

GW Council Continues Eminent Domain Debate

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 noisemaking 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.

Probitas Verus Honos



Courtesy of Potter Architects LLC

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

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 Droescher'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

Cran. Bd. Hearing

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.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE