



**GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS...**The Martin Wallberg Post No. 3 of the American Legion hosted ceremonies in Westfield honoring all veterans, living and deceased, last Thursday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day. Master of Ceremonies Peter Hogaboom spoke about Support Our Troops "WE Care" shipments to American military personnel serving in Afghanistan. Post Commander Bill Maines and Westfield Councilwoman JoAnn Neylan also spoke at the event, which culminated with a rousing rendition of "God Bless America" by Kerry Stubbs, above.

## SP-F BOE Meeting

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that she had to respectfully disagree with Ms. Rafel, stating that songs are also learned for their "musicality."

Board of Education member Donald Parisi stated, "I feel this policy might be too vague." He suggested that perhaps the board should talk about the policy as an agenda item at a later meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board President Trip Whitehouse observed a moment of silence for fallen veterans and those who "sacrificed so much for our country." He also addressed some concerns that came from residents about not having Veterans Day off from school.

Mr. Whitehouse stated, "While the board of education is respectful to all holidays, we must also keep in mind that we are required to give our students 180 instruction days." He also stated that having school on Veterans Day gave all the schools "unique opportunities to teach children and talk about our veterans." He noted

that some schools were engaged in a writing campaign with local veterans, while some classes engaged in thoughtful discussions regarding Veterans Day.

In other business, it was announced that, as state mandated, the district would start teaching financial literacy to all students in the ninth grade.

"Teaching financial literacy is a great goal but does cost the district money," Mr. Parisi said. He stated that like the bullying teaching requirement, it cost the district money in having to pay substitutes while teachers are taking training courses.

"While we applaud these topics, teaching these state-mandated topics puts stress on an already-strained budget," he said.

As part of a district technology update, officials said 475 student laptops have been imaged and distributed to elementary students, while the district infrastructure has been upgraded to wireless service.

## Dems, GOP Differ on Kit

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with the property-tax cap's intended effect of capping negotiated pay increases, the arbitration cap would limit the rate at which public salaries, benefits and workforce rosters can rise from year to year."

Mayor Skibitsky said he was hoping to have arbitration reform in place to assist the town in its current negotiations with the PBA.

"They (state arbitrators) are making [contract] awards that are not in line with the times we are in," Mayor Skibitsky said. He said government salaries have caught up with, and even surpassed, the private sector in recent years. "And I don't know if that is fair to the taxpayers," Mayor Skibitsky said.

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield) said Democrats, who control both houses of the State Legislature, need to give local officials "the tools they need to meet the 2-percent cap." He said the more stringent cap is needed if towns are to be able to better control increases in property taxes. He also accused Democrats of stalling on the issue of property-tax reform "rather than scoring [one] for taxpayers."

## Gas Main Leak Occurs In Scotch Plains

SCOTCH PLAINS — As reported by NJ.com: "A severed power line ruptured a gas main in Scotch Plains early Wednesday morning, sending flames shooting into the air but injuring no one, police Lt. Brian Donnelly said."

Around 5:30 a.m., strong winds and rain tore the limbs off several trees in town, Donnelly said. One of them, on the 1500 block of Cooper Road, severed a power line.

Police and firefighters responded to the scene but did not have to evacuate any residents. The gas main break did not damage any structures or start any additional fires.

Crews from PSE&G were working to repair the gas and power lines by 9:45 a.m., Donnelly said.

The gas main break knocked out power to 600 homes in the area."



**PROUD OF SERVICE...**Ron Frigerio, standing third from left, was among former Westfield Republican mayors at a GOP party held Monday, March 23, 2009, at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. Also pictured, from left to right, are: Front row, Bud Boothe, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day last year, and Alexander Williams, and back row, Acting Mayor Mark Ciarrocca, Senator Tom Kean, Jr., Mr. Frigerio, Greg McDermott, Allen Chin and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick. Current Mayor, Andrew Skibitsky, and former mayor Richard Bagger were out of town on business.

## Houses of Worship to Hold Food and Clothing Drives

By MARYLOU MORANO  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

AREA — As in the past, this year many local congregations and organizations will be conducting food, clothing and other drives in an effort to bring a little holiday cheer to those in need.

Temple Emanu-El is asking the community to donate frozen turkeys tied in plastic bags — no glass — and other canned and packaged Thanksgiving foods to their Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive.

Donations can be dropped off at Temple Emanu-El's parking lot, 756 East Broad Street, during the following dates and times: Sunday, November 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Monday, November 22 from 9 to 9:30 a.m.; 2:30 to 3 p.m.; 5 to 6 p.m. and Tuesday, November 24 from 9 to 9:30 a.m.; 2:30 to 3 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Food collected by Temple Emanu-El will be distributed by Yes, We Care Soup Kitchen of Zion Lutheran Church in Clark. The Mandy Reichman Feeding Program and members of Temple Emanu-El of Westfield.

Temple Emanu-El's annual participation in the "Jersey Cares Coat Drive" will be Sunday, December 12 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Gently used coats should be dropped off at the Temple's parking lot on that day only. Donations will be distributed to Temple Emanu-El's "I Have a Dream" program or other participating agencies throughout the states.

For more information on either of these events, contact Carolyn Shane, Temple Emanu-El's executive director, at (908) 232-6770, extension no. 114, e-mail cshane@temw.org or visit temw.org.

Westfield firefighters are holding their annual food drive. Non-perishables can be dropped off at the fire station on North Avenue any time until December 3. All donations will be distributed to local individuals in need.

This Saturday, November 20, Boy Scout Troops in Fanwood and Scotch Plains will be "Scouting for Food." Residents of both townships are asked to leave nonperishable food items on doorsteps for pick up by the Boy Scouts. Foods collected will then be brought to Fanwood Presbyterian Church (FPC), where the Boy Scouts will stock the shelves of the FPC food pantry.

Food baskets will also be distributed to the approximately 50 families who regularly receive monthly food assistance from the FPC food pantry. For more information, contact FPC at (908) 889-8891.

Public libraries throughout Union County are once again joining together to "Check out Hunger." The drive for non-perishable food items to benefit the New

Jersey Community Food Bank and other local food pantries will be held until December 31.

Food products most urgently needed are canned meat and fish; canned soups and stews; peanut butter (in plastic jars); boxed pasta and rice; powdered milk; infant formula; canned vegetables and fruits.

Donations may be dropped off in specially designated collection bins whenever the libraries are open. Food collected will then be donated to designated food banks.

Students Concerned for the Needy (SCN), a service club of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, is collecting food items for their Thanksgiving Food Box Project. Members of the community are asked to donate turkeys to SCN. More information can be found at www.sconline.org/projects.shtml.

Area residents who wish to donate an entire holiday dinner can assist in Evangel Church's "Bless a Needy Family Dinner Program." A contribution of \$60 will pay for an entire holiday dinner; \$30 will pay for half a dinner. Those wishing to help should make checks payable to "Evangel Church" and place "holiday meals" in the memo. Donations should be sent to the church at 1251 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains, and will be accepted right up until Christmas Day.

St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, 2032 Westfield Avenue, Scotch Plains, will be collecting new hat, glove and scarf sets for men women and children on Sunday, November 28. All donations will be distributed to guests of St. Mary's "Dinner Program." Donations can be placed in the receptacle of the church's narthex.

Both the Fanwood Memorial Library (FML) and the Westfield Memorial Library (WML) are once again participating in the "Books for Kids" program. Donations of new children's and teen's books can be dropped off at the libraries during regular library hours. The FML drive runs until December 5 and the WML drive runs through November 30.

Books are distributed throughout the state to young people who have limited access to books.

Holy Trinity and St. Helen's Catholic Churches are accepting donations of food and turkeys for their annual Thanksgiving Drive. Donations may be dropped off at the Holy Trinity Rectory, 315 First Street, or the St. Helen's gymnasium, 1600 Railway Avenue, until noon on Monday, November 22.

Volunteers to pack food baskets are invited to St. Helen's Gym at 10 a.m. on November 22. For more information, call (908) 232-8137.

## WF BOE Extends Superintendent Contract in Face of Governor's Edict

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

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education, last week, unanimously approved a five-year contract extension with Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan. The pact runs through June 30, 2015. At the same time, the State of New Jersey is reviewing all superintendent contracts in light of Governor Chris Christie's edict to cap superintendents' salaries at \$175,000. County superintendents have been told not to approve any contracts before the governor's cap takes effect next February 7.

According to BOE President Julia Walker, the contract with Ms. Dolan includes a zero-percent pay increase for the first two years, 2-percent increases each in the third and fourth years, with the fifth year reaching \$203,625, plus an increase equal to her salary multiplied by the tax-levy-cap percentage at that time.

## Ex-Mayor, GOP Chair Frigerio Remembered for His Kindness

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

WESTFIELD — Former Westfield Mayor and ex-Union County Republican Chairman Ron Frigerio died last Thursday. He was 70.

Mr. Frigerio served two, two-year mayoral terms from 1983-1986. He previously served on the town council from 1977-1980, during which time he chaired the finance, public works and laws and rules committees, and served as the council representative on the planning board.

After leaving the council in 1981, he chaired the planning board and was Westfield Republican Committee chairman from 1981-1982. Mr. Frigerio was later elected to two terms as chairman of the Union County GOP Committee, serving from 2000 to 2004. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia in 2000.

Former Cranford Mayor Phil Morin succeeded Mr. Frigerio as County GOP chairman.

"I considered Ron a mentor and a friend. Ron was someone I could always bounce thoughts and ideas off of and who often gave me sound, practical political advice, having sat as both a mayor and county chairman," Mr. Morin said in an e-mail. "My deepest sympathies are with his wife, Janet, and his family."

Current Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky called Mr. Frigerio "the ultimate statesman" and "a real gentleman."

"He will be missed by many people," the mayor said.

Senator Tom Kean, Jr., who moved to Westfield in 2000 and who currently serves as minority leader for Republicans in the State Senate, described Mr. Frigerio as an "extremely compassionate" and "warmhearted person."

"He was an individual who cared an extraordinary lot about Westfield," Mr. Kean said. "He loved the personal impact you could have on someone through the political system."

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, who currently chairs the Westfield Republican Committee, said Mr. Frigerio "set an example on how you could help your community...He knew how to get things done," Mr. Bramnick said.



**POUR LIRE EST BON POUR VOUS...**Champ de Mars - Westfielders Phoebe Chadowitz, Liam Dougherty, Lucy Vanecek, Zoe Chadowitz, Claudia Dougherty, Bridget Dougherty, Rachel Vanecek and Lindsey Hamlin pose with *The Westfield Leader* at the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Friday, November 5, 2010.



**HOME OF THE SHAMROCK...**Jenna Nierstedt of Garwood, who is working and traveling in Ireland, reads *The Westfield Leader* on The Emerald Isle. Earlier in the month, she was visited by her brother, Eric Nierstedt, who brought his own copy of the newspaper.

## Clerk Bonnie Lacina

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such as death and wedding certificates and births, etc.), a position she did not hold in Metuchen.

The new clerk said she plans to keep the office running as it has been for years before considering any upgrades to the existing computers.

"Barbara had been here for so long. She knew where everything was. They

(the residents) will see, hopefully, no difference in the services that they receive," Mrs. Lacina said. "She (Ms. Riepe) has been a fixture in the community for how many years? So, hopefully, every time they (residents) come into my office, they will get what they need, and I will try to become a fixture just like Barbara was."

## SP Council on RVSA

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at the moment. "I trust her judgment" on the issues facing RVSA, he said. Councilman Glover said that while Mrs. Papan has administrative skills necessary for an RVSA commissioner, he did not think she has the "technical skills."

Noting that the discussion of an RVSA appointment was not on the meeting's agenda, both Mayor Nancy Malool and Councilwoman Mary DePaola urged that further deliberations be put on hold until the position can be publicly advertised, "in the interest of transparency and fairness," as the mayor put it. She added that, "We owe it to [Mrs. Papan] to make a decision one way or another."

In other business, the council approved an ordinance revamping the township's oversight of the activities of hawkers, peddlers and solicitors within Scotch Plains.

Councilwoman DePaola said at the council's regular meeting that all types of solicitors will need to obtain a license before starting their efforts, be they charitable fundraising or sales, soliciting orders or selling merchandise house-to-house or from a fixed location such as an empty lot. Peddlers will be allowed to operate from 9 a.m. to sunset, while canvassing activities can take place from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

When applying for a license to operate, which will cost \$100, applicants will be asked to provide the township clerk's office with the dates they will be soliciting, the number of canvassers involved, the nature of the goods or merchandise involved and

whether they have ever been convicted of a crime. Badges with photos will be issued and will have to be worn throughout, Mrs. DePaola explained. In addition, residents will be able to post "no-knock" signs on their front doors if they do not wish to be solicited.

Although they will still have to register, certain groups and individuals will be exempt from the fee payment requirement in the new regulations, including non-profit organizations, political candidates, civic organizations, police and fire departments and rescue squads, charitable and religious organizations and persons distributing literature in public areas.

At the start of its regular meeting later on Tuesday, the council welcomed new Township Clerk Bonnie Lacina, who had been borough clerk in Metuchen for 15 years. She replaces Barbara Riepe, who retired earlier this month after a 53-year career with the township government, the last 23 years as clerk. At Tuesday's meeting, Mayor Malool presented Mrs. Riepe with a plaque expressing appreciation for her years of service, and several residents and township employees stepped forward to thank Mrs. Riepe for her service.

Mayor Malool issued three proclamations, one designating November 19 as National Adoption Day in Scotch Plains, another designating this week as American Education Week in Scotch Plains and a third proclaiming November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

## Rotter Steps Down as WF Dem Chair; Councilman Haas Named Interim Leader

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

WESTFIELD — After 11 years of leading the Westfield Democratic Committee as its chairman, Ken Rotter announced Tuesday that he had officially resigned from the position. He has been replaced on an interim basis by second-term Third Ward Councilman David Haas.

Mr. Rotter said, "It was just time to step aside and to give other people the opportunity to step up" and lead the local party. "It's public service; it's not meant to be a lifelong job," he said of the chairmanship.

"In Westfield, we are very blessed with high-caliber candidates [for mayor and town council] on both sides of the aisle," Mr. Rotter added. "It's been a privilege to have been a part of the process."

When reached for comment on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Haas said he would be setting up a search committee within a

week to find a new municipal chairman. "I am not going to remain a councilman and chairman of a committee (at the same time)," Mr. Haas said. There is "currently too much going on in my life to do both jobs at once." He said he also feels he might lose the trust of the rest of the council with the party-chairman label attached to his name.

Mr. Haas said he has not decided how many members will sit on the search panel or how long it will take to find a new chairman. He also said the search for candidates to serve as party chairman remains "wide open," with the only criteria being someone who is active in the party, such as in fundraising or getting out the vote in elections.

The councilman said that Mr. Rotter "has done a phenomenal job" for 11 years. "I don't think I would have been elected and re-elected without his support," Mr. Haas said. "I thank him for all the work he has done."



**CHIPS ARE DOWN...**Blackjack players ponder the odds at the Casino Night fundraiser on Saturday at the National Guard Armory in Westfield.