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Elizabethtown Utility to Begin Replacing Natural Gas Lines in Cranford

By **MICHAEL BONACCORSO**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD – Elizabethtown Gas will begin replacing natural gas lines throughout Cranford in the upcoming year, stated Elizabethtown Gas Company engineering director Michael Scacifero at Monday's township committee meeting.

The vintage gas lines operation total 87 miles underneath Cranford's streets. Mr. Scacifero said Elizabethtown would "like to start a dialogue" including the township engineer to assure the project is completed with respect to township ordinances and with efficiency for residents.

"Utility projects (without coordination to one another) "make us (committee members) look pretty stupid," stated Township Commissioner Thomas Hannen to Elizabethtown representatives. Mr. Hannen described the residents angst towards road projects coupled with a "recently paved road being re-dug up" for multiple-utility projects over a couple years span.

Mr. Hannen said Cranford residents pay for a majority of "milling and paving projects." He said ometimes a utility company will only repave "half the road."

"It just isn't going to cut it," Mr. Hannen said.

Elizabethtown will honor Cranford "moratorium ordinances," ordinances that require utility companies to fully repave a road dug up for utility work in its entirety, stated Mr. Scacifero.

Roads not in the moratorium

are repaved "just" in the area where the road was compromised for the utility project, Mr. Hannen noted.

"We want to coordinate the project in a comprehensive manner with both the township committee and other utility projects in town," said Mr. Scacifero.

Mayor Patrick Giblin said Elizabethtown publicly addressing the township committee and "having reached out" to the township engineer is "a start to coordinating" the projects "in an effective manner."

Mr. Scacifero said Cranford's engineering department will keep Elizabethtown updated to which roads are in moratorium, which roads other utility companies will need to access, and which roads are planned for "flood mitigation improvements" or "restoration."

The "aggressive replacement process" of natural gas lines has been underway for roughly 10 years throughout Union County, stated Mr. Scacifero. He said Elizabethtown's gas main and pipeline project will not structurally interfere with the New Jersey American Water company's water main replacement project.

Elizabethtown will canvass each neighborhood before each project commences, he said, saying door knockers will be placed on each door with project information and company contact information.

PSE&G's regional public affairs

manager Michael G. Coyle addressed the township committee regarding a separate utility project. The 69,000-volt power lines would be placed on poles along South Avenue, Lexington Avenue, Chester Lang Drive, Walnut Avenue and Lincoln Avenue, according to a map shown by PSE&G. There would also be lines underground that would follow under the train tracks to meet up with the proposed substation at 750 Walnut Avenue.

"The new lines will provide reliability, capability, and resiliency in providing power to residents," Mr. Coyle said.

The lines will connect power substations in various towns and run along the public-right-way, stated Mr. Coyle. A proposed substation will be located at 750 Walnut Avenue, stated Mr. Coyle.

An agreement has not been finalized for the 750 Walnut Avenue site, and PSE&G is doing its due diligence, Mr. Coyle said. Should PSE&G and Hartz Moun-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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TOUCH A TRUCK...Garwood's first-ever Touch-a-Truck event was held Sunday across from Lincoln School on Second Avenue. Pictured, from left to right, are: Councilman Rich McCormack, Councilwoman Jen Blumenstock, Mayor Sara Todisco and Council President Marc Lazarow.

750 Walnut Rezoning Does Not Meet Master Plan Goals

By **CHRISTINA M. HINKE**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — In the continuation of the application to rezone 750 Walnut Avenue from commercial to residential, Business Administrator for the Cranford Schools, Robert Carfagno, said currently that the eight Cranford school buildings are "full."

"They are at capacity," Mr. Carfagno said. Currently, class sizes throughout the schools, range from 20 to 25 students per classroom, he said. The board of education has set a maximum class size of 25 students, he said. Additionally, classes in the

schools are "sharing spaces," he said.

"We cannot handle space-wise either projection," referring to the school board's consultant Ross Haber's projection and the Hartz Mountain consultant's projections for school-aged children who would be living at the proposed apartments. Also, the school's budget wouldn't allow for the extra staff, technology and supplies.

"It wouldn't fit in the 2 percent (state) cap," Mr. Carfagno said of the costs associated with the influx of additional students. So,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE