

Mayor Kalnins Discusses Flood Project, Birchwood, Road Repairs

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Cranford Mayor Andis Kalnins discussed issues ranging the Rahway River flood control project, and the Union County College (UCC) athletic facility to the Riverfront and Birchwood development projects during and a recent interview with *The Westfield Leader*.

"Flooding has always been an issue in Cranford, (so) we are definitely looking to see what we can do to resolve that," the mayor said. "One of the ways is to fight some of this overdevelopment that is going on in our area and particularly also upstream."

He said Cranford has been working through the Mayors' Council on Rahway River Watershed Flood Control to get other towns to pass ordinances to put stormwater management plans in place that contain "more stricter controls."

He said the township "continues to fight" for federal and state funding for the Army Corps of Engineers' feasibility study of flood abatement projects under consideration. A total of \$1.2 million is needed to finish the study, officials have said. The township is looking to get the funding within three years.

"We are trying to get it as quickly as possible while it is fresh on people's minds to keep the momentum going," he said.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Army Corps have endorsed Alternative No. 4, which involves channel improvements with modifications to outlet pipes in the Orange Reservoir, and Alternative No. 7A, which involves raising homes in Cranford.

"Both the federal government and the state have said they are committed to getting us the money (for the story). We just

have to make sure that happens," the mayor said.

He said the next step would be to have Congress fund the project. In that regard, the Rahway Mayors Council has hired a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. "to keep this on the front burners."

"They (Rahway Mayors Council) have limited funds and Cranford has agreed to continue that (funding lobbyist) until at least the rest of this year once they run out of money," Mayor Kalnins said.

When asked about the status of the proposed 360-apartment development at 215-235 Birchwood

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Probitas Verus Honos



Christina M. Hinke for The Westfield Leader

NIGHT OUT...The Cranford Police Department held its National Night Out event Tuesday night at Patrolman Robert F. Hand Plaza. Police and emergency vehicles, including a marked police patrol car, a zodiac jet-powered rescue boat, a police motorcycle, emergency services unit utility vehicles and equipment from the Union County Office of Emergency Management were on display.

Cranford, Garwood Cands. Seeking School Bd. Seats

By LISA HAGEN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — Six Cranford residents are seeking three seats on the board of education in this November's election while four incumbents are running for the Garwood school board.

A retired lawyer who is now a teacher, Michael Caulfield has served on the board since 2003. Now vice-president of the board, he has been a part of the Policy and Curriculum committees.

"What's motivating me to want to continue waving a flag for any particular issue is I want to continue to participate and contribute as a citizen of Cranford and participate in public education endeavors," said Mr. Caulfield, who has lived in Cranford since 1988.

Although he has several areas of interest, he said that special education is one of his main focuses since he is currently a special-education teacher in Irvington.

"Overall, my guiding principles are to make sure residents of Cranford and their children are all served in the school system and getting the very best provided to them," he said.

Mr. Caulfield also wants to continue tracking each student's progress and ensuring that all students — regardless of their academic achievement — receive equal attention.

Serving on the board for the past nine years, JoAnn Boyle described education as a "shared responsibility" that must involve both parents and community

members.

"I am a parent and member of the community, and I have a core belief that giving back to your community, whether it is the schools, church or town, is imperative," said Ms. Boyle, who has lived in Cranford for 19 years and works as a health insurance broker.



JoAnn Boyle — Cranford

Ms. Boyle emphasized the focus on personalized learning as a long-range endeavor that will customize students' education to fit their strengths and weaknesses. She believes the district has established effective programs even with funding concerns.

"I think even if we're doing well, we need to keep it up because there are always new challenges thrown at

you," she said. "What I've learned in the business world is that you have to have the right leadership to lead people through that."

In addition to receiving high rankings, she is proud that the school district has expanded performing-arts opportunities for students.

Trevor Shaw has spent 20 years working in education and said he believes those experiences bring different views to the board. Serving for the past three years, he is a former English teacher who is currently the director of technology at Dwight-Englewood School in Bergen County.

"I feel like I still have a lot to contribute," Mr. Shaw said. "I think the biggest thing I bring is the ability to challenge long-standing ideas."

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