



Burj Khalifa, Dubai

VERY BIG...Bob Cozzolina of Westfield travels the world. While in Dubai last week, he took these photographs. Opened on January 4, 2010, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is the world's tallest structure at 2,720 ft. The KVLY-TV mast in North Dakota at 2,063 ft. previously held the record according to Wikipedia. The diminutive Empire State Building in New York City stands 1,454 ft. with the antenna. Dubai is a city-state with 2.2 million people and is a global financial hub. Pictured left, is Mr. Abdulrahman Alfaridan, a retired Col. of the UAE police and a real gentleman.

## Letters to the Editor

### 'No Transparency' in Gov't About Demolition of Lions Club Gazebo

A recent issue arose that the Lions Club Gazebo at the Garwood baseball field may be in the crosshairs to be demolished for a bigger field house as part of the new recreation complex.

The gazebo is considered a heritage structure by some since it was hand-built with donated materials by the Lions Club members in 1978. There has been no transparency from the boro in having the people aware that this is being considered. This info luckily trickled out to the public by a local newsletter. In September 2009, members of the Lions Club came to a council meeting to express extreme displeasure over any intentions to demolish this heritage structure.

In the mayor's state of the boro address, he said that hopefully ground will be broken for the recreation complex this year. In last week's council meeting, a member of the public stated that the mayor and council have no rights to single handedly decide to demolish a heritage asset such as the gazebo. Subsequently, it was said that there are no revised finalized plans created yet for the project, and that there are only sketches at this time that include the demo of the gazebo; but the tainted fill problem at the site suddenly arose and this was put on the back burner. This seems odd since ground may be broken this year with no plans yet.

Questions arise: 1) who gave the committee the right to even consider the demo of the heritage gazebo structure? If in the council Standing Recreation Committee, the members suggested to the design architect that the field house should be

made bigger and the architect took it on himself to then intrude on the gazebo footprint to increase the house size, someone on the recreation committee should have at least said: "Stop!"

2) In so doing, with now tacit consent, did the Standing Recreation Committee then reach out to the Lions Club to tell them their direction? The answer is no. A person who belong(ed) to the Lions Club spoke at a council meeting mid last year saying any plans are good for the town and its children, but he preceded that statement that he was speaking only as a resident and not as a Lions club representative. He also later said he was not aware of the gazebo destruction.

3) September 2009 had members of the Lions Club come out to the mayor and council and stated their displeasure. This is the only public input to date that says "no" to the gazebo demolition. Why are the sketches still being considered, unless there is an ulterior motivation?

4) On the boro website are the plans and costs of the original recreation complex from two years ago. If the complex is being revised and sketches are in existence, aren't these website plans misleading? Shouldn't there be a statement that these are being readdressed? With the ground now planned on being broken this year, there would be a rush for design, internal approval, then introduction to the public. Then a go ahead and finally going out for bids and voting to award. All this will be in the next seven months? The plans including the destruction of the gazebo obviously would then be formalized and, guaranteed it would now be past the point of no return. That is the utter shame of how this government works with their agenda without transparency.

In last week's council meeting, on a separate issue, two councilmen noted that the people should not perceive the council as top-ended, making decisions without the public's input. This gazebo issue disproves that, unless the council comes to their senses and readjusts their agenda to be more resident friendly.

There is still time to be transparent. Indeed, maybe 98 percent of the town wants to see the gazebo demolished for a bigger field house. Maybe the field house can be expanded or relocated. Yet, right now 98 percent of the town doesn't even know what is transpiring with the gazebo and field house, until the plans are in front of the council to finally vote on and too late. The only public input to date was "no" and is it being ignored? This is a travesty in the making.

Bruce Paterson  
Garwood



Punxsutawney Phil from www.groundhog.org

## Groundhogs Disagree on The Weather

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA. - Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow Tuesday (groundhog.org), meaning there will be six more weeks of winter. Of 10 other groundhogs reporting in from around the country, six disagreed with Punxsutawney Phil (Wikipedia). Local newcomer, Staten Island Chuck, at the Staten Island Zoo said "early spring."

From Wikipedia: "Groundhog Day is a holiday celebrated on February 2. It is held in the United States and Canada. According to folklore, if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day fails to see its shadow, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter will soon end. If on the other hand, the groundhog sees its shadow, the groundhog will supposedly retreat into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks. The holiday, which began as a Pennsylvania German custom in southeastern and central Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, has its origins in ancient European weather lore, wherein a badger or sacred

bear is the prognosticator as opposed to a groundhog. The holiday also bears some similarities to the medieval Catholic holiday of Candlemas. It also bears similarities to the Pagan festival of Imbolc, the seasonal turning point of the Celtic calendar, which is celebrated on February 1 and also involves weather prognostication."

### Swift Action Needed For Geese Problem

I am glad to see that someone is finally talking about the Canada geese problem - but we need to take action about these unwelcome invaders.

These geese are not only a danger to airplanes, and ruining municipal parks, they make any pond their summer home and leave their filthy mark on surrounding lawns and walkways.

I believe that a few years ago, Cranford gassed its geese - why can't that be done in Westfield and elsewhere in New Jersey?

Ms. Renna, we don't need "scientific evidence" to get rid of these pests - we need a quick, and not a long-term, solution.

If municipalities do not want to get involved (and they should), let Union County do the job of ridding us of these parasites.

Kitty Branton  
Westfield

## Letters to the Editor

### Thanks for Cell Phone Donations for Soldiers

I would like to thank Westfield for all of the donations of cell phones that you left at the library for Cell Phones for Soldiers. Overall, in January we collected over 150 cell phones. Your donations will help U.S. soldiers overseas call home. Thank you for all your help.

I would also like to thank the Westfield Memorial Library for making space available for the collection.

Michael Fasciale  
Westfield

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## Pool Registration for Westfield Residents

WESTFIELD - Registration information has been mailed to all 2009 pool members. Members can register online, through the mail, or in person through April 15.

Once pre-registration of current 2009 members is completed for the 2010 season on April 15, if there are still openings, the Recreation Department will start contacting those on the wait list - starting with #1 and continuing until all openings are filled.

Remember, for those who are interested in joining the pool, and are not a 2009 member, they must be on the wait list at the Westfield Recreation Department. Wait List applications are available online at westfieldnj.gov/recreation or can be picked up in the Recreation Department at 425 E. Broad Street. Call (908) 789-4080.



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## Letters to the Editor

### Request to State Gov. 'That NJPIES Be Left Intact'

Governor Christie has proposed closing the New Jersey Poison Control Center (New Jersey Poison Information Education System) in an effort to decrease spending. I have worked at New Jersey Poison Information Education System (NJPIES) for 12 years and can only wonder what savings will actually be achieved. We are a 24/7 hotline, staffed by nurses, physicians and pharmacists. NJPIES receives approximately 80,000 calls a year from hospitals, pharmacists, school nurses, and, most importantly, the New Jersey public, dealing with poisonings, over-dosing of medications, environmental and medical concerns, and drug information. We are an integral part of the health care team, whether the patient is on life support in intensive care or a child is at home with Rolaid's ingestion. We offer recommendations on care and treatment of drug overdoses to hospitals, as well as emo-

tional support, guidance and education to parents. Should this service be eliminated, how will the New Jersey public, particularly the uninsured, be served in a professional and cost effective manner? Without NJPIES as a viable resource, the only recourse left to many New Jersey residents would be to travel, perhaps unnecessarily, to the local emergency rooms, many of which are already overwhelmed and under-funded. Contact your legislators and governor, requesting that NJPIES be left intact.

Diantha Clark

South Plainfield

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## Dental Update

by Kenneth W. Arida, D.D.S.  
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

**CLEANING DENTURES**

Dentures may be "false teeth," but they still must be cleaned the same way that natural teeth are. As with real teeth, dentures are subject to buildups of sticky plaque, which poses the threat of infection and inflammation for gums. With this in mind, denture wearers are strongly urged to either brush their prosthetic teeth or soak them in cleaning solution. Arguably, the best cleaning method is brushing with toothpaste. However, for those who experience difficulty brushing their dentures effectively, soaking can remove as much plaque as brushing. For a short soak of about 15 minutes, enzymatic and effervescent solutions are probably equally effective at removing plaque. For longer soaks (up to eight hours), enzyme denture-cleaning solutions may be preferable.

Dentures have been in use for more than 2,000 years, and today these substitutes for missing natural teeth have never been more effective, easy to use, comfortable, and appealing. However, you still need to take care of them as well as your oral hygiene with regular professional checkups and scrupulous home care. We offer complete dental care for all members of your family, and we utilize only the latest in dental technology for your care and comfort. Office hours are by appointment at 131 South Euclid Avenue, Westfield, Call 908-654-6262. Major credit cards welcome. We accept dental insurance and file it for you. P.S. Ultrasonic cleaning is about as effective as brushing when it comes to cleaning dentures.

[www.drarida.com](http://www.drarida.com)

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