

Cranford Defers Vote On Bond Ord. Until April 10

By **KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The township committee on Tuesday night deferred a second and final motion to approve reading of an ordinance to refund monies from a 2006 bond to an April meeting. Commissioners voted to move the second reading of the ordinance until the committee's Tuesday, April 10 meeting.

According to Commissioner Mary O'Connor, the ordinance is structured to save the township more than \$500,000 in bond payments over a period of 20 years. She stated, "Hopefully this ordinance will go forward."

Resolutions that were heard and passed included: approving a leave of absence for an employee of the police department, pursuant to the federal Family Medical Leave Act, authorizing an award contract to Harbor Consultants, Inc. for planning services, authorizing an amendment to the contract awarded to Community Grants, Planning and Housing (CGP and H) for administrative agent services, authorizing a contract to Best Cleaning Building Services, Inc. for custodial services for the municipal building and grounds, authorizing to award a contract to Bagel Giant for 2018 Concession Rights for the Centennial Avenue and Orange Avenue Pools, and authorizing tax refunds and complying with the United States Equal Opportunity Employment Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

In other business, it was announced that today, March 29, would be the last tree debris collection from the recent storms by the Department of Public

Works (DPW). Deputy Mayor Ann Dooley, as well as all the members of the township committee, thanked members of the DPW and thanked members of the Cranford community for all the e-mails and thank you notes received by members of the DPW in appreciation of their hard work.

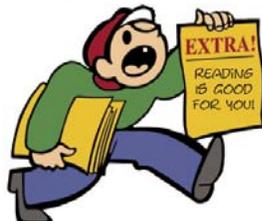
It also was announced that, April 1 through April 21, a Distracted Driving Campaign would be launched within the township to further deter drivers in Cranford from talking on their cell phones or texting while driving.

A Get Fit Cranford Day was announced for the township for Sunday, April 22, which will be held in the main parking lot of the municipal building. Activities will include a self-defense class, yoga, dancing and a Simon Says class instructed by Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

High-school athlete and distance runner Keith Brown asked commissioners to look into the condition of the bike and walking/running paths throughout Cranford, noting that there are many potholes and root overgrowth on these paths, causing potential injuries to those who utilize them like himself and his fellow runners.

The next township committee meeting is scheduled for April 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the municipal building at 8 Springfield Avenue.

Reading is Good For You



goleader.com/subscribe

Works (DPW). Deputy Mayor Ann Dooley, as well as all the members of the township committee, thanked members of the DPW and thanked members of the Cranford community for all the e-mails and thank you notes received by members of the DPW in appreciation of their hard work.

It also was announced that, April 1 through April 21, a Distracted Driving Campaign would be launched within the township to further deter drivers in Cranford from talking on their cell phones or texting while driving.

A Get Fit Cranford Day was announced for the township for Sunday, April 22, which will be held in the main parking lot of the municipal building. Activities will include a self-defense class, yoga, dancing and a Simon Says class instructed by Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

High-school athlete and distance runner Keith Brown asked commissioners to look into the condition of the bike and walking/running paths throughout Cranford, noting that there are many potholes and root overgrowth on these paths, causing potential injuries to those who utilize them like himself and his fellow runners.

The next township committee meeting is scheduled for April 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the municipal building at 8 Springfield Avenue.

Garwood, Fanwood Mayors To Review Shared Services

By **MICHAEL BONACCORSO**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — Mayor Charles Lombardo on Tuesday night stated he would meet with Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr sometime this week to discuss the shared-service agreement moving forward. Mayor Lombardo said he values the relationship Garwood has with Fanwood regarding shared services and expects the relationship to continue in the future.

Councilman Joseph Sarno proposed at the last borough council meeting that the borough should investigate what other "deals" can be arranged with other municipalities regarding shared services. Mr. Sarno stated that "it would not hurt" the borough's working relationship with Fanwood "to see" if there is a "better deal out there" for Garwood.

Mr. Sarno said a closed-session discussion could be used to weigh the pros and cons of each service agreement to find the best terms for Garwood. The councilman stated that he did not want to end the shared-service relationship with Fanwood unless there are "better" alternatives.

Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro, who chairs the Laws and License Committee, said an amendment is being proposed to charge a fee for abandoned homes.

"It is a good way to keep an eye on them, make the banks liable for their upkeep. Fees will assure this will happen," said Ms. Cuccaro.

Ms. Cuccaro stated that a \$500 fee will be enacted to register the home for the first year. The fee on the second anniversary will be \$1,500. A second annual renewal fee will be \$3,000. The fee for any renewal past the second year will be \$5,000, stated Ms.

Cuccaro.

"This will encourage the banks or owners of abandoned or vacant properties to move in a reasonable manner," said Ms. Cuccaro.

The planning board will review any existing fence ordinances regarding corner properties.

"We hope for a unanimous approval. We hope to repeal this onerous revision that was done three years ago to the dismay of many corner property owners," said Ms. Cuccaro.

Councilman Richard McCormack said as a corner property owner himself, he does not feel it is "fair" to collect corner property owner's taxes "like everyone else." Yet, corner properties are entitled to less privacy than other borough residents.

Planning board member Bill

Nierstedt said that he could not provide commentary until the ordinance is reviewed by the planning board or "in front of him." Planning board commentary will be provided before the next council meeting addressing the matter, Councilwoman Sara Todisco said.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation has awarded Garwood \$216,000 to "repair various borough streets" in the 2018 calendar year, stated Mayor Lombardo.

Mayor Lombardo said through the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, Garwood has been awarded a \$25,470 Level The Playing Field playground grant.

The Mayor appointed planning

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Community Access OK'd To Expand On-Site Training

By **MICHAEL BONACCORSO**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — The board of adjustment Monday night unanimously approved Community Access Unlimited Inc. to designate administrative office space to expand on-site training and educational services at 70 Myrtle Avenue. Community Access Unlimited is a non-profit providing "comprehensive support services for people with disabilities and their families." The application was an amendment to a prior site-plan approval on July 13, 2015.

Board member David Salomon in closing comments stated that Community Access Unlimited does great work for the community. "There is not a family not

touched (by the organization)," Mr. Salomon said.

Board member Kevin Illing said it was a "great project" when the application was initially approved in 2015.

The applicant's attorney, Stephen Hehl, said the applicant is seeking to utilize an additional 4,000 square feet of the building with no alterations to the structure's exterior.

"The only change reflected is in the parking requirements," said Thomas J. Quinn, the applicant's engineer.

Mr. Quinn said in the 2015 approved application 105 parking stalls were proposed. In the current application 92 parking stalls are proposed. Mr. Quinn said the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE