

Hartz Planner: Twp. \$2.76 Mil. in Tax Revenue

Statewide and regional data, he said, sometimes are difficult to control.

In his calculations for the fiscal-impact analysis, Mr. Hughes said both the municipality and the school district would experience a net-positive impact by Hartz Mountain's 905 apartments proposed when considering his projections of total population added by the 905 apartments. He estimated that there would be a total population of 1,622 residents at full build out. In terms of public school population, he estimated 110 public school children, using empirical data.

The school district's net-positive impact would be \$2.1 million per year, after full build out of the apartments, based on his calculated \$14,179 cost per pupil in the public schools. The school district's cost per pupil, he said, is \$18,296 per the state department of education, and approximately 77.5 percent of that cost is funded by local property taxes,

so after extracting taxes he said the cost per pupil for the project would be \$14,179.

Karl Pehnke, the traffic engineer hired by Hartz Mountain, also returned to provide an update of traffic data based on a new survey conducted on October 30, 2018. He said the data showed a higher flow of vehicular traffic heading northbound on Walnut Avenue in the morning than his previous counts, but he said he felt it was an "anomaly." Board member Peter Taylor commented, "or it could be reality." The count was 524 versus 415 previously.

Mr. Pehnke said his conclusion is, "we can design safe and proper access into the site."

He said the timing of the traffic signal at the corner of Raritan Road and Walnut Avenue could be changed to accommodate an improved traffic flow, as well as adding left-hand-turn lanes on Walnut Avenue, heading towards downtown Cranford, into the

property. The turning lanes would be designed to hold 10 vehicles, he said. Walnut Avenue would be widened to accommodate the lanes, and would be accommodated by using the land at 750 Walnut Avenue and not the residents' properties across the street on Walnut Avenue, Mr. Pehnke said.

The property is bordered by the Conrail line on one side. "We do not intend to connect to the residential neighborhood across the rail line," said James Rhatican, the applicant's attorney, in response to a question posed by resident Jim Carvalho. Mr. Carvalho also asked why one of the owners of the property was not listed on the zoning application. Mr. Rhatican said if one of the subsidiary owners is not on the application, then "it's an oversight" and he would correct it.

Hartz Mountain will continue on Wednesday, February 20, at 8 p.m., with a planning board workshop meeting to be held at 7 p.m. The Cranford Planning Board is to have its own experts present at the 8 p.m. meeting.

Seniors Can Play 'Bagels & Bingo'

CRANFORD — The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department will present "Bagels & Bingo," a new event for senior citizens, that will be offered at the Cranford Community Center. It is open to Cranford residents only.

"Bagels & Bingo" will be held every fourth Tuesday of each month, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., beginning February 26. The recreation and parks department said this activity will feature guest callers, many laughs and prizes.

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Lori Donnelly, senior coordinator, at (908) 709-7283.



Paul Lachenauer for *The Westfield Leader*
SEE WHAT I SEE..Garwood Police Chief Jim Wright hands over a pair of long-range binoculars to a child during Garwood Mayor Sara Todisco's first "Breakfast with the Mayor" held Saturday morning at Borough Hall.

Palmieri, Chrystal Join UCC Bd.

management of the response and support operations during Hurricanes Irma, Harvey, Sandy, Irene, Katrina, and Floyd. For his work, he received multiple accolades including the Bronze Star Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Award.

General Chrystal is employed by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as the superintendent for Veterans Haven North, a New Jersey state transitional facility for homeless veterans. He is responsible for more than 100 residents and a staff of counselors, kitchen and maintenance workers, and members of the administration. Previously, General Chrystal was a member of the New Jersey State Police and retired at the rank of lieutenant.

He holds a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, and from Seton Hall University, he holds a Master of Arts in education administra-

tion and a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice.

"Both Superintendent Palmieri and General Chrystal are pillars of the community. Superintendent Palmieri's experience as an educator and a coach will be a valuable perspective. General Chrystal's service to our country and past leadership experience brings beneficial insight to the board, and we are happy to welcome them," Mr. Richel stated.

Annual Gift Auction At Mother Seton

CLARK — Mother Seton Regional High School located at One Valley Road in Clark will hold a Parents' Guild Annual Gift Auction on Friday, March 1. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Admission: \$25. Reserve a table at giftauction@motherseton.org. For more information, call (732) 382-1952.



Paul Lachenauer for *The Westfield Leader*
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK...Garwood Mayor Sara Todisco welcomes residents and hears their ideas during her first "Breakfast with the Mayor" held on Saturday morning at Borough Hall.