



Cougar Matmen Tame Linden Tigers, 55-15

The Cranford High School wrestling team won 11 of 14 bouts to tame the Linden Tigers, 55-15, on December 21. Gavin Murray (132), Nick Capello (145), Cory Birch (152), Matt DiMartino (160), Corey Markovitch (182), Rob Kessler (195) and Jon El-Khoury (Hwt) all recorded pins. Jim Dwyer (170) recorded a majority decision, while Chase Gunther (106), David Busch (120) and Jeff Weiss (220) recorded decisions.

Cougar Cagers Down Lady Cardinals, 69-54

Senior Kaitlin McGovern rolled in 24 points, including six free throws, to lead the 3-0 Cranford High School girls basketball team past the Plainfield Cardinals on December 20. Senior Jenna Goeller sank 14 points, including three 3-pointers, and senior Jess McCoy scored 13 points. Carly Maucione put in 11 points, and Kerry Wischusen scored seven points.

Cougar Icemen Freeze Verona Icemen, 5-1

The Cranford High School ice hockey team defeated Verona, 5-1, at Codey Arena in West Orange on December 19. Senior Tom Fitzgerald flicked in a pair of goals to lead the 2-1-1 Cougars. Alex Ballas scored a first-period goal with an assist from Nick Collucci, who added an assist in the second period on Brett Nicholl's goal. Sean Feeney and Anthony Conte assisted on Fitzgerald's first goal. Feeney scored in the third period off an assist from Mark Pawlick then Fitzgerald added the finishing touch with his second goal.

Lady Cougars Topple Hilltoppers, 56-33

The Cranford High School girls basketball team humbled the Summit Hilltoppers, 56-33, on December 18. Jenna Goellers sank 15 points, including three 3-pointers. Jess McCoy had 12 points and Kaitlin McGovern sank six for the Lady Cougars.

Judge Rejects Latest CF Motion in Birchwood Case

By DELL SIMEONE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD – Birchwood or the 360-apartment development to be built by the Cranford Development Associates (CDA) at 315 Birchwood Avenue in Cranford, which is in a flood plain, has caused Cranford Township a lot of headaches. Last year the township was victim to massive flooding. This is a factor in the

township's opposition to the development.

CDA brought a builder's remedy lawsuit against the township, and won, in order to go forward with the apartments, which would contain 60 affordable units. Cranford had not complied with the New Jersey Mt. Laurel Agreement to provide the required amount of affordable housing in town.

Last year, the township was ordered by state Superior Court Judge Lisa Chrystal to change its zoning laws to prepare for the Birchwood development. Judge Chrystal also ordered the Birchwood site plan hearing to take place, in August, in Superior Court in Elizabeth and not by the Cranford Planning Board in the Cranford Municipal Building. The township objected to that order. Letters were sent to the judge requesting a change of venue. The requests were denied. Judge Chrystal appointed retired Judge Douglas Wolfson as the special hearing officer to preside, and appointed Elizabeth McKenzie as the special master for the hearing.

Judge Wolfson and Ms. McKenzie submitted their findings to Judge Chrystal this fall. Both findings were favorable to CDA. In October, Stephen Eisendorfer, of Hill Wallack, of Princeton, representing the CDA, requested that Judge Chrystal make a final judgement in the case. That has not happened.

At the December 17 hearing on a motion from Cranford, Judge Chrystal said that she had not received any objections from Cranford residents to Judge Wolfson's recommendations on Birchwood. Cranford then asked for, and was granted, an extension until December 31. Objections can be sent to Honorabe Lisa F. Chrystal, J.S.C., Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St.,

Tower Bldg., 11th floor, Elizabeth, N.J. 07207.

At the hearing, Cranford Township Attorney Philip Morin argued to have Ms. McKenzie disqualified from the case based on a statement she made in an e-mail (in a different case), calling herself an advocate of affordable housing. Cranford asked the trial court to disqualify Ms. McKenzie as special master in the site plan hearing, and that a new hearing be ordered. The request was denied by Judge Chrystal.

"It is a disappointment, but not a surprise," said Mr. Morin of the ruling.

He said Judge Chrystal said that the motion filed by the township did not meet the necessary criteria to vacate her previous order. She scheduled a court hearing on the Birchwood site plan on Monday, February 4, at 10 a.m. in Superior Court in Elizabeth. At that time, the township's objections to the special hearing officer's recommendations will be heard and she will make the final order in the case.

Until new appointments are made by the township committee in January, it is uncertain whether Mr. Morin will continue as the township attorney. He stated that should an appeal, by Cranford, go forward on the Birchwood case, the question of Ms. McKenzie's possible bias would not be able to be brought up unless it had been addressed by the court at this time.

He said further, at this point, CDA has still not received a permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to raise part of Birchwood Avenue a foot above the flood plain and provide an emergency exit from the development. If the CDA does not obtain the permit, it would be a large obstacle to the development.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
ORDINANCE: 743-2012
FINAL READING: 12/20/2012**

Was introduced and passed on first reading by the Board of Chosen Freeholders at a REGULAR MEETING on **December 6th 2012**, and said Ordinance has been published with Notice of Introduction thereof and of the time and place fixed for its further consideration and the Board has duly held a hearing thereof and has given all persons interested an opportunity to be heard. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Chosen Freeholders that said Ordinance be and the same hereby is finally passed and adopted, and be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ordinance published herewith has been finally adopted on **December 20th 2012**, and the 20 day period of limitations within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such Ordinance can be commenced has begun to run from the date of first publication of this statement.

A copy of this ordinance has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Administration Building of the County, and a copy is available up to and including the time of such meeting to the members of the general public of the County who shall request such copies, at the office of the Clerk of the Board in said County Administration Building in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AS AMENDED

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union as follows:

Section 1. The salaries of the County Manager and the following Department Heads shall be as hereinafter set forth. The same shall be effective as of January 1, 2013.

Section 3. That this Ordinance shall take effect at the time and manner provided by law.

Section 4. That the Clerk of this Board be and she is hereby authorized to publish a notice in the appropriate newspaper of such introduction and of a public hearing on December 20, 2012, and shall forward one certified copy of final passage, to each Clerk of all Municipalities located within the County of Union.

COUNTY MANAGER/FAELLA	\$158,100.00
COUNTY COUNSEL/BARRY	\$152,504.00
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES/DI RADO	\$122,399.00
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL/ZUBER	\$116,280.00
ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES/GRAZIANO	\$121,685.00
PUBLIC SAFETY/MORAN	\$116,069.00
FINANCE/TAYLOR	\$122,400.00
HUMAN SERVICES/GUZZO	\$133,967.00
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES/RIORDAN	\$119,646.00
RUNNELLS SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL/WHEELER	\$132,796.00

1 T - 12/27/12, The Leader
Fee: \$0.00