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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the ordinances of the Township of Cranford, and the statutes of the State of New Jersey, Notice is hereby served upon you that an application for development, Application No. ZBA-15-026 to be located in Zone VC, on the premises known as: 310 Centennial Avenue, Block No. 525, Lot No. 5 has been submitted by: 310 Centennial Avenue, LLC of 162 Mountaintain Drive, Mountaintain, New Jersey 07092.

The proposed development involves and requires the granting of relief from the following requirements of the ordinance so as to permit:

Sec. 136-30, Maximum permitted height of structure.
Sec. 136-23.6(3)(a)(1), Size of parking stalls.

Sec. 136-23.6(8)(c), Tree plantings.
Sec. 136-23.6(8)(g), Granite curbing.
Sec. 136-23.6(12), Loading zone.

Sec. 136-30, Minimum front yard setback.
Sec. 136-30, Minimum rear yard setback.

Sec. 136-39(A), Minimum parking stalls.
Sec. 136-23.6(3)(a), Parking setback.
Sec. 136-35(B) (22), Density.

In order to permit the property to be developed as a mixed use structure containing 20 residential apartments and approximately 1,900 square feet of retail space, and any additional relief that may be required by the Board.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will conduct a public hearing on this matter on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 8:15 p.m. in Room 107 of the Cranford Township Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. Any person or persons affected by this application will have an opportunity to present any objections to the proposed development. The Board does, however, have the right to exclude repetitious testimony.

All documents relating to this application may be inspected by the public Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Planning/Zoning Department, Cranford Township Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

Joseph J. Triarsi, Esq. Attorney for Applicant
1 T - 12/17/15, The Leader Fee: \$49.47
Shannon Rapant Secretary to the Board
1 T - 12/17/15, The Times Fee: \$14.28

Bill to Shield Addresses of Assault Victims Clears Panel

TRENTON - Legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Nancy F. Muñoz (R-21st, Summit) that shields the home addresses of victims of sexual assault and stalking from their assailants has cleared the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

"This is one more tool that victims can use to take back their lives," Asw. Muñoz said. "They should never have to fear for their lives or their children's well-being while living in their own home. This measure will help protect their identity and keep their actual address private."

The bill (A-3809) would expand the state's Address Confidentiality Program enacted in 1998 so that domestic violence victims could keep their actual address confidential on public documents and prevent their

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FREELANCERS WANTED

Strong, detail-oriented writers with professional demeanor needed to cover local government meetings. Must be able to meet deadlines, know how to write a lead, and take an active interest in their beats in order to develop news stories. Please email resume and clips to: editor@goleader.com

Attorney: County Wanted To Drop Case Against Officer

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

COUNTY - An attorney for Shiquon Fowler of North Plainfield, who alleged he was sexually molested by a Juvenile Detention Center officer, said last week that the Union County Prosecutor's Office wanted to drop the case against the guard, forcing Mr. Fowler to hire a victim's advocate.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders approved a \$475,000 settlement on December 3. The County Watchers website reported that the county paid \$435,000 in legal fees to defend the county in the lawsuit. A published report said the county hired 11 attorneys to represent defendants in the case.

"The county (prosecutor's office) was looking to get this case and they almost did," said Brian S. Schiller, a Westfield-based attorney representing Mr. Fowler told The Westfield Leader and The Times.

The \$475,000 - to be paid by insurance - was to settle the suit filed by Mr. Fowler, who in May 2014 accused Sherrie Brown-Braswell of sexually assaulting him between April 2012 to November 2012 while he was 17 and being held at the detention center in Linden.

Mr. Schiller said his client was threatened by Ms. Brown-Braswell if he did comply with her demands for sexual acts. He said the officer threatened to have other juveniles at the Linden facility assault him. Mr. Schiller also said the officer knew where the black out areas were for

the security cameras so she would not be scene by detention center officials.

Mr. Schiller said the prosecutor's office and police interviewed 60 people including detention center employees and juvenile detainees regarding the case over an 18-month investigation.

Mr. Schiller said his client pled guilty to robbery and lewdness charges.

Ms. Brown-Braswell, who was arrested in North Carolina in May 2014, and was charged with second-degree sexual assault, and fourth-degree sexual contact, the latter of which she pled guilty. She was given two years probation, according to published reports.

"The county had a lot to lose here," Mr. Schiller said.

Fanwood Recognized By Sustainable Jersey

FANWOOD - Fanwood is among four Union County municipalities recognized recently by Sustainable Jersey.

Statewide, 190 municipalities were honored by the group for local efforts to increase community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions and improve environmental equity.

In a process that took several months to complete, Fanwood qualified for the group's bronze award. Local efforts for certification, led by Borough Administrator Eleanor McGovern and Margaret Chowdhury of the Fanwood Environmental Commission, began with the creation of a "Green Team" to bring several groups together.

Projects included the creation of rain gardens at Borough Hall and the Fanwood Memorial Library, the use of goats to clear invasive plants at the Nature Center, the creation of a pollinator garden at Borough Hall, Fanwood's voluntary recycling center among others.

Other Union County municipalities honored included Elizabeth, Springfield and Summit.

Fanwood Police Start Holiday DWI Enforcement

FANWOOD - The police department already has started its annual holiday season campaign against intoxicated driving on Friday, beginning saturation patrols and erecting sobriety checkpoints in coordination with state law enforcement.

The patrols and checkpoints will continue on an intensive schedule through Friday, January 1, the department said in a release.

"The national 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' effort endeavors to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving through a combination of high-visibility enforcement and public education," the Fanwood Police Department said in a release.

"This is a critical law enforcement program that can save lives during a time of the year when impaired driving traditionally increases by nearly 10 percent," Fanwood Chief Richard Trigo said. "This initiative brings attention to the serious consequences of drunk driving and the grave danger those who choose to drink and drive pose to all who share the road with them."

Last year, 22 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey were alcohol-related, the release said. Nationally, more than 10,000 people die each year in drunken driving crashes.



HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY... The Scotch Plains Senior Housing Corporation and building residents celebrated 20 years as a residential community last month. The event was well attended by residents, and included recognition of 10 residents living there since the building was built. The program was emceed by former Scotch Plains Township Manager Tom Atkins, and in addition to recognition of residents included live music and a catered buffet dinner. Pictured, from left to right, are: members of the Board of Trustees, Rev. John Nielson, Mr. Atkins, Laura Swidersky, Board Chairman Michael Michalisin, former mayor and councilman Bob Johnston, and current Councilman Llewellyn Jones.



Christy In Second Place In New Hampshire Poll

Governor Chris Christie has moved into second place in New Hampshire with 12 percent support in a WBUR, Boston poll, CNN has reported. Donald Trump remains in first place at 27 percent among Republican Primary voters.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson has dropped seven points to 6 percent from a WBUR poll in mid-November. Florida Senator Marco Rubio is in third place with 11 percent support, followed by Texas Senator Ted Cruz in fourth place at 10 percent, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush in fifth place at 8 percent. Ohio Governor John Kasich has 6 percent, former Hewlett-Packard chief executive officer Carly Fiorina is at 3 percent, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul has 2 percent, and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee is at 1 percent.

Bill Would Eliminate PAARC Tests in New Jersey

State Assemblywoman Patricia Egan Jones (D-Camden) has introduced a bill to require the state to abandon the math and English tests for grades 3 to 11, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exams, after the current school year, NJ.com has reported. The state Department of Education would be directed to develop and implement a new statewide assessment program that does not use material from the PARCC tests for the 2016-2017 school year. Parent groups and the New Jersey Education Association have opposed the tests which were administered in 11 states last year, including New Jersey, and Washington, D.C.

Lance Votes for Bill to Strengthen Visa Waiver Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Leonard Lance (D-7th) rallied his colleagues to support H.R. 158, the Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act, a measure he co-sponsored which will strengthen the visa-waiver program to help prevent foreign terrorists from entering the United States. The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the measure, 407 to 19.

"Passing H.R. 158 will close a dangerous loophole that we know terrorists will exploit to carry acts of terror here in the United States. Terrorists such as September 11th's '20th hijacker' Zacarias Moussaoui and shoe-bomber Richard Reid both used the Visa Waiver Program to enter the United States. We must be more vigilant in the face of these great threats," Mr. Lance said during debate on the House floor. "This legislation comes at a critical time. The heinous acts of terror and mass murder perpetrated in Paris and San Bernardino demonstrate the alarming strength and reach of ISIS and its allies. This threat is certainly not contained and our fight against radical jihadists at home and abroad must be the nation's most pressing

Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

Asm. Bramnick Pushing for Alternative On Gun Control Bill

Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield) and Assemblyman Scott Rumana (R-40th, Wayne) want Assembly members to reconsider an alternative bill on gun control put forward by state Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean, Jr. (R-21st, Westfield) that includes language to close a loophole, politickernj.com has reported.

A bill vetoed by Governor Chris Christie would make it harder for people with mental health records to obtain guns in New Jersey. Republicans say that legislation only requires law enforcement to be notified if someone with a mental health record that has been expunged attempts to buy a gun. Mr. Kean's bill calls for police to be notified whenever a mental health record is expunged, not just for gun purchases. An override vote pushed by Democrats was successful in the Senate but failed to gather enough votes in the Assembly.

Ciattarelli: Trump Not Fit To Be U.S. President

Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli (R-16th, Somerville) has said Donald Trump's comments to ban Muslims entry into the United States proves he "is not fit to be President of the United States." "Mr. Trump preys upon our worst instincts and fears. On important issues, he is a charlatan who is out of step with American values. He is a celebrity in his own political reality TV show..."

Also in response to Mr. Trump's comments, the New Jersey Black Mayor's Alliance for Social Justice on Friday called for a national boycott of all of Mr. Trump's golf courses and other assets, the Associated Press reported.

Green Foreclosure Bill Clears Assembly Panel

TRENTON - Legislation sponsored by Assembly Democrats Milla Jasey (D-27th, South Orange) and Jerry Green (D-22nd, Plainfield) to ensure the state's foreclosure mediation program continues to be available to residents facing foreclosure was released Thursday by an Assembly panel.

New Jersey's Foreclosure Mediation Program was established in 2009 by the New Jersey Judiciary in response to an increase in residential foreclosures. This bill (A-4506) would ensure the Foreclosure Mediation Program's continuation by establishing it in statute, and would strengthen the program to more effectively protect home ownership in

New Jersey.

The bill would require that, at the time a homeowner-borrower receives a notice of intention to foreclose, said homeowner-borrower must also receive written notice of the option to participate in the Foreclosure Mediation Program. When a mortgage foreclosure complaint is filed against an eligible property, the homeowner-borrower must again receive written notice of the option to participate in the Foreclosure Mediation Program. The written notice must be available in both English and Spanish.

The bill was approved by the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.

Lance Knocks Votes for Internet Tax Freedom Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th), a member of the Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee, has joined a strong bipartisan House majority in passing a permanent extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act - forever forbidding states and localities from taxing customers for access to the Internet.

"Taxing Internet access punishes the student working on an assignment, the job seeker posting a resume and everyday people accessing e-mail and other online activity," Mr. Lance said. "Taxing access to the Internet will needlessly stifle economic activity. The heavy hand of government does not tax customers for window shopping and visiting stores. Enactment of a permanent moratorium on Internet access taxes will allow American consumers and

small businesses to continue to thrive in the digital economy."

The Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act passed as part of H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act, and permanently renews the ban on Internet access taxes. If not renewed, consumers could see Internet access taxes imposed by many jurisdictions eager to raise revenue from the lapsed statute.

"A tax on Internet access would burden the millions of Americans who rely on the Internet every day. Americans must be assured they will never be taxed just for going online," concluded Mr. Lance.

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