

## Roosevelt Park Plans Underway in Cranford

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

CRANFORD — Plans for Roosevelt Park on Orange Avenue are underway after the township committee approved resolutions Tuesday night for the purchase of playground equipment and playground safety surfacing for the park. The land was once home to Roosevelt School and Solomon Schechter Day School.

The committee also approved resolutions for new playground equipment and playground safety surfacing for Lincoln Park to replace the some 20-year-old equipment that is there currently.

The committee passed resolutions that would prohibit parking on Buchanan Street from 4 to 11 p.m., except to those who live on Buchanan Street. This resolution was a result of resident of Buchanan Street Derek Brooks' request for stricter parking rules on the street, which he said experiences congested parking.

The United Way of Greater Union County will hold a fundraiser at Pairings restaurant on Sunday, September 21, with three seatings at 4, 6 and 8 p.m., Mayor Andis Kalnins announced.

Sailer Street and Scherer Street, which are off of North Avenue, have experienced a problem with rats, said Joanne Pulaski, a resident of Scherer

Street. She said an abandoned home on Sailer Street has an infestation, and the property has not been maintained.

Resident Mary Sullivan said the abandoned home has trash strewn around the perimeter that neighbors have taken up themselves to clean up. Also, she said the front door was ajar and she could see dogs are living inside and a pungent odor from inside is detectable from the front entry.

Two homes in the area have been identified as having burrows and have been baited by a pest control specialist from the Westfield Regional Health Department, Township Administrator Terrence Wall said.

Abandoned properties issues are being looked into by the township committee, Mr. D'Ambola said. He said the state recently passed a law that would allow imposing fines of \$1,500 per day on the property owner. The committee is working on writing an ordinance with stricter rules for abandoned homes.

Mr. Wall said he would contact the Westfield Regional Health Department and set up a meeting with the residents who have concerns about rats in the area.

Paving projects in the township are planned to begin Monday, September 15 and run through March 2015, Commissioner Robert D'Ambola said.

The Mayor's Wellness Campaign will be held Sunday, October 5 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Memorial Field.

The township website is being redesigned, Commissioner Mary O'Connor said. While the kinks are being worked out, the links to the township files can be found at [cranford.com](http://cranford.com).

Mayor Kalnins announced that a military veterans' job fair On Wednesday, September 17 from

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## 9/11 Services Planned In Westfield Cranford, Scotch Plains, Union County

COUNTY – Local events will take place tonight in memory of those who lost their lives in terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001.

Westfield will observe the 13th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks with a community gathering at the September 11th Memorial site on North Avenue at East Broad Street. The commemoration ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. with opening remarks from Mayor Andrew Skibitsky. Local clergy will offer prayers of commemoration followed by the presentation of the ceremonial wreath by an honor guard.

Each year, the ceremony concludes with a period of silent reflection and show of community support.

"The events of 9/11 affected so many people in so many different ways, and continues to do so. It has been my observation that many people do not grieve or reflect the same way each year – some reflect on the loss, some reflect on the healing and recovery since, some reflect on the resolve of the American people – it depends on where they are personally in the process," Mayor Skibitsky said. "By offering the opportunity for silent reflection, this part of the ceremony allows people to reflect privately, but not be alone, and it also affords those who want or need to reach out to others to do so." The ceremony will be held rain or shine.

Scotch Plains will mark the anniversary of the terrorist attacks with a remembrance service at 7 p.m. at the Alan Augustine Village Green on Park Avenue.

The Cranford WTC Memorial Committee along with the Interfaith Human Relations Committee of Cranford Clergy Council and the Cranford Interfaith Committee will host its 9/11 memorial service at the WTC Memorial Park, located at Springfield and North Union Avenues, at 7 p.m.

The community is also invited to honor the memory of the 60 Union County residents who perished in the 9/11 attacks by visiting the Union County Septem-

ber 11th Memorial from the morning hours until 9 p.m. at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Members of the Union County Prosecutor's Office and Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with other law enforcement members throughout the county, will provide a uniformed Honor Guard standing watch at the memorial from 6 to 9 p.m. and the public will be able to light candles in memory of those lost in the attacks.

### Storage Pipes to Alleviate Flooding

the corner of Springfield Avenue and North Union Avenue. A grant was received to do the work, Commissioner Mary O'Connor said. The location for the rain garden was changed from the original plan because the rain garden experts said the "drip line" from trees in the original area would affect the effectiveness of the rain garden. The township anticipates planting to begin before the end of the month.

The cost to cut down Old Peppy is about \$3,000, Commissioner D'Ambola said. A report done by Maser Consulting, the company contracted by the township for engineering, said the 200-year-old Pepperidge Tree in Lincoln Park has decay inside, and recommended removal of the tree.

He had received e-mails from residents regarding the tree, he said. "We'd like to hear from a lot more people," he said. An option for a wood carving of the tree trunk remains an active idea, he said.

Mr. Hannen relayed again his disapproval of cutting down the tree. He also said in talking to residents "door-to-door" that a majority were for saving the tree.

"My bottom line is a safety issue," Deputy Mayor Lisa Aduato said.

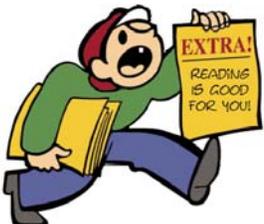
The township had received three other reports on recommendations for Old Peppy in previous years, Barbara Krause, resident and member of the tree advisory board, said. "In comparison with their reports, I feel this report by Maser was very sensationalized and dramatic," said Ms. Krause. "The other reports indicated the same problems with the tree but also indicated the remedial measures that could be taken and have a positive effect on the tree."

An ordinance to refine the role of the township administrator was proposed by Commissioner Connor. She said the ordinance in place now is about 30 years old and is "generic."

"This has more meat into it. It drills down to more specific duties," Commissioner O'Connor said.

When asked by Mr. Hannen if this had anything to do with a change of government, Commissioner O'Connor replied, "This has nothing to do with the change of government."

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