

2013 Year In Review: June Through November

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

amount would be supplemented by about \$400,000 to \$450,000 earned from treating material from the Monmouth County landfill.

NJ Transit announced that it would provide some of its newly purchased dual-powered locomotives for Raritan Valley Line trains starting in spring 2014, enabling a one-seat ride to Manhattan. Dual-powered locomotives (convertible between electric and diesel) would replace some of the diesel engines, which cannot be used in the transit tunnels to New York. A study by the Regional Plan Association estimated that one-seat service could lead to a 15-percent reduction in commuting times for Raritan Valley commuters by eliminating the need to transfer at Newark Penn Station.

NOVEMBER

Westfield

The Westfield Republican candidates swept the mayoral and council elections, making the council entirely Republican in 2014. Mayor Andy Skibitsky was re-elected to an unprecedented third term over Democrat Dave Haas. The win made Mayor Skibitsky Westfield's longest-serving mayor. Newcomer Republican David Oliveira beat Democrat Matt Sontz in the race for the open Third Ward seat and incumbent Keith Loughlin bested former

councilman Jack Walsh in the Fourth Ward.

Voters passed a referendum to accept \$2.7 million in state funding to be used toward the remaining cost of the Westfield Board of Education's roof-replacement program.

Garwood

Republican Councilman James Mathieu was re-elected to a second term along with Republican Michael Martin, who will take the council seat currently filled by Steven Blaufeder.

Union County Interim Executive Superintendent of Schools Kathleen Serafino was to fill a seat on the Garwood Board of Education after the November election failed to produce a candidate willing to serve on the board. According to the borough clerk, Bruce Paterson, who ran an unsuccessful write-in campaign for borough council, received nine votes for school board. Under state law, only one vote is needed for a write-in candidate for the board of education to win if there are no other write-in candidates. Mr. Paterson, a regular attendee at council, school board and county freeholder meetings, declined to serve when the clerk contacted him.

Mountainside

The volunteer fire department received a new fire pumper truck ordered in July 2012 at a cost of approximately \$409,000.

Later in the month, the historic Levi Cory House was moved from its former location on Mountain Avenue at New Providence Road in Mountainside to its new home on Constitution Plaza, next to the Mountainside Public Library and the Hetfield House.

Scotch Plains

Republican Llewellyn Jones won a special election to serve the final year of an unexpired term on the township council, defeating incumbent Democrat Louis Beckerman to become the second Republican on the five-member governing body.

Facing opposition from residents and increased skepticism from the township council, the developer of a proposed senior living facility withdrew its request for a rezoning of the 10-acre Parker Gardens property that would have allowed the project to move forward.

Saying she was "increasingly concerned" about how the Scotch Plains Management Corp. (SPMC) was being operated, Deputy Mayor Colleen Gialanella wanted the township government to exercise some added oversight over the group charged with overseeing downtown revitalization.

The Union County Vocational-Technical Schools announced expansion plans at its Raritan Road campus that will add about 30,000 square feet of classroom and office space to serve its nearly 1,500 students.

Fanwood

Democratic incumbent Kathy Mitchell and running mate Tom Kranz handily won Fanwood's race for borough council, defeating Republican Jean Michelle Moore, the only other candidate on the ballot.

The borough council gave the Fanwood Recreation Commission approval to begin designing a skate-board park for Forest Road Park.

A Fanwood man was arrested after a standoff with police at his home on Locust Avenue on a Friday evening. John Antonucci, 49, of 59 Locust Avenue, was taken into custody after seven hours of negotiations. When Fanwood police arrived at the scene around 11 p.m., Mr. Antonucci began yelling at them from inside the home while brandishing a gun and firing shots.

Scotch Plains voters elected incumbent Nancy Norris-Bauer and newcomer Charlotte Ann Schirmer to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Board of Education, while Fanwood voters reelected Amy Winkler.

Cranford

Republicans Mary O'Connor and Bob D'Ambola defeated Democratic incumbent Kevin Campbell and his running mate, Kelly Howard in the race for two seats on the township committee.

The township committee announced it had hired Terrence Wall as its new township administrator, replacing Joseph Hartnett who announced his resignation in August. Mr. Wall served North Arlington for six years as administrator before taking the post in Cranford.

County

Union County Democratic Freeholders Linda Carter of Plainfield, the current board chairwoman, and Bette Jane Kowalski of Cranford were re-elected, along with newly appointed Freeholder Sergio Granados, over Republicans P. Mark Martini of Westfield, former Springfield Township Committee-man Marc Krauss and Ira Geiger of Union. With their victory, Democrats will continue to hold a 9-0 majority on the board.

Union County Manager Al Faella announced the hiring of William Reyes of Mountainside as the new deputy manager, a position that has been vacant since the retirement of Liz Genievich in February 2012.

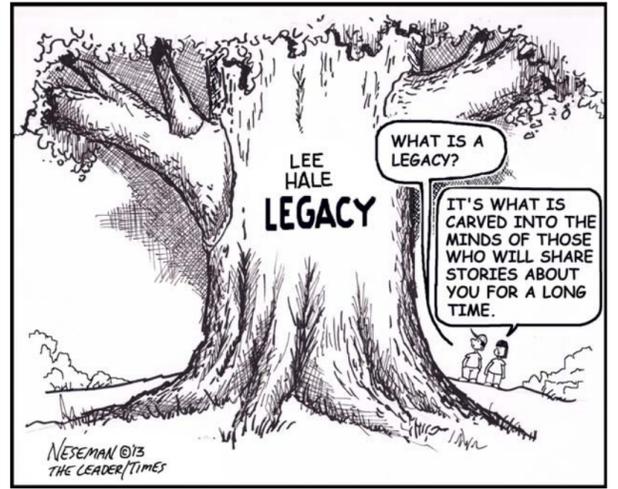
Regional

Additional charges were filed against the Union Township man accused of murdering his girlfriend. In addition to first-degree murder, Matthew Ballister III was charged with first-degree felony murder, first-degree kidnapping, two counts of second-degree desecration of human remains, and single counts of second-degree burglary, second-degree hindering apprehension, third-degree criminal restraint, third-degree hindering apprehension and third-degree making terroristic threats in connection with the October death of April Wyckoff of Cranford.

A 22-year-old Scotch Plains man was shot to death on November 1 in Newark after an argument, according to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

Republican Governor Chris Christie was easily re-elected, defeating State Senator Barbara Buono of Metuchen. The Governor won Union County by a 52 percent to 47 percent margin.

One who was lost in 2013



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13-07-04: COMMUNITY CONCERT...The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Dr. Thomas N. Connors, performs at Mindowaskin Park. The band held its summer concert series on Thursday nights in June and July in Mindowaskin Park.



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SPORTS OPEN HOUSE

This Sunday!
January 5

11:30AM-1:00PM

It may be cold outside, but it's always warm at the Y!

Enjoy the climbing wall and participate in class samplers including soccer, basketball, fencing and more!

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