

Westfield High School Should be Renamed for Dr. Derrick Nelson

In light of the renewed spotlight on the racial divide in America, now is the time to memorialize the legacy of Dr. Derrick E. Nelson, the highly-respected principal of Westfield High School, who died at the age of 44 donating his bone marrow to save the life of a teenager in France.

After his death on April 8, 2019, there was a strong call to action from students and his greater Westfield community to rename the high school in his honor. The Change.org petition, created by Jason Starkman, has received more than 28,000 signatures to date.

Dr. Nelson, an educator and American hero, dedicated his life to servant leadership. He served more than 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer II. He was deployed for active duty in Afghanistan in 2013.

During his years as assistant principal and principal at WHS, Dr. Nelson formed unbreakable bonds with the whole of the student body. Students like this writer remember his unbridled enthusiasm at game days, his sense of humor (fearlessly singing and dancing in the hall-

ways), and his respected leadership across the district. He was proud to be the first African-American principal at Westfield High School.

According to Mayor Shelley Brindle's Facebook, her new Human Relations Advisory Committee is acting to "bring about change in the race relations process we...desire in our community." This writer is dedicated to working with the mayor's office, the town council, and the Board of Ed to make this necessary change.

Dr. Nelson said it best: "Whenever we can celebrate each other and our differences and not look at them as a negative but a positive — anytime we can do that is a wonderful, wonderful thing."

We find ourselves now with the great opportunity to do something wonderful for our town in the memory of our great leader. Renaming Westfield High School to Dr. Derrick E. Nelson High School is another step toward recognizing the contributions of the diverse members of our community.

Caroline Barry
WHS Class of 2016

Westfield Mental Health Council Discusses CAKE Initiative

For our fifth letter to the editor, the Westfield Mental Health Council introduces the final ingredient to CAKE: Empathy. As a reminder, CAKE stands for COMPASSION, ACCEPTANCE, KINDNESS and EMPATHY. These four "ingredients" are the building blocks of a stigma-free community. Empathy is the icing on the cake that fully ties the initiative together.

In the short time since the Westfield Mental Health Council's introduction to CAKE in our first article in *The Leader*, our purpose has been even further reinforced. Our anti-stigma efforts in Westfield are primary. In the midst of the pandemic, we have witnessed our community doubling up on its delivery of Compassion and Acceptance and Kindness. We have also seen Empathy as we all share in the grief and pain of those who succumbed to the virus. The sadness, pain and suffering are palpable. We needed no other crisis to emerge to help us in our mission to illustrate CAKE to the community. However, the death of George Floyd and the protests that have erupted have challenged us with a renewed opportunity to learn how to strengthen our empathy for all members of our community. We must step up to this challenge.

Webster's dictionary defines EMPATHY as the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts and experiences of another person.

Our capacity to imagine "walking in someone else's shoes," to accept, with kindness and compassion, the struggles we cannot imagine experiencing ourselves, is to be EMPATHIC. To march in non-violent protest for the lives lost to police brutality and try to imagine what it might be like to have a family member extinguished without cause. That is EMPATHY. To say their names, to try to feel what it was like to be them. That is EMPATHY. We, as a community, need to allow ourselves to use the art of empathy as a pathway to change.

Let us go to the side of our minority community and join them in their efforts to address the centuries of systemic racism that have led to the death of George Floyd and so many others. Let us demonstrate true empathy by reaching out, marching, demonstrat-

ing and learning how CAKE can lead us. Let us seek first to understand, and then, be understood. Let us learn how to address the pervasive evils that plague us and affect all corners of our diverse town. And, let us stand in their shoes and make a choice to de-stigmatize, and to normalize our relationships with all our neighbors, no matter what age, color, size, religion, nationality or gender.

There are many in our community in great need of care, support and hope. Let us offer CAKE to those struggling. We, as a community, can make a difference.

You can find more information on the CAKE initiative as well as additional mental health resources at www.westfieldnj.gov/mentalhealth. Lastly, please feel free to send your CAKE-filled thoughts and ideas to cake@westfieldnj.gov.

Lauren Kaplan-Sagal
Linda Habgood
Westfield Mental Health Council

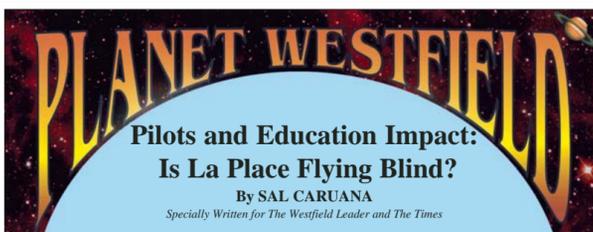
PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
JUNE 16, 2020 MEETING NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Scotch Plains has changed the time of their Business Meeting scheduled for **June 16, 2020**. The meeting will begin at **5:00 p.m.** and be held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

Due to the public health emergency caused by Coronavirus, and the Township of Scotch Plains will conduct the June 16, 2020 Business Meeting remotely and by electronic means for its Councilmembers and public. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the "Open Public Meetings Act") Business Meeting will be open to the public by electronic means, and as such, members of the public may view the meeting by livestream on our public access Channels FIOS 22 and Comcast 34; or on Facebook Live; Public Comment will be available through call in during the appropriate comment portions at 908-322-2076.

The Township of Scotch Plains does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Those individuals requiring auxiliary aids and services where necessary, must notify the ADA Coordinator of the Township of Scotch Plains at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting.
BOZENA LACINA,
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 06/11/20, The Times Fee: \$31.62



There is an important element lacking in the current debate about "areas in need of redevelopment." In fact, the silence was deafening in last week's virtuoso letter from Planning Board Vice-Chairman Michael La Place extolling the strengths of the opportunity for traditional taxes on these properties to be replaced with negotiated "Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOTS)". As he described, under this scheme the town would keep 95 percent of the new payment, and send 5 percent to the county. OK, but where is the slice that usually goes to education? You know, the 58 percent that all of us currently pay? Come on, Michael, let the cat out of the bag. Education will get zero. Repeat: education gets zero. The Board of Ed loses all of the tax revenue it was getting on the old property, it gets no tax revenue from the new property, and it will now be compelled to share with the rest of us taxpayers any increased costs (more kids) the new development may bring.

Of course, in its beneficence, the Town Council could choose to share some of its 95-percent windfall with the Board of Ed. Or it could choose not to. The danger PILOTS pose to a community such as Westfield is not just in the loss of direct deposit education dollars. If the Board of Ed must then go begging to the Mayor and Council for lost funds, then our tradition of an independent, non-partisan school board could be our greatest loss of all.

In New Jersey 98 percent of our 600+ school boards are elected, and not appointed by the mayor. The tradition of an independently-elected school board protects education and its governance from political interference, and also from cronyism and disruption when administrations change.

An elected school board like Westfield's gives taxpayers direct voter control over each member who is determining education policy for our children. Voter control compels more transparency and accountability than a politically-appointed

Board of Ed is apt to give. The single most important reason for the creation of independent school boards was to insure education would be governed away from the influence of the mayor and partisan politics.

Should the town decide to pursue a PILOT project, no doubt the Board of Ed would petition the Mayor and Council for a share of the new 95-percent payment to make up for the revenue it is losing. This appeal to the governing body for education funding would now give Town Hall unprecedented leverage over the Board of Ed, and you can bet each request would turn into its own negotiation, with the Mayor and Council often making specific "requests" of their own. This dance would get repeated with every new project, and at its worst, in every new budget year.

One of Westfield's great virtues is a tradition of education governance that is independent of partisan politics, which sadly gets more partisan with every passing day. That tradition would be at risk under the PILOT scheme, as whoever sits in the mayor's office will now have, for the first time, a powerful tool to influence education policy: money in need. As a side note, what is currently saving our democracy from the tyrant in Washington is the "separation of powers." Why would I now want less for Westfield?

Redevelopment is undoubtedly essential to Westfield's future; however, can we start a conversation as to how education's funding and independence do not need to become our price to pay?

**More Letters
On Page 12**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD
BOARD OF HEALTH

Public notice is hereby given that an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Relating to Personnel Positions and Salary Ranges of Officers and Employees of the Board of Health of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, and State of New Jersey" was adopted by the Westfield Board of Health at a regular meeting held on June 1, 2020.

Megan Avallone
Board Secretary

BOARD OF HEALTH ORDINANCE #3-2020

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO PERSONNEL POSITIONS AND SALARY RANGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY."

Be it ordained by the Board of Health of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that Board of Health Ordinance #1-2019 is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1

The following personnel positions and salary ranges are hereby established for Officers and employees of the Board of Health and shall be effective retroactively from January 1, 2020.

Job Title	Salary Range
Public Health Nurse	\$60,500 — \$70,000
Health Educator	\$60,500 — \$70,000

Section 2

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after Final Passage and publication according to law.
1 T - 06/11/20, The Leader Fee: \$54.06

PUBLIC NOTICE

Your 'Historic' Home – Whether You Like It or Not

Many of us reside in Westfield because of the charming homes that line our attractive streets. Having made what, for many, is the largest investment of our lives, we expect to be able to update and improve our properties as we like, subject of course to existing zoning laws and building codes.

Over the years, many Westfield residents have decided to preserve their homes and neighborhoods, and the town's historic preservation ordinance gave them the tools to do so. Individual homeowners could seek historic designation from the town, and residents of an entire neighborhood could also do so, as was the case decades ago when residents of Kimball Avenue voluntarily created the historic district between Elm and Lawrence.

To date, these admirable decisions to preserve appropriate homes and neighborhoods as historic have been freely made by the affected property owners. But that is about to change. The Brindle Administration is amending the town's historic preservation ordinance to eliminate the consent of the affected homeowner as a requirement for their property being designated as historic. In other words, the town may designate your home or neighborhood as an historic landmark, whether you like it or not.

Mayor Brindle is giving power to an unelected body of political appointees to tell Westfield residents that their house is "historic" and, if so, to restrict homeowners' rights. Do you want to paint your house? Change your front door? Replace a window? Sorry -- if the town deems your house to be historic, you can't, unless the town lets you. And how does the Brindle Administration propose to define historic? Very broadly, and not just to include older homes. In fact, the town can classify a brand new home as historic under the standards in the proposed ordinance. For example, does your house or neighborhood, new or old:

"represent a significant period in the architectural and social history of the municipality"?

have "a unique character resulting from its architectural style"?

"embody a distinguishing characteristic or an architectural type valuable as representative of a period, style, or method of construction"?

"represent a work of a builder, designer, artist, or architect whose individual style significantly influenced the architectural history of the municipality"?

Or is your house or neighborhood, new or old:

the "embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, architecture, or engineering"?

"identifiable with a person or persons who significantly enriched the Town, State, or Nation"?

"identifiable with the work of a builder, designer, artist, architect, or landscape architect whose work has influenced the development of the Town, State, or Nation"?

"imbued with traditional or legendary lore" (whatever that means)?

If the town determines that any one of these standards is met, congratulations, you live in an historic home or district! No matter that you didn't know, don't care, or disagree -- you will not be

able to change any exterior feature on your house unless you submit an application for a "certificate of appropriateness" and obtain approvals from multiple municipal bodies and officials.

Residents of Wychwood, the Gardens, Indian Forest, Stoneleigh Park, Boulevard, Manor Park, and other neighborhoods, beware. It used to take at least 80 percent of you to agree to become an historic district; soon it will be just a majority of the town council. The same is true if you live in any home, new or old, that Mayor Brindle may view as "representative of a period in the architectural or social history of Westfield," or having a valuable "distinguishing characteristic" or "architectural type." Concerned? You should be.

The preservation of truly historic homes is a worthy pursuit, but it should not come at the expense of fundamental private property rights. Private property taken for public use without compensation, including unilaterally imposing substantial restrictions on the use of that property, is not only unconstitutional, but offensive. Westfield deserves better.

If, like us, you respect historic preservation but oppose the idea of unwillingly being told that your home is "historic" and then being restricted from changing any exterior aspect of it without begging the town for permission, let Mayor Brindle know at mayorbrindle@westfieldnj.gov.

JoAnn Neylan, Chairwoman
Westfield Town
Republican Committee

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD,
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2173

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

General Ordinance No. 2173, a summary of which is included herein, was introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield held on June 9, 2020 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by said Town Council at the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 at a meeting beginning at 8:00 PM on June 30, 2020 or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. If the meeting on June 30, 2020 must be held virtually due to COVID-19, the public hearing will be held digitally with a link/meeting ID to be made available on the Town of Westfield's website (www.westfieldnj.gov) in advance of the meeting. Copies of this ordinance are available in full at the Office of the Town Clerk, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

A summary of General Ordinance No. 2173 is as follows:

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY, AS IT RELATES TO THE STORAGE AND DELIVERY OF PREMANUFACTURED (MODULAR) HOMES AND BUILDING COMPONENTS

SUMMARY:

Amends and restates Section 8-42 of Chapter 8, "Buildings" of Article VI, "Maintenance of Sites Under Construction" of the Town Code of the Town of Westfield by amending certain fees, storage timeframes, and insurance requirements related to premanufactured (modular) homes.

Tara Rowley, RMC
Town Clerk

1 T - 06/11/20, The Leader Fee: \$43.35



CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

to join an alliance working together to act against racial injustice,

WE WORK FOR CHANGE

WHO WE ARE:

A local business alliance committed to fight to dismantle racism through advocacy and fundraising for underprivileged and underserved surrounding communities, backed by a dedicated committee of volunteers to organize, plan and execute our mission.

OUR MISSION:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** racism is prevalent, pervasive and paralyzing progress
2. Promote **AWARENESS** and **ACCOUNTABILITY** through education, not shame
3. **ADVOCATE** for equality and justice
4. Take **ACTION** by fundraising to support underprivileged and underserved communities

CONTACT: Email organizer, Lisa Benke, at westfieldworksforchange@gmail.com to unite with the growing number of Westfield area businesses working together for change.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @WEWORKFORCHANGE

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ATTENTION PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

It's Graduation Time!

Send well wishes and a photo of your graduating senior to be included in our Graduation Issue on Thursday, June 18th

Fill out and submit the form on our website:
www.goleader.com/form/paid_photo

on the application of the undersigned, at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. This hearing will be electronically presented as described below on June 22nd 2020, at 7:45 p.m. Residents who wish to attend and participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of participating or making a public comment at the hearing on the Application should follow the instructions and complete the registration form available by activating the link to the VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING that will be included on the meeting agenda for the Zoning Board of Adjustment, which will be posted on the Township of Cranford's website at least 48 hours prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

A copy of the Application, plans and related documents are on file in the Planning/Zoning Office of the Cranford Township Municipal Building, located at 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016, but are not available for public inspection at the building due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Anyone interested in reviewing the Application, plans and related documents may inform the Applicant identified below or the Board's administrator, Ms. Kathy Lenahan; office telephone (908) 709-7211; or, email: K-Lenahan@cranfordnj.org, that they wish to receive copies of same and the Applicant shall then be required to deliver to the member(s) of the public the Application, plans and documents either electronically or by delivery of hard copies to the person requesting the materials.

THIS HEARING WILL BE A VIRTUAL HEARING. THE LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VIRTUAL HEARING WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE MEETING AGENDA FOR THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, WHICH WILL BE POSTED ON THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD'S WEBSITE AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE HEARING.

The applicant reserves the right to supplement this application and/or seek at the time of hearing such other approvals, interpretations, variances and/or waivers as may be requested or required by the applicant or the Township of Cranford Zoning Board of Adjustment and such other variances, relief, exemptions, deviations and/or waivers that may be required upon an analysis of the plans and testimony at the VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING on the application.

Giovanny Puidlo
32 Johnson Avenue
Cranford, New Jersey 07016
1 T - 06/11/20, The Leader Fee: \$102.00

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
NOTICE FOR VIRTUAL HEARING

In compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, the General Ordinances of the Township of Cranford, the Rules and Regulations of the Cranford Township Zoning Board of Adjustment as well as to comply with relevant Executive Orders signed by Governor Murphy regarding the current public health emergency and in an effort to follow best practices recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 22nd 2020, the Cranford Township Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING on the application for development, ZBA 19-018 by the applicant / property owner (the "Applicant") named below, regarding the premises located in the R-5 Zone, having a tax map designation of block 403 Lot 70, with a property address, 32 Johnson Drive, Cranford, New Jersey 07016.

The Applicant is seeking a variance or exception to the Cranford Township Zoning Ordinance(s) so as to permit the following: construct an addition to an existing attached townhouse.

The Applicant seeks specific requested relief as follows: c(1) hardship variance/relief on account of the hardship induced by the undersized dimensions of the subject property from local Ordinance §255-Att. 1, Schedule 1 for the minimum required front yard setback as well as the maximum allowable building coverage where the subject property is an undersized lot measuring 14.19 feet in width (50 foot minimum in the R-5 district) and is 2,128 square feet in total area (5,000 square feet minimum required in the R-5 district). Regarding the Front Yard Setback, 25 feet required, and 14 feet exists, and Applicant proposes 10.4 feet. Regarding the Maximum Building Coverage, Applicant proposes an increase in total building coverage on the site by approximately 42 square feet to allow for 674 square feet or 32% where 632 square feet exists; and, 638.4 square feet or 30% is the maximum allowed by ordinance.

THE MEETING WILL BE OFFERED VIRTUALLY FOR ALL BOARD MEMBERS, BOARD PROFESSIONALS, APPLICANT AND APPLICANT'S TEAM, INTERESTED PARTIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will conduct a VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING