefit will be applied to their cards. All three sites will be open to take applications Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



**COMPLETING ACADEMY...**Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, left, and Freeholder Angel Estrada congratulate Megan Campbell of Hillside on graduating as 2011 class president of the Sheriff's Youth Academy. More than 80 teens graduated at the ceremony at Union County College in Cranford on August 23.

# Union Protests Kean's Privatizing of Maintenance

By THOMAS FORTUNATO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

UNION — Kean University campus workers belonging to the International Federation of Professional Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 195 on Monday protested the University's Board of Trustees decision to hire a private company, Meridian Property Group, to manage the grounds and maintenance of two of the university's satellite campuses prior to a Board of Trustees meeting. In addition to the workers, several Kean students and professors joined in to show their support.

Even though the University will not have to pay Meridian's workers the same benefits that the IFPTE workers receive, the Meridian workers receive a higher hourly wage, which over time will cause the University to spend phenomenally more money, resulting in higher tuition rates, union representatives said. Kean is hiring a large company to do its maintenance rather than hire employees directly, which incurs myriad administrative costs on Meridian's side, which are then factored in to the total amount that the University is billed.

"Kean sure knows how to spend its money," stated Steve Pinto, an auto mechanic for the University. "I shouldn't say [the university's] money, it's money that comes from the students and the taxpayers of New Jersey," since Kean is a publically-funded school.

"Kean has spent \$1.8 Million for [Meridian's] maintenance of two buildings," Mr. Pinto stated. At the Board meeting, Kean President Farahi explained that the new buildings are "some extremely sophisticated facilities" which requires the expertise of Meridian and its employees.

"If [IFPTE workers] could do the work at a much lower cost, we would have no reason to go to another union," explained Mr. Farahi.

Other protesters argued that hiring Meridian workers would be as safe for the students than if Kean hired workers directly. Gerald Newsome, the vice-president of Local 195, explained that as a state institution, all employees Kean hires will undergo a state police background check, and that IFPTE employees "have a vested interest in the job" and "can do it better, cheaper, and safer."

However, Meridian explains on its website that the company has a long history of being contracted by the state and other state-owned institutions and corporations, such as NJ Transit.

"Usually you complain about fiscal problems [when you start laying off people]" commented Meteorology Professor Charlie Murphy, "but Kean has had a surplus over the past couple of years. [This is about] getting rid of senior people and replacing them with younger, cheaper folks—exercising control."

Tony Velez, Kean University photography professor and Vietnam veteran, shared how he felt about Kean University's Board of Trustees Chairman Eugene Enlow: "The Enlows of America are really the ones who are destroying this nation... and its working force. [Enlow] doesn't represent the people, he represents private interests."

"Wealthy Americans are doing more damage to me than any Vietnamese ever did," Mr. Velez continued, making a comparison to his service in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. "I fought against the wrong people, the war was here [on the home front] all along. It's class warfare."

# Plainfield Men Indicted for Assault on Disabled Woman

AREA — A Union County grand jury has returned an eight-count indictment against two Plainfield men, charging one with kidnapping and both with sexually assaulting a mentally disabled woman earlier this year, announced Union County Prosecutor Ted Romankow.

Edward Woodson, 31, of Plainfield had asked the then 30-year-old victim to come to his house around 9 p.m. on January 31, 2011 for a bible study, said Assistant Prosecutor Patricia Cronin. At the time, the victim was preparing for a baptism at a church frequented by both Woodson and the victim.

According to the investigation, Woodson brought the victim to his family's home where he met up with a neighbor, Marcal Campbell, 30. Together they brought the victim into the basement of the Woodson residence. The men then simultaneously sexually assaulted the victim, Ms. Cronin said. The woman then spent the night sitting in a chair in Woodson's bedroom, Ms. Cronin said. At 6 a.m. on February 1, 2011 Woodson forced the victim out of the house and into a falling snow. Not properly dressed for the elements, the victim spent at least two hours outside begging for a ride home from strangers. Eventually mem-

bers of Woodson's family found the freezing victim in the front of the house and arranged for and paid for a taxi to bring her home. The victim reported the assault to relatives and she was taken to a local hospital for treatment, Ms. Cronin said.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Prosecutor's Office Detective Brian O'Malley at (908) 965-3809. Both Woodson and Campbell are being held at the Union County jail on \$300,000 bail.

## Parking Tips Given For County Fair, MusicFest

COUNTY — County officials said that onsite parking for this weekend's Union County Fair and MusicFest at Oak Ridge Park in Clark is available for free on Wednesday, September 14, and Thursday, March 15 only. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 16 to 18, there is a fee of \$10 per car.

Free offsite parking with a free shuttle is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nearby at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools campus, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains. Local residents are encouraged to walk or bike to the park. For information, visit [ucmusicfest.org](http://ucmusicfest.org) or [facebook.com/musicfest](http://facebook.com/musicfest).

# Candidate Says Roselle BOE Needs to Be Audited Over \$3-Million Grant

By Jamel Holley (D), candidate for Mayor of Roselle. "As I prepare to begin my administration in January, I have been reviewing various borough departments and budgets looking for ways to improve services and save money. When I reviewed the Roselle Board of Education, I found some shocking developments that you need to know about. First, the school district has failed to finish renovating classrooms for special needs children, leaving them without an adequate space to learn.

"Second, the district administration has not claimed over \$3 million in grant funds that were awarded to it, even though

## Lautenberg to Attend FW Dems Kickoff

FANWOOD — United States Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) will be the featured guest at a dinner to kick off the re-election campaign of Fanwood Democratic Mayor Colleen Mahr, and Fanwood Democratic Candidates, Councilman Russell Huegel and Council Candidate Kevin Boris. This family-friendly event will be hosted at Mayor Mahr's home, 315 North Avenue, on Monday, September 26 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Fanwood families are invited to join the Senator at the Mayor's home to discuss their local, state and federal concerns, meet the local candidates and enjoy the opportunity to meet all Fanwoodians who share similar concerns.

Families and guests are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food items that will be given to the Fanwood Food Pantry to aid those less fortunate or make a recommended donation of \$30.

"I am thrilled to open the doors to my home to local community members and to welcome the esteemed United States Senator to Fanwood," Mayor Mahr said. "This is a great time to invite local residents to meet with their United States Senator and make a much needed contribution to the Fanwood food pantry in these trying times."

For additional information and a list of recommended food items, please visit [fanwooddems.com](http://fanwooddems.com). RSVPs can be sent via e-mail to [contact@fanwooddems.com](mailto:contact@fanwooddems.com) or by calling (908) 789-7577. All donations should be made at the event.

some of the work they were supposed to pay for has already been completed. This gross negligence by the management and Board of Education is simply unacceptable. I'm calling on School Board Member Anthony Esposito, the chairman of the Finance Committee, and School Business Administrator Luiggi Campana to either claim this grant money and pay for these projects or return it to the taxpayers of Roselle. Both of them have shown total incompetence in this matter and they should both be considering resignation.

"I have sent a letter to the Schools Development Authority requesting an audit of the district's finances to find out what went wrong here and what else might be going on. Roselle can't afford incompetence like this from one of its most important departments. I will not allow this to continue and will do everything I can to fix the problems and hold the people responsible for them accountable.

"Thank you for reading this, and know that I am working hard to make sure my administration gets off to a good start."

## GW Dems Sponsor Bus Trip to Track

GARWOOD — The Garwood Democratic Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Monmouth Park in Oceanport on Saturday, October 1. The afternoon includes horse racing and an outdoor barbecue.

The \$40 tickets for this non-political event includes round-trip transportation, admission to the park and private picnic area, and a lunch selection of hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage and peppers and soda. Attendees may bring their own beverages.

The bus will depart from 116 South Avenue (across from Marty's Shoes) at 11 a.m. and leave the track at 4:30 p.m. At Monmouth, there are typically 10 races a day, with the last race concluding around 5:30 p.m. Since seating is limited on the bus, tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis and must be purchased in advance. The deadline for reservations is Friday, September 23. For more information and to buy tickets, please call Jenna Nierstedt at (908) 654-8586.

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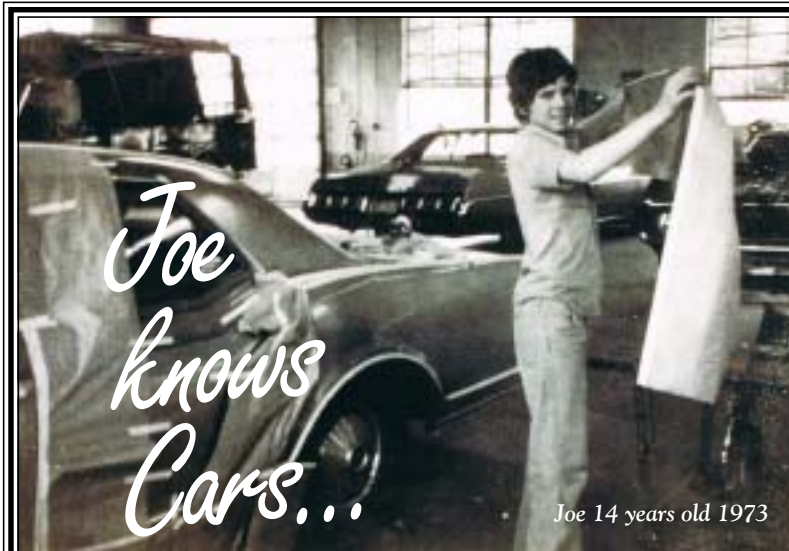
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**Legislative District 21** Senate 2-yr. (pick one); Assembly 2-yr. (pick two)  
 For Senate GOP **Tom Kean, Jr.**, Westfield (I) For Senate DEM **Paul Swanicke**, Warren  
 For Assembly GOP **Jon Bramnick**, Westfield (I) For Assembly DEM **Bruce Bergen**, Springfield  
 For Assembly GOP **Nancy Munoz**, Summit (I) For Assembly DEM **Norman Albert**, Cranford

**Legislative District 22** Senate 2-yr. (pick one); Assembly 2-yr. (pick two)  
 For Senate DEM **Nick Scutari**, Linden (I) For Senate GOP **Michael Class**, Middlesex Borough  
 For Assembly DEM **Linda Stender**, Scotch Plains (I) For Assembly GOP **Joan Van Pelt**, Plainfield  
 For Assembly DEM **Jerry Green**, Plainfield (I) For Assembly GOP **Jeff First**, Middlesex Borough

**Legislative District 20** Senate 2-yr. (pick one); Assembly 2-yr. (pick two)  
 For Senate DEM **Ray Lesniak**, Elizabeth (I) For Senate GOP **Helen Rosales**, Elizabeth  
 For Assembly DEM **Joseph Cryan**, Union (I) For Assembly GOP **John Donoso**, Elizabeth  
 For Assembly DEM **Annette Quijano**, Elizabeth (I)

**Westfield Town Council** 4-yr. (pick 1 from each ward)  
 Ward 1 GOP **Frank Arena** (I) Ward 1 DEM **Timothy Van Epp**  
 Ward 2 GOP **JoAnn Neylan** (I) Ward 2 DEM No candidate filed  
 Ward 3 GOP **Mark LoGrippo** \* Ward 3 DEM **Matthew Sontz** Ward 3 IND **Greg Kasko**  
 Ward 4 GOP **Jim Foerst** (I) Ward 4 DEM **Gregory Romer**  
 \* Incumbent Mark Ciarrocca resigned to become Superior Court Judge, LoGrippo named replacement

**Fanwood Borough Mayor** 4-yr. (pick one); Council 3-yr. (pick two)  
 For Mayor DEM **Colleen Mahr** (I) For Mayor GOP **Joseph Britt**  
 For Council DEM **Russell Huegel** (I) For Council GOP **Jason Benedict**  
 For Council DEM **Kevin Boris** (I) For Council GOP **Nicole Cole**

**Garwood Borough Council** 3-yr. (pick two)  
 DEM **Louis Petruzzelli** (I) GOP **Carol Kearney**  
 DEM **Sara Todisco** (I) GOP **Steven Blaufeder**

**Cranford Township Committee** 3-yr. (pick two)  
 DEM **Daniel Aschenbach** (I) GOP **Andis Kalnis**  
 DEM **Thomas Hannen, Jr.** (I) GOP **Lisa Adubato Nesi**

**Mountainside Borough Mayor** 4-yr. (pick one); Council 3-yr. (pick two)  
 For Mayor GOP **Paul Mirabelli** (I - Mayor) For Mayor DEM No candidate filed  
 For Council GOP **Keith Turner** (I) DEM No candidate filed  
 For Council DEM **Deanna Andre** (I) DEM No candidate filed

**Summit City Mayor** 4-yr. Council-at-Large 2-yr. (pick one); Council 3-yr. (one from each Ward)  
 For Mayor GOP **Ellen Dickson** For Mayor DEM **Eileen Ludden** For Mayor IND **Mike Vernotico**  
 For Council-at-Large GOP **Gregory Drummond** For Council-at-Large DEM **Susan Hairston**  
 For Council First Ward GOP **Robert Rubino** For Council First Ward DEM **Sandra Bloom**  
 For Council Second Ward GOP **Patrick Hurley** For Council Second Ward DEM **Dennis White**

**Kenilworth Borough Mayor** 4-yr. (pick one); Council 3-yr. (pick two)  
 For Mayor GOP **Kathi Fiamingo** (I) For Mayor DEM **Peter Corvelli** For Mayor IND **Walter Sosnosky**  
 For Council GOP **Scott Klinder** (I) FOR Council DEM **Anthony DeLuca** (I)  
 For Council GOP **Kevin Leary** (I) FOR Council DEM No candidate filed

**Union County Freeholders** 3-yr. (pick three)  
 DEM **Angel Estrada**, Elizabeth (I) GOP **Andrew Smith**, Summit  
 DEM **Chris Hudak**, Linden \* GOP **Edwin Ortiz**, Elizabeth  
 DEM **Vernell Wright**, Union GOP No third candidate filed  
 \* Incumbent resigned, Mr. Hudak named to board as replacement

**Libertarians on Obama Speech, GOP Debate**

WASHINGTON - Libertarian Party Executive Director Wes Benedict released the following response to President Barack Obama's jobs speech:

"...Unemployment is at 9 percent. Four years ago, in late 2007, unemployment was less than 5 percent. Then in 2008, President Bush mailed out millions of \$300 government stimulus checks. Later that year, he supported the massive TARP bailout. Unemployment rose. In 2009, President Obama said if we passed another big stimulus plan, unemployment would stay below 8 percent. Now it's at 9 percent. Government spending does not help the economy, it hurts the economy. Stimulus spending doesn't create jobs, it destroys them. When investors hear that the U.S. government is going to flush more money down the spending hole, they react immediately by cutting back on investments that would have created jobs. Government stimulus spending benefits a few, but at great expense to everyone else. Politicians like to be able to say they're 'doing something,' but too often, 'doing something' means handing out money to special interests. Often these programs are promoted with false claims that they will benefit the poor and middle class. Usually the opposite happens. We don't need the government 'doing something' if it involves more spending and new programs. We'd be better off if the government stopped trying to help, and gave Americans a chance to recover, adjust their plans, and start solving economic problems themselves. However, if politicians feel like they must be seen 'doing something,' then they should cut spending, bring our troops home from the Middle East, reduce Medicare and Social Security benefits, cut taxes, and eliminate burdensome licensing laws and minimum wage laws take the bottom rungs off the economic ladder. The President's tax cut proposals are good and bad.

"Libertarians always support broad-based tax cuts. But targeted special-interest cuts and loopholes just amount to social engineering, and they pit different interest groups against each other. And tax cuts without spending cuts virtually guarantee that future generations will suffer a heavier tax burden. It's foolish to talk about increasing taxes on the wealthy. That would be a great way to destroy even more jobs [...]"

"I watched the Republican Presidential debate, and it was the same old nonsense from Republicans. They sometimes say they are for free markets. Yet, Mitt Romney defended his Romney Care plan. Rick Perry boasted about his new \$3-billion taxpayer-funded medical research center in Texas. Newt Gingrich said we need to grow revenue. Mr. Gingrich, the last thing we need is to put more money into the incompetent, wasteful, and corrupt hands of the federal government. Libertarians want less government, and more jobs. We support free markets, civil liberties, and peace."



THIRD WARD HELLO...Westfield Third Ward Councilman Mark LoGrippo, a Republican, left, and his treasurer, Jennifer Czarnecki, right, meet with neighborhood children during Mark's door-to-door campaign for election to town council. For more information, please see Mark2011.com.

**Westfield DEM, Ward 3 Release: Matthew Sontz Crossing Guards Should Be Restored**

I am Matt Sontz, the Democratic candidate for the Westfield Town Council for the Third Ward. It was just about this time last year that many of us in the Third Ward learned a shocking truth: our children were crossing Central Avenue without a crossing guard! The town council decided in the summer to cut every crossing guard on Central Avenue as a cost saving measure. The crossing guards at Sycamore/Central, Grove/Central, and Park/Central were gone. The crossing guard at Clover/Central was scheduled to be removed as soon as the infamous Central Avenue pedestrian crossing was operational. Parents were not given an opportunity to object or even to take their children to the intersections before school started so that they could instruct their children how to cross those busy intersections.

Many residents, including myself, attended town council meetings to voice our opposition to the Central Avenue crossing guard cuts. We felt that it was unconscionable that in an almost \$40-million budget, the town council felt that Central Avenue crossing guards, at a cost of approximately \$10,000 each per year, were considered to be the most expendable. During one particular meeting, the town council questioned me as to where I would find the funds for the Central Avenue crossing guards. I advocated that the town council should stop providing full-time pensions for part-time employees. I told them that the savings from not making the pension contributions for those part-time employees could be used to fund at least one of the crossing guards. The town council refused and defended its decision to fund full-time pensions for the part-time employees instead of Central Avenue crossing guards. So I took the fight from town hall to our neighborhoods. I circulated a petition to restore the crossing guards at Sycamore/Central

that was signed by almost 100 Manor Park residents. The support for restoring the crossing guards was overwhelming. Within two weeks of my presentation, the crossing guard at Sycamore/Central was restored!

The town council also reversed itself as to the crossing guard at Central/Clover and decided not to remove that crossing guard when the Central Avenue pedestrian crossing became operational. This was certainly because of the inherent danger to children of crossing at that strange mid-block location. Astonishingly, after repeatedly telling everyone that there was no money in the budget to restore the crossing guards, two had been restored and both within budget. I questioned the town council about where this found money came from but received no logical answer. I again advocated that the town council cease providing full-time pensions for part-time employees and use the savings to restore the crossing guard at Grove/Central or Park/Central. My suggestion fell on deaf ears. To this day, the children crossing at Grove/Central and Park/Central cross without the safety of a crossing guard. Central Avenue is perhaps the busiest and most dangerous road with respect to traffic in Westfield. The decision to remove the Central Avenue crossing guards was wrong. The decision to not restore all of them is wrong. As a councilman, I will fight to restore all of the Central Avenue crossing guards. I will also fight to restore many of our basic services that have been lost in the name of budget cuts such as the use of the Westfield Fire Department's ladder truck. I hope you will support me in this endeavor. Please support me with your vote on Election Day, which is November 8, 2011. You can read more about my campaign and the issues by visiting mattsontz.com.

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 \*Excludes Shifman Mattresses and Boxsprings

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**You're invited!**  
**JCC Open House**  
**Sunday, September 18**  
**12:00 - 3:00 pm**  
 at the JCC of Central NJ, 1391 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains  
 908-889-8800 • www.jccnj.org

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The Westfield Leader THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD TIMES SINCE 1959
Established 1890
Legal Newspaper for the Town of Westfield, Boroughs of Mountainside and Garwood And the County of Union, N.J.
Members of: New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association • Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association • Fanwood Business & Professional Association

Letters to the Editor
Thank You Scotch Plains Firemen
For Pumping Out Our Basement

I want to complement you on the fine work of two of your firemen. We have a sump pump in our finished basement. As a result of Hurricane Irene, we lost electricity at about 2 a.m., Sunday, August 28, 2011. By mid afternoon, there were approximately three-and-a-half inches of water on top of our wall to wall carpet.

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

ABCDCTIONOPQRSTDECEPTIONUVWXYZ
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?

Mountainside Board Member
Responds to BOE Resignations

Our town should be proud of our children's test scores. Compared to Berkeley Heights and other districts, our progress is very positive. However, that is not the only legacy our community inherited from prior BOE decisions. Unfortunately, reserves are drained, taxpayers fatigued, teachers work without current technology, and our children sit in significantly larger classes while parents are forced to pay for subscription busing and sports.

What we need to do is to plan for our children when our district was flowing with cash reserves? How were our cash reserves depleted when there was no basic investment in technology or facilities? Where did our money go? And why are we asked to ignore these results?
In the short time I've served on the BOE, I have concluded that we share common goals even though there were disparate views on achieving results.

Who's Running and Why? Fall Elections Enter Campaign Mode

On Tuesday, November 8, you will have the opportunity, the duty, to vote. The fall election campaign is slow to start this year due to many distractions and serious issues demanding attention — economic stress accompanied by uproarious poppycock, malfeasance infested at many levels then spirits dampened by the devastation of Hurricane Irene.

Mountainside seats are uncontested though voters may apply pressure for something to be done with the chaos in the school board. The races in Cranford, Fanwood and Garwood will decide which parties control the councils in these towns.

Perhaps more than ever, you need to pay attention and listen to the views of the candidates. The problems warrant solemn discussion and unconditional commitment to resolutions. For sure, there will be the beauty contest rhetoric, that's okay as it often provides comic relief and induces a sense of humanism.

The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times offers space each week for candidates [including party officials] to express their views to the readers. Also, this is a standing offer extended all year round to elected officials of the region currently serving. We thank all that have participated in this forum and encourage others to take advantage of this opportunity by submitting pictures and letters throughout the campaign.

We yearn though for the day when the guttural character assassination, misdirection and falsehoods are gone. The onus is not just on the candidates and elected officials. The public has an obligation to let the candidates know of their views and recommendations — hopefully thoughtful with more than just personal interests. Please write to us.

Submittals should be written in first person from the candidate to the reader. Keep the length to about 500 words and submit by the weekend prior to publication by e-mail to editor@goleader.com. Do not include personal attacks, spin and fluff. Our editors will reject submissions deemed inappropriate.

It's important for the public to let the candidates know that it's okay to do the right thing. Isn't it essential to demand it? This year's races are highlighted by contests for the entire 120-seat State Legislature. The voting result here is important as a trend to point the way for the divided leadership. Few seats will actually change hands. Similarly, not much is likely to change at the firmly held Union County Freeholder board — though the public seems pent up to find a way to send a message.

We ask all candidates to submit their biography, photo and contact information. Please see www.goleader.com/11\_election for details. This will be kept online for the public. For a list of candidates names please see page 3.

Locally, there are positions to be filled on Westfield Council, Fanwood (mayor and council), Cranford Council (mayor is chosen by the council), Garwood Council and Summit (mayor and council). There is no municipal election in Scotch Plains this year.

We look forward to what our readers, leaders and contenders have to say — and to an informative, spirited and issued-oriented campaign. Good luck to all those who have stepped up to seek public office this year.

Take notice, and ask questions." What was our past board's "plan" for our children when our district was flowing with cash reserves? How were our cash reserves depleted when there was no basic investment in technology or facilities? Where did our money go? And why are we asked to ignore these results?

SPONSION
1. A formal promise or pledge
2. Money; coin; wealth
3. The property of a bishop or clergyman
4. A structure that projects over the side of a ship or boat

Thanks to Supporters
Of Resolve Fundraiser
On behalf of Resolve Community Counseling Center (RCCC) and its Board of Directors, I want to sincerely thank all those who supported our most recent fundraiser by purchasing tickets to The Barclays Golf Tournament.

SANGUIGENOUS
1. Producing blood
2. Cruel; mean
3. In a relaxed state; resting
4. Oozing; seeping
PERIOPLE
1. A passage from the Bible used in a formal service
2. Latticework upon which climbing plants are grown
3. A series of standing stones surrounding a central object
4. The outside, smooth, horny part of the hoof of a horse

It's important for the public to let the candidates know that it's okay to do the right thing. Isn't it essential to demand it? This year's races are highlighted by contests for the entire 120-seat State Legislature. The voting result here is important as a trend to point the way for the divided leadership.

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Neighbors Kicked in to Save Basement of Vacationing Family

The last two weeks of August finally arrived and like many of you, my family and I began our annual ritual that is summer vacation. This year was a driving tour of the great south. Our first stop was Charlottesville, Va. and a few days later we were in western North Carolina at the base of the Great Smoky Mountains. We barely escaped a 4.3 earthquake in Charlottesville and were now enjoying the mountains, some white water rafting and some western Carolina barbecue.

Baker Family Offers Family History Of Nearly 300 Years in Westfield

Editor's Note: This is the second of three installments.
(continued from September 8, 2011)
Frank's youngest of eight children was my grandfather, Edward Baker, who my sister and I called Granddaddy. My mother told me the story that Granddaddy told her when he was elderly and she happened to be driving him down West Broad. He pointed to a house several down from his parents (now the Plinton funeral home). He said that was his first house and when he built it he put in indoor plumbing.

Fanwood Public Works and Residents Thanked for Storm Aftermath Effort

We are fortunate in the Borough of Fanwood that for many of our residents' things are mostly back to normal. This is a good time to take a moment to look back and thank all of our Borough employees, as well as our residents, for their responsiveness, cooperation and patience in the wake of hurricane Irene.

'Twin Towers' Article Constant Reminder

I would like to thank you for reprinting the "Twin Towers Destroyed" article to commemorate 9/11's tenth anniversary. Although I was too young to read the article in 2001, the reprint allowed me to reflect on the most tragic event my generation has ever seen.

I also want to thank Union County personnel for sharing their equipment and manpower in picking up brush on our streets, which allowed our Public Works Department to turn their attention to other, more urgent tasks. And finally, to all who participated in the borough's one time bulk waste removal of storm damaged items from our streets.

As a first grader during the attacks, it was difficult to comprehend the severity of what had happened that day. This article gave me the opportunity to commemorate all those who lost their lives and to remember the harsh realities of a profoundly life-changing event in American history.

These past two weeks were certainly an example of everyone pulling together, neighbor helping neighbor, to keep Fanwood moving. As the mayor and I continue to knock on you doors, we welcome your feedback. If anyone has any individualized questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact borough hall or our public works director and we will make every effort to provide assistance.

In addition, I would like to say thank you to everyone who was there that day and to everyone who is fighting overseas for our country. This article will be a constant reminder of the tragedy that took place on September 11th, 2001 and I will never forget.

Glad for Ferraro's Renovation

I used to go to Ferraro's at least once every two weeks. It's the place I spent birthdays, good report cards, and family dinners. My friends would poke fun at me for always ordering the baked ziti, my favorite dish.
When it burnt down, I was shocked and devastated. I thought it completely unfair that a place I shared so many happy moments, burnt down in a matter of hours. Every time I pass the restaurant and smell the scent of burnt air it saddens me.

By this point my wife and I made the decision to end vacation early. We purchased a generator in Charleston and left at 3 a.m. on August 29 driving for 13 straight hours to make it home by 4 p.m. My neighbor Joe came right over (along with his buddy Paul from the UK) and began helping rip the wet carpet out of the basement. My other neighbor, Ron Labin (who had been bailing his basement for almost 24 hours), came over and helped my wife set up our generator. By 6 the wet carpet and padding was out of the basement, the generator was on power and our sump pump and refrigerator and all was about as well as it could be.



Our Kids, Another Reason to Be Thankful

We had a block party on Saturday at Harding Street in Westfield. The fireteam brought the truck and explained to all of the kids what their public service was and the hours they work to help everyone during Irene. They really came out and spoke to our families and gave us yet another reason to be thankful for these public servants.

That evening the entire neighborhood came together in Joe and Helen's backyard to eat what food had defrosted in freezers and/or was in danger of spoiling due to a powerless refrigerator. I pulled my gas grill into Joe's backyard and we had two grills going — one with chicken another with steak. The kids were playing flashlight tag and some of my neighbors were walking around with headlamps. We all sat down and enjoyed a candlelight dinner while being serenaded by the sound of gas-powered generators. It made for a pretty fun experience.

Answers to last week's arcane words.

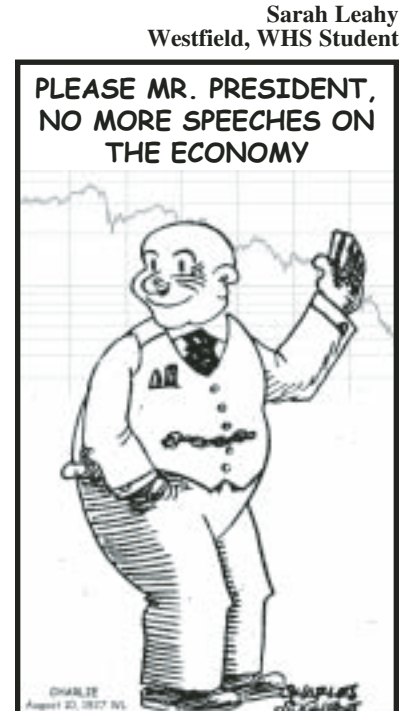
1. Chelonian – Pertaining to tortoises or turtles
2. Apocrustic – An astringent or repellent
3. Milter – A male fish during breeding time
4. Pleach – To interweave, as branches of trees
SPONSION
1. A formal promise or pledge
2. Money; coin; wealth
3. The property of a bishop or clergyman
4. A structure that projects over the side of a ship or boat
SANGUIGENOUS
1. Producing blood
2. Cruel; mean
3. In a relaxed state; resting
4. Oozing; seeping
PERIOPLE
1. A passage from the Bible used in a formal service
2. Latticework upon which climbing plants are grown
3. A series of standing stones surrounding a central object
4. The outside, smooth, horny part of the hoof of a horse
LEISTER
1. A tanner of pelts or animal skins
2. A landlord or land holder; especially in rural areas
3. A three-pronged, barbed spear for taking fish
4. A breed of long-wooled sheep

Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R); 425 North Ave. E.; Westfield (908) 232-3673; senkean@njleg.org
Asm. Jon Bramnick (R); 251 North Ave. West; Westfield (908) 232-2073; asmbarnick@njleg.org
Asm. Nancy Munoz (R); 57 Union Place, Summit (908) 918-0414; aswmunoz@njleg.org

Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D); 1514 E. St Georges Ave.; Linden (908) 587-0404; senscutari@njleg.org
Asw. Linda Stender (D); 1801 E. Second St.; Scotch Plains (908) 668-1900; aswmunoz@njleg.org
Asm. Jerry Green (D); 17 Watchung Ave.; Plainfield (908) 561-5757; asmgreen@njleg.org

Barbara Roskin
RCCC, Scotch Plains
Jonathan Nanna
Westfield, WHS Student

Deb Nillas
Westfield
Patrick Cerria
Westfield





## Mary Beth Schaumberg Latest to Resign from Mountainside BOE

*Editor's Note: Reprinted from last week as reference for the many letters received this week.*

With very mixed emotions, I have tendered my resignation as a Mountainside Board of Education member. Having been elected as a write-in candidate in 2000, thanks to overwhelming community support, I joined the board at a time when the community was extremely concerned about our test scores and the preparedness of students transitioning to high school. During my first year I mostly listened and learned. This first year is designed to provide board members with the necessary understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Given that there is so much to learn about school governance, to this day, I continue to gain new insights.

Most unfortunately, over the past year, it appears as if this mantra has not grounded novice board members. Instead, these individuals have disregarded the history of the district and suggested significant change within days of joining the board. Following the 2010 election, several astute community members expressed concerns to me about the changing complexion of the board. This has been particularly difficult to endure in that I have served on every board committee and in every board liaison role, which has often led to me sacrificing time from my career, and more importantly from my family.

Even with the challenge of balancing my time, prior to 2010, I had always found my board experience to be quite rewarding. A healthy give and take an-

chored exchanges between and among board members and members of the administrative team. At no point in time was character assassination part of my experience until the March 2010 Candidates' Night. A now novice board member serving in a leadership position on "your" Mountainside Board of Education called my integrity into question when indicating that I intentionally misled the community about fiscal savings realized during the previous school year.

Portrayed as a liar, I was completely taken aback by this false accusation, which was later clarified by our then board attorney who confirmed that all of my representations were accurate.

This aside, the real beginning of the imminent demise of the present Mountainside Board of Education and my need to distance myself from this board occurred at the end of the 2008-2009 school year when the then current board approved an unpopular personnel decision. That decision set into motion a series of politically charged actions that have resulted in the pronounced dysfunction of this current board.

At our June 2011 board retreat and ethics training, our New Jersey School Boards Association representative cautioned that the behavior of the board would result in each member being painted with the same brush. With that, I knew my time on the Mountainside Board of Education had come to an end. To be painted with the same brush as the current board members would devalue the many, many years I spent away from my family dedicated to this board.

Rather than engaging in political crockery, during my tenure as a board member, we focused on what matters most, student achievement. Consequently, test scores and staff performance rose to the highest levels observed in our district. As the former board president and vice president, I am pleased to know that I contributed to effectuating this type of change. This is in large measure due to the continual and unconditional support of the thinking people in this community, those who serve and support for the betterment of the Mountainside children.

To the thinking people, trust your insights. Know that it is not a coincidence that multiple board members and administrators have resigned in just over one year's time. I implore you to stand up, take notice, and ask questions. Acknowledging the recent comments of former board member, Carolyn Williams, "keep looking for the transparency that was promised you." In the current environment, the sharing of information occurs most selectively. The implications of this mentality are detrimental to the community at-large, as is the widely held concern regarding confidentiality.

I am truly saddened and frightened by what the future holds for the Mountainside children, although I remain grateful for the opportunity to have served the community I have resided in and cherished my whole life. With the blatant and unwarranted lack of respect experienced by me and departing administrators, I will not be exercising my option to serve out the balance of my term.

Carmine Venes  
Mountainside BOE

Mary Beth Schaumberg  
Mountainside BOE 2000-2011

## Letters to the Editor

### Schaumberg Statement Appalling From Ex-Pres.

I am extremely disheartened and disappointed to be addressing the statements made by the former board president that she is "frightened by what the future holds for the Mountainside children." To incite a sense of fear within our community is unproductive and completely unprofessional. The statement also begs the following question: Without our prior board president, will our children's future be in dire despair?

"Change within days of [new Board members] joining the Board," was a statement that was negatively addressed. Contrary to the comments, such change is positive in that it demonstrates that the District is moving forward to better prepare our children for the demands posed by the fast paced, dynamic nature of education. The Board needs to respond promptly and embrace these demands. The implications that new Board members should sit back, watch and listen, grossly underestimates the creative ideas, solutions, and insight that these new members may contribute to the efficient operation of our district. Furthermore, it relegates the valuable voice of a new Board member on a seven-member Board.

History has its importance, but revisionist history is a detriment to the future. I have served as a member of this BOE for four years. The statement, "A healthy give and take anchored exchanges between and among Board members and the administration team" was not the climate on this Board until after the April 2010 election. It was only then that each and every Board member has been given the respect and opportunity to have his or her opinions and ideas shared, heard, and discussed by the other members.

Prior to the 2010 election, the Board members who had opinions other than that of the then seated president, were treated with disdain and with an extreme lack of respect often within a hostile environment. A respected previous Board member had stated to me, "The board needs people that want to work together. The negative energy experienced was draining, and it was worse before the 2007 election." He also stated that there was a "bitter residue left from the prior Board four years ago."

As a community member, I am appalled that the prior Board president considers only those who have unconditionally supported her to be the "thinking people" of this community. What criteria did she personally apply to measure the intellect of the members of the community and determine whether they are "thinking" persons? Unfortunately, this comment is indicative of the same negative mentality and same type of unproductive statements that permeated the Board led by the previous president.

Moving forward, I see Mountainside's educational future as a bright one. One filled with positive input from a Board that respects each other and finally shares in a common goal of hard work, common sense, integrity and the optimism of our children's future.

Cathy Jakositz  
Mountainside BOE

### Sky in MS BOE Has Not Fallen, But At Risk

I have read and considered the statements of two individuals who recently resigned the Mountainside Board of Education. These statements were submitted to local area publications shortly after their abrupt departures from the Board, of which I am a proud member and officer.

While I respect their right to express themselves, I strongly disagree with their sentiments. I am surprised that two long-time residents who have professed their commitment to the children of Mountainside have chosen to grandstand in such a destructive and divisive manner.

Reasonable people may disagree, but it is the ability and commitment to work through that disagreement that leads to true understanding and progress - not picking up your ball and leaving the field, and then turning and deriding those left in your wake. History is the great equalizer. Emotion and passion shall wane, but the record of achievement, or lack thereof, will stand.

Ironically, in one respect, I will echo the thoughts of one of those who have just abandoned our Board: her plea that the people of Mountainside get involved and ask questions. Yes, please ask questions; express your concerns productively at meetings and our Community Roundtable events; approach your Board members and share your thoughts AND your ideas. In short, contribute to the growth and improvement of our District. Do not fear or react to the recent changes - embrace them and recognize the opportunity that they present. This Board will listen and respond, and will take responsible, visible action on your and your children's behalf.

I ask you to conduct your due diligence and arrive at independent conclusions rather than subscribing to my personal opinions contained herein, or submitting to the distorted and selective renditions of the past 10 years that some have chosen to irresponsibly and inexplicably promote as fact.

Please ask yourself who it was that oversaw the millions of dollars that once filled our District's reserves. Our teachers and students are still without any measurable level of current technology in the classrooms, our buildings are dated and your current Board is absolutely broke. Certainly you can point to last year's State funding cut, but why did our Board not have anything by way of reserves? Financial ruin is not an instant phenomenon - it takes time to perpetuate such a dire situation. The Board was left vulnerable and ill prepared, as it historically chose to hide behind its then-ample

(continued on next column)

## Majority of MS BOE Members Who Were Not Privy to The Charade

The responsibilities and duties of the president of the Board of Education focus on seven specific items dictated by policy. The first and foremost is to preside at all meetings of the Board. This does not give the president the right to tell

(continued from previous column)

reserves rather than implement sound fiscal management. Today, our roofs continue to leak; our facilities are in a dire state, in need of repair or reconstruction; and, our board was mired in seemingly insurmountable litigation for over four years. Yet that board continued business as usual in the face of possible significant liability without earmarking funds to address same or mitigate the ongoing legal costs involved.

We have experienced a seemingly systematic removal of professional parents and family members from their employment within our schools; as recently as 2009 our arts and music programs were all but offered up for sacrifice. But, you will hear, test scores improved! Absolutely, and there is no argument that test scores are an important index of student achievement, and one of which we can all be proud. However, credit truly lies with our engaged students and parents, and our District's talented and committed teachers, aides and support staff who performed miraculously despite dated facilities, a lack of funding, and an absence of current technology.

The sky in our District has not fallen, but has for some time been at risk of collapse. This Board is diligently fighting the battle of shoring it, and improving its foundation, having first had to endure the unpleasant task of exposing the house of cards that prior Boards had erected. The newer members of our Board, myself included, joined because it was evident that something was indeed very wrong, and no, we did not sit idly by as dutiful freshmen, but rather, we asked the hard and often unpleasant questions, challenged the status quo, and have undertaken to expose and address our District's problems with enthusiasm, passion, and an educated vision for a better District.

Overall, I am confident that this Board recognizes that this truly is a new day, and I redouble my pledge to my fellow Mountainside residents that I shall remain focused and committed to participate in the Board's ongoing efforts to develop a stronger administrative team, maintain a fiscally prudent and lean business office, and provide greater support for the fine teachers and staff of our District, greater opportunities for parent and family involvement in our schools, and overall, a better educational experience for the children of Mountainside.

Christopher Minks  
V.P., Mountainside BOE

the other members what to think, how to act or what to say. The president should strive to foster communication among Board members; promote and create an atmosphere of spirited and public debate on the issues; and, respect dissent while working and talking through it. These goals cannot be achieved without transparency. But transparency does not discriminate between the good and the bad, the desired and the unwanted. For the Board to be truly transparent the public must be allowed to see the discussions and formation of such positive programs as the community roundtable. But they must also accept the unscripted reaction and criticism following a prepared statement that surprises the majority of the members who were not privy to the charade. The Board and the public have to be willing to accept the inconveniences of too much transparency rather than suffer the consequences of too little.

Transparency only works if you are willing to speak your mind and not sit idly by when you see Board members being excluded and not being able to voice their opinions, or when information is not being shared with the full Board or the community. You have to be willing to fight for what you think is right, in public, for all to see and judge. You must hold on to your principles and beliefs. You must stay engaged and be a part of the process, not quit and walk away.

Which action serves the community better, reacting passionately to a perceived injustice or attempting to orchestrate a spectacle on the night the CSA finalists are to be selected and turned over to the interview committee? Which action is more professional, reaching out and including those on the Board with whom you do not always agree but respect for their experience and knowledge, or resigning and simultaneously issuing a scripted, inflammatory and false letter to the editor the night before the start of a new and challenging school year? Let the astute decide.

I am proud of the things this Board of Education has accomplished. Rest assured that the Board is working hard on the issues that truly matter: hiring a CSA to lead the District forward and shape both the administrative team and the district's educational vision; finding ways to further involve the parents and the community in the schools and curriculum; and, striving to provide the resources and tools necessary for our incredible teaching staff to succeed. All of these are being done with one goal in mind, the development, nurture and education of the children of Mountainside.

James Ruban, Jr., President  
Mountainside Board of Education

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## Health Department Reveals Flu Inoculation Schedule

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Regional Health Department has scheduled the following dates for seasonal Flu Inoculation Programs. These programs are open only to residents of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit and Westfield.

Proof of residency may be required. There will be a \$10 fee, cash only, for every participant who does not have Medicare. Participants will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Friday, September 16, Westfield Municipal Building, Community Room, 10 a.m. to noon, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield. This clinic will be for individuals age 65 and older only.

Monday, September 19, Westfield Municipal Building, Court Room, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 26, Mountainside Municipal Building, Court Room, 6 to 7:30 p.m., 1385 Route 22, East, Mountainside.

Thursday, September 29, Springfield Municipal Building, Court Room, 6 to 7:30 p.m., 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield.

Tuesday, October 4, New Providence - Senior Citizens Center, 10 a.m. to noon, 15 E. 4th Street, New Providence.

Wednesday, October 5, Independence Way, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., 350 Independence Way, Springfield.

Wednesday, October 5, Sarah

Bailey, 11 a.m. to noon, 30 Church Mall Street, Springfield.

Thursday, October 6, Fanwood Recreation Center, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Forest Road, Fanwood.

Friday, October 14, Summit - Senior Housing Center, 10 to 11:30 a.m., 12 Chestnut Avenue, Summit.

Wednesday, October 19, Garwood Fire House, 6 to 7:30 p.m., 415 South Avenue, Garwood.

Saturday, November 19, Roselle Park High School, 9 to 11 a.m., 185 W. Webster Avenue, Roselle Park (cafeteria).

Anyone who is Medicare Part B eligible must bring his or her card to the program.

The Centers for Disease Control now recommends all individuals 6 months and older receive seasonal influenza vaccine (i.e., the flu shot), especially persons age 65 and older, with and without chronic health conditions; residents of long-term care facilities; persons ages 2 to 64 with chronic health conditions; children age 6 months or older who attend any licensed child care center or preschool activity; pregnant women; health-care personnel who provide direct patient care, and household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children age 6 months and younger.

For additional information, call the Westfield Regional Health Department at (908) 789-4070.



**ALL GOD'S CREATURES...** Pastor Cynthia Cochran-Carney joins pets and owners at a previous Blessing of Pets at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains. This year's event will take place on Sunday, September 25, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, October 9.

## Willow Grove to Conduct Annual Blessing of Pets

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church will hold its annual Blessing of Pets on the church lawn on Sunday, September 25, between 4 and 5:30 p.m.

Members of the community are invited to bring their pets to receive a blessing from the Reverend Cynthia Cochran-Carney, pastor. Individuals whose pet is sick or has died may bring a picture, and these pets will be included in a blessing as well.

All animals are welcome, but must be on a leash or in a cage. A brief service of prayer and singing will take place at 4 p.m. Each pet will receive an individual blessing. Afterward, Sylvette Hartroth and her

award-winning Shetland sheepdogs will perform a dog-agility course demonstration. There also will be a puppy-petting pen. The rain date for this event is Sunday, October 9.

For more information about Willow Grove, call the church office, Monday through Friday, at (908) 232-5678; e-mail info@willowgrovechurch.org or access willowgrovechurch.org.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, across the street from the south-side firehouse and soccer field and near the corner of South Martine Avenue. All facilities are handicap-accessible.

## 5K Run/2 Mile Walk Events To Aid Paul Jackson Fund

AREA - The Paul Jackson Fund, a charity based in Westfield, will hold its second annual Paul Jackson 5K Run, 2 Mile Walk and Kids' Fun Run on Sunday, October 9. The events will be held at Oak Ridge Park, located at 130 Oak Ridge Road in Clark.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. The Run will start at 9:30 a.m., the 2 Mile Walk will begin at 9:45 a.m. and the Kids' Fun Run will kick off at 10:30 a.m.

The Fund was started in 1991 for Paul Jackson, a 1979 Westfield High School graduate, who became paralyzed as a result of surgery to remove a spinal cord tumor. Friends in Westfield raised money for Mr. Jackson so he could participate in a rehabilitation program not covered by insurance.

When Mr. Jackson no longer needed the help, he began assisting others in similar circumstances, providing assistance to qualifying families and individuals who were in a financial crisis due to a long-term illness or disability. For 18 years, he helped hundreds of families who had no place else to turn for help.

In 2009, after a hard-fought battle with cancer, Mr. Jackson passed away at age 47. His wish was for the mission of The Fund to live on. The Paul Jackson Fund continues to help families throughout New Jersey who are struggling and without hope. This year marks the 20th anniversary of

The Paul Jackson Fund. The Paul Jackson 5K, 2 Mile Walk and Kids' Fun Run is The Fund's main fund-raising event. Mr. Jackson's sister, Mary Jackson, said, "Last year was our first year and we were really pleased with the turnout, but we're hoping for even more people this year. It's a great race and a fun day for the whole family."

The 5K course is USAITF-certified and awards will be given to top racers, overall and within age categories. All participants will have the chance to win random prizes and there will be post-race refreshments, face painting and crafts and games for children. The 2 Mile Walk will be wheelchair-friendly.

There also will be vendor booths as well as information about The Paul Jackson Fund and recipient stories. In addition, The Sneaker Factory will give away \$15 gift certificates to the first 200 people who register for the race.

To register, visit pauljacksonfund.org or raceforum.org. To donate to The Fund, visit pauljacksonfund.org or Firstgiving/pauljacksonfund.org. For more information, call the PJF office at (908) 233-6110.

## Area Library to Offer Genealogy Programs

PLAINFIELD - The Plainfield Public Library will begin a series of programs on family history with "Climbing Your Family Tree: Genealogy for Beginners" on Tuesday, September 20, running from 10:30 through 11:30 a.m.

Further classes will include "Getting Started with Ancestry Library Edition" on October 18 and "Free Databases for Genealogists" on November 15. Classes will be held in Room 5 on the lower level of the library. All classes will be free. The library is located at 800 Park Avenue.

For more information or to register, call the library at (908) 757-1111, extension no. 136; e-mail localhistory@plfdpl.info or go to plainfieldlibrary.info/Departments/LH/LH\_classes.html.

## POLICE BLOTTER

**Westfield** Tuesday, September 6, a business on the 300 block of South Avenue, East, reported the theft of a motor vehicle. The vehicle was rented on July 15 and was not returned by its due date of August 15. It was described as a 2010 gray Toyota Yaris with an approximate value of \$12,500. The vehicle had not been located at press time, according to police.

Tuesday, September 6, Danielle Lugo, 23, of Kenilworth was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant for \$500 after turning herself in at police headquarters. She was processed and posted bail.

Friday, September 9, Adona Roney, 30, of Piscataway was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and South Elmer Street on six warrants from South Plainfield totaling \$3,159 bail. She was processed and turned over to South Plainfield police.

Friday, September 9, Russell L. Durbin, Jr., 50, of Westfield was arrested on a warrant issued by the Westfield Police Department for theft of a motor vehicle. He was picked up at the Ocean County jail, transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting \$7,500 bail.

Sunday, September 11, a motor vehicle was targeted for criminal mischief on the 500 block of Hanford Place.

Sunday, September 11, jewelry valued in excess of \$55,000 was reported stolen from a residence on the 500 block of West Broad Street.

**Mountainside** Thursday, September 1, a resident of Beech Avenue came into police headquarters to report that he lost his driver's license and Harrah's Casino and Resort room key in the area of the community pool.

Friday, September 2, an individual came into police headquarters to report he was at a Route 22 theater and lost his key.

Saturday, September 3, a resident of Woodacres Drive reported that his unlocked motor vehicle was broken into and loose change was removed. The vehicle was parked in his driveway at the time.

Sunday, September 4, a resident of Coles Avenue suffered burns to both of her hands and approximately \$1,000 worth of damage to her kitchen after a fire broke out while she was attempting to make an alcoholic concoction.

Tuesday, September 6, an officer reported to a Route 22 catering hall after a bride and groom submitted two fraudulent checks to the facility for an event that occurred on August 14. According to police, both checks were returned for insufficient funds and calls to the individuals went unanswered.

Tuesday, September 6, an officer responded to an eldercare facility on Route 22 after an employee of the facility attempted to pet a dog there and it barked, causing her to jerk her hand away. According to police, the dog is owned by the facility and it is unknown if the dog bit the victim or if she cut her hand on a desk when she pulled it away.

**Fanwood** Sunday, September 4, Jerome Williams, 48, of Scotch Plains was arrested on the 200 block of North Avenue on an active warrant out of Fanwood. He was processed, posted bail and released.

Thursday, September 8, Jamaal Harris, 21, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Terrill Road and South Avenue on an active warrant out of Seaside Heights. He was processed and released by the Seaside Heights Court.

Friday, September 9, Donald Wilcox, 42, of Clark was arrested on charges of possession of suspected marijuana and drug paraphernalia after a motor vehicle inspection detail in the area of Martine Avenue and Watson Road, at which time an officer observed a vehicle pass him and the driver attempt to conceal drug paraphernalia under his seat. According to police, the vehicle was stopped and the suspected marijuana was discovered in

the vehicle. Wilcox was processed and released on a summons with a court appearance pending.

Saturday, September 10, Antonio Ortiz, 30, of Garwood was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle stop at South and Martine Avenues. According to police, while speaking with the driver, the officer detected the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle. The suspect failed multiple field sobriety tests and was transported to police headquarters, processed and released to a responsible person.

Saturday, September 10, a resident of the 20 block of Birchwood Terrace reported an unknown person damaged an exterior electrical outlet to the house.

Sunday, September 11, Craig McCoy, 38, of South Plainfield and Joseph Wesley, 20, of Scotch Plains were arrested following a motor vehicle stop at LaGrande Avenue and Staagard Place. McCoy was charged with an active warrant out of the Union County Superior Court. Wesley was charged with hindering apprehension after allegedly giving the officer a false name.

Both individuals were transported to police headquarters and processed. McCoy was turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Office and Wesley was released pending a court appearance.

**Scotch Plains** Tuesday, September 6, a Route 22 business owner reported that sometime overnight, someone entered his establishment through the front door and, once inside, removed several hundred dollars from the register.

Tuesday, September 6, a Hill Top Road resident reported that sometime overnight someone smashed his front window.

Tuesday, September 6, a resident of Canterbury Lane reported that she received a call from her bank informing her that someone made several thousand dollars in purchases without her authorization.

Thursday, September 8, a resident of Newark Avenue reported that she received a call from her credit card company stating that someone made several thousand dollars in purchases without her authorization.

Friday, September 9, a resident of John Street reported that a former boyfriend has been calling her several times a day and yelling at her.

Friday, September 9, a resident of Plainfield reported that at approximately 11 p.m. he was waiting for the bus at Front Street and Jackson Avenue when someone approached him and demanded his money. According to police, the victim handed over an undetermined amount of money and the suspect then fled the area on foot.

Friday, September 9, James Casson, 22, of Berkeley Heights was arrested on a \$1,000 outstanding warrant issued by the Berkeley Heights Court after a motor vehicle stop on Park Avenue. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Friday, September 9, Kevin Harris, 32, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on a \$2,000 outstanding warrant issued by the Scotch Plains Court. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Friday, September 9, a resident of Mountain Avenue reported that she has been receiving numerous phone calls at all hours of the night from a former friend.

Saturday, September 10, a resident of Jerusalem Road reported that she received a call from a credit card company requesting that she pay her past due account. According to police, the victim stated that she never opened an account with that credit card company.

Saturday, September 10, a resident of Park Avenue reported that sometime during the day someone stole his video tripod that he had left in his driveway.

## Suspect Sought In Robbery Sunday of Westfield Bank

By SUZETTE F. STALKER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - Authorities are seeking one or more suspects in the robbery last Sunday of the TD Bank on the 500 block of North Avenue, East, in which a man escaped with approximately \$5,700.

Lieutenant Scott Rodger of the Westfield Police Department told The Westfield Leader Tuesday that the man waited on line before approaching a teller at approximately 2 p.m. He handed her a note that read, "I want all the money. Loose bills." No weapon was shown, the lieutenant said.

The teller stepped back from the counter, at which point the suspect grabbed money that already was out on the counter and fled the bank, according to Lieutenant Rodger. The suspect was seen fleeing on foot to 4th Avenue, where he was observed entering the passenger side of a black

Nissan Altima that was parked with its brake lights on. The vehicle then left the scene.

The suspect is described as a light-skinned Hispanic male, about 27 years old, approximately 5 feet, 8 inches tall with a thin build, and unshaven with a moustache. He was wearing a black cap with white designs, a black hoodie with a zipper, a white T-shirt and dark pants.

Westfield Police Captain Clifford Aucther told The Leader that "the FBI was contacted and they have responded" concerning the investigation. He said that the agency is involved because the case "fell within their purview of jurisdiction," but said he could not elaborate further.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Lieutenant John Riccerca of the Westfield Police Department at (908) 789-6082. All calls will be kept confidential.



**STARTING OVER...** Ferraro's Restaurant in Westfield began demolition this week of its building that was destroyed in a fire that occurred in May.

## AAI to Salute Dr. Thomas At Meeting Tomorrow

CRANFORD - Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI) will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow, Friday, September 16, on the campus of Union County College in Cranford. It will take place in the Roy Smith Theater. The campus is located at 1033 Springfield Avenue.

This General Membership meeting will be dedicated to Dr. Lew Thomas, who passed away in May 2011. Dr. Thomas was a well-respected and long-time member of AAI and the Union County College faculty.

The AAI executive committee also wishes to acknowledge the contributions of other AAI members who have recently passed on, including Henry and Mark Adams,

George Chaplenko, David and Gloria Kuchinsky and Julius Zsako.

Following the presentation, members of the public are invited to join AAI members at the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the campus for refreshments and the chance to look through the two largest amateur telescopes in the northeast (weather permitting).

The Sperry Observatory is open to the public every Friday evening, rain or shine, between 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. for an informal talk and observing.

Additionally, the public is invited to join AAI at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside on every clear Saturday at 1 p.m. for solar viewing through AAI's portable solar telescope and special filters in the light of hydrogen-alpha emissions. Solar prominences, sunspots and filaments also will be on view.

For more information, visit asterism.org or call (908) 276-STAR. Admission and parking are free.

## Saturday Event to Aid Victims of Hurricane

CRANFORD - "Rising Above - A Musical Celebration of Hope," benefiting those in Cranford devastated by Hurricane Irene, will take place this Saturday, September 17. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., it will be held at Cranford High School, located at 201 West End Place in Cranford.

All proceeds will go to Cranford Family Care Hurricane Relief Fund. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance/\$25 at the door. The event will include musical performances by local talent and a Tricky Tray.

For tickets, contact Ginger Burd at gburd2@verizon.net or (908) 272-4315. Tickets also can be purchased at Cougar Headquarters, 415 Centennial Avenue, (908) 497-9900 and at Cranford High School in the mail office. Checks should be made payable to Cranford Family Care.

Cranford Family Care is a 503(c) charitable organization; Tax ID 02215085691.

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Ms. Johanna A. Gotay and R. Christopher C. Hild

## Ms. Johanna A. Gotay To Wed R. Christopher Hild

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hild of Westfield have announced the engagement of their son, Robert Christopher C. Hild, to Ms. Johanna Angiolina Gotay, the daughter of Jose Gotay of Clifton, Va. and Ms. Bernice Gotay of Vienna, Va.

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Centreville High School in Clifton, Va. and a 2009 graduate of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She currently is completing a master's degree in public policy at George Mason University in Arlington, Va. Ms. Gotay is employed by the federal government.

The future bridegroom is a 2005 graduate of Westfield High School and a 2009 graduate of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Administration of Justice and a minor in Spanish. He was employed by the U.S. Department of Justice in San Francisco, Calif. from 2009 to 2011. In May 2011, Mr. Hild was accepted into George Mason University's Criminology, Law and Society department and offered a graduate assistantship to complete his Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Society.

The wedding is planned for July 2012 at the Officers' Club at Fort Belvoir, Va.

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## Library Friends Request Donations For Book Sale

FANWOOD – The Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library will sponsor its 25th annual book sale later this month. All proceeds will benefit the library and its patrons.

Organizers are asking area residents for donations of used books, books-on-CD, CDs and DVDs for the sale. Donations need to be in clean, saleable condition. All varieties of current fiction, relevant non-fiction, cookbooks, gardening books, books on sports and children's books in hardcover and paperback are welcome.

The Friends cannot accept textbooks, encyclopedias, condensed books, magazines, toys, games, puzzles or audio/video cassette tapes. All contributions are tax-deductible. Tax receipts will be provided upon request.

Donations will be accepted at the Forest Road Park building in Fanwood, located at the end of Forest Road one block north of Midway Avenue, on the following dates: September 15, 16 and 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; September 19 and 20, 1 to 7 p.m., and September 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. No donations will be ac-

cepted on Sunday, September 18.

The sale also will take place at Forest Road Park. The Friends' Preview Night, on Thursday, September 22, from 3 to 7 p.m., will be exclusively for Friends of the Fanwood and Scotch Plains Libraries; no dealers or scanners will be permitted. Dealers will be welcome when the sale is opened to the public. Patrons may purchase Friends memberships at the door.

The sale will be open to the public and book dealers on Friday, September 23, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, September 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, September 25, from noon to 4 p.m. On Sunday, items will be \$5 per bag all day. The Friends group will provide the bags.

For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Nancy or Thena at fanwoodbooks@gmail.com or call Nancy at (908) 322-6559. The library website, fanwoodlibrary.org, also has book sale information available on the Friends' link, or individuals may call the Fanwood Memorial Library at (908) 322-6400.

## Manhattan Lyric Opera Due at Westfield Library

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Memorial Library will present an evening with the Manhattan Lyric Opera Company on Wednesday, September 21, at 7 p.m. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

Founded in 1998 by opera singer and Artistic Director Anne Tormela, the Manhattan Lyric Opera Company is devoted to presenting elegant, concise, user-friendly staged and concert versions of the classic operas, operettas and Broadway works. A native New Yorker, Ms. Tormela specializes in bel canto, operatic and early-music style.



Anne Tormela

This program will be free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. MURAL cardholders belong to libraries that are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. To see if a library participates, check the Westfield Library website, wmlnj.org. To register for the program, visit wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, extension no. 7951.

The library is open from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and will reopen on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. on September 18.

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Christopher Annese and Ms. Caitlin Patricia Slack

## Ms. Caitlin Patricia Slack To Wed Christopher Annese

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Slack of Basking Ridge have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ms. Caitlin Patricia Slack of Far Hills, to Christopher Annese of Westfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Annese of Westfield.

The bride-to-be is a 2002 graduate of Ridge High School in Basking Ridge. She earned a Bachelor of Science Education degree in Special Education from Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pa. in 2006. In 2008 she earned a Masters of Education degree in Teaching and Learning from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She is a middle school special-education teacher in Bernards Township.

The future bridegroom is a 2002 graduate of Westfield High School. He also is a 2005 graduate of Curry College in Milton, Mass., where he

earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, TV and Radio. He is the owner of Curl Films, located in Westfield.

A July 2012 wedding is planned in Warren Township.

### Legion Plans Trip To AC on Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS – American Legion Post No. 209 will sponsor a bus trip to the Hilton Casino in Atlantic City this Sunday, September 18. The cost is \$25 per person (\$15 is for use in the casino).

The bus will depart from the Scotch Plains Library parking lot, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, at 9 a.m., arriving in Atlantic City at approximately 11 a.m. The bus will leave the casino at 5 p.m., returning to Scotch Plains at 7 p.m.

For reservations and payment details, call American Legion Post No. 209 at (908) 322-9845.

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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
Pages 11-16

## SALITURO SCORES LONE GOAL OFF GLOVER'S ASSIST

### Lady Raiders Stop Cougars In Soccer Home Opener, 1-0

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
Junior Lea Salituro took a crossing shot from teammate Julie Glover and buried it into the net from six yards out with 10 minutes off the clock in the first half for the only score of the game to give the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls soccer team a 1-0 victory over a highly improved Cranford Cougar team in Scotch Plain on September 8.

"Julie shot it and it went across the goal. I came in from the other side. The goalie wasn't ready, and I shot it as hard as I could," Salituro explained. The 1-0 Lady Raiders, the defending Union County Tournament champions, were on the offensive for the vast majority of the game; however, the Lady Cougars put together a very stubborn defense to keep themselves within striking range. "I think for the first game of the

season, we did exactly what we wanted to do. We were looking to come out and have a very competitive game. Scotch Plains is going to be one of the top teams in the county, so I think up to this point it's a positive. Now we know what to expect in terms of their speed and intensity," Cougar Head Coach Jen Mischewicz said. "Cranford played really well. They

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



LEAPING FOR THE SOCCER BALL...Raider Jackie Mains, No. 5, and Cougar Emily Lupin, No. 22, both leap for the soccer ball, as Raider Christy Monroy, No. 13, closes in. See more on goleader.com Ballyhoo Sports.

### St. Benedict's Gray Bees Sting SPF Raider Boys in Soccer, 6-0

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
Gray Bee midfielder Christian Hernandez hooked a free kick over the reach of goalie Seth Schlisserman into the upper left-hand corner of the goal from 35 yards out less than six minutes into the second half to start a chain reaction of five goals that guided St. Benedict's Prep to a 6-0

victory over the hosting Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer team at Wexler Field on September 8. The first half, however, was a relatively tight contest with the 4-0 Gray Bees, ranked No. 2 in the nation, holding a slight edge in possession. Most of the Gray Bees' ball control came within the scoreless first 25

minutes of the half. Although the Raiders stepped up the pressure toward the end of the half, the Gray Bees' scored when Gianfranco Giammatteo won a scramble in the box after a corner kick and slipped the ball into the net with 7:07 remaining.

Both teams took three corner kicks in the first half, and although both teams took several shots towards the goal, only one, other than the goal, could have been considered in the dangerous range and Schlisserman managed to tip that shot over the crossbar.

"I thought we played exceptionally well in the first half. In my opinion, we played with them. The possession was 50/50. They had a hard time dealing with the pressure that we put on them. I thought we played nice soccer, nothing much different than we played in Costa Rica. A ball gets ping ponged around that we should have cleared out of there, and then they tap one in," Raider Head Coach Tom Breznitsky said.

When Hernandez converted his free kick with 34:14 on the clock in the second half, the roof seemed to collapse for the Raiders but not for the Gray Bees.

"The second half, the goalkeeper makes a crucial mistake in allowing a ball from 40 yards out to go in, and that makes the game 2-0. That took its toll," Coach Breznitsky said. "I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



FIGHTING FOR POSITION...Raider Kwamir Philippe attempts to get position on the ball in the game against St. Benedict's Prep.



SWARMING ALL OVER A RAIDER...A host of Blue Devil defensemen, including Pete Ondi, No. 27, and Mike LaFace, No. 72, latch onto Raider running back Anthony Byers. The Blue Devils defeated the Raiders, 17-0, at Kehler Stadium on September 10.

### MITCHELL HITS LANZANO FOR 2 TDs, GRIBBIN F.G. Blue Devils' Gamble Pays Off In 17-0 Grid Win over Raiders

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
Opportunity knocked. A gamble was taken, and it paid off for the Westfield High School football team that went on to defeat a larger sized Scotch Plains-Fanwood squad, 17-0, at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on September 10.

The 1-0 Blue Devils found themselves in a fourth-and-six at their own 41-yard line, but an encroachment penalty put them only a yard away from continuing their drive. The decision was to go for it, and quarterback Nate Mitchell followed the blocking of center Dan Bigelow and guard Ryan Elliott. The result was a four-yard gain that would set up the first score of the game.

"We were all psyched up that, after that penalty, we wanted to get that first score. Nate wanted to be the guy

*Probitas Verus Honos*

to get it [run the ball], and he trusted Dan and I to get a good push for him," Elliott explained.

From that point, running back James O'Rourke used three running plays to place the ball on the Raider 38. Mitchell hit split end Mike Stravach for a 17-yard reception, and three plays later, tight end John Lanzano got free over the middle and Mitchell hit him for a 20-yard touchdown (TD) with 2:04 left in the first quarter, capping an 11-play, 63-yard drive.

"The safety came up and in pre-game, we said, if the safety comes up, John just keep going on a play-action. He was wide open," Mitchell explained.

"The coach told us, if the safety bit and came up, right away I knew I was going to be open," Lanzano explained.

The Blue Devils' second TD was also a 63-yard drive (after a 15-yard penalty), but it took only seven plays

to hit pay dirt. On the fourth play of the series, Mitchell hit O'Rourke with a little dump pass over the middle, which turned into an 18-yard gain, resting the ball on the Raider 25. Three plays later from the 18, Mitchell found Lanzano, who slanted into the end zone with 16 seconds remaining in the half.

"That play was low-to-high, and the linebacker let John go right past him, so I just hit John right on target," Mitchell explained.

"Nate got me the ball. I turned around and saw an opening, so I just lowered my head and got into the end zone," Lanzano said.

The Blue Devils' final score covered 66 yards on 14 plays, but it also featured a pleasant surprise. Brendan Dugan replaced O'Rourke, who was cramping, and carried eight times in that series for 50 yards, which began with a 14-yard gain and ended with a 19-yard run around the left side to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



WATCHING A WILD THROW AT FIRST...St. George's Bryan Munoz watches the ball sail out of the reach of St. James first baseman Ted Giandana in the second inning of the St. Bart's Championship game on Labor Day. See story on page 15.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**READY TO SERVE UP ANOTHER SEASON...**The Westfield High School girls tennis team recently kicked off its 2011 season. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Julia Criscuolo, Caroline King and Marilyn Kowalski; back row, Taylor Ingber, Sam Hines, Maddie Rosenberg, Sarah Murphy and Elizabeth Cusick. Missing: Lexi Borr, Lilly Sisto, Marina Kovalenko and Brittany Gould.

**BORR, KOWALSKI, HINDES FILL SINGLES POSITIONS**

# Lady Blue Devils Did Reload For Exciting Tennis Season

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

Five of the seven starters on the varsity have graduated, but this year's Westfield High School girls tennis team has reloaded and may not even skip a beat.

"We are in a good situation, because the girls who replaced last year's graduating class are very prepared. We shouldn't skip a beat this year. We are not looking at wins and losses right now. We are just trying to practice hard and play tennis the right way. If we do those two things, I think we are going to be successful," Blue Devil Head Coach Matt Varhley said.

The beat was very strong last year when the Lady Blue Devils swept all five flights at the Union County Tournament (UCT) championships, won the sectional and Group 4 titles, then defeated Red Bank Catholic, 3-2, to claim the Tournament of Champions (TOC) crown and to finish with a

perfect 21-0 record.

Junior Lexi Borr, who won the UCT first singles title in her freshman and sophomore seasons, has returned once again and will be even stronger at first singles. Last year she finished with a 29-1 record to bring her two-year total to 60-3.

"She has improved a lot. We are expecting a lot of good things from her this year. She is in the top-20 nationally. I think she is ranked third in the East, and she now has a world ranking," Coach Varhley pointed out.

Samantha Borr and Debbie Wu, who were UCT champions at second and third singles, respectively, last year, have graduated, but the Blue Devils have had two very talented girls who have been waiting on the wings. Seniors Marilyn Kowalski and Samantha Hines will fill the second and third singles spots, respectively. Last year, both girls had the talent to fill a varsity singles spot on most

opposing teams.

"Both Marilyn and Sam Hines have patiently waited for their opportunity to get in the lineup. The girls were part of our team last year, and they did a good job watching and learning. In that sense, they bring a lot of experience, and they are very eager to play," Coach Varhley said.

Senior Sarah Murphy, who won the UCT title at first doubles last year with her sister Morgan, will join senior Taylor Ingber at that position this season. Morgan, who has won three UCT doubles titles, has graduated, but the transition for Sarah with a new partner should be relatively smooth.

"Taylor complements Sarah's game very nicely. They both have classic strokes and have a very consistent game. Sarah is a lot stronger on her backhand, and Taylor is more dominant on her forehand side. We are going to be very tough at first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



**Devil's Den**

## Not That WHS vs. SPF Soccer Needs Hype, But ...

By BRUCE JOHNSON  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

It's been three full seasons since WHS's boys soccer team came up short against Scotch Plains-Fanwood, going back to the 2007 county tournament semifinals. Since then WHS has a 6-0-1 record against the Raiders, a streak that will be put on the line this afternoon at SP-F.

Soccer is the major sport at SP-F, and rightly so. The Raiders have been a state power since Tom Breznitsky became the coach, some 597 wins ago. So it may come as a surprise to some that, in the 75 previous meetings between the two schools, the Blue Devils have won 32 times and SP-F 31 times, with 12 draws.

To say most of those 75 previous games were close and bitterly contested would be an understatement. Take the past three years:

In 2008, WHS won twice, both 1-0.

In 2009, WHS won twice, 2-1 and 4-3.

In 2010, WHS went 2-0-1, winning 1-0 and 2-1 with a 1-1 tie.

WHS is 6-0-1 in the last seven meetings, but only has a 12-6 goals difference.

SP-F is the preseason favorite to win its first state Group 3 title since 1998. WHS, whose last state Group 4 title came in 1995, has a young team after last year's senior-dominated squad won the county championship.

It's WHS vs. SP-F. Anything - and if you go back far enough in this wild series, we really do mean anything -

can, and often does, happen.

Oh, not to make it any bigger, but WHS coach George Kapner came into this season with 996 career coaching wins, for all sports, and was at 998 after wins over Linden and Ridge. So, if WHS beat Union on Tuesday (certainly not a gimme), Kapner would be at 999 career Ws coming into the SP-F match.

**FOOTBALL UPDATE**

Is there anything better than a shut-out? Pretty much the answer is n-o, no! But if that shutout is against SP-F, and if it takes place on the day the Class of 1961 is in the stands as part of its 50th class reunion weekend, it's definitely icing on the cake. (All that was missing was the band playing "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" as it marched down Rahway Ave. toward the school.)

That's what happened Saturday, as '60 co-captains Pete Braun, Ross Mannino and their classmates happily watched the Blue Devils open the 2011 season with a 17-0 victory over the Raiders (or Plainsmen, as they were known back in the '60s).

It was the second straight shutout WHS has pitched against their archrival (28-0 last year), and that's the first time that's happened since 1991 (6-0) and '92 (21-0). The Devils lead the overall series 37-12-2.

Kicker Jon Gribbin finished his four-year career vs. SP-F with 15 of 15 PATs

and a field goal.

**TEAMS TO BEAT**

The boys cross-country and girls tennis teams have each won two straight state Group 4 titles and, once again this fall, they are the teams to beat in New Jersey. In fact, the boys have won 14 state cross-country crowns in their history, while the girls have notched eight state tennis titles.

Coach Jack Martin's runners (i.e., Jack's Pack) haven't lost a dual meet since 2004 and bring a 54-meet win streak into the season. That's the fifth longest of any sport in school history, trailing boys swimming (59, 1957-62), boys tennis (61, 2007-08), girls swimming (74, 1984-90) and girls cross-country (92, 1994-2003). With seniors John Kirna, Jack Leahy, David Carville, Kevin Ingram and Evan Tarlow to lead the way, that streak should continue.

Although graduation took Sam Borr, Debbie Wu, Katherine McKinley, Melissa Morawski and Morgan Murphy, coach Matt Varhley returns junior Lexi Borr, arguably the best player in the state. With freshman Marilyn Kowalski and senior Sam Hines filling in the other singles slots, veterans Sarah Murphy and Taylor Ingber at first doubles and the athletic duo of Liz Cusick and Julia Criscuolo at second dubs, the Blue Devils figure to be visiting Mercer County Park in late October for another state title run. They'll get an early test this weekend at the Moorestown Invitational, which includes Haddonfield, Holmdel, Montgomery, Newark Academy and the host Quakers.

**TITLETOWN UPDATE**

WHS is still No. 1 among Group 4 schools and still has the most individual state champions, but the Devils have slipped to No. 2 behind Group 2 Haddonfield for most overall (team and individual) state championships. The 'Dawgs had a huge 2010-11 season, especially in track and cross-country, and now have 384 state titles, competing in the second smallest group. WHS has 375 titles competing against the state's biggest schools, and a huge lead over Trenton (326), Plainfield (301, but now a Group 3 school), Columbia (275) and Montclair (269).

The Devil's Den appears in *The Westfield Leader* on the first and third (and any fifth) Thursday of every month during the school year. Contact us with comments, complaints and suggestions at [bj1019@aol.com](mailto:bj1019@aol.com). And remember, win or not, Whs4evr!

## Hunterdon Central Tops Blue Devil Gymnasts

The Westfield High School Gymnastics team began its season with a 110.05-104.025 loss to Hunterdon Central on September 9 at Hunterdon Central Regional High School in Flemington. Last year, the Red Devils placed seventh in the New Jersey State Team Championships.

The Blue Devils lost only one senior from last year's team (Kelly Bohlinger) and added five freshmen, including Hannah Goldring and Jenna Rizkalla, who placed 3-4 in the all-around with respective totals of 35.3 and 33.45. Red Devils Stephanie Reid (36.75) and Jessica Vallorosi (36.025) placed 1-2 in the all-around.

Rizkalla took first in the vault with a 9.275 followed by Red Devils Lara Haberle (9.2), Reid (9.15) and

Vallorosi (9.05) and Blue Devils Goldring at 8.75. Blue Devil Kelly Vassel scored an 8.35. On uneven bars, Haberle (9.1), Reid (9.05) and teammate Hailey Patterson (8.95) placed 1-2-3. Blue Devil sophomore Abby Cook took fourth at 8.75 and Rizkalla tied for fifth at 8.175. Goldring scored a 7.975.

Vallorosi took first on the balance beam with a 9.375, followed by Cook at 9.25, Goldring at 9.225 and Red Devils Brooke Whalen at 9.05 and Patterson at 9.025. Blue Devil senior Sara Shields scored 7.725. Reid (9.55) and Vallorosi (9.45) took 1-2 on the floor exercise, while Goldring took third at 9.35. Blue Devils, freshman Mae Devin, and Vassel had respective scores of 8.625 and 8.575.

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**GREEN NETS 2 TDs, CHRISTIANO 1; KLIMEK, DIAZ RULE 'D'**

# Cougars Rock ALJ Crusaders In Football Home Opener, 21-6

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

Junior Reggie Green appeared to adjust quite well to his new position as quarterback, and the defense did what was expected as the Cranford High School football team rolled to a 21-6 victory over the A.L. Johnson Crusaders at Memorial Field in Cranford on September 9.

Green was able to quickly identify the openings and gobbled up 142 yards on 17 carries, which included touchdown (TD) runs of eight yards and 35 yards, respectively. He also had a 34-yard sprint that helped set up his first TD.

"I was seeing on the draw plays that the middle was wide open. My back, JP Christiano, did a good job of making a hole for me, so I could go through and get good yardage on it," Green explained. "I run a lot in track, and that helps me a lot for football."

Christiano, a senior tailback, made some noise with an 18-yard TD run for

the 1-0 Cougars' first score, which was set up by senior Eric Garguilo's 33-yard punt return in the first quarter.

"We have been working a lot in practice keeping my feet up. I mean I tripped a little bit in pre-season, but I got to keep my knees high. Keep running. [Ryan] Bryson had a really nice block downfield. I just took it to the outside and got to the corner," said Christiano, who predicted, "There is going to be many more like this. We are going to win a lot of games this year."

The Cougars finished with 209 yards rushing on 27 carries. Green passed four times, completing one to Ryan Williamson, which was good for two yards. He was intercepted once. Senior running back Chris Witwick had four carries for 32 yards, junior Jimmy Dwyer had a nine-yard rush, and Adham McGuire carried twice for six yards.

The Cougars' veteran defense, which included linebackers Mike

Klimek and Nick Diaz—both concealing their neatly trimmed Mohawks—and defensive linemen Chris Fulinosz and TJ Nichols battered the Crusaders' running game, which totaled 65 yards on 20 carries in the first half and 37 yards on 10 carries in the second half. Klimek and Diaz each recorded a pair of sacks.

"During pre-season, coach [Erik Rosenmeier] said defense was going to be our backbone. Last year, we started something with great defense. An example was the Summit game. We were physical. Even though we lost," said Klimek, who added, "They [ALJ] had a new offense coming in, and we had to be the backbone. The effort was there. We were all on our assignments today. We were killing them up front. Controlling the line of scrimmage is important."

"The defense played really well. During practice the drill team gave us a good look of how their offense was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



HAVING A GREAT DAY ON THE FIELD...Blue Devil running back Brendan Dugan, No. 32, rushed for 68 yards in the second half against the Raiders.

## Blue Devils' Gamble Tops Raider Gridders, 17-0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Raider one. After a five-yard penalty, four plays later Jon Gribbin booted an 18-yard field goal with 6:38 left in the game. Dugan finished with 68 yards on 14 carries.

"We knew he could run. The scrimmages showed that he runs hard. He runs fast. He did a great job," Mitchell said.

The 0-1 Raiders gambled three times on fourth down and lost the first two. The second gamble was particularly sour, as Blue Devil linebacker Nick LaFace, burst through the Raider line and sacked quarterback Steve Alleman for a seven-yard loss. The Raiders' third gamble on fourth down worked, but Blue Devil cornerback Pete Ondi tossed a wrench into their drive with an interception at the Westfield eight.

Several dropped passes and a bungled trick pass play that fell well short of wide receiver Matt Jegede, who was wide open, also squelched Raider drives and also put a lot of pressure on running back Anthony Byers (20 rushes, 73 yards). Alleman completed seven of 15 pass attempts for 79 yards. Byers had four receptions for 38 yards, Jegede had a 27-

yard reception and Grant Crandall had one for 12 yards.

"They had forth-and-six. They were going to punt, and we were offside. They kept the drive going. We had two scores [scoring opportunities]. We had passes wide open. We got to make plays. It is about making plays, and we didn't make the plays," Raider Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli said. "We had the opportunities on both of those plays."

The Raider line was clearly much larger, but the Blue Devils' defense managed to swarm Byers and prevent him from making any breakaway runs.

"Coach made it clear that he was their main guy, that he would cut back and we had to stay along that Big Blue [defense]," Elliott said. "We stayed low. We got up underneath their pads and drove them back. We are also in better shape with all the work we do running and all the conditioning we do after practice. We played faster than them today. Coach [Jim DeSarno] says play fast, and that is what our 'D' line did today."

The Blue Devils' quickness on the offensive line also allowed O'Rourke

(14 carries, 52 yards) and Dugan to make good gains, and allowed Mitchell (8-15 for 100 yards, 2 TDs) time to spot his receivers.

"We got under their padding. We got low. We got enough push for O'Rourke to get through their line, and our passing game was clicking today," Lanzano said.

In addition to his interception, Ondi (listed at 5'8") managed to knock down several passes intended for the 6'5" Jegede.

"Pete is a game player. Everybody thinks because they are small, they can't defend those big guys, but he is really athletic. He can jump. He's strong, and he can jam up the line," Elliott said.

Blue Devil linebacker Pat Johnson delivered a hard shot that jarred the ball loose on a pass play to running back Anthony Lettieri, and Lanzano deflected a pass.

The Blue Devils will travel to face Bridgewater-Raritan tomorrow, September 16, at 7 p.m., and the Raiders will host Rahway at noon on Saturday, September 17.

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	0	0	0	0	0
Westfield	7	7	0	3	17



BIG GAINS ON RETURNS...Cougar Eric Garguilo, No. 32, had a punt return for 33 yards and a kickoff return for 38 yards against the ALJ Crusaders in a 21-6 Cranford win on September 9. See more Cranford football and other sports on goleader.com Click Ballyhoo Sports at bottom of page.

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## Blue Devil Boys Place First At Roxbury Invitational X-C

Blue Devil seniors John Kirma and Jack Leahy placed 1-2 with respective times of 15:45.6 and 15:45.9 to help the Westfield High School boys cross-country team place first in the Junior/Senior race with a total of 15 at the Roxbury Invitational on September 10. Mendham placed second at 48 and Watchung Hills took third at 71.

David Carville crossed fifth in the Junior/Senior race with a time of 16:17.6. Kevin Ingram finished seventh at 16:26.7 and Kevin Smith finished ninth with a time of 16:45.2.

The Westfield boys placed second in the sophomore race, which was won by Christian Brothers at 21, with a total of 55. Blue Devil Matt Lupino took top honors with a time of 16:31.2. Dalton Herzog finished seventh at 17:38. The freshmen took sixth with 82 points, and Matt Russo finished the two-mile course sixth with a time of 12:26.6.

The Blue Devil girls placed second in the varsity race at the St. Dominic Invitational with a total of 64. Gabrielle Stravach finished fourth with a time of 21:31. Danielle Grimes crossed 12th at 22:21 (personal best), Allegra Larche crossed 15th at 22:35 and Anna Tanji crossed 20th at 22:56.

The JV team also placed second, and Erica Fischer finished third with a time of 23:13. Courtney Han finished 11th at 24:51, Christina Mosco crossed 13th at 25:07, Leigh Heinbokel finished 17th at 25:32 and Katherine Seery finished 18th at 25:33.

The freshmen girls placed third on the 2.2-mile course. Johanna Mermier finished seventh at 15:06, Charlie O'Brien crossed ninth at 15:59 and Gabrielle Brennan finished 16th at 16:54, followed by Caroline Stocking (17:09), Jacqueline Napolitano (17:17) and Jennifer Bagger (17:19).

## St. Benedict's Stops Raiders, 6-0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

think it started to collapse. I think, goalkeeper wise, we made several, several horrendous mistakes. We need to find a solution for that. It was nowhere even close where we were up to par."

The Gray Bees were quite adept at using their elbows and their hips to slip into favorable positions to pick up good leads from their teammates.

"That's the way the game is played. All these kids on the St. Benedict's team are a variety of different nationalities where the game is played that way," Coach Breznitsky explained. "They are brought up to know how to use their bodies. Nothing wrong with it!"

Five minutes after Hernandez netted his goal, senior forward Christiano Francois sped by a defender and ripped a right-to-left shot into the net. Less than a minute later, with 28:33 remaining, forward Jonathan Moraes, on an assist from midfielder Miguel Alves, banged a right cross into the net. Four taps after another corner kick, Giammatteo drilled a right-to-left shot into the net. The final Gray

Bee goal came off the foot of forward Pablo Perez on a free kick from 25 yards away.

"The score was not indicative of what the game was. I'm very disappointed with the score, because somebody is going to look at the score and say, 'they got their butts kicked', which wasn't necessarily the case. It fell apart after a couple of goals. They were relentless. They feel they got to go out there and win 5, 6-0," Coach Breznitsky said.

With his blazing speed, Francois did, however, keep the Raider defenders on their toes, and Gray Bee goalie Tom Bull used his height to prevent any serious Raider offensive threat.

"The kid [number] seven [Francois] up front is a bona fide goal scorer. Their goalkeeper! What can you say? Six-four, 210 lbs.! That makes the situation tough," Coach Breznitsky said.

The Raiders will host rival Westfield today, September 15, at 4 p.m.

St. Benedict's	1	5	6
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	0	0	0

## Cougars Defeat Crusaders, 21-6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

going to do and how our defense was going to capitalize on it. Klimek and Fulinosz did really good," Green added.

Concerns about the kicking team seemed to evaporate when sophomore Troy Kettler nailed all three of his extra points and the kickoffs were deep into Crusader territory, but especially, when Williamson boomed an 80-yard punt into the Crusader end zone in the first quarter.

After Garguilo's 33-yard punt return gave the Cougars possession on the Crusader 33, a 15-yard pass interference call placed the ball on the 18 where Christiano slanted into the left corner of the end zone with 4:40 on the clock.

The Cougars' next score came on a six-play, 81-yard march, which ended with Green's eight-yard slice to pay dirt with 4:43 remaining in the half.

"At first, I was supposed to go around the side, but I saw the hole, and I cut back. It was a good job on the linemen's part," Green explained.

Garguilo got action starting quickly by grabbing the opening kickoff of

the second half at the 12 and returning it to midfield. A 15-yard personal foul penalty placed the ball on the 36 where Green literally zigzagged his way to the end zone with only 31 seconds off the clock.

"It was just good blocking. I saw the hole and I just kept going. Thanks to my linemen, there was good blocking and I got there to score a touchdown. Sean McGovern made a great block. He killed the kid and I got a good hole," Green explained.

On the Crusaders' next series, Green at his cornerback position intercepted quarterback Lance Pecina's pass at the Cougar 31.

The Crusaders' only TD came on the first play of the fourth quarter when Pecina scored on an 11-yard keeper to cap an 11-play, 73-yard drive, which included a 38-yard reception from Pecina to Bill Ring.

With less than four minutes remaining in the game, Diaz blitzed the quarterback on a fourth down and extinguished any opportunity of the Crusaders getting back into the game.

"That was the straw that broke the camel's back," Klimek said.

"I think we did pretty well today. We did have a little trouble, but I think we can get by it next week," Green said.

The Cougars will host Voorhees tomorrow, Friday, September 16, at 7 p.m.

AL Johnson	0	0	0	6	6
Cranford	7	7	7	0	21

## Blue Devils Reload In Girls Tennis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

doubles," Coach Varhley said.

Last year's UCT second doubles champions, Katherine McKinley and Melissa Morawski, have graduated, but two very talented multi-sport athletes, junior Elizabeth Cusick, a girls lacrosse standout, and sophomore Julia Criscuolo, who sparkled on the varsity softball team that played in the Union County Tournament Championship game last spring, will ably fill that slot.

"We are lucky to have two varsity athletes at second doubles, who have varsity experience at lacrosse and softball," Coach Varhley said. "I think that experience is going to help them a lot."

The Lady Blue Devils opened their season at Scotch Plains-Fanwood on September 8.

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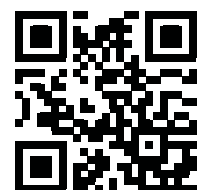
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ST. BART'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS...St. George defeated St. James, 9-4, for the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League Championship on Labor Day. Pictured, left to right, are: sitting; Harold Hopley; bottom row: Paul Ross, Captain Jeff Friedlander, Pete Costello, Bryan Munoz and Ron Labin with son Nicholas; second row, Marty Marks, Nick Dinizo, Rick Wustefeld, Steve McMahon, Dave Roth, Phil Vellucci, Mark Ragan, Bill McKinney and Don Rinaldo.

**LABIN RULES AT SHORTSTOP, HOPLER GETS THREE RBI**

# Georgies Corral James Gang For St. Bart's Crown, 9-4

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

Thirty-Three years of St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League action was concluded after the showdown between St. George and the notorious St. "James Gang" for the championship at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on Labor Day, September 5. But the tension was indeed mounting among the members of both teams, as well as with the spectators, prior to the game.

"It stinks to be a spectator," said St. Joseph pitcher Frank Chupko, who had been with the league 29 years and has been in three titles games, winning one. "One of these teams [St. James] we beat a few times during the season then we lost to them in extra innings. We had a good team. We came in first place in our division. Nice bunch of guys! No big power hitters but quick defensively. So we will be crying in our 'beverage' right now. But it's a good camaraderie. After this night's over then we look forward to draft night to see who is on your team for next year."

"We came on strong at the end of the season, jelled at the right time. We are 3-0 in the playoffs, and we are looking to finish it," St. James captain Jim Killeen said. "It's going to be a tough battle. Jeff [Friedlander - coach of St. George] and I are both protégés of the great Tom Sherwin [former player who was in attendance]. He will be watching both of us and scrutinizing us, so we are both nervous."

As to his title game experience, he said, "As a player, I am 1-1. As a coach, this is my first appearance. Killeen noted that he won a title while playing for St. Patrick's and Jack

Kennedy was the coach.

"This is my second [championship game]. I lost two years ago," said Friedlander, who has been with the league 14 years. "This is my first year of being captain. It's been a great experience with great guys to come together as a team. It should be a great game."

The James Gang scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning but soon found out that St. George packed more ammunition and rolled to a 9-4 victory to seize the 2011 St. Bart's League crown.

Throughout the playoffs, fine defensive performances have emerged, but in this contest for all the marbles, none of those previous performances would match the extraordinary performance of St. George shortstop Ron Labin, who was involved in no less than 10 putouts. He began with a diving scoop, which he converted to a putout, in the second inning. He was responsible for all three putouts in the sixth inning and two of the three putouts in the seventh. And it seemed only fitting that he would initiate a double play for the first two outs in the ninth then finish it off by grabbing a grounder and firing to first for the final out.

Labin also went 1-for-2 with two walks and two RBI, while scoring once. Harold Hopley rapped a two-run single and added an RBI sacrifice fly, while Marty Marks ripped an RBI single, scored twice and walked twice. Pete Costello (triple, 2 runs scored), Nick Dinizo and Mark Ragan each had two hits.

Craig Burfeindt packed the most punch for the James Gang with an RBI triple, and RBI single and an RBI sac fly. Pitcher Tom Rutkowski

singled in all three of his at-bats, and Tom Ulichny singled twice and scored twice. Paul Campanile doubled and scored twice. Killeen, Dennis Herchel, Kevin St. Onge and Marty Bernstein (RBI) each add a single.

After St. James scored their two runs in the first, St. George tied it in the second. Bryan Munoz reached first on an error. Dave Roth singled, Rick Wustefeld looped an RBI sac fly and Steve McMahon lofted an RBI sac fly.

St. George grabbed a 6-2 lead in the third, when Labin walked with the bases loaded, Hopley lashed his two-run single and Munoz slapped an RBI single. Ironically, St. James pulled off their two best defensive plays in that inning, when third baseman Tom Grycan initiated a second-to-first double play and Phil Appelbaum made a brilliant grab in right field.

St. James inched a run closer in the fourth when Burfeindt lined an RBI single to left, but St. George added a run in the fifth when Phil Vellucci, who walked, scored on Marks' single to left.

Burfeindt bashed an RBI triple to center in the seventh to make the score, 7-4, but Georgies Costello tripled and Marks was intentionally walked, then both respectively scored on Labin's RBI single and Hopley's RBI sac fly.

Rutkowski led off the James' ninth with a single then Labin became the middleman in a second-to-first double play. Labin then fielded Tom Maher's grounder and fired to first for the game ending out.

"He [Labin] played an unbelievable game," said Friedlander, who was abruptly interrupted with a shaving cream pie in the face, inflicted by teammate Marks.

St. George	024	010	002	9
St. James	200	100	100	4

**Probitas Verus Honos**

# Lady Raiders Shut Out Soccer Cougars, 1-0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

played well defensively. We did what we wanted to do. The only thing we didn't do was put in a few more goals. We had the opportunities. We just didn't cash in. A lot of credit goes to Cranford and their goalie," Raider Head Coach Kevin Ewing said.

The Raiders took six good shots on goal in the first half, but Cougar goalkeeper Leah Quinn was there to save five of them. Her best save in the half came when she blocked a point-blank shot off the foot of Salituro, who received a fine lead from senior forward Sarah Vanbuskirk. Quinn would add four more saves in the second half.

In the second half, Raider Christy Monroy broke through the Cougar backfield and got off two good shots, only to have Quinn smother both. Vanbuskirk slid another nice lead down the right-center of the field to forward Lisa Matrale, who needed another step to get a good angle on the goal. Katie Harper took a wicked shot at the goal, but Quinn was there for the stop.

"We have been working on it in practice, offensively getting scoring chances and finishing. It happened once, and once was enough," Coach Ewing said.

Throughout the game, the Raiders utilized their reserves to give their starters some breathing time. The Cougars had several girls on the injury list, leaving veterans Emily Lubin and Madison Savulich on the field nearly the entire game.

"Those players are the core of our team, so if I can have them out there ready to go, they are going to be out there on the field. I want them out there. I want them with the ball at their feet," Coach Michewicz explained.

The Raiders' offense turned out to be their best defense, since goalkeeper

Taylor Sebolao needed only to make one stop late in the game when the Cougars put on a final offensive.

"We have two good goalies, Taylor and Meghan Allen. We used Taylor today, but we have complete faith in both of them. Our defense is defense all over the field. I think they had one shot on goal," Coach Ewing explained.

"I think that we were competitive the entire game. They did not give up, and they fought until the last second. We did not give much offensive push until the last 10 minutes, but we had the ball down there a few times. We are going to keep building on that," Coach Michewicz said.

"I think we did pretty good for the first game of the season. There is always room for improvement, but it was a good start," said Salituro, who added, "They [Cranford] are very aggressive in the back."

The Raiders will face Westfield today, September 15, at 4 p.m. in Westfield, while the Cougars will have a showdown game with rival AL Johnson on Tuesday, September 20, at 4 p.m. in Clark.

Cranford	0	0	0
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	1	0	1

**Probitas Verus Honos**

# Raider PAL Grid Kids Win Four of Five Games on 9/11

The Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL opened its 2011 football season with victories in four of its five games against Summit on September 11 at the Scotch Plains Fanwood (SPF) High School field.

The opening day, which was well attended, was also marked by the remembrance of the 10-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. A former SPF High and PAL player, Joe Ellis (class of 2008), was home for leave in his role as a military police officer. Ellis, in his full uniform, performed each pre-game coin toss for all five of the games.

A moment of silence was held while fans were handed small American flags. Each of the five SPF PAL teams also charged on to the field carrying an American flag.

The fourth grade E team, guided by head coach Vic DiFrancesco, opened with a four touchdown to

three touchdown victory. Total points are not calculated on the E level in the New Jersey Suburban Youth Football League.

The D team (5th Grade), spearheaded by head coach Luke Fugett, followed with a 19-14 victory, one that came with a touchdown in the final two minutes against the Summit Hilltoppers. The Raiders continued to roll as the C team (6th grade), which is led by head coach Chris Aversa, crushed Summit, 32-0.

The A team (8th grade), steered by head coach Paul Belford, took apart Summit, 28-14. Summit managed its lone victory of the day with a 34-20 decision over the B team, (7th grade), which is coached by head skipper Shawn Johnson.

Scotch Plains Fanwood continues its NJSYFL league play with a match-up with Richmond of Staten Island this Sunday.



**Mary McEnerney, CRS, GRI, SRES**  
NJAR Circle of Excellence Award: 1977-2010  
**Direct Line: (908) 301-2052**  
**Cell: (908) 578-8198**  
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## Five Days of Fun at the UC Fair Featuring MusicFest

UNION COUNTY – Exciting new acts and new attractions have been added to the annual Union County Fair featuring MusicFest, Union County's five-day celebration of great free outdoor music combined with all the fun and flair of a traditional county fair. Free MusicFest shows are scheduled on all five days of the Union County Fair, from Wednesday, September 14, to Sunday, September 18, at Oak Ridge Park in Clark.

The MusicFest headliner this year is Blondie, the pop powerhouse fronted by golden-voiced Deborah Harry, performing on Saturday night. Other highlights include Live's Ed Kowalczyk and Collective Soul on Friday night, Mike Peters of The Alarm and Neon Trees on Saturday, and New Jersey and local bands performing throughout the five-day event.

Also in the lineup are cult favorites Toad the Wet Sprocket, New Jersey's own Nicole Atkins and the Black Sea, and the amazing Paul Rodgers, voice of the legendary rock band Bad Company.

Sunday is New Jersey Family Day at the County Fair, with a full slate of New Jersey and local performers on all stages

including The Smithereens featuring Union County's own Pat DiNizio, a Springsteen tribute by School of Rock All-Stars, and headliner Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes.

Also part of the Jersey Day festivities is the Classic Car Show featuring the famed Batmobile.

This year, MusicFest also features up-and-coming young local musicians from the School of Rock on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Carnival rides, food and craft vendors, displays by local businesses, Kid's Kingdom child-friendly music, activities and crafts, and a "Green Village" for fun environmental education and art round out the attractions, along with the Hell on Wheels BMX daredevils.

The Green Village includes eye-popping recycled art, educational displays, and the DJ Lab featuring a dance floor illuminated with high efficiency LED lights.

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County will host a large tent packed with fun and informative activities including a free rain barrel raffle, cooking demonstrations, gardening tips, children's workshops and the Second Annual Harvest Contest.

All entries in the Harvest Contest get a participation ribbon, and prizes go to the heaviest tomato, heaviest zucchini, strangest looking vegetable, best character made from vegetables, and best quick bread.

For all Union County Fair information including MusicFest and instructions for entering the Harvest Contest, visit [theucfair.org](http://theucfair.org), [ucmusicfest.org](http://ucmusicfest.org), or [facebook.com/musicfest](http://facebook.com/musicfest), or follow [ucnjmusicfest](http://ucnjmusicfest) on Twitter.



Westfield Community Band

## Help WF Community Band Win \$25,000 Grant

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Community Band is in the running for a \$25,000 Pepsi Refresh Grant. It is hoped that both band members and the community can use the money to continue funding the band for many more years of enjoyment.

But before the band and the community can celebrate, the help of the entire Westfield community is needed. Go to the Pepsi Refresh website at [refresheverything.com](http://refresheverything.com) and search for the Westfield Community Band and vote! Recast your vote everyday.

The Westfield Community Concert Band is among the longest standing community bands in the United States with continual playing since 1912. While its principal role is that of an artistic music ensemble, it does also provide a more utilitarian role for the community through events such as parades, the annual Christmas tree lighting festivities and other local events.

The primary purposes for the ensemble as an artistic ensemble are three fold. First, the community

concert band is a non-professional musical ensemble comprised of adult musicians from Westfield and neighboring communities who have demonstrated both a strong interest and proficiency as instrumental musicians as well as a great interest in continuing to enjoy and improve their musical skills through performance of the highest standards.

Secondly, to preserve the rich heritage that community bands and quality wind band literature, both original and transcriptions, have long provided to communities throughout the United States and across the globe. Finally, to enrich, educate, and entertain the general public through live performances as well as to provide a source of cultural pride for the citizens of Westfield. The Westfield Community Band encourages the entire area to help support live music in the communities and thanks the community for its ongoing support.

For further information, please contact the band at [info@westfieldcommunityband.com](mailto:info@westfieldcommunityband.com).

## WF Community Players

### Open Season with Squabbles

WESTFIELD – Westfield Community Players opens its 2011-2012 season with the comedy, *Squabbles* by Marshall Karp. The show opens Saturday, Saturday, October 15, and runs weekends through October 29.

This family comedy is about Abe Dreyfus, a cantankerous senior who lives with his daughter and son-in-law. Mildred Sloan is an equally irascible lady who is forced to move in with her son and daughter-in-law. This puts Abe and Mildred under the same roof. These two people enjoy each other's company so much that when they first met at their children's wedding, Mildred threatened Abe with a knife! They embark on a mission to drive each other from the house, but their children are the only ones thinking of leaving.

The show is directed by Steve Kemenille, of Clark, produced by Kay Macrae, of Westfield and stage

managed by Barbara Ruban, of Springfield. The cast features Lou Saverese of Randolph, Debbie Badal of Mendham, Tim McGowen of Garwood, Ana Souilos of Martinsville, Ken Webb of Fanwood, Russ Ortiz of Iselin and Linda Correll of Winfield Park.

Continuing the opening night tradition, audience members are invited to a reception with the cast and crew immediately following the final curtain.

The theater is located at 1000 North Avenue, Westfield. Tickets are \$20 and can be reserved by calling the 24-hour tape (908) 232-1221.

Funding is made possible by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

## 'Adopt-A-Trail' Orientation At Trailside Announced

MOUNTAINSIDE – A meeting for new Trail Stewards who would like to "adopt" a section of hiking or bridle trail is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, at 8:30 a.m. At that meeting, potential trail stewards will be introduced to the Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) Program and may obtain a trail assignment. AAT participants are required to adopt their trail for a period of at least two years.

Immediately following the orientation meeting for new participants, the general meeting for all Trail Stewards will be held from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Topics to be discussed will include: An update on the new six-mile History Trail; Reports from farther afield; Invasive Plant Management; Maintenance "How-To's" and other subjects of interest.

Trail Stewards are expected to remove litter, do minor pruning, clear drainage pipes of debris and re-mark trails as needed. All Adopt-A-Trail participants must attend an orientation meeting and a "general" meeting each year as well as complete and submit quarterly reports.

Both meetings will be held at Trailside Nature and Science Center,

452 New Providence Road in Mountainside. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Adopt-A-Trail program was implemented in 2001 to complement Union County's existing monthly trail maintenance program. There are approximately 26 miles of bridle trails and more than 13 miles of marked hiking trails that require attention in the Watchung Reservation and miles of other marked and unmarked trails in other county parks, including Lenape Park, Ash Brook Reservation and Rahway River Parkway.

Interested persons and trail users who are not able to make a two-year AAT commitment are encouraged to attend one of the monthly trail work days, usually held on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30 a.m.-12 noon (except in January and February). No experience is necessary to help out. The next Saturday Trail Work date is October 1.

Pre-registration for the Orientation and General AAT meetings and Saturday Trail Work days is required. Please call (908) 789-3683 to register or obtain additional information.

## Meet and Greet With Author Kevin "Moon" Mullin

WESTFIELD – The Town Book Store in Westfield will host a Meet and Greet with Kevin "Moon" Mullin, author of "Student Athletes, A Guide for the Future" on Saturday, September 17, from 2-4 p.m.

Mr. Mullin is the CEO of LEAP Executive Consulting, a management consulting firm specializing in leadership effectiveness coaching. Many principles of leadership that Mr. Mullin teaches his executive clients have their roots in his accomplished student athletic career. Mr. Mullin was drafted by the NBA's Boston Celtics and went on to play professional basketball in Europe.

Playing for Hall of Fame basketball coach Pete Carril at Princeton University, he was named All-American Honorable Mention, All Ivy League, and was the leading scorer in the 1984 NCAA basketball tournament. In the history of the Ivy League, the player to score the most points in an NCAA Tournament game not named Bill Brad-

ley is Princeton University's Kevin "Moon" Mullin.

In his book, Mr. Mullin shares his timeless and universal lessons from his accomplished student athletic career to help student athletes make good decisions and charter their course for the future. He is a dynamic and gifted public speaker. Mr. Mullin delivers high impact, motivational speaking engagements around the country for student athletes, parents, coaches, and mentors. He is a frequent speaker at high schools, colleges, and universities. He has also worked with student athletes as a high school basketball coach in public and private schools.

Meet Kevin Mullin at The Town Book Store located at 270 East Broad Street in Westfield (corner of East Broad and Elmer Streets). If you are unable to attend this event, feel free to call The Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535 to reserve an autographed copy.

## Teen Arts Exhibit on Display At Les Malamut Gallery

UNION – The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is pleased to announce that the 2011 Teen Arts Traveling Exhibit is on display at Les Malamut Gallery located in the lower level of the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Avenue in Union. The art work is on display through October 14 during regular library hours. For more information on the gallery, please visit [lesmalamutgallery.web.officelive.com](http://lesmalamutgallery.web.officelive.com).

The exhibit consists of 53 pieces of art selected from more than 700 visual art works shown at the 2011

Union County Teen Arts Festival held in March at Union County College in Cranford. The annual event is administered by the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs in the Union County Department of Parks and Community Renewal.

For information about the Teen Arts program, contact the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth 07202; telephone (908) 558-2550. NJ Relay service users should call 711 or email [culturalinfo@ucnj.org](mailto:culturalinfo@ucnj.org).

## Chansonettes Of WF Begin Rehearsal; Seek Members

WESTFIELD – The Chansonettes of Westfield seeks new voices as they begin rehearsing for their winter concert series in December and a spring concert series in May of each year. The group is currently looking for new members who enjoy singing and gathering with friends.

The group will be performing this December at several locations including The Chelsea at Fanwood, Spring Meadows in Summit, Chelsea Warren and Rannels Specialized Hospital. The program will feature songs celebrating the magic of the winter holidays including "Jingle Bells Through the Ages," "A Merry Magdrigal," "It's a Hanukkah Song," and "Calypso Noel."

The Chansonettes, an all women's singing group in existence for over 60 years, performs a holiday concert series in December and a spring concert series in May of each year. The women rehearse once a week on Wednesday nights at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield located on Mountain Avenue under the direction of Jan Schork and accompanied by Mel Freda.

Anyone needing more information regarding upcoming concerts, interested in joining the group or booking a future concert may call Presidents, Jackie Costello at (908) 789-5819 or Amy Herrington at (908) 317-5910.



## POPCORN™ 'Apollo 18' Count it Out

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One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
Film Critic

Director Gonzalo López-Gallego's "Apollo 18," a purported expose explaining why the U.S. never revisited the moon after Apollo 17, had me miffed. Why is it that folks are forever discovering film footage of a conspiratorial nature, whereas no one ever finds some sort of lost document proving that I am in fact the true heir to a European throne?

It's pretty much works in reverse for celebrities who contend they were someone else in a previous life. They were never Max, a poor shoemaker in Minsk. Nope, dollars to donuts they were Attila the Hun or some other historical figure. Sensationalism sells. And let's face it. Some people just like to be bamboozled. Our economy pretty much depends on it.

Hence, a mere film critic with no royal lineage—at least not yet – I trudged to work and ventured a look at this latest entry in the faux footage genre. But right from the get-go it's apparent that neither the director nor the Weinstein Company behind him was playing this charade all the way. And it just doesn't work if you don't really believe it's true.

Artistically, parts of the sham are rather impressive. While NASA buffs could easily pick apart a slew of inconsistencies, to the layperson the jargon and sociology surrounding the three astronauts picked for this hush, hush mission to the moon is convincing enough. But then, according to that is essentially an outer space version of humming the scenery.

The thing is, it's supposed to suck you deep enough into its bogus atmosphere so it can then launch its second stage and turn into a horror film...but without ever admitting it. In this regard, I confess to lift-off on one particularly surprising occasion...sort of a lunar version of the cat jumping on the window sill and making the shade wind clatteringly.

Otherwise, rather wound myself in spoilsport mode, ever vigilant of what hocus-pocus might be perpetrated on me, my concentration was on the process. It is filmed well...a combination of black and white and color frames perhaps purchased wholesale at the film store if, alas, not found. If it were salvaged, it sure was kept in good condition.

And yeah, the reason there's so much of it and shot from so many angles is, of course, because documentation from multiple cameras was deemed necessary for this Defense Department operation. It reminds me of the explanation one pundit gave

when asked how they broadcast the first moon landing: The camera crew went up a week before to set up.

In any case, strip "The Emperor's New Clothes" ploy from the production and it's pretty much your usual outer space adventure yarn, only less. Once on the mass of green cheese, our guys make a few scary discoveries. And naturally that leads to lots of consternation, cursing, occasional screaming and, you'll be proud to know, much valiant endeavor.

Point of disclosure: I don't much care for conspiracies, fictional or actual. It's a creepy subject and, more often than not, unfeasible. Have you ever tried to get five pals together for lunch, let alone convince a whole government agency to stay mum on a secret sojourn to the moon? But to iterate, there's bunches of people who thrive on believing lies.

It's part of the P.T. Barnum thing about a sucker being born every minute. What Mr. Barnum understood better than most is that, despite their better judgment, humans want to think there's more to things than there really is. And so, even with modern science working at breakneck speed to address that yearning, the mythical tale is alive and well.

But lovers of a good conspiracy need be careful if they wish to maintain their integrity and consistency as full-fledged believers in life's big backroom deal. They'll need to pick and choose. I mean, if they subscribe to the theory that Apollo 11 really took place on a Hollywood sound stage, it would take some nutty rationalization to also buy into this.

The other film consumer we have to protect is the horror fiend. Because perhaps there just isn't enough luridness in the news, and movie companies simply can't pump out enough blood, guts and devastation to please them, they might resort to "Apollo 18" for a temporary fix, even if they don't buy into the premise. They'll be disappointed.

My screen door test affirms it. After I see a real bloodcurdler, there is an eerie quietness in my backyard, allowing me to hear every little sound as I walk up the driveway: leaves rustle, a dog barks in the distance, an unseen animal scrambles in the underbrush. But most telling is if the screen door creaks. Then the movie was really scary. No creak here.

"Apollo 18," rated PG-13, is a Weinstein Company release directed by Gonzalo López-Gallego and stars Warren Christie, Lloyd Owen and Ryan Robbins. Running time: 88 minutes



NEVER FORGET...Chief of Staff to Governor Chris Christie, Richard Bagger, in pulpit, listens as a choir from Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield performs at the Westfield Symphony Orchestra's 9/11 Commemorative Concert held September 10 at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

## Clothing Drive Set for October 1

SCOTCH PLAINS – Union County Academy for Allied Health Sciences will hold a Clothing Drive on Saturday, October 1, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Accepted donations are wearable clothing, shoes, belts, handbags, linens, stuffed toys, hard toys.

Hard toys are to be placed in a cardboard box for easy transport. These items will be shipped to developing countries in need. Drop-off is at the school at 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, in front of Baxel Hall.

Please clean out your closets and support the school and countries that need help.

If you have any questions, please call Hilary Araujo 908-789-6451.

## WSO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

read from 1 Corinthians: 13, about love; and Richard Bagger read those famous words from the Statue of Liberty, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus.

Perhaps it was the emotional occasion, perhaps it was the receptive audience, but the orchestra sounded particularly good. The audience seemed exceptionally involved in the music and the readings, and sharing the common bond of the tragedy seemed to bring everyone, audience and musicians alike, closer together. It was a fitting and special memorial to the victims and to the enduring American spirit.



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# Arts & Entertainment

## WSO 9/11 Concert Proved to be Patriotic, Inspirational, Emotional

By BARBARA THOMSON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Symphony Orchestra performed a patriotic 9/11 memorial concert entitled "America the Brave" at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield on Saturday. The program featured a combination of appropriate music and readings, and the large audience was clearly moved to tears on several occasions.

The WSO concerts always start with the audience singing *The Star Spangled Banner*, but on this evening it seemed more meaningful than usual. The "official" beginning of the program was Aaron Copland's rousing *Fanfare for the Common Man*, scored for eleven brass instruments and percussion.

Written to stir patriotic fervor at the beginning of WW II, it remains an important piece of Americana by a leading American composer.

This was followed by a work voted by BBC listeners as "the saddest music in the world" - American Samuel Barber's elegiac *Adagio for Strings* - indeed one of the most beautiful and heart-wrenching pieces of music ever written. Growing slowly from a single line of music, it ascends higher and higher until the strings are virtually screaming in anguish. After a dramatic pause it ebbs quietly away leaving the listener both drained and enriched. Its performance was perfect for this occasion.

Beethoven's *Leonora Overture No. 3* was next, and some might

wonder what relevance it had to the evening. It is an overture to Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*, which is a work about freedom and justice in stormy political times - certainly a parallel to the ideals of the American dream. More than just an overture, it is a free-standing symphonic movement full of Beethoven's dramatic contrasts, both brooding and triumphant, restrained and impassioned. It worked well as a contrast to the Barber.

The first half concluded with a lush arrangement of the song that has come to be most associated with 9/11 - Irving Berlin's *God Bless America*. Featured at thousands of memorial services across the country and the world, it was sung here first by a chorus of young people from the Westfield schools, and later by the entire audience, providing the emotional high point of the evening. There were few dry eyes in the house.

The final work on the program was Czech composer Antonin Dvorak's famed *Symphony No. 9 - From the New World*. Dvorak worked in the United States for some years in the late 1880s, and wrote this large piece both as an homage to America and as an effort to incorporate what he considered native American music into the symphonic lexicon. The result was this colorful, dramatic work which has been a popular favorite ever since its premiere in 1893.

A number of dramatic readings were interspersed throughout the program. Kimberly Benou, from the Westfield United Fund, read Emily Dickinson's famous poem, "Following Great Pain"; Dylan Glasser, son of 9/11 victim Thomas Glasser, read the touching "The Gift" - a poem by Li-Young Lee about his father; Westfield Mayor Andrew Skibitsky

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



IN HIS MEMORY... Lukas Glasser reads a poem as his brother, Dylan, looks on at the Westfield Symphony Orchestra's 9/11 Commemorative Concert sponsored by The Thomas Glasser Foundation held Saturday night at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. The boys father, Thomas Glasser, lost his life in the 9/11 tragedy.

## WF Art Association to Host Artist Bonelli at Meeting September 18

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Art Association will meet and host a demonstration by artist Paul Bonelli on Sunday, September 18, from 2 - 4 p.m. This meeting is open to the public and will be held in the Community

Room at 425 East Broad Street in Westfield. The room has a ramp for the disadvantaged.

Mr. Bonelli was born and raised in northern New Jersey and now resides in the shore region. He studied at the

College of William and Mary, Montclair State University and most recently at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he earned a MFA in printmaking in 1995.

The woodcut print has been his primary medium of expression for the past 21 years. The artist's work takes inspiration from the world around him and documents his experience of the human condition, particularly where it meets popular culture. His award winning woodcut prints have been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions in his home state, as well as other regions around the country, and are included in several important print collections.

In addition to his position as an adjunct professor of art at Kean University in Union, and as an adjunct assistant professor at Ocean County College in Toms River, the artist has demonstrated his art and techniques at colleges and art centers around the country and at the Printmaking Center of New Jersey.



Paul Bonelli - Boardwalk Food

## Student Artwork On Display In UCC's Tomasulo Gallery

CRANFORD - From now through October 15, the exhibition "Digital Images: A Student Perspective" will be on display in the Tomasulo Gallery located on the first floor of the MacKay Library on the Cranford campus of Union County College. This exhibition is a display of selected works designed in the spring 2011 semester by Union County College students in "Communication 212: Multimedia Development II".

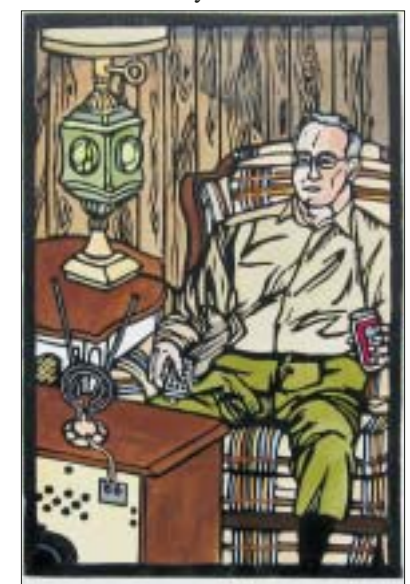
The opening reception will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 8. The following students have work in the exhibit: Sam Alpert of Cranford, Vince DeLuca of Rahway, Jose Herrera and Gerald Miranda of Elizabeth, Pajtim Nikovic of Kenilworth, Phillip Uhlig of Westfield, and Juan Jacobo Yarcze-Velez of Summit.

The students produced multiple impressive works of art. The class achieved incredible success with Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator when given an endless supply of technical advice and complete creative control in open-ended assignments designed to produce individualized results.

Over the course of the semester, the students were given multiple assignments to complete using any

tools they chose to employ in either Photoshop or Illustrator. The results were varied, unique, and unexpected in several cases, but always incredibly detailed and original. From Ad-Busters to self-portraits, the students' assignments were always multi-faceted, complex and open-ended in order to have the students learn about the programs they were using, the way work is done in the modern graphic design industry, and aspects of their own individuality. This method of teaching was used to help them grow into a professional level graphic designer, and it proved to be unequivocally successful.

Union County College's Cranford campus is located at 1033 Springfield Avenue. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call (908) 709-7155 or go to [www.ucc.edu/go/TomArt](http://www.ucc.edu/go/TomArt).



Paul Bonelli - Ecclesiastes Idle Hands

**Union County Fair and MusicFest**  
September 14 - Sunday, September 18  
\*\*\*  
Oak Ridge Park, Clark  
Admission is free.

## Trailside to Offer Hay Rides, Family Fun Around Campfire

MOUNTAINSIDE - Tickets are available for autumn evening hayrides and fun around the campfire at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, these fun-filled autumn evenings include hayrides, songs around a campfire led by singer Jim Rohe, hot chocolate and marshmallows toasted over the fire.

Tickets for these popular outings must be purchased in advance. Seating for the hayrides is limited. Rides begin at 6:30 p.m. on the evenings of September 30, October 7, 14, 28; and November 4.

No tickets will be sold at the hayrides, so please register early. The cost is \$5 for Union County residents and \$10 for out-of-county participants.

Jim Rohe is a talented New Jersey musician and storyteller who

performs at grammar schools and festivals throughout the Garden State and Pennsylvania. He is a seasoned performer whose rapport with his audience makes each program a special event.

Tickets can be purchased every day from noon to 5 p.m. at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside; or weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Union County Administration Building, Department of Parks and Community Renewal, 2nd Floor, Elizabethtown Plaza at Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth.

For further information, call Trailside Nature and Science Center at (908) 789-3670; or the Union County Department of Parks and Community Renewal at (908) 527-4900; or visit the Union County website at [www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org).



Multimedia work by Vincent DeLuca, self-portrait - Chaostree

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## Cherrybrook Anniversary Celebration

### Garwood Store Events:

#### Friday, 9/16

- (3pm-7pm) - Galloping Groomers Nail Trimming \*Reservations Required\*
- (4pm-7pm) - Wellpet Food Demonstration - Free Samples

#### Saturday, 9/17

- (11am-3pm) - Animal Communicator Lorraine B. Moore \*Reservations Required\*
- (11am-2pm) - Springer Spaniel Rescue Meet & Greet
- (10am-1pm) - Nature's Variety Food Demonstration Free Samples

#### Sunday, 9/18

- (12pm-3pm) - JerseyCats Cat & Kitten Adoptions
- (12pm-3pm) - Susan L. Wilson Reiki Master \*Reservations Required\*
- (11am-3pm) - Wellpet Food Demonstration - Free Samples
- (11am) - Fat Murray's Demonstration - Free Samples

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Cranford Cougar High School Sports GREEN RUSHES FOR 2 TOUCHDOWNS, CHRISTIANO 1 TD; KLIMEK, DIAZ RULE DEFENSE

Cougars Rock ALJ Crusaders in Football Home Opener, 21-6

By DAVID B. CORBIN Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times Junior Reggie Green appeared to adjust cello while to his new position as quarterback, and the defense did what was expected as the Cranford High School football team rolled to a 21-6 victory over the A.L. Johnson Crusaders at Memorial Field in Cranford on September 9.

Green was able to quickly identify the openings and gobbled up 142 yards on 17 carries, which included touchdown (TD) runs of eight yards and 35 yards, respectively. He also had a 34-yard sprint that helped set up his first TD.

"I was seeing on the draw plays that the middle was wide open. My back, [D] Christiano, did a good job of making a hole for me, so I could go through and get good yardage on it," Green explained. "I run a lot of through and that helps me a lot for football."

Christiano, a senior tailback, made some noise with a 14-yard TD run for the 1-0 Cougars' first score, which was set off by senior Eric Garguilo's 33-yard punt return in the first quarter. "We have been working a lot in practice keeping my feet in position, but I got to keep my knees high. Keeping running [Ryan Bryson had a really nice block downfield. I just took it to the

outside and got to the corner," Green passed four times, completing one on Ryan Williamson. "There is going to be many more yards rushing on 27 carries. The Cougars' veteran defense, which included linemen Mike Klimek and Dick Diaz, both sealing their neatly trimmed haircuts and high school names Chris Fainozzi and T'Nichols battered the Crusaders' running game, which totaled 65 yards on 10 carries. Klimek and Diaz each recorded a pair of sacks.

"During pre-season, coach [Eric Rosenbiller] said defense was going to be our backbone. Last year we started something with good defense. An example was physical. Even though we lost," said Klimek, who added, "They [ALJ] had a new offense coming in, and we had to be the backbone. We were killing them every week. Controlling the line of scrimmage is important."

"The defense played really well. During practice the drill team gave us a good look of how our defense was going to go to capitalizing on it. Klimek said the defense did really good," Green added. "My extra points were not going to evaporate when the kickoff was over. My extra points were not going to evaporate when the kickoff was over. My extra points were not going to evaporate when the kickoff was over."

Green was good for two yards. He was intercepted. Senior running back Chris Witwick had four carries for 22 yards. Junior Jimmy Dwyer had a nine-yard rush, and Adam McGuire carried twice for

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BRINKING DOWN A CRUSAIDER... Cranford Mayor Mike Linceo, No. 57, Anthony DiStasio, No. 14, and Nick Diaz, No. 41, being down Crusader running back John Calligaris. Cranford scored ALJ 21-6, on September 9.

CRANFORD COUGAR FOOTBALLERS ROCK ARTHUR L. JOHNSON CRUSAIDERS IN HOME OPENER, 21-6

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Garwood Reviews Hurricane Damage; Considers Underpass Generators

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader GARWOOD — The borough is recovering from an excess of \$750,000 in expenses due to Hurricane Irene. Borough Council Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman Victor DeFilippo reported Tuesday night through Clerk Christina Annunzio said that the borough would seek reimbursement from an insurance company covering the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Councilman DeFilippo said three lock cover boxes and pulled up sidewalks, and the cleanup of the trees cost \$1,200. Lanes at the police department were destroyed costing approximately \$6,000 to replace. It is also estimated to cost the excess of \$1,000 to haul out damaged goods from flooded basements.

The municipal building, pump station and underpass on Center Street, as well as North and South Avenue businesses, were without power for one week. Included in the recommendation he brings up is a generator for the pump station. Since it was flooded, Councilman DeFilippo said access was not available to connect a portable generator.

"Our hearts go out to our neighbors in Cranford," Councilman DeFilippo said. With Cranford's sewer lines being flooded and second graders from Brookville Elementary School are being displaced to Garwood's Washington School. Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi said the township is paying for the insurance and expenses, but currently is not being charged for use of the space. A town administrator reported that Cranford would pay \$11 per foot of the space the town used. Cranford this month discussed the possibility of using the borough's Public Works Department (PWD) and should they move forward. Mayor DeFilippo said Cranford would need to pay for those services.

During public comment of the meeting, resident Bill Nierstedt said work from 40 to 50 feet to a bulk water program. He said tarpages are paid for the values of Department of Public Works (DPW) were under maintenance there were no workers that could be better used elsewhere, as well as the wear and tear on the DPW trucks. He said the work should be done by a private contractor.

At the start of the meeting, Public Works Director Eric Mason provided an overview of the first regular meeting since the hurricane struck and the work that is being done to repair the damage. He said he expects that two rounds of block paving as well as 33 million in clean-up costs, the mayor said the municipal government's main focus is on the residents and making certain they recover. This is a challenge for the township as well as the county.

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Arts & Entertainment

Student Artwork On Display In UCC's Tomasulo Gallery

CRANFORD — From now through October 15, the exhibition "Digital Images: A Student Perspective" will be on display in the Tomasulo Gallery located on the first floor of the Mackay Library on the Cranford campus of Union County College. The exhibit features student artwork in the form of digital images, including photographs, illustrations, and digital art.

CHAOSTREE

CHAOSTREE is a digital art project that explores the intersection of nature and technology. The project features a series of digital images that are generated using complex algorithms and computer graphics. The images are displayed in a gallery setting, allowing viewers to appreciate the intricate details and patterns of the digital art.

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Obituary

Arthur J. Palmer, 87, Mech. Engineer; Street Named for Him in France

Arthur J. Palmer, 87, of mechanical engineering honor society, died peacefully on Tuesday, August 30, 2011, at the Community Hospice Center in Merrick, N.H. He was born in New York City on July 26, 1924 to Swedish immigrants Charles Carlsson and Charles J. Palmer. He was a graduate of the Stevens High School Class of 1941. During World War II he served in the Army Air Corps as a P-47 Thunderbolt pilot in the 48th Fighter Group. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

A Musical Celebration of Hope to Help Flood Victims

CRANFORD — On Saturday, September 17, Cranford Family Care will host Rising Above — A Musical Celebration of Hope. The event is a benefit concert for flood victims in the Cranford area. The concert will feature performances by local musicians and singers. The proceeds from the event will be used to help flood victims in the Cranford area. The event will be held at the Cranford Family Care Center, 201 West End Place and begins 6:30 p.m.

CF to Hold Special Meeting Tonight

CRANFORD — Township Mayor Don Achenbach is inviting residents to attend a Town Hall meeting tonight, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss several important topics, particularly those related to Hurricane Irene. The meeting will be held at Cranford High School.

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