

## New Water Storage Pipes to Alleviate Flooding on High Street in Cranford

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Construction will begin Monday on High Street to install new water pipes underground for storm water storage, Township Engineer Carl O'Brien said Monday at the township committee workshop meeting. Some committee members questioned if this was a "Band-Aid" or a permanent fix.

"It will alleviate some of it. When the intersection does flood it goes up to two to three feet against the building," Mr. O'Brien said.

The property owner of Riverfront at Cranford Station, which is on the corner of High Street and South Avenue, was told by Mr. O'Brien to lay new pipes, Mr. O'Brien said. This work would be in conjunction with the township laying down two, 12-inch pipes on High Street up to Chestnut Street for additional storage of rain water.

"They said they were supposed to fix that problem," Commissioner Robert D'Ambola said of the property owner of Riverfront at Cranford Station.

In order to fully resolve the flooding problem there, Mr. O'Brien said it may mean ripping up the parking lot and laying new outflow pipes to the Rahway River that are larger in diameter, which would require New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) permits.

Orchard Brook improvements are at another standstill. "You have permits, you have some easements... But that was all approved under a previous permit a while ago.... None of it is valid anymore...from what today's standards are," Mr. O'Brien said. He said he would set up a meeting with the NJDEP to discuss the previous plans and find out how

the township can move forward with the project. The project has been delayed for about 10 to 20 years, and the brook is only getting worse, Mayor Andis Kalnins told *The Westfield Leader*. He said he is hopeful homeowners along the brook will be more sympathetic to the flooding issues in the township given the aftermath of Hurricane Irene and will begin to allow the easements.

The Garwood Borough Council has said that since Orchard Brook in Cranford has not been widened it is causing Garwood's Orchard Brook, situated by the Pathmark, to flood.

Elizabethtown Gas recently dug up roadways on Herring Avenue, after the road was paved this June, Commissioner Tom Hannen, Jr. said. "How do we prevent this in the future?" he asked.

Elizabethtown Gas has agreed to pay for the milling and paving

of the street, Mr. O'Brien said.

"It seems there is a consistent disregard for working with the town," Mayor Kalnins said.

The engineering department is meeting with Elizabethtown Gas to go over each other's projects, Mr. O'Brien said.

Mr. O'Brien also suggested the township consider adopting an ordinance for roadwork that "would give more teeth," he said.

Also, Township Administrator Terence Wall has spoken to each utility company and told them the township has a "zero tolerance" policy on roadwork. An audit of the streets that had recent patches following roadwork from utilities will be performed. Then, where there are needs for further repair to the patchwork, the utilities will be directed to repair.

A rain garden is planned for the front of the municipal building on

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## Garwood Council Discusses Field Project, Road Repairs

By LAUREN S. BARR  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — At Tuesday night's Borough Council meeting the governing body heard an update on the Athletic Field Complex and discussed an application for grants for road work from the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Councilman Louis Petruzzelli reported that a meeting was held earlier that day with the athletic complex contractor. He said that flooring and a ventilation system for the kitchen portion of the building were to be completed along with the installation of railings.

According to Councilman Petruzzelli, the contractor came with his own punch list of items which still needed to be addressed, such as maintenance and ponding on the basketball court.

Councilman Jim Mathieu asked if there was a target date for the opening of the complex, especially given the start of youth sports. He added that he is starting to "get a lot of complaints" and that residents are very upset. He mentioned a recent editorial on the subject by *The Westfield Leader* and questioned who would pay for the re-grading of the baseball field and re-surfacing of the basketball court.

Councilman Petruzzelli responded that he believed that the contractor would be responsible after they tested the areas and found that water is indeed ponding. As of this time, he said he was not aware of any cost overruns and that they asked the contractor to provide them with an opening date by the end of the week.

During its workshop session, the council discussed an application to the DOT for multiple road

projects. Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello requested that the council give him direction as to which projects he should apply for the grant money.

The borough recently completed drainage work on Third Avenue using a prior DOT grant and the council agreed to make an application to the DOT for milling and paving of that portion of the road.

Councilwoman Sara Todisco asked that the council also consider applying for a grant to pave Willow Avenue. Mr. Guarriello also recommended that the council consider applying for grant money in order to replace drainage and pave Myrtle Avenue east of Oak Avenue due to flooding problems.

The council will make a decision on which projects to apply for grants before the Tuesday, October 14, deadline.

Third Avenue resident Bob Lawrence said that he lives on the block that was worked on and noted that the side of the street where the drainage was installed is not the side of the street that floods. He said that in the winter the end of his driveway is solid ice. "I still have to go through another winter [with these problems]?" he asked the engineer.

"Probably," Mr. Guarriello responded.

After Mr. Lawrence left the meeting, Councilwoman Todisco questioned Mr. Guarriello as to whether or not the work done on Third Avenue would improve his situation.

Mr. Guarriello responded that it "can't hurt him," saying that one drain was installed on Mr. Lawrence's side of the street, but that the real improvement will come next year when the street is milled, paved and re-graded.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader  
**SMELL TEST...Customers stop to smell the apples at the Cranford Farmers' Market held September 4 in the municipal parking lot on North Union Avenue.**