

## BOE, Residents Discuss Reimagining Survey Results

By ROBYN ORR-GIOFFRE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — During the Cranford Board of Education (BOE) meeting Monday night, Superintendent of Schools Scott Rubin, Ed.D., provided the community with preliminary results of the survey recently sent out on the “Reimagining” of the Cranford school district.

There were 1,937 residents who completed the survey, with “no more than 92 duplicate surveys,” Mr. Rubin told the board. Duplicate surveys refer to more than one survey completed in a single household.

Preliminary results indicate the most popular plans, of the 10 that were put forward for the “Reimagining” of Cranford, are plans 8 and 10.

### Scotch Plains Begins Summer Hours

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Township of Scotch Plains has announced that summer hours for municipal building start next week.

Summer hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to noon.

### Cranford to Conduct DWI Checkpoint

CRANFORD — The Cranford Police Department will be conducting a D.W.I. Checkpoint within the township from 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 until 3 a.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2019.

Both plans maintain the community school environment, with no bus-sing; offer full-day kindergarten, and do not involve one comprehensive middle school.

Plan no. 8 would allow for redistricting and plan no. 10 would not.

Several residents stood to comment on the survey and expressed displeasure, referring to the survey as “flawed,” and also offered criticism of the use of Qualtrics, a program that collects data for research purposes, for the survey.

Board member William Hulse reminded residents that the survey was created not by the board nor the superintendent exclusively, but by Qualtrics, and that the questions were “guided” by the 10 plans.

Mr. Rubin made evident that the larger point to the survey was for the community to have a “voice” in what will happen in the district.

Resident Doug Hutton encouraged the board to go back to Qualtrics and inquire about whether or not they worked with a research company and an independent group of peers to determine if the language used in the survey was appropriate and unbiased.

The superintendent described the creation of the survey as a “collaboration” between the district and Qualtrics and made clear there was a focus group and a peer review used.

In other business, Susan Ritter, supervisor of language arts and media, gave the board a presentation showcasing Primary Reading Intervention Strategies



NEW PLAYGROUND IN MOUNTAINSIDEN...Union County Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski and Freeholders Sergio Granados and Kimberly Palmieri-Mounded joined Mountainside Mayor Paul Mirabelli, Union County Superintendent of Schools Daryl Palmieri, educators and local offices in cutting the ribbon officially opening the new playground at the Beechwood School in Mountainside. The playground was funded by Union County “Kids Recreation” and “Level the Playing Field” grants.

## Fanwood Larder to Open On South Martine Ave.

FANWOOD — Mayor Colleen Mahr has announced that for the first time since the A&P closed in 2015, Fanwood residents will again be able to get their groceries close to home. In August, a small-scale grocery store will be opening in the heart of downtown Fanwood.

Fanwood Larder will be opening in a portion of the space once occupied by Bath Connection on South Martine Avenue. The owner is Eva Pfaff, a Fanwood native, who has been working on the project for the past two years with the Mayor and Liz Jeffrey, Fanwood’s economic development director.

“I’m so grateful to be able to bring groceries back to the community, and come home to the wonderful town where I so enjoyed growing up,” Ms. Pfaff said. Larder

(fanwoodlarder.com) is the latest new business to open in the borough’s downtown. The store will be open seven days a week and will offer mobile ordering with in-store pickup. The shelves will feature a selection of high-end groceries and, when possible, locally grown and organic products.

“When the A&P closed, we approached supermarket companies about coming to Fanwood and they all said the site was too small,” said Mayor Mahr. “We heard from residents that they missed the A&P. While the Fanwood Larder won’t be a supermarket, I think our residents will be very happy to see the return of a food market to our town where one can get many essentials as well as some specialty and fresh daily offerings.”

## Munoz Calls Plan to Tax Prescriptions ‘Immoral’

TRENTON, N.J. — Governor Phil Murphy’s Fiscal Year 2020 budget is projecting \$21.5 million in revenue from legislation that has yet to be introduced, but would tax pharmaceutical companies that manufacture and distribute opioids.

During last week’s budget hearing with State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz (R-21st, Summit) questioned why the Murphy administration continues to propose taxing patients prescription medication.

“We’ve never seen a tax that has not been passed down to the consumer. So this will be a tax on what is a legal drug,” said Asw. Munoz. “I can’t come to terms with how that is morally okay to increase a tax on a legal drug.”

In addition to this proposed tax, the state taxes medical marijuana, which is also legal, the Assemblywoman said.

“There is no connection between increasing the price of legal opioids, which are used for legitimate pain patients, and decreasing the opioid crisis,” Asw. Munoz said. “We are going to drive up the costs of the opioids, which is what has contributed epidemic anyway because they’re addictive and then they’re expensive and then people turn to heroin.”

The Assembly Republican Office said there are no details on how the opioid tax would work because the legislation has not even been drafted. New York tried to establish a similar law, but the courts struck it down because of a clause that prohibited the fee from being passed on to consumers.

“We don’t want to do more to hurt the legitimate pain patients in the State of New Jersey with the promise of making the opioid crisis better because they just don’t go hand in hand,” Asw. Munoz.

## Mandelblatt, Gunderman Kickoff Assembly Campaign

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Lisa Mandelblatt and Stacey Gunderman kicked off their campaign for Assembly on Sunday to a crowd of supporters at their new headquarters in Berkeley Heights.

The event marked the official start of their campaign to unseat Republican Minority Leader Jon Bramnick and Republican Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz. Ms. Mandelblatt and Ms. Gunderman face a Democratic Primary Election challenge from Jill LaZare of Summit.

“For too long the 21st Legislative District has been represented by two disconnected politicians in Bramnick and Munoz,” said Ms. Mandelblatt. “I am running because this district needs representatives who share the priorities of its residents. I want to be your representative in Trenton so that we can tackle the issues that plague New Jersey. We must fully fund NJ Transit, we must decrease the tax burden, and we need to repair our crumbling infrastructure,” said Ms. Mandelblatt.

“If you told me several years ago that I would be standing here as your candidate for State Assembly, I would not have believed you,” said Ms. Gunderman. “I never imagined myself running for office, yet in the past two years, I’ve asked myself what can I do to be a part of the change I want to see in our communities. As you can see, Lisa and I are off to a great start

with our new office in Berkeley Heights overflowing today with supporters and volunteers. As a team, we have over \$70,000 cash on hand which is more than Munoz. With your continued support we are going to beat Bramnick and Munoz in November.”

Ms. Mandelblatt and Ms. Gunderman are competing against Mr. Bramnick and Ms. Munoz in the 21st Legislative District. In 2017, Lacey Rzeszowski came 1,554 votes short of defeating Ms. Munoz, according to a campaign press release.

“Now, for the first time there are more registered Democrats than Republicans in the district,” according to the release.

Janice Kovach, the mayor of Clinton, NJ, spoke to the crowd first. She read a statement from Congressman Tom Malinowski (D-7th, Somerset). In the statement Rep. Malinowski reaffirmed his support for Ms. Mandelblatt and Ms. Gunderman and spoke to the importance of winning State Legislature races.

Ms. Mandelblatt and Ms. Gunderman have been endorsed by Congressman Malinowski, Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle, Roselle Park Mayor Joseph Signorello III, Berkeley Heights Mayor Angie Devanney, Berkeley Heights Council members Susan Poage, Alvara Medeiros, and Stephen Yellin, Ms. Rzeszowski, and former Summit Mayor Jordan Glatt.

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CAMPAIGN KICKOFF...Democrats Lisa Mandelblatt of Westfield and Stacey Gunderman of New Providence kicked off their campaign for State Assembly in the 21st Legislative District on Sunday.



MEET AND GREET... Monk’s Design Studio on South Avenue opened their doors to Thursday evening as Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr hosted a wine reception to introduce herself and members of the Column B ticket to voters. She touted the ongoing success of downtown redevelopment. She also spoke of the challenge Committee candidates face from the slate backed by the Union County Democratic Committee, which is seeking to take control of the local committee. Council candidate Kathy Mitchell was in attendance, along with committee candidates Steve Falco, Tom and Pat Plante, Adele Kenny and John Celardo.

## Memorial Day Concert

“A Tribute to Fallen Heroes”

The Westfield Community Concert Band



Sunday – May 26, 2019

6:30 PM

Alan Augustine Village Green

Adjacent to Municipal Building

430 Park Avenue

Scotch Plains, NJ

Bring Lawn Chairs

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