

## High St. Drainage, Tree Ordinance Discussed

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — A current business owner Eof Riverfront at Cranford Station has rerouted the outflow of his sump pumps to flow to South Avenue as a remedy to flooding on High Street from his sump discharge, Township Engineer Carl O'Brien said Monday at the township committee workshop session.

Four new businesses are to open at Riverfront at Cranford Station, Commissioner Mary O'Connor told *The Westfield Leader* two weeks ago after a liquor license was approved by resolution. The liquor license will be shared by River & Rail Cantina, a Mexican restaurant slated for the corner space with the outdoor courtyard; Social Cranford, a banquet space to be housed upstairs, and Station Wine & Spirits, next to River & Rail, she said. Ciao Bella will open in the space across the courtyard from Pastosa.

In Mr. O'Brien's engineering report, a drainage study of the vicinity of High Street is a potential 2015 capital improvement project. Other potential 2015 capital improvement projects involve the sanitary sewer failure at North and Springfield Avenues and the Orchard Brook improvements, as stated in Mr. O'Brien's report.

The Office Bar and Grill discovered oil tanks underground and had them removed. A soil test came back clean, Mr. O'Brien said. "We paved after they pulled everything out," Mr. O'Brien said. The brick pavers also were replaced.

The parking lot behind Swan Cleaners is to be patched within the next two weeks, followed by an entire milling and paving of the lot, per an agreement with the owner of the cleaners and the township. "It is under their agreement to mill and pave the whole area. They are not happy to do it, but they agreed upon it. Since they have been there they have done a lot of environmental cleanup," Mr. O'Brien said.

Paving of Tuxedo, Herning and Brookdale Avenues is anticipated to begin in the next two weeks, Mr. O'Brien said.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs awarded the township \$500,000 for the repair of infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Irene. The scope of work consists of sewer pipe repair at Carpenter Place Detention Basin, the reconstruction of the Municipal Building parking lot and a potential project for various storm water upgrades. The design of improvements for these projects has commenced and is to be submitted for review, according to Mr. O'Brien's report.

The township is continuing to review a proposed tree ordinance submitted by

the Tree Advisory Board. Tina Helmstetter, one of four members of the committee who attended the workshop session, urged the commissioners to consider the ordinance.

"It is a proactive thing we need to do. Trees are so important to this town. We are a river community with the flooding issues and the number of trees we have lost in the last number of years... We need to work towards fixing," Ms. Helmstetter said. The advisory board said 800 trees on public property were lost during Hurricanes Irene and Sandy and private trees would most likely double that number.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Aduabato said she needed more detail on the restrictions for property owners to remove trees on private property. "It seemed overly restrictive," she said.

Tree Advisory Board member Mike Venditti said this concern has been a problem for 10 years and is why the ordinance has yet to be passed.

The ordinance proposed is modeled after Summit's tree ordinance, Tree Advisory Board member Barbara Krause said. She said a tree contractor has told her that Summit's ordinance is "one of the most workable" and "not confining to the tree experts who are doing the work."

An indoor market will open every Saturday morning, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Cranford Community Center in the room behind the front desk and is to begin potentially December 13 and run through the end of March, as approved by the township committee. Five businesses were interested and have yet to complete the contracts, Commissioner O'Connor said. She said each week the businesses will rotate with two to three selling at a time. Some are local businesses.

Parking restrictions will change come January on South Union Avenue between Washington Place and Christopher Street. A resident of the area complained that commuters park there all day. The committee agreed to instill a two-hour parking limit from 9 a.m. to noon. The restriction would not apply to residents of the street.

The township is considering changing its official legal newspaper. "We have been disappointed in the coverage of our official newspaper," Mayor Andis Kalnins said. In recent months, *The Leader* has been the only newspaper having a reporter present at township meetings. The township clerk is researching the costs of legal advertising in other newspapers, including *The Leader*.

The next township committee workshop meeting is Monday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m., with an official meeting on Tuesday, December 16, at 8 p.m. The committee will hold a special year-end meeting on Tuesday, December 30, at 7 p.m.



A NEW DYNASTY... Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky and Xinsong Yang cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Sichuan Dynasty Restaurant, located at 515 South Avenue at the Route 28 circle. Pictured, from left to right, are: David Judd, Downtown Westfield Corp. Economic Development Committee, Danny Fisch, Babette Fisch, Jay Jordan Vogel, Sue Gronewold, Mayor Skibitsky, Miss Yue, Mr. Yang, Mr. Wang, Chef Peng, Xin Chen, Dingwen Yang (5 years old), Peter Finn, Xurong Kong, Jinli Liu, and Gene Jannotti, Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce executive director.

## Mayors Council Reports Progress on Flood Plan

REGION — Recent developments have moved forward the flood mitigation efforts for the Rahway River. Damages in excess of \$100 million resulted from Hurricane Irene and a federal-state-local flood mitigation study to find solutions has been underway and the next steps have been taken.

The Mayors Council Rahway River Flood Control recently met with Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr., who expressed support for a plan to modify the Orange Reservoir to provide additional storage capacity of storm water during peak storm conditions. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Environmental Commission are studying this plan and the executive's support will be conditioned on the protection of county facilities and the benefits downstream to communities such as Millburn and Maplewood. Meetings with the City of Orange are expected soon. Previously, a controversial plan to build a new detention basin was taken off the table due to potential environmental impacts.

According to the Mayors Council, the upstream storage created by lowering the reservoir by several feet prior to a major storm has the potential of lowering river elevations in Millburn by 2.6 feet and lowering river elevation down through Cranford during a storm event. The storage also permits channel improvements in Cranford including replac-

ing or modifying two bridges and eliminating two dams. The channel work also includes increasing the capacity of the river bed in selected areas to yield further flood protection. In Cranford for example, the river elevation is forecasted to be 3.5 feet lower during peak storm conditions.

The Mayors Council has been actively working on seeking federal and state funding to complete the study to then be in line for federal appropriations that could fund 65 percent of the cost of any approved project. The state would also share in 25 percent of the costs. In September the Mayors visited Washington, D.C. to urge congressional leaders to support the effort. Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Senator Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) and Rep. Donald Payne (D-10th) each expressed strong support for the effort.

In a major recent decision, the Mayors Council became eligible to be included in the Fiscal Year 2016 Obama Administration federal budget. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Atlantic Division informed the Mayors Council of this decision, which puts the projects in line for federal support.

The Mayors Council will be meeting in early December to extend the inter-local agreement into 2015 between the seven communities to fund various local initiatives to further the flood mitigation effort.



## Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of *The Leader/Times*

### Haslam to Replace Christie As Head of RGA

Republican Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam will take over as chairman of the Republican Governors Association (RGA) for the next year after winning election at the group's annual meeting held this week in Boca Raton, Fla.

Gov. Haslam will succeed Republican New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who led the RGA in 2014 and helped it raise more than \$100 million. New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez takes over the RGA in 2016.

Democrats will elect a new head of the Democratic Governors Association at their meeting next month in Los Angeles, where Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin's term will end.

### Sweeney: BPU Needs to OK Wind Energy Project

Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-3rd, Gloucester) issued the following statement on Friday in response to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) decision to block a wind energy project off the coast of Atlantic City:

"The wind project off the coast of Atlantic City should be under construction by now, pumping money into the local economy. This project is not only great for the environment but once construction begins, would bring hundreds of good paying jobs to the region.

"Over three years ago we passed legislation that was meant to make New Jersey the national leader in wind and renewable energy. It meant hundreds, if not thousands, of new jobs for our state in a time of economic uncertainty. But three years later, even though the bill was signed into law, nothing has happened to make this a reality. New Jerseyans have suffered because of this inaction... By holding back on wind, the BPU will potentially cost New Jersey thousands of jobs that will go to other states. The BPU needs to get this done."

### 'Do Not Mail' List Introduced in Trenton

A bill that would establish a statewide "Do Not Mail" list has been introduced in the Legislature.

The bill would mirror the state's "Do Not Call" law, NJ Advance Media has reported.

According to the report, the list would be maintained by the state's Division of Consumer Affairs. The

first offense would carry a maximum fine of \$10,000.

### Super PAC Has Raised \$10M for Hillary Run

Fox News has reported that an unaffiliated super PAC, Ready for Hillary, has met with Hillary Clinton insiders to prepare strategies to help Mrs. Clinton win the White House in 2016 if she decides to run for President.

Ready for Hillary would join Democratic groups Priorities USA Action, American Bridge 21st Century and Correct the Record to review the 2014 elections and prepare for 2015. Ready for Hillary reportedly has raised more than \$10 million.

### Three County Towns Want Red Light Cameras to Stay

Officials in Linden, Springfield and Union say they will fight the state's decision to end its Red Light camera enforcement program, nj.com has reported. Department of Transportation officials have notified towns that have cameras that the pilot program will end December 16 at which time they must turn off the cameras in their communities.

Linden has been averaging \$1.2 million in revenue from citations from the cameras while Union has issued 72,830 citations over the past two years the township has had the cameras in place, according to the report.

Springfield's camera, located at Maple Avenue and Morris Avenue (Route 82), issued 7,713 citations in 2013, the second highest producing camera in the state, according to the report.

### REPORTERS NEEDED

Current openings for reporters to cover town council, BOE, and recreation commission meetings. We seek community-minded, detail-oriented writers with professional demeanor needed. Must be able to meet deadlines, know how to write a lead, and take an active interest in a regular beat in order to develop news stories. Great for stay-at-home moms, a second income or just for those who love to write. E-mail resume and clips to:

[editor@goleader.com](mailto:editor@goleader.com)

The Westfield Leader & The Scotch Plains-Fanwood TIMES

# Faster than an ER visit. More powerful than a broken bone. Able to treat your child late at night.



Captain PM

It's PM Pediatrics, the super urgent care for kids and young adults.

- Board-certified pediatric emergency physicians
- On-site lab and digital X-ray
- Most insurance plans accepted
- Open 365 days a year, with no appointment necessary



Open every day until midnight.

Now Open in Springfield!

355 Route 22 East | 973.467.2PMP (2767)

Holmdel | Livingston | North Brunswick | Paramus (coming soon)



**PM Pediatrics**  
Care when you need us.™

[pmpediatrics.com](http://pmpediatrics.com)