



**NEW OFFICER...**Michael Gamba was sworn in by Township Clerk Patty Donahue, second from left, as a probationary police officer in the Cranford Police Department at the December 18 township committee meeting. He is pictured standing with his family by his side.



**TAKING HER OATH...**Courtney Holder was sworn in by Cranford Township Clerk Patty Donahue, second from left, as a probationary police officer in the Cranford Police Department at the December 18 township committee meeting as her family look on.



**JOINING CRANFORD PD...**Christopher Folinusz was sworn in by Cranford Township Clerk Patty Donahue, second from left, as a probationary police officer in the Cranford Police Department at the December 18 township committee meeting as his family look on.

## Reval. Process Continues With Valuation Letters

WESTFIELD – As part of the town's property revaluation process, the first round of letters with new property valuations will be mailed to new residents later this week by the town's certified vendor, Realty Appraisal Company, and will continue until all appraisals are complete.

Over the past year, Realty Appraisal Company has been charged with visiting and appraising every residential and commercial property in Westfield in order for the town to comply with a Union County mandated order to complete a property revaluation, its first since 1981. There are approximately 700 properties remaining that have not yet been visited for this purpose, which is anticipated to be completed in the coming weeks.

"It's important to remember that the purpose of a revaluation is to spread the tax burden more equitably among all property owners, based on current market rate property values," Mayor Shelley Brindle said. "While these new appraisals represent a key step in the completion of the process, we'd like to remind everyone that increases in their appraisals do not necessarily mean a similar increase in their property taxes. In fact, the expectation is that there will be both increases and decreases. The other piece of the formula in calculating property taxes is the tax rate, which is typically not established until mid-year, after it is certified by the county."

To comply with New Jersey Division of Taxation regulations, Realty Appraisal Company is required to mail letters with the new valuations to all property owners, prior to the tax assessor filing the final assessments with the Union County Tax Board. To assist property owners in understanding how the new assessments may impact their property taxes, these let-

ters will include an estimated tax rate, based on the new valuations, as well as the average 2018 assessment and tax rate. In addition, the letters will provide property owners with instructions about contacting Realty Appraisal Company with any related questions, or making an appointment for an informal hearing.

The town will also be posting additional information on its website ([www.westfieldnj.gov/revaluation](http://www.westfieldnj.gov/revaluation)) and social media channels in the coming days and weeks to address ongoing questions from property owners as this stage of the revaluation process continues.

## Bramnick: One-Party Rule in Trenton pushes Residents Out of State

WESTFIELD – United Van Lines' 42nd annual National Movers Study found that New Jersey is once again the most moved from state in the country, topping the list for at least the fifth consecutive year with 66.8 percent of movers leaving.

In response, New Jersey Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield) echoed economists who say the main reason is that the New Jersey is too expensive, and the cost of living is driving people to other states. He says it will get worse with one-party rule.

"This is what happens with (Governor Phil) Murphy and the Trenton Democrats. People don't want to live in a place they can't afford," Mr. Bramnick said. "Trenton Democrats keep raising taxes and spending as if that were the solution, but they are only making it harder for people to afford to live here. Republicans have a plan, and that is to cut taxes and spending and actually address the property tax problem."

## Westfield Appointments Announced for 2019

WESTFIELD -- The Westfield Town Council held its annual reorganization meeting on January. The following appointments were made: Acting Mayor, Councilwoman Linda Habgood; Alternate Acting Mayor, Councilwoman Dawn Mackey; Planning Board Liaison, Councilwoman Linda Habgood, one-year appointments; Board of Adjustment, Matt Sontz and Allyson Hroblak, December 31, 2022, four-year appointments; Mary Doyle, alternate no. 1, two-year appointment; James Keenoy, alternate no. 2, one-year appointment.

Special Improvement District Board: property owner, Jeffrey Christakos three-year appointments; merchant, Jerry Eicke, three-year appointment; council designee, Dawn Mackey, one year; mayor designee, Mayor Shelley Brindle, one year; ex officio, Town Administrator James H. Gildea, one year.

Town Historian: Robert Wendel, two-year appointment.

Police Chief: Christopher Battiloro. Board of Health: Denise Rizzolo and Sharon Dorry, four years; Steve Gorelick, alternate no. 2, two years; council liaison, JoAnn Neylan, one year.

Recreation Commission: Gary Fox, chairman, one year; Amy Berman and Russell Howell, three years; council liaison, Michael Dardia, one year.

Historic Preservation Commission: Robert Wendel and Greg Blasi, unexpired one-year term; Maria Boyes, two years; Carol Tener and Katie Spikes, three years; Jennifer Jaruzelski, two years; Kelly Kessler, one year; council liaison, Linda Habgood, one year.

Board of Architectural Review: Gregory Talmont, three years.

Tree Preservation Commission: Tricia Mullaney, one-year unexpired term and council liaison, Mark LoGrippo, one year.

Memorial Library Board: Mallary Saltzman, five years and council liaison; Doug Stokes, one year.

Planning Board: Robert Newell, four years; Ross Goldstein, alternate no. 1, two years; Mayor Shelley Brindle, one year; Town Engineer Kris McAloon, one year.

Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee: William Cariste and Josephine Ferrigno-Stack, one year.

Solid Waste Advisory Board: Jeff Bryk, one year.

Union County Transportation Advisory Board: David Judd and Marv Gersten, alternate, one-year terms.

Air Traffic Advisory Board: Scott Jaffee, one-year unexpired term.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison, Councilman Frank Arena.

Union County League of Municipalities: Mayor Shelley Brindle,

Board of Education liaison: Councilman David Contract.

2nd Senior Citizens Housing Corporation liaison, Councilwoman JoAnn Neylan.

Municipal Alliance Liaison: Councilwoman Dawn Mackey.

Town Council Committees: Finance Policy Committee, Linda Habgood, chairwoman; JoAnn Neylan, vice-chairman; David Contract and Doug Stokes; Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee: Michael Dardia, chairman; Frank Arena, vice-chairman; Mark LoGrippo and Dawn Mackey; Code Review and Town Property Committee: Dawn Mackey, chairman; Mark LoGrippo, vice-chairman; Linda Habgood and JoAnn Neylan; Public Works Committee: David Contract, chairman; Doug Stokes, vice-chairman; Frank Arena and Michael Dardia.

## County Appointments Told for 2019

COUNTY — At Sunday's Union County reorganization meeting the following appointments were made:

Rogut McCarthy, LLC, one-year contract for specialized counsel services in connection with the issuance of bonds, or notes;

Suplee, Clooney and Company, Westfield, one-year contract, to provide statutory audits of accounts;

Jardim, Meisner and Susser, P.C., pre-qualified law firm to provide specialized credit and collection counsel services as necessary at Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital, one-year contract;

Weber Dowd Law of Woodland Park, to provide credit and collections services to Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County, one-year contract;

Ruderman and Roth, LLC, Springfield, to serve as personnel counsel for 12 consecutive months, in an estimated amount not to exceed \$125,000;

The Weiner Law Group, LLP, Parsippany, to serve as labor and personnel counsel for 12 consecutive months, in an estimated non-guaranteed amount not to exceed \$225,000;

Eric M. Bernstein and Associates, LLC, Warren, to serve as personnel counsel, for 12 consecutive months in an estimated amount not to exceed \$110,000;

James Jude Plaia, Verona, to provide workers compensation defense counsel services for 12 consecutive months;

Manuel R. Grova, special counsel

to the Union County Planning Board for a one-year period at an amount not to exceed \$30,000;

ComPsych, Chicago, IL for the provision of a comprehensive Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to Union County employees and their families for 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$54,000.

Freeholder Liaisons to various advisory boards for 2019:

Freeholder Angel Estrada, Union County Delegate to Meadowlink/EZ Ride; representatives to the New Jersey Association of Counties, Freeholder Angela Garretson (delegate) and Freeholder Sergio Granados (alternate); representatives to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Freeholder Angel Estrada.

*Did You Know?*

2018 was great for traffic on [goleader.com](http://goleader.com) (10,843,919 page views and 12,727,955 hits).

We look forward to reaching even more people in 2019.

[goleader.com](http://goleader.com)

*Legal Advertising*

MORE IN BACK SECTION

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS RECREATION COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Recreation Commission of the Township of Scotch Plains has scheduled a meeting for the following dates:

**January 14, 2019 - Reorganization**

The meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. and be held at Room 202 of the Township of Scotch Plains Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076; and

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Township of Scotch Plains does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Scotch Plains should contact Municipal Manager/Township of Scotch Plains designated ADA Coordinator as soon as possible before the scheduled event. Notifying the ADA coordinator at least 72 hours in advance will enable the Township to arrange for appropriate resources. The ADA does not require the Township of Scotch Plains to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden. Complaints that a program, service, or activity of Scotch Plains is not accessible to or inclusive of persons with disabilities should be directed to Municipal Manager/Township of Scotch Plains designated ADA Coordinator.

BOZENA LACINA, Municipal Clerk

1 T - 01/10/19, The Times Fee: \$37.74



**GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT...**Union County Freeholders presented a resolution to Audrey Davis of Fanwood Girl Scout Heart of New Jersey Troop 40274 congratulating her on attaining her Gold Award. Pictured, from left to right, are: Freeholder Al Mirabella, Manuel Ramirez and Nicole DeAugustine of the Office for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, Miss Davis, 2018 Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados and Vice-Chairwoman Bette Jane Kowalski. Audrey's Gold Award project established the AWARE (Active Walking and Respite Exercise) Club, a social and recreational club for teens and young adults with special needs.

**ACCIDENTS & PERSONAL INJURY LAW**

**CALL**

**JON BRAMNICK**

**Certified Civil Trial Lawyer**

**908-322-7000**

Jon M. Bramnick, Esq.  
John C. Rodriguez, Esq.  
Gary J. Grabas, Esq.  
Jonathan P. Arnold, Esq.  
Patrick J. Mangan, Esq.  
Jose Vilarino, Esq.  
Richard M. Brockway, Esq.  
Carl A. Salisbury, Esq.

Gavin Handwerker, Esq.  
Brian J. Trembley, Esq.  
Kelly A. Lynch, Esq.  
Susan E. Kinsella, Esq.  
Brent A. Bramnick, Esq.  
Michael Noriega, Esq.  
Cristina Carreno, Esq.  
Robert C. Rowbotham, II., Esq.

Bramnick, Rodriguez, Grabas, Arnold & Mangan, LLC

1827 East Second Street  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
[www.jonbramnick.com](http://www.jonbramnick.com)

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
<b>TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS</b>	
<b>RESOLUTION NO. 2019-4</b>	
<b>BE IT RESOLVED</b> , by the Governing Body of the Township of Scotch Plains, that the following meeting schedule for 2019 for the Township Council was established at the Reorganization Meeting held on January 1, 2019:	
<b>2019 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE</b>	
January 1, 2019 (Tuesday)	Reorganization Meeting 12:00PM
January 15, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
February 5, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference Meeting 7:00 PM
February 19, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
March 5, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference Meeting 7:00 PM
March 19, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
April 2, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference Meeting 7:00 PM
April 16, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
May 7, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference Meeting 7:00 PM
May 21, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
June 5, 2019 (Wednesday)	Council Conference Meeting 7:00 PM
June 18, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
July 16, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference / Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
August 13, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference/ Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
September 3, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference Meeting 7:00 PM
September 17, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
October 2, 2019 (Wednesday)	Council Conference Meeting 7:00 PM
October 15, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
November 12, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference/ Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
December 17, 2019 (Tuesday)	Council Conference Meeting/ Council Business Meeting 7:00 PM
<b>IMPORTANT NOTES:</b>	
* Council Conference Meetings will be held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and will be open to the public. Council Business Meetings will be held in the Municipal Building Council Chamber (Court Room) and will be open to the public. Council Conference Meetings will not be broadcast on Scotch Plains Television (SPTV). Council Business Meetings will be broadcast on SPTV. Council Business Meetings will be broadcast on SPTV.	
* Council Executive Sessions will be held in the Council Conference Room located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building or the Municipal Building Council Chamber (Court Room) and will not be open to the public.	
* Council Workshop Meetings (i.e. Budget) will be held in the Council Conference Room located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building and will be open to the public. These meetings will be scheduled and advertised separately during the year by the Office of the Township Clerk.	
Bozena Lacina, RMC Municipal Clerk	Fee: \$91.80