

The Westfield Leader THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD
— Established 1890 —
Legal Newspaper for the Town of Westfield,
Boroughs of Mountainside and Garwood
And the County of Union, N.J.

Members of:
New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association • Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association • Fanwood Business & Professional Association

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Rahway, New Jersey
P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, West
Westfield, N.J. 07091
Tele: (908) 232-4407 • E-mail: editor@goleader.com • Web: www.goleader.com • Fax: (908) 232-0473

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the offices of the newspapers at
P. O. Box 250, Westfield, New Jersey 07091

Published every Thursday by Watchung Communications, Inc.

Paul Peyton
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR
Suzette F. Stalker
COMMUNITY
Betsey Burgdorf
EDUCATION & ARTS

Horace R. Corbin
PUBLISHER
David B. Corbin
ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS
Ben Corbin
SERVICES

Jeff Gruman
SALES MANAGER
Michael L. Bartiromo
MARKETING PRODUCTION
Robert P. Connelly
BUSINESS OPERATIONS

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
One-year - \$33 • Two-year - \$62 • Three-year - \$90

www.goleader.com/subscribe

Local Towns Should Not Use Eminent Domain to Seize Land

Nine years ago the United States Supreme Court handed down a controversial ruling allowing local governments to exercise the power of eminent domain to seize properties for development. Prior to the 2005 ruling, the statute was legal, but only used to acquire land to construct roads, railways, schools or hospitals or to revitalize blighted areas. The 2005 ruling, though, allows for the seizure of properties if the development would generate any type of public benefit.

According to the Cornell Law School, the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires the government to provide just compensation to the owner of the private property to be taken. The government takes private property through condemnation proceedings. Throughout these proceedings, the property owner has the right of due process.

Local towns have used or threatened to use eminent domain in the past.

In 1996, Scotch Plains acquired the run-down Terry Lou Zoo property through eminent domain, turning this parcel into open space. Westfield in the past considered eminent domain to acquire properties along the South Avenue corridor to make way for proposed parking decks and retail developments.

Recently, area towns have brought up eminent domain. Garwood, for instance, is considering utilizing it to redevelop the abandoned Casale factory and Petro Plastics properties on South Avenue. The borough council has approved a resolution to direct the borough's planning board to conduct an "in need of development" study on the properties with an eminent domain provision included as part of that resolution.

While we agree that cleaning up and revitalizing this section of South Avenue is imperative, we do not support seizing privately-owned properties for this cause. The situation is complicated by the bankruptcy but the borough and the planning board should not abuse its power through land grabs.

In our view, the Garwood Planning Board lost much of its credibility with the controversial and

contested go ahead for nine townhouses in a residential neighborhood zoned single-family residential on Fourth Avenue.

The public must have similar concerns as the following week, Mayor Pat Quattrocchi was bounced out of office in the Primary Election.

Scotch Plains Mayor Kevin Glover spoke of eminent domain at last week's township council conference meeting in reference to the newly created Business District Development Committee, an ad hoc committee tasked with coming up with a long-term plan and a strategy for creating a viable downtown business district.

Using the threat of eminent domain to redevelop Park Avenue, the main downtown thoroughfare, and adjacent streets, is a threat that, in our view, should not have been raised by anyone, especially the mayor. Was Mayor Glover trying to incite Republicans, who have a 3-to-2 majority on the township committee? The mayor is frustrated that he does not know what ideas have been considered at the three meetings the ad hoc committee has held.

We encourage Mayor Quattrocchi with her Planning Board and Scotch Plains Mayor Glover to consider comments by local mayors following the 2005 U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Westfield Mayor Andrew Skibitsky: "I have serious concerns about local government using eminent domain as a tool to confiscate private land for private development."

Former Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks: "As a citizen, I have great concern about the broad powers government has through eminent domain. As mayors, we have to be careful how we use it."

Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr: "Eminent domain should always be a last resort and should only be used in truly blighted areas for the betterment of the community."

Taking land from one private entity and giving to another can never be a good thing in a civilized society.

What do you think?

Letters to the Editor

Mayor Glover Should Either Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way

Let me first of all assure everyone, especially the property owners in downtown Scotch Plains, that there will never be an effort to take away your property! I was the one who developed the Downtown Development Committee and as long as I am on the governing body, I will never allow the Township of Scotch Plains to take away your family's property. You and your families bought and built those properties and you are the rightful owners. No one should ever consider, or allow, taking them from you! Any rumor or comment to the contrary is simply fear mongering, similar to that which we saw regarding The Shady Rest.

What is disgusting to me, among other things, is that [Mayor] Kevin Glover would even suggest such a thing. The Downtown Development Committee was created to benefit the downtown, including the current property owners. My view is that if we have a real long-term plan and a strategy for implementing it, the property owners will have a planned means for adding value to their property and, thus, the opportunity to maintain full occupancy at a higher rate. We do not want to be another Westfield, but wouldn't it be nice to get rents that are comparable? Wouldn't it be nice to be able to attract the types of business that are in Westfield?

Bo Vastine
Scotch Plains Councilman

Mayor Glover's Better Management Shades 'Ray Poerio's Palace'

The Scotch Plains town council meeting on July 22nd was noteworthy for several reasons. A highly questionable big ticket bond issue (ordinance 2014-005) for \$1.5 million was defeated by Mayor Kevin Glover and Councilwoman Colleen Gialanella, sparing taxpayers from an unbridled spending spree advocated by the town Republicans. Councilman Bo Vastine led the charge to approve the bloated bond issue with a plea that can be concisely summarized as spending = progress.

Of course, by questioning the unbridled spending proposed by the Republicans, Mayor Glover and Councilwoman Gialanella were lambasted for holding back "progress." In response, Councilwoman Gialanella and Mayor Glover both provided lucid and eloquent rebuttals that good management practices, not unbridled spending, are the key to responsibly improving town services while holding the line on spending and keeping in mind the best interests of the residents of Scotch Plains.

It was sad to watch the dumbfounded and hapless responses of Councilmen Bo Vastine and Mickey Marcus to the indisputable good sense represented by the Democratic plea for focus on better, more responsible management of town resources. Councilman Lewellyn Jones, the Tea Party candidate, fell right in line with the rest of the Republicans on this big ticket spending. Oh the irony! Finally, the town manager gave an impassioned but unconvincing plea for the excessive spending as well.

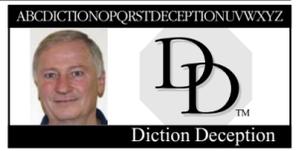
Pursuant to Mayor Glover's and Councilwoman Gialanella's pleas for better management, I note the bill contains "new communication and signal systems equipment, new information technology equipment," yet the town manager recently disbanded the town's bipartisan Technology Committee without ever reviewing these technology items with the Technology Committee. Is this responsible and thoughtful management?

Similar spending issues and party divisions are in play with the Shady Rest preservation initiative. The Preserve Shady Rest Committee, an apolitical bipartisan grass roots organization dedicated to ending the neglect and physical decline of this establishment of national historical significance, has been advocating for modest, fiscally responsible steps to first and foremost stop the decay of this historic landmark; chief among them, repair of the leaking roof to stem further physical damage!

It came out on the July 22nd meet-

The insistence from Kevin Glover that he knows better than land use attorneys, commercial developers, downtown business owners and actual trained planners is ludicrous! Kevin's insistence that he "over see the process," is exactly the reason why I insisted that no one from the governing body be involved. When politicians get involved it becomes political. Just look at the failed SID. Under Kevin's thumb it was killed and any value that might be derived from it was lost to his political whim. By allowing the trained and knowledgeable people to sift and sort through options without the meddling from untrained and, dare I say "political influences," we allow the creativity to evolve into a workable, rational and reasonable result. If we allow Kevin Glover to interfere, we are setting ourselves up for zero progress with our downtown. After all, he ran roughshod over the town last year and produced ZERO progress, but instead a heap of destruction.

You might remember the quote used by Lee Iaccoca, "You lead, follow, or get out of the way." I wish that Kevin Glover understood what this means. He can't lead so maybe he will follow, but for everyone's sake, at least get out of the way!



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. Chitra - The Indian spotted hog deer
 2. Hierodule - A Greek temple slave
 3. Intertrigo - An eruption of the skin produced by friction of adjacent parts
 4. Tocsin - An alarm bell

- ABACIST
1. One who casts accounts with a calculator
 2. A tile or square in a mosaic pavement
 3. One who destroys one's sight by placing a red-hot basin close to the eyes
 4. A skylight

- TASSIE
1. A small cup
 2. Armor for the thighs
 3. Clay for making melting pots
 4. Tea time

- YACH
1. To boast or brag
 2. To come up suddenly
 3. An exclamation of despair or hopelessness
 4. Strong beer or ale

- SPOLIATE
1. To wither or wilt
 2. To trap; snare
 3. To plunder or rob
 4. To coil or wind round

More letters on pages 5, 16

Letters to the Editor

Legislature Needs to Pass CARE Act

As a college student, the concept of caregiving hasn't even been a blimp on my radar. When I began my internship at AARP I learned about the extreme challenges caregivers faced. I also learned of a bill currently before the State Legislature that would help caregivers: The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act.

When I had first heard of the CARE Act, I was confused - this bill seemed like common sense, how could it not already be in effect? The CARE Act enables caregivers to be confident in caring for their loved ones by requiring hospitals to keep records of the patient's caregiver, notify this caregiver should their loved one be released, and explain through live demonstration how to perform various medical tasks. Currently, caregivers are often left without training to do things like administer injections, provide wound care, and manage medications.

We need to show that we care about older New Jerseyans and respect those caring for them by providing the information and training necessary to care. AARP thanks Assembly Speaker Prieto and Senator Vitale for sponsoring this essential bill. I stand with AARP in supporting caregivers and offering help so they may have the confidence to care.

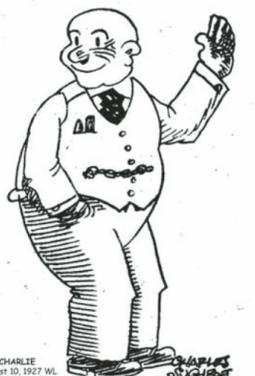
Rebecca Walters
AARP New Jersey Intern
South Brunswick

NEWS CLIPS

Bramnick Welcomes Sweeney's Support for Long-Term Planning

Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield) said he was pleased to learn that Senate President Steve Sweeney supports his idea to create strategic long-term bipartisan commissions or committees. Mr. Bramnick said he looks forward to working with the Senate President on many long-term issues affecting the State of New Jersey.

Correction Last Week "The USSR was The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics"



Union County Freeholders
Elizabeth, New Jersey
(908) 527-4200
Al Faella, Mgr. afaella@ucnj.org
Chris Hudak, chair
chudak@ucnj.org
Sebastian D'Elia, Public Info.
(908) 527-4419
sdelia@ucnj.org



<p>State LD-21 Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 425 North Ave. E. Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-3673 Asm. Jon Bramnick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-2073 Asm. Nancy Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, N.J. 07901 (908) 918-0414</p>	<p>State LD-22 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404 Asw. Linda Stender (D) 1801 East Second St. Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076 (908) 668-1900 Asm. Jerry Green (D) 17 Watchung Ave. Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757</p>	<p>7th Congressional District Representative Leonard Lance (R) 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District]</p> <p>12th Congressional District Rep. Rush Holt (D) 50 Washington Rd., West Windsor, N.J. 08550 (609) 750-9365 [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]</p>
--	---	--



COUNTY...Union County Freeholder Linda Carter visited the Home Ownership Fair in Plainfield at the Washington Community School on Saturday, July 26, to lend support for efforts to engage residents in home ownership. The event included information sessions and one-on-one consultations with lending professionals. Pictured, from left to right, are: Faith, Bricks, & Mortar Executive Director Horace Baldwin, Plainfield Superintendent of Schools Anna Belin-Pyles, Freeholder Carter, and Donna Morris of the Plainfield Office of Community Development. For more information on housing guidance in Plainfield, call Faith, Bricks, and Mortar at (908) 756-5774.