

* 750 Walnut Re-Zoning Hearing Continues *

"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.

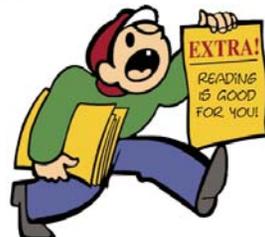
Resident Rita La Brutto asked if Hartz had filed an application with the Union County Planning Board since Walnut Avenue is a county road. Mr. Martell said no.

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.

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Area National Night Out:



Courtesy of Tom Kranz/Borough of Fanwood
MEETING THE COMMUNITY...Fanwood Rescue Squad President Ed Winsor makes one little girl happy with a balloon during Fanwood's National Night Out at LaGrande Park.



Mayor Tom Hannen and Commissioner Mary O'Connor, along with Sgt. Joseph Stulpin of the Cranford Police Department pose for the camera at National Night Out Tuesday.

Cranford PD Implements Special Needs Registry

CRANFORD — The Cranford Police Department is taking steps to make it easier to help residents who may be lost or have trouble communicating with officers. The new special needs registry is specifically designed for those who may be challenged with developmental disabilities such as autism, dementia, Down syndrome or other special needs.

The program was formed to better assist loved ones who might be at a higher risk for wandering from home and getting lost. By voluntarily registering, the Cranford Police Department will have access to personal information should they encounter an individual who has difficulty speaking or identifying themselves.

Interested family members will be asked to complete a descriptive questionnaire regarding their family member in need, providing the registrant's height, weight

and other information useful to first responders, such as emergency contacts, a recent photo of the individual and his or her home address.

The information will be kept on file at police headquarters and will be accessible at times such as during an encounter where an individual can not tell officers where he/she lives, or beneficial in cases where a person is reported missing, so that his/her pedigree and photograph are immediately available to responding police officers.

The program is completely voluntary and all the information kept on file will remain confidential within the police department.

To complete and file a registration form, or for more information, contact Officer John Rattigan of the Cranford Police Department's Community Policing Unit at (908) 272-8989.