



**PANCREATIC CANCER MONTH...**...Jeanne Gladis, a volunteer from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN), receives a proclamation from Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky at Wednesday's Town Council meeting proclaiming November 2014 as National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in the town.

## Cranford Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this year. Lt. Davenport carried a disabled man down five flights of stairs. A Life Saving Award was given to Officer Sean Halcomb.

Civilian Achievement Awards were given to Jennifer Klein and John Weber, who both were paramount in supplying information to the police department on burglary suspects in two separate incidents.

"We have the best cops in the state of New Jersey," Chief Wozniak said.

"They do extraordinary things every day," Commissioner Robert D'Ambola said of the police force during his commissioner report.

November is designated Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Cranford. Mayor Kalnins presented a proclamation to Todd Cohen from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, along with his brother, Lee, and nephew, Brian. Mr. Cohen's father died of pancreatic cancer, a disease that is the second leading type of cancer and has a 6-percent five-year survival rate, Mr. Cohen said.

Winans Avenue paving is almost complete, and Herning, Brookdale and Tuxedo Avenues are to be paved soon as part of the paving project, Commissioner D'Ambola said.

A meeting was held on the One Seat Ride on October 27, at the community center, where it was announced that NJ Transit will fund the second phase that will extend one-seat service on the Raritan Valley line on weeknights after 8 p.m., Mayor Kalnins said.

The committee recognized the ser-

vice of veterans in observance of Veterans Day.

Rita Mason, a resident of Alan Okell Place, complained about a tree on her property she has attempted over a number of years to have the township remove and has said the tree is healthy and so would not remove it.

A number of charity drives and events are taking place in the township. A Blanket Drive is being held by a Girl Scout troop that is accepting blankets at 113 Spring Garden Street.

Dr. Kurt Krause is holding an oral cancer screening at his dental practice.

The library will hold a free practice SAT test and analysis that will offer strategies to improve scores on Saturday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Jeans for Troops program asks employees to donate \$5 and in return allows employees to wear jeans to work for the day. "Any way we can support our veterans, it is worth it," Mayor Kalnins said.

Chamber of Commerce Pride in Cranford award winners this year for business improvement are Dreyer Farms, Martin Jewelers, 100 Steps Supper Club and Raw Bar. Jeff's Landscaping, and Needlepoint Homes. Union County Neighbors United and the Rotary Club of Cranford won the organizational award. Individual award winners were John Guempel, Barbara Ragone (posthumously), Barry O'Donovan and Martha Garcia. "These people help out our town every day and make Cranford what it is," Mayor Kalnins said.

## CF Zoning Bd. Denies Mini Mart for Exxon Station

By DELL SIMEONE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD—The zoning board, on Monday evening, denied an application to allow the owner of the Exxon gas station at 464 South Avenue East to install a "Tiger Mart," or mini mart, in one of the three service bays at the station. The property is at the intersection of Centennial Avenue.

The applicant, Jaranjeet Singh, owns 25 gas stations in New Jersey that contain mini marts. The applicant was seeking the following variances: conditional use (convenience store) approval; less than the minimum required on-site parking spaces; granite block curbing not provided; no loading or unloading zone provided and no bicycle rack provided.

The existing station, which was built in 1958, has two pumps and three service bays. The applicant's attorney, Frank Capece, said there is no longer a need for the third service bay so the owner wants to use it as a space for the convenience store, which he said would not sell prepared foods. He described the average customer as someone who pulls in for gas and then runs into the store for a quart of milk. He said the average visit to the station for gas and a food item would be less than four minutes. He said the station would operate each day between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The applicant's engineer, Edward Bogan, said there would be seven parking spaces for customers. However, after questioning by the board he said there would be seven parking spaces provided including three spaces for employees and one handicapped spot. Parking would be located on either side of the building. He also said there would be a small dumpster on one side.

Board members were concerned about how the cars could maneuver in and out of the parking spaces if other cars were lined up at the pumps. Board member John Mallon said, "If all employees park you only have four spaces for customers."

Board member William Montani said, "You are only 100 feet away from Krauser's." Board member Mary Ann Hay questioned how a driver in the space nearest to the pumps could get out. "He would be stuck," Mr. Mallon said. Mr. Bogan admitted the driver would have to make a K-turn.

Mr. Capece noted that there is parking on both sides of the street on Centennial Avenue. "No one has come forward to object to the plan," he said.

"What concerns me the most is that there would be an overflow of cars on Centennial Avenue," Mr. Montani said.

Mr. Montani also stated, "I don't see any landscaping plans." Mr. Bogan responded, "There are none."

The applicant's architect said the store would be 700 square feet and take up half of the existing building.

Mr. Montani said he did not see how the mini mart would be a benefit to the community. Board member Robert Bovasso said the store is, "an adjustment to the gas station. A three-bay gas station isn't in demand. They're making use of space," he added.

The board's discussion lasted 90 minutes before the board voted 4-to-3 to deny the application. Most board members said they were concerned about the small space and the room to maneuver cars in and out of the parking spaces.

In other business, the board approved an application by John and Maura O'Connor of 49 John Street to construct a third-story addition, which exceeds the maximum number of allowable stories on the street. Architect Maria Cosmo argued that the home is older and the addition is consistent with others in the neighborhood. She said the home is long and narrow and that there is no place to go but up. Ms. Cosmo said a dormer will be in the middle of the structure and will not change the facade of the home.

Zoning Officer Robert Hudak said it is only one-and-a-half feet beyond the code requirement. Ms. Cosmo said the dormer will not face the front of the home.

## Freeholders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

system," Mr. Zuber said.

The freeholders also are likely to vote on a new lease agreement and location for the county's intoxicated driver resource center. Classes have been held at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. Frank Guzzo, director of human services, said the Gateway Family YMCA in Elizabeth, located at 135 Madison Avenue, has more classroom space and parking, which will allow the county to hold more classes, resulting in increased revenue to the county.

Mr. Guzzo said the county will pay \$520 per day, or \$27,000, in 2015, where the county currently pays \$250 per day, or \$12,000. He said the cost is paid by client fees.

The board also is to vote on several agreements with municipalities relative to maintaining red light cameras. The county, in return, receives a percentage of revenue from summonses generated by the traffic control signal monitoring devices.

The costs through Tuesday, December 16, are: \$104,227, Rahway; \$40,123, Roselle Park; \$93,881, Union, and \$209,612, Linden. County Counsel Robert Barry said the agreements are going through December 16, as this is the date when the state's red light pilot program ends unless the Legislature and the governor take action.

The board also will likely vote tonight on an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) to accept funding of \$4,155,600 for the county's 2015 capital budget, an amount that is \$700,000 over the county's 2014 funding.

At the start of the meeting the board honored Scotch Plains resident Courtney Dreyfus, who won a silver medal in the triathlon at the Nationals at the Special Olympics. She also will represent Team USA in the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, where she will compete in the triathlon and in a half-mile swim. She said the triathlon includes a quarter-mile swim, a 12- to 15-mile bike event, and a 5k run.

## WF Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to raise awareness, support patients and their families, and raise funds to find the cure - through both individual contributions and federal funding and legislation."

Mayor Andy Skibitsky praised the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network for its work in raising awareness of this disease. "The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the first and only patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community in Westfield and nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure," he said.

The next town council conference session open to the public is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, at 7 p.m. It will be held at the municipal building, located at 425 East Broad Street. The conference session will be immediately followed by the council's regular public meeting at 7:45 p.m.



THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE...Captain Ryan Hart of the 102 Cavalry greets soldiers during Westfield's Veterans Day program held Tuesday at the town's Monument to Veterans of World War I.

## CF Train Plaza on Track; New Tree Ord. Discussed

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The stalled pedestrian improvements plan for the North Avenue Plaza, located in front of the Cranford train station, to be funded partially by a Municipal Aid 2011 Transit Village Program grant in the amount of \$500,000, is back on track, Township Engineer Carl O'Brien said Monday at the township committee's workshop session. The project is to go out to bid and construction is scheduled to begin in April, with a completion date in August 2015, Mr. O'Brien said.

The plan is to make the area safer for pedestrians and provide better traffic flow of NJ Transit buses. There will be a turnaround area for the buses, added fencing by the crosswalk areas and new curbing, pavement and lighting.

Earlier this year the bids for the project exceeded the budgeted amount and were thrown out.

In other business, West Holly Street will have a delay in paving until after the winter due to gas main replacements taking place, Mr. O'Brien said. Since the road is in poor condition, the Department of Public Works had recommended the road be milled before the winter.

The areas in the southwest portion of the township set for paving will be paved in the spring, Mr. O'Brien said.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection told Mr. O'Brien the plans to modify Orchard Brook, a tributary of the Rahway River, no longer meet with regulations and need to be more environmentally sensitive. The permits for easements along the Orchard Brook were secured about 10 years ago, and not all homeowners along the brook gave their consent. Mayor Andis Kalnins has said it could help alleviate flooding impacts for about 160 homes.

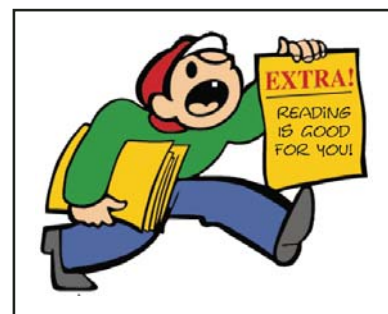
A potential new tree ordinance that would include the hiring of a forester, and a new law requiring permission from the forester for residents to remove a tree considered a landmark tree, was laid out by Commissioner Robert D'Ambola. The definition of a landmark tree was not specified. Salary costs for a forester are still to be determined, Mr. D'Ambola said.

"This ordinance is needed desperately because we are losing large trees," said Barbara Krause, a member of the tree advisory board, during public comments. She cited a long list of nearby communities that have adopted an ordinance like the one presented or contains stricter laws. She noted that not only did Cranford lose 900 township trees as well as private trees in Hurricanes Sandy and Irene, but property owners have been taking down

## Portion of Raritan Rd. Closed for Road Work

SCOTCH PLAINS — The New Jersey American Water Company will be replacing a large water main on Raritan Road in Scotch Plains beginning today, November 13, which will necessitate the closure of Raritan Road between Terrill Road and Ashbrook Drive.

This work will continue for several weeks. Raritan Road will shut down each morning at 7:30 a.m. and reopen each evening. During the closure there will be no through traffic. Drivers should use Cooper Road as their detour or plan an alternate route. Scotch Plains police officers will be on site each day to enforce the closure. Residents will be allowed in and out of their homes as construction allows.



See it all on the web!  
www.goleader.com

large trees that were healthy.

Commissioner Mary O'Connor said after having some businesses interested in a winter farmers' market the idea of holding it inside by the kitchen of the community center on Saturday mornings is being discussed.

The safety concerns of the ingress and egress and front setbacks of new bank establishments on North Avenue was again brought up by resident Frank Krause. He said the committee and the zoning board need to have better coordination between them, and said the zoning board that approved those plans had disregarded police reports.

The board of health meeting was held prior to the workshop meeting Monday. Megan Avallone, health officer, said there have been two complaints regarding a rat problem, which is down from six properties on Sailer Street and Scherer Street that had exterminators come out in September. The township is continuing to pursue gaining approval for access to the vacant, foreclosed home that residents on those streets had blamed for the problem. Ms. Avallone said there has been no evidence externally of a rat infestation on the property.

A public complaint was made regarding the home at 133 Mohawk Drive. Robert Fico, the new part-time code enforcement property maintenance officer, said he went to the property, which has been vacant for about seven years, and learned a pipe burst that has caused mold in the interior. Additionally, there are holes in the roof where animals have probably entered through to the house.

Also, a large limb from a dead tree on the property came down on a walkway, and it is a safety concern. The house is in such disrepair that Mr. Fico said it would probably need to be demolished or undergo a major rehabilitation. The maintenance company of the home has not shown up to arranged meetings for the township to gain access to the home. The township said it will begin the process to fine the owner.

## WF BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

presentation and update on community relations, which lasted one hour.

The presentation was called Tradition of Excellence. Superintendent Dolan introduced the presentation and said she enjoyed working with Ms. Korecky on it and appreciated Ms. Korecky's knowledge of public relations from her experience working in corporate communications.

Ms. Korecky outlined the district's methods of communication to parents, students and the community. She said this year, the district had 345 placements in print or online media. She said the district had 1,028 Twitter followers, 252 tweets and 508 friends on Facebook. She said the district has reached out with video links to award presentations, sends a weekly synopsis of board meetings by e-mail and posts on the website.

She also said that feature articles are sent to *The Westfield Leader*, *N.J. School Boards* magazine and to the district's *Administration* magazine. She also said the website is new and has a new home page.

Ms. Korecky said the district, through Edline, is working with the Voice of America, which chose Westfield to illustrate by video why New Jersey is number one in education. The Voice of America broadcasts to 85 countries, she said. "We are working with them on national outreach," she added.

She said there is room for growth in alumni relations as the district moves forward. The goal, Ms. Korecky said, is to reinforce internal and external communications. Some tools for that, she said, are websites, synopsis PTO newsletters and surveys.

The meeting was adjourned to go into private session.

The next meeting of the board will be Tuesday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m., at the Administration Building, located at 302 Elm Street.

LOCK INTO A GREAT  
CD RATE

3 Year CD

1.50%  
APY\*

5 Year CD

2.25%  
APY\*

Northfield  
Bank

Westfield Office  
828 South Avenue West  
eNorthfield.com  
(908) 789-9600

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) in effect as of November 10, 2014 and subject to change without notice. Minimum balance of \$2,500 to open account. There is a substantial penalty for early CD withdrawals. Fees could reduce earnings. Member FDIC.