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Letters to the Editor

A Superlative Credit Rating Is Not Simply Fodder For Politic Campaigns


Last month, Standard and Poor's Ratings Services released its long-term credit rating report on the Town of Westfield's proposed issuance of nearly \$9.2 million in General Improvement Bonds, which support the town's facilities, infrastructure improvements, and equipment purchases. Proceeds from the bonds were used to pay off, on a longer-term basis, existing outstanding short-term debt issued by the town for various purposes over a multi-year period. The August report also revisited S&P's surveillance analysis of Westfield's long-term bond rating released last year.

As a result of the mayor and town council's prudent planning and decision making in recent years, S&P has assigned its AAA rating to the town's 2015 general obligation bond issuance, and has affirmed its prior AAA long-term rating for the town. Furthermore, S&P's stated outlook for Westfield is a stable one.

Among other highlights of the report, S&P opined that Westfield's economy, budgetary flexibility, and liquidity are all "very strong," and also noted that the town exhibits "strong" management and budgetary performance while enjoying a "strong" debt and contingent liability position.

The town's superior financial condition did not happen by accident. As chairman of the town council's finance policy committee, I want to thank Mayor Andy Skibitsky, committee members Frank Arena, Mark

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. Zokor - A burrowing rodent that looks like a mole rat
2. Tergiversate - To desert a cause
3. Reliction - Land left uncovered by the recession of the sea
4. Churrus - A gum resin which oozes from the Indian hemp

CULPON

1. A roof prop used in a coal mine
2. A heavy javelin used by the Roman infantry
3. A shred or splinter
4. An arrow or arrowhead

SAPIENT

1. Restless; nervous
2. Wise; knowing
3. Dewy; moist
4. Not subject to corruption

RECTIROSTRAL

1. Having the breadth of the cranium greater than the length
2. Having the back below in swimming, as certain insects
3. Having a straight bill or beak
4. A leaning to the right

CHUKKER

1. Second-class; something of lesser value
2. One of the periods into which a polo game is divided
3. A gopher
4. A concealed dungeon with a trap door at the top

See more letters on page 5

Police Body Cameras Provide Accountability to Cops, Civilians

Union County became the first New Jersey county this week to initiate a police body camera program. The Board of Chosen Freeholders at their meeting last Thursday approved an \$850,000 contract with Taser International of Scottsdale, Ariz., for the purchase of body cameras for police use.

Last week, the Garwood Police Department announced that it was entering into a program with the Union County Prosecutor's Office, in which the county would provide the borough with cameras for its officers and vehicles for free along with a year's worth of support, software, computer storage, etc.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office held a press conference on Tuesday announcing the body camera program. Eight Union County towns are participating in the program. In addition to Garwood, they include Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Roselle Park, Linden, Plainfield and Elizabeth.

In July, Governor Chris Christie announced that the State Police would be outfitted with cameras at a cost of \$1.5 million. That amount will pay for cameras for 1,000 troopers. In addition, the state is providing a pool of \$2.5 million in grants for municipalities that want to purchase the cameras for local use. Under the state's program, Union County is eligible for \$125,000 in financial assistance. (Please see story on Page 11). Currently, body cameras are being used by the Newark, Jersey City and Paterson police departments.

According to a fact sheet on the state's body

camera program, "body cameras offer promise to promote accountability to both police and civilians, to enhance evidence collection, and to reduce the number and cost of citizen complaints and internal affairs investigations. At the same time, body cameras raise significant privacy concerns. Moreover, it is critical to balance the benefits of recording evidence that might help solve a crime and prosecute an offender against the costs if a victim or witness is chilled from providing an officer with information because of the camera."

Union County Acting Prosecutor Grace Park told *The Wall Street Journal* that body-camera footage is helpful for investigating complaints about law enforcement using undue force. She said the initial investment could help save money in lawsuits in the future.

In May, the U.S. Department of Justice announced it would provide \$20 million in grants to local police departments to help buy body cameras for officers as part of the first phase of a three-year, \$75 million program.

Body cameras are an important tool to provide footage of what happened at the scene where police force was used and whether it was justified.

Police officers around the nation have been the subject of criticism by some over force they say was not justified. Also, several police officers have been killed in what appear to be unprovoked attacks, such as the Texas sheriff's deputy who was killed while filling his cruiser with fuel.

In Response to Officer Murders, Let Us Show Police Lives Matter

This past Sunday saw the senseless killing of another law enforcement officer. Kentucky State Trooper Joseph Cameron Ponder, 31, was fatally shot after an evening traffic stop that led to a chase when the suspect fled. According to news reports from Kentucky authorities, during the course of the chase the suspect stopped his vehicle suddenly, causing the trooper's vehicle to impact with it, after which the suspect fired multiple shots into the officer's vehicle. Trooper Ponder subsequently died at a hospital. The suspect, identified as 25-year-old Thomas Johnson-Shanks, escaped but was shot and killed by police hours later after refusing to drop his weapon, authorities said.

The death of Trooper Ponder follows the tragic loss of other police officers in a period of less than one year. On December 20, 2014, NYPD Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu were ambushed in their patrol car while eating lunch, by a man allegedly seeking revenge for the police-related deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. The suspect, a 28-year-old career criminal named Ismaaiyl Abdullah Brinsley, committed suicide a short time later as police were closing in.

In another case of apparently random violence against police, 47-year-old uniformed Sheriff's Deputy Darren Goforth was brutally executed Au-

gust 28 after stopping to pump gas at a Houston, Texas area service station. A man identified as Shannon J. Miles, 30, has been charged with his murder.

The deaths of civilians during encounters with police in Ferguson, Mo., New York and Baltimore sparked mass protests in support of the civilians involved, and these high-profile cases have cast law enforcement in a negative light among some segments of the population. Citizens have a right under the law to protest when they feel injustice has occurred, and investigations were conducted into the actions of the police in each of these high-profile cases. But we ask, where are the protests on behalf of those fallen police officers and others like them, whose lives were taken for no apparent reason, in the course of serving the public? Where are the marchers, the banners, the rallies and impassioned speeches?

Police officers all across this nation put their lives on the line every day - whether in urban communities or on a Kentucky highway. The majority are dedicated public servants committed to protecting their fellow citizens. We call on these fellow citizens to likewise demonstrate support for them, especially in the current climate when police appear to have become a target of retribution or rage. It is vital that we show that their lives matter, too.

Giardino Pizzeria, J. C. & Crew Hair, Just4Pooches, Mane Event, Martin Jewelers, Mr. J's of Cranford, Nail Plaza, Old City Café, Periwinkle's, Pizza Chef/Pizza House, The Porch, Rogue Comics, Rustic Mill, Simply..., Sofi's Color Lounge, Star Nails, Styles Street for Hair, Subology, Swim Suit Junction, Think D'Sign, Top Nails, Vanilla Bean Creamery, Vertyx Hair, Vinny's Pizza, Also, Applebee's, Friendly's, McDonald's, Wendy's and ShopRite. And a special thanks to local resident Helen Andrews for all her volunteer hours! Their contributions helped make the 2015 Cranford Library Teen Summer Reading Program a resounding success.

For further information about teen events at the Cranford Public Library, call the library at (908) 709-7272 and ask for Fran Houston, teen librarian.

Fran Houston,
Reference/Teen Librarian
Cranford Public Library

Library Thanks All Who Supported Teen Summer Reading Program

The teen department of the Cranford Public Library sends a big thank you to all who participated in the 2015 Teen Summer Reading Program at the library. The program was open to teens 12 to 18 years old or entering grades 7 to 12. Over 100 teens actively participated in the program, reading for prizes, taking part in special events and watching movies offered throughout the summer.

The library extends a hearty thank you to the many local merchants who once again were very generous with merchandise for gifts, which were used to reward the teens for reading. These Cranford merchants include: Ana Salon, Artemisia, Artist Framers, Atlantic Beach Soap, Augusta Mae, Belladonna's, Bento Express, Breadsmith, Buttery Bake Shoppe, Cheese Please..., Cory Mathews, Cranford Best Bagels, Cranford Family Restaurant, Cranford Hair Salon, Cranford Theatre, Dim Sum II, Edible Arrangements, Elements Massage, Evey's Nails, Fresh Press Juice Co., Frostee Freeze, Gourmet Deli, Il

Melania Trump Brings Back Memories, It Was the Potatoes

A recent *New York Post* article on Melania Trump, along with provocative, déjà vu photos of her, brought back memories of one of my many medical carnitine adventures.

During the 70s, I decided to conduct a study with intravenous carnitine to determine its safety, but it was prohibitively expensive for me to do so in the United States. Fortune then smiled on me for Dr. Stoyen Jeretin, the chairman of the department of anesthesiology at the University of Ljubljana of the then Yugoslavia and currently Slovenia, volunteered to conduct the study. He was also one of dictator Generalissimo Tito's physicians. Now you may be wondering, "What has this to do with Melania Trump?" One afternoon during my first trip to Ljubljana, I decided to take time off and have a cappuccino along with slivovitz, a plum brandy, at a local bar and do what I enjoy; sitting down and just observing people. And then it happened! A tall, attractive statuesque young lady slowly sauntered by - and I took notice. Soon after a few sips of brandy and cappuccino, another young lady strolled by with similar physical credentials. And, much to my amazement and, frankly speaking, delight, a parade of tall, statuesque ladies then ensued. The photos of the 5-foot-11 and 35-24-35 Mrs. Trump brought back visual memories of these ladies and not without justification. Her mother was born in Slovenia and, interestingly enough, Melania attended the University of Ljubljana.

During dinner with Dr. Jeretin, I mentioned what I had observed, wondering whether it was just a coincidence. He confirmed my observation as accurate and common of the women throughout that region. I then asked about the causative genetic factors. He, puzzlingly disturbed by my question, shot back, "What genes? It's not the genes." He then, having trained in New York City, added, "Now that you have seen our spectacular women, why do you think I was not impressed with your American women?"

Curious as hell, I then asked, "Dr. Jeretin, if it's not in the genes, what else could it possibly be?" Then he, with a smile as broad as a smile can be, answered, "Dr. DeFelice, it's the potatoes. It's the Yugoslavian potatoes." I, finding this hard to believe, replied, "You've got to be kidding me, my friend: Yugoslavian potatoes? What makes them different from other potatoes?" He said no one knew and should be investigated. I immediately made the decision to conduct such an investigation and decided to take a batch of Yugoslavian potatoes to the United States in order to discover the biological "statuesque" factors, patent them and become one of the richest and most famous men in the world. So I purchased a bag of big ones, but a U.S. customs officer told me, a Pascal-like decision made by a single person that may have altered man-woman history, that he had to confiscate them because they were fresh produce. That night I told my wife, Patrice, the story of the Yugoslavian potatoes. She didn't totally buy the story of potatoes but wondered whether the custom officer's wife was cooking them that night.

Shortly after, I had some business to attend to in Europe which included a visit to Ljubljana and asked her to join me. I took her to the same café, and we ordered cappuccino and slivovitz. And then it happened again. A steady stream of statuesque women strolled down the runway before us. She smiled, firmly held my hand, leaned closely and whispered in my ear, "My love, this is your last trip to Ljubljana!"

And so it was.

Stephen L. DeFelice, M.D.
Westfield

Letters to the Editor

Garwood Dem Actions, Louder than Words

Actions speak louder than words. This is a principle many of us have been taught from an early age and applies very fittingly to the candidacies of Carol Kearney and Bill Nierstedt in this year's Garwood council race.

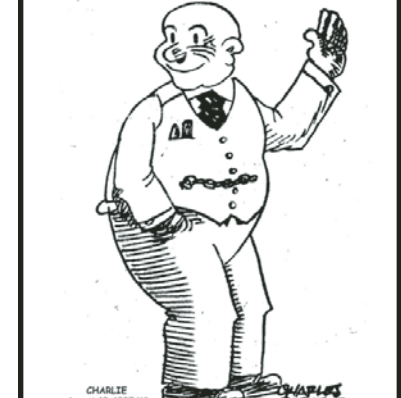
The decision by Carol Kearney to join the Democratic Party has come under attack by the Mathieu-led Republican Party, which comes at no surprise to us. I ask the voters to look at the actions taken by both Carol and Bill to help the borough we all love. Their actions speak much louder than the all too easy attacks made by a party upset at the loss of a viable candidate who came in a very close third place in last year's election.

Let's look at the candidates' many contributions to the Garwood community. Carol Kearney has been hard at work as Garwood's business and industry liaison for the past five years, answering hundreds of calls from local business owners seeking support. As Garwood's representative to the Chamber of Commerce, she envisioned and brought to life Garwood Rocks, a tremendously successful street fair in town for the past two years. Carol is also the principal organizer of Movie Under the Stars, a new annual movie night. Prior to his seat on the council, Council President Bill Nierstedt served on the Planning Board, Board of Education, and Education Foundation of Garwood, including as its first president. Additionally, he led Boy Scout Troop 75, coached soccer, and held membership in the PTA. You may even be surprised to know he designed the Georgiana Gurrieri Memorial Park and gazebo.

The past actions of Carol Kearney and Bill Nierstedt demonstrate their dedication to Garwood. Their allegiance to this borough is clear. Although words may be used to attack Carol and Bill, please remember that actions speak louder than words.

Hugh Sinclair, Chairman
Garwood Democratic Party

NY GIANTS HAD MENTAL FUMBLE!



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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

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

LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.

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]

12th Congressional District
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D)
850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 201, Ewing, N.J. 08628
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[Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]

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