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PATRIOTIC RUNNER...Runners take part in Cranford's Firecracker 4-Miler on July 4, an annual tradition in the township held at Nomahegan Park. *Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader*



JAZZ NIGHT...The Patty Cronheim Ensemble entertains the crowd on Elm Street during the Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival on July 8. The series continues Tuesdays through August 26. *Evan Rossi for The Westfield Leader*



WHERE'S THE FINISH LINE?...A runner, dressed as Waldo, enjoys Friday's Firecracker 4-Miler at Nomahegan Park in Cranford. *Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader*

Westfield Planning Bd. OKs Subdivision on Coddling Rd.

By LAUREN S. BARR
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The planning board on Monday night approved the subdivision of 418 Coddling Road with variances.

The current lot, which holds a single-family house, measures 100 feet wide by 111 feet deep. The two new lots will measure 50 feet wide by 111 feet deep, which causes them to fall nine feet short in depth of the required 120 feet, and there will be a shortage of 450 square feet in each lot from the required 6,000 square feet.

Applicant Ralph Rapuano and his engineer, William Hollows, told the board the lot size and depth was in keeping with the neighborhood.

Mr. Rapuano pointed out to the board, "that all of the surrounding lots...all have the same depth." He also told the board the two homes that will be built will not require any additional variances and will comply with Westfield's zoning laws. When

asked by the board, he estimated the new homes to be 2,100 to 2,200 square feet in size.

According to Mr. Hollows, of 20 single-family homes in the area, 15 do not comply with the 6,000-square-foot requirement for the neighborhood and only three have the required 120-foot lot depth.

Acting Board Chairman Robert Newell said the proposed lots are consistent with the neighborhood and conform to the town's Master Plan.

Board Member and Town Council liaison James Foerst said the lots are "a little less than what we would have wanted" but noted they do conform with the neighborhood.

The board also approved a resolution for Denton 224 LLC to alter the facade of 234 East Broad Street by adding an entry door, as recommended by the board's site plan review committee.

The planning board will meet next on Monday, August 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Pilgrim Pipeline

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follow the Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) right of way south through Morris County and into Watchung in Somerset County, and then east through Union County. Unlike the Phillips 66 refinery, many refineries around the country are not equipped to process this lighter, translucent crude, so Linden is an essential destination.

Bakken crude, produced by hydraulic fracturing, a controversial process called fracking, is considered by some experts to be more volatile and potentially explosive. Fracking, in concert with horizontal drilling techniques, is used to reach oil deposits under shale and bedrock that were previously inaccessible. The fracking process involves blasting water, sand and chemicals into the rock bed, causing tiny fissures, allowing oil and gas to seep through.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, North America is the only major producer of the "tight oil" produced by fracking, with about 91 percent of it coming from the United States. Several countries have banned or declared a moratorium on fracking, including France, and most recently, Germany, which last week halted shale-gas drilling for the next seven years over concerns that exploration techniques could pollute groundwater.

Ms. Millsaps, as well as representatives from partner environmental groups such as The New Jersey Highlands Coalition and Food and Water Watch, have been actively meeting with New Jersey residents along the proposed route, including hosting a June meeting in Fanwood and a May meeting in Parsippany-Troy Hills, asking them to urge their municipal officials to pass resolutions rejecting the pipeline.

The Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Council passed a resolution last month opposing the pipeline, citing concerns about the safety and environmental impact that the pipeline might present to its residents and the Troy Meadows, a 1,500-acre wildlife preserve in the township. The resolution calls for a moratorium on surveying and project planning within the municipality and for an environmental review to be conducted to assess the project's impacts.

"We're very pleased that Parsippany took action to protect their residents because although there is not a lot of information on this project publicly available yet...Oil pipelines leak, they're prone to accidents, and spills, and by putting this infrastructure through your community, all you're going to bring are the risks of potential accidents," Ms. Millsaps said.

Ms. Millsaps referenced a February 2014 *Wall Street Journal* study, which compared 86 worldwide oil plays, deeming Bakken as the most combustible. "Bakken is a very dangerous fuel source. It's highly corrosive. We're concerned that moving this through a pipeline, it could damage the pipeline infrastructure much faster than traditional forms of oils could," Ms. Millsaps said.

In a telephone interview with *The Leader*, Paul Nathanson, a spokesman for Pilgrim Pipeline, said, "Those who are opposed to us are really promoting the status quo, which is really surprising to us. This oil is coming down anyway; we're not adding to it (total supply). It's coming down in a more efficient manner." The pipeline project would add approximately 2,400 construction jobs, 50 of which would be permanent, across both states, while removing about 1,200

barges from Hudson River traffic, he said.

Pointing to a quality assurance study completed in May by Turner, Mason & Company, an international petrochemical refining consultant, for the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC), Mr. Nathanson contends that Bakken oil is no more combustible than other light crude oils. He said he believes that the Sierra Club's opposition to the pipeline is based on the group's general aversion to use of fossil fuels for energy.

Mr. Nathanson said Mr. Bochis is "criss-crossing" both states, meeting with local environmental groups, municipal officials, chambers of commerce and business groups. He confirmed that Mr. Bochis met with a number of Union County mayors, in a closed-door setting, on June 18 to discuss the project.

"We want to provide as much information as possible. We believe that the more people learn about our project, the more support we will get. We're trying to answer all the questions and we're trying to meet with as many people as we can regarding our plans...We briefed all the counties that it (the pipeline) would go through in New Jersey and New York, including Union County," Mr. Nathanson said.

Permits for the project will be submitted to both states' regulatory agencies, including the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which will coordinate the state's permitting process, by the end of the summer, Mr. Nathanson said. Pilgrim does not need to submit permits to federal agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which oversees gas pipelines, he explained. He anticipates the permitting process to take 18 to 24 months and estimates the actual pipeline construction to last one to two years.

While replying to a question about Watchung homeowners who were contacted recently by Pilgrim's land surveyors, Mr. Nathanson said that if surveyors come upon private parcels of land along the proposed route, "they're instructed to knock on the door and gain permission" to access the property. He added that residents are not, under any circumstances, required to sign documents.

William G. Dressel, executive director of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLM), while commenting on the actions taken by the Parsippany town council, admitted that although he had limited knowledge of the project, he would consult with other municipal officials, including Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, a member of NJLM's executive board.

Mr. Dressel said it is important that elected officials take "deliberative actions" in dealing with this issue. "I trust that the areas (affected by the pipeline route) are in conversations with the company," he said.

Mayor Mahr and Cranford Township Mayor Andis Kalnins have said at their respective June council meetings that they will report back to residents as more information about the project becomes available. Scotch Plains Township Manager Jerry Giaimis said he would reserve comments until at least permits have been submitted. Westfield government officials did not reply to *The Leader's* e-mails or phone messages regarding this topic.

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Lance Town Hall

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background check system and broaden access to mental health services at community clinics. He said mental health laws are a priority when trying to resolve gun violence.

In regards to healthcare, Maria Santiago of Clark and other constituents asked about his criticisms of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, and views on a possible shift to a single-payer system.

Mr. Lance, who has voted to repeal Obamacare multiple times, believes people should receive healthcare through their employers. He said he also does not support a single-payer system although he still supports Medicare for seniors.

"I don't think it's good enough for Republicans to say 'let's repeal Obamacare,'" he said. "We should also have an alternative — repeal and replace."

Although it went nowhere, Mr. Lance said he co-sponsored legislation that would allow the purchase of policies across state lines in addition to not denying coverage based on preexisting conditions and permitting children to stay on their parent's healthcare until age 26.

"I am willing to admit that what I favor is not perfect, but I think we should build on the system we have in this country and strive toward a goal of covering as many Americans as possible," he said.

Mr. Lance also answered several questions about immigration, saying that he believes the first step in solving this issue is securing the southern border by expanding fencing where it is possible.

"I do not favor passing an all-encompassing [immigration] bill this

year," he said. "What I favor this year is securing the southern border."

When Congress reconvenes after the holiday, Mr. Lance said he hopes members can deal with the appropriations process since the new fiscal year begins on Wednesday, October 1. He predicts that a continuing resolution will most likely be passed in September in order to fund the government until an appropriations bill can be passed.

MS Council

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The council also heard a presentation by Stan Pratter, a representative from Jersey City Power & Light (JCPL). Mr. Pratter explained that JCPL was committed to assisting residents during power outages and working with local Office of Emergency Management (OEM) officials, including Mountainside's Police Chief James J. Debbie, Jr., who serves as OEM director and also is borough administrator.

According to Mr. Pratter, since Superstorm Sandy, JCPL has updated its website so customers can report outages, track repair trucks and locate shelters providing ice and water. The company now offers a mobile app which permits two-way texting.

Mr. Pratter urged the council to educate all residents on the need to individually notify their power company of power outages, saying that relying on a neighbor to report an outage could slow down response times since homes on the same street can lose power at the same time for different reasons.



EURO BBQ...At the French Alps close to Switzerland in a very small town next to Bonneville, France, Bob Cozzolina helped by using his culinary skills from his training at cooking classes in Italy plus as a member of Les Marmittons in Westfield. While visiting his friends and imbibing copiously in fine wines, *The Westfield Leader* was read — not used for cleanup of the food preparation.

Panel Reviews Summer Programs, Turf Project

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The recreation commission discussed the status of its various summer programs and updated the public on the replacement of the turf fields at Sid Faye/Houlihan Field at its July 7 meeting.

According to Recreation Director Bruce Kaufmann, as of this week, there were 510 young people registered in the summer playground program. Mr. Kaufmann explained that there are fewer participants in this year's program because the installation of new roofs at several of the town's elementary schools forced the program to combine locations and prevents the use of school buildings during inclement weather.

Mr. Kaufmann said enrollment will likely return to its previous levels next summer when all facilities are again available to campers. Mr. Kaufmann also advised the commission that the newly installed text messaging system has been well received as it allows the recreation department to communicate information and updates about camp activities to parents and campers in "real time."

Commission members reviewed the financial report from the Memorial Pool Complex and noted that the newly installed spray pad in the "kiddie" pool area is a significant improvement over the previous systems. Photographs of the new pad have already appeared in several national pool industry advertising campaigns.

Several commission members asked Mr. Kaufmann if he would investigate the feasibility of arranging for the pool to open at noon on the last day of school rather than 4 p.m. Mr. Kaufmann explained that safety regulations require a staff of 28 to be on site when the pool is open and historically, due to graduation and other staff scheduling conflicts, it has been difficult to get the requisite num-

ber of lifeguards earlier in the day, but he promised to look into the matter further next year.

The commission's parks and field subcommittee provided a detailed update on its recent pre-construction meeting with Applied Landscaping and Tesso, the companies which are scheduled to begin work at Sid Faye/Houlihan on Monday, July 14. Westfield residents who are interested in owning a piece of the old turf fields are encouraged to contact the recreation department, as the old field will be removed early next week and any turf which is not taken by residents will be sent for recycling. The new turf fields will have white lines for soccer and yellow and blue for men's and women's lacrosse and new field border surfaces.

Commission members conducted a lengthy discussion of the town's application for funding through the Union County Open Space Trust Fund, which is due in early August, and potential future projects and purchases. The commission focused on the need to invest in the equipment necessary to maintain the significant investments the community has made in its parks and other recreation facilities and discussed potentially replacing the park bleachers, improving the condition of the community's tennis courts and the possible purchase of additional field maintenance equipment.

Finally, Commission Chairman Peter Echausse advised that he and the town's legal team were closely monitoring the anti-smoking bill which recently passed both houses of the State Legislature with strong bipartisan support and was now awaiting Governor Chris Christie's review. Mr. Echausse noted that the Governor has not announced his intentions regarding the legislation, which would completely prohibit smoking in all state, county and municipal parks.

Brain Aneurysm

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formed Mrs. Mueller's surgery at Overlook and also joined the interview to discuss the symptoms and treatments for brain aneurysms. He explained that this condition is a weakness in the sidewall of a blood vessel that grows thinner from blood pressure.

If it ruptures, Dr. Chapple said, blood goes to the brain and causes a "thunderclap" headache and can lead to death. The symptoms of a brain aneurysm include a sudden, extreme headache, neck stiffness, changes in vision, and sensitivity to light.

"Public awareness and getting people to the hospital in a timely fashion are very important," said Dr. Chapple, who explained that brain aneurysms need to be treated in the first 24 hours.

Dr. Chapple said there are different ways to treat brain aneurysms, including the surgery that Mrs. Mueller experienced, which treats it from inside the blood vessel.

Before the brain aneurysm, Mr. Mueller said his wife was in good shape and showed no early symptoms. He said they decided to check their two sons to see if it is hereditary, but Dr. Chapple said it is usu-

ally not genetic.

"I just wanted to thank [Mr. Styler] because that is the sole reason and that's what saved my wife's life," Mr. Mueller said. "The hospital was great from start to finish...but we never would have made it there if it wasn't for his story."

Since Mrs. Mueller's recovery, she and her husband have done a few radio advertisements of their own to share their story and encourage people to call 9-1-1 if they experience these symptoms.

"You hope that nobody else has these things, but if it helps someone else, then it certainly does," Mr. Mueller said.

Mr. Styler, who is on the Neuroscience Leadership Committee, said Overlook is trying to get mobile CT scans so the Emergency Medical Services can get information to the hospital and patients can receive treatment immediately.

After the interview, Overlook held its 5K Race to Raise Awareness for Brain Aneurysm, the proceeds of which went to the Atlantic Neuroscience Institute Brain Aneurysm Fund and the Summit Police Athletic League.