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 and for Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford and Garwood

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Westfield Could Get Rep. On County Freeholders

For the first time in 14 years, Westfield is likely to be getting a representative on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders come 2019. Kimberly Palmieri-Moude was picked by the Union County Democratic Committee for one of three seats up on the nine-member board this year. Westfield has not had a freeholder since Mary Ruotolo served seven years from 1998 through 2004. Democrats have held all nine board seats since 1998 so, barring a major upset on Election Day, Ms. Moude would join the board in January 2019. Westfield resident P. Mark Martini has run a few times on the Republican ballot line for freeholder including in 2017.

Current board members on the at-large board reside in Elizabeth, Hillside, Linden, Cranford, Fanwood, Springfield and Union. Ms. Moude is running with incumbent Freeholder Al Mirabella of Fanwood and former Roselle councilwoman Andrea Staten. The Republican candidates are former Garwood mayor Patricia Quattrocchi of Clark, Garwood Councilman Joe Sarno and Peter Kane of Summit.

We believe it is important to have freeholders from the suburban, western portion of the county as well as the urban areas. Elizabeth currently has two

freeholders and Plainfield Councilwoman Rebecca Williams has been chosen by the Union County Democratic Committee to replace Linda Carter on the board. Ms. Carter was named to the 22nd Legislative District Assembly seat of the late Jerry Green last month.

Including Ms. Williams' seat, six of the nine freeholder seats, or two-thirds of the board, are from urban communities. We are hopeful that Summit or New Providence also will get a seat in the not too distant future.

Over the years the issue of freeholder districts has been raised to bring about more representation of all areas of the county, not to mention two-party representation. But that issue is likely going nowhere in a Democratic-controlled Legislature, as Republicans only hold 41 of the 120 seats (Senate and Assembly combined) in the Legislature.

The issue of overdevelopment is having a serious impact on our local communities, as is the high amount of property taxes. In addition to having a Westfield freeholder, we hope Summit and Westfield officials and residents become more involved by attending county meetings. At \$40 million, Westfield is consistently the highest taxed town in the county, followed by Summit.

Preserving Our Past In the Midst Of Present, Future Redevelopment

A pivotal issue for much of our readership area right now is redevelopment, particularly large-scale projects earmarked or underway for Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Cranford and Garwood. Public concerns remain over how these retail and residential developments will impact municipalities, notably school district populations, traffic and infrastructure. Town hall-style meetings have recently been held or scheduled in an effort to address these concerns.

Considering the complex elements related to these redevelopment plans, and how they will help shape the future of our communities, it is vital that our attention remain focused on them. In the midst of our potentially changing landscapes, however, it also is imperative that we do all we can to preserve links to our past as well.

In an article published in last week's editions of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, Westfield Town Historian Robert Wendel highlighted the relevance of preserving Westfield's historic homes as the town approaches its 300th anniversary in 2020.

"Despite constantly changing physical appearances, with a more developed downtown center and ongoing rejuvenation and modernization of neighborhoods, there has always been an essential appreciation for Westfield history which residents have supported and passed down from one generation to the next," he wrote. He also noted how "the charac-

ter which historic legacy provides becomes the launch pad for our town's future development."

We concur with Mr. Wendel's assertions that while not every older home can or should be saved, and that economic factors in restoring and maintaining such homes can pose a formidable challenge, communities like Westfield and neighboring towns with deep roots in the area should encourage preservation of historic homes and other structures that are still viable. They are visible, tangible, literal connections to our past, and resources for keeping that past alive for present and future generations as modern-day needs and obligations dictate other development.

The communities of our area, many originally settled during America's pre-Revolutionary era, are to be commended for their preservation efforts over the years. Local historic preservation commissions, historical societies and the owners of older homes who have preserved or restored the original character of their dwellings have collectively been integral to retaining our towns' historic legacy.

Nevertheless, time and progress continue to affect towns' ability to preserve their history. While redevelopment will continue, we hope our communities will be successful in maintaining what Mr. Wendel described in his article about Westfield as "the delicate balance between economic development and reverence for the past."

Letters to the Editor

A Tribute To Friends, Family Members And People You Never Knew

I'd like to thank all of the great volunteers, members of our Post 3 Legion Family (A.L. S.A.L.AUXL), our friends at the Knights of Columbus, VFW, Westfield and Mountainside Boy and Girl Scout Troops, for a job well done in working together to place 4,654 flags on our veterans' graves at Fairview Cemetery.

You took the time to pay tribute to friends, family members and people

you never knew, who have fought in American wars so we could live in freedom.

I look forward to you all volunteering your time and talent next year.

Thanks again for a job well done. And if you would like to form a team and join us next year please call me in March, we can always use the help.

**Katherine Wening
 Juliann Wening
 American Legion Post 3 Westfield**

WF BOE Is Happy To Leave Things The Way They Are

The Westfield School Board is currently a non-partisan governing body of our very high performing school district. We all were very happy to have served on this Board. One of the great characteristics of the current structure is that the members are not Republicans or Democrats; they are simply Westfield residents who want to give back to their community.

We are very concerned by the rumors that we have been hearing that both political parties are contemplating putting up a slate of candidates for the school board openings available in November 2018. We are absolutely against allowing the school board to become politicized.

Until 2012, school board elections were held in April. They were then moved to November. The concern at the time of the change is that the elections would become political since they would be happening at the same time as the more traditional political offices were being voted on. We were very lucky that this did not happen, perhaps until now.

Why do we need "Republicans" or "Democrats" on the school board? During our time on the Board, never once did the work of the school board, of setting policy for the district and representing the community in the administration of the schools, involve politics.

Many board members serve because they want to contribute to the community without getting involved in partisan debates. To politicize the school board would detract from the good work that is being done and potentially discourage good candidates from running simply because they are "tied in" to the local political parties.

Our school district is one of the highest performing in the state. Could we do better, of course we could and we believe that the current administration, teachers, board and our students, are committed to continuing to improve on what is already a very strong district. The school district and the town administrators and elected officials have worked well together in the recent past and we would like to see them find even more ways to leverage all of the assets of the town for the betterment of our students but we do not need to make this political.

We should focus on putting the best people available in office, not putting three Republicans or three Democrats in office.

If you have a point of view, please let your elected officials know your position.

**Mark Friedman
 Mitch Slater
 Brendan Galligan**

'Temporary' Ice Skating Rink Is Another Ex. of Too Much Government

The business of government is not business. Yet Westfield is embarked on building a "temporary" ice-skating rink. Yet there is not one word on the Town of Westfield website about the cost of the approximately nearly 200-by-85-foot rink!

Here is a reminder of the ancient Roman bread and circuses that the politicians for political purposes advanced.

"Temporary" in government parlance means permanent. Consider those "temporary" Main Navy and Munitions Buildings erected on the National Mall in 1918 that would not be demolished until 1970.

The Westfield website tells us, "The WHS hockey team and surrounding local hockey clubs will utilize the rink for practice." It would be better though for these high school students to spend their time doing their homework.

Strange that at a time when our beloved country is being strongly challenged for educational supremacy by a whole host of countries it is standing room only in the Town Council chambers over the issue of the proposed ice-skating rink.

Would it have been standing room only if the Town Council were considering expanding the Westfield Memorial Library or building a performing arts center where the music of Mozart, Chopin, Beethoven, Rossini, and Vivaldi among others were performed or building an art museum where the works of Monet, Renoir, Rembrandt, van Gogh, and Vermeer among others were displayed?

In our free enterprise economy it is intolerable that government competes with private enterprise. What private ice company could possibly compete

with a taxpayer funded tax-exempt ice rink? One reason for the disappearance of private swimming clubs is the plethora of municipal swimming complexes.

The Town Council and Mayor Brindle have better work to do than focus their attention, time, energy, and our money on building an ice skating rink.

What about the flood of potholes? Motorist recklessness on the roads? Reducing the tax burden? Streamlining government? Doing more to care for the homeless, feed the hungry, help the poor?

But, despite these problems, Mayor Brindle proposes lighted turf fields in Tamaques Park. Yet more bread and circuses. This while she and the Town Council are busy drawing down Westfield's financial reserves!

What next? A Westfield Town marina on the Jersey Shore, a Westfield Town ski lodge in the Skylands, or perhaps a Westfield Town restaurant in the Town Hall? The possibilities are endless when government thinks it perfectly okay to engage in private enterprise as the expense of private enterprises!

Leave it to Thomas Jefferson to have the last word on the importance of limited government. He wrote in his letter to William Stephens Smith dated February 2, 1788: "We are now vibrating between too much and too little government, and the pendulum will rest finally in the middle."

We should take Thomas Jefferson's advice and consider the "temporary" ice-skating rink as too much government.

**Stephen Schoeman
 Westfield**

Palumbo Graduates From Arcadia Univ.

GLENSIDE, Pa. - Amy Palumbo was among those students who earned a degree during Arcadia University's 2018 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony on May 18.

A resident of Scotch Plains, Amy was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

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Carpetto Inducted Into Healthcare Honor Soc.

SCRANTON, Pa. - Nicole Carpetto of Westfield was among the 54 University of Scranton students inducted into Upsilon Phi Delta, the national honor society for graduate and undergraduate students in healthcare administration programs. Students must have a minimum overall grade point average of 3.5 for induction. The university's chapter of the honor society was established in 2002.

Nicole is a senior pursuing a health administration degree at the Jesuit university.

State LD-21 Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 425 North Ave. E. Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-3673 Asm. Jon Brannick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-2073 Asm. Nancy Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, N.J. 07901 (908) 918-0414	State LD-22 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404 Asm. Jim Kennedy (D) 34 E. Cherry St. Rahway, N.J. 07065 (732) 943-2660 Asw. Linda Carter (D) 17 Watchung Ave. Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757	7th Congressional District Representative Leonard Lance (R) 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District]
LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.	LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark, Rahway and Linden.	12th Congressional District Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D) 850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 201, Ewing, N.J. 08628 (609) 883-0026 [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]

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ABCDICTIONOPQRSTDECEPTIONUVWXYZ

Diction Deception

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

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

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

Answers to last week's arcane words.

1. Capybara - A large, tailless, partially web-footed rodent of South America
2. Ticpolonga - An extremely venomous Indian snake
3. Runcation - A wedding
4. Gingili - Sesame seed or the oil from it

NULLIPARA

1. Useless; of little or no value
2. A woman who has not borne a child
3. A traitor; turncoat
4. Apathetic; disinterested

CLACHAN

1. A hamlet in the Highlands of Scotland
2. Solidified; hardened
3. A state of insensibility; numbness
4. Hanging in clusters, such as with grapes

STREPITANT

1. Harsh; raspy
2. Oozing; seeping
3. Noisy, loud
4. Salty; saline

ERUCTION

1. Shameful; corrupt
2. The act of belching
3. Swelling or state of being swollen
4. The act of stretching and yawning

Letters to the Editor

Her Staff Knows How To Satisfy Customers

As a former Cranford resident who used to work at Westfield Memorial Library and whose friend, Joan Hackett, was a Westfield resident, I'm proud of Anne Laird who runs the Town Bookstore in Westfield, NJ. Anne and her staff know how to satisfy customers. They will even order out-of-print books, DVDs, and VHS videos.

Thank God the Town Bookstore exists in Westfield, on East Broad Street. My departed friend Joan Hackett, who had a high IQ combined with high common sense level like I do, was a Westfield resident who attended Garwood St. Anne's Church and Cranford St. Michael's Church with me. Joan was also an avid reader, and we enjoyed many conversations about the joys of Cranford and Westfield.

I'm grateful to God to have had Joan as a friend, and glad that Anne Laird's Town Bookstore continues to thrive.

**Martha McLoughlin
 Lakewood, NJ**

Coco to Be Screened At Hanson Park

CRANFORD - The community is invited to bring their blankets and chairs for a Movie in the Park on Saturday, July 14, at Hanson Park, located at 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.

The feature presentation will be *Coco*, a 2017 animated fantasy film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures. The story follows a 12-year-old boy named Miguel Rivera who is accidentally transported to the land of the dead, where he seeks the help of his deceased musician great-great-grandfather to return him to his family among the living. The film won two Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song ("Remember Me").

This free family movie night will start at dusk, approximately 8:30 p.m. There will be popcorn and refreshments for sale and fun for the entire family. Movie in the Park is presented by the Hanson Park Conservancy, the Cranford Municipal Alliance and Friends of the Cranford Public Library. For more information, visit hansonparkconservancy.com.

Kasper Selected to Join Phi Beta Kappa

NEW BRUNSWICK - Dory Kasper, of Scotch Plains, has been accepted to join America's most prestigious academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa.

Dory, a biology major with a chemistry minor, will graduate from the Rutgers University Honors Program in 2019 with this significant achievement.

