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Paid for by Ellen Dickson for Freeholder: Nora Bani, Treasurer 33 Ridge Road, Summit NJ 07901

Westfield Planning Board

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gested that he might not need to meet such standards if the home were designated as a historic landmark. Mr. Mahoney said that although he did not believe that to be the case, "I wouldn't want to designate it historic."

Board member and Councilman James Foerst asked if the board allowed for the demolition if any of the house's architectural features could be preserved. Mr. Mahoney told the board that "nothing in that house would thrill you" and invited board members to walk through the structure.

Councilman Foerst said, "Mr. Mahoney made a deal 10 years ago. It's not our problem if that was a good deal or a bad deal."

Board Chairman Vince Wilt told Mr. Mahoney that because it was a fully conforming subdivision and the house was not designated as historical, the developer "didn't need to make the deal" with the board. Mr. Mahoney admitted to the board that "it was a bad deal" and is something he regrets.

Residents were permitted to question Mr. Mahoney on the testimony he gave, but were told to refrain from

commenting.

Carol Lapierre, who has worked on historic-restoration projects, questioned Mr. Mahoney on his work on older structures and how he planned to work on the house when he originally made his application to the board.

Mr. Mahoney stated that he worked as a carpenter for many years but had never worked on a house that was 200 years old, and that he "thought I was a resourceful fellow and would be able to figure it out."

After further questioning by residents and board members, Mr. Mahoney also revealed that no steps were taken over the past 10 years to protect or repair the home's roof, which, according to Mr. Foerst, was in need of repair at the time of the application in 2000.

The board will hire its own structural engineer to evaluate the condition of the house, as well as consult with an architect familiar with historic restoration. The application will be carried to the Monday, December 6, meeting, at which time testimony will continue and public comment will be allowed at the conclusion of the testimony.



READY, SET, EAT...The competition is fierce at the ravioli-eating contest at the Scotch Plains Day street fair on Sunday. *Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader*

Freeholders, County EMS

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determined that there were 2,530 calls in 2009 for EMS mutual aid in 15 of the county's 21 towns that responded to the survey.

Mr. Moran said a number of municipal rescue squads have been leery about sending their ambulances to a mutual-aid call for fear it would leave their own town uncovered for its own 911 calls. According to Tom Soban, a Roselle police officer and an EMT, "one of the worst things that can happen to a rescuer is waiting for an ambulance to arrive." He said in some cases, mutual-aid responses come as far as four towns away from the affected community.

"As a police officer, you can imagine [when helping] somebody who has been seriously hurt in an automobile accident what's going through your mind is, 'Where's the ambulance, where's the ambulance?' I can only do so much," he told the board. "I feel, as an EMS professional, that this is definitely the path in the right and future direction for all involved."

Mikael Diaz, a supervisor with the Cranford Police EMS Division and a paramedic at Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth, said, "We (Trinitas paramedics) have waited on scene for...20 or 30 minutes for an ambulance as they (911 dispatchers) attempt to call several different towns just to find someone willing or able to come into that municipality for us," Mr. Diaz told the board.

Meanwhile, he said Cranford "can only do so much with sending our resources outside of town" for fears of leaving the township uncovered for its own EMS calls.

Freeholder Al Mirabella, the son of a former Elizabeth police chief, questioned whether two ambulances was sufficient to serve 21 towns with a combined population of 500,000.

Mr. Moran said many towns do not track mutual-aid calls, which made it

difficult in determining the exact number of ambulances the county would need for its program.

"This (county EMS) would just be a safety net in case they do not have an ambulance [available]," Mr. Moran said.

The resolution to create the service was approved by a 7-1 vote, with Freeholder Angel Estrada as the lone dissenter. Freeholder Nancy Ward was absent.

"I don't believe this pilot program is going to provide enough to fill the [coverage] gap," Mr. Estrada said, noting he feels area hospitals "have the capability of providing the same service."

Garwood resident Bruce Paterson also was opposed, saying he feels the county is creating "another bureaucracy."

Meanwhile, Cranford resident Tina Renna, president of the Union County Watchdog Association, questioned the board as to "what's the rush" to start the program, saying some municipal EMS personnel told her that they did not know the county was moving ahead with the pilot program.

Mrs. Renna said some EMS personnel who attended the county's shared-services forum felt the new program is "all about the county taking over services from the towns." She said the county, instead, should provide the resources to an established EMS to run the program.

Summit resident Ellen Dickson, a Republican freeholder candidate, said, "There are a lot of people interested in this. [They are asking] 'why would the county be getting into this? Are they trying to take over the EMS service?'" she asked.

County Manager George Devaney said the idea to create a countywide EMS "was born from the municipalities and was born from input from EMS." He said the service would not replace local EMS units. "We only go if we are requested," he said. "It is a supplement, not a replacement."

Officials said the county would begin the licensing process with the state this month, hire EMTs in February and train staff in March before beginning operations in April.

Downtown WF Corporation

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The remaining three façade grant recommendations, for Redco Engineering, Elements Wellness and Facial Reality, were related to the erection of new signage. Design, color, material and placement of planned signs were discussed in brief by the DWC board. Redco Engineering has a pending Design Committee decision regarding its plans for a hand-carved wood monument sign, yet received DWC grant approval providing the design passes upcoming review. All of the grant recommendations received unanimous approval.

In the coming months, a group of new businesses is expected to open in the downtown. Besides the expansion of Cool Vines from its Elm Street location to Central Avenue, Casa di Pizza, Wild Greens, Turning Point Café and the Savory Spice Shop will be new additions to the downtown, Ms. Cronin said.

The Quimby Street shop Anthology was discussed in short regarding its new awnings and paint scheme for the façade, which were lauded by the committee. Anthology had received DWC grant monies for the above mentioned improvements.

Downtown Westfield's Restaurant Week (September 19 to 26) appears to have been a success. The DWC Promotions Committee is awaiting the return of surveys from participating restaurateurs inquiring about the success of the event and any suggestions regarding future Restaurant Weeks.

A new addition to the downtown is the DWC's upcoming Girls Night

Out (GNO) on October 14. Currently, 42 businesses are set to participate. Entertainment is booked for downtown streets for the event. A similar event in Summit resulted in 500 pre-registered attendees just last week. The four-hour GNO is being advertised as "A Special Downtown Westfield Evening of Shopping, Gifts, Sales, Discounts, and Refreshments."

Other upcoming events downtown are the Halloween festivities. Participating retailers are encouraged to have candy available for 2,000-plus trick-or-treaters. The DWC has partnered with businesses to award prizes for the best costumes, according to certain categories set forth by the DWC that relate to participating businesses.

DWC officials also announced Westfield was awarded an overall criteria award for Landscaped Areas over all other entries in the America In Bloom contest. Westfield also won a 4-Bloom rating out of a possible 5, for communities ranging in size from 25,000 to 50,000. Westfield beat out Murray City, Utah and Michigan City, Ind. for the 4-Bloom rating.

Resident Tim Harrington raised the question in regards to "tidiness" and the judging of America in Bloom participating cities. Many members of the DWC, as well as Mr. Harrington, expressed interest in winning the overall tidiness award for Westfield in 2011 and suggested numerous ways to urge community involvement in cleaning not only the downtown but the greater community in general.

Westfield Board of Education

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school bond referendum. She stated that members wanted to look into corporate sponsorship and research grant opportunities.

In other business, board of education member Richard Mattessich reported on the possibility of covering all schools in the district with solar panels, thus reducing energy costs for the Westfield schools in the future. He stated that this solar panel project was still in its assessment stage, and that because of the old age of many Westfield school buildings, possible proposals have to include studies of the roof conditions and roof repair.

He also noted that the recent Union County Solar Panel project was looking to put solar panels on new roofs, not to make roof repairs. He noted that the county only wanted to cover 25 to 30 percent of the district's roofs.

The next board of education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, at 8 p.m.

Westfield Fights Cell-Tower Erection

By LAUREN S. BARR
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD - A cell phone tower has been proposed for construction on the property of the Westfield Armory on Rahway Avenue by T-Mobile, but the current status of the project is unknown as of press time. Because the armory is state property, the project does not require any approval from the Town of Westfield.

Town Administrator James Gildea told *The Westfield Leader* that the town has been in contact with state legislators, as it is "not something we want in that location."

Mayor Andrew Skibitsky has already voiced his opposition to the project in a letter to Major General Glenn Reith, the State's Adjutant General, who manages all of the National Guard facilities.

Fourth Ward Councilman Keith Loughlin told *The Leader* "I think [the tower] would have a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood." He said that he, too, has reached out to State Senator Tom Kean, Jr. and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick for assistance in contacting the Adjutant General. He said that the town also is considering "alternate locations" to present to T-Mobile that would have "minimal impact on residents," but said it was too early in the process to disclose any possible sites.

A "balloon test" was conducted in late September by T-Mobile to test the line of site issues with constructing a tower on the property. Councilman Loughlin expressed concern that the test was done while the leaves were still on the trees, and the "full impact" of a possible tower would not be seen.

Senator Kean, a Westfield resident, told *The Leader* that he "clearly understands the issue to the residents of Westfield" and is having "ongoing conversations with both the Adjutant General and the mayor and council."

Major Bill Morris, the executive officer at the Westfield Armory, told *The Leader* that a "lease has not been approved" for T-Mobile and that it must first go in front of the State House Commission. He said that the project is being considered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, not the armory itself.

A spokesperson for T-Mobile did not return phone calls as of press time, but a brochure provided by T-Mobile to *The Leader* stated, "Once a location that best meets all criteria is selected, T-Mobile conducts due diligence to confirm that the selected site is truly the best option - from scientific, zoning, leasing, construction and permitting perspectives."

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Fresh Daily! Mozzarella \$5.99 lb.	Boar's Head Oven Gold Turkey \$5.99 lb.	Boar's Head Buffalo Chicken \$5.99 lb.	Boar's Head Vermont Cheddar \$4.99 lb.	Boar's Head Soppressata 2/3 lb. Honey Maple Ham Chubbs \$6.99 lb.	Boar's Head Combo 1/3 lb. Swiss Cheese \$6.99	

Homemade Salads: Potato, Macaroni, Cole Slaw all made with Hellman's Mayonnaise \$2.49 lb.

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