



# OPEN HOUSE • APRIL 17TH • 7:00 PM

## UNION CATHOLIC – FAITH-BASED. FANTASTIC. AND FIFTY!

www.unioncatholic.org

Union Catholic App: Union Catholic High School @unioncatholic Union Catholic High School



### Scotch Plains Cell Tower

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

summary rejection of the applicants' expert opinion and blind acceptance of the board members and neighbor's facts failed to comply with governing law." They also said the board acted in a capricious and unreasonable manner in rejecting the companies' testimony about storm water management.

The 130-acre cemetery is owned by the Hillside Cemetery Association of Plainfield. The Association has an agreement with the township, which allows it to lease land to cell phone providers in exchange for paying \$20,000 in sewage assessment taxes, from which the cemetery is legally exempt. It has been reported that the telephone companies will pay the cemetery \$100,000 a year in rent.

The monopole would be six feet in diameter, and would hold nine T-Mobile antennas at the height of 118 feet and 12 Verizon antennas at the height of 108 feet. The compound around the monopole would contain three T-Mobile equipment cabinets. Verizon would erect an equipment shelter with back up batteries and a generator at the compound. T-Mobile would only have back up batteries in its equipment cabinets. The compound grounds would have a gravel surface framed by a concrete or wood border to keep the gravel from dispersing. The facilities would require routine maintenance such as a once a week generator test. The monopole would be able to accommodate three other providers, including the township's emergency services.

The property was used by Gen. George Washington's Army during in the Revolutionary War while engaged in the Battle of Short Hills. Nancy Piwowar of Plainfield, a member of the Stop The Cell Tower group and a local historian, told *The Times*, "There have been artifacts found in that cemetery. Two congressmen and a former New Jersey Governor are buried there along with many other prominent people.

The land deserves more respect than that."

The cemetery is in an R-1 zone, which has a height limitation of 35 feet. The residential zone permits single-family homes, farming, municipal parks, golf clubs, and certain public utility uses.

The Stop The Cell Tower group objects to the monopole because it would be only be 250 feet away from some homes as well as for aesthetic and safety concerns. They also say it could possibly cause a 20 percent devaluation in neighborhood property values.

It is the contention of the phone companies that a coverage gap exists right now, and the proposed tower would provide coverage to an additional 1,200 cell phone users and motorists passing by. The companies say the gap extends to Plainfield, South Plainfield, and Edison. However, during the zoning board meetings, which lasted over a period of seven months and late into the evening, they failed to produce a drop call list, according to the Stop The Cell Tower Group.

Jonathan Weiss of Scotch Plains, who is a lead network designer for a nationwide competitor of T-Mobile and Verizon, said many of my wireless customers are using smaller cells that are less intrusive in a residential environment. "I see no reason why T-Mobile and Verizon can't do the same. Various service measurements are available on the wireless switch to show coverage gaps and in presenting their (the phone companies) have never shown those measurements."

Members of Stop The Cell Tower group say that the request for an extension of time, in which, it (the group) or the township has to appeal the latest ruling was filed last week.

Mr. Loughlin, when reached at his office by *The Times*, said, "It would be inappropriate for me to comment on that at this time, or in the near future."

When reached at the cemetery by phone, general manager Bob Fahrenholz responded, "I have no comment at this time." Township Attorney Judy Verrone did not return a call at press time to her office by *The Times*.



RESTORING THE LAKEBED... Crews at Nomahegan Lake in Cranford continue to remove accumulated sediment from the northern half of the lake. Photo courtesy of County of Union

### UCC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

an average of 30 hours per week during the look back period, they will be considered full-time employees for at least six months — regardless of the amount of hours they actually work during those six months — which lead some chairs to believe hours needed to be cut back this year, which will in part or whole, make up the look back period.

Much of the confusion began when adjuncts began receiving e-mails indicating that they would only be allowed to teach a total of 18 credit hours this academic year. This would mean that for any professors currently teaching the maximum part time load of 14 credit hours, they would be allowed only one more class inclusive of the two summer sessions and the fall semester.

Mr. Lenihan, however, put that rumor to rest indicating that adjuncts were not limited to 18 credits — he did concede, however, that there could be a contraction in hours depending on what the IRS decides. He also indicated that hours spent on activities such as tutoring would probably be included in the weekly hour count, but that the look back period probably would not include the current semester.

Many of the professors, including Mr. Lipkin, said they were pleased at the clarification. Specifically, that they were not being limited to 18-credit hours and that the look back period probably would not include the current semester.

However, others were not as satisfied. Paul Gessner, an adjunct math teacher, said that he was not offered any math classes this semester after teaching at least two for the last five semesters. Mr. Gessner was not given a reason why. "It appears that the 19 hours I tutor at the academic learning center would trigger the school having to offer me health insurance," he said. Mr. Gessner already gets health insurance from another source.

Nancy Merrill, a forensic science professor who has been an adjunct professor for 15 years, said she believes the college has the power to determine what constitutes full-time work.

"The IRS has told each institution to reasonably determine what constitutes part-time," she said. "Fourteen credits are considered part-time. I think it's reasonable to keep it that way."

Ms. Merrill indicated that the course she teaches is a rare seven-credit course that is offered twice per semester. Because she is the only professor qualified to teach the course, she teaches both sections. If it is determined that her non classroom hours are more than two, she would only be able to teach the course once per semester — which would take away a full seven credit hours of compensation. But more importantly, Ms. Merrill pointed out, no one else is qualified to teach the course — so if she does not teach it, it does not get taught.

*Editor's Note: Following the meeting, the college's Executive Assistant to the President, Vice-President, Administrative Services Steve Nacco, asked our reporter to leave the auditorium, stating, "Yeah, I'm throwing you out — you can write that." Mr. Nacco stated that it was not a public forum and although he did not have a problem with the reporter being there, he did not like what it was "descending into," apparently referring to an interview in which Nancy Merrill shared her angst as to how her hours may be cut.*

### Fanwood Library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has not since come back to former levels, and because of across-the-board budget caps faced by the municipality, money to renew the library is hard to come by.

The FML board and council recently met to discuss the budget. The library's proposal for a 5-percent increase in the budget was denied, and a new budget requesting a .008-percent increase has been submitted. The library board and council also are engaging in project-by-project analysis of the potential upgrades. Mr. Weiss said he will find out, when the council introduces its latest budget next Tuesday, what money the council was able to offer the library.

Meanwhile, the library has a new logo ready for rollout this week, and is commissioning the logo's designer, Susan Neuhaus, to work on designs for a new website. All in all, said Mr. Weiss, "Strategic plan and rollout is going pretty good."

### SP Zoning Board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Board members said they were glad to see how successful the restaurant has become and they were happy to see it is not a chain restaurant.

Board member Chris Abeel said, "They've turned that place around. They have a beautiful successful place there."

Mr. Druthie added, "They've made good use of space. They have a good buffer, a wall, a parking lot." Mr. Sullivan said the restaurant has improved the property. "I think it's going to be a good thing for this town," he stated.

Mr. Doyle said, "No one from the neighborhood has been here to object." Board member Christine Thompson said she was "inclined to support it."

Board Attorney Vincent Loughlin suggested some restrictions for the patio area, such as no amplified music and shorter hours than the restaurant.

Steven Bolio, the board engineer, said he wanted to make sure the television will only be facing the bar area. Board member Ira Bodenstein asked when the last seating on the patio will be.

Mr. Loughlin said it was important to establish hours of usage. The restaurant's request was approved with conditions.

In other business, Richard and Wendy Cirillo of 1975 Grenville Road came before the board seeking a C variance to build a 20-foot first-floor addition at the rear of their home. The municipal code requires a 35-foot setback, with the applicant proposing 15 feet. Mrs. Cirillo said they wish to add space for a new kitchen, since they have a galley kitchen now and do not have much room.

She said they also wish to add six feet to their daughters' bedroom. Mr. Abeel said, "I'm inclined to approve this. It's really hard for a growing family to decide what to do when they need more space. Not everyone has the option to move, so they have to add onto the home."

Mrs. Cirillo said the addition will cover an existing patio. She added that it was too much money to build up the home. Mrs. Cirillo said her backyard neighbor has a full fence.

Mr. Abeel said, "I'll move to approve (the application)." Frank Scudato, of 16 Ravenswood Lane, came before the board seeking to install an 800-square-foot pool and landscaping to his yard. The town code requires a rear-yard setback of 30 feet, where Mr. Scudato proposed 14 feet.

Marc Nissim, a landscape architect hired by the applicant, told the board, "The backyard will be fully landscaped with evergreens and other plantings shielding the pool from view. A four-and-a-half-foot fence will surround the pool area. The yard backs up to Hillside Cemetery." He added that the evergreens will be eight feet tall, and stretch for 75 feet.

Mr. Doyle asked about lighting. Mr. Nissim said all the LED lighting will be around the pool and patio. He also said there will be a catch basin along the side of the pool. Mr. Druthie asked if the house was big enough to hide the pool, to which Mr. Nissim said it was. The zoning board approved the request.

The next meeting of the zoning board of adjustment will be held on Thursday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the municipal building on Park Avenue.

### Union County Freeholders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

used by law enforcement and emergency responders, 37 percent by park maintenance and 22 percent by Paratransit and Meals on Wheels.

The personnel management and labor relations budget includes \$819,500 in salaries, down over \$50,000 due to layoffs, and \$894,500 in expenses, up \$21,500 due to labor negotiations. Mr. DiRado said the county needs "to be as aggressive as we possibly can with arbitration" as a result of the new state interest arbitration law which caps union contract arbitration awards at 2 percent. The law, established in 2010, ends in April 2014.

Nineteen of the 22 counties' union contracts are up this year, eight contracts of which are eligible for interest arbitration.

"The more we can get settled in this year the better off it is for the fiscal future of the county," Mr. DiRado said.

Freeholder Alexander Mirabella asked if the county should be looking to negotiate longer contracts than the three and four years currently done.

"It would be advantageous to have a longer contract, if possible," Mr. DiRado said.

The purchasing division budget is up \$13,000 in salaries to \$644,600, but down in expenses \$15,000 to \$204,000, partly due to more efficient purchases for toner and office supplies.

The public safety department's \$10.4-million budget includes \$8 million in salaries for the county police, \$562,600 for emergency management, and \$531,360 for medical examiner office salaries, which are down over \$100,000 due to staff reductions, with the office having gone from two to one pathologist. The office has hired part-time forensic pathologists on a contract basis, thus increasing office operating expenses by \$65,000 to \$300,000.

Public Safety Department Director Andrew Moran said the county police salaries increase was due to increased personnel from the county's expansion of its 9-1-1 dispatch communication center. He said the salary increase would be offset by \$350,000 in municipal contracts for towns using the 9-1-1 services.

Salaries for the Division of Weights and Measures, which are part of the Public Safety Department, are up over \$155,000 to \$331,700 due to what Mr. Moran said were contract obligations, additional hours and a "focus on law enforcement activities." The increase also includes salaries of consumer affairs personnel after the two divisions were merged in 2012.

He said weights and measures salaries were offset in 2012 by the Weights and Measures Trust Fund amount of \$174,961.

Added to the department this year is hospital maintenance, which has been transferred from Rannels Specialized Hospital. That division's \$1.6-million budget is down \$14,143 from last year. Salaries in the division are up \$25,857 based on union raises, with overtime reduced \$40,000 to \$105,000.

Matthew DiRado, director of administrative services, said his staff has been reduced 20 percent from last year. Motor vehicle division salaries are down \$58,000 to \$1.3 million, with operating expenses up \$423,000. He said money has been budgeted to replace vehicles, including three police cars that were totaled, as well as purchasing new prisoner transportation vehicles. He said the county spends \$1.6 million for 570,000 gallons of gas and diesel, with 37 percent

The Host Committee  
Invites you to join them for a reception honoring

## Dave Haas

For Mayor of Westfield, New Jersey



Proven Leadership:  
Town Council, Board of Adjustment, Planning Board  
Integrity, Transparency, Independence

Special Guest  
Newark Mayor Cory Booker

Sunday, April 21, 2013  
5:30 p.m.

At the home of Janice Siegel and Lloyd Marks  
956 Wyandotte Trail

#### Host Committee

Quimby Circle  
Ann Ormsby Cary and Larry Cary  
Elizabeth and Steven Edersheim  
Janice Siegel and Lloyd Marks  
Sue and Bill Wolf

#### Elm Circle

Lisa Berkower and Mitch Rubin  
Casey Chandler and Carl Salisbury  
Karen Fountain and Tom Jardim  
Janice and Frank Fusaro

Cindy and Larry Goldman  
Linda Habgood and Gary Zanfagna  
Gordana and Ethan Harris  
Merle and Dennis Poller

Register online at [DaveHaas4Mayor.com](http://DaveHaas4Mayor.com)

Paid for by Dave Haas for Westfield Mayor  
(All funds solicited in connection with this event are for Dave Haas for Westfield Mayor and not for Mayor Cory Booker.)