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Letters to the Editor
From WHS Class of 1954 - Kudos To South Moon Under
 Let me tell you how I became acquainted with Cynthia and Gina, managers of South Moon Under. I was attending my class re-union of 1954 — the first graduating class of the newly built Westfield High. At that time, Westfield was a small and charming town. Lining Broad Street were such stores as Woolworth's, Shades, an ice cream parlor hang-out, and Johnny Franks, a men's clothing store. My father, David Berse, had his business, a Chrysler Dealership, known as Berse Brothers, located where Wells Fargo and the 9/11 Memorial stand today. My classmates Warren Rorden, Diane Johnson Haag, and Marjorie Staub Mosher planned a beautiful event and South Moon Under provided gifts, gold earrings for the ladies. When I returned home, I contacted Cynthia and Gina. They agreed to exchange the gift for something in silver. After several very pleasant conversations, they mailed me pretty pave silver earrings. That's great customer service. Thank you South Moon Under. You made my weekend perfect.
Ellen (Dixie) Berse Fiorito
 University Park, FL

ABCD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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. Abacist — One who casts accounts with a calculator
 2. Tassie — A small cup
 3. Yach — To come up suddenly
 4. Spoliate — To plunder or rob
HIPPARCH
 1. An arena for horse racing
 2. The Trojan horse
 3. An ancient war horse
 4. An ancient Greek calvary commander
HILUS
 1. The anklebone
 2. A basin with a drain, near the altar of a church, for the disposal of holy water
 3. In anatomy, a small notch or opening where vessels and nerves enter an organ
 4. A diagrammatic representation of something; a summary; a scheme; an outline
LUETIC
 1. Grayish blue
 2. Syphilitic
 3. Pertaining to white blood cells
 4. Producing blood
YURT
 1. A Siberian hut
 2. To jerk or flinch
 3. Violating faith or allegiance
 4. To limp
 See more letters on page 5

SP Council Needs to Put Politics Aside, Get Brookside Work Done

Back in January the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission approved the building of an A-frame pavilion at Brookside Park after the township council approved \$60,000 in 2013 to fund the project. The pavilion was purchased in the spring for \$46,272 and was expected to be installed in time for the recreation department's summer camp program to give children attending day camp, which began June 30, a place to eat. Here we are now in August and still the pavilion has not been completed. As we reported last month, the vendor who was awarded the contract for the project started the work, but did not have the required permits, and a work stop order was issued by the township's zoning officer. At the July recreation commission meeting, it was noted that Zoning Officer Robert LaCosta said the commission should have secured approval for the pavilion from the planning board as he considered the pavilion a "quality of life issue," an opinion Recreation Director Ray Poerio and the commission rejected, with Commission Chairman Robert Giordanella calling it "selective enforcement."

have been completed by now. Even if work resumes soon, it will be too late for the summer camp season as school opens in less than a month. While the pavilion was not among projects in the township's defeated capital budget, the engineering and permitting phases for the cleanup of Brookside Pond was in the capital plan. In our view, Mayor Kevin Glover and the township council need to put politics aside and come up with a way to fund the Brookside Pond improvement project so it can be completed. Work on the pond also requires environmental permits from the state, which will take time to secure. As for the pavilion, the work must be inspected to ensure it meets building and safety requirements. Hopefully, township, planning board and recreation commission officials can resolve this issue and get the work completed by the fall if not sooner. Unfortunately, it looks like the Brookside Pond project will have to wait for the November General Election, when three of the four township council seats will be on the election ballot, to end the political stalemate, as neither side seems to want to budge.

Letters to the Editor

Garwood Planning Board Member Explains His Eminent Domain Views and Commuter Parking Goals

The Westfield Leader editor's July 31 editorial entitled "Local Towns Should not Use Eminent Domain to Seize Land" showed me that I had not explained well enough the purpose behind the Garwood Boro Council's decision to retain eminent domain powers that all government bodies have. I hope that this letter does better. First off, something the Mathieu/Piarulli team may not understand; I agree with every eminent domain statement the editor wrote. Especially the last one, "taking land from one private entity and giving to another can never be a good thing in a civilized society. A bit strong, and I have a problem with 'never', but I do agree with the concept. Government taking (paying for with just compensation) private property for a public purpose, however, is a different story. Governments have purchased private property to build firehouses, schools, police stations, parks, libraries, and other public uses many times. This is legal and is continually upheld in courts. I, and even

Councilman Mathieu, agree with that government use of eminent domain. Five members of the Council have listened to Boro residents along Willow Avenue tell us many times that there is inadequate parking in the area. Especially after winter snows when residents have to remove their autos from the street. Indeed this past winter, Mayor Quattrocchi fostered an agreement with the owner of the Casale parking lot (oh my God — That's the potential redevelopment site itself!) to allow residents to park there after the snow. We have listened to residents along Second Avenue tell us that train/bus commuters park in front of their homes because there is inadequate commuter parking near the transit stops. We have listened to NJ Transit advise us that they will not provide additional Garwood train stops until there is more commuter parking. Acting responsibly, and in response to Boro resident concerns, 5 Council members decided to retain eminent domain power because the Boro may have to purchase privately owned

Casale/Petro property land in order to provide much needed public parking. Parking for residents and commuters. Hopefully, through the plan that the Planning Board develops if the Council finds the area in need of redevelopment, the developer will provide public parking. If not, the Boro can through a land purchase. That's why we retained the power. Just in case. Boro Council has NO intent whatsoever of buying private property and selling or giving it to another private property owner. But a smart player doesn't give away leverage before the process starts. Mathieu/Piarulli may not want to listen to Boro resident needs, and they may want a developer to prepare their own redevelopment plan for the Boro, but thankfully five elected Council members prefer to provide for resident and commuter needs and continue our quest for more Garwood train stops. Councilman Bill Nierstedt Garwood Planning Bd. member

Asm. Bramnick, Please Introduce Bill to District County Freeholders

Assemblyman Bramnick, I read your latest "News from District 21" missive to your constituents. Thanks for keeping us apprised. Your hallmark in the missive is that you are creating bipartisan legislative panels and one initiative is to revisit state districting of the legislative districts. In your re-districting push, can you also introduce the idea of an easier process for attaining counties to be from at-large to district? Our Union County government's budget is over \$half-billion dollars, and there is minimal accountability to show for that huge expenditure for all of the county's constituents. Union County has veered away from the true purpose of what county government is supposed to do, and now has so many costly yet ineffectual tepid social programs one has to wonder if they are a county government at all. County movies, catering halls, parade donations and music fests? Meanwhile, the freeholders' county budget transferred \$1 million out of the county paving program to create a redundant new division for a connected politician Fanwood Mayor Mahr that just happens to be the county level political boss overseeing their freeholder campaigns. So potholes from the worst winter in 20 years don't get filled on the county roads just because she was out of work for eight out of 10 years. One of her tasks is to interface financially with grants to the 21 towns. Note that since she is a county level Democrat political boss, Republicans are her mortal enemy. So how attentive will she really be to say a GOP Summit or Westfield, or even Kenilworth and Garwood?

Districting of counties would put our freeholders' accountability directly to certain areas of the county, would have them be more directly responsive to that district's towns constituents as to proper expenditures, and would create some oversight by having one district's freeholder having to vote on another district's expenditure, so county appropriations would be more evenly distributed and not lopsided and wasteful like the "at-large" system we have now. That last one is similar duties to what Assembly elected officials perform. And it isn't at all partisan, since in our county we have three to four different Democrat-oriented parties and at least two Republican ones. I don't care if it ends up two to three Democrat parties sharing the districts, there would certainly be more accountability and fairness than the one party that is now in control, which is really questionable as to whether it is Democrat and not just some self-serving organization. One of their freeholders, (Dan) Sullivan, publicly declared that districts are for losers. He subsequently became embroiled in a secret pay scandal he created under the table. So this is their example of a winner. My guess since for 10 years I have observed our Union County freeholders in action, if this county becomes districted, the \$half-billion-budget would probably drop to below \$400 million and at least 500 patronage jobs would be removed from county employment. One can hope, and I look toward my representatives to bring that hope to reality. Thank you.
Bruce Paterson
 Garwood

Borough Representatives Need to Start Listening to Taxpayers

As we are all hopefully enjoying the summer with friends and family, it has been politics as usual for Garwood's leadership. On July 23, I attended the Planning and Development Board meeting where, yet again, borough officials made decisions against the best interests of the taxpayers. Two issues stood out that will have a big impact on the borough and its residents. First, is the re-development of the property on South Avenue, across from, and next to, Borough Hall. I give the Planning Board and the Council credit for trying to get something done because there is a tremendous opportunity here to move our town in the right direction. The problem is that the Planning Board approved the flawed resolution passed by the Borough Council, which allowed for eminent domain to be used in what is supposed to be a private project on private property. Even though the approving Planning Board members virtually guaranteed eminent domain would not be used, they still passed a resolution allowing for it. If they don't intend to use it, why approve a resolution allowing for it? The answer is quite simple, as one Planning Board member so articulately put it, "We (the board) dictate what we want." Eminent domain was never intended to be used to forcefully take property from one private owner and give it to another private owner, but that is exactly what it would do in this situation. Now, the Planning Board and the Borough Council have broad powers to abuse private property rights for an as-yet-undetermined

"public need." Such broad discretion in the hands of politicians and political appointees usually does not bode well for the private property rights of our friends and neighbors. The other issue was the Planning Board rushing through a use variance related to the purchase of property located at 494 4th Avenue at the end of Walnut. This variance allows for nine townhouses to be squeezed into that property that had previously been judged suitable only for three single-family houses. While I have no doubt that the purchaser intends to build a nice development and I have no problem with someone taking advantage of an opportunity to make some money, the project approval was forced through in one session in June that was extended after the usual 11 p.m. cutoff for the meetings, just so the vote could be completed. Most residents in the immediate area are not happy with the decision to build such a dense number of townhouses in an area already bedeviled by traffic problems. More concerning is that similar development projects were flat out rejected in prior years. So what changed in the interim to make this project suddenly acceptable and why the rush to approve it? Again, as one board member said, "We (the board) dictate what we want." The residents of Garwood need to have their say on this controversial project and send a message that we will no longer tolerate the town representatives dictating, it's time to start listening to the taxpayers.
Sal Piarulli, Garwood
 Republican Candidate for Mayor

Verizon VP Responds to AARP Advocate's Letter on Communications

AARP advocate Ken Lindhorst plainly doesn't recognize how advanced communications services and technologies enhance a customer's communications experience and greatly improve network reliability. Verizon uses the best technologies — fiber, wireless and copper — to provide its customers in New Jersey reliable services to meet their current and future telecommunications needs. We understand that voice service is a vital means of communication and we are committed to providing the best customer experience possible. Verizon hasn't abandoned its service obligations; nor have we forced customers to take services that don't meet their needs. Mr. Lindhorst is needlessly critical

of Verizon's wireless home phone offering, which is ironic considering AARP promotes to its own members a home wireless service called "Wireless Home Phone" that is marketed and sold by Consumer Cellular. AARP receives royalties from Consumer Cellular in exchange for pushing the product to its members. Our customers have best-in-class communications services available to them because Verizon invests in its networks, its services and its employees. That commitment has never wavered, and Verizon will continue to innovate and invest in New Jersey for the benefit of all our customers.
Sam Delgado
 Vice-President of External Affairs
 Verizon New Jersey, Newark

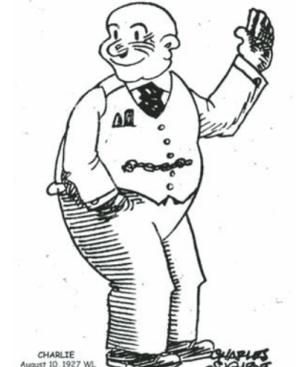
Letters to the Editor
Mayor Glover Owes Bill McClintock An Apology
 This weekend I watched a video on-line of the last Scotch Plains Council meeting of July 22nd. I was completely embarrassed and outraged at the language Mayor Glover used when describing former Mayor and Councilman Bill McClintock. To disparage Mr. McClintock's involvement in the Rotary organization as a private citizen was beyond civility, good manners and the decorum that should accompany the office of mayor. It also demonstrated Mayor Glover's bias towards Republicans in general. Mr. McClintock has been out of political office for many years. However, his love for our town and community has continued with his volunteer service, in this case with the Rotary and most especially with the Rotary's efforts toward preserving the historic Frazee House. I believe Mayor Glover's rush to judgment and the maligning of Mr. McClintock is a result of his perception that anything done by someone of the opposition party is always circumspect or political, or as the Mayor stated, "disgusting and despicable." Is this the proper manner for a sitting mayor to conduct himself in public and at a televised council meeting? Is this how Mr. McClintock is referred to after serving over 20 years of service to our town as an elected official and a private citizen? Is this what we want to see in our elected officials? I hope Mayor Glover realizes he spoke out without knowing the truth. I hope he realizes that he owes an apology to Mr. McClintock who has done nothing wrong, but has only worked to help our community in a completely non-political manner. Mayor Glover, there actually are people of both parties who work to better our town without any thought of "politics."
Paulette Coronato
 Scotch Plains

Letters to the Editor

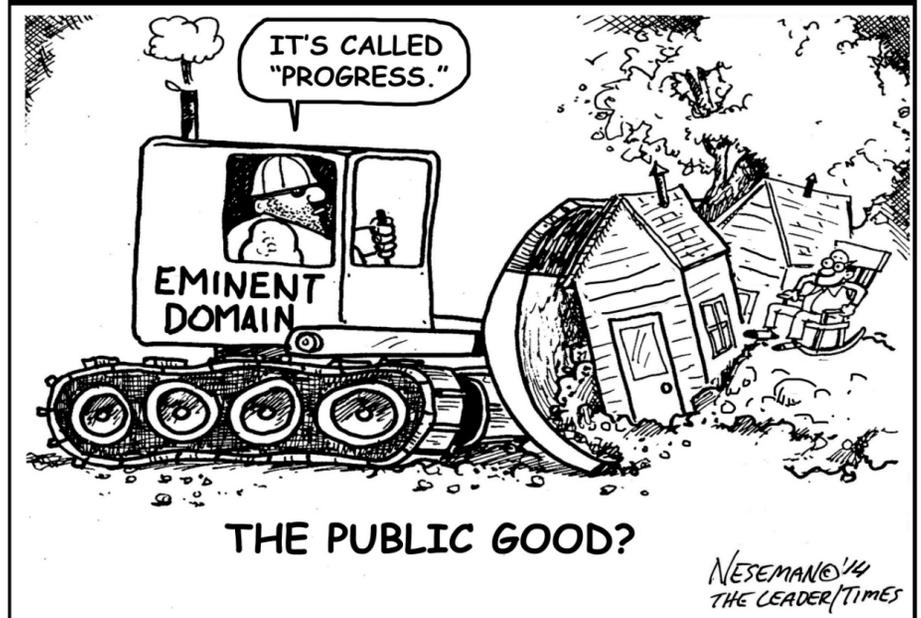
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Paulette Coronato
 Scotch Plains

PENN STATE VS RU SEP 13 AT 8:00 PM PISCATAWAY



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