

## More Letters to the Editor

### \* Assemblyman Bramnick Request \*

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 Reps Need to Start Listening

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

## McSharry Graduates From Police Trooper Youth Week

CRANFORD – On July 28, the New Jersey State Police hosted commencement exercises for the graduates of the 96th New Jersey State Police Trooper Youth Week police training program. Included in the class of junior and senior high school students from across New Jersey was Cranford Police Explorer Brendan McSharry.

Brendan is a senior at Cranford High School where he is a member of the track and cross country teams and the PRIDE Leadership Program. Brendan has been a member of the Cranford Police Explorer Post 74 for over four years and assists the instructors at the Cranford Police Department Youth Police Academy each summer.

During the 96th Trooper Youth Week, Trooper Youths took part in physical training, learned and practiced military drill, and gained knowledge about the New Jersey State Police and its many specialized units. The weekend, although grueling at times, was very enjoyable and established in the Trooper Youths a sense of discipline and decorum.

The weekend was conducted through a rigid schedule where the Trooper Youths were expected to be punctual and organized at all times and accountable for their actions. Individuals had to be up at 5:30 a.m. to be ready for roll call at 6 a.m. and begin the day. Time was set aside for military drill and physical training throughout the week where individuals learned basic formation and facing movements.

Specialized units within the State Police put on demonstrations in the hopes of expanding the Trooper Youths' knowledge and understanding of the agency as a whole. These units included Crime Scene, Aviation, and K-9 as well as the Bomb/Arson unit. Members of the State Police ex-

posed the Trooper Youths to certain training tactics including that of firearms and driving. Driving while intoxicated (DWI) and its dangers was a topic at certain points during the weekend.

Trooper Youths were given the opportunity to utilize "drunk goggles" and see firsthand how dangerous drinking and driving can be. The Trooper Youth Week instilled in the youths the meaning of the agency's core values: honor, duty, and fidelity and created disciplined and well-rounded individuals fit to embark on life's endeavors.

The Cranford Police Explorers are now accepting new members. Anyone interested between the ages of 14 and 21 may call police headquarters at (908) 272-2222 for more information. The next meeting is 7 p.m. on Monday, September 15, at Police Headquarters, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.



### Lafayette College Dean's List

EASTON, Pa. — The following Lafayette College students were named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring 2014 semester. Each student achieved at least a 3.60 semester grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Morgan Miller of Cranford. Morgan is a graduate of Cranford High School.

Christine Shanahan of Cranford. Christine is a graduate of Mount St. Mary Academy.

Megan Kaveney of Westfield. Megan is a graduate of Westfield High School.

Mia Spitz of Westfield. Mia is a graduate of Westfield High School.

Erica Gennaro of Mountainside. Erica is a graduate of Governor Livingston Regional High School.



**TROOPER YOUTH WEEK...** On July 28, the New Jersey State Police hosted commencement exercises for the graduates of the 96th New Jersey State Police Trooper Youth Week police training program. Included in the class was Cranford Police Explorer Brendan McSharry. Brendan is pictured with New Jersey State Police Detective II Eric Greener, class coordinator.