



## Flood Advisory Panel Wants Cranford Twp. to Buy 112 Park Dr.

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

CRANFORD — The Cranford Flood Advisory Committee has requested that the township committee “give serious consideration to the acquisition of the property located at 112 Park Drive for the purpose of facilitating Phase 5 of the Flood Plan and the conversion of the remaining property for open space,” the Flood Advisory Committee stated in a resolution passed 9-to-0, with 11 members absent.

SCODEE, LLC, co-owned by Bob Pyfer and Denise Lorelli, had purchased the 25,000-square-foot property located adjacent to Nomahegan Park. After presenting its minor subdivision application to the planning board in August, SCODEE withdrew its application due to the negative comments made by planning board members, Flood Advisory Committee members, Environmental Commission members, and residents alike, as well as deficiencies in its stormwater drainage plan noted by the planning board engineer.

The Flood Advisory Committee’s resolution states, “it is public knowledge that the current owner has paid much less for the property in question and might be amenable to a resolution involving the transfer of said property to the township or the county for a fair market price.” SCODEE, LLC purchased the property for

\$280,000 on September 15, 2016, according to njparcels.com.

Prior to SCODEE, LLC buying the property, the township had been in discussions with the County of Union, which owns an easement on part of the property, to buy the property, designate a portion as Green Acres and build a pump station that would aid in reducing flooding conditions seen in the northeast quadrant of the township, and would satisfy the township’s fifth phase of its flood plan. This location was deemed ideal in order to assist the most homes in the area, the Flood Advisory Committee had told *The Westfield Leader* in August.

The County of Union was unsuccessful in its attempt to buy the property from Wells Fargo Bank at an offer of its appraised value of \$500,000 about a decade ago.

112 Park Drive sits in a flood zone and is considered one of the most susceptible areas for flooding, as stated by Township Commissioner Ann Dooley and a resident who lives on Park Drive, Donald Thee, at the August planning board meeting. Objectors noted how building two homes on the property would undermine efforts made by the township to reduce flooding by setting strict development standards that establish requirements for flood control. The property currently is occupied by an abandoned home.



CRANFORD COMMITTEE 2018

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**CELEBRATING...** About 500 well wishers showed up during the cold weather on January 1 in Westfield to support the installation of Mayor Brindle and the four new councilmembers. State Representatives Sen. Tom Kean, Jr., Asm. Jon Bramnick and Asw. Nancy Munoz were also in attendance.

## What To Do If You Have Frozen Pipes

**ROTO-ROOTER:** Extreme cold temperatures are causing water pipes to freeze and burst across the country. In many cities, demand for plumbing repair and water cleanup services is outstripping capacity. Plumbers and water cleanup technicians are working around the clock to help customers.

When pipes freeze, pressure builds inside pipes causing them to crack — no matter if the pipe is made of plastic, copper or steel. Even a tiny crack can unleash more than 200 gallons of water in a single day. Often the damage doesn’t become obvious until pipes thaw.

Roto-Rooter offers the following tips for preventing frozen pipes, which can cause flooding resulting in expensive repairs. By taking a few simple preventive measures before pipes freeze, home and business owners can minimize their risk of a plumbing catastrophe.

Disconnect outside water hoses. If left connected, water in the hoses will freeze and expand causing outside faucets and connecting pipes inside your home to freeze and break. Cover outside faucets with Styrofoam faucet insulation kits found at home centers.

If outside faucets are dripping or leaking, make the necessary repairs or call a plumber before freezing temperatures arrive.

If your washing machine is in an unheated garage, turn off water supply lines leading to the washer and disconnect the hoses if temperatures have dropped below freezing.

Allow a trickle of hot and cold water to run overnight in sinks and bathtubs with water supply pipes that run along outside walls.

Open kitchen and bathroom cabinets beneath sinks (located along outside walls) to allow heat in the room to circulate around uninsulated pipes.

Add insulation wraps to water pipes in unheated areas, such as garages or crawl spaces. Apply heat tape or thermostat-controlled heat cables around water supply pipes that are exposed and prone to freezing, but be sure not to attach these devices to flammable materials.

Keep the furnace is turned on and set no lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

What to do if your pipes have already frozen: Shut-off the water main leading into the structure and open faucets indoors. This will reduce pressure on the frozen pipes and minimize flooding if the pipes burst.

If the frozen pipe is exposed and visible, use a hair dryer or space heater to thaw the ice blockage. Do not use an open flame!

Examine exposed pipes for leaks. Even with the water main turned off, there will be enough pressure to reveal leaks once the pipe has thawed.

Contact a professional plumber equipped with pipe-thawing equipment to get your pipes flowing again, and if necessary, to make repairs to damaged pipes.

Even if no leaks are found, a plumber should examine pipes that experienced a hard freeze. Some pipes may need to be replaced if the material has experienced stretching and fatigue, putting the pipes at risk for future failure.

If you’ve experienced flooding or water damage, contact a certified water cleanup service provider to remove the water and deal with the damage left behind.

### Senior Citizens / Section 8 Housing Westfield Senior Citizens Housing

Westfield Senior Citizens Housing will be accepting waiting list applications. The studio, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments are subsidized through the Section 8 Program of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are subject to the following federal eligibility requirements:

1. Head of Household must be 62 years of age, or older.
2. Applicant’s maximum annual income:  
\$ 47,600 Individual  
\$ 54,400 Couple

Applications will be available weekdays from January 16, 2018, through January 29, 2018 (10:00 AM to 4:00 PM) at the address listed below, or may be obtained by mail, by calling (908) 233-5898, ext 121, or by e-mail by contacting mary.weber@westfieldseniorhousing.com.

Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation  
1133 Boynton Avenue  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
(908) 233-5898

www.westfieldseniorhousing.com

If you have a disability and need assistance with the application process, please contact Linda Arches at 908-233-5898, ext. 114.

Applications must be received by  
4:00 PM, Wednesday, February 7, 2018.



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