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LEADER VISITS COLORADO...Honey Corbin, holding *The Westfield Leader*, visits with friends while on their mountain home deck overlooking the mountains in Colorado. Their trip included a visit to Guanella Mountain Pass, the old mining town of Georgetown, where they had a picnic lunch surrounded by towering mountains, as well as Keystone and Breckenridge.

Westfield Board of Ed.

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Parents from McKinley Elementary School are worried that class sizes are getting too big and that their children's education may suffer as a result.

Cheryl Bishop and Kelly Hantman particularly highlighted 4th grade class sizes and expressed concern about the impact of the apartment blocks that were being built in town.

"We want to be your partners. We're not angry, none of us are marching, none of us are making demands. We are all Westfield families and we all want to solve this together," Ms. Hantman told the board.

"But for each additional child in the class, my child will learn less. It's a fact. It's in all the research. Will he be fine? Yes. Could he learn more, could all of our children learn more with a smaller class size? Yes, that's what the research shows."

And Ms. Bishop added that, "Westfield class sizes are at or over capacity and they have been for some years. The recommended size is 18 to 25 and we are at the upper limit of that."

But Superintendent Margaret Dolan, Ed. D., reassured them that class sizes in McKinley's 4th grade were actually no bigger than other elementary school classes in the town.

"The principals and I keep a very close eye on numbers," she said. "We have neighborhood schools so we constantly have to make judgments and we really work to have lower numbers in the lower grades. If there are older classes who have 24 or 25, that's okay."

Ms. Dolan said the numbers Ms. Bishop and Ms. Hantman had presented for the current 4th grade at McKinley failed to take into account that several children with special educational needs only joined the class for non-academic subjects.

She added, "As you say, you are not angry, you are concerned. You want to make sure your children are in an appropriate class size. We know things can change and they can change in the middle of a year. We will keep watch-

ing it." Ms. Dolan admitted she kept an eye on the building of apartment blocks to assess what their impact might be on school numbers.

Earlier in the meeting, the board was given a presentation on the Department of Special Services who provide support to children in the district who have special educational needs.

Assistant Superintendent Michael Weissman explained that the aim was to offer children the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for their education and most Westfield students were able to remain in general education classes with different amounts of support.

Just 5 percent of the 1,337 students eligible for special education services were being educated out of district because their needs could not be met. However, Mr. Weissman said this number had been reduced considerably because of the department's focus on providing classes that would enable children to remain in their own community.

An example of this was the relatively-new Behavioural Disabilities based at Wilson Elementary School.

"There are multiple benefits to educating students in-district," he said. "The cost savings, the benefits of students being able to attend their home schools, not be on long bus rides and to have community connections and ties within the Westfield community."

Behaviorist Ann-Marie Kubagave an enthusiastic presentation on her work with children who have special needs and both she and Mr. Weissman spoke of their hope that the autism program would be extended to Westfield High School in the near future.

WF Council

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Administrator Jim Gildea told *The Westfield Leader*. The remnants of the concrete pole had been made shorter, at his request, he said.

Bulk waste signups exceeded the minimum 400 permits and so the program has begun in the town, Mr. Gildea said.

The planning board is set to award a contract for a master plan consultant, Mayor Brindle announced. The consultant who is to be chosen was considered not only due to their "beyond extraordinary planning competency but their ability to also engage the entire community," Mayor Brindle said. In conjunction with the master plan, a strategic plan for parks is in process, and she said four proposals were received.

In the spirit of economic development of the town, Mayor Brindle recently met with Mayor Ellen Brain of Somerville to discuss Somerville's revitalization and redevelopment, and was given a tour of Division Street, which was converted to a pedestrian plaza and has since seen a 100-percent occupancy rate in stores, she said. "It is a great inspiration as we enter our master plan process," Mayor Brindle said.

Westfield, Fanwood and Scotch Plains are in talks about a shared-service agreement with public works services, and are going to Trenton Friday to identify a process for a shared-service solution, Mayor Brindle said.

Also, the town is to form a youth and family mental health committee, comprised of Mayor Brindle, Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., and Health Officer Megan Avallone, as well as members of the faith community, non-profits, mental health professionals and residents. The goal is to eliminate the stigma around mental health.

The council approved purchase of Department of Public Works (DPW) equipment, including a cardboard compactor, an aerial lift, a Mack truck to replace an older truck, and a 2018 paver and roller, which the DPW staff will be trained on in order to do larger patches on roadways instead of hiring contractors to do the work, Mr. Gildea said.

Union County approved changing the traffic light timing at South and Central Avenues, a move expected to aid in traffic flow and pedestrian safety, Councilman Mike Dardia said in the conference session held earlier in the evening.

Another pedestrian safety initiative the council is considering is widening the width of the sidewalk along Rahway Avenue between Dorian Road and Shackamaxon Drive, an area well used by kids going to Edison Intermediate School, Westfield High School and Kehler Stadium. An engineer is to do an analysis of the possibility of widening it, while maintaining the width of the road for vehicles, including emergency vehicles, to pass through safely.

Prospect Street has been changed to have angle parking, and added striping as a means to navigate traffic to one lane



FAIRVIEW RECOGNIZED...At the 150th Anniversary re-dedication ceremony on Sunday, State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. (R-21st, Westfield), left, and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield), right, present William Shepherd, president of the Fairview Cemetery Board of Trustees, with a proclamation from the New Jersey General Assembly that resolved that Fairview Cemetery is "honored and celebrated for serving the town."

Susan M. Dougherty for *The Westfield Leader*

Garwood Council

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eliminated from an inclusive community, saying he wanted Garwood to remain a diverse community in opinions and creeds. However, Mr. Lazarow stated that he would support the resolution if it was rewritten to promote democracy by allowing democratic criticisms and was not as restrictive to free speech towards American leadership.

"We live in a country that allows us to criticize a President," said Mr. Lazarow, agreeing Mr. Nierstedt had a valid point on how ones free speech could be impeded if the resolution supports banning all political criticisms.

Ms. Todisco said it is important to note the billboard has been removed since Union Township residents complained.

Councilman Richard McCormick said the council's bipartisan stance

against hate speech must remain; though Mr. McCormick voted to support the resolution's not yet decided rewording.

The borough council unanimously adopted an ordinance approving the Paperboard Urban Renewal Associates, LLC financial agreement.

Ms. Bianco said Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro suffered a heart attack two weeks ago. Ms. Cuccaro was not present at Tuesday's meeting.

"The doctor's prognosis is a full recovery in the next few weeks," said Ms. Bianco. "She (Ms. Cuccaro) is very grateful for all the warm wishes and support sent by residents and council."

Ms. Cuccaro stated in her public statement read aloud by Ms. Bianco that she "looks forward to being back soon and serving the town."

Cranford Discusses Brookside Drainage

By CAROLINE MCNAMARA
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

CRANFORD — The township committee held its workshop meeting on Monday, tackling matters ranging from paving and drainage to the needs of Cranford's police force.

The meeting commenced with an update from Township Engineer William Masol. He said the township's engineering department is looking to participate in its paving program on a confirmation of insurance.

The township committee is interested in further pursuing the Brookside drainage improvement. "There is no drainage on the street currently," said Mr. Masol.

Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr. expressed his concern regarding the Brookside sanitary sewer level. He said a homeowner has experienced many blockages. The homeowner in question was present at the meeting.

"Fifty-three other houses are using that sewer," the homeowner said. "The blockage happens when it rains." The Public Works Department has been on site and has suggested to the homeowner that the blockage could be due to baby wipes. However, the homeowner said this is not the case. The homeowner has experienced several expenses in attempts to drain the blockage. The township committee is looking to aid the homeowner's efforts and ameliorate the problem.

Mayor Hannen said he is interested in addressing the train station roundabout issue. The township will explore receiving funding from NJ Transit, as buses are the main source of traffic that rolls over the roundabout in question.

The Project Home of Cranford banner request will be approved with an amendment of removing the Bar Crawl advertisement portion. The banner advertises the Wurst Bar Crawl, to be held Saturday, November 3, at 2 p.m., and the 5k Monster Bash Family Fun Run to be held Saturday, October 27.

Zoning Board members put in a request for money for the New Jersey League of Municipalities conference for potentially covering the charges of travel, registration and/or housing. The conference consists of classes and seminars. The conference currently is not in the zoning board's budget. The township committee decided there are not enough funds for it now, but the board can plan for it in its budget next year.

A resident of a Springfield Avenue apartment complex spoke about what was described as dangerous parking conditions in front of the complex. The resident requested a change in the parking ordinance and a change in

dimensions and footage. This was to be voted on at Tuesday's meeting.

Barbara Krause, liaison for the Air Traffic and Noise Advisory Board, said that board member Joseph Groder recently attended a meeting at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in Newark. Mr. Groder reported to Mrs. Krause that, "Cranford had the most complaints in terms of night flights" over the town.

Lavona Patterson, director of finance, appointed two new members to the finance department: Michael Robinson as purchasing agent and Jamie Haynes as assistant to the chief finance officer.

Patrick Giblin, commissioner of police and fire, said the police will put in a request for a new motorcycle, as the department's current one is "on its last leg." Union County Prosecutor Michael Monahan wants to discuss with the township committee the possible addition of body cameras for police officers. Cranford Police currently have dashboard cameras and cameras on their tasers.

Mayor Hannen said Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker (both D-NJ) are doing what they can to help the towns affected by water storage problems ameliorate them by pushing for the H.R. 8, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018. The township committee is looking into whether the governing body is eligible for earlier forecast releases so officials can determine if the storage can be dispersed. They are interested to know if, instead of having one large body for water storage, two smaller ponds can be used.

The Cranford Baseball and Softball League asked the township to consider giving money to kids' recreation. It was noted that in the past, the township donated to the boys' athletics at Memorial Field. This year, the same is requested for the girls' athletics at Adams Park to maintain the park and provide for future use of the facility.

DWC

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339 South Avenue West, in the space that was formerly Duke's Deli, was awarded a grant for new signage.

Mimi & Hill, a full-service interior design studio and shop located at 227 Elmer Street, also was awarded a grant for new signage.

The DWC's next board of directors' meeting open to the general public is scheduled for Monday, October 22, at 7:30 p.m. The DWC office is located at 105 Elm Street, on the basement level.



CONNELL PARK...Mayor Shelley Brindle gives a proclamation recognizing Patricia and Grover Connell to Shane Connell, their grandson, as friends and family look on. Asm. Jon Bramnick spoke, as did Terry Connell, daughter of Patricia and Grover Connell. The town is creating a park in their memory on Holiday Tree Island near the entrance of Watchung Fork.

Christina M. Hinke for *The Westfield Leader*

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