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Cranford Experts Express Opinions on 750 Walnut

testimony, he said he has "areas of concern" pertaining to Hartz's traffic engineering plan in regards to the site design and site circulation within the property.

"In my opinion, the site is not designed...for large moving trucks," he said.

"A tractor trailer would have a difficult time maneuvering the site. When people move, sometimes they use a larger vehicle for moving in or moving out," he said.

The internal roadway design does not provide for a shoulder nor a bike lane or bike path. To have a bike path or a bike lane, "the footprint of the project would have to change," he said.

"The site is tight in general" to accommodate a fire truck, he noted, saying the "trucks' tires would be right at the curb."

"A school bus is larger than a fire truck and takes up more space. A school bus would not be able to negotiate the site," he said. "The site is not designed properly to accommodate a school bus or a large vehicle."

As part of Hartz's plan, the new use would, in addition to the apartment buildings, have two clubhouses with adjacent swimming pools. One of the two clubhouses would have seven parking spots, the other had no dedicated parking spaces, in the plan presented to the board, Mr. Rasched said.

In Mr. Rasched's testimony, he felt the clubhouses should have parking spaces and, "it's not unusual for a clubhouse that size to have 30 to 40 parking spaces." Later, Hartz Mountain attorney

James Rhatican asked if the township has a requirement for parking at a clubhouse, to which Mr. Rasched responded, "I am not aware of any."

Many tenants will choose to drive instead of walking 1,000 feet, Mr. Rasched said, referring to the tenants going to the clubhouses.

"The site...may not function in a safe and efficient manner," Mr. Rasched summed up.

During board questions, Deputy

Probitas Verus Honos



YOUTH ACADEMY...The Cranford Police Department (CPD) will host the 13th Annual Cranford Police Youth Academy Class from Monday, July 8, to Friday, July 12. Classes run daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The academy is for students completing grades 6 through 8. The primary goal of the academy is to encourage open communication between the youth of Cranford and members of the CPD. The program gives Cranford youth the opportunity to see some of the aspects of the police department. Applications can be found on the department's website, cranfordnj.org/police-department. The deadline for applications is Monday, April 15, at 3 p.m. There is an \$80 registration fee. Interested persons are invited to contact Detective Steven D'Ambola at (908) 709-7336 or Captain Joseph Van Bergen at j-vanbergen@cranfordnj.org.

Mayor Ann Dooley asked if his testimony would change if he was only looking at Phase 1. Hartz Mountain has proposed a two-phase approach where it would build about half the apartments in the first phase, and retain some of the commercial space during the first phase. He said his testimony would remain the same.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, when the board of education will speak, Planning Board Attorney Mark Rothman said. The board's planner will be present at the Wednesday, April 3 meeting.

Cranford BOE Proposes Budget

hired, one at Orange Avenue School and the other at Hillside Avenue School.

"Currently, there are no school counselors at either of these schools," but instead there is a social worker, working with a ratio of over 700 students to one, according to Mr. Rubin. "An additional counselor at each of these schools certainly will provide much needed support," Mr. Rubin further commented.

Additionally, the extra money will be put towards partnering with the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education.

A hearing on the budget will be held by the Cranford BOE on Monday, April 29.

In other board business, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending

June 30, 2018, as submitted by Hodulik & Morrison, P.A., was accepted by the BOE, with no recommendations made. Robert Morrison commented to the board that the audit was the "cleanest, best, nicest report we can issue."

The board accepted resignations on behalf of Antonia Ward, a speech-language specialist; Kathleen Savage, a physical education teacher; Shaun Benoit, a kindergarten teacher, and Elizabeth Kellett, a school nurse.

Board member Lisa Carbone commented in regards to the retiring faculty that "they are pillars of our community," and further commented that, "they have left a mark" on the community.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is Monday, March 25.

Recycling Events Coming Up

Union County will host a week-end of mobile paper shredding events on the last weekend in March. Shredding will take place on both Saturday, March 30 and Sunday March 31 at the Union County Vocational Technical Schools located at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. Both events will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until the truck(s) get filled. Residents can bring up to four bags of confidential documents for shredding. The following mobile paper shredding event will be Friday, April 26 at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield.

On Saturday, April 6, there will be a household hazardous waste program at the Union County Vo-Tech School. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Items for drop off

include old pesticides and herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, oil-based paints and deck stain.

Union County's Scrap Metal Recycling program also starts up again in April. The events are the first Thursday and Third Saturday of each month so for April the collections will be on Thursday, April 4 and Saturday, April 20. There are two locations in Union County for residents to drop off their metal for recycling, one in Cranford and Rahway. All locations will be open from 9 a.m. to noon. Residents can drop off old appliances, microwaves, air conditioners, and metal lawn furniture.

Please visit www.ucnj.org/recycling for more information or directions.