

# Assembly Speaker to Attend Township Council Meeting

SCOTCH PLAINS — New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (D-19th, Woodbridge) will join Mayor Al Smith and the township council at their Tuesday, January 15, meeting at 7 p.m. to discuss food insecurity and healthy eating initiatives.

Speaker Coughlin has made fighting hunger and promoting healthy eating in New Jersey a priority, and he recently led the effort to pass 13 bills in the State Assembly to improve people's access to healthy food and reduce food waste. The bills all passed on a bipartisan basis.

The bills now await passage in the State Senate before they can be signed into law. Speaker Coughlin will be visiting Scotch Plains to promote these legislative initiatives and gain public awareness.

Since taking office, Mayor Smith has made healthy eating, nutrition programs and supporting food banks and other organizations that distribute food to needy communities a major component of his Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Mayor Smith and the council are supporting Speaker Coughlin's initiatives, which will bolster our lo-

cal efforts.

"I am proud of our efforts in the Assembly to fight food insecurity and raise awareness about the issue of hunger throughout our state," Speaker Craig Coughlin said. "I want to thank Mayor Smith for welcoming me to Scotch Plains and congratulate him on the success of his wellness campaign, and look forward to working together in a bipartisan fashion to address hunger and create health initiatives in communities."

"I'm pleased to see Speaker Coughlin and our state legislators taking action to promote healthy food choices and address food waste," said Mayor Smith. "Working together on a bipartisan basis, we can find solutions for communities that do not have easy access to nutritious food and need our support. Let's all give Speaker Coughlin a warm Scotch Plains welcome on January 15."

The public is urged to attend this meeting. This will be the first time in the history of Scotch Plains that a sitting Speaker of the New Jersey State Assembly will be speaking at a council meeting.



Kristin McAlney for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI ...** Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th, Trenton) administers the oath of office to Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski of Cranford as 2019 board chairwoman as her husband, Andrew Lanset, holds the Bible as other family members look on.

# Recreation Commission Supports New 5K Race

By KATE BROWNE  
 Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — The recreation commission welcomed two new residents as members at its first meeting of 2019, which was held Monday. Amy Berman and Russ Howell were recently appointed to the commission. In addition, Brad Rothenberg has replaced Monica Bergin as vice-chairman of the recreation commission.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, third-generation Westfield resident Sam Tooley proposed a new 5K road race, Night of Lights, in memory of his brother Jake Tooley who died in August 2018 when a fire destroyed their Prospect Street home. Jake was 19 years old and a student at Monmouth University at the time of his death. According to Mr. Tooley, who was captain of the Westfield High School cross country team, the goal of the Night of Lights race is to acknowledge the support which the community provided to his family and all of the proceeds of the race will be donated to first responders. Commission members unanimously voted in favor of approving the race, which will be held on Sunday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. The race will begin at Tamaques Park and will follow the route of the annual

Hangover race.

Michael Dardia, who serves as the town council liaison to the recreation commission, provided the public with an update on the status of the strategic plan for the parks and fields. According to Mr. Dardia, the strategic plan steering committee will conduct a "kick off" meeting on Monday, January 16. The organizational meeting will focus on the best methods to obtain community input and support the consultant.

In addition, Recreation Director Don Bogardus advised that the playground equipment has been installed at Mindoskin Park and the feedback has been universally positive. The park upgrades will continue with the installation of new benches. In addition, Mr. Bogardus provided a brief outline of the proposed upgrades to Memorial Pool, which will likely include an expanded menu at the concession stand, new programs and activities, as well as the mobile scanning of membership cards. The commission agreed an increase in non-resident daily guest fees was necessary.

Members of the Ice Hockey Rink Advisory Committee will conduct a meeting this week to address continuing concerns regarding noise, parking, and they anticipate having data on the use of the rink by the commission's next meeting, Monday, February 4.

# Teacher Admits to Threat, Surrenders License

CRANFORD — A Cranford-based special education teacher has admitted to making a perceived general threat against the school where he worked late last year, acting Union County Prosecutor Michael A. Monahan announced Thursday.

Matthew Acosta, 34, of Kenilworth pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, a petty disorderly persons offense, during a court hearing before state Superior Court Judge Joseph P. Donohue Thursday morning. Acosta was initially charged with one count of third-degree terroristic threats and one count of fourth-degree risking widespread injury or damage for an incident.

A joint investigation by members of the Prosecutor's Office and the Cranford Police Department determined that on Thursday, November 1, 2018, Acosta made a comment to a colleague at Orange Avenue School in Cranford indicating that he might commit an act of gun violence at the school, according to Prosecutor's Office Investigations Supervisor John Esmerado, who prosecuted the case. Moments later, Acosta indicated that he was not being serious

when he made the remark.

Acosta was arrested the next day without incident and later remanded pending a mental health evaluation for dangerousness; that evaluation indicated that Acosta was not believed to be a danger to himself or others, and he was released pending adjudication of the case.

Acosta forfeited his position as a teacher in the Cranford Public School District and will be permanently banned from ever again holding any public office in New Jersey, including any teaching position, according to the terms set down by Judge Donohue during sentencing Thursday. He also is permanently banned from ever again visiting any Cranford Public School District property. He also must forfeit all of his weapons to the State of New Jersey.

The Cranford Board of Education at their public board meeting of November 12, 2018, voted to terminate Acosta's employment "in accordance with the provisions of his contract," according to an email from Michele Cammarata, executive assistant to the Superintendent of Schools.

# Cranford Reports Increase In Narcan Deployments

CRANFORD — The Cranford Police Department is reporting an increase in Nasal Naloxone, or "Narcan" deployments for opioid-based overdoses, within the Township of Cranford over the past year.

First Responders deployed Narcan a total of 30 times on 17 victims during 2018. Cranford Police Officers utilized the opioid blocking medication 27 times while the Cranford Fire/EMS administered Narcan on three incidents. Not all of those deployments reversed the overdoses and Cranford experienced three opioid overdose deaths in 2018.

"Any loss of life in the Township of Cranford is tragic, and especially the loss of life due to the national opioid crisis we are exposed to," said Chief Ryan Greco. "Education, outreach, prevention, and awareness are the only means to effectively reduce the frequency of these incidents. We as a community need to help break down the social stigma associated with opioid addiction," he said. In 2017, Chief Greco said there were 15 Narcan deployments. "To reach a figure nearly double that one year later says two things: our officers are ready, willing, and able to handle overdoses, but the public crisis is outpacing recovery."

Chief Greco stated that his officers have modified their approach to handling substance use disorder from reactive to a combination of reactive and proactive.

"We have many partners in the community who handle substance use disorders, which our organization can connect with members of the community during times of crisis," he said. He stated that his goal is to

continue to break down the barriers that sometimes exist between those who need help with substance abuse and law enforcement. "The majority of our officers are trained in crisis-intervention techniques and are qualified to be the sympathetic facilitator of help for those who are in need."

The police department has offered nasal naloxone as a tool for its officers to use during overdose responses since July 1, 2014. Additionally, the department has placed a permanent "drug take back" mailbox in the front lobby of its headquarters that residents may use to safely discard prescription pills. According to Chief Greco, the drug mailbox results in pounds of unused prescription pills being safely discarded on a monthly basis. The drug takeback mailbox program does not accept sharps or liquids.

Chief Greco announced that residents can attend a free training at the Cranford Community Center for nasal naloxone on Thursday, January 17 at 6 p.m. The program is called, "Union County Fights Back Against the Opioid Crisis" and offers free training for lay people to attend. "The goal of this training is much like CPR training for the public — the more people trained, the more chances we all collectively have in saving a life," Chief Greco said. The event is sponsored by the Union County Opioid Task Force and Prevention Links. The first 25 residents who attend this training will also receive a free Narcan kit.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office official Twitter page for county-wide statistics on Naloxone deployments is <https://twitter.com/UCPONJ>.

# Newell to Serve Again As Planning Bd. Chairman

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO  
 Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — New planning board member Ross Goldstein was sworn into office during Monday's reorganization meeting. Mr. Goldstein will replace Bill West on the board. Robert Newell was approved as the board's 2019 chairman after serving in the same role last year. Darielle Walsh was approved as the board's 2019 vice-chairwoman.

During the regular planning board meeting, the board reviewed the Westfield Public School District's installation of gas-fueled emergency generators at 10 schools within the district.

Generators are proposed for 11 sites in total, stated Mr. Newell. The generators will be located at 10 schools and one board of education-operated administrative office, Mr. Newell said. The generators will vary between five feet and nine feet in height.

Described generator lengths spanned eight-and-a-half to 14 feet. The proposed widths of the generators ranged from three-and-a-half to four feet.

The proposed plan acknowledges the 2009 Land Use Element including specific goals and objectives pro-

tecting the residential aesthetics surrounding the schools, stated Mr. Newell.

The district proposed evergreen plantings to provide the neighboring properties with "year-round screening" from the generators, stated Mr. Newell. The plan proposed generators to be in the school's front yards where feasible, he said.

The generator at Edison Intermediate School will face Rahway Avenue and the generator located at Westfield High School will face Trinity Place.

In other business, board member Kris McAloon, the town's engineer, was approved as the planning board secretary. The board reappointed Board Attorney Alan Trembulak. Board member Michael La Place was approved as the liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Newell was approved as the liaison to the Tree Preservation Commission.

Board member Anastasia Harrison was nominated as the liaison to the Architectural Review Board. Town Councilwoman and board member Linda Habgood, Ms. Harrison, Ms. Walsh and Mr. Newell were approved to serve on the planning board's 2019 site-plan review committee.

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Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.2 via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on 1/31/19 downloaded, and publicly opened and read, in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:	
<b>Route 24, Route I-287 to Route I-78, Contract No. 000183360, Pavement Preservation, Boroughs of Florham Park, Madison &amp; Chatham and Townships of Hanover &amp; Morris, Morris County, Township of Milburn, Essex County, Township of Springfield &amp; City of Summit, Union County, Federal Project No: NHP-0024(301) UPC NO: 183360, DP No: 18149</b>	
Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Specifically, the contractor, sub recipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.	
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, contractor must submit the Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue Business Registration of the contractor and any named subcontractors prior to contract award or authorization.	
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.51, contractors must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance at the time of bid.	
The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the project award.	
Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website <a href="http://www.bidx.com">www.bidx.com</a> . You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the web site. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express.	
Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:	
200 Stierli Court Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 973-601-6690	One Executive Campus Rt 70 West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 856-486-6623
3 T - 01/10/19, 01/17/19 and 01/24/19, The Leader Fee: \$223.38	

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<b>Bridge Preventive Maintenance Contract 2018-3, Thirty-Nine (39) Bridges, Routes US-1&amp;9, US-22, I-78, I-278, &amp; NJ-81, Rahway Twp., Linden Twp., Elizabeth City, &amp; Newark City, Essex &amp; Union Counties Federal Project No: NHP-0001(327), DP No: 18457</b>	
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200 Stierli Court Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 973-601-6690	One Executive Campus Rt 70 West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 856-486-6623
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