

** Garwood Discusses RSV **

"And I think that's part of the problem here when we don't cut in other areas of our budget, we're less able to absorb shocks. So we're constantly surprised by things that happen regularly."

The council also was told by New Jersey American Water Company representative Michael Bange that the company will be replacing 300 feet of a two-inch main on Myrtle Avenue with an eight-inch wide pipe to service the area residents and the Athletic Field Complex. The company will also replace service lines to 113 homes. Those residents will be notified in advance that their water will be shut off for up to an hour, Mr. Bange said.

Mr. Bange's presentation dominated the work session, occupying approximately an hour of the meeting.

In other meeting news, the council was informed that the Athletic Field Complex likely will not be ready in time for youth baseball's opening day in April, according to Councilman Louis Petruzzelli. The complex is nearly a year behind schedule.

Council members approved the introduction of a resolution increasing the salary range for the police chief from \$112,000 to \$125,000 to \$120,000 to \$132,000.

Councilman Bill Nierstedt is hoping to organize a volunteer crew to wash council chamber walls for Martin Luther King Day, considered a day of service. The work will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 20. Mr. Mathieu commented that he believes that kind of work cheapens the memory of a great civil rights leader. In a handwritten note given to *The Westfield Leader* after the workshop meeting, Mr. Nierstedt wrote "It is a shame that Councilman Mathieu continues to belittle jobs that don't satisfy his higher standards."

The Planning Board is considering asking council for a budget pool, which it will have discretion over to hire a firm for a redevelopment study of the North and South Avenue corridors, Mr. Nierstedt told council. Members also agreed to review the parking ordinance, which was written in the mid-1980s and does not require businesses downtown to provide parking.

"That was all well and good when we didn't have development," Mr. Nierstedt said. "But if we are going to talk about how do you develop downtown, we do need to provide parking."

Borough attorney Bob Renaud pointed out that there is no place for parking. "So if you say you can't have development unless you provide parking you're basically saying you can't have any development." He added that the existing parking could be "better managed" to allow for greater parking availability.

Mr. Nierstedt reminded residents that trash has to be put in cans. He said the Streets, Roads and Ecology committee is looking at requiring recyclables be placed in containers. He said 2013 leaf collection "worked well" for the Department of Public Works and "positively" for the borough - there was no overtime. "It was real savings," he said.

He mentioned a couple of possible tweaks to the 2014 Leaf Collection - requiring residents to put leaf bags in the area between curb and the sidewalk - not in the street - providing more pickups and extending leaf collection further into December.

Mr. Nierstedt suggested including money in the budget to hire a firm to assess the cost of certain services in the borough - such as trash pickup - in order to determine whether outsourcing would save the town money.

Editor's Note: Brian Trusdell contributed to this report.

Crane-Phillips House Designated Landmark

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — During its meeting Tuesday, the Cranford Township Committee designated the Crane-Phillips House as a historic landmark, discussed the renewal of Comcast's contract and made appointments.

The Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board had sought the distinction of the Crane-Phillips House from the township, making it the first house or district designated under this procedure. At the urging of the advisory board, the township formed an ordinance on historic preservation last March for properties in the township seeking such designation.

The Crane-Phillips House is already on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. It is a historical museum open to the public on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Henry Phillips, of Phillips Milk of Magnesia, purchased the property in 1867 from the Crane family, the founding family of

Cranford, and had the house built by Andrew Jackson Downing.

Comcast went before the township committee to present the municipal consent public hearing for the application of Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC for renewal of its municipal consent to own, operate, extend and maintain a cable television and cable communications system in the Township of Cranford.

Charles Smith, director of public affairs for Comcast, said the committee must base its franchise renewal decision on four questions: has the cable operator substantially complied with existing franchise laws; has the quality of service been reasonable for community needs; does it have financial, legal and technical abilities to provide facility equipment; is the renewal proposal reasonable to meet the interests of the community. He said the committee may look at two areas - rates and programming - should it decide not to renew. The committee did not

need to vote on the renewal Tuesday, he said.

The lowest rate available for basic cable is \$15 a month, Mr. Smith said.

Mayor Andis Kalnins appointed Maureen McDougall as a Class C member to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

The mayor also made mayoral appointments to the Emergency Management Council for 2014 — Commissioner Thomas Hannen, Jr., Coordinator; Police Chief Eric Mason and Fire Chief Leonard Dolan as Deputy Coordinators; Mayor Andis Kalnins; Township Administrator Terrence Wall; Monika Koscova-Jencik, Sanitarian; Superintendent of Schools Gayle Carrick; Township Engineer Richard Marsden; Public Works Superintendent Steven Wardell; Construction Code Official Richard Belluscio; TV35 Representative, Edward Davenport; Citizen Representative, Margaret Pipchick; Consultant Ron Marotta, and Support Team Member Michael Beams.

The committee approved, with a 5 to 0 vote, the salary for Chief Financial Officer Lavona Patterson at \$106,951. Her appointment is for a four-year term ending December 31, 2017.

The committee approved, 4 to 1, with Commissioner Thomas Hannen, Jr. voting against the resolution, the salary of Fire Chief Leonard Dolan, at \$134,366.

Mayor Kalnins announced the Green Certification, part of Sustainable Jersey efforts by the Cranford Green Team, of three local businesses: Romola's Seafood and Grille, Brooklyn Pizza, and Tony and Dan's Accurate Auto.

The township's e-mail system had gone down Tuesday. Mr. Wall said he had two proposals submitted by companies to correct the problem. The system was expected to be up and running by the end of yesterday, January 15, Mr. Wall

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Christina M. Hinke for *The Westfield Leader*
TO RENEW OR NOT...Charles Smith, director of public affairs for Comcast, presents facts to the Cranford Township Committee during the public hearing on the franchise application of Comcast New Jersey for renewal of its contract to maintain a cable television and communications system in Cranford.