

## GW Council Considers Hiring AFC Project Mgr.

By **BRIAN TRUSDELL**  
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

**GARWOOD** – The borough council will explore hiring a construction or project manager to oversee the completion of the Athletic Field Complex (AFC), the \$3.2-million ball field that is nearly a year behind schedule.

Delayed two months at the start by Hurricane Sandy, the athletic field was to be finished by mid-2013, but has faced other delays due to weather, as well as soil disposal issues. While it now has a scheduled completion date of Tuesday, April 1, Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello said Tuesday that Sunday, June 1, was more realistic.

Council President Ann Palmer suggested the idea of a project manager, which drew immediate support from council members Jim Mathieu and Sara Todisco. Councilman Louis Petruzzelli, the

AFC committee representative, endorsed the idea out of simple curiosity.

With Councilman Mike Martin absent, only Councilman Bill Nierstedt voiced any opposition, siding with Mr. Guarriello and Borough Attorney Bob Renaud.

Both Mr. Guarriello and Mr. Renaud felt the recommendation would provide little value, since they said the project is nearing completion and it likely would be Saturday, March 15, at the earliest before anyone could be hired.

Mayor Pat Quattrocchi said she accepted the borough's professionals' opinions in the matter and Mr. Nierstedt agreed, saying he felt it was a waste of Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma's time to prepare a request for proposal

(RFP) to solicit bids for hiring a project manager. However, Mr. Nierstedt said he would not vote against such a proposal.

The issue consumed more than half of an hour of discussion, with Mr. Guarriello suggesting the cost could be "six figures."

"Right now, I think it's like closing the barn door after the horse got out," Mr. Guarriello said. "The project is probably through all the bumps at this point. Everything seems to be moving along, other than the fact that we're restricted by weather. I really don't see what you'd gain out of spending that kind of money at this point in time."

While the bond that is funding the project has approximately a \$100,000 contingency fund for cost overruns, that money is earmarked for payment to the builder, Flanagan Construction.

Councilman Mathieu enthusiastically supported the idea, telling the council that there are "a thousand and one details" that need to be checked and that without a single person responsible, many can get overlooked. With so many delays already, Ms. Palmer was dubious of the April 1 deadline and questioned any date put forth by Flanagan.

"We have no faith in that April date," Ms. Palmer said.

"We don't have a new schedule and we don't know what that new schedule could be. It could be September, December, we don't know," she added, drawing sarcastic laughter from Mr. Guarriello, members of the council and gallery.

On a suggestion from Mr. Mathieu, the council will summon architects for both the clubhouse building and landscaping to address the construction progress. Mr. Guarriello said both architects are responsible for "guiding the project."

*Probitas Verus Honos*



**WINTER WONDERLAND...**Cranford looks picture perfect on January 14 as the snow begins to accumulate causing numerous cancellations, including school.

Paul Lachenauer for *The Westfield Leader*



Christina M. Hinke for *The Westfield Leader*

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE...**Cranford Township Committee members discuss raising pool fees, the plan for pedestrian improvements to the North Avenue Plaza and Union County College's plan to construct a lacrosse and soccer field on Gallow Hills Road at its workshop meeting on Monday.

## CF Police Officers Advance; Josh Furer Recognized

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

**CRANFORD** — A ceremony was held Tuesday during the township committee public meeting for Police Officers Guy Patterson and Craig Marino, who were advanced to the rank of lieutenant. Town Hall was filled with family, friends and fellow police officers in support of their promotions. Lt. Patterson has served the Cranford Police Department for 15 years and Lt. Marino for 24 years.

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Andis Kalnins presented Joshua Furer, 12, with a certificate of proclamation for spearheading an effort in Cranford to raise funds to victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Joshua raised over \$3,000 for the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation's Brick by

Brick project.

Mayor Kalnins said he and former mayor Dan Aschenbach are working on a video together to air on TV-35 to explain the township's flood control efforts and what residents can do in their own property to alleviate flooding.

Mayor Kalnins said over 150 people attended the public hearing by the Department of Environmental Protection for permit applications to develop 215 and 235 Birchwood Avenue. He and his fellow commissioners thanked the people for their support in opposing the development.

"It shows so much about our town that so many were here to tell your story," Commissioner Mary O'Connor said.

The Roosevelt Park Committee  
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