

Christina Hinke for *The Westfield Leader*

THE NEXT GENERATION...Cranford Fire Chief Leonard Dolan's son, Patrick Dolan, was appointed as a firefighter for the Cranford Fire Department. Mr. Dolan is a third generation firefighter. Mr. Dolan's girlfriend, Nora Walsh, stands by his side. Chief Dolan will be retiring from the department on March 1.

CR Budget Review Continues

chokehold on everyone in this town and anyone looking to move in to make an investment," Mr. Grillo said.

Zoning Officer Bob Hudak made recommendations to the committee regarding the building coverage.

The recreation department had an increase in salaries, Recreation Director Steve Robertazzi said, after the department hired staff last year. He also said the public pool membership decreased after the department raised pool fees last year.

The police department is requesting an additional parking enforcement officer and two new police officers be added to the force for a total police force of 51 officers.

"Another part-time or full-time person (parking enforcement officer) would optimize the parking system we have," Police Chief James Wozniak said.

Last year, the township upgraded its parking meter system at a cost of about \$463,000.

Resident Barbara Krause urged the committee to support the fire and police departments in their requests for additional staff. When asked by Mrs. Krause about the fire department's request for eight additional firefighters, Mayor Kalnins said, "I don't think that is realistic."

"I think we have to put our financial resources in the most important areas," Mrs. Krause said.

Mrs. Krause also noted the fire department's recent presentation on fire, as well as the fire that collapsed a building in Edgewater. In light of the highly flammable materials used in modern-day construction, and that type of building materials being used in newly built apartment complexes in Cranford, she asked the township to lobby for stricter construction codes.

"This state code has so many problems. We have a responsibility to address it, especially since these units are in our community in large numbers," Mrs. Krause said.

Cranford Amends Land Development Ordinance

By **CHRISTINA M. HINKE**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The township committee Tuesday at its official meeting recognized the 37 years of service Fire Chief Leonard Dolan, III has contributed to the Cranford Fire Department. Fire Chief Dolan is to retire this Sunday, March 1, and Fire Captain Dean Russamano was appointed as acting fire chief for a term not to exceed 60 days.

Chief Dolan's son, Patrick Dolan, was appointed as a firefighter within the Cranford Fire Department. Mr. Dolan is a third-generation firefighter. "It is an awesome experience for me as well as for him," Chief Dolan said of his son following in his footsteps.

Chief Dolan recounted his son's experiences as a youth in the firehouse, then as an adult interning at a volunteer fire department where he experienced his first real fire to fight. "He got

his first taste of firefighting...from that point on it was a no-brainer to me that was going to be his career," Chief Dolan said.

The township amended its Land Development ordinance after Zoning Officer Bob Hudak realized the allowable maximum building coverages made it nearly impossible for homeowners to make an addition to a home without having to apply for a variance. Mr. Hudak's building coverage recommendations were changed per the following: from 18 percent to 25 percent in the R-1 and R-2 zones; 19 percent to 28 percent in the R-3 zones, and 20 percent to 30 percent in the R-4 and R-5 (single- and two-family homes) zones.

Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Fader was approved, 4-to-1, by the township committee to provide affordable-housing legal services to not exceed \$10,000 in the year 2015. Commissioner Tom Hannen, Jr. voted against

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Garwood Sees 16-Percent Hike

In action taken by the council, the members — after a more than one-hour executive session during the workshop portion of the meeting — unanimously voted to seek arbitration in the governing body's negotiations with the police officers' union. The most recent contract expired December 31 and the negotiating committee and union have been unable to come to an agreement after six months of talks, police negotiation committee chairwoman Ann Tarantino said.

Additionally, officials voted to spend \$21,500 to purchase finance and tax software from Edmunds & Associates of

Northfield, N.J., that will allow residents or business owners to remit tax payments via computer.

The purchase was necessitated because the borough's current software provider, First Byte of Teaneck, N.J., is unable to continue support due to a health condition of one of the principals.

Additionally, the council amended its regulations regarding parks, playgrounds and facilities to remove the clause that permitted the killing of snakes on sight. It also abolished the construction board of appeals and removed the cost-of-living index provision from the ordinance regulating political contributions.

Teen Dance on Tap In Cranford March 6

CRANFORD — The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department has announced that its teen dance for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade Cranford students will be held on Friday, March 6. It will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center, located at 220 Walnut Avenue.

Students will be able to purchase a ticket at the school they attend on Wednesday or Thursday, the week of the dance. The cost of a ticket is \$5. Cranford students who attend a private school may purchase a ticket at the Community Center on Wednesday or Thursday, the week of the dance, between 3 and 4:30 p.m. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Further questions may be directed to the Recreation and Parks Department at (908) 709-7283.

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AARP Offers Trip To Casino March 5

AREA — The Rahway AARP will hold a trip to Atlantic City's Resorts Casino on Thursday, March 5. The cost is \$25 and participants will receive a \$25 voucher. The departure time is 8:30 a.m., with participants returning home at 6:30 p.m. Interested persons are asked to call Irene at (732) 499-7740.