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MAYOR reMARKS

Thank You for Your Comments At Parking Permit Hearing
By Mayor Martin Marks, Scotch Plains

ABCDICTIONOPQRSTUVEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Diction Deception

Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions - only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly - good guess. If you get two - well-read individual. If you get three - word expert. If you get all four - You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

- Answers to last week's arcane words.**
1. Sagene - A fish net
 2. Astragalus - The anklebone
 3. Dextrotropic - Turning or turned to the right
 4. Perkin - A kind of weak cider

- PERSE**
1. A wigmaker or hairdresser
 2. To pierce
 3. Grayish blue
 4. Persecute; oppress

- CUNCTIVATE**
1. Slow-moving; sluggish
 2. Perceptive; discerning
 3. Tending to solidify or gel
 4. Shaped like the seed of a gourd

- RODOMONTADE**
1. Any order of mammals having large incisor teeth, such as the rat, beaver or hare
 2. A whale distinguished from common whales by having a dorsal fin
 3. To boast or brag
 4. A vagrant or loiterer

- YARAGE**
1. A thrusting forward; a lunging
 2. Formation of white frothy blisters in the refining of sugar
 3. An exclamation of despair or hopelessness
 4. Manageability of a ship at sea

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Letters to the Editor

Reader Wonders About Left-hand Turn

I wonder if you could find out for your readers what the official policy is at the new traffic light on East Broad Street in front of the Presbyterian Church [in Westfield]. When coming towards town from the east, if someone wants to make a left onto Elmer Street, are they supposed to wait for a green light? Or are they technically before the light and can turn whenever safe?

When I stop there at the red light, people always honk at me. But the red light is very close to me, right in front of me, so I feel I should wait.

Everyone I ask is confused about this, so I think it would be of general interest.

Police Chief responds with help: You may turn left there onto Elmer Street when the light is red. Just make sure to yield to oncoming traffic. It has been a bit confusing as we have had quite a few calls on this. I will check to see if the county has any suggestions.

Chief John Parizeau
Westfield Police Dept.

Market Edison After School, Invite Parents

Editor's Note: This letter to Superintendent William Foley was copied to The Westfield Leader

I was surprised several weeks ago when my fifth grade son came home from Franklin excited about the robotics program being offered next year at Edison School. It seems an Edison teacher visited Franklin classrooms to show the fifth graders a robot and talk about Edison's robotics program. The purpose of this visit seems to have been to encourage children in the Roosevelt district to attend Edison.

I find myself very concerned that the Westfield School system is directly sponsoring promotional activities for Edison School aimed at students without the input of parents. During the fall, there were several meetings held for parents to understand the offerings at Edison. If you wanted students to be more aware of the offerings, there were opportunities then to speak with parents and offer parent-child events.

I can understand the desire to promote Edison programs to encourage higher attendance next year. We are all concerned about the overcrowding at Roosevelt. However, I think that it would be better to run marketing events for Edison after school hours and invite parents to attend. This gives parents the opportunity to choose whether their child should participate and allows Edison to foster excitement about their programs among students who are interested and able to attend that school next year.

Christina Serratelli
Westfield

Glover Deserves Credit For Seeking Financials

Cheers to Councilman Grover's request to see the profit and loss reports for the municipal golf and miniature golf courses. I'm amazed a request needed to be made at all. Shouldn't the council be tracking, on a monthly basis, all the financials for the town's services and operations? That's how it works in a corporation and in my own household. Maybe this explains why our taxes keep going up.

I'm even more amazed at Mayor Marks's comments, "What if the numbers turn out not to be good? What is to be done if we find they're operating at a loss?" Hello? Shut the silly thing down. Why keep something in operation that costs more than it provides to the taxpayer? The \$462,000 it cost to build could have been spent on better services, like the fields.

Mayor Marks, your comments are most disappointing. Councilman Grover, keep up the good work. Thank you for working for the taxpayers of this town.

Donna Spangler
Scotch Plains

Three or Four Hours After Midnight, With My Head Full of the Subject

A uniform implementation of Daylight Saving Time has eluded civilization, and controversy exists whether it actually saves energy, as Benjamin Franklin humorously suggested in a letter to *The Journal of Paris* in 1784 - (Excerpts) "Messieurs, You often entertain us with accounts of new discoveries. Permit me to communicate to the public, through your paper, one that has lately been made by myself, and which I conceive may be of great utility...

I was the other evening in a grand company, where the new lamp of Messrs. Quinquet and Lange was introduced, and much admired for its splendour; but a general inquiry was made, whether the oil it consumed was not in proportion to the light it afforded, in which case there would be no saving in the use of it...

I went home, and to bed, three or four hours after midnight, with my head full of the subject. An accidental sudden noise waked me about six in the morning, when I was surprised to find my room filled with light; and I imagined at first, that a number of those lamps had been brought into it; but, rubbing my eyes, I perceived the light came in at the windows. I got up and looked out to see what might be the occasion of it, when I saw the sun just rising above the horizon, from whence he poured his rays plentifully into my chamber, my domestic having negligently omitted, the preceding evening, to close the shutters...

Your readers, who with me have never seen any signs of sunshine before noon, and seldom regard the astronomical part of the almanac, will be as much astonished as I was, when they hear of his rising so early; and especially when I assure them, that he gives light as soon as he rises. I am convinced of this. I am certain of my fact. One cannot be more certain of any fact. I saw it with my own eyes. And, having repeated this observation the three following mornings, I found always precisely the same result...

Yet it so happens, that when I speak of this discovery to others, I can easily perceive by their countenances, though they forbear expressing it in words, that they do not quite believe me. One, indeed, who is a learned natural philosopher, has assured me that I must certainly be mistaken as to the circumstance of the light coming into my room; for it being well known, as he says, that there could be no light abroad at that hour, it follows that none could enter from without; and that of consequence, my windows being

accidentally left open, instead of letting in the light, had only served to let out the darkness; and he used many ingenious arguments to show me how I might, by that means, have been deceived. I owned that he puzzled me a little, but he did not satisfy me; and the subsequent observations I made, as above mentioned, confirmed me in my first opinion...

This event has given rise in my mind to several serious and important reflections. I considered that, if I had not been awakened so early in the morning, I should have slept six hours longer by the light of the sun, and in exchange have lived six hours the following night by candle-light; and, the latter being a much more expensive light than the former, my love of economy induced me to muster up what little arithmetic I was master of, and to make some calculations, which I shall give you, after observing that utility is, in my opinion the test of value in matters of invention, and that a discovery which can be applied to no use, or is not good for something, is good for nothing...

I say it is impossible that so sensible a people, under such circumstances, should have lived so long by the smoky, unwholesome, and enormously expensive light of candles, if they had really known, that they might have had as much pure light of the sun for nothing. I am, andc.

Benjamin Franklin
A Subscriber"

For your enjoyment, we suggest that you read this complete work of Benjamin Franklin on line at webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/franklin3.html.

It seems like the United States government changes its mind every few years about how and when to implement Daylight Saving Time - or whether to implement it at all. For most of the country, it's going to start very early this year - this Sunday, March 11, at 2 a.m., when the clock springs ahead - and it will be in effect longer than ever - it reverts to standard time on the first Sunday in November.

"In the U.S., each time zone switches at a different time. In the European Union, Summer Time begins and ends at 1 a.m. Universal Time (Greenwich Mean Time). It begins the last Sunday in March and ends the last Sunday in October. In the EU, all time zones change at the same moment."

Maybe, all the while, we've just had the wrong time - *Three or Four Hours After Midnight, With Our Heads Full of the Subject.*

Town Should Provide Better Sound on TV 34

I was very much interested in the February 28 Scotch Plains Town Council meeting, in which the high school student's parking issue was being discussed. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but knew I would be able to view it on Channel 34.

How very disappointed I was when I tuned in to see the meeting, but the sound was so low it was impossible to hear although the TV was on full volume. There have been other council meetings aired on Channel 34 with the very same problem. It is most frustrating to have technology available in our town, including a wonderful television studio located in the municipal building, but not have the ability to provide adequate sound for our televised programs.

Barbara Roskin
Scotch Plains

Editor's Note

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times published an article and front page photo last week with caption: "TO TURF OR NOT TO TURF... Approximately 100 residents express their opinions, including support and dissent, to the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission regarding the proposal for artificial turf and lighting addition to the Southside Field during a meeting at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Monday night."

The article did not provide an attendance estimate. SPF-HS reports that the auditorium seats 740. Our photographs show the attendance visually. Attendance now estimated by the soccer association at 500 seems reasonable.

Reader 'Disappointed' In Coverage of Meeting

As a reader of your paper, I was disappointed this morning to read the article you had published on the south side soccer field. Especially regarding the turnout and your statement of there only being 100 people in attendance. I wonder what time you arrived or if you were in the right place? Sure, by the end of the night the crowd had withered mostly because of kids having to get home to bed.

I stayed to the very end of the meeting and find it strange that one could say the reviews of the project were equal in the pros and cons area. Besides a couple homeowners who live close to the project all other opinions were pro, including some residents who would be affected.

Needless to say, I am very disappointed in your fact reporting and makes me wonder if you or your paper have other motives. It will be very hard to take your stories seriously and maybe even read them at all.

Todd Moser
Fanwood

Letters to the Editor

'Sea-of-Blue' Focus was Lost in SP-F Soccer Turf Meeting Article

The Scotch Plains Fanwood Soccer Association has always appreciated the coverage that *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* has given us, especially in matters of field initiatives. The reporting has always been fair and accurate, and typically addresses the key components inherent in any news item. In light of that track record, last week's coverage of the Southside Field presentation was especially disappointing, both in its focus and accuracy.

More than 500 soccer moms, dads and kids filled the high school auditorium for a very professional presentation from several project consultants and from the club itself regarding the proposal for a turf and lighted facility by the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission. Rather than a generic article about the 'cheers and fears' expressed by supporters and detractors respectively, as is the case in every land use hearing, the emphasis should have been on the massive turnout of frustrated soccer families on a cold and sloppy school night.

Last Monday night's attendance dwarfs so many other recent more publicized debates in Scotch Plains, including high school parking, Sevell Farm and Cooper Road Island. Ignoring this minimizes the efforts of these families, the club administration and the recreation commission. Misstating attendance diminishes the impact that such a mobilization makes to the township council, who will ultimately decide Southside's fate.

Jim Fawcett
President, SPFSA

