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### Cranford Twp. Committee Discusses Town Hall Rehab

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

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.

The committee, he said, had asked about installing a fire sprinkler system. He said it would be "expensive and disruptive" to the construction process.

Committee member Thomas Hannen, Jr. suggested having the elevator reach the third level to allow the movement of archival files there in order to free up space and get the files out of the ground level so they are not at risk to be ruined by floods.

During construction, Mr. LaCorte said the computer server would be moved, and recommended it be relocated to the police department. It currently is housed in the mailroom, where asbestos tiles need to be removed. Also, he said there is a "remote chance there is asbestos in the plaster." He said there was asbestos testing completed in the lower level, and it was negative for asbestos there.

Phases one and two of the plan are being funded through insurance, Mayor Andis Kalnins said. The committee expects a final architectural proposal on Monday, February 10.

In other business, Police Chief Eric Mason announced a vacancy in the records division and asked to fill the vacancy with a starting salary of \$30,000.

Mayor Kalnins discussed the allocation of grant funds from the Kids Recreational Trust Grant Program. The Memorial Field bathrooms have yet to be rehabbed, he said. The Roosevelt Park and Sherman Park grounds are to be re-graded and resurfaced with the grant money.

Also, there was discussion about adding a playground to Sherman Field, which Mr. Hannen said would take away from field space for sports. He said other sports leagues have said there is limited space to practice as it is. "If we put playground equipment there, there are limits to what we can do there," Mr. Hannen said.

The roof above the indoor Orange Avenue pool and exercise area is leaking and Mr. Hannen said that needs to be a priority.

The committee also discussed the Roads and Resurfacing five-year plan. "There is a more immediate need for pothole repairs," committee member Lisa Aduvato said.

Some resurfacing is not to start until April. "To tell people you have to wait until April and it was supposed to be done last year is unacceptable," Mr. Hannen said.

Township Administrator Terrence Wall suggested a software program that will track reported potholes and road damage and their subsequent repair.

Committee member Mary O'Connor asked about revising the residential garbage hauling ordinance. She said that while she was campaigning, senior citizens asked to have it be allowed they get once a week pickup instead of twice a week. "It might be a help for some people to offset their costs," Ms. O'Connor said.

Residents Albert and Rachael Watson voiced their aggravation with their neighbor, who has been playing music for hours at a time at a high volume that they can hear in their own home. The couple asked the township committee to revise its noise ordinance and revise it to phrase that the noise level on one's property cannot be heard beyond the property line.

The Watsons said they have called the police regarding the matter, but that the police have not been able to force the neighbor to lower the volume because there is no law in place that the neighbor is breaking.

Mr. Watson said the neighbor is playing the music at high levels as retaliation for Ms. Watson opposing his fence plan when he went for a variance at the last zoning board meeting. The neighbor was denied a variance to build a six-foot-high, closed fence.

Mayor Kalnins said the chief of police, who was in attendance at this meeting, is looking into the matter personally.

Maureen Strazdon, chairwoman of the historic advisory board, said the board has been promised a \$2,000 grant from FEMA to re-shoot its video architectural tour of Cranford, *A Cruise Through Cranford*. She said the release of funds has been held up due to the plan for elevation of some homes in the historic district. Mayor Kalnins said the committee will look into seeing if it can front the money and be reimbursed by the grant later.

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Benjamin B. Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**PARDON OUR APPEARANCE...**Construction of the parking lot in Fanwood off La Grande Avenue is still ongoing since starting on August 12, 2013.

### Westfield Zoning Board

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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 Arbitzman 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.

### Crane-Phillips House

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salary of Fire Chief Leonard Dolan, at \$134,366.

Mayor Kalnins announced the Green Certification, part of Sustainable Jersey efforts by the Cranford Green Team, of three local businesses: Romola's Seafood and Grille, Brooklyn Pizza, and Tony and Dan's Accurate Auto.

The township's e-mail system had gone down Tuesday. Mr. Wall said he had two proposals submitted by companies to correct the problem. The system was expected to be up and running by the end of yesterday, January 15, Mr. Wall said.

During Commissioner Reports, Commissioner Hannen announced that Cranford High School had started CHAPS (Cranford High Assistance Program) to provide help to families who are in need of assistance for a variety of things. Residents interested should contact students Kevin and Trevor at chapsnj@gmail.com.

Commissioner Robert D'Ambola said, "This incredible cold snap has created numerous potholes throughout town. It is very bad." Residents should call (908) 709-7217 to report dangerous conditions. The township's Department of Public Works will be out making repairs, he said.

On Saturday, February 22, members of the team advisory board will participate in the Polar Bear Plunge in Seaside Heights to benefit the Special Olympics and hopes to raise \$18,000, Commissioner Mary O'Connor said.

The Cranford Fire Department will hold a Food and Wine tasting on Wednesday, January 22, at Pines Manor in Edison. See [cookedanduncorked.com](http://cookedanduncorked.com) for more information.

Ms. O'Connor thanked Cranford patrolmen Timothy O'Brien and Daniel Donnestag for pursuing and apprehending suspects in the attempted theft at Martin Jewelers last Thursday.

The Chamber of Commerce will host a 2014 kickoff party at the Cranford Hotel on January 22 at 6 p.m., Mayor Kalnins announced. Local businesses are invited. RSVP at the chamber office.

A Jaycees fundraiser will be held at the Cranford Hotel from 3 to 6 p.m. this Sunday, January 19. Admission is \$30. As part of the FEMA elevation project, the township is moving forward on elevating two homes, Mayor Kalnins said.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will hold an open public hearing on the application for the proposed development of a site on Birchwood Avenue today, Thursday, January 16, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers. Each resident will have three minutes to speak or can submit written comments in advance. Each comment in regards to the environmental impact will be considered with the application.

### Fanwood Man Hit by Train Succumbs to Injuries

By BETSEY BURGDOFF  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The incident involving the death of Edward Byron, III, 23, of Fanwood, who was fatally injured when he was struck by a train on New Year's Day, remains under investigation, Fanwood Police Chief Richard Trigo told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

The victim, who was a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Class of 2009, where he was an Honor Roll student, died at UMDNJ on January 5 from his injuries, which included the loss of an arm.

NJ Transit spokesman John Durso told *The Times* that NJ Transit police were called to the scene at about 9:30 p.m. on New Year's Day after an NJ Transit engineer on a westbound train alerted authorities that he saw a body on the eastbound tracks approximately a half mile past the Fanwood station towards Plainfield. Mr. Durso stated that Mr. Byron was alive and conscious when police arrived, although seriously injured. He was transported to Forest Road Park, where he was stabilized and eventually airlifted to UMDNJ in Newark, where he succumbed to his injuries days later.

### SP PD Seeking Information Regarding Home Burglary

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Police Department is seeking information from the public regarding a home burglary that took place sometime on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.

At approximately 2 p.m. on January 1, officers responded to the scene of the burglary, a residential home on Sterling Place. It was determined that the incident likely took place sometime between 9:30 a.m. on December 31, 2013 and the time at which it was reported.

The burglary victim, a senior citizen, came home to find that an unknown suspect or suspects had entered the residence and removed undetermined quantities of cash and jewelry, according to the investigation.

### SP Plan. Bd.

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and former chairman who was not reappointed a year ago but was then named to the board by the council last week — to serve as vice-chairman. She cited his "extensive experience in town and with planning on a local and state level." Mayor Glover nominated Mr. Thompson. The vote in favor of Mr. Doyle was identical to the vote for chairman.

The board is still mulling over candidates to serve as attorney, consulting planner and consulting engineer. Appointees to most of the planning board's various subcommittees also were held off, with Mrs. Coronato asking members to look at which of the nine committees — architectural review, environmental, issues and objectives, master plan review, personnel, rules and procedures, site plan review and subdivision review — they might be interested in serving on. She did name Mr. Doyle to head the master plan review committee because of his "extensive experience with master plan reviews." She noted that the township must, by 2017, file a master plan review with state officials and said the process should start this year. There is "a lot to review," she said, and "it will take some time."

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Glover, Councilman Vastine, Mrs. Coronato, Mr. LaCosta, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Polhamus were sworn in as members of the board.

The planning board meets next on Monday, January 27.

Most of the jewelry constituted family heirlooms with sentimental value to the victim.

The Scotch Plains Police Department is urging anyone who might have information about this incident to contact Detective Brian Hayeck at (908) 322-7100, extension no. 131. All calls will be kept confidential and any caller may remain anonymous.

A reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest and indictment in connection with this burglary also is being offered by the Union County Crime Stoppers; tips can be given anonymously by phone at (908) 654-TIPS (8477), via text message by texting "UCTIP" and a message to 274637 (CRIMES), or online at [www.uctip.org](http://www.uctip.org). The victim's family is additionally offering an identical reward of their own.

### SP Rec.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

works," said Mr. Poerio. "The signs will display four to five sledding safety rules and will be located at the top of the hill by the pump house, the entrance to the course from the DPW garage parking lot, and by the lower section of the fifth hole."

While discussing the 2014 fee schedule, Mr. Poerio stated that the majority of the fees stayed the same as 2013, with the exception of summer day camp (early fee, \$375; regular fee, \$425) and golf-course membership fees (range from \$33 to \$50 for residents' full membership), which were changed for 2014.

"There were nominal increases to the golf-course membership fees because there had not been increases in three years," Commission Chairman Robert Giordanello said.

Mr. Poerio recommended to commissioners that they continue the multi-child discount for families with three or more children in the summer day-camp program — 10 percent for the second child per family (\$337.50) and 25 percent for the third child per family (\$281.25).

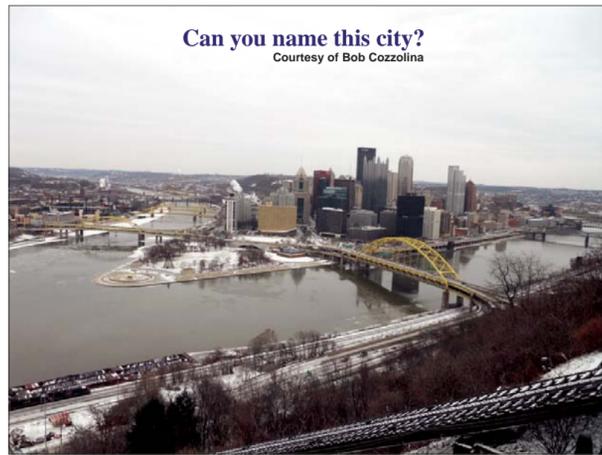
In other business, the commission unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Poerio as the commission clerk, at no additional salary, and they welcomed new members Shawn Johnson and Pam Duthie.



Courtesy of Bob Cozzolina  
**WAIT 'TIL NEXT YEAR...**Steeler fans display their copy of *The Westfield Leader* while visiting the Pittsburgh Steeler Sports Training Center last week.



**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.



Can you name this city?  
Courtesy of Bob Cozzolina

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