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# Much-Needed Rain on Sunday Didn't Help Liam's Room

The 5th Annual Liam's Room Mini-Olympics and Home Run Derby was washed out on Sunday — the main fundraiser for the praiseworthy cause. The question is what happens next for their finances? The event will not be rescheduled.

As written by Westfield Mayor Andrew Skibitsky last year:

"Liam's Room is named in memory of Westfield resident Liam Hayden McNamara, a 'little angel of hope,' in the words of his devoted parents, Lisa and Peter, who 'came into this world, made his mark, and left us all with a different love and perspective in our hearts.' Shortly after Liam's arrival in heaven, the McNamara's founded Liam's Room, Inc. (www.liamsroom.org), a non-profit foundation whose mission it is 'to create inpatient pediatric palliative care rooms and services for families whose children are suffering from chronic, potentially life limiting, conditions.' As a result of Lisa and Peter's dedication, and the efforts of many, many volunteers and generous donors, the first ever Liam's Room opened in Overlook Hospital on May 15, 2009. Liam's Room is just one example of our residents' altruistic endeavors."

The organization is planning for a second Liam's Room at another area hospital. We suggest you consider making a donation at www.liamsroom.org or P.O. Box 461, Westfield, NJ 07091.

Not everything was washed out last week for

events promoting laudable causes and care giving organizations in the area.

Children's Specialized Friends, previously know as the Children's Specialized Hospital Auxiliary, staged "Stepping Out with CSH Stars" on Saturday night at the Gran Centurions in Clark. It was a big success, highly attended by supporters of the children at the hospital. Volunteer Gail Sloan of Westfield, chairwoman of the event, spent several months with her group putting this unique event together. They took a chance with the dance theme and received expert help from champion dancer Gene Jannotti of Garwood. Being swift afoot, Mr. Jannotti enlisted professional dancers from Dance Studio 22 in Mountainside and Paragon Ballroom in Roselle Park. All generously donated their time.

Another hospital, Overlook, received a boost last week as a result of a cocktail party sponsored by Sal Caruana and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick with his wife Pat Brentano at their home in Westfield. Scores attended and heard of progress at Overlook from Alan Lieber, president of Overlook Medical Center. There were several recommendations from the audience and pledges of support for the betterment of Overlook and its contributions to the region.

So, there is a washout to overcome with Liam's Room, a high stepping congratulations to Children's Specialized Friends and a re-commitment of support for Overlook - all in one week.

# What Is Dispatch Service, Is It Mission Critical?

Murphy's Law? — "If you're able to maintain your wits about you while everyone else is losing theirs, then you don't understand the problem."

We don't understand the problem created when Atlantic Health announced in March that they were soon closing their dispatch company, CenCom.

Flurries of cries were received from first responders, rescue squads, fire departments about the impact this could have for them in serving the public. Queries of management and county officials have been met with silence or "I don't know." This makes us nervous — perhaps you should be nervous as well. CenCom hasn't closed yet but where is the situation headed? It's a financial issue and a lifesaving issue.

We've received mounds of comments, enough to believe the issue is serious, the status is fuzzy and the outcome could be less than acceptable. It is hoped that those knowledgeable will write to us and to our readers to straighten us out. Meanwhile, we'll plod ahead with this Part 1 Commentary.

What does the dispatcher service do? These services are typically paid by towns to dispatch some combination of police, fire and EMS and communicate with them by radio and, more recently, text messages. Currently, most towns are dispatched by their own police departments (including Scotch Plains and Westfield, but not Fanwood). EMS and/or fire may be dispatched by a combination of their own police and an outside dispatch service. Scotch Plains, for example, uses their police to dispatch their cops and fire, but not EMS. In SP, the Rescue Squad actually pays Cencom to dispatch them because they became disgruntled with the SP Police's dispatching of them. In Fanwood, police, fire and EMS are all dispatched by the Union County dispatch service, which is being called a "pilot program." Fanwood pays the county for this dispatch service. The advantages of having an outside service like Cencom dispatch your EMS/fire might be

cost and manpower... a 911 medical call in Scotch Plains goes to the police desk, where the desk person will then transfer the call to Cencom. Cencom operators are trained EMDs (emergency medical dispatchers) who will then assess with the original caller whether to send just an ambulance or an ambulance and a paramedic unit. Scotch Plains police and civilian dispatchers are not EMDs.

Dispatch Service is multi-layered, sometimes disjointed, in that each town and county has different capabilities to direct emergency services in critical times to effectively match resources to care for the public. It's at minimum a communication web with various branches of strengths and weaknesses. CenCom is the umbrella that fills in the holes and shortcomings. Many regard it as the "Gold Standard." They fear its loss and are concerned about possible system wide chaos.

From www.atlanticambulance.org/: About Central Communications (CenCom):

"CenCom is a secondary public safety answering point and processes all requests for emergency services providing advanced and basic life ambulance and fire dispatch services for five counties in Central New Jersey. Located in Summit, New Jersey, CenCom operates out of Overlook Hospital, which is part of Atlantic Health. Atlantic Health operates Overlook and Morristown Memorial Hospital and is on the forefront of medicine, setting standards for quality health care in New Jersey and the New York metropolitan area."

Proposals to replace the void to be left should CenCom close include counties jumping in and building capabilities, such as Union County, and/or to turn CenCom over to MONOC in Monmouth County. Insiders willing to speak with us have no good words to say about these options, relaying many examples.

Who understands the problem? We'd love to hear from you. Most of all, we'd love to hear of an acceptable solution to this mission critical service.

**Trenton News**  
**Another Survey Shows New Jerseyans Still Paying for Dems' Tax Hikes**  
 By Senator Thomas Kean, Jr., Westfield Senate Minority Leader, GOP, LD-21



After nearly a decade of total Democrat control in Trenton, New Jerseyans are still paying the price for "courage to spend" policies that raised taxes to new heights in our state. The latest SBE Council 2012 Business Tax Index validates longstanding Republican criticisms of Democrat economic policies as anti-competitive and antithetical to job creation.

From 2002 through 2009, Democrats raised business taxes, sales taxes, income taxes, and cut or limited property tax rebates to fuel nearly \$11 billion in new spending. It is little wonder that New Jersey has a less attractive tax climate than every state save for Minnesota and Washington, D.C.

When competing for economic development, business growth, and job creation, New Jersey starts at a competitive disadvantage to all but two jurisdictions in the U.S. Yet Democrats in New Jersey continue to

advocate for higher personal income taxes and unchecked spending by state government. It is time for Trenton Democrats to stop bemoaning efforts by Governor Christie and Senate Republicans to reduce state spending and lower New Jersey's tax burden. The consequences of our competitive disadvantage are real for every worker who is unemployed, every small business struggling to survive, and our communities trying to attract investment and opportunity.

Sen. Tom Kean  
 Westfield

*Release Note: Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, Jr. issued the statement in response to the latest Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) survey ranking New Jersey's tax climate 49th out of 51 states and the District of Columbia.*

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. Abatjour — Skylight that admits or deflects light
2. Noria — A water wheel with buckets
3. Talaria — Winged sandals
4. Limbat — A cool northwest wind of Cyprus

**THOOD**

1. A follower of Thoth, the ancient Egyptian god of learning and magic
2. One who endures great pain or suffering
3. Wolflike; a jackal
4. Of or pertaining to a bed, especially a marriage bed

**DELIASSATION**

1. Carriage; conveyance
2. Fatigue; weariness
3. Accusation
4. The process of splitting into different layers

**WHEEDLE**

1. To flatter or coax
2. To whip or lash
3. A scam or a hoax
4. To move with great speed

**LARRIKIN**

1. A type of short whip
2. A trench filled with water around a castle; a moat
3. A rude, disorderly person
4. Oiled leather, worn by lumbermen and trappers

# Letters to the Editor

## County Should Cut Patronage Jobs, Not Runnells, Soc. Services Workers

Despite the county budget climbing to just a shade under a half a billion dollars, the county is laying off approximately 10 percent of their workforce. This does not include even one over-paid, un-needed patronage job. In fact, politically connected employees were given generous raises in January.

Freeholder Estrada stated at the last freeholder meeting, "I am amazed that people who sit here week after week who consistently complain about A, B, and C are not the first ones out here saying how great it is...we're reducing the workforce by 10 percent. That's what they've been asking for months, years."

I have never heard a citizen call for in the last few "months, years" for a 10 percent reduction in Runnells or Social Service employees, which the county is now doing while keeping all highly paid, upper management positions at Runnells along with their perks. Reducing patronage jobs and nepotism — yes. Not handing out raises

to the politically connected — yes. Not creating new management positions for the politically connected — yes. Have the Union County Democratic Committee chairman show up at a county facility to earn her \$147,712 county paycheck — yes. Reducing the millions to politically connected law firms — yes. Cutting out catered freeholder meetings — yes. Ending Musicfest — yes. Not buying fireplace tiles for \$9,975 — yes. Disbanding the million-dollar public information department — yes. Consolidating their three law enforcement departments — yes. ....

I could fill the space of this entire newspaper with the requests citizens have made for Union County government to get their finances under control for months, years. The unaccountability of freeholders and their outright lies would be sprinkled throughout.

Tina Renna, President  
 UC Watchdog Assoc.

## Doing Away With HUD Would Invite Economic Catastrophe

Despite GOP Presidential candidate Mitt Romney beliefs, programs to continue assisting Americans in recovering from the recession and housing bust must remain atop the national agenda in the years ahead.

HUD is a major agency leading this mission, and to do away with it as Romney proposes would surely invite economic catastrophe.

Here in Union County, we recently marked CDBG week (Community Development Block Grant program distributed by HUD), serving as a reminder of the incredible importance of this program which annually distributes \$8 million countywide to assist income eligible individuals and families with projects such as the creation of affordable housing, homebuyer assistance, assistance for veterans and seniors, infrastructure improvements, public facilities renovations and more.

In fact, we highlighted the impor-

tance of some local CDBG-supported programs and projects. Two of these were housing projects built in my hometown of Linden — the Gregorio Towers Senior Housing, which provides affordable housing for seniors, and the Apartments at St. Elizabeth, which provide affordable housing for individuals with disabilities.

All CDBG-assisted programs are incredibly important to us and together they affect the quality of life for thousands of Union County residents every year. In a twist of irony, it was Mitt Romney's father, George Romney, who served as the former head of HUD, and was known as a champion for many of these same programs, which empowered poor Americans to improve their lives.

Let's hope these lessons are not lost on his son.

Christopher Hudak  
 Freeholder, Linden

## Westfield Councilmen Report on High School Parking Revisions

Dear Residents,  
 The Westfield High School Community Outreach Parking Meeting Presentation and Summary has been uploaded onto the town's website: www.westfieldnj.gov/

The proposal is the result of a collaborative effort between the Board of Education and the Town Council as well as staff professionals and a professional traffic engineer. The proposal includes the following:

Construct a pull-out to allow school buses to park on Rahway Ave. along the side of the high school as shown on slides 4 and 9. Buses present a safety issue when they park in front of the school on Dorian as it reduces the travel lanes for vehicles, obstructs the line of sight, and creates traffic congestion.

Contact NJDOT to adjust the timing plan for the traffic light at West Broad and South Ave. This will provide more green time to West Broad Street in the afternoon only which should provide an opportunity to clear out Rahway onto West Broad more often during school dismissal time when traffic is at its peak in this area. (Shown on slide 5)

Expansion of the parking lot at Edison Intermediate School to address safety at Kehler Stadium on Rahway Ave. (shown on slide 6) The expanded new parking area can accommodate all drop-off and pick-up for teams and students during events and after school activities. New parking restrictions can be instituted on Rahway Ave. in front of Kehler Stadium to provide an enhanced line of sight for pedestrians and drivers alike. In addition, the expansion will provide potential high school students parking spaces.

Expansion of existing parking lot on the Rahway side of the high school as (shown on slide 9). The expansion will net 33 new spaces.

To re-stripe the existing Armory lot on the areas indicated on Slide 10. This restriping will add an additional 19 spaces that are not currently available.

New parking regulation changes as seen on slides 11,12,13,14,15, and 16. The proposal is to limit parking on one side of Dorian Rd., Dorian Ct., Dorian Pl., Shadowlawn, and Nottingham. In addition, one side of Edgar Rd. will be opened for parking. This will clear up the congestion on the streets where residents have voiced their concerns about cars on both side of their streets. Proposed parking restrictions would be "No Parking 8 a.m.-2 p.m. School Days Only" which is consistent with current existing restrictions around the high school. Residents who live on these streets will have an opportunity to obtain a residential permit that would allow them to park in the restricted area.

Lastly, the Town Council and Board of Education have agreed on joint responsibilities to implement this proposed plan. The town will be responsible for constructing the pull out along Rahway Ave., stripping the new spaces in the Armory lot, preparing plans and specifications for the construction of the new parking on Board of Education property, adopting new restrictions on various streets to control parking, installing the necessary signage and stripping for the new restrictions. The Board of Education will be responsible for construction of the new parking spaces at the high school along Rahway Ave. and at Edison School, designating/permitting all off street spaces, reminding students about the code of conduct for students who park both on-street and off-street. The expectation is that this collaborative effort could be completed before year end.

We will continue to keep you updated.  
 Westfield Councilmen James Foerst, Keith Loughlin

THE WESTFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCED TODAY THEY WILL STABILIZE THE BUDGET BY REQUIRING SEVENTH GRADERS TO BE HOME SCHOOLED.



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GOV TO THE NETS, "GOODBYE"



CHARLIE August 10, 1927 W.I.