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WNC THANKS ROTARY...The Westfield Neighborhood Council Senior Group expressed special thanks to the Rotary Club of Westfield for its generous contribution. This contribution will support an after-school karate program for children with disabilities.

Cranford Planning Board

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retail establishment parking on the residential streets; the trash container area, which they thought was too small, and the seepage pit planned as a detention basin for stormwater runoff.

"He has a lot of unknowns as to where the overflows are going to go," Sandra Caceras, assistant township engineer, said regarding the stormwater management plans.

Residents asked if the seepage pit would have standing water that would then attract mosquitoes.

"No, I have not seen that," Nassir Almkhtar, the applicant's architect, said.

"It is encased in two-foot-wide gravel. It goes into the gravel and filter fabric, then the soil. It would stand maybe two to three hours if you have a huge storm," Mr. Almkhtar said.

"It seems a lot of people are concerned about it...and you have not even done a soil test. Everything is hypothetical," said Board Secretary Kevin Illing.

"You are almost doubling the impervious surface, which is why the stormwater management becomes crucial...if the system you are proposing is adequate, we need to be assured of that," Board Chairwoman Lynda Feder said.

Pat Daly, of Garden Terrace, asked about garbage. "A two-yard dumpster seems like a small space for 12 adults and a business," he said. He had concerns about mice or bigger pests. "You are tripling in size. From the garbage point alone...we find that troubling," Mr. Daly said.

Attorney for the applicant, Gerasimos Kitsopoulos, said, "We will increase the number of times of pickup to make sure there is no overflow."

There also were suggestions by the planning board to increase the garbage area to add more dumpster space, but it would lessen the number of parking spaces.

Planning board members also had concerns about how a garbage truck could enter and exit the parking lot, which they said is tight.

Under the zoning laws, 19 spaces are required, where the applicant is providing 10.

Bahman Rzadme, traffic engineer and civil engineer, surveyed the area one weekday between 4 and 6:30 p.m. for the applicant.

Mr. Rzadme said the plan is to have shared parking, where residents are only allowed to park in the evenings when the retail business is closed.

"Shared parking – it is usually done in big developments where you get a percentage of them leaving. Wouldn't it fall apart?" Mr. Illing asked.

Mr. Rzadme suggested parking in the parking lot for the Centennial Avenue Pool, which he said is 300 feet away. Mr. Illing said that lot is

full to capacity in the summer when the outdoor pool is open. Mr. Rzadme also said there is available street parking on residential streets within 300 feet of the property.

"No one is going to walk 300 feet," planning board member Dan Aschenbach said.

"I think the overarching concern of parking is the density. We are looking for mixed-use properties along Centennial...but we are always concerned about the contiguous neighborhoods.... Neighbors are justifiably concerned about what happens to their quality of life when 10 more cars appear that were not there previously. ... I think you are not asking for a one- or two-space waiver; you are asking for nine spaces that don't exist. Perhaps there are too many apartments. ... If you are talking about 12 potential cars versus six, I think it would make a huge difference to the property and to the neighborhood," Ms. Feder said.

Residents said the parking in the residential streets is typically full.

Another issue was lack of an easement. Town Planner Victor Furmanec asked since the building is proposed to be on the property line, where the access for maintenance would be. Ms. Feder suggested the architect include an easement for allowing maintenance of the building to be performed.

The neighboring mixed-use property is co-owned by Jim Schoening and James Burnette, who told *The Westfield Leader* when Arnold's caught fire the windows on his building that sided with the property were warped. "If it was built to the property line, my building would have burnt to the ground," he told *The Leader*.

The new building will have a sprinkler system throughout, the applicant's architect said in an earlier review of his plans.

The board will continue the hearing on Wednesday, July 9.

In other business, five secondary teachers who excel in their positions were recognized by the board. They are seventh-grade mathematics teacher Coleen Raparelli of the Roosevelt Intermediate School and guidance counselor Kerri Webster from the Edison Intermediate School, both named outstanding teachers of the year by the Optimist Club of Westfield, and Westfield High School industrial arts teacher James Hart, biology teacher Bob Brewster and Spanish teacher Rose Calimano.

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the administration building, located at 302 Elm Street.

WF BOE

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SP-Rec Comm. Waits For Advice On Defibrillators

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township recreation commission is waiting to hear from attorneys and insurers about whether township recreation organizations will be required to comply with a new state law that mandates portable heart defibrillators be on hand at all youth sporting events.

Recreation Supervisor Stephen Dahl told the commission at its monthly meeting on Monday that "Janet's Law" — named after Janet Zilinski, an 11-year-old who died of sudden cardiac arrest following a cheerleading squad practice — requires public schools to have automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and someone trained in how to operate them, at all youth athletic events that take place at board of education facilities. He said the question for township recreation officials is whether the requirement extends to non-school organizations that use board of education fields and facilities.

Among the questions to be addressed before the law takes effect on Monday, September 1, is who will have possession of the AEDs when games are not being played, how many of them will be required and where they will be stored.

In other business, the summer concert series will get underway on Thursday, July 10, at Alan Augustine Park, and will run every Thursday evening through August 14, except for the first week of August when the annual National Night Out in conjunction with the police department is held. For several years, when the township government was unable to fund the concert series due to budget constraints, local busi-

nesses donated money to ensure the annual concert series would take place. With the 2014 municipal budget again providing full funding for this summer's series, Mr. Dahl told the commission that all local businesses in Scotch Plains and Fanwood are being offered the opportunity to set up a table, free of charge, at the Thursday night concerts as a way of promoting their services and "as a thanks for their support" in past years.

The water at Ponderosa Park will be turned off this week as workers install a new surface on the spray park to cut down on the excessive heat build up that was experienced at times last summer. Mr. Dahl said dry weather is required to perform the work and that it is hoped the work will be done by the end of this week, although the weather forecast calls for rain.

In an effort to curtail vandalism during overnight hours, an automatic locking system for restrooms at township parks has been installed, Mr. Dahl reported, making it possible for the doors to open for the day and then lock for the evening. He also said the new pavilion for Brookside Park has been delivered, adding that he hopes it will be installed by the first day of summer camp on Monday, June 30.

Total receipts at Scotch Hills Country Club, including the mini-golf facility and building rentals, amounted to \$39,121 in April, \$776 more than a year earlier. The year-to-date total is \$99,791.

The commission's next meeting will be on Monday, July 14.

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Garwood Council

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enables us to use it if we need it. We don't need it; we don't use it."

Mr. Mathieu did not see it that way.

"To me, this seems very shady. It seems like an abuse of power," he said, reiterating his concerns at previous council meetings. "To have this thing lurking back there that we really don't need but we might use; folks, this is how the government takes away your liberty.

"It's not a personal thing, but I think government should be shackled," Mr. Mathieu continued.

A frustrated Councilman Mike Martin said, "Jim. You are just making a ridiculous speech. Can we just vote on this, please?"

In other meeting news, Councilman Nierstedt said there is a Union County town with an ordinance requiring property owners who lose their home because of man-made or natural disaster to start rebuilding or remove the structure's foundation within two years. He declined to reveal the name of the town but said the information would be presented to the planning board, which is amending the land-use ordinance.

Mr. Nierstedt first raised the issue in October. The matter stemmed from properties on Second Avenue and Center Street destroyed by fire that had been leveled to their foundations but had remained dormant since their destruction. Borough Attorney Robert Renaud had expressed reservations over the enforceability of such an ordinance.

The ordinance would not be retroactive.

"The sole purpose of zoning is the protection of property values," Mr. Nierstedt said. "So when you start having houses destroyed through natural, man-made reasons, that derelict foundation, that chain link fence around the property does indeed lower adjacent values."

While the Garwood Rocks street fair was declared a huge success, two residents on the 300 block of Locust Avenue complained that the festivities caused more than a "minor inconvenience," as stated in the letter notifying residents of the event. Karen McCarrick said her block was turned into a theme park with "non-stop whining of generators" used to power a "bouncy house," spinning rides and an inflatable slide.

"I had a 24-foot-tall rock climbing wall 150 feet away from the front door of my home," Ms. McCarrick wrote in a letter to the mayor and council. She reiterated her concerns at Tuesday's meeting. "I had total strangers sitting on my front lawn and on my steps. I had a petting zoo with donkeys, horses and other farm animals on my block.

Was the zoning here changed to farmland without proper public notification?"

Another resident, Jeanne Carven, said she missed a walkathon because she was unable to get in and out of her driveway. Each year she and her family participate in NJ Sharing Network's walkathon in honor of her brother, who died in a car accident about five-and-a-half years ago and whose organs were donated through the organization.

"I could not go, and it was very, very upsetting to me," she said. "While I support Garwood 100 percent, I do feel that the residents of the 300 block of Locust Avenue should have been addressed separately that there were going to be these vendors blocking our driveways, and we would not have access in and out to do what we needed to get done."

Councilman Martin, who was on the planning committee, apologized to the residents and promised that for next year's fair, the committee would do its best to place noise-making equipment in an area where it will not disturb residents.

In October, the one-seat ride with direct service to New York City will include nightly trips, according to Mr. Nierstedt.

Councilman Louis Petruzzelli said completion of the Athletic Field Complex does not appear to be on schedule, but "it's getting there."

"The site itself is looking pretty good. It's just the building — the issue with the roof and gutters," he stated. Mr. Petruzzelli said he has asked for a completion date but that no one wants to give him a definitive answer.

The town-wide yard sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22. So far, about 40 households have signed up, half of what the borough had last year, according to Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma.



WELL APPRECIATED...Paula Long receives the Appreciation Award from Ginny Rorden, left, and Nancy Priest, right, at the Westfield Historical Society 46th Annual Dinner held May 28 at the Echo Lake Country Club.

Cranford Discusses Flood Options, Bond Ordinance

By DELL SIMEONE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — At Monday evening's Township Committee agenda meeting, flooding solutions by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), a \$5.2-million capital bond ordinance and the police department's table of organization were discussed.

Mayor Andis Kalnins cited three plans or options out of 10, which were mentioned in an article in *The Westfield Leader* last week. They include a proposal to build a dry detention basin in the South Mountain Reservation, the construction of new outlets on the Orange Reservoir with channel modifications in Cranford, and lastly, non-structural modifications to structures within the 10-year flood plain in Cranford.

The mayor favors the Orange Reservoir plan. Committeeman Thomas Hannen, Jr. suggested that there is opposition to lowering the reservoir and that maybe construction of the dry detention basin was the "least hard" of all the options. Mayor Kalnins said that right now, the mayors of Springfield and Millburn are not willing to go for the Orange Reservoir plan.

Mayor Kalnins said there will be a meeting with state legislators at McLoone's Restaurant at the South Mountain Reservation in the near future to further assess the plans.

On another matter, members of the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board asked the township committee to designate Droscher's Mill, located at Lincoln Avenue and High Street, as a historic site. The advisory board said that it is already on the United States and the New Jersey lists of historic sites in need of preservation. The township committee was in favor of the move.

The committee heard a laundry list of proposed projects from Township Engineer Carl O'Brien, which included road repairs, equipment for the public works department, including a new vehicle, equipment for the recreation department, and equipment for the fire and police departments.

The cost of these projects is expected to be approximately \$5.2 million and will be funded by a capital bond ordinance, Township Administrator Terence Wall said. Mr. Wall further said the ordinance should be introduced at the Tuesday, June 24 township committee meeting.

A presentation of the table of organization of the Cranford Police Department was given by Police Chief James Wozniak. Chief Wozniak said that after this year's (March) retirement of Chief Eric Mason, there is \$121,557 in the remaining balance of the salary and wages

budget. He said retirement made the following deductions from the budget possible: a captain promoted to chief, \$8,476; lieutenant promoted to captain, \$5,693; sergeant promoted to lieutenant, \$3,946; patrolman promoted to sergeant, \$3,979, and a new recruit, \$16,822. Chief Wozniak said the remaining balance after existing positions are replaced is \$91,114 and the total impact on the salaries and wages budget from these changes is \$58,427 and the pay differential is \$32,686. He said that each time a top grade officer retires the pay differential increases \$58,233.

Chief Wozniak said he would put two new sergeants in the communications unit, who will be cross trained. This move will free up a lieutenant to better supervise his broad range of responsibilities. He said the men are working 10-hour shifts so that there is complete coverage for 12 hours. He also said that two recruits are coming out of the Union County Police Academy next week. "The major point is to increase productivity this year," the chief said.

In other business, Mr. Wall said that the township newsletter has a list of 15,000 readers and the township's Facebook page has 5,000 followers. He also said that the township website is being updated. He said the budget for these initiatives is \$4,600.

Freeholders

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work within the school system during the summer.

He said additional funding has been approved for summer youth employment programs for the Borough of Roselle, Rahway Community Action Organization, Urban League of Union County, Workforce Advantage, Plainfield Board of Education and the City of Elizabeth.

Also on the agenda was a \$143,400 incentive fee payment to Illinois-based KemperSports Management. Armando Sanchez, director of golf operations for the county, said the fee is based on a set threshold and gross revenues Kemper must achieve per its contract with the county. Once it exceeds that number, Kemper receives the incentive fee.

Kemper's contract is up this year. A resolution on the draft agenda for last Thursday for a new five-year contract was not on the actual agenda for the meeting.

WF Plan. Bd.

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take issue with the corner sign. The applicant was initially proposing to have the monument sign raised 10 feet in the air. Both board member Robert Newell and Board Chairman Vince Wilt raised concerns over the height of the sign. The applicant then agreed to change the sign to a ground-level monument, much like the sign at Higgins and Bonner across the street from the applicant's location.

In other business, the board had no comment on a proposed change to the conditional use section of the town code. The new section would allow for an alternative treatment center in the central business district, but it would require it to be a stand-alone operation with no retail or residential mixed use. The ordinance will now go back to the town council for approval.



FUN IN THE SUN...Crowds hit the streets on Sunday during the annual Fanwood Street Fair held on Martine Avenue from South Avenue in downtown Fanwood.



COMING SOON...An artist's rendering of a proposed nine-townhouse development at 484 Fourth Avenue in Garwood was presented by Potter Architects LLC at Union at the Garwood Planning Board meeting on May 28, at which time the developer was granted a use variance for the project.