



**Mayor's 0.5k Race 9.7.18**

Register at [www.gwaccnj.com/0\\_5kcrace](http://www.gwaccnj.com/0_5kcrace)  
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



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**COMMUNITY SPIRIT...Fanwood Police Chief Richard Trigo hands out "Bless The Blue" wristbands at Tuesday's National Night Out in La Grande Park. It was sponsored by the Fanwood Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad and PBA Local 123. The borough's first responders gathered their police cars, fire trucks and ambulances for kids of all ages to tour and to share public awareness of crime prevention and community involvement. There were games, a bounce house, giant slide, face painting and free food including hot dogs, donuts, ice pops and beverages. Representing the sponsoring agencies were Chief Trigo, Fire Chief John Piccola, Rescue Squad President Ed Winsor and Captain Patty Buckridge.**

## Cranford Board Continues Hartz Re-Zoning Hearing

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**CRANFORD** – The planning board hearing for Hartz Mountain Industries continued August 1 for the re-zoning application for 750 Walnut Avenue, where the applicant proposes to change the current commercial zone to a residential zone. Hartz Mountain's plan calls for 905 apartments within five buildings along the 30-acre property that borders a golf course in Clark, a Conrail line that borders a residential neighborhood, a portion of Raritan Road and Walnut Avenue. It was standing-room only in the municipal chambers.

The planning board hearing began with testimony provided by the applicant's civil engineer, Jeffrey Martell, of Stonefield Engineering and Design in Rutherford. He gave testimony on a site plan, also called a concept plan, that he prepared. He went over items such as parking, the buildings, the driveways, the fire access road and a landscaping plan.

In discussing the plan, the board made a motion to demand the applicant provide an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The property at one time was the site of a pharmaceutical company, Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr. noted.

"What is going to be in the EIS? Reason I ask, you pointed out maybe some of the berm can stay if you build the detention underground...you won't find out what is underground until you get further along, and it was a pharmaceutical facility and the reason why it was zoned commercial was because of that," board member Dan Aschenbach said. He said he would like to know what is going to be in the EIS.

The plan calls for 1,775 parking spaces contained in both surface lots

and garages. Planning board member Peter Taylor said the plan shows parking stalls that are sized smaller than the township ordinance requires. Mr. Martell said he used the Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) from the state. The site plan calls for nine-foot by 18-foot stalls, whereas the township ordinance requires parking spaces sized 10 feet by 18 feet. The ordinance also requires a break between every 12 spaces, Mr. Taylor noted.

Should the plan be adjusted to meet the township requirement, Mr. Taylor said the applicant would need to provide more space for parking. Deputy Mayor Ann Dooley asked if this site could accommodate another parking garage.

"No, without changing other elements," Mr. Martell said.

"Like what other elements?" Ms. Dooley asked.

"Current parking lots, building configurations, etc...It would domino into other changes," Mr. 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.



**RECYCLING HAZARDOUS WASTE...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.**

## New Deputy Mgr. Focuses on Improved Communications

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the Mayor's Gala set for later this year and working on the Mayor's Wellness program — "something near and dear to my heart," she says — and looking to expand it into other areas next year.

But Ms. Heisey's major focus over the longer term, she told *The Times*, will be to "do more with public information," which she called "a very important part of my position." Besides continuing the various Facebook Live events in which she has been playing a very visible role, she said she also wants to find other ways to reach those residents who are not big users of social media.

She said a goal is to "avoid people calling us up or standing at the microphone" at council meetings "and saying, 'I didn't know that.'" She wants to use all of the tools at the township's disposal more effectively so that resi-

dents and businesses are always as up to date as they can be. One way to achieve this goal is via "coordinated communication" between all township departments so that a unified message, on whatever topic, is being sent out.

Ms. Heisey also will focus her attention on bringing more events to the downtown. She lauded the parks and recreation department for its "great work on doing new and innovative things" in the downtown like this week's Paint in the Park event and last month's Games on the Green for kids. She said she wants to work with the local businesses, "to get people excited about what's going to be happening" in the downtown as redevelopment efforts begin to shift into higher gear in the coming months.

"Continuing to build and develop relationships with the downtown owners is important," she said.

## Board of Health Discusses Weekly Trash Pickups

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pickup is the health board's primary concern, especially during summer months, when uncontained waste can create a "mustering smell" throughout a neighborhood.

Ms. Avallone said from "personal experience" individuals who have once-a-week pickups find holidays to be pressing. A skipped garbage pickup leads to the garbage beginning to overflow from a single container before the next pickup the following week, stated Ms. Avallone. She said uncontained garbage or bagged garbage not placed into a container can create a rodent problem.

Board member Elizabeth Talmont said the Green Team's suggestion would allow for "flexibility" in the town's ordinance regarding garbage disposal, as those residents who do not create as much waste do not have to pay for garbage disposal services they do not utilize.

Dr. Budnick said senior citizens do not generate as much garbage as a family household.

Ms. Talmont said the Green Team's suggestion is "progressive" regarding environmental conscientiousness, which is "important," but the idea must be practical in its execution.

Health board member Dr. David Weinman stated that he would personally elect for a twice-weekly pickup. Dr. Weinman said his neighbors and his family would not appreciate if one family forgot to put out their disposal and the neighborhood began to smell.

Dr. Weinman said from another perspective, a neighbor who does not elect for twice-weekly garbage dis-

posal 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.

## SP Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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.

## Mountainside Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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.

## 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.



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# 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!



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**Sunday, September 16**

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Financial assistance is available.