



Fred T. Rossi for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*  
**LAST MEETING...**Scotch Plains Mayor Mary DePaola presided over her final township council meeting on December 18. Councilman Edward Saridaki, left, marked his final meeting as well. Both Republicans were defeated in municipal elections last month.

## County Looking to Move Golf to Improvement Auth.

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

COUNTY – The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders last Thursday approved a memorandum understanding between the county and the Union County Improvement Authority (UCIA) relative to moving the county's golf operations under the umbrella of the UCIA. Golf operations currently fall under the Department of Parks and Community Renewal.

County Counsel Robert Barry said the agreement "is strictly opening up the discussion on whether or not [the county] would transfer the assets to the UCIA" as part of a public-private partnership.

He said improvement authorities "have the ability to enter into much longer-term relationships" with private entities that counties. Mr. Barry said the UCIA would have the flexibility to "react more to market conditions and operational changes" than the county could. He said those are factors the county would consider in the negotiations "on whether or not to move forward with this."

The freeholders also approved a \$3.8-million, one-year shared services agreement with Hudson County to transfer inmates from the Union County lockup to Hudson during renovations to the Union County jail.

Director of Corrections Brian Riordan said the county has to undertake a major "housing area refurbishment" at the jail beginning in January. He said an entire housing unit in the jail must be closed while inmate showers are refurbished to correct safety violations found by the state.

"The job does have to get done. We are under state mandate to meet certain standards by code," Mr. Riordan said. "We have a jail that was opened in 1989 and was built...for 517 prisoners. We've operated at times with close to 1,200 prisoners in that institution. So the present showers have been used, to a degree, much more than they were intended to be used by a population much higher than they were meant to sustain."

He said the county has been using a "band-aid" approach to repair the showers, which now need to be "gut-

ted and redone."

He said between 40 and 100 inmates would be temporarily moved to Hudson during the project, which is expected to take between 12 to 18 months to complete.

In other business, the board adopted an ordinance giving 2 percent raises to department directors. The salaries for 2013 will be: county manager, \$158,100; county counsel, \$152,504; engineering, public works and facilities director, \$121,685; public safety director, \$116,069; human services director, \$133,967; correctional services director, \$119,646; Rumlins Specialized Hospital director, \$132,796; finance director, \$122,400; administrative services director, \$122,399, and parks and community renewal director, \$116,280.

During freeholder comments, Freeholders Chris Hudak and Mohamed Jalloh both made comments encouraging lawmakers to take action on gun control and related initiatives following the mass killing of 26 people, including 20 children, at a school in Newtown, Conn.

"If there was a need for smart, responsible reform involving weapons it's now," Freeholder Hudak said, noting that a national assault weapons ban was allowed by Congress to expire in 2004. He said automatic weapons "have no practical purpose" in people defending their homes.

Freeholder Jalloh said behavioral health, security and safety needs to be addressed as well.

Last Thursday's meeting marked the final meeting for Freeholder Deborah Scanlon of Union, who is retiring after 15 years on the board.

The freeholders will hold its reorganization meeting at noon on Sunday, December 20, in the Superior Court courtroom of Union County Assignment Judge Karen Cassidy in the Union County Courthouse.

Freeholder-elect Bruce Bergen of Springfield will be sworn into office along with incumbents Alexander Mirabella of Fanwood and Mohamed Jalloh of Roselle, who will begin their sixth and second terms, respectively.

## Judge Finds Franklin Guilty of '76 WF Murder

By LAUREN S. BARR  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WESTFIELD – Last Thursday afternoon, nearly 37 years after the brutal rape and murder of Lena Triano in her Westfield home, Carlton Franklin, who was only 15 at the time, was found guilty of felony murder in the first degree.

Despite the fact that Franklin is now 51 years old, he was a juvenile at the time the crime was committed, and thus had to be treated as a juvenile by the court system and under the laws as they existed in 1976.

State Superior Court Judge Robert Kirsch issued a 51-page verdict and opinion, which he read from in part at the hearing. He said that Ms. Triano, who is only identified as L.T. in court papers, lived a "modest and somewhat solitary life," going to church and working as a legal secretary before her death at the age of 57.

In addition to the DNA evidence found at the scene, which Judge Kirsch called "powerfully incriminating" and said "indisputably" belonged to Franklin; the judge also called Franklin's taped conversation with investigators "disingenuous."

During the course of the trial the tape was admitted into evidence; on it Franklin denied knowledge of Ms. Triano as his backyard neighbor, that there had even been a murder in his neighborhood or the location of Ripley Place. Judge Kirsch noted, however, that Franklin claimed that people have "super duper memories, even...as a youngster..." Franklin went on in the interview to recall multiple names of former classmates, and other streets near Stirling Place, where he lived at the time of the murder.

While the defense had argued that Franklin and Ms. Triano had a consensual sexual relationship, allegedly taking place on the night before the murder, Judge Kirsch said in his verdict, "there appears credible scientific corroboration that the sexual event happened in or around the time of death."

## Courage to Reconnect SP-FW Selects Commissioners for Panel

REGION – Courage to Reconnect (C2R) Scotch Plains and Fanwood, a non-partisan, grassroots group of citizens who has secured state approval for a municipal consolidation study for both towns, has selected its four commissioners and alternates for the 10-member municipal consolidation commission.

Fanwood and Scotch Plains must now each select two commissioners, as well as work with C2R to seat the final two commissioners. It is hoped the Commission can begin meeting by late January, according to a press release from C2R.

The appointed commissioners from Scotch Plains are: Fred Lange, founder of C2R Scotch Plains and Fanwood, has a MBA from Rutgers University and is retired from an extensive career in logistics; Don Parisi, a former member of the Scotch Plains/Fanwood Board of Education, who has been active with C2R since its

inception and who has met with state officials throughout the process to create the commission between the two towns. He is general counsel with Rider Insurance Company; and Sarah Dreikorn, alternate member, now completing her MBA at Stevens Institute of Technology. She is a microbiologist and project manager at Pracs Institute and holds seven patents in the area of pharmaceuticals.

Commissioners from Fanwood are: Daniel McCarey, owner of a general litigation law practice in Scotch Plains; Ann Saltzman, a retired psychology professor from Drew University, and Pat Hoynes, an alternate commission member who serves as the assistant to Mayor Colleen Mahr and as Fanwood's planning board secretary.

Franklin will be sentenced on Thursday, January 31. According to the Union County Prosecutor's Office, in 1976 the juvenile code allowed that sentencing for a homicide should be indeterminate not to exceed life.

According to *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* archives, Franklin was appointed to a Youth Advisory Committee on Vandalism in September of 1977, just a year after he allegedly murdered Ms. Triano. He next appears in the archives in April of 1980 when he was arrested and charged with a Stirling Place burglary along with Ralph Petteyway. The two were held on \$10,000 bail.

Then on November 6, 1981, Franklin broke into the Garrigan home on Lawrence Avenue, holding three family members hostage. According to *The Leader/Times* archives, Franklin held the family hostage for several hours before instructing Donald Garrigan to withdraw money from two banks. While at the bank, Mr. Garrigan was able to alert an employee that he was being held hostage and police surrounded the home.

Westfield Police Detective Bernard Tracey, who would later become Westfield's police chief, broke through the door after a scuffle broke out between Franklin and Mr. Garrigan, after which the Garrigan family escaped the home. Franklin retreated to the basement, prompting several hours of negotiations between him and members of the police department that ultimately ended with his capture after Sergeant Owen McCabe subdued him when he reached for a pack of cigarettes.

Franklin pled guilty to kidnapping and robbery, for which he served 17 years before being paroled in 1999.

At the time of his arrest for the Triano murder, Franklin, a father of three, was residing in Newark and working as a home heating oil deliveryman.

A niece, who was not present at the hearing, survives Ms. Triano.



Tom Kranz for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*  
**THANK YOU, FANWOOD...**Fanwood Councilman Robert Manduca makes farewell remarks at his last meeting as a councilman on December 18, as Councilman Mike Szych, who also is leaving the council dais, awaits his turn to say goodbye.

## SPF OKs Asbestos Removal, Trans. Contract With WF

By DELL SIMEONE  
*Specialty for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education (BOE) last Thursday voted to authorize Environmental Management, Inc. to oversee the asbestos removal project at Brunner Elementary and McGinn Elementary Schools and at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The company will monitor costs and plans, bids, contractor solicitation and technology, for an estimated final cost of \$49,000.

The board also approved contracts to Shari Vayda of Scotch Plains for occupational therapy services at \$75 per hour, and to Dr. Laura E. Morse of the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery in Livingston at \$550 per hour for comprehensive neuro-developmental evaluations on an as needed basis.

The board also approved Creative Summer Workshops in the Arts for grades K through 8 for 2013. Classes will include acrobatics, arts and crafts, ceramics, Italian, a Glee Program and others.

A joint transportation contract with the Westfield Board of Education was approved for a bus route to include St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen and Bishop Ahr High School in Edison with a payment of \$4,369 due from Westfield.

Board member Douglas Layne introduced a resolution supporting Big Read, a program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture. The initiative is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and will be launched on Thursday, January 10, at 7 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Public Library. Tropyband Orquesta, a 14-piece Latin music ensemble, with vocalists, and students from New Jersey City University, will entertain with music from the Caribbean and Latin America.

The revised school calendar, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, will include: a single session to be held on Monday, January 21, which is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A full session

will be held on Monday, February 18, Presidents' Day. A single session will be held for elementary students, grades Pre-K through grade 4, on Friday, June 21. A single session will be held for Pre-K through grade 4 students at School One and the J.A. Coles School on Monday, June 24. This schedule is posted on the district's website.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Chamber Choir entertained the BOE at the start of the meeting, the board's last for the year. The choir is made up of junior and senior boys and girls led by music teacher Jan Allen. The choir performed three songs, in a cappella style, to celebrate the holidays.

BOE President Norman "Trip" Whitehouse praised the choir by saying, "There is talent and a breath of interest, and some high flyers academically in this choir." To Ms. Allen he said, "It is clear you love what you do. The talent speaks for itself."

"Your concert was wonderful. What they learn from the music is beautiful. What's best is the students love what they do," Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes added.

The board's annual reorganization meeting will be held Tuesday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m. An open agenda meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17, at 7:30 p.m. The regular meeting will be on Thursday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are held at the board's administration building, 2088 Evergreen Road in Scotch Plains.

### Correction

A story on the special Monday, December 17 Scotch Plains Township Council meeting on the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in last week's issue of *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* inadvertently included an editor's question towards the end of the story on Page 10. The story should have said, "Ethan Schoss and his wife presented the township council with current photographs of their yard, covered with tree trunks." We apologize for the error.

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