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**BIRTHDAY TOAST...**Rep. Leonard Lance (7th) holds up an infamous softball picture of former Scotch Plains Mayor Marty Marks at the Scotch Plains Republican Committee's roast in honor of the former mayor's 50th birthday on Friday night at The Westwood in Garwood.



**DENTLEY...**Westfield's SpringFling offered something new this past Sunday with the addition of "Smash-A-Car." The Westfield Lions Club had a Mercedes Benz donated, and donating patrons attending the fair were allowed to take a sledge hammer to the Benz, converting it into a "Dentley."



**ALOHA...**On a recent trip to Maui, Reyna, Dan, Luke and Emma Ortolani of Westfield enjoy *The Westfield Leader*.

## CF Township Committee OKs Wildlife Feeding Restrictions

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

CRANFORD—The township committee on Tuesday night gave final approval to an ordinance regulating the feeding of wildlife on public and private property while admitting that the enforcement of the new law, particularly the feeding of birds, will be somewhat vague.

The committee has been working on the ordinance, along with some clarifying amendments, for the past few months, in an effort to balance the concerns of residents who favor more of an unfettered feeding of wildlife with those of individuals who have raised health and safety concerns stemming from wildlife feeding.

Several residents spoke at Tuesday's public hearing, with most of the concerns centering on whether residents would face fines and other penalties for feeding birds. The ordinance calls for bird feeders to be at least four feet off the ground, but ground feeding — the spreading of feed on the ground — also will be permitted. However, Township Attorney Phil Morin cautioned that if ground feeding rises to an excessive level that attracts rodents and other "unwelcome" wildlife, it could lead to possible penalties. But when pressed for an example of what might constitute excessive feeding, Mr. Morin admitted several times that there is "not a black-and-white standard" and that the ordinance does not have a "hard and fast black line." He said one standard would be whether the feeding creates a public nuisance, which he said is defined as "a violation of public health, safety and welfare."

One resident, for whom wildlife feeding activities have been a subject of contention with her neighbors, raised the specter of residents using the new ordinance as a springboard to push for other ordinances addressing specific complaints about their neighbors. "Any time someone's neighbor does something they don't like," she said, "an ordinance can be passed." She said the color of one's house or too many weeds in a yard might be the next concern addressed in an ordinance. The ordinance, she said, "opens the door to that."

Commissioner Lisa Aduabato Nesi said the ordinance was "prudent for the community and for the wildlife." The committee approved the ordinance by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Edward O'Malley voting against it, saying that the town's "serious issue with deer and geese" was not adequately addressed in the ordinance.

The committee will vote on the 2012 municipal budget at its Tuesday, May 22 meeting, and on Tues-

day, amendments to the \$33.7-million spending plan were approved that more clearly defined some of the appropriations and revenue figures, including a Clean Communities grant, \$400,000 from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program at Cranford Crossing that allows local governments to retain most tax revenue from age-restricted housing developments and an additional \$100,000 for the capital improvement fund to fund town hall renovations.

Deputy Mayor Andis Kalnins said the amendments would mean a slight reduction of \$227,000 in the total property-tax levy of just over \$21 million, and a corresponding reduction in the municipal tax increase from 4 percent to 2.96 percent.

The committee gave unanimous approval to the \$143,518 budget for the Downtown District Management Corp. (DMC), and a few moments later, introduced an ordinance changing the DMC's name to the Downtown Business and Economic Development Office. Commissioner Aduabato Nesi said the DMC had requested the change "to better reflect the purpose and function of that organization." The public hearing on the ordinance will be held on Tuesday, June 12.

At the start of the meeting, members of Girl Scout Troop No. 40272 led the flag salute. Mayor David Robinson presented two retiring township employees, Margaret Herzer and Kathryn Washburn, with certificates of appreciation for their service. And in conjunction with Peace Officers Memorial Day on Tuesday, May 15, the mayor issued a proclamation declaring the week of May 13-19 as Police Week.

## Energy Tax

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lion in 2010 and \$2.5 million in 2011. Westfield received \$3.1 million in 2011, \$2.6 million in 2010 and \$4 million in 2009. Cranford has been averaging \$2.9 million in energy tax aid the last two years after receiving upwards of \$3.6 million from 2007 through 2009.

Garwood Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi said while the borough has not run the numbers to see the amount the state is withholding from Garwood in energy tax revenue, increased funding, even to the tune of \$6,000 to \$7,000, "is good in my book" and is "worth pursuing." She said she takes "great offense" to the state holding money that belongs to Garwood.

According to borough budgets on its website, Garwood has received \$490,000 in aid the past few years, the bulk of which is from the energy tax, after receiving \$616,000 in 2009.

## Union County Freeholders

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holder. Freeholder Hudak abstained on the votes on the ordinances.

Prior to the board approving resolutions on the agenda, Mr. Faella explained that the \$16,000 contract to Mareth Advisors, LLC of Arlington, Va., will "seek an independent evaluation at the Stables to understand the facility's competitive market position and its financial performance potential."

"This is all in relation to possible ongoing management by Union County or alternatives to enter into a lease or third-party management agreement," Mr. Faella said. "By evaluating all these components, the consultant will prepare a set of recommendations and an estimate of financial performance and help us to complete substantive steps to evaluate which options make the most sense for Union County moving forward."

During the public portion of Thursday's meeting, workers and union representatives made statements on the layoffs.

Prior to those comments, Mr. Sullivan read a statement. "Each individual on this board understands that this budget will affect our employees that are being laid off and those who will remain to provide county services. We understand that it is going to be very difficult to ease the pain for the employees and their families who are affected and we are doing all we can to soften the impact," Mr. Sullivan said, noting that job fairs are planned for May and June as well as seminars with representatives from state and federal offices "to help employees with the transition."

Charles Wolkanech of Ocean City, president of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, said there was a "drastic disparity between the way the administration of Union County has treated the workers at the low end of the salary spectrum as compared to those at the high end."

"It is quite clear that the sacrifice is only being asked of those who can least afford it," Mr. Wolkanech said, alluding to housekeepers and workers in the laundry department and other workers earning between \$35,000 and \$45,000 a year.

He accused the county administration of "carving out" supervisors and management positions from the layoffs and rewarding them "with huge salary increases." "It's well documented that the list of individuals making over \$100,000 has exploded" from 31 in 2000 to 131 now, Mr. Wolkanech said. "So the low-wage workers are being sacrificed at the risk of giving these lavish raises."

Jeff Robinson of Rahway, a worker with the county's social services division, said 37 layoffs are scheduled in his department as of June 1 despite the fact there are "all-time record levels" for food stamp applications and other pro-

grams at social services.

"How do you expect our workers to continue to service the clients?" with less staff to handle the large caseload, Mr. Robinson questioned. "A portion of [laid off workers] will be showing up at social services applying for food stamps."

Barbara Egger, president of Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE) Local 5112, representing registered nurses at Rumlens Specialized Hospital, questioned the freeholders on whether contracts have been approved to privatize services at Rumlens.

Kathy Hatfield, a Springfield attorney handling labor negotiations for the county, responded that the county is "examining whether there are certain functions at Rumlens that can be accomplished through privatization."

"We are looking at certain contracts and responses that we've gotten from state contractors, but no decisions have been made yet. We will be allowing the unions opportunities to bid on the work once we do have those contracts in place and we expect that to be happening in the next couple of weeks," Ms. Hatfield stated.

The freeholders approved a \$1.9-million, one-year contract on April 26 with Kennett Square, Pa.-based Genesis ElderCare Rehabilitation Services, Inc. to privatize occupational, physical and speech therapy services at Rumlens.

Freeholder Chairman Mirabella told *The Times* after Thursday's meeting that the board hopes to have a contract approved before June 1 for other services at Rumlens. He said he hoped the company that would take over additional operations would hire workers being laid off by the county.

Mr. Sullivan said the main culprit in the Rumlens \$14-million deficit are cuts in reimbursement in Medicaid funding from the state for patients.

"And there is no way to get that money back," Mr. Sullivan said, noting that Rumlens was not intended to be a "not a money-making operation for the county."

Tina Marie Lopez, assistant supervisor at social services and member of CWA 1080, said her union was willing to take voluntary furloughs "to stop some of these layoffs," noting she was willing to take a three-week furlough.

"Please come to us with a dollar amount (the county is looking for in union concessions) and let's see if we can meet it," Ms. Lopez said.

Tina Renna of Cranford, president of the Union County Watchdog Association, said the county "has not done away with even one patronage job."

"It's unconscionable what you are doing" to county employees, Mrs. Renna said.

## 7th District GOP Primary Candidates Consider Debate

REGION — Arrangements are underway for a debate between Rep. Leonard Lance (incumbent, R-7th Dist.) and Republican challenger David Larsen for the 7th District Congressional seat. Awaiting confirmation by the candidates, tentative arrangements are made for Wednesday, May 23, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield Municipal Building in the Town Council Chambers. The New Jersey Primary Election is on Tuesday, June 5.

Rep. Lance has confirmed that he will participate. Details are being worked out with Larsen Campaign and an update for the debate will be published next week with the details also on [goleader.com](http://goleader.com) shortly.

The proposed one-hour debate to discuss the issues facing the nation will be open to the public, recorded, and aired on local cable access TV36 Westfield as well as being made available to other stations. The video would be on the Internet at [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com). Seating for the public would be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The debate, administered by *The Westfield Leader*, is to include questions provided in advance from the public and the candidates — compiled by the newspaper. E-mail questions for consideration to [editor@goleader.com](mailto:editor@goleader.com).

The 7th District, effective January 2013, and applicable to the June 5, 2012 Primary, includes Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, Westfield and a small section of Scotch Plains. For full details of the district, see <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/gis/maps/congressional1220.pdf>.

Due to redistricting, Fanwood and most of Scotch Plains (now in the 7th District through 2012) will be moved to the New Jersey 12th Congressional District. The 7th district will now include additional towns from Essex, Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties.

Asm. Upendra Chivukula (D-17,

Somerset) is running unopposed in the June Democratic Primary Election. The winners of the GOP and Democratic Primaries will face off in the Tuesday, November 6, General Election. The filing deadline for Independent candidates for Congress is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5.

## GW Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

snow removal and garbage hauling. The Poente and the borough are in the middle of litigation concerning the matter of snow removal and garbage pick-up.

On another matter, it was noted that there is a prevalent rodent problem on Willow Avenue home properties due to the nearby brook that is home to the rodents, property owner Al Dolconte told the governing body. He asked the council what measures the board of health is taking and why a health inspector had entered the back yard of his property without his knowledge. Baits have been set in the brook, Ms. Ariemma said, but she said she would look into the issue further.

Councilman Lou Petruzzelli announced there would be a memorial service for deceased fire department members on Wednesday, May 16, at 8 p.m. at the fire department headquarters on South Avenue.

Ms. Todisco, the council's finance committee chairwoman, said the borough received \$6,676 from the state's Clean Communities grant.

Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi said a meeting was held last week regarding Garwood joining the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. "It could work really well for Garwood," she said. Some residents in Garwood had been working to reinstate a chamber of commerce for the borough, but the effort had been stalled.

The council also unanimously passed an ordinance to assign a restricted handicapped parking space at 630 Willow Avenue.

Councilman Petruzzelli announced that eight bidders attended a pre-bid meeting with the borough on May 2 for the building of the athletic field complex. This is considerably lower than the some 30 bidders who attended the first pre-bid last year, Ms. Ariemma added. The borough had to resubmit bid specifications after a bidder had complained about how the specs were initially written. The site for the \$2.1-million complex was slated to break ground this summer.

The council's next meeting, on Tuesday, May 15, is Student Government Night. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.



**BREATHTAKING VIEWS...**Ed and Kathy Sjonell of Scotch Plains take time to review *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* while on a recent trip to Chile, Argentina and Brazil. Ugnassu Falls can be seen in the background. Magnificent!



**DERBY PARTY...**During friendly wagers at a Kentucky Derby party in Westfield last Saturday, the lucky winners pose. Pictured, left to right, are: Jimmy Annese, Gail Sloan, Patty O'Connor, Charlie Pijanowski and Ursula Dube. Observing in front are Jeff and Jackie Casey.