



Mayor's 0.5k Race 9.7.18

Register at www.gwaccnj.com/0.5kpace
 early* registration \$25
*closes Sunday, 8/19
 VIP runners \$45

7:00 pm start
 6:00 pm check-in/pre-party
 Friday September 7, 2018
 scotch plains, new jersey



Christina M. Hinko for The Westfield Leader
SUITED UP...Cranford Police display body armor and equipment during the National Night Out held in front of the firehouse and the municipal building in Cranford Tuesday. The event had many free kids activities, ice pops and hot dogs.

Township Council Addresses Chickens and Food Trucks

By FRED T. ROSSI
 Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township council on Monday passed one ordinance setting out standards for keeping chickens on residential properties and introduced another ordinance to regulate food truck operations.

At its hour-long meeting, the governing body gave its approval to an ordinance that will allow residents to keep up to six chickens on their property and confine them to a house or coop not more than 100 square feet in size. A license from the health department, costing \$100 annually, and a \$75 zoning permit from the zoning officer will be required. The ordinance also sets out rules for cleaning of the chicken coops and where they can be situated in a yard.

The council also spent time discussing how food truck operations should be regulated. At its meeting last month, several residents complained about what they felt was the disruptive operation of a popular food truck parked on Westfield Avenue near Henry Street. Formerly, the truck had been situated next to the QuickChek on Forest Road.

Township Attorney William Robertson told the council on Monday that there were no ordinances directly related to food truck operations, pointing out that the local law regulating peddlers did not apply in this instance. The council introduced an ordinance this week that will create a separate category for regulating food trucks, and it includes setting out license fees, the number of licenses to be permitted in town and identifying the fixed locations where food trucks will be allowed to operate. A public hearing is set for Tuesday, September 11.

Councilman Andrew Bondarowicz wondered whether the proposed ordinance might be too restrictive, given that it sets out four locations for food truck operations. He said that, in "trying to solve one problem, hopefully,

we're not creating another one." Mayor Alexander Smith echoed that concern, asking how the four locations were picked. He called on the public, especially those who purchase items from the food trucks, to attend the September 11 hearing and "give us their thoughts" about the proper locations for food trucks.

The proposal calls for the following four fixed locations: the 2300 block of South Avenue near the Westfield border; the 400 block of Terrill Road behind Farley Park; the 1200 block of Martine Avenue in front of Highland Swim Club, and the 2500 block of Plainfield Avenue near the parking lot for Scotch Hills Country Club.

In other business, the council also approved an ordinance that restricts parking on both sides of Muir Terrace and Westfield Road Circle during school hours. The governing body additionally awarded a contract not to exceed \$73,404 to Motorola for mobile radios for the public works department.

Mayor Smith said progress is being made on a possible shared-services agreement between Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Westfield and Garwood to share public works functions. He said the towns are working with the governor's newly-appointed "czar" in this area, Jordan Glatt, who was named to oversee shared-services efforts at the local level. "I think we're well on our way to establishing an efficient service that will hopefully serve all towns well," the mayor said.

Township Manager Al Mirabella said property-tax bills are being mailed this week and noted the grace period for payment is being extended into the first week of September.

At the start of the meeting, the mayor again swore in Andrew Bondarowicz to the council, repeating what had been done late at the council's July 24 meeting. On Monday, Mr. Bondarowicz, who was named to the governing body to fill out an unexpired term, took the oath with his family at his side, with the mayor joking that the repeat ceremony was being held "to make sure everyone knows it's official." Earlier, the mayor also swore in Michael Baltazar as a police officer.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader
RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING...Area residents watch as workers unload their vehicles at Union County's household hazardous waste recycling event Saturday morning at Union County Vocational-Technical Schools in Scotch Plains.

Re-zoning Hearing Continues for 750 Walnut

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Martell said. Mr. Taylor later made a comment that under the RSIS that should this site plan be termed a townhouse, and not garden apartments under RSIS definitions, then the applicant would have to provide more parking than it has calculated.

"I think you made a mistake and calculated your parking under the wrong category," Mr. Taylor said. Mr. Martell disagreed with Mr. Taylor's assumption. James Rhatican, Hartz Mountain Industries' land use and development director and assistant general counsel, asked to have the board's engineer distinguish between the two categories of housing.

The board also asked about the tree coverage and berm along the Walnut Avenue frontage. Mr. Rhatican said, towards the end of the meeting, that given the comments made that the applicant may want to revisit retaining a berm.

Township Engineer William Masol noted discrepancies between the architectural plans and the site plan, and also said the site plan presented at the hearing was not provided to the township.

Mr. Masol then asked if any geotechnical tests were conducted to determine soil bearing capacity to indicate the site's soil would support the buildings and parking garages. No geotechnical tests were done that he was aware of, Mr. Martell said.

"I am not aware of anything unique about the soils that would prevent this construction," Mr. Martell said. "I do not have a geotechnical report."

There also was no soil boring conducted, Mr. Martell affirmed upon Mr. Masol's questions.

The board and the township engineer had concerns that making an underground stormwater collection system may not work should a soil study come back that could negate the idea.

"I don't see stormwater as a limiting factor that would impact this project's ultimate viability," Mr. Martell said.

Mayor Hannen also had concern that the fire-access road would not adequately provide enough distance from the buildings at the rear to be able to use a ladder and that the proposed access road materials used would not sustain the weight of the trucks. Mr. Martell affirmed there are materials that could be used to

sustain the weight of the trucks. Resident Rita La Brutto asked if Hartz had filed an application with the Union County Planning Board since Walnut Avenue is a county road. Mr. Martell said no.

During the conference session held prior to the official meeting, the board went to executive session to go over questions pertaining to the application with the board's attorney, Spencer and Robbins.

The hearing will continue on Wednesday, September 5, when the applicant's planner will be available. A special meeting also was scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, when the applicant's traffic engineer is scheduled to be heard.

The planning board will meet Wednesday, August 15, when it will have another application scheduled.

Planning Bd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that everyone owns at least one car in a suburb.

"It's not realistic," she added. Susan Massa of Park Street and Elizabeth Sebring of Trinity Place stepped in front of the board, both also demanding a traffic study be submitted with the application.

Despite this repeated request by the public, the board did not see a need for a traffic report. Board member Darielle Walsh responded, "I don't think this is an issue of traffic."

Other board members agreed that the traffic and parking problems in the area were separate matters that should not fall on the shoulders of the applicant. Instead, these broader issues should be addressed when the board revises the town's master plan later this year.

The planning board will meet again on Wednesday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Correction

In last week's story on school board candidates, there was an error concerning the Cranford Board of Education election. Three candidates filed for three full three-year terms on the board. They are incumbents William Hulse and Maria Loikith, as well as Terry Darling. There also is a one-year unexpired seat up this year on the board. Running for that seat are Erin Turnamian and Brian McCarthy.

MS Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

appeal of the results of the disciplinary hearing, which adds costs and uncertainty to the process.

Mr. Post advised that under the terms of the proposed settlement, former Chief Attanasio has agreed to forfeit approximately \$37,000 in wages and other benefits and will receive only the estimated \$20,000 in wages and compensation he is entitled to under federal law. Mr. Huber will forfeit an estimated \$52,000 in wages and benefits and will receive only the approximately \$19,000 he is entitled to under federal law.

Mr. Post stated that the agreement contains very broad releases in favor of the borough and includes provisions that require both men to cooperate with the law firm that is defending the borough in the Stinner lawsuit. The agreement will be made public once it has been signed by all parties. A third officer, Thomas Murphy, was named in the lawsuit but has not resigned and a termination proceeding against him is ongoing.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Ileana Montes, who recently announced her candidacy for borough council as a Democrat, expressed concerns over why the borough had chosen to resolve the employment issues rather than attempting to terminate the men for cause based on the allegations in the complaint. Mr. Post explained that early resolution allowed the community to avoid the uncertainty, expense and burden of litigation.

Councilman Keith Turner presided over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Paul Mirabelli. Council members discussed the state Department of Transportation's timetable to replace the culvert from Route 22 over Echo Lake Park west of the Spanish Tavern and its proposal to replace the small bridge by the Lawrence Avenue exit. The council also unanimously agreed to replace two police cars that have reached the end of their useful life and to investigate the need for a resolution regarding shed size as a result of the state Legislature's decision to revise the minor work and ordinary maintenance regulations to allow the construction of 20-foot sheds without requiring a building permit.

The council's next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 21.



Christina M. Hinko for The Westfield Leader
DUNKED...Cranford Police Officer James Knight gets dunked in the dunk tank after a boy hit the bulleye and dunked the officer. This was all part of the activities happening at National Night Out in Cranford Tuesday.

Board of Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

began to smell.

Dr. Weinman said from another perspective, a neighbor who does not elect for twice-weekly garbage disposal services may find looking at garbage cans curbside disruptive.

Ms. Avallone said the town's ordinance does not allow curbside pickup. Curbside pickup is offered by garbage disposal companies at a cheaper rate than if the garbage contained is picked up from alongside a house.

As a follow-up on the discussion, the health officer will examine the health code and town code in terms of residential garage collection to iron out the differences.

The Green Team was created from the statewide Sustainable Jersey grant initiative. More than 400 municipalities are registered with a

Green Team participating in Sustainable Jersey.

"Green Teams provide the leadership to develop plans, implement programs and assist with educational opportunities that support the creation of a sustainable community," according to the Sustainable Jersey website.

In other business, Ms. Avallone said Mayor Shelley Brindle has created a mental awareness leadership subcommittee to raise awareness of the signs of mental illness, while creating resources to help those suffering.

The subcommittee's goals and exact outreach will be discussed at September's board of health meeting after the subcommittee meets on Monday, August 20, stated Ms. Avallone.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
 FOR HEALTHY LIVING
 FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FIND WHAT MOVES YOU

Fall 1 program session begins September 4!

Priority registration begins 6:00PM Thursday, 8/9



- Sports and aquatics classes for all ages
- Flyers cross country, basketball leagues, tae kwon do and dance academy
- Adult and senior health & wellness and recreational classes
- Classes for people with special needs
- Child care education programs for children ages 6 mos. - 14 yrs.
- ... and more!



5K RUN FOR EVERYONE
 Sunday, September 16

Run/Walk/Roll · Sponsor · Volunteer · Donate



WESTFIELD AREA YMCA

220 Clark St., Westfield · 908-301-9622 · westfieldnj.org · [westfieldareay](https://www.facebook.com/westfieldareay) · [westfieldareaymca](https://www.instagram.com/westfieldareaymca)

Strengthening the communities of Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside and Westfield since 1923. Financial assistance is available.