

## Sheriff Ralph Froehlich Dies At 83; Served In Post Since 1978

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich died Sunday at the age of 83 after a short illness. He was in his 13th term as Union County Sheriff, having been reelected to a three-year term this past November.

He was first elected Sheriff of Union County in 1977, replacing Ralph Oriscello. He had won a seat on the Elizabeth City Council in 1976. He held the distinction of being the longest-serving county sheriff in New Jersey history.

Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-20th, Union), who was serving as undersheriff, will be acting sheriff.

"Sheriff Froehlich will be deeply missed by all who knew him," Union

County Freeholder Chairman Chris Hudak on behalf of the freeholder Board. "He truly embodied the very best in public service. He was a role model to all of us for his highest standards of professionalism, his constant search for new ways to innovate and improve, and above all for his compassion. His heart always had room for everyone he encountered, and he will always hold a place in our hearts as well."

Undersheriffs Joseph Cryan, Vincent De Trolio and Gerald Green, Jr. released a joint statement, saying, "There are a lot of tears and sadness in our office today, from all of us who had the opportunity to work for such a great man. On behalf of our office, we will miss him greatly, and all of us were

honored to work with him."

Sheriff Froehlich was born and raised in Elizabeth. He attended local schools and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1949.

He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1951 and served as an infantryman, member of an amphibious tractor crew and drill instructor until his release from active duty. He continued in the active reserves until his release in 1959 when he was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant.

A career law enforcement officer, he was a member of the Elizabeth Police Department for almost 20 years, attaining the rank of lieutenant.

A 1975 graduate of Kean College, now Kean University, he attended the Northwestern University Traffic Institute in 1968 and was a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. He was a member of the Governor's Commission on Terrorism.

During his tenure as sheriff, he instituted a fingerprinting program for children and an automated photography laboratory, and established the Missing Persons Unit and Domestic Violence Unit as well as the K-9 Search and Rescue Unit. He developed and published the "Play It Safe" booklet for children as well as the "You Are Not Alone" booklet for victims of domestic violence, and implemented gun-safety programs for children and teens. The sheriff also assisted with a state-sponsored gun buyback program for Union County residents.

Each summer, Sheriff Froehlich hosted the Union County Sheriff's Youth Academy, offering students the opportunity to acquire firsthand knowledge about law enforcement.

Sheriff Froehlich launched the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program (SLAP), an alternative to incarceration for non-violent offenders, and implemented the Municipal Transportation

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FAREWELL...Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, center, died Sunday at the age of 83 after a short illness. He was in his 13th term as Union County Sheriff, having been reelected to a three-year term this past November.

## CF Concerned Over Impact Of UCC Expansion

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — With flooding concerns at the forefront of members' minds, the planning board urged Union County College (UCC) last Wednesday to work with Cranford's township engineer to ensure its stormwater management system for a new expansion would comply with the township's stormwater management ordinance.

The Union County Improvement Authority (UCIA) presented UCC's plans to the planning board at the meeting to build a 39,842-square-foot, two-story addition at the college's Nomahegan Hall, to include a student center on the ground floor and classrooms, labs and faculty offices on the second floor. The township planning board cannot approve or deny the plans; rather this presentation was a courtesy to the township. The project will increase impervious surface by .16 acres, which equates to almost 7,000 square feet.

To address stormwater manage-

ment, the engineer on the project, Robert Pasqual, said there will be an underground detention system that will hold stormwater for about 24 hours and then slowly disperse it into the township's storm pipes.

"We designed it in accordance with the township ordinance as well as the NJ DEP (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) best practices of stormwater management," Mr. Pasqual said.

The municipality has had large storms that have resulted in its waterways not receding within a 24-hour period, Township Commissioner Tom Hannen, Jr. said.

"So this project does add [stormwater] into an already overburdened system," Mr. Hannen said.

Mr. Pasqual said the detention system could be designed in a way to hold more water over time, but would have to add more piping underground.

"With the Township of Cranford having been through multiple 100-plus-year storms within short time

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NEW CLASSROOMS...The Cranford Planning Board hears a courtesy presentation of Union County College's project to construct a new addition to student services and classroom space at its meeting on July 16.



SUMMER POPS...The Westfield Community Band concludes its 102nd Summer Concert Series with a program of contemporary popular music entitled "Summer Pops" on July 17 in Mindowaskin Park.

## MS Zoning Board Approves WF Vet Group Application

By DELL SIMEONE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — The board of adjustment, on Tuesday night, approved an amended application, with restrictions, for POP Realty Corporation/RPG LLC and Primrose Day School of 1038, 1042, 1046 and 1050 Springfield Avenue on the Westfield border, to erect a 25,601-square-foot building, which would house the Westfield Veterinary Group.

Board Chairman John Tomaine, however, voted against the measure, saying he was not comfortable with the idea of a shared parking proposal between the veterinary group and the Primrose Day School.

This session was the third appearance for this application before the board. The June 24 appearance lasted until after 11 p.m., with Tuesday's hearing going over three hours. The extensive application included preliminary and final site plan and developmental approval. The application initially required 17 variances, which was pared down to 14 at the

June 24 meeting.

Dr. Richard Maus of Westfield, owner of the veterinary group, presently owns and operates the veterinary practice, hospital and kennel located directly across the street from the Mountainside property on Springfield Avenue in Westfield. He had gained approval in 2013 from the

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## GW to Reach Out to CF About Widening Brook

By BRIAN TRUDELLE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — Borough Council members will engage Cranford officials regarding widening the Orchard Brook to address flooding concerns of Garwood residents, who said water approached their homes twice in as many days during June storms.

About a dozen south side residents, including three from Spruce Avenue who spoke, attended Tuesday's council meeting at Borough Hall to complain about the flooding, all blaming the still uncompleted Athletic Field Complex (AFC) at the east end of the street.

Spruce Avenue homeowner Ed Melka, who said he was a lifelong Garwood resident, not only complained of a rodent problem caused by the AFC, including rats, opos-

sums, raccoons and mice, but also said that flood waters came out of the storm drains and flowed west from the complex toward East Street.

"Something went wrong with the field down there, whether the drainage system that they put in for the ball field might have affected it, I don't know," he said.

But Borough Engineer Don Guarriello insisted that the Athletic Field Complex was not the cause of the flooding.

He said the AFC includes a detention basin at the end of the soccer field that is 30 feet wide by 80 feet long and three feet deep to handle storm runoff.

"There is nothing that the Little League field complex did to cause

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HAMMER TIME...The Hammers perform at the Westfield Train Station on North Avenue on July 15 as part of the Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation.

## County Hires Attorneys In Detention Center Suit

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — The Union County Freeholder Board last Thursday approved the hiring of outside attorneys to represent 10 defendants in the case brought by the family of a teenager who was sexually assaulted by a juvenile detention officer while detained at the Union County Juvenile Detention Center in 2012. The freeholders approved \$100,000 in funding at \$10,000 each per defendant.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office arrested Sherrie Brown-Braswell, 37, of Raleigh, N.C., in June and charged her with engaging in a sexual relationship with the teenager.

According to the allegations in the lawsuit, the teenager was placed at the detention center in Linden in March 2012 and the sexual assault began the next month. The suit alleges that the male teenager, who was 17 at the time, was threatened by Brown-Braswell with physical assault if he did not comply. The family is seeking compensatory and punitive damages as well as fees for the cost of the lawsuit and attorney's fees.

As a result of the assault, Greg Lyons, superintendent of the detention center, retired on July 1, and Assistant Director Tina Matlock resigned. Both were named defendants in the lawsuit. The county is funding the defense for Mr. Lyons, but not Ms. Matlock.

George Blaskiewicz, assistant director of the county's Department of Corrections, has been assisting Human Services Director Frank Guzzo in the running of the detention center in the interim.

## Taxes Due August 1

WESTFIELD — The office of the tax collector will be open on Friday August 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the collection of property taxes. The last date to pay without a penalty is on Monday August 11. Interest will be charged beginning on Tuesday, August 12.

To look up the amounts due and to pay property taxes or sewer fees online, please use the municipality's website, which is www.westfieldnj.gov.

In using this website, please note that those using a credit/debit card will be charged 2.95 percent of the tax amount.

Those using a VISA debit card will be charged a flat \$3.95 and using an e-check the charge is \$1.05.

Taxes are due February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1. The 2013 sewer fee was due April 1, 2013. The 2014 sewer fee is due April 1.

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