

30-year-olds in order to thrive. To attract this population, she said the downtown should become a place to socialize, and should have public spaces that are welcoming and have cultural activities.

The township committee approved an ordinance setting increases in fines each time a retail food establishment fails a health inspection. The new law was necessitated, according to Commissioner Kevin Campbell, by several recent instances in which local restaurants failed their annual inspections multiple times.

Westfield Regional Health taxes, balancing the budget, the township committee form of government and the importance of hiring a township administrator were the questions at hand at the township committee candidates forum, sponsored by the Union Area League of Women Voters and Cranford Jaycees. Democrats Kelly Howard and incumbent Kevin Campbell and Republicans Mary O'Connor and Robert D'Ambola faced off for the two open seats on the township committee.

NOVEMBER

Garwood

Republican Councilman James Mathieu was re-elected to a second term along with Republican Michael Martin, who will take the council seat currently filled by Steven Blaufeder.

Union County Interim Executive Superintendent of Schools Kathleen Serafino was to fill a seat on the Garwood Board of Education after the November election failed to produce a candidate willing to serve on the board. According to the borough clerk, Bruce Paterson, who ran an unsuccessful write-in campaign for borough council, received nine votes for school board. Under state law, only one vote is needed for a write-in candidate for the board of education to win if there are no other write-in candidates. Mr. Paterson, a regular attendee at council, school board and county freeholder meetings, de-

clined to serve when the clerk contacted him.

Cranford

Republicans Mary O'Connor and Bob D'Ambola defeated Democratic incumbent Kevin Campbell and his running mate, Kelly Howard in the race for two seats on the township committee.

The township committee announced it had hired Terrence Wall as its new township administrator, replacing Joseph Hartnett who announced his resignation in August. Mr. Wall served North Arlington for six years as administrator before taking the post in Cranford.

Residents Oppose Morin As Cranford Town Attorney

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — In advance of the township committee's vote at yesterday's reorganization meeting, residents spoke at a special committee meeting Monday night against the appointment of Phil Morin as township attorney, a position he held in 2012. Daniel McCarthy is the current township attorney.

Mr. Morin is a partner at Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Fader LLC, and also serves as Union County Republican chairman, and is a former Cranford mayor. Republicans took over as the majority party on the five-member committee on January 1st.

"There is speculation Phil Morin will be appointed township attorney. I would like to voice my opposition to this move. I think he is too closely tied to the developers. I remind you that he was the attorney for Woodmont when they went to develop the Birchwood Avenue property a few years back and was also involved with them with 555 South Avenue," resident John Hrebin said.

Request for proposals (RFPs) for a new township attorney were published at the end of Novem-

Regional

Additional charges were filed against the Union Township man accused of murdering his girlfriend. In addition to first-degree murder, Matthew Ballister III was charged with first-degree felony murder, first-degree kidnapping, two counts of second-degree desecration of human remains, and single counts of second-degree burglary, second-degree hindering apprehension, third-degree criminal restraint, third-degree hindering apprehension and third-degree making terroristic threats in connection with the October death of April Wyckoff of Cranford.

ber and there were three law firms that supplied credentials for the position, Mayor Thomas Hannen Jr. said. "Those three are in consideration," he said.

Resident Liz Sweeney also opposed Mr. Morin's appointment and asked the committee to "get an opinion from the local finance board" before making the appointment.

"He forced Cranford Crossing on us," resident Frank Krause said in his statement opposing Mr. Morin's potential appointment as township attorney. "He forced a \$7.5-million debt in a parking garage nobody wanted."

"I urge you not to hire Mr. Morin as our township attorney," Planning board member Rita LaBruto said.

She said Mr. Morin has pleaded guilty to four of five counts in an ethics violation in Bergen County.

"The town has spent over \$2 million on this lawsuit... If you hire Mr. Morin you are hiring the firm that financed the lawsuit against us at 555 (South Avenue)," planning board member Rita LaBruto said.

In other business, Kenneth DeRoberts, acting chief financial

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

NEW LEADER...Andis Kalnins, who was appointed Cranford Township mayor, was sworn into office by Senator Tom Kean, Jr., while his wife, Joanne; sons, Michael and Patrick, and daughter, Caitlin, look on.

Kalnins Appointed Mayor at Cranford Township Reorg.

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — Commissioner Andis Kalnins was appointed township mayor, and Commissioner Lisa Adubato was appointed deputy mayor, Wednesday during the township committee's reorganization meeting. In addition, newly elected Commissioners Robert D'Ambola and Mary O'Connor took their oath of office, replacing commissioners Ed O'Malley and Kevin Campbell. With their November victory, Republicans now hold a 4-1 majority on the governing body this year.

"We have made a lot of progress over the last two years. We have

many challenges ahead of us and we need to continue to balance the services we need and want with the cost to provide them," Mayor Kalnins said. "We need to insure that our community is safe through healthy police and fire departments," Mayor Kalnins said in his remarks. "We need to improve our roads, our downtown and Centennial Village, and public buildings, while at the same time, not creating unbearable debt. We will get to where we want to be through planning and implementing plans in a responsible manner. We will implement and codify a master plan, which was approved in 2009; we will

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