One week after drudging North Plainfield, 52-20, in the final regular-season game, the top-seeded Cranford High School football team did it again with a 46-6 thrashing of the Canucks in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament at Memorial Field in Cranford on November 14.

Unlike in their previous meeting when the Canucks got a quick jump on the Cougars by scoring on their first drive with 13 running plays then adding another quick touchdown (TD) to take a 14-3 lead, the Cougar defense permitted only one TD in the playoff game when the Canucks covered 69 yards on 15 plays, including six pass attempts with 12.8 seconds remaining in the first half. The Cougars’ team attitude coming into the game was more than ready.

“It’s not to like underestimate them, because we played them last week and had a big win. So we didn’t want to treat them lighter than they were. We had to take it very serious, not like any other game, and keep focused,” Cougar linebacker Niko Cappello said.

“I think that it is more weird than anything else. You make adjustments, they make adjustments and they did a good job against us in the first half,” Cougar Head Coach Erik Rosenmeier said. “They did a good job moving the football. They did a good job keeping the ball away from us. We made adjustments in the second half and took the game away.”

“I was happy about that. That wasn’t fun them getting a run on us in the first drive last game, but we did a good job stopping them,” Cappello said.

Cappello made five solo tackles, including a pair of shattering sacks on quarterback Nick Cherasaro, and assisted on five more.

“It was kind of hard, because the quarterback likes to cut back into us. I was trying to make sure he didn’t cut back on me,” Cappello said.

Ahmad Davis added four solo tackles and an assist, while defensive back Kevin Trotter made four solos and two assists. Defensive back Sean Leonard made three solos and two assisted.

Linebacker Ethan Tom made two throws for a loss and four assists. Defensive back Eric Donahue had two solos with a throw for a loss and an assist. Luke Christiano had two solos and three assists. The 10-0 Cougars sent the message on the opening kickoff when Christiano got the ball on the 14 and returned it 86 yards for the TD with just 18 seconds off the clock.

“We have a number of set plays that we run on the kickoff and that was one of them. Adjusting the blocking was something we worked on hard this week. We did a good job blocking up front, and Luke is good when he has the football in his hands,” Coach Rosenmeier said.

On the second play of the second quarter, junior quarterback Jack Schetelich scored the first of his three TDs with a 16-yard sprint. A two-point conversion attempt came up a yard short.

SCHETELICH SCORES 3TDs, CHRISTIANO 86-YD KO TD RETURN, WALKER TD, PALUMBO TD

Cougars Rap Canucks, 46-6, in Grid Sectional First Round

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
two yards and eight yards. He also completed three of six passes for 62 yards, including a 10-yard TD strike to Joe Norton.

With 7:37 left in the first half, Schetelich scored from the two to complete a six-play, 36-yard drive. A bad snap on the PAT kept the score at 19-0. The Canucks then scored their only TD just before halftime.

The Canucks went three-and-out to start the third quarter then the Cougars answered with a four-play, 62-yard scoring drive when Schetelich slipped in from the eight with 8:00 on the clock. After Cappello’s first sack forced a punt, the Cougars came back with a six-play, 60-yard drive, capped with Schetelich’s 10-yard TD strike to Norton, who also added his third PAT of the game to make the score, 32-6.

Cappello came through with his second sack on a fourth down, allowing the Cougars to take over at the Canuck 47. Four plays later with 0:00 left in the third, Donavin Walker (7 carries, 61 yards) hooked in from the 11.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Cougars forced a fumble and Brian McGovern recovered it at the Canuck 34. Sophomore quarterback Brian Oblachinski (2 carries, 26 yards, PAT) engineered a six-play drive that ended with Jake Palumbo plunging in from the three for the TD with 8:21 remaining and setting up the “Mercy Rule” timer.

In 10 games, the Cougars have outscored opponents 406-129. “That’s pretty impressive. Our offense is very good. We put like 40 points up per game. We [defense] try to keep them on the field so they can score,” Cappello said.

The Cougars will host West Essex, victors over Voorhees, in the semifinal round tomorrow, Friday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m.

“Everybody knows who West Essex is and the program’s success that they had. We knew they were going to be a tough out for anyone based on the schedule that they played. None of the A teams are scared of anybody in the playoffs. It’s going to be a great challenge for us. It’s great that they are coming here because of the familiarity of playing at home,” Coach Rosenmeier said.
BECOMING A BOILERMAKER...Cranford High School (CHS) senior Gavin Murray has signed to wrestle for Perdue University next fall. All four photos have been placed on various sports pages of The Westfield Leader and The Times.

STEPPING UP A NOTCH...Three Lady Blue Devils have signed to continue their lacrosse career at a higher level. Pictured, left to right are: front row; Samantha Paoletti (Boston College), Mallory Weisse (Northwestern) and Alyssa Cox (Virginia Tech).

HEADING TO THE ROCKIES...Cranford Cougar Dan Fay will be heading to the Rockies next fall to play lacrosse at Colorado Mesa.

BUCKNELL BOUND...Cranford senior Julie Byrnes will continue her swim career at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa. in the fall.
Lady Raiders Rap Ridge, 3-2, for Sectional Soccer Championship – photos by David B. Corbin
Blue Devils’ ‘D’ Stops Bridgewater-Raritan Gridders in First Round of Playoffs, 24-14

More football on next page
Blue Devils’ ‘D’ Stops Bridgewater-Raritan Gridders in First Round of Playoffs, 24-14
Raider Boys Clock Minutemen, 2-0, for North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Soccer Title
Raider Boys Clock Minutemen, 2-0, for Section Soccer Title – by Jim O’Connor njsportpics.com
Raider Boys Clock Minutemen, 2-0, for Section Soccer Title – by Jim O’Connor njsportpics.com
Garwood Council Reviews Regs
For New Sports Complex

By BRIAN TRUSDELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD – The Garwood Borough Council held a special meeting last Thursday to address issues surrounding the borough’s new athletic field complex, which will officially be opened on Saturday, December 14, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The long-delayed, $3.2-million complex, located on the south side of the borough, is bordered by Rankin and Myrtle Avenues and New Street.

The proposed revisions were prompted by the creation of the facility, which will include a youth baseball field, multi-purpose artificial turf field, basketball court and field house. The floodlights issue was of particular concern to Myrtle Avenue resident Jeff Breen, whose home borders the facility, which will include a youth baseball field, multi-purpose artificial turf field, basketball court and field house. The floodlights issue was of particular concern to Myrtle Avenue resident Jeff Breen, whose home borders the facility, which will include a youth baseball field, multi-purpose artificial turf field, basketball court and field house. The floodlights issue was of particular concern to Myrtle Avenue resident Jeff Breen, whose home borders the facility, which will include a youth baseball field, multi-purpose artificial turf field, basketball court and field house. The floodlights issue was of particular concern to Myrtle Avenue resident Jeff Breen, whose home borders the facility, which will include a youth baseball field, multi-purpose artificial turf field, basketball court and field house.

The proposed revisions were prompted by the creation of the facility, which will include a youth baseball field, multi-purpose artificial turf field, basketball court and field house.

The regulation changes were the result of a special committee established by the mayor and borough council president. The committee’s purpose was to create rules for the use and maintenance of the complex.

President Ann Tarantino, Mr. Petruzzelli, Borough Administrator Christina Ariemma and several residents, who examined the practices of several nearby towns with similar facilities.

Most of the 90-minute meeting, 30 minutes of which were occupied by questions by Mr. Nierstedt, was spent defining terms such as “mini bike” and clarifying language, such as references to “business” and “calendar” dates.

Other questions revolved around matters like a provision that prohibits the harming of wildlife except poisonous snakes, which the regulations permit killing on sight.

Mr. Nierstedt questioned Ms. Ariemma, who prepared the final draft, document which was reviewed by Borough Attorney Bob Renaud, about a section that could require a contract in order to pay for the complex. The provision reserved the right for such a contract, but it did not specify what would trigger the requirement. Ms. Ariemma explained that one-time uses, such as using the field house for a party, probably would not require a contract, but a repeated, regular use of the baseball or soccer field would.

However, she said, depending upon the specifics of the use — such as a fireworks display (which is banned under the regulations) — a contract probably would be needed.

The regulations set fees for the park, which will officially be renamed the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex. Based on a four-hour minimum, Garwood residents would pay $125 plus $25 for any additional hour; non-residents and for-profit organizations would pay $250 plus $50 for each additional hour, and non-profits would be charged $50 for four hours and $10 for each additional hour.

That is in addition to a $25 application fee and a $250 security deposit. Additional fees will apply for use of the youth baseball field and artificial turf field.

The already existing Garwood Recreation Commission, a seven-member volunteer board appointed by the mayor for rotating five-year terms, will be tasked with managing the complex.

The regulations referred to “attendants” to represent the borough if needed at events, which Ms. Ariemma explained would be essentially employees of the commission, paid out of fees generated by the complex.

“Feels good,” Ms. Sep said after the November 12 meeting. “Honestly, I’m very happy.” At issue was the house on the west side of Center Street between Myrtle and Spruce Avenues. Ms. Sep inherited the home from Robert Campbell, a non-family member, but it was destroyed by fire in November 2012.

Ms. Sep believed that because the home existed as a two-family structure at least as far back as the 1950s and was taxed by the borough as such, she was entitled to rebuild it as such.

However, her application to rebuild was denied by Zoning Code Official Victor Vinegra, whose interpretation of the land use ordinance determined that because Ms. Sep had a certificate of non-conformity, the home did not meet the requirement of being a "legally existing" structure at the time of its destruction.

Ms. Sep appeared before the board several times, including at its September 24 meeting, where she eventually withdrew her application for an interpretation of the ordinance with the intention of resubmitting to seek a certifi-
Board Permits Woman to Rebuild Two-Fam. Home

cnic of non-conformity. Returning last week, Ms. Sep referred to documents submitted previously that showed the home was taxed and fire inspected as a two-family as far back as at least 1974. She presented two longtime residents of Garwood – one of whom was a relative of the former owner – who testified the home was used as a two-family as of 1955.

However, under questioning from Board Attorney Donald Fraser, Ms. Sep said she thought the area in which the home existed was always zoned as single-family.

While board members were noting a document showing the home was built in 1904, the discussion seemed to turn when Michael Vena uncovered a 1922 zoning map that showed that much of the eastern sections of Garwood, including the area of the house, as allowing multi-family dwellings.

On only one person during the public comment opposed the application, Ms. Sep’s neighbor, Vincent Kearney, who purchased the single-family home at 306 Center Street – the adjacent property to the south – in October 2011.

Mr. Kearney, the son of recently defeated Republican Garwood council candidate and borough council chamber of commerce liaison Carol Kearney, stated that granting the application would bring back the problems on the street, create a hardship for his family and lower his property value.

The opposition renewed memories of a previous dispute in 2012 between Ms. Sep and Mr. Kearney and his wife, Veronica, over a dilapidated garage and shared driveway that straddled both properties.

The garage was condemned and eventually razed, and the Kearneys sought permission from the board to build a driveway on the opposite side of their property. That application was denied, but Mr. Fraser mediated a settlement on the shared driveway in July 2012.

At the November 12 meeting, Mr. Fraser expressed dismay that the agreement was never executed. While most board members sounding convinced that Ms. Sep had proven that the house existed as a well-understood two-family home, planning board member Bill Nierstedt took a different view.

“I have never heard of a certificate of non-conforming (use) being given to a structure that no longer exists,” he said. “I find it incredulous that we’re even listening to this.”

“So my question to my fellow board members is, I don’t see what we’re doing here,” the comment drew a quick and angry response from board member Robert Scherer.

“You were the one who told her to come back,” Mr. Scherer said, referring to Ms. Sep’s September 24 appearance.

When Mr. Nierstedt said it was not he but the board that requested she resubmit, Mr. Scherer seemed more incensed. “The board requested it because of what you said,” he snapped. “Don’t play games.”

Eventually, Mr. Scherer put forth the motion to grant the certificate of non-conformity with the proviso that Ms. Sep construct a one-car garage and also one parking space behind the home.

With Carol Kearney’s close friend, board member Gene Jannotti, recusing himself, the request was granted over the no votes of Mr. Nierstedt and Mayor Pat Quattrocchi, who recused herself two years ago from voting on the Kearney application.

In other matters, the board unanimously approved a much-less-contentious application for a certificate of non-conformity for Lucille Cepparulo for her two-family home at 92 Third Avenue.

Also approved unanimously was a site plan to allow the new owners of 336 North Avenue, the former site of Oliver’s Family Ristorante, to renovate the building for a Peruvian restaurant on the first floor and to convert the one 1,600-square-foot apartment on the second floor into two one-bedroom, 800-square-foot apartments.

The plan included adding one parking spot behind the building, negating the need for a variance, board members strongly urged the new owners, the owners of a Valoqil restaurant manager Carlos Mendoza, to make arrangements with St. Anne’s Catholic Church nearby or the owners of the shopping plaza across the street for additional parking.

Junior Woman’s Club Reveals House Tour

CRANFORD — The Cranford Junior Woman’s Club has announced that its 25th Annual Home for the Holidays House Tour will be held on Sunday, December 7, from noon to 4 p.m.

This self-guided tour will showcase four Cranford homes along case four Cranford homes along with a Hospitality House where refreshments and treats will be available. The Madrigal Choir will be on hand to entertain.

Tickets, in advance, are $25 each. They are available at August Mac, Back to Nature Health Foods, the Cranford Public Library, the UPS Store and Penwick’s, all in Cranford. They are also available online at cranfordjwc.com/housetour.htm. Tickets will be sold the day of the tour for $30 each.

Borough Considers Online Payments For Taxes

GARWOOD – Borough residents would be able to make municipal tax payments online with a credit or debit card under a proposal to replace the borough’s account- ing computer software.

Councilwoman Sara Todisco, the governing body’s finance committee chairwoman, reported to the council at its meeting Tuesday that the company that currently provides the software, First Byte of Teaneck, N.J., would not be able to continue support due to a health condition of one of the principals.

Subsequent research resulted in two offers, including one from Edmunds and Associates of Northfield, N.J., that would allow residents to make payments via online computer. Edmunds would charge a convenience fee, which was not disclosed, that would not lessen the tax owed to the borough.

After the meeting, Ms. Todisco said a measure would be put forth in upcoming meetings requesting the council approve $20,000 in start-up costs to purchase, install and provide 46 hours in training on the software.

The Edmunds bid was slightly more than a $16,500 offer from Municipal Software Inc. (MSI), but Edmunds was chosen due to its more common use, Ms. Todisco said, as well as compatibility with the borough’s hardware, according to Borough Administrator Christina Ariemma.

In other finance committee discussions, Ms. Todisco said the panel was recommending – at the urging of the state – the elimination of the stipend paid to borough employees who opt to waive health-insurance coverage.

The stipend, 25 percent of the premium the borough paid, was recommended by state officials as a way to encourage employ- ees to decline health insurance and reduce costs. But since many of those who opted out did so because employees were required to pay toward the insur- ance and/or it was cheaper to obtain coverage through their spouse, the stipend is no longer necessary.

Two borough employees have applied, Ms. Ariemma said. However, only one was eligible and is receiving the stipend.

The relatively sparsely attended meeting lasted uncharacteristi- cally a full two hours.

It was announced that the $3.2 million Athletic Field Complex in the southeast corner of the bor- ough is nearing completion. Ninety percent of the railings, 95 percent of the lighting and none of the kitchen equipment have been installed in the field house, and shrubbery that needed replacing has been planted. The putting out the basketball court and drainage issues in the base- ball outfield have been rectified.

“Inspections are set for No- vember 25,” said Councilman Lou Petruzzelli, the council’s liaison to the project. “They’re starting to take the plastic off the win- dows. They’re starting to clean up.”

The project, 18 months behind schedule, has been in conten- tion issue within the council and was often cited as an issue in the recent council and mayoral elections. The park is scheduled to officially open Sunday, December 7, with a ribbon-cutting cer- eemony.

Some matters remain, such as the aiming and shielding of securi- ty lighting, which Mr. Petruzzelli said needs to be addressed by PSE&G.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Among other issues discussed included leaf removal, after one resident noted how he had been approached by a Garwood police officer for raking his leaves into the street. The resident said he raked the leaves into the street with the intention of bagging them, as required by a borough ordinance enacted last year.

However, the lateness of the day and soreness in his back prompted him to leave them until morning. A neighbor apparently notified police. Councilman Bill Nierstedt said the ordinance does not allow raking the leaves into the street and advised the homeowner to leave them in his yard until bagging them.

That prompted Councilman Mike Martin, who earlier this year suggested rescinding the law, to question the wisdom of requiring leaf bagging. But he found no support on council.

Mr. Nierstedt later advised that while this was the last week for scheduled pickup of leaves, the Department of Public Works would continue to remove leaves left out between sidewalks and curbs on a request or as-needed basis.

---

Borough Considers Online Payments

---

Dear Garwood,

I want to thank all the Garwood voters who came out to vote for me. It certainly was a close election with only six votes out of almost 1,200 keeping me from representing all of Garwood on the council. I worked very hard for each and every vote and I appreciated the support. My campaign was always about what I could do for the future of Garwood and not about what others failed to do in the past. I congratulate the winners of the election and I pledge to continue to help Garwood in any way that I can.

I hope that everyone will look forward to enjoying Garwood Rocks 2015, June 7th.

Carol Kearney Garwood

---

Local Obituaries

Joan Dushanek Roll, 89, Had Worked For National Council of Churches

Joan Alice (née Dushanek) Roll, 89, formerly of Garwood, died on Sunday, November 9, 2014, in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she had been a resident.

Born in Garwood to the late Frederick and Ellen Donoughue Dushanek, Joan was retired from the National Council of Churches, in New York, where she had been an executive secretary and program specialist.

She was the beloved wife of the late Reverend Kenneth E. Roll, Sr., who was ordained in St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Garwood. He was a relative of early pioneer Baltus Roll, an ancestor, whose farm is now the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J. Joan also was preceded in death by her daughter, Kathiellen Roll Gilligan, and her brother, Frederick Dushanek, and is survived by her son, Kenneth E. Roll, Jr. of Garwood; her daughter, Deborah Alice Roll of Brooklyn Heights, N.Y.; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; her sister, Jane Limone, and her husband, Tony, along with nieces and nephews.

Joan’s Life Celebration was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street, Westfield, where her funeral service followed. Interment took place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. To view a tribute of Joan’s life, please go to: www.grayfuneralhomes.com.

---

Reading is Good For You

---

Borough of Garwood

---

Garwood Knights

Holding Food Drive

GARWOOD — The Garwood Knights of Columbus are collecting canned and dry food goods, turkeys and hams for their holiday food drives. Food baskets will be distributed to needy families in Garwood and the surrounding areas during November and December.

Donations can be dropped off after 4 p.m. weekdays at the Knights’ Council Hall, located at 37 South Avenue, Garwood, opposite Pathmark. On weekends, individuals are asked to first call (908) 789-9809.

Parking is located behind the hall off Willow Avenue. Visitors are asked to use the side-door entrance. Monetary donations, made payable to the Garwood Knights of Columbus, also would be appreciated. For more information, call the Knights at (908) 789-9809 after 4 p.m. The Knights express appreciation to the community for supporting its past food drives.

---

Police Blotter

GARWOOD Saturday, October 25, Miguel Perkins, 19, of Elizabeth was charged with criminal trespassing, burglary and possession of stolen property after police investigated a report of a suspicious male looking into cars on Myrtle Avenue. According to police, Perkins was found in possession of iPads and iPhones that were stolen from parked motor vehicles in Westfield.

Friday, October 31, Johnathan Rivera, 23, of Roselle was charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) following a motor vehicle stop. Saturday, November 1, Pesticne Allen, Jr., 19, of Westfield was charged with underage consumption of alcohol following a motor vehicle stop.

Monday, November 3, Deidra Glasgow, 34, of Westfield was charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop. Monday, November 3, Jose Velez, III, 22, of Roselle was charged with eluding police and DWI after a brief police chase. He was released on $25,000 bond.

Thursday, November 6, a 22-year-old male Garwood resident was charged with two counts of burglary and two counts of theft after two Locust Avenue residents reported that $5,500 in cash and jewelry were missing from their homes. Authorities withheld the suspect’s identity, citing an ongoing investigation.

---

Preservation

---

GARWOOD — The Borough of Garwood held its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 29, at 5 p.m. It will take place in the parking lot at Borough Hall, located at 403 South Avenue, Garwood.

The public is invited to come and enjoy the holiday season. Santa will arrive for a visit and pictures. Refreshments will be served.