

## Downtown Westfield Corp. Recaps Summer, Discusses Fall Events

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), the management entity of Westfield's Special Improvement District (SID), held its monthly board of directors meeting this past Monday night.

The board recapped summer season events, discussed several upcoming events to be held in the fall in the downtown area, and approved grants for several businesses.

Executive Director Sherry Cronin briefly discussed the 18th annual Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival. Held on consecutive Tuesdays in July and August, the festival provides the opportunity for residents to enjoy

the music and the many restaurants in the downtown area.

Ms. Cronin stated many restaurant owners in town petitioned the DWC to extend the Jazz Festival into September. A brief discussion ensued about the possibility. Ms. Cronin stated it was unlikely the Jazz Festival would be extended for the entire month of September, but suggested it might be possible to extend it one more week as a "sending off" of the event for another year.

Ms. Cronin next promoted upcoming events for the months of September and October.

Restaurant Week began this past Sunday and will continue until Thursday, October 9. Restaurants offer dis-

counted fare with prix fixe pricing. The specials do not extend to Friday and Saturday nights.

Participating restaurants include: 16 Prospect Wine Bar & Bistro, Akai Sushi Lounge, Amuse, Boulevard Bistro, The Brick Oven, Chez Catherine, Cosimo's, Ferraro's Restaurant, Limani Seafood Grill, Mojave Grille, Mulberry House Restaurant, Robert Treat Delicatessen, RoosterSpin, Splash of Thai, Subway (Quimby and South Avenue locations), Sweet Waters Steak House, Theresa's, Tinga Taqueria, Turning Point Restaurant, Xocolatz, CoolVines, The Liquor Basket, Bovella's Pastry Shoppe, Carlo's Bakery, Cold Stone Creamery and Let's Yo Yogurt.

More information may be found at the DWC's website, located at WestfieldToday.com.

Girls Night Out, a biannual shopping extravaganza, will be held on Thursday, October 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. Most businesses stay open later that evening and offer discounted items. Several restaurants in the downtown area also participate in the event, by providing discounts on meals. Live entertainment will also be featured.

Participants who register online with the DWC will receive a gift as a token of appreciation. Interested parties can pre-register for the event online at WestfieldToday.com. On the night of the event, the registration center will be located at Coldwater Creek at 126 Central Avenue.

Ms. Cronin announced that Lord & Taylor will sponsor Westfield's first ever Men's Night Out. Advertised as a "night of shopping, socializing and style," the event will be held on Thursday, October 9, at 5 p.m.

Gene Jannotti, executive director of the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, announced that the Westfield Farmers' Market will

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## GW Board Faces Challenge Over Vote on Townhouses

By BRIAN TRUSDELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The planning board is facing a legal challenge from two of its own members and two other residents over its decision earlier this year to approve a zoning variance that would allow nine townhomes to be built in a single-family area at the north end of Walnut Street across Fourth Avenue.

Board Attorney Donald Fraser informed the board at its monthly meeting on September 24 that an appeal of the May 28 vote had been filed in state Superior Court in Elizabeth, initiated by sitting board members Bruce Paterson and Ileen Cuccaro, along with Westfield Leader Publisher Horace Corbin and his brother, Leader Assistant Publisher David Corbin.

The Corbins live on Union Street near the property, which many longtime residents remember as the former home of Hidi's Deli and Five Star Catering.

"I have never seen in my years of practice (an appeal) filed by members of the very board that is the defendant," said Mr. Fraser, who, along with his firm, Perrotta, Fraser and Forrester of Clark, was retained to represent the borough in the matter.

The announcement at the end of the meeting sparked a seemingly incredulous reaction from Planning Board Chairman Steve Greet, who asked Mr. Paterson if he was, in effect, suing himself, and if he intended to resign from the body.

"If that's what it takes," Mr. Paterson replied.

But both he and Mrs. Cuccaro said that their attorney, John DeNoia of Kochanski, Baron and Galfy in



Christina M. Hinke for The Westfield Leader

FALL FUN...The Westfield Historical Society held its AppleFest at the Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center on Saturday. The beautiful weather added to the festive day, which offered pumpkin painting, playing games for prizes, making bracelets and eating a variety of baked goods.

## Sheriff Candidate Ince Runs On Law Enforcement Background

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

COUNTY — Republican candidate for Union County Sheriff Michael Ince, a retired FBI agent and former police officer, is running on a platform as someone who has law enforcement experience.

Mr. Ince is in contention with Acting Sheriff Joseph Cryan, a Democratic Assemblyman from the 20th Legislative District. Mr. Cryan became acting sheriff in July fol-

lowing the death earlier that month of Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, who held the position for 37 years until his passing.

"When Mr. Froehlich passed away I felt this was an opportunity for someone like myself, who had a professional background in law enforcement, to step up. I feel like with my early police experience, my experience with the FBI for nearly 25 years, my educational background was a pretty good fit for the position," Mr. Ince told *The Westfield Leader* Friday.

"In order to perform the job the way it should be and to be able to communicate with your staff and other agencies, I think to be most effective you need to have a law enforcement background," Mr. Ince said.

Mr. Ince was a special agent with the FBI, where he conducted foreign counterintelligence work, which he said is "similar to organized crime investigations," and electronic surveillance work. He worked mostly in New York. Mr. Ince was born in Rahway and raised

his family in Westfield. He and his wife recently moved to Garwood. From 1977 to 1988, Mr. Ince was a patrol officer in Clark. He holds a political science degree from Montclair State University and studied criminal justice at Union County College.

"I would try to use my background. The balance of my career was electronic surveillance work... In terms of courtroom safety, prisoner movement...using video surveillance more so than they have to enhance safety of officers and prisoners because sometimes you run into problems...you want to have good surveillance to make sure people are aware of what is going on," Mr. Ince said.

Should Mr. Ince be elected to the sheriff's seat, he said, "Initially, I would want to get into the post and get to know my people and the problems... I think you've got to get a good feel of what goes on around you...I don't believe in knee-jerk reactions. I think things should be thought out and well-

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Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

STEADY HAND...Children enjoy the games offered at the Feast of St. Michael held at St. Michael Church and School in Cranford on Saturday night.

## DEM Kovach Seeks 7th District Congressional Seat

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

STATE — "There needs to be a better mix of men and women serving in Congress. For me, I wanted to be a part of that, and frankly, I don't think my interests are being represented any longer," said Janice Kovach, Democratic candidate seeking election to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent the 7th Congressional District, in an interview last Thursday with *The Westfield Leader*. Republican Leonard Lance, a Clinton Township resident, has held the seat since 2009.

Ms. Kovach has served the Township of Clinton as its mayor and a council member. Additionally, she has served as director of the New Jersey Division on Women, a position appointed by the Governor.

Ms. Kovach is a business consultant in business operations and management. Previously, she was a director in charge of a 24/7 call center and a marketing project management group at

Prudential. Ms. Kovach earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Thomas Edison State College. She is married with three children.

Ms. Kovach says her time on council in the Township of Clinton has proven she can work across party lines, noting she was the sole Democrat in a majority-held Republican council.

"We work really well together. We have accomplished more in the two-and-a-half years working together than I thought we would accomplish in four. We turned around a lot of the financial issues that the town was facing. We worked on infrastructure and we did it together," Ms. Kovach said.

"I take Democrats to task as much as I take Republicans to task. If someone is not doing something that will benefit my municipality and I think they are hurting my municipality, I don't care if you are a Democrat or Republican or

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Rob Connolly for The Westfield Leader

READY FOR CHANGE...Janice Kovach, Democratic candidate seeking election to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent the 7th Congressional District, met with Assignment Editor Paul Peyton at the office of *The Westfield Leader* on September 25. Republican Leonard Lance, a Clinton Township resident, has held the seat since 2009.



Rob Connolly for The Westfield Leader

CANDIDATE FOR SHERIFF...Republican candidate for Union County Sheriff Michael Ince, right, a retired FBI agent and former police officer, who is running on a platform as someone who has law enforcement experience, discusses his campaign with *Leader* Assignment Editor Paul Peyton on September 29.

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