

## Zoning Board OKs Applications; Heinbokel, Masciale Re-Elected

By DELL SIMEONE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—On Monday evening the board of adjustment approved four applications and rescheduled six others to its Monday, February 10 agenda.

The board approved an application for a six-foot vinyl fence contrary to code for Sally Susan Heyder of 491 Otisco Drive. The ordinance only allows a four-foot fence. Ms. Heyder said she needs some privacy because the yard contains a hot tub. The fence would be at the rear of the property, which is adjacent to a neighbor's drive-

way and is across the street from a playground.

The board approved an application by Lawrence and Gretchen Laguna of 865 Boulevard to construct a two-car garage contrary to code. The ordinance requires a side-yard setback for accessory structures of five feet; proposed is 1.22 feet. The ordinance also requires a rear-yard setback of five feet for accessory structures where the proposed is 2.94 feet.

The board approved the application of Jeffrey and Melanie Singer of 1149 Tice Place to convert 190 square feet of

unfinished second-floor space to a laundry room and closet contrary to code. The ordinance allows a maximum floor area ratio of 32 percent/3,600 square feet. The proposed is 35.03 percent/4,160 square feet.

Lori and Jared Rabinowitz of 312 Temple Place received the approval to construct a one-story rear addition (an open back porch) contrary to code. The ordinance requires a side-yard setback of 10 feet, proposed is five feet. The ordinance allows a maximum coverage of building structures with a deck and a porch of 24 percent where the proposed is 24.8 percent. A previous application for the home had been denied. Architect John Van Linden told the board that the plans had been streamlined and brought closer to code. The applicants said they want to add a back porch along the rear of the home, increase the first-floor living space and add a family room with better access to the patio. A condition to the board's approval was that the porch be open and not enclosed.

Other applications required a (d) variance. The requisite number of board members was not present to vote on those applications. The following applications were carried over to February 10: Keith Hertell of 322-318 Elm Street; Jon Alex Corp. of 321 Elm Street; Hillary and Brian Kaplan of 335 Canterbury Road; Yossi Arbitman of 521 Cumberland Street; Joseph and Joanna Nogan of 58 Westbrook Road and Gertrude Vastano of 760 Austin Street.

A short reorganization meeting was held prior to the regular meeting, at which Andrew Wasserman and William Heinbokel were sworn in for new terms. Vincent Loughlin was reappointed as board attorney and Kathleen Nemeth was reappointed as board secretary. Ms. Nemeth said the board members will remain the same. Mr. Heinbokel was re-elected as the chairman and Chris Masciale as vice-chairman.

The next meeting of the board will take place on February 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the municipal building, located at 425 East Broad Street.

## Economy Dominates Holt's SPFHS Town Hall Meeting

By KATE BROWNE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — A lively discussion on the federal budget deficit, the future of Social Security, trade pacts and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) took place on Saturday as hundreds of Central Jersey voters attended a town hall meeting at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School with Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th).

In response to citizens' questions regarding the budget deficit and unemployment, Mr. Holt advised that he considered it critical that the nation stop "fixating on the debt" and make "smart" investments in education, technology and infrastructure, which will lead to long-term economic growth. He urged the audience to recall the positive impact the GI Bill had on the economy after World War II and noted that the country was presently enjoying record low inflation rates.

The Congressman reiterated his strong support for preserving Social Security and Medicare benefits, programs which he characterized as "among the most successful government" programs in history. Rep. Holt reminded the audience that Social Security's recipients include millions of the disabled, as well as widows and widowers with children, and explained his support for the Social Security Equality Act, which if enacted, would remove the current Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) cap.

Mr. Holt tackled several ques-



OATH OF OFFICE... Preceding the business portion of the January 7 Westfield Board of Education organization meeting, re-elected members for three-year terms, pictured, left to right, Ginny Leiz, Mitch Slater and Brendan Galligan, recite the oath of office in the presence of Board Attorney Richard Kaplow.

## Cranford Twp. Committee Discusses Town Hall Rehab

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Paul LaCorte, chairman of the board of directors of the Cranford Downtown Management Corporation, discussed phases one and two of a three-phase construction project of the municipal building at Monday's township committee workshop meeting. Phase one will be to rehab the exterior of the building and phase two is rehabbing the bathrooms.

Mr. LaCorte said the "guiding principle is to keep it simple." The exterior wood trim, which Mr. LaCorte said is rotting, will be replaced with a rot-resistant material; the cupola will be reworked and its four finials restored, and the cupola will be lit. The

entrance to the police department currently slopes toward the building and will be redone to slope away to prevent water seepage inside.

Water seepage issues on the lower level need to be addressed as well, he said. Drainage piping will be reworked.

Exterior lighting will be added, but will be minimal and lit from the ground up. Rain gardens are planned for the site, but the plans have yet to be submitted, he said, and he does not want it to delay the overall project.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## GW Council Discusses RVSA Fee, Athletic Field Delays

By MEGAN K. SCOTT  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — At the Garwood Borough Council meeting on Tuesday night, the council discussed the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority fee increase, the replacement of a water main on Myrtle Avenue and heard an update on the Athletic Field Complex.

The borough's payments to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) will increase by \$37,000, less than last year's \$60,000 jump but still worth about \$15 for every \$100,000 of

assessed home value, according to Finance Committee Chairwoman Sara Todisco.

"I am disappointed, obviously, to hear these numbers, but at the same time I am happy that I was informed before the budget process," Ms. Todisco said. She added that she was told payment to the RVSA will flatten by 2016.

The RVSA payment only adds to other expected increases, such as contractual obligations, an anticipated compensation increase to volunteer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



TO RENEW OR NOT... Charles Smith, director of public affairs for Comcast, presents facts to the Cranford Township Committee during the public hearing on the franchise application of Comcast New Jersey for renewal of its contract to maintain a cable television and communications system in Cranford.

## Historic Crane-Phillips House Designated Landmark

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — During its meeting Tuesday, the Cranford Township Committee designated the Crane-Phillips House as a historic landmark, discussed the renewal of Comcast's contract and made appointments.

The Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board had sought the distinction of the Crane-Phillips House from the township, making it the first house or district designated under this procedure. At the urging of the advisory board, the township formed an ordinance on historic preservation last March for properties in the township seeking such designation.

The Crane-Phillips House is already on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. It is a historical museum open to the public on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Henry Phillips, of Phillips Milk of Magnesia, purchased the property in 1867 from the Crane family, the founding family of Cranford, and had the house built by Andrew Jackson Downing.

Comcast went before the township committee to present the municipal consent public hearing for the application of Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC for renewal of its municipal consent to own, operate, extend and maintain a cable television and cable communica-

tions system in the Township of Cranford.

Charles Smith, director of public affairs for Comcast, said the committee must base its franchise renewal decision on four questions: has the cable operator substantially complied with existing franchise laws; has the quality of service been reasonable for community needs; does it have financial, legal and technical abilities to provide facility equipment; is the renewal proposal reasonable to meet the interests of the community. He said the committee may look at two areas - rates and programming - should it decide not to renew. The committee did not need to vote on the renewal Tuesday, he said.

The lowest rate available for basic cable is \$15 a month, Mr. Smith said.

Mayor Andis Kalnins appointed Maureen McDougall as a Class C member to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

The mayor also made mayoral appointments to the Emergency Management Council for 2014 — Commissioner Thomas Hannen, Jr., Coordinator; Police Chief Eric Mason and Fire Chief Leonard Dolan as Deputy Coordinators; Mayor Andis Kalnins; Township Administrator Terrence Wall; Monika Koscova-Jencik, Sanitarian; Superintendent of Schools Gayle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



WESTFIELDERS...Senate Minority Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., left, and Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick address the 2014 reorganization of the Legislature in Trenton on Tuesday. See remarks on page 5.



JOINING THE ACT...Sensory Friendly Theater, a performing arts series especially for children and adults with autism and other sensory sensitivities, kicked off its third year at the Union County Performing Arts Center with a record crowd for the sensory friendly percussion extravaganza "Things That Go Bang." Joining the percussionists on stage were Freeholders Bette Jane Kowalski, far left, Vernell Wright, third from left, and Linda Carter, far right. The series, which is supported in part by the Freeholder Board, will continue on Sunday, March 16, with the New Jersey Ballet performing *Sleeping Beauty*. For more information, visit [ucpac.org](http://ucpac.org) or call the box office at (732) 499-8226.

### PAGE INDEX

Regional .....	2, 3	Education .....	9, 18
Editorial .....	4-5	Sports .....	11-17
Police .....	6	Real Estate .....	11-15
Community ...	6-8	Classifieds .....	17
Obituary .....	8	A&E .....	19-20





EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSIONALS

Become Part Of The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Sales Team.

At Coldwell Banker, There Are No Sales Positions...Just Exceptional Real Estate Careers

Westfield - West | 600 North Avenue West, Westfield | 908-233-0065 | [www.coldwellbankermoves.com/westfieldwest](http://www.coldwellbankermoves.com/westfieldwest)



© 2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and Operated by NRT LLC.