

More Letters to the Editor

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Pope Francis: You Forgot Purgatory!

When I was a young man I was struck by Miguel Unamuno's bottom line question, "What good is God if there is no immortality?" Since I wanted to be immortal, I decided to look into the matter. In the Bible, Jesus makes no bones about it. There exists an eternal heaven of happiness, as well as an eternal fiery hell of suffering suffused with "the weeping and gnashing of teeth."

I, being aware of my sinning status and having no desire to be eternally aflame, was then ecstatic to discover the Catholic teaching on the existence of Purgatory, for I knew that if my final moment arrived, I had a snowball's chance in hell to enter the Kingdom of God. The Catholic purgatory is reserved for those who are not bad enough to go to hell, but also not good enough to go to heaven, unless, as their penance, they suffer for a while. The most profound description of purgatory is found in Dante's masterpiece, the Divine Comedy, which T.S. Eliot compared with "nothing but the entire dramatic work of Shakespeare." In the opening lines of the canticle, Purgatory, he describes it thusly: "Wherein the human spirit purges itself/ And to ascend to heaven makes itself worthy." The Catholic Church teaches that prayers of supplication to God on their behalf by loved ones and others are encouraged to shorten the suffering period.

Pope Francis, the son of Italian parents, is gifted with the Italian flare of sprezzatura, the talent to get difficult things done with style and panache while making it look easy, is passionately preaching the need to help the poor, who are God's favorites, while excoriating the rich. (As an aside, the pope seems to have

forgotten the status of the middle class). Because of his pronouncements, I decided to refresh my memory before his arrival in America and read the Gospels to find out what Jesus had to say about the rich and the poor. One needs to go no further than Matthew, the first chapter, where Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples, taken aback, asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus replied, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." But later on Jesus tells a rich man that he can't be one of his followers unless he rids himself of his riches. The disappointed man refuses, and one can assume he didn't make it through St. Peter's pearly gates. One of the great Catholic mystics, Catherine of Siena, believed, however, that the greatest sin is to believe that God won't forgive your sins. But, frankly speaking, the unequivocal message of the Gospels is that, if one seeks heavenly immortality, you better not be rich.

I reside in a neighborhood where many old million-dollar homes have been or are being demolished and replaced by new multimillion dollar ones, which one can safely assume are currently or will be inhabited by the rich. The other day, while taking a walk and beholding these impressive domains and wondering about the inhabitants therein, I made the sign of the cross and said to myself, "Thank God for Purgatory!"

Stephen DeFelic
Westfield



Parent Volunteers Active in Westfield Schools - The 2015-2016 Parent-Teacher Council (PTC) of the Westfield Public Schools held its first meeting of the school year on September 17 to begin the sharing of ideas, interests and news about each school. The PTC, led by President Ruth Maloney, is an umbrella organization which includes all 10 schools' parent-teacher-student organizations. The PTC has scheduled one meeting a month during the school year, beginning with discussions among the PTO presidents and PTC Board, and then opening up to the PTO general membership and public. Regular participants at these meetings are Superintendent Margaret Dolan and Board of Education member Peggy Oster. Topics such as school policies, district budget, student achievement and PTO initiated fundraising activities are discussed. "Our regular meetings with the PTO representatives and PTC board provide an excellent vehicle for two-way communication," explained Dr. Dolan. "At the meetings we have the opportunity to hear both the good news and the concerns of our parents in our schools through their representatives. At the same time, the parents learn what decisions are being made or considered by the Board of Education. It's a very helpful process for all concerned. We are so fortunate in this district to have so many dedicated volunteers." Attending the September 17 meeting are: (seated l-r): PTC Board members Donna Kenney Keith, Lisa Wendel, Ruth Maloney, Monica Bergin, and Amisha Mehta (who also serves as Co-President of Edison Intermediate School); and (standing first row) PTO Co-Presidents Fran Prybylski - Lincoln; Alyson Twilley - Franklin; Jenn White - Edison; Joeline Ritter - Westfield High School; Roseanne Schack - Tamaques; Robin Eisman - Jefferson; Chitra Singh - Jefferson; Joanne Turner - Roosevelt; Beth Dencker - Franklin; and Stephanie Camangian - McKinley; and (back row) Kerry Mooney - Wilson; Stephanie Walsh - Washington; Stacey Shepherd - Wilson; Alayne Morgenthal - Westfield High School; Tanya Evans - Tamaques; Marty McDewitt - Roosevelt; Paola Briones-Marro - McKinley; and Vanessa Schwartz - Washington. Missing from the photo is Megan Denner - Lincoln.

Election Glance
REGION — There are state, county, municipal and school board elections on tap for the New Jersey General Election on Tuesday, November 3.

State Assembly (Two seats, 2-yr. terms) each
LD 20
Annette Quijano-Dem
Jamel Holley-Dem
Stephen E. Kozlovich-Rep
Roger Stryeski-Rep
LD-21
Jill Anne Lazare-Dem
David Barnett-Dem
Jon Bramnick-Rep
Nancy Munoz-Rep
LD22
Gerald Jerry Green-Dem
James J. Kennedy-Dem
William Bo Vastine-Rep
William H. Michelson-Rep

County Freeholders (Three seats, 3-yr. terms)
Alexander Mirabella-Dem
Mohamed S. Jalloh-Dem
Bruce H. Bergen-Dem
René Dierkes-Rep
Richard S. Fortunato-Rep
Joseph A. Bonilla-Rep

County Clerk (5-yr. term)
Joanne Rajoppi-Dem
Joseph G. Aubourg-Rep

Westfield Town Council (Four Wards, each 4-yr. terms)
First Ward (1)
Daniel R. Ortalani-Dem
Frank Arena-Rep
Second Ward (1)
JoAnn Neylan-Rep
No Democratic Candidate
Third Ward (1)
Martin C. Rothfelder-Dem
Mark LoGrippe-Rep
Fourth Ward (1)
Kimberly J. Palmieri-MouDED-Dem
Douglas Stokes Rep

Westfield BOE (Three seats, each 3-yr. terms)
Gretchan Ohlig
Charles R. Ostroff
Robert S. Garrison

Fanwood Mayor (4-yr. term). Uncontested, DEM win
Colleen Mahr-Dem
No Republican Candidate

Fanwood Council (Two seats, each 3-yr. terms). Uncontested, DEM win
Jack Molenaar-Dem
Erin McElroy-Barker-Dem
No Republican Candidates

SP BOE (3 seats, each 3-yr. terms).
Tonya J. Williams
Karen Kulikowski
Betty Anne Woerner

Mountainside Mayor (4-yr. term). Uncontested, GOP win
Paul N. Mirabelli-Rep
No Democratic Candidate

Mountainside Council (Two seats, each 3-yr. term). Uncontested, GOP win
Robert W. Messler-Rep
Wendy Feh-Caccamo-Rep
No Democratic Candidates

Mountainside BOE (Two seats, each 3-yr. terms)
Katie Motz
Mauro M. Wolfe
Jordan Hyman
Jeane Parker

Garwood Council (Two seats, each 3-yr. term)
William Nierstedt-Dem

Carol Kearney-Dem
Ileen Cuccaro-Rep
Joseph R. Sarno III-Rep

Garwood BOE (Three seats, each 3-yr. terms). Only one candidate
Amanda Langston

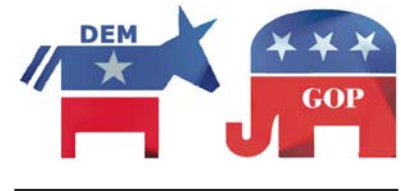
Cranford Committee (One seat, 3-yr. term; one seat unexpired term)
Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.-Dem
Michael A. Petrucci-Rep (unexpired seat)
Patrick Giblin-Dem
Barbara Bilger-Rep

Cranford BOE (Three seats, each 3-yr. terms)
William B. Hulse
Maria Loikith (One seat, 1-yr. unexpired).
Insufficient candidates.

Summit Mayor (4-yr. term)
Nora G. Radeest-Dem
Ellen Dickson-Rep

Summit Council (One seat, 2-yr. term; Two seats, 3-yr. terms)
At Large (1)
Richard Sun-Dem
Andy Smith-Rep
First Ward (1)
B. David Naidu-Dem
Albert Dill Jr.-Rep
Second Ward (1)
Mary Ogden-Rep
No Democratic Candidate

Clark BOE (Three seats, each 3-yr. terms)
Jill Curran
Henry R. Virriano
Scott Bohm
Robert F. Smorol, Jr.
There are no municipal elections in Clark and Scotch Plains; no BOE election in Fanwood.
Candidates are invited to submit letters to the editor, provide photo and bio to editor@goleader.com.



PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains will hold a public hearing on October 26, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., First Floor Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains to hear the Courtesy Application for review and recommendations of the Scotch Plains Fanwood Board of Education who propose to construct an addition to Evergreen School, 2280 Evergreen Avenue, Block 3301, Lot 32. The following variances are required:

- Section 23-52(c)-Permitted Conditional Uses:**
2. Lot Coverage: Maximum Allowed: 15%. Proposed: 43.9%.
 3. No structure located within 100 feet of a street or property line. Minimum Required: 100 feet. Proposed: 74.82 feet.
- The Applicant is also requesting any and all variances deemed to be necessary at the time of the hearing, including any other waivers, exceptions, interpretations and other relief necessary to allow Applicant's proposed use of the property.
- All interested persons may be present and be heard. The plans pertaining to this application are in the office of the planning board and available for public inspection during normal business hours.

Barbara Horev
Secretary to the Board
1 T - 10/15/15, The Times Fee: \$30.60

POLICE BLOTTER

WESTFIELD
Wednesday, September 30, Jill A. Jackson, 43, of Westfield was arrested on outstanding traffic warrants from Westfield and Union Township, each with bail of \$500, subsequent to an investigation at her residence. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Thursday, October 1, Troy White, 44, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding Westfield warrant, with bail of \$1,000, and a Newark warrant, with bail of \$300, pursuant to a prisoner pickup at the Irvington Police Department. White was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and held in lieu of bail.

Thursday, October 1, a business on the 200 block of East Broad Street reported that unauthorized charges had been made to the company's business account, in the amount of \$1,686, sometime between September 29 and October 1.

Thursday, October 1, a resident of the 700 block of West North Avenue reported being the victim of a burglary. The victim stated that upon returning home on October 1 he found the master bedroom ransacked. An unknown suspect had used a ladder to gain entry through the second-floor master bedroom window and removed several pieces of jewelry.

Monday, October 5, Barry Blount, 34, of Brooklyn, N.Y. was arrested on a Westfield warrant during a traffic stop at North Avenue and Crossway Place. He was released after posting \$500 bail.

Tuesday, October 6, a Palsted Avenue resident reported that his unlocked motor vehicle was burglarized between the dates of September 19 and 20 while it was parked in front of his residence. Stolen were the registration and insurance card for the vehicle.

Tuesday, October 6, a victim reported that between the dates of October 4 and 6 an unknown suspect cut a padlock from the rear of his construction trailer on the 700 block of Boulevard. The trailer was entered and approximately \$3,500 worth of tools and construction equipment was stolen.

Tuesday, October 6, a resident reported being a victim of identity theft. The victim stated that a credit card had been opened up in his name and that fraudulent charges had been made in the amount of \$2,019.35. The victim notified the credit card company.

Wednesday, October 7, Man Wong, 49, of North Plainfield was arrested on a Watchung warrant, with bail of \$500, pursuant to a motor vehicle stop on West South Avenue near Crossway Place. Wong was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Wednesday, October 7, Vicki Romanello, 42, of Westfield was arrested on a Monmouth County Sheriff's Office no-bail warrant. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and turned over to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.

Thursday, October 8, Christopher Jackson, 51, of Paterson was arrested at the Linden Police Department on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant, with bail of \$300. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and held pending bail.

Thursday, October 8, William Kitzman, 29, of Woodbridge was arrested subsequent to a traffic stop on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant, with bail of \$250, and a Garwood traffic warrant, with bail of \$500. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after

posting the full bail for both warrants.

Friday, October 9, Louis Contreras, 23, of Woodbridge was arrested subsequent to a motor vehicle stop and an investigation and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on a summons with a mandatory Westfield Municipal Court date in November.

Friday, October 9, a resident of the 500 block of Cumberland Street reported that his unlocked motor vehicle was burglarized in the driveway of his residence. A wallet containing various credit cards and personal identification was stolen from inside the vehicle.

Friday, October 9, a men's blue-colored "Pacific Cobra" mountain bicycle, with black-colored "grip shift" grips and a black-colored seat with tears around the edging, was located in an alleyway on the 100 block of Elm Street. The bicycle was being stored at police headquarters for safekeeping.

Saturday, October 10, Ivelisse Cintron-Garcia of Plainfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting merchandise totaling \$783 from a business on the 600 block of West North Avenue. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released with a court date.

Sunday, October 11, Jashawn James, 31, of Bloomfield was arrested on active warrants from Newark, with bail of \$100, and Bloomfield, with bail of \$89, at the intersection of South and Westfield Avenues. James was released on his own recognizance by Bloomfield and was released after posting bail on the Newark warrant.

Sunday, October 11, Jonathan Nieves, 25, of Newark was arrested at South and Central Avenues on an active Plainfield warrant with bail of \$500. Nieves was turned over to the Plainfield Police Department.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Monday, October 5, Marisol Pinto, 34, of Garfield was arrested and charged with theft. Pinto was charged with stealing money from a stationery store. During the officers' investigation Pinto was found to have a warrant out of South Hackensack and being in possession of drug paraphernalia, authorities said. Pinto was transported to police headquarters for processing.

Thursday, October 8, a Church Avenue resident reported a theft from a motor vehicle. The victim stated that someone had entered the unlocked vehicle during the overnight hours and stolen items from within the vehicle. The resident remembers seeing two suspicious vehicles in the area. The incident currently is under investigation.

Friday, October 9, two motor vehicles were broken into in the parking lot of an apartment complex located on Park Avenue. Both victims stated that their vehicles were unlocked and someone had entered the vehicles and stolen items from within. The incidents currently are under investigation.

Saturday, October 10, a Scotch Plains resident reported a motor vehicle burglary that occurred while the vehicle was parked in the municipal lot near the library. The vehicle's window had been smashed and personal items were stolen. This incident occurred sometime between 11 a.m. and noon.

Probitas Verus Honos

Recent Home Sales
For more info see:
<http://clerk.ucnj.org/UCPA/DocIndex>

Fanwood: 07/30/15

Anita and Gerard to Brian and Molly Donaldson, 32 Portland Avenue, \$435,000.
Cynthia P. and Walter R. Howell, Jr. to Steven F. and Ashley Z. Smith, 201 Pleasant Avenue, \$420,000.
Ennio Bozzetti to Thiago and Monica Siqueira, 21 Mary Lane, \$290,000.
Jin Hua and He Xing Dong to Jeffrey Marfil and Shelia Cahilig, 205 Terri Road, \$253,800.
Gaylord V. and Lydia Wintriss to Michael J. and Chiara G. Duane, 16 Deborah Way, \$397,000.
Carol A. Dipiano to Daniel R. Maus and Krista D. Floyd, 25 Waldon Road, \$385,000.
Gertrude Winsor to Eugene Oppido, 2 Birchwood Terrace, \$355,000.
Michael G. Soriano, Jr. and Antoinette M. Soriano to Christopher K. Schiro and Jenna M. Stafford, 14 Birchwood Terrace, \$359,000.
John L. and Marie Vastano to Chi Lik and Jennifer Leung, 14 North Martine Avenue, \$385,000.
Sameh F. and Nazeq K. Ghabour to Alicia Holden, 442 North Avenue, \$410,000.
Craig M. Stumpf and Donna R. Checchio as trustee for Alissa Stumpf Trust to Mathew Karpa and Lisa Cardinal, 94 North Glenwood Road, \$440,000.

AAI Schedules Talk Tomorrow at UCC

CRANFORD—Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI) will present Dr. Jana Grecevic tomorrow, Friday, October 16. Her topic will be "The Dark Matter of Ghost Galaxies." This program will take place at Union County College's Cranford campus, located at 1033 Springfield Avenue.

AAI will conduct its monthly business meeting at 8 p.m. in the Student Commons. Dr. Grecevic's presentation will follow in the Roy Smith Theatre. Following the presentation, all are invited to the William Miller Sperry Observatory on campus for refreshments, conversations with Dr. Grecevic and AAI members, and observing the stars.

Interested persons are advised that Sperry is an observatory and not a planetarium. The temperature inside the domes is the same as the temperature outside, and viewing of the sky is done in cramped quarters in almost total darkness. Such conditions may not be suitable for very young children.

Admission is free and open to the public. Free parking also is available. For more information, visit asterism.org.

97 Percent of WHS Grads Continuing Education

WESTFIELD — A total of 97 percent of the Westfield High School (WHS) graduates of 2015 are pursuing a higher education this fall. According to a report released by the WHS Office of Counseling Services, 429 students are continuing their education with 89 percent attending four-year colleges and universities, 6.7 percent attending two-year colleges, and 1.1 percent entering vocational, business and other post high school institutions. The remaining graduates have entered the work force, are taking a year off, or had future plans that were undecided.

The class of 2015 — having earned an impressive 100 percent graduation rate — is attending a significant list of 178 colleges and universities in more than 30 states. Six graduates are studying outside of the United

Konstruct Enterprises Inc. to Thomas La Vecchia and Rosalia Cabelle, 67 Westfield Road, \$970,000.

Ingyu Jeon and Kim Yoosung to Mark A. and Aimee Coscarello, 95 North Glenwood Road, \$445,000.
Estate of Margaret G. Winans to James Peterson, 177 Herbert Avenue, \$250,000.

Garrett and Neda Yarnall to Mark and Sara Pisarchik, 145 Burns Way, \$490,000.

James Pilewski to 346 South Avenue LLC, 346 South Avenue, \$2,200,000.

Robert M. and Stacey A. Couzotto to Salvatore J. Coniglio and Francine J. Silverstein, 40 Cray Terrace, \$410,000.

James M. and Carolyn A. Ryan to Jeffrey J. and Grace D. Kim, 238 Burns Way, \$465,000.

Neil Napolitano to Neil J. Napolitano and Jana Bodorova, 11 Shady Lane, \$275,000.

David E. and Susan Hackett to Lisa and Seth Frankel, 19 Poplar Place, \$529,000.

Kathryn M. Sheldon to Dominick and Patricia Cody, 28 Poplar Place, \$405,000.

Nancy J. Walker and Morag M. Moscato to Erin S. Borlenghi, 7 Clement Place, \$480,000.

Ismail Alhamrawy to Christopher and Alberta Klingaman, 2050 Princeton Avenue, \$425,000.

Alternative Construction Solutions LLC to Joseph C. and Cynthia DiChiara, 1 Jefferson Avenue, \$450,000.

Scotch Plains: 08/30/15

Estate of Teresa A. Matonis to Segundo and Annabelle Veleccela, 316 Farley Avenue, \$259,000.

David B. Littman and the Estate of Juliet M. Fidlow to Dina L. Napolitano, 16 Malanga Court, \$275,000.

Dalton F. and Joannah A. LaLucas to Dominick A. Lagano and Kara R. Walker, 509 Cicilia Place, \$269,900.

Michael Doran and Whitney Chelnik to Percival and Sue Oliver, 364 Willow Avenue, \$350,000.

William J. and Evelina Tuers to Carlos and Jennifer Tanasco, 343 Willow Avenue, \$400,000.

12 King James Court LLC to Shaun Weeden, 12 King James Court, \$260,000.

Boss Holdings III Inc. to Krieger O. and Gisela Chavez, 446 Flanders Avenue, \$215,000.

Lillian Zmuda to Thomas and Joan Climko, 531 Willow Avenue, \$240,000.

Renee Carneval-Bischoff and Thomas E. Bischoff to Ileana Garrastazu, 530 Park Avenue, Unit 112, \$250,000.

Estate of Merle B. Brenner to Mathew J. Monteverde, 1935 Church Avenue, \$315,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF WESTFIELD
Public Notice is hereby given that the final revised ordinance as follows was passed and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield at a meeting thereof held on October 6, 2015.
Claire J. Gray
Town Clerk

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2051

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, CHAPTER 13

1 T - 10/15/15, The Leader Fee: \$13.77

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL PERSON TO PERSON TRANSFER

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been made to the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, for a Person-to-Person Transfer of the Plenary Retail Consumption License 2016-33-006-011 heretofore issued to Brave Spirits LLC trading as, Darby Road Pub at 450 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

100% Transferred from: Michael Brennan & John Brandt to Joseph E. Tufaro & John Brandt.

The person(s) who hold an interest in this license are:
Joseph E Tufaro, 209 Pleasant Avenue, Fanwood New Jersey 07023
John Brandt, 450 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains New Jersey 07076

Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to: Bozenna Lacinia, RMC, Municipal Clerk, Township of Scotch Plains, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.
Brave Spirits LLC
450 Park Avenue
Scotch Plains New Jersey 07076

1 T - 10/15/15, The Leader Fee: \$56.10

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains will hold a public hearing on October 26, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., First Floor Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains to hear the Courtesy Application for review and recommendations of the Scotch Plains Fanwood Board of Education who propose to construct an addition to William J. McGinn School, 1100 Roosevelt Avenue, Scotch Plains, Block 8601, Lot 42. The following variance is required:

- Section 23-52(c)-Permitted Conditional Uses:**
3. No structure located within 100 feet of a street or property line. Minimum Required: 100 feet. Proposed: 55.87 feet.

The Applicant is also requesting any and all variances deemed to be necessary at the time of the hearing, including any other waivers, exceptions, interpretations and other relief necessary to allow Applicant's proposed use of the property.

All interested persons may be present and be heard. The plans pertaining to this application are in the office of the planning board and available for public inspection during normal business hours.

Barbara Horev
Secretary to the Board
1 T - 10/15/15, The Times Fee: \$29.58