

TC votes 4-1 to make deal with

Reliable to operate recycling center rent-free in exchange for company forgiveness

By Sean Quinn
Staff Writer

The West Orange Township Council voted 4-1 at its Aug. 9 meeting to approve a resolution amending the township's agreement with Reliable Wood Products LLC, allowing the company to operate the West Orange Recycling Center and Compost Facility rent-free from Oct. 1, 2016, through Sept. 30, 2018, as a means of settling a dispute that was nearing the point of litigation, according to Jack Sayers, the township business administrator.

In exchange for the rent-free status, the amendment states that Reliable will grant West Orange a "full and complete release" from all financial claims it had against the

township up to that moment. That includes the more than \$638,500 the company had claimed it was owed for processing an extraordinary excess of material following a nor'easter in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Additionally, the amendment calls for Reliable to replenish and continue to satisfy all escrows and advances throughout the duration of the agreement and any more extensions beyond.

Sayers said the issue came about after West Orange was unable to pay Reliable the \$388,500 it owed for the nor'easter and the more than \$250,000 it owed for Sandy due to a lack of funds at the time. Furthermore, Sayers said the township could not recoup the monies from FEMA since it needed to pay all invoices before it could seek par-

tial reimbursement address what was

But Councilman Sayers said he never to vote again. The amendment was formally pointed out by Sayers. He charged, West Orange of waiving all payment money is being borrowed. "I may have never heard of them over \$638,

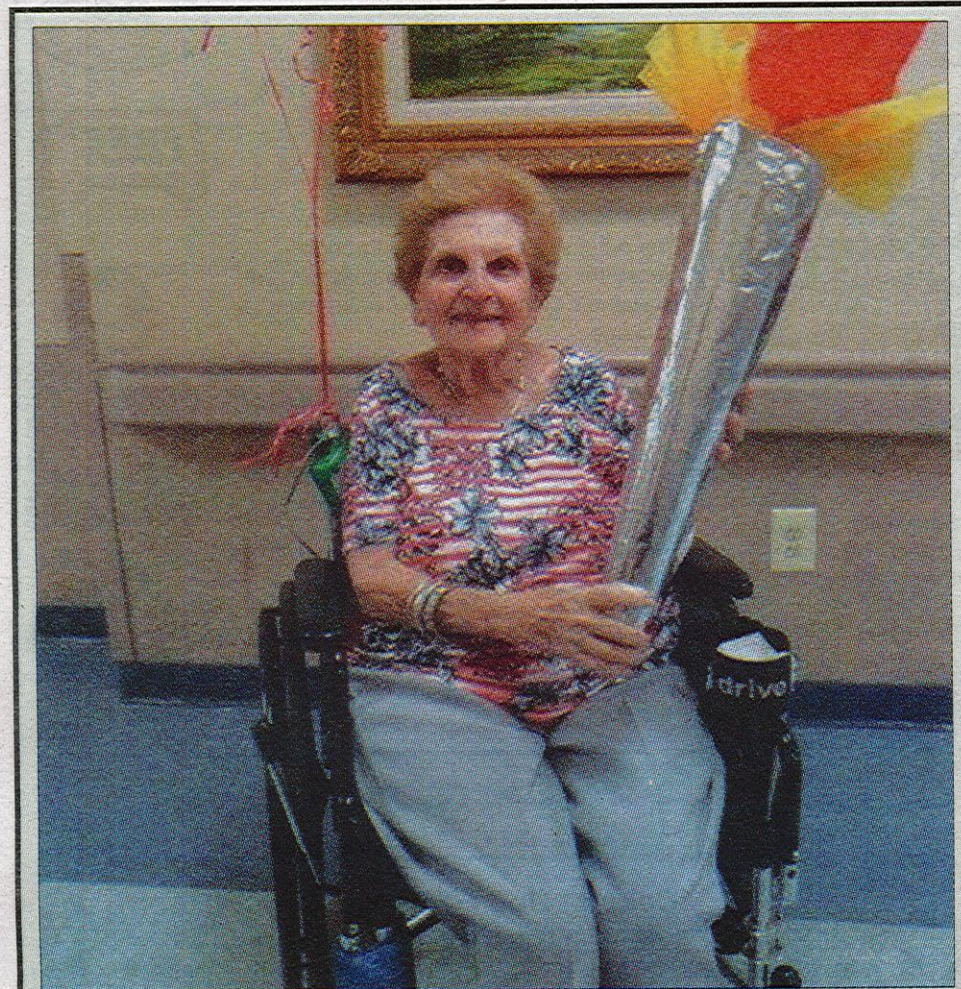


Photo Courtesy of Renee Glick

FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER — Rosan Mitola is one of the torch bearers at the opening ceremony at the Daughters of Israel summer Olympics celebration, which kicked off Aug. 5, with a festive opening ceremony. All week, residents participated in Olympics-related activities, including basketball, volleyball, a target toss, trivia, a Brazilian cooking challenge and more.

Proposed advisory ordinance left off agenda

By Sean Quinn
Staff Writer

Councilman Joe Krakoviak and several residents have demanded to know why an ordinance proposing a senior citizens advisory board was not included on the voting agenda during the Aug. 9 Township Council meeting.

The ordinance, written by Krakoviak in conjunction with resident senior advocates Rosary Morelli and Leigh-Anne Zaolino, was submitted to the township's legal department a few days in advance of the meeting. Krakoviak said he expected the legislation to be considered Aug. 9, but was surprised to see it had been left off the agenda. Considering that the measure calls for a mere advisory board, he said he did not understand the holdup.

"The whole idea is to have an organized voice for the seniors in town so the council and the administration can find out about" their concerns, Krakoviak said.

Having such a voice is necessary in a township with such a large senior citizen population, according to Morelli. During the public comment portion of the meeting, the vocal advocate pointed out that numerous other communities, such as Livingston and Millburn, have found great success after forming similar boards for their elderly residents. Yet in West Orange, she said the administration has shown no interest in a board or any of her ideas for aging in place — a concept that involves towns providing services that allow seniors to live