

Come To The Next Garwood Council Meeting And Ask Your Questions

Lack of transparency and politics on the dais by the renegade Mathieu Republicans are evident right out of the gate at the first meeting of the year for Garwood's Mayor and Council. It did not take long for them to violate their pledge of transparency by voting against the approval of a number of agenda items without any explanation of their dissent.

The residents deserve to know why they voted no to the appointments of Borough Attorney, Prosecutor, and Tax Collector without having the foresight and courtesy to offer alternatives. That's what transparency and commitment to service is all about.

Not just voting "no" for political reasons, but to offer meaningful and insightful alternatives for the betterment of our community.

The near failing vote of 3-2 to approve borough attorney would have left Garwood vulnerable, operating without legal counsel (since no other attorneys submitted proposals) and until new proposals would be received, reviewed, and then, hopefully approved. The "no" votes by Mathieu and Sarno came without explanation nor an alternative plan. Is that good for Garwood or for the Republican Party?

The vote to fill the then vacant State mandated position of certified tax collector almost suffered defeat as well. Again, Mathieu and Sarno voted "no" without explanation or an alternative plan.

Fortunately, Cuccaro and Martin voted with the Democrats, Todisco and Petruzzelli, for the plan to fill the position with a current employee that is dual-certified. This plan comes at a

savings over previous years when the Borough had a full-time tax collector. With no apparent reason for them to vote "no" and no contingency plan, these now self-proclaimed "renegades" have clearly demonstrated that they are unable to plan ahead or act in the best interests of all of Garwood, as they had promised.

The most alarming development was when GOP Chairman Mathieu publicly promised to "always have the sides" of his newly elected GOP council people. Mathieu's clear unwillingness to objectively vote for the betterment of Garwood by keeping an open mind is disturbing. Mathieu has vowed to vote Republican no matter what. Is that good for the citizens of Garwood, or just for the Republican Party?

If this concerns you as much as it does me, I implore you to please come to the next council meeting and ask your questions. If you would like to join the Garwood Democratic team that welcomes differences of opinion and true transparency, please contact me at garwoodhsinclair.com.

Hugh Sinclair
Garwood Dem Committee Chair



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Letters to the Editor

Christianity Is Weakening, Islam Fervor Is Exploding

Hilaire Belloc, a huge controversial personality, broad ranging intellect, superb observer of things that matter, both small and large, was also gifted with limitless energy. As indisputable proof of the latter, he boarded a boat in his native England, landed in New York and, because he was broke, walked to California to woo his future American wife. They called each other "honey bun." In the 1930s he stood boldly alone in predicting the rise of militant Islam and how it could conquer the Western World. History is replete with Islamic military attempts to do so and sometimes came perilously close such as after the Battle of Manzikert.

The primary premise of his vision is clear. It's based on religious strength. He believed that Catholicism, the major Christian religion, was weakening and its international competitor, "Mohammedanism," was holding strong — and the strong would inevitably win out. He writes, "In the major thing of all, religion, we have fallen back and Islam, in the main, preserved its soul." He proposed that Islamic culture is an "impregnable fortress" and unconvertible citing the Catholic Crusades and centuries of Catholic missionaries' failure to do so.

He correctly pointed out that the

superiority of the West was, in large part, due to its advantage in the scientific-technology sphere, but that Islam would soon catch up, and "its material strength" would incrementally help crush the West. He also noted that the "fissiparous" or divisive nature of the Islamic culture rendered it weak but, once remedied, would become a formidable force.

Belloc's prediction may be prophetic. Today, Christianity is weakening, Islam fervor is exploding, and its warriors are rapidly gaining in weaponry acquisition and know-how. Though still broadly fissiparous, there are currently several factions powerful enough to wage international warfare employing a variety of methods including suicidal bombers, biological and nuclear weapons and the multifaceted Internet. Large armies are not needed. The great military theorist Carl von Clausewitz wrote, "War is an act of force to compel our enemy to do our will." Modern weaponry has made this more easily and rapidly achievable. To compound the problem, the West is opening the doors to mass Islamic immigration where such weapons could be purchased, produced or assembled in loco parent is accelerating the creation of such an international Islamic force.

Belloc's main concern was not only the dangers of Islam, itself. Indeed, he even admired it. He observes, "Islam was far more learned than we were, it was better equipped in arms and nevertheless more civic and more tolerant." He was primarily alarmed by the decline of faith in Catholicism and survival of Western civilization. It's worthy to note that his belief in the power of religion extended beyond Catholicism to others.

Many believe that the West's march toward epicurean secularism — who wants to fight when surrounded by life's luxuries and security? — will eventually convert the Islamic mindset to that of pleasure and peace. Perhaps; but not soon.

Time magazine elected Angela Merkel as Person-of-the-Year, 2015, one reason being her role in opening Europe's doors to over a million Islamic immigrants. *Time's* second choice was Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the extremely clever innovative leader of ISIS, whose immigration objective is, interestingly enough, identical to Merkel's. The third choice was Donald Trump, who would block general immigration until we have an effective anti-terror screening system, which development remains to be seen.

After reading the *Time* piece, I paused, puffed on my pipe, sipped on my martini and thought of Belloc.

Stephen DeFelice
Westfield

Probitas Verus Honos

Time to Think About What We Eat, Overturn Exploitation of Animal Life

Just want to add my support to Westfield Katherine Fisher's letter to the editor of December 17, 2015. And perhaps the end of the year and the beginning of this New Year are the most appropriate times for thinking about our lives and what we eat — and the effect it has upon all of us.

There is a long list of illnesses connected to animal-eating — cancers, heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes.

Despite the heavy warnings in our press just before the holidays in regard to "processed meats," the manufacturers of these foods seem to have flooded the stores with heavy marketing of these products.

Basically, I think it would be difficult to deny that these factory farms could easily be charged with animal cruelty because of the tight confinement of animals in these unclean and cramped pens, where they are deprived of sunlight and the ability to roam free. These animals are also

given steroids to cause them to gain weight rapidly. In turn, this confinement requires that they frequently be treated with antibiotics.

Many of us are concerned about GMO foods — genetically modified — and are as much as possible switching to organic foods. There is also widespread support for labeling of these foods.

More attention needs to be paid to the exploitation of animals which is a primary cause of global warming — and pollution of our environment with extreme amounts of toxic chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides and unmanageable amounts of waste.

It's time to overturn the licenses which permit thoughtless exploitation of animal life — "manifest destiny" and "man's dominion over nature." In turn, we will regain our spiritual and human health — and a positive effect on the planet.

Barbara Briemer
Westfield

POLICE BLOTTER

WESTFIELD

Sunday, January 3, a resident of Jefferson Avenue reported being the victim of fraud. The victim stated that his credit card company had informed him of four fraudulent purchases that were made using his credit card. There were no suspects at the time of the report.

Tuesday, January 5, John Sherry, 35, of Piscataway was arrested at the Union Police Department on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, where he was processed and held in lieu of posting the requisite \$322 bail.

Tuesday, January 5, a resident of the 500 block of Carleton Road reported a motor vehicle burglary. The vehicle was parked on Ross Place near Carleton Road and unlocked at the time of the burglary. The incident occurred between December 27 and January 5. At the time of the report nothing was reported stolen from the vehicle.

Wednesday, January 6, police arrested Rodney J. Mason, 39, of Piscataway on an outstanding criminal warrant out of Middlesex Borough Municipal Court, with bail of \$300, pursuant to a motor vehicle stop on East South Avenue near Cacciola Place. Mason was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on posted bail.

Wednesday, January 6, Jared Browne, 24, of Hillside was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia pursuant to a motor vehicle stop on Central Avenue near Cacciola Place. Browne was transported to police headquarters, processed and released with a summons.

Friday, January 8, an individual on the 700 block of Knollwood Terrace filed a report of identity theft. According to the victim, an unknown suspect obtained a credit card in the complainant's name and made charges against the account.

Friday, January 8, a victim reported the attempted theft of a motor vehicle. The report filed states that one or more unknown suspects entered the vehicle, which was parked on the 400 block of Boulevard, and attempted to start the vehicle, breaking the steering column in the process.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Monday, December 28, a Cliffwood resident reported a theft from a motor vehicle that had been parked in the municipal lot behind a business. The theft occurred between 5:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. when someone smashed the driver's-side window and removed personal items.

Monday, December 28, Christian Zazzali, 20, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. An officer responding to a suspicious person call on Lake Avenue detained a group of individuals in a back yard. Following the investigation Zazzali was arrested. He was transported to police headquarters for processing and released on a summons.

Thursday, December 31, Michael Blaes, 27, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Union Municipal Court following a motor vehicle stop. Blaes was transported to police headquarters for processing and released after posting bail.

Thursday, December 31, Jorge Rosales, 51, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Perth Amboy following a motor vehicle stop. Rosales was transported to police headquarters for processing.

Saturday, January 2, a Park Avenue resident reported a theft from a motor vehicle. The resident stated that the vehicle was parked on Bartle Avenue and that between 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. someone had smashed the driver's-side window and stolen personal items.

Saturday, January 2, a Sunnyfield Lane resident reported a motor ve-

hicle burglary. The resident stated that between 6 and 7:30 p.m. someone had entered the vehicle and stolen personal items. It was reported that the vehicle was unlocked and parked in the driveway at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, January 5, Thomas Outland, 47, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with robbery. Detectives arrested Outland after a lengthy investigation into the attempted robbery of a fast food restaurant located on Route 22 West. According to police, on September 4, 2015, Outland and an unknown accomplice allegedly entered the restaurant at closing time wearing masks and pointing a shotgun at the manager. After an employee recognized Outland as one of the suspects, authorities said, the two suspects quickly fled the restaurant. Outland was given a bail amount of \$105,000 and is being held at the Union County jail.

Wednesday, January 6, Brian Moskow, 24, of Edison was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of the Sea Bright Municipal Court following a motor vehicle stop. Moskow was transported to police headquarters for processing.

Thursday, January 7, Terrence Pope, 23, of Berkeley Heights was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Fanwood following a motor vehicle stop. Pope was transported to police headquarters for processing.

Friday, January 8, a burglary was reported at an apartment on Rivervale Court. The resident stated that sometime between 11 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. someone forcibly entered the apartment, ransacking the bedroom and stealing numerous personal items.

Friday, January 8, a second burglary was reported at a Rivervale Court apartment. In this case, the resident stated that sometime between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. someone had forced entry into the apartment, ransacking the bedroom and stealing numerous personal items. The burglaries that occurred in this apartment complex are believed to be related and currently are under investigation.

Sunday, January 10, Juan Mercado, 54, of Newark was arrested on outstanding warrants. After police conducted a motor vehicle stop on Raritan Road it was discovered Mercado had active warrants out of Colts Neck Municipal Court and North Arlington. Mercado was transported to police headquarters for processing.

American Legion Post Seeks Market Vendors

AREA — Dunellen American Legion Post No. 119 is seeking vendors and crafters for their Third Annual Spring Outdoor Flea Market and Craft Show on Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 137 New Market Street, Dunellen.

The location is one block from the Dunellen Train Station and downtown area and one block off Washington Avenue and Route 28. The event will include a barbecue and refreshments will be sold. Parking and restrooms will be available.

Spaces are available in the picnic grove, and on the front and side lawn of the post building, and there are limited parking lot spaces. All spaces are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces are \$25 per day without a table and \$35 with a table rental. There is a discount for a two-day reservation. The price also includes advertising in newspapers, classified advertisements, radio station advertising, yard signs, a banner and more. Early reservations are encouraged.

To request an application, e-mail fleamarket119@yahoo.com, call (732) 968-9899 or pick up an application from Dunellen American Legion Post No. 119, 137 New Market Road, Dunellen, N.J. 08812.

Information on the post's Fall Indoor Holiday Market, scheduled for November 19 and 20, 2016, also is available at fleamarket119@yahoo.com.

Everyone Can Serve: MLK Day Offers Opportunities For Unity

On Monday, January 18, the birthday of civil rights leader the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be observed throughout the United States with ceremonies, service initiatives, social gatherings and, of course, extensive dialogue on race relations in America today.

Nearly four decades since Martin Luther King's death, the topic of race continues to be divisive. The still tangled and emotional issue reminds us once again of Dr. King's call for non-violent social change and his dream of unity among all people. Such unity can be forged by neighbors working together for the common good in their communities, and not just racial unity, but unity spanning all ages, faiths, cultures and lifestyles.

This Monday, service activities designed to promote unity are oc-

curing in Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Cranford. There also will be an Interfaith Community Service this evening, January 14, at 7 p.m., at the Cranford Alliance Church, and a series of other commemorative events are planned for Monday in Scotch Plains.

In Westfield, the theme of unity will be promoted as well through the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association's annual processional and memorial service Monday, as well as a pancake breakfast to be held earlier in the day at the Westfield Community Center.

We encourage all our residents, and especially families with children, to attend these programs and participate in the service activities. Service projects are available for all ages, talents and abilities, providing everyone an opportunity to contribute and to honor Martin Luther King's

legacy.

The rewards of such service on behalf of others, and the ability of each person to make a difference, can be summed up in this excerpt from Dr. King's final sermon, delivered February 4, 1968 — two months to the day before his death — entitled "Drum Major Instinct."

"Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant."

Mountainside Council Announces Municipal Appointments

MOUNTAINSIDE — Mountainside Mayor Paul Mirabelli and the Borough Council approved the following appointments at their reorganization meeting on January 3rd.

Council Liaisons: Planning Board, Wendy Fech-Caccamo; Board of Health, Rene Dierkes; Board of Education, Deanna Andre; Library, Glenn W. Mortimer; Rescue Squad, Deanna Andre; Board of Tax Appeals, Rene Dierkes; Emergency Management, Keith C. Turner; Senior Citizen Services, Deanna Andre; Board of Tax Assessors, Rene Dierkes; Shade Tree, Wendy Fech-Caccamo; Historic Preservation Committee, Wendy Fech-Caccamo, and Children's Specialized Hospital, Glenn W. Mortimer.

Appointment of Council to Committees: Fire: Glenn W. Mortimer, chairperson, Keith C. Turner, Rene Dierkes; Administrative and Executive, Rene Dierkes, chairman, Robert W. Messler, and Glenn W. Mortimer; Public Works/Facilities, Robert W. Messler, chairman, Glenn W. Mortimer, Rene Dierkes; Police: Keith C. Turner, chairman, Glenn W. Mortimer, and Robert W. Messler; Media and Information: Deanna Andre, chairman, Glenn W. Mortimer, and Wendy Fech-Caccamo; Solid Waste/Recycling, Glenn W. Mortimer, chairman, Robert W. Messler, and Wendy Fech-Caccamo; Recreation Department, Keith C. Turner, chairman, Deanna Andre, and Rene Dierkes; Planning Board, Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli (Class I), Borough Engineer Michael Disko Jr. (Class II), Councilwoman Wendy Fech-Caccamo (Class III), John Tomaine (Class IV, three years), Todd Garran (Class IV, one year), Thomas Parker (Class IV, four years), Ted Zawislak (Class IV, one year), Jon Younghans (Class IV, four years), Steve Matlin (Class IV, four years), Thomas Jakositz (alternate No. 1, one year), and Will Ford (alternate No. 2, one year).

Board of Health: Tricia Freer (two years), Norma Huber (three years), Dr. Joseph Calderone (three years),

Dr. James Dunne (two years), Elsa Jackson (two years), Jenny Disko (2016), and Odalys Sawycky (three years). Shade Tree Commission: Gary Cantagallo (two years), Ronald Romak (two years), Gina Tomas (two years), Lynn Samsky (four years), Thomas Root (three years), John Grossi (two years), and Steve Dardanella (two years).

Emergency Management: Part-time Administrator/Office of Emergency Management Director James Debbie, Jr. (director, three years), Ronald Romak (deputy, one year), Councilman Keith C. Turner (deputy, one year), and Lewis Giordino (one year). Municipal Alliance Committee: Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli, James Debbie Jr., Robert Segear, Kim Richards, Andy Huber, Chief School Administrator Nancy Lubarsky, Brittney Steitz, Matt Flynn, Shaun Bendik, Cynthia West, Mike Litterer, Gina Tomas, and Chief Financial Officer Jill Goode.

Library Board of Trustees: Steven Witt (two years), Maya Frungillo (one year), Nancy Caffrey (five years), Sarah Post (five years), Ginger So Chan (two years), Kristen Ciccimarra (four years), Clark Landale (three years), Councilman Glenn W. Mortimer (mayor's designee), Chief School Administrator Nancy Lubarsky, and Christopher Belden (alternate for chief school administrator.); Mountainside Restoration Committee (one year): Scott Daniels, Ruth Goense, Carol Clark, Jason Pastore, Carol Goggi, Diane Ruggiero, Sandy Vander Meer, James Toner, Alice Cowell, Tom McGee (alternate, one year), and vacancy (alternate, one year); Local Ethics Board: William (Tex) Jackson (three years), vacancy (two years), Jay Kelk (two years), John Grossi (three years), and Councilman Keith Turner (three years).

Americans With Disabilities Act: Councilman Keith Turner, Part-time Administrator/Office of Emergency Management Director James J. Debbie, Jr., Linda Clark, and Recreation Director Frank Masella; Finance Committee: James Debbie,

Jr. Chief Financial Officer Jill Goode, Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli, and Borough Clerk Martha Lopez; Appointment of Borough Officials: Part-time Administrator/Office of Emergency Management Director, James J. Debbie, Jr.; Municipal Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics, Martha Lopez; Deputy Borough Clerk/Deputy Registrar, Susan DiFrancesco; Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector, Jill Goode; P/T Finance Assistant, Lisa Glock; Finance Clerk, Ashley Osjeja; Assistant Tax Collector, Brittney L. Steitz; Director of Recreation/Pool Administrator and Tech, Frank Masella; Recreation Assistant, Michael Butrico; Recreation Secretary/Pool Bookkeeper, Karen Bandics; Municipal Judge, Frank Sahaj; Prosecutor, James Foerst; Public Defender, Anne Marie Bramnick; Court Administrator, Cynthia West; Deputy Court Administrator, Debra Velard; Tax Assessor, Michael Frangella; Police Physician, Dr. G. Schaller; Engineer/Certified Wastewater, and Treatment Operator, Michael Disko, Jr.; Secretary to Zoning/Construction/Planning Board, Ruth Rees.

Secretary to Engineering/DPW/Tax Assessor, Patricia Gilstrap; Planning Board Attorney, Vincent Loughlin; Receptionist Secretary to Construction/DPW/Zoning, Gina Tomas; Public Works Manager/2nd Fl. Supervisor/ Zoning and Land Use Officer/Deputy OEM, Ronald Romak;

Public Works Crew Members: Matthew DeAnna, Oscar Cardona, Horacio Colella, Edward Parin, Richard Neri, and Thomas Root; Cable TV, Matt Flynn; Senior Citizen Coordinator, Kim Moriak; Construction Official/Bldg. Inspector/Building Sub Code Official, Jerry Eger, and Plumbing Sub Code Official, Ben B. Scotti; Electrical Sub Code Official, Joseph B. Marretta; Fire Sub Code/Fire Prevention Official, Joseph Popolo; Communications Officers: Walter Kutsop, Lewis Giordino, Michael Scuderi, and Anthony DeLuca, Jr.; Police Administrative Assistant, Corinne

Moore; Part-time Police Records Clerk, Amy Colineri; Fire Chief, Gary Cantagallo; Fire Assistant Chief, Anthony Pecorelli; Fire Deputy Chiefs, Thomas Triolo and Andrew Meeks; Fire Captains, Adam Foti and Candace Lesofski; Fire Lieutenant, Patrick Klebour and Roman Sawycky.

Rescue Squad President, Ann Marie Pires; Rescue Squad Vice-President, Corinne Moore; Rescue Squad Treasurer, Lori Rubino; Rescue Squad Secretary, Norma Huber; Rescue Squad Chief, Eric D. Pastore; Rescue Squad Deputy Chief, Chris Sileo; Rescue Squad First Lieutenant, Chay Castro; Rescue Squad Second Lieutenant, Julius Korn; Delegates to First Aid Council, Norma Huber, and Steve Susman; Community Development Committee Members, Michael Kiesewetter, Ruth M. Rees (planning board secretary), Part-time Administrator/Office of Emergency Management Director James J. Debbie (alternate), and Brittney Steitz (alternate); Crossing Guards: Joan Laurent, Patricia Salvato, Robert C. Vargo, and Carmine Rotella;

Borough Attorney, John Post; Auditor/Financial Advisor, Suplee, Clooney and Company; Risk Management Agent, Gallagher Bollinger Insurance; Borough Engineer, Michael Disko Jr.; Official Newspapers: *Westfield Leader*, *Local Source*, *Star Ledger*, and *Courier News*.

Seniors Club Invites Newcomers to Join

GARWOOD — The Garwood Senior Club is looking for new members. Two meetings are held each month, on the first and third Thursdays.

Meetings start at noon at the Garwood Fire House, located at 403 South Avenue, Garwood. They are followed by lunch and a guest speaker.

Additionally, the club runs four day trips a year, one to Atlantic City and three dinner shows. Interested persons are asked to call Pat at (908) 789-0835 for further details.