

Supt., BOE Bid Fond Farewell To Liaison Lorre Korecky

By SARAH McGRAIL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — A popular member of the town's education team, who "has made Westfield schools a better place for parents and children," has announced her retirement after 22 years as a liaison between schools and the community.

Lorre Korecky moved to Westfield 40 years ago with an eye on the excellent education system for the children she planned to have one day.

Ms. Korecky said her two daughters were both "very successful and very happy" Westfield graduates and she is now retiring to spend more time with them and with her four grandsons.

"It has been a wonderful journey for me," she said, after hearing Superintendent Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., pay tribute to her at Tuesday's board of education meeting.

"I sincerely feel it has been a privilege to work in this school district. I admire the educators so much and I have a deeper appreciation of the job that they do. I have been blessed to work with these administrators, students and parents."

Ms. Korecky worked as the manager of public affairs for an international firm and traveled all over the world before joining the Westfield education district.

Superintendent Dolan, the third superintendent Mrs. Korecky has worked with, told the board, "Since 1995, Lorre has admirably served the Westfield school community as coordinator of schools and community liaison and has been an invaluable

asset to the district.

"She is indefatigable and dogged. When she believes something is important for a school or a program or a child, watch out! She will not back down. Her efforts have made the Westfield schools a much better place for students, and I thank her.



Lorre Korecky

"Lorre's retirement is a loss for the district but a gain for the family."

In other business, the board reviewed the status of the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) testing system. New Jersey is one of just six states out of the original 23 that is still using the widely-criticized PARCC testing system, the board of education was told this week.

A presentation on 2017 testing re-

sults showed Westfield continued to perform extremely well across the board, but confirmed that schools would continue to face the challenges presented by PARCC for the foreseeable future.

The PARCC testing, now in its fourth year, was introduced to replace the annual NJASK examinations that had been used for approximately 10 years.

However, PARCC has proved unpopular with both parents and teachers and has seen widespread boycotting, with parents choosing to opt their children out of the tests.

Only around half of 10th- and 11th-grade students took PARCC tests last year in English language and just one-third of students in the same grades took the tests in mathematics.

Paul Pineiro, assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction and programs, made the presentation to the board at Tuesday night's meeting.

He said, "Our principals have become expert at really narrowing down how much time they need to do testing. We have more devices than when PARCC started so we are in much better shape for that."

Following the meeting, he added, "PARCC tests are very time-consuming for schools and take valuable time away from instruction. I would hope that would be taken into consideration by the state when deciding on a way forward."

"I would be very surprised if there weren't additional changes after this school year."

A number of changes to the testing required to ensure graduation already have been made.

At present, the classes of 2018 and 2019 will be able to use SAT and ACT tests as an alternative to PARCC, but the classes of 2020 and 2021 will face further restrictions unless more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



SCRAMBLER FUN... At the Feast of St. Christopher in Cranford, children, pre-teens and teens alike get to enjoy the rides. Last weekend's four-day festival drew hundreds of people.

Ct. Denies Cranford's Request to Change Afford. Housing Judgment

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Judge Camille Kenny of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Union County, on September 19 denied the township's request for leave to amend its round three affordable housing judgment of compliance and repose dated May 22, 2013, due to changed circumstances. In the order, Judge Kenny has also denied the township's request to have the special master review the township's initial realistic development potential and crediting analysis, address its unmet need in a preliminary plan, and amend its housing element and fair

share plan.

Judge Kenny wrote on the order that Cranford can move to amend solely as to its prior round, round two, specifically addressing the 20-unit shortfall as a result of the township's purchase of 215-235 Birchwood Avenue from the S. Hekemian Group a.k.a. Cranford Development Associates and the proposed reduction in density at the site.

The township had sought a motion to amend the judgment by Judge Lisa Chrystal and extend it until 2025.

"I don't want to do it that way. Okay. I don't think it's the right way to do and procedurally it makes no sense for you to be moving to amend a judgment based on changed circumstances. Towns change all the time. That doesn't mean you can do a motion to amend the judgment with regard to Mount Laurel," Judge Kenny said, according to the transcript of the hearing held September 19.

Judge Kenny had said she wants the township to file a declaratory judgment (DJ) action to address its 20-unit gap.

The township by filing this motion of leave was "doing an end run around Judge Chrystal's decision," Judge Kenny said during the hearing to Jeffrey Surenian, the township's affordable housing lawyer.

The changed circumstances, Mr. Surenian said include rental credits, among other credits, that can be used

to fulfill its unmet need. In addition, he cites Hartz Mountain Industries request to redevelop its commercial site at 750 Walnut Avenue, where Hartz proposes to build apartments, as another changed circumstance.

"The biggest thing is Hartz arrives on the scene, has 35 acres, say, 'I'm available for development.' What that means is that means we've got to figure out what's the RDP (realistic development potential) that's generated by that. It's changed circumstances. So, we're doing our job," Mr. Surenian said.

Judge Kenny also said the township should negotiate with Hartz, and work with the special master on determining its RDP and its gap before December 31, 2018, when its judgment of repose will expire.

"Hartz is pleased that the town's litigation strategy opened the door to the court directing the town to give Hartz a place at the table. That's all we were looking for. We are ready to meet with representatives of the town as soon as they would like," Hartz's Director of Land Use and Development, Assistant General Counsel James Rhatican said in a statement to The Westfield Leader on September 20.

"We have no plans to begin negotiations at this time... I have to talk to the township committee," Township Attorney Ryan Cooper told The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Two-Home Subdivision Approved for Linden Ave.

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The planning board unanimously approved a minor subdivision at 142 Linden Avenue at its meeting Monday night. The variance relief granted would allow two homes to be built on the property. Applicants Colin Jenkins and Midori Nagai provided transparency, informing the planning board that their property will be sold after the subdivision is approved.

Ralph Rapuano, Jr. of Elegant Homes LLC will purchase the property, subsequently overseeing the two-home development. The board's approval was conditioned on Mr. Rapuano meeting with the site plan review committee, tree preservation commission and historic preservation commission. Planning board members will review whether the entrances to the driveways will be approved for Saunders Avenue or Linden Avenue.

James Foerst, an attorney with Spector Foerst and Associates, represented the applicant and would not

agree to approval with the stipulation the driveways for the new homes must be accessible by Saunders Avenue instead of Linden Avenue. The planning board offered the terms based on neighborhood sentiment against more driveways on Linden Avenue, creating a safety hazard and changing the neighborhood aesthetic.

"I am looking for an up or down vote. This stipulation was not what I am seeking approval for nor is it part of this application," Mr. Foerst said.

Mr. Foerst refuted the condition as binding agreement for the approval. Board Attorney Diane Dabulas said the approval can be based on the condition of the driveways must be placed on Saunders Avenue.

"This is unallowable and would make it where I would have to possibly appeal if it's unattainable," Mr. Foerst said.

The planning board and Mr. Foerst agreed upon an approval with no condition. Both parties will review the neighborhood impact with putting the driveways on Linden Avenue versus

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Outfield Fences, Mtn. Bike Trails Discussed by Panel

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Newly-appointed Recreation Director Don Bogardus presided over his first meeting of the recreation commission on Monday. The meeting included two proposals by members of the public relating to new outfield fences for Gumbert Park and improvements to the mountain bike trails at Tamaques Park.

Noah Ament, president of the Westfield Baseball League, began by thanking the commission and the community for their support of the many capital improvements that have been made over the last five years to Gumbert Park.

According to Mr. Ament, the positive feedback regarding the recently installed dugouts has been "off the charts." He noted that several other towns have inquired about installing similar dugouts at their facilities. The Gumbert facilities are of such high quality the Cal Ripken of New Jersey Baseball Association recently asked if Westfield Baseball would, in addition to hosting the 12-year-old District Tournament, host a state qualifying tournament at Gumbert in July of 2018.

Mr. Ament explained that the existing outfield fences consist of tarps held up with poles, which are in poor condition and expensive to maintain. Westfield Baseball would like to replace the outfield fences with portable fences that can be taken down during the off season. In addition to improving the aesthetics on the fields the fences would be "breakaway" fences that would improve player safety. Mr. Ament provided schematics of options and estimated that each outfield would require 300 feet of 44-inch-high fencing. He advised that

the preliminary cost estimates were in the range of \$5,000 per field and asked for the commission's approval and possible financial support. The commission expressed its support and asked Mr. Ament to keep it advised.

Fourth Ward Councilman Keith Loughlin joined Westfield residents Jamie Meiselman, Andrew Phillips and Roosevelt Intermediate School science teacher Jeff Robbins in asking the commission to consider allowing the Jersey Off Road Biking Association (JORBA) to adopt biking trails at Tamaques Park. According to Mr. Meiselman, JORBA is a non-profit organization that volunteers to build and maintain sustainable multi-use trails. The group was founded in 1999, and is dedicated to the conservation of open spaces and recreational trails management.

He explained that the current trails at Tamaques Park are in poor condition, and JORBA's trained volunteers would like to create a family-friendly mountain bike area in Westfield. In response to questions from the commission, Mr. Meiselman explained the process would include an assessment and survey of the existing trails in the wooded area of the park; the creation of a proposed trail plan map, which would be approved by the commission, and flagging of the route. All the trail improvements and any new trails would be built in compliance with international mountain bike standards. All of the trails would be single track, be between 18 and 36 inches wide, properly signed and created and maintained at no cost to the Town of Westfield.

Mr. Robbins explained that mountain bike teams are forming in many local middle and high schools and he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



WINNING COLORFUL PRIZES... It's always great fun to win a prize at a local fair or festival. Games, food and rides kept the hundreds of attendees happy at the Feast of St. Christopher in Cranford this past weekend at St. Michael's Church.



LEAP FROG GAME... Showing muscle, a hopeful young man gives the machine a whack to see if the frog will leap into the moving lily pads at the Feast of St. Christopher at St. Michael's Church in Cranford last weekend.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	9
Editorial	4-5, 19-20	Sports	11-18
Police	20	Real Estate	11-22
Community ...	6-8	Classifieds	19
Obituary	8	A&E	21-22



WESTFIELD WEST
COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

At Coldwell Banker, There Are No Sales Positions,
Just Exceptional Real Estate Careers.

Contact the Westfield West Office Today.

Westfield West Office • 600 North Avenue West, Westfield, NJ 07090 • 908-233-0065 • ColdwellBankerHomes.com

© 2016 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker® and the Coldwell Banker logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.

#600NORTH