



Christina Hinke for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

**ONE MORE PUMP...Attorney Gary Goodman, right, and Anthony Gallerno, professional engineer and planner for Harbor Consultants, left, presented drawing for a reconstruction of the BP gas station on the corner of Springfield and North Avenues in Cranford. The zoning board of adjustment said the applicant had to reapply, since the drawings were revised depicting a additional gas pump and not given to the board or township engineer in advance of the public hearing.**

## Variance Applications Withdrawn

property lines or street right-of-way.

The drawings presented Monday depicted an additional gas pump at an island that was not shown on the drawings submitted to the zoning board. The amended drawings also were not submitted to the township engineering or police departments.

Anthony Gallerano, professional engineer and planner for Harbor Consultants, presented the drawings. He said the plan was to renovate the building and reduce it in size from a 28-foot x 47-foot building with a repair center to a nine-foot x 20-foot building to house an office and bathroom, and eliminate the repair center.

Attorney for the applicant, Gary Goodman, said the applicant planned to "straighten out the access for a better flow," clean

up the area, add two employee parking spaces, and decrease density by removing the repair center.

Mr. Goodman said the application is an "improvement to the site and the area."

## GW Lions to Present Halloween Parade

**GARWOOD** — The Garwood Lions Club will host the borough's annual Halloween Parade on Thursday, October 31. The parade will step off promptly at 7 p.m.

After assembling at Willow Avenue and Center Street, marchers will proceed to the Lincoln School gymnasium on Second Avenue. Costume judging will take place in the school's gymnasium.

For more information about Lionism and membership, call Peggy Briggs at (908) 654-4977.

## Freeholder Forum

an eye on them (Democrats) for a better Union County."

"Since 1997, 16 years of one party. The reality is it's time for new blood and time to take it to the next level," Mr. Martini said.

Mr. Granadas, who replaced veteran Dan Sullivan on the board a few weeks ago, and Ms. Carter said there is a clear difference between the Democratic and Republican candidates. Mr. Granadas said Democrats have focused on helping the youth and seniors.

"We have the One Stop in Elizabeth and two fine schools such as Union County College and Union County Vo Tech. We debate issues and our core belief is helping all voices," Freeholder Carter said.

"We are in rough times with real estate values still struggling and recognize that we continue to provide good schools," Freeholder Kowalski said.

The Democratic freeholders have held a 9-0 majority. The General Election is Tuesday, November 5.

## Pumpkin Decorating Contest Set Saturday

**GARWOOD** — The Garwood Celebrations Committee has announced that the Second Annual Pumpkin Carving and Decorating Contest will take place this Saturday, October 26, at 4 p.m., preceding the Parent-Teacher Association Trick-or-Trunk event.

Participants are asked to bring their carved or decorated pumpkin for judging to the festivities in the parking lot across from Lincoln School on Second Avenue. There will be a prize awarded for each of the following age categories: pre-K to grade 1; grades 2 to 4; grades 5 to 8; high school and adult. Cider and chocolate candy bars will be provided for all who attend. The rain date for the event is Sunday, October 27, at 4 p.m.

## Local Letters to the Editor

### The Parallel Universe Otherwise Known As Union County Freeholders

This is some of what I heard at the last freeholder debate: bad math and a poor justification for one party rule.

During last week's freeholder debate, Ms. Kowalski was asked to state how she would use her position as freeholder to generate jobs in UC and spur economic development. Freeholder Kowalski proudly stated that Galloping Hills (GH) has generated 130 jobs. Freeholder Granados used 100 jobs. Ms. Kowalski did not qualify the jobs as being full-time, part-time, county or private sector. That being said, I will accept her number in order to demonstrate the absurdity of her statement. I subsequently learned at last Thursday's freeholder meeting that County Manager Faella believes that the cost of GH is \$25 million. I will use that number also, though I contend it does not factor in all soft and hard costs in order to continue the dialog. Using basic math, the cost per job at GH works out to be \$192,308 per job created. I submit that at that rate, Ms. Kowalski's method of job creation is fiscally unsustainable and will bankrupt the county.

I also heard Freeholder Granados state: "If Berkeley Heights left the county, our taxes would increase and our large cities would fail." That seems to contradict the Democratic position that all municipalities pay their fair share, none being taxed heavier than another. His argument seems to imply and support the contention that some municipalities are subsidizing other municipalities, a position the Democrats say has no basis in fact.

Unfortunately, Ms. Kowalski's and Mr. Granados' statements demonstrate once again their lack of credentials in all matters financial.

A second question that was asked of the candidates centered on whether the issue of at-large vs. districting to be the fairer system for electing our county government. Freeholder Carter responded by defending her pro at-large position by stating: "We (the Democratic Party?) represent everyone." Well maybe in her world but not in the one in which I vote. Union County is clearly a one-party government run by the majority. She went on to claim: "The system that we have has been working." Yes, it has worked very well for 16 years to preserve one-party Democratic rule. I ask: If it is working so well, and such a fair system, then why are the taxpayers of Berkeley Heights contemplating secession? Despite Ms. Carter's protestations to the contrary, America is not a government meant to function as a one-party system where the majority rules over the minority unchecked. It is obvious that our system of electing our governing board is broken. Any argument to the contrary is clearly partisan or delusional.

The challengers have it correct when they ask for an opportunity to be able to look behind the curtain and participate on an equal footing. Districting would help to safe guard minority rights against the tyranny of the majority.

BTW, I am a registered Democrat who believes in non-partisan politics.

**Jim Buettner  
Cranford**