

CHRISTIANO, WEISS PLACE SECOND; MURRAY GETS THIRD; MARKOVITCH GETS FOURTH

Cannon, Kalimtzis, Tufaro Jacobs Win UCT Mat Titles

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Persistence overcame resistance twice for Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior Sean Cannon, who battled his way through a very tough semifinal bout and an even tougher final bout to grab the 152-lb wrestling crown and the Outstanding Wrestler Award (upper weights) at the Union County Tournament (UCT) in Union on January 22.

Brearley (B) earned its seventh straight team title with 180 points, followed by Westfield (W) at 153 and Roselle Park (RP) at 146.5, but Cannon's performances helped put the Raiders (SP) in fourth with a total of 139, beating out the Governor Livingston (GL) Highlanders, who placed fifth at 129.5. Cranford (C) placed sixth with 107.5 points. Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz was named Union County Coach of the Year.

Seeded third, Cannon won his first bout by 1:33 fall. Next, he faced second-seeded Blue Devil Colin Barber, who had defeated him in overtime in their recent dual meet. Cannon recorded a defensive takedown in the first period. Barber escaped in the second period then Cannon escaped early in the third, but Barber converted a single to double-leg takedown to tie the score.

Barber let Cannon escape in order to work a takedown for a victory, but Cannon held on for a 4-3 win.

"My goal was to stop Colin the whole match, work hard, and it worked out for me in the end.

He's tough! I am looking to see him again in districts," Cannon said.

His championship bout was to be against heavily favored Bryan Merkel (RP).

"He and I used to battle. We

fire and recorded three takedowns to seize a 6-2 lead entering the second period, but Cannon repeatedly fired back. Merkel tired physically then mentally until Cannon cut his lead to 9-8. Seconds before the buzzer,

folded," Cannon said.

Barber went on to defeat Cougar Corey Markovitch, 6-0, for third place.

Blue Devil senior Mike Kalimtzis recorded a pair of arm bar stack pins to reach the 120-lb finals to face GL's Ryan Morrison (UCT 112-lb champ in 2011). Kalimtzis recorded a low double-leg takedown in the first period and controlled Morrison from the top position the entire second period to earn a 2-1 victory.

"It felt good to come out with a win. I really didn't get to wrestle the match the way I wanted to wrestle. I wanted to get a takedown early. Set the tone of the match, because we have them next week in a dual meet. I wanted to keep my weight on him on top, make sure he didn't get points. He was tough on bottom. He did a lot of rolls, sit-outs and switches," Kalimtzis said.

Cougar freshman Gavin Murray, after losing to Morrison in the semifinals, rebounded to defeat Andy Santamaria (RP), 7-1, to place third.

"It is good to see him bounce back from a loss. Morrison is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

RESEMBLING A PRETZEL...Cougar Gavin Murray, left, has Highlander Ryan Morrison knotted up like a pretzel in the 120-lb semifinal bout. Or does he?

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would go back and forth. Hopefully I will get a good match," Cannon said.

Merkel came out like a ball of



Cannon swept in for the takedown to win 10-9.

"I just wanted it more. During the match, I realized that I had to wear him out. There towards the end, that's exactly what I did. He



Cougars!

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# Cannon, Kalimtzis, Tufaro, Jacobs Win UCT Titles; Christiano 2nd; Murray 3rd

tough senior. It's a good learning experience for him. It will teach him how to take a loss and bounce right back to win. That shows you what kind of character the kid has. He is real strong on his feet. Very strong on top! He knows where he is at all times. He has more mat sense as a freshman than a lot of kids have as seniors," Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman said of Murray.

Raider heavyweight Anthony Tufaro pinned his first opponent with a corkscrew (Jimmy John) in 2:21, then faced Linden's (L) Sumir Burns known for his dangerous head throw, but Tufaro began with a takedown and controlled him from the top position en route to a 5-1 victory and a trip to the finals.

"He was ready to move. I just ducked out of it. When you get a big guy, and you put 285-lbs on top of him, it is a lot of work to keep off," Tufaro explained.

Looking to his title bout with Mike Christian (B), Tufaro said, "I have never wrestled him before. I am pretty sure it's going to be a good match. It will definitely go the full six minutes."

Tufaro was correct! Tufaro controlled Christian on top the entire second period and even attempted to bait him for a pancake maneuver.

"I had to keep him down. I was trying to make him make a mistake, so I could work off of it," Tufaro explained.

Tufaro escaped and added a takedown in the third period to grab a 3-0 victory and the crown.

"It was a lot of hard work in the room with my coach really helps, because he makes me do stand-ups all day," Tufaro said.

Blue Devil heavyweight Kyle Kania recorded 3-0 and 7-3 decisions, respectively, before falling to Christian in the semis, but he finished third winning by injury default.

Raider senior Andrew Jacobs

used his hips for walkover takedowns to record a 5:53 fall in his first bout at 220-lbs and had some success with it in his 7-4 victory over Union's Jake Coccharella in the semis.

trip takedown to a pin in 5:19 "I had a single leg in. He was supported by his other leg, so I swept it out. He fell to a pin and I held it," Jacobs said. "It's great that I can share it [UCT title] with

138-lb finals.

"He gave me a lot of open looks. I had to get around him, and I took what I had. In the second period, he was riding a little high. He tried to go around,

ing a reversal, a takedown and a two-point near-fall to win, 8-3.

Raider Dom Natale, who lost to Floyd, 12-6, in the semis, finished third with a 7-1 win over Smith.

Cougar JP Christiano won his first bout by tech fall at 182-lbs, then slipped in to record three takedowns and an escape to defeat Blue Devil Brian Bulger, 7-4, in the semis. Bulger finished fourth.

"I knew I could get in on my shots. I had to set them up right then get my finishes. He has long legs, so I needed to get in there. I just wanted to wrestle under control. Get ready for my final match. I got [Joey] Balboni [B]. He's a good kid. I will see him again this year, so I want to get the victory to help in seedings," said Christiano, who added, "He is great on his feet. My coach and I have been talking about it. We have a game plan. We will see if it works."

Balboni fought off two potential takedowns and recorded two himself to beat Christiano, 5-2.

Blue Devil Mike DeLouisa bounced back from a loss to top-seeded John Balboni to defeat Phil Woods (RP), 5-1, to place third at 160-lbs

"I got beat by Loevsky [Roselle Park] a couple of weeks ago in a match that I was hoping to win, but I didn't. It meant a lot to me to get this win over Woods. Barber beat him earlier in the season. I wanted to prove myself to my coaches and to my family that I can really work hard and take home a top-3 today," DeLouisa said.

Balboni defeated Shane Haddad (GL), 8-6, for the title.

Blue Devil Ellis Opoku defeated Raider Mike Steinfeld, 5-3, to place third at 145-lbs. Nick Lospinoso (B) won the title with a 6-1 win over Justin Becker (Rahway). Raider Tom

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David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**DESPERATE TO ESCAPE...Blue Devil Matt Barber, front, desperately needs to escape the grasp of Brearley Bear Mike Disko in the 132-lb third-place bout. Disko held on to win, 2-1, after 3 overtime periods**

"It was a tough match. I like to work them, but if they don't work, it's not that big of a deal," Jacobs said.

Looking to the title bout, Jacobs said, "I don't really pay attention to the names. I am not concerned about anybody."

In his final bout against Cougar Jeff Weiss, Jacobs saved his best for last with a single-leg back-

one of my training partners, because he pushes me a lot in practice."

Weiss defeated second-seeded Ed Olenick (Johnson) in the semis to reach the finals.

Blue Devil Nick Rotondo won his opening bout, 3-1, recorded a pair of takedowns and a reversal to defeat Dan Smith (New Providence), 6-1, to reach the

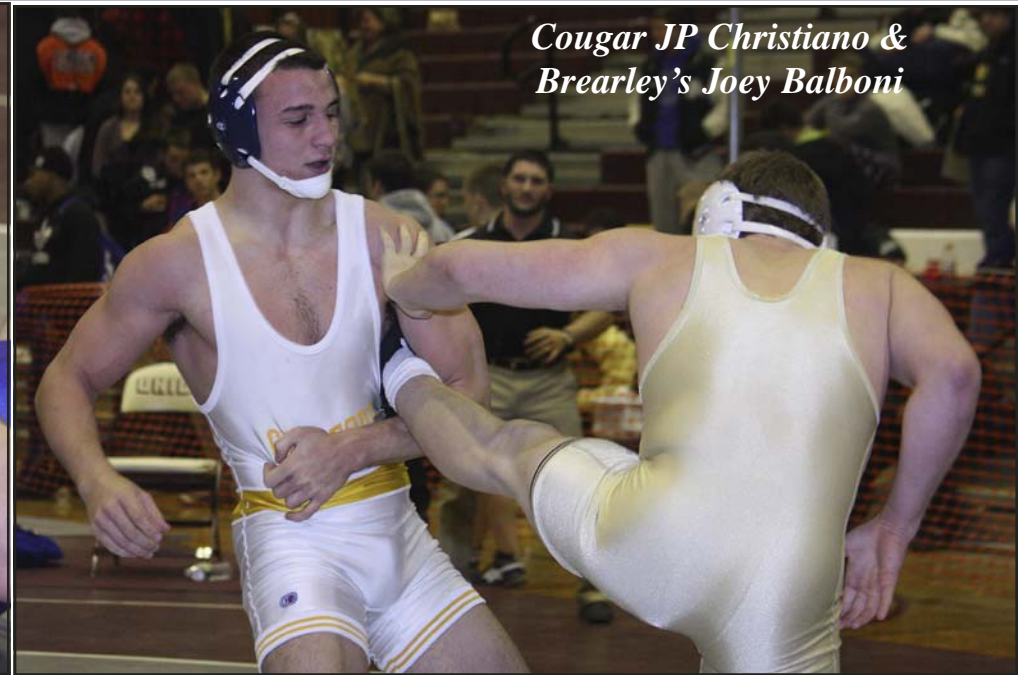
so I caught him in the air and capitalized on his mistakes," Rotondo explained.

His title bout would be against a very physical D'Ondre Floyd (Elizabeth). "I got to make sure I wrestle my match. Tire him out a lot, and in the third period dominate him," Rotondo said.

Floyd, however, had the upper hand in the third period, record-



*Blue Devil Colin Barber & Cougar Corey Markovitch*



*Cougar JP Christiano & Brearley's Joey Balboni*

## Cannon, Kalimtzis, Tufaro, Jacobs Win UCT Titles; Christiano 2nd; Murray 3rd

Cunningham defeated Hugo Parraga (RP), 3-1, for third at 113-lbs. Raider Brian Lapham defeated Ralph Stadler (Elizabeth), 9-2, for third at 126-lbs. Blue Devil Kieran Cline (182-

lbs) placed fourth. Blue Devil Matt Barber got stung, 2-1, in three overtimes to place fourth at 132-lbs.

**TEAM TOTALS:**

1. Brearley 180, 2. Westfield 153, 3.

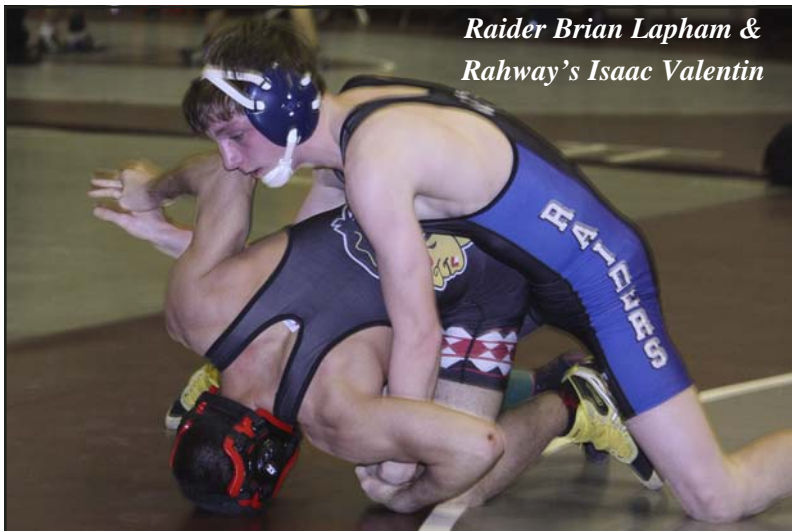
Roselle Park 146.5, 4. Scotch Plains-Fanwood 139, 5. Governor Livingston 129.5, 6. Cranford 107.5, 7. Linden 86.5, 8. Rahway 65, 9. Elizabeth 55, 10. Plainfield 52, 11. Union (U) 50, 12. Johnson (J) 49, 13. Summit (S) 46, 14. New Providence (NP) 35

**BOUT SEQUENCE:**  
182: — Vic Pozsonyi (RP) d Zach Heissler (GL), 7-1  
195: — Anthony Tancs (B) d AJ Iarussi (S), 1-0  
220: — Jacobs (SP) p Weiss (C), 5:19  
Hwt: — Tufaro (SP) d Christian (B), 3-0

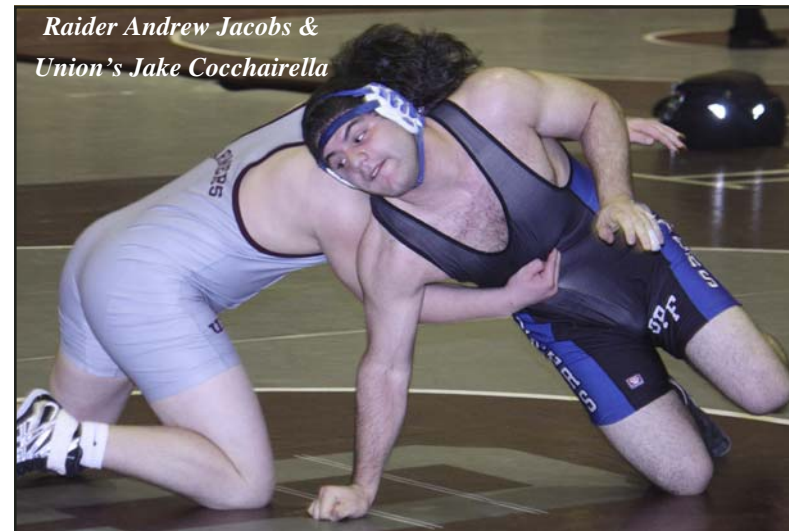
106: — Nick DeMarco (B) d Nick Tekula (L), 5-3  
113: — John Mele (GL) p Gabe Magalhaes (L), 1:26  
120: — Kalimtzis (W) d Morrison (GL), 2-1  
126: — Nick Abbott (S) d Isaac Valentin (R), 3-0  
132: — Ryan Hoy (GL) p Brendan Leary (RP), 5:34  
138: — Floyd (E) d Rotondo (W), 8-3  
145: — Lospinoso (B) d Becker (R), 6-1  
152: — Cannon (SP) d Merkel (RP), 10-9  
160: — Balboni (B) d Haddad (GL), 8-6  
170: — Joey Balboni (B) d Christiano (C), 5-2

**THIRD PLACE:**

106: — John DeVito (RP) won fall  
113: — Cunningham (S) won 3-1  
120: — Murray (C) won 7-1  
126: — Lapham (S) won 9-2  
132: — Disco (B) won 2-1, 3 OT  
138: — Natale (SP) won 7-1  
145: — Opoku (W) won 5-3  
152: — Barber (W) won 6-0  
160: — DeLouisa (W) won 5-1  
170: — Foster (L) won 3-1  
182: — Valez (B) won 4-0  
195: — Knight (P) won 10-8  
220: — Coccharella (U) won 7-1  
Hwt: — Kania (W) won injury default



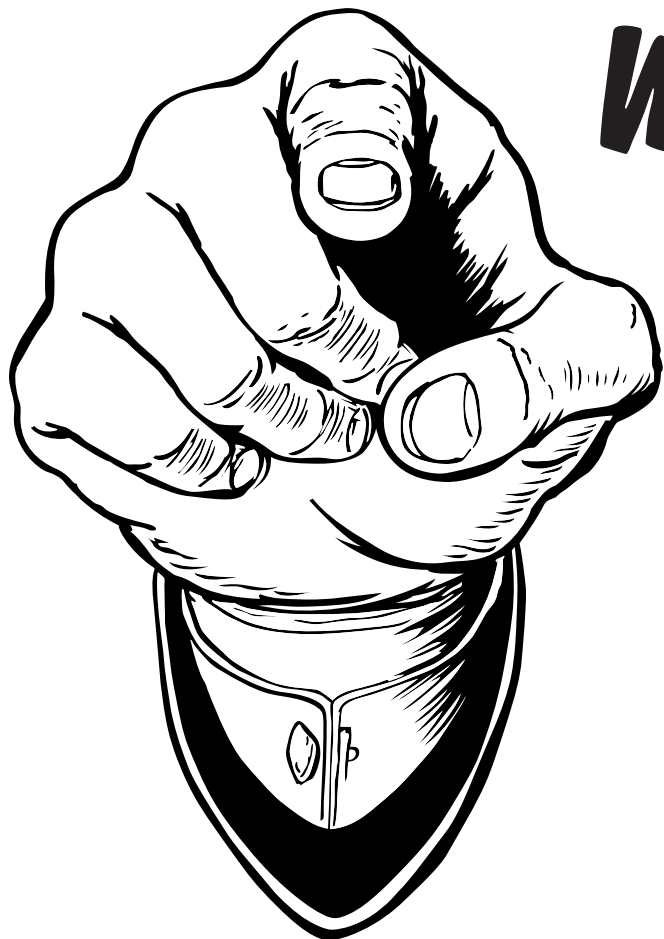
*Raider Brian Lapham & Rahway's Isaac Valentin*



*Raider Andrew Jacobs & Union's Jake Coccharella*

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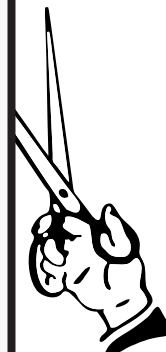
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## Cougar Cagers Burn Oak Knoll Girls, 47-38

The Cranford High School Lady Cougars basketball team improved to 11-3 with a 47-38 victory over the Oak Knoll Royals on January 24. Senior Morgan Miller scored 18 points, including two 3-pointers and four free throws, for the Cougars.

Junior Jess McCoy put in 10 points, including a 3-pointer. Junior Jenna Goeller scored nine points, including a 3-pointer. Sophomore Mairead McKeary pumped in eight points, including a 3-pointer. Junior Katie McGovern sank a free throw.

|           |    |    |   |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|---|----|----|
| Oak Knoll | 7  | 10 | 9 | 12 | 38 |
| Cranford  | 14 | 11 | 7 | 15 | 47 |



## Cougar Snacks



### Summit Boys Sting Cougar Cagers, 48-46

The Summit High School boys basketball team went on a 14-8 run in the fourth quarter to sting the Cranford Cougars, 48-46, on January 19. Reggie Green scored 17 points and Stefan Fedorchak netted 14 for the Cougars. Kurt Rutmayer had eight points and Sean Babos had five points.

|          |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Cranford | 16 | 7  | 15 | 8  | 46 |
| Summit   | 9  | 12 | 13 | 14 | 48 |

### Warrior Icemen Beat Cranford Cougars, 4-3

The Watchung Hills High School ice hockey got a goal from Troy Lewis late in the third quarter to defeat the Cranford Cougars, 4-3, at the Union Sports Arena on January 18. Tom Fitzgerald scored two goals and added an assist for the 7-5-2 Cougars, while Russ Harvey scored a goal and Sean Feeney had an assist.

|            |   |   |   |   |
|------------|---|---|---|---|
| Cranford   | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Wat. Hills | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**COUGAR ATHLETES OF THE WEEK...** Julie Byrne, a freshman on the varsity swim team, broke two school records this past week in the 100-backstroke and the 200-individual medley. Scott Belmont is on the varsity bowling team and is currently averaging 182. As a senior captain he has helped lead the Cougars to several big wins this season.



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**GENEROUS DONATION...** Cranford High School boys basketball Head Coach Ryan Huber, right, hands a representative of the American Cancer Society a check for \$200 collected in the Cougars Against Cancer basketball tournament held in late December. Athletic Director Darren Torsone, left, displays a shirt from the tournament.

## Cranford Cougar Matmen Nip Union Farmers Matmen, 35-33

The Cranford High School wrestling team had its work cut out but came through with a 35-33 victory over an improving Union Farmers team at Cranford on January 18. Freshman Gavin Murray upped his record to 13-2, senior Ian Henry upped his record to 11-4 and junior Corey Markovitch improved to 12-3. No of their losses have been to Union County opponents.

### CRANFORD 35, UNION 33

- 106: Ibrahim Elbanna (U) p Kevin Quigley, 3:02
- 113: Ryan Nobrega (U) won forfeit
- 120: Mike Helmstetter (C) won forfeit
- 126: Gavin Murray (C) p Andrew Best, 1:18
- 132: Ian Henry (C) tf Chris Dorvius, 17-1
- 138: Corey Birch (C) p Jeremy Randolph, 3:45
- 145: Mike Zuena (U) d Matt Dimartino, 9-5
- 152: Corey Markovitch (C) d Beve Julien, 4-0
- 160: Glen Cook (C) d Brandon Paris, 7-6

- 170: JP Christiano (C) p Demetrius Gresham, 1:02
- 182: Steve Gibki (U) p Rob Kessler, 1:28
- 195: Brian Homere (U) won forfeit
- 220: Jake Cocchiarella (U) d Jeff Weiss, 2-1
- 285: Kristian Lewis (U) d Jon ElKhoury, 8-2

## Lady Highlanders Skin Cougar Cagers, 42-38

The Governor Livingston High School Lady Highlanders basketball team upped its record to 11-0 with a 42-38 victory over the Cranford Cougars in Cranford on January 19. Senior Morgan Miller scored 15 points, including three 3-pointers and four free throws, for the Cougars. Katie McGovern sank 11 points, Jess McCoy put up 10 points, and Jenna Goeller scored two points.

|                 |   |   |    |    |    |
|-----------------|---|---|----|----|----|
| Gov. Livingston | 4 | 9 | 15 | 14 | 42 |
| Cranford        | 7 | 9 | 7  | 15 | 38 |

# GW Freezes Longevity Benefits, Rejects Athletic Field Bids

By **CHRISTINA M. HINKE**

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

**GARWOOD** – The borough council on Tuesday for the second time voted 4-2 to adopt freezing longevity benefits for non-bargaining unit employees. Councilman Victor DeFilippo and Councilwoman Sara Todisco dissented.

Last year, the council put forth the same vote, and subsequently Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi vetoed the council vote to approve freezing longevity benefits.

Tuesday night, ordinance 12-02 was passed. It is the same ordinance by definition the mayor vetoed in December 2011. The council voted on two ordinances, 12-02 and 12-03, introduced two weeks ago, to revise the longevity benefits to non-union employees.

Under ordinance 12-02 the borough would no longer provide longevity benefits to any present or future non-bargaining unit employee. Ordinance 12-03 was defeated 4-2. It would have prohibited new employees in the non-bargaining unit hired after January 1, 2012, to receive longevity benefits. Non-bargaining unit borough employees hired prior to January 1, 2012 would continue to receive benefits. Ordinance 12-03 was introduced January 10, 5-1 with Council President Keith Sluka dissenting.

"I'm disappointed with the way it went tonight," Mayor Quattrocchi told *The Westfield Leader*. When asked if she would veto the vote again, she replied, "I don't know."

Longevity benefits activate when a borough employee has been employed for five years.

During the public meeting, Mr. Mathieu reproached Mayor Quattrocchi for having "poor communication" by not putting forth this ordinance, 12-03, last year. "I wonder why this solution was not proposed by you, mayor, last year?" Mr. Mathieu asked. "I think that this points to a larger problem in our leadership."

In relation to personnel, Ms. Todisco proposed an employee evaluation policy for non-union borough employees.

The council also rejected the bids for the Athletic Field Complex Project and authorized Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma to re-advertise for the project.

As a result, the Little League will be having its season at the field, Athletic Field Complex Project Committee Chair Louis Petruzzelli said.

During committee reports, Ms. Todisco said the finance committee would have a preliminary budget this week. March 9 is the deadline to introduce the budget with adoption on April 20.

School Board Liaison Sluka said Garwood residents would receive a discount to fees for services at the Westfield Area Y location to open in the Washington School. The Garwood Board of Education announced last week that they have agreed to a five-year lease agreement with the Y to use the school for pre-school, day care, after-school programs, a fitness center and other programs.

Board Attorney Joseph Triarsi in the workshop meeting said he expects the litigation with The Pointe to culminate in the spring. The judge assigned to the case, he said, feels she needs testimony in regards to the internal roadways or driveways of The Pointe.

Mary Wolf of North Avenue, who lives on a bend, said her vision of the roadway when exiting her driveway is blocked because of cars and SUVs parked on the street. She asked the borough to have someone come and look at the problem.

"We'll tackle that as well in Laws and License meeting," Mr. Sluka said.

Mark Enz of Cedar Street in Cranford asked the borough to seek more train stops in Garwood on weekends. Mayor Quattrocchi responded that she is currently working with NJ Transit on adding stops.

*Probitas Verus Honos*

# CF Mayor Vows to Block Birchwood Development

By **FRED T. ROSSI**

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

**CRANFORD** – Mayor David Robinson said on Tuesday that he personally was "not hopeful" that Cranford would prevail in its bid to have a judge reconsider her December ruling that the controversial Birchwood Avenue housing development could go forward. But he said the township's recent legal maneuverings and efforts were part of the municipality's strategy for "building the best case we can for any appeal" if its bid for reconsideration is turned down. "We want to win," the mayor said at Tuesday's township committee meeting. "We want to prevail." He said the township government will "exhaust any remedy we have" to prevent the development from proceeding.

Last Friday, Superior Court Judge Lisa Chrystal heard arguments from the township and from Cranford Development Associates LLC, the Birchwood Avenue developer, in the latest round of the municipality's opposition to the plan to build 360 housing units in what local officials and many residents see as a severe flood zone. At Tuesday's committee meeting, Township Attorney Phil Morin said no decision was rendered at last week's hearing but that he expects a written opinion "within a short period of time." He expressed thanks to residents who provided input to him about effects of flooding on the Birchwood neighborhood, noting that many comments were incorporated into the township's legal brief filed last week.

Mayor Robinson – in response to a resident's query about the Cranford Board of Education (BOE) possibly weighing in on

the potential impact of 360 housing units on the local school system – said he would be surprised if the BOE did so. Another resident said it was important to make the court aware of the increased costs to the township if the development goes forward.

In other business, the township committee passed a \$1.173-million bond ordinance that Deputy Mayor Andis Kalnins said would be used to fund the various tax appeals that were settled in 2011. He pointed out that the municipal government is responsible for financing all of the tax appeals even though more than three-fourths of local property taxes go not to the local government but to the board of education and the county government. The township committee also introduced an ordinance increasing various swimming-pool utility fees, with a public hearing set for Tuesday, February 28. The committee additionally appointed Robert P. Donovan to provide alternate municipal prosecutor services.

Two resolutions were passed authorizing bids for the refurbishment of the lower level of the municipal building that was severely damaged by Hurricane Irene last August. That portion of the building "took quite a beating," said Commissioner Kevin Campbell. He said a trailer in the rear parking lot is supplying the building's heat. Mr. Campbell said the township's insurance is covering the costs involved with operating the parts of the municipal building that were damaged. But, he added, "we're a bit under the gun" to complete the repairs, because the insurance coverage will not be available next year.

At the beginning of the meeting, members of Boy Scout Troop No. 75 led the committee in the flag salute.