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## PSE&G Looking at Alternative Routes for Upgraded Power Lines

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

CRANFORD – PSE&G is investigating alternative routes for upgraded power lines, which would allow the lines to “run along” the Conrail railroad line, Mayor Patrick GIBLIN said at Monday’s township committee workshop meeting. The alternative route would prevent the lines from running along the existing route through Westfield, Garwood and Cranford, the mayor said, noting that the township committee unanimously supports the Conrail alternative route. According to Mayor GIBLIN, Conrail representatives have stated that the PSE&G upgraded power lines will be installed along the railway will be predicated on “their (Conrail’s) rail activity in the proposed area.” He said the rail activity is considered of “higher occurrence” for the proposed throughway.

PSE&G is “doing what they can” based on resident feedback from last Wednesday’s public meeting, stated Mayor GIBLIN, relaying sentiment from PSE&G representatives he spoke with. PSE&G representative Rebecca Mazzarella said it is important to listen to resident concerns and answer any questions residents may have. “PSE&G is employed with providing for their customers, while working with township officials and contingent entity representatives (Conrail),” said Ms. Mazzarella. In other business, Township Com-

missioner Mary O’Connor proposed a community garden at Roosevelt Park at Monday’s workshop agenda meeting. She said community gardens are a concept where a “land parcel” (depending on garden size) is divided into different sections, which are gardened for fresh vegetables by participating residents.

Ms. O’Connor said the “garden section” would be a “small section within the park.” Each gardener is tasked with taking care of his or her garden, stated Ms. O’Connor. Mayor GIBLIN asked Ms. O’Connor to prepare a proposal for township committee review.

## Cranford BOE Recognizes Faculty, Reappoints Staff

By **ROBYN ORR-GIOFFRE**  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Ten Cranford faculty members were acknowledged as recipients of the 2018-2019 Governor’s Educator of the Year (GEOY) Award at the Cranford Board of Education (BOE) meeting on Monday night. Michelle Balseiro, Cindy Ciampo, Karen Ferraioli, Anne Marie Francis, Valerie Gormely, Paul Maloney, Diana Niemysk, Kerri Ann O’Hare, Gina Peterpaul and Breanne Timm were selected by the GEOY committee. These professionals were chosen for their ability to inspire stu-

Cranford Police Chief Ryan Greco said a police substation will be implemented at the Cranford Community Center. Chief Greco said the substation was brought to his attention from another department as a method of providing increased “community policing presence.”

The substation will utilize “closet-type space” at the community center where an officer will be located, stated Chief Greco. He said the substation promotes officer accessibility for Cranford’s youth, while presenting role models, building youth-officer relationships, and serving as an overall law enforcement resource.

dents of all backgrounds, for their outstanding qualities as teachers/educational service professionals in the Cranford Public Schools and for their high caliber of service.

“We’re only as good as our teachers,” Superintendent of Schools Scott Rubin, Ed.D., told the board, and further commented, “we’re very proud of them.”

In other board business, the board reappointed 21 administrative/supervisory personnel, 245 tenured-teaching personnel, 95 non-tenured teaching personnel, 38 building service person-

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**UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT...South Urban Renewal LLC (Russo Development) attorney Christopher Minks presents an update Tuesday at a community meeting at Lincoln School on the South Avenue development’s progression, with vertical construction beginning next winter. The development’s brick façade should be completed by the summer of 2020.**

## Russo Gives Update on South Ave. Development

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

GARWOOD — South Urban Renewal LLC (Russo Development) attorney Christopher Minks provided an update Tuesday at a community meeting at Lincoln School on the South Avenue development’s progression, with vertical construction beginning next winter.

The development’s brick façade should be completed by the summer of 2020. Mr. Minks stated that “realtor buzz” surrounding the South Avenue development has increased since the demolition and site excavation has started.

He estimated that the development will be fully operational and

rented by late spring of 2021. Day-to-day operations consist of contractors excavating the contaminated soil.

“We (Russo subcontractors and employees) are at the site eight hours a day. We certainly want to make sure contaminants are handled properly,” Mr. Minks said.

Under New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) standards, all excavated soil which can remain on site will be used as the building’s foundation, stated Mr. Minks. Green space or open areas to the public will be established with new topsoil.

“To date, 5,000 tons of contaminated soil have been re-

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