

The Westfield Leader The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES Since 1959

Legal Newspaper for the County of Union, New Jersey and for Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford and Garwood

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Body-Worn Cameras Will Benefit Police Officers and Public Alike

Our local law enforcement agencies have long cited among their goals strengthening the rapport between police and members of the communities they serve. They have pursued this through a variety of successfully implemented programs designed to instill confidence among residents of all ages in their municipal police departments, while also helping officers in the performance of their duties.

We believe an additional initiative will advance these objectives even further. Two weeks ago, Acting Union County Prosecutor Michael A. Monahan announced that Union County is anticipated to become this year "the first county in New Jersey that is exclusively patrolled by local law enforcement to have all of its departments outfitted with body-worn cameras."

During 2018, Mr. Monahan had initiated a plan to ultimately have police departments in all 21 municipalities in the county equipped with body-worn cameras. A pilot program begun by the Prosecutor's Office more than three years ago led to local police departments within the county gradually acquiring the body cameras.

"We can be satisfied in the knowledge that Union County, on the issue of body-worn cameras, is at the vanguard among law enforcement in New Jersey, progressively ahead of the curve and leading the way," said Mr. Monahan, who was joined during his December 27 announcement of the plan for county-

wide body cameras by most of Union County's 21 municipal police chiefs. "I thank our chiefs for their commitment to delivering transparency, accountability, and professionalism to the public," he said.

The cameras worn by police officers and activated during on-duty interactions with members of the public benefit police and civilians alike by documenting encounters from the officer's exact point of view. "Body-worn cameras are an important tool for promoting confidence in our police officers by holding them accountable, while also protecting them from unfounded complaints and helping them gather evidence," said New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal in a release from the Prosecutor's Office regarding Mr. Monahan's announcement.

We applaud the success to date of the program to outfit municipal police departments with body-worn cameras, along with the effort to see it realized within all Union County municipalities. Among those who have endorsed it is new Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro, who mentioned the cameras in remarks accompanying his swearing-in ceremony last week. We concur with authorities on the local, county and state levels that these devices and related equipment are critical tools for those in law enforcement, and beneficial to the community as well, and that their use can only enhance safety, transparency and the relationship between police and the public.

Let's Focus on Balancing Budget, Infrastructure, Not Impeachment

With the swearing in of the 116th Congress in January, the drumbeat has shifted to the Democratic base of the new majority party in the House of Representatives. They barely took office, and their focus is already on impeaching President Donald Trump and eliminating the Electoral College as a method of electing Presidents.

These two issues, of course, will not pass in the U.S. Senate, where Republicans hold 53 of the 100 seats. Also, two-thirds of the 435 members of the House would have to vote yes to pass legislation to end the Electoral College, a vote tally Democrats do not have. And to already be talking about impeachment when the Robert Mueller report hasn't even been released yet seems to us to be more political than anything else, as this is more about keeping the Democratic base happy.

We suggest Democrats take a step back by working with the White House on common ground, similar to what occurred in the mid-1990s when President Bill Clinton worked with then House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) to focus on balancing the federal budget. The Republican-led Congress passed the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, and "ultimately had four consecutive balanced budgets," Mr. Gingrich said. President Clinton signed those balanced budgets. Of course, the federal budget has not been balanced since, while our national debt has ballooned to \$21 trillion.

Also, legislation should be passed to ensure that members of Congress are not paid during federal government shutdowns. While President Trump does not take a salary, future Presidents also should not be

paid during shutdowns.

We hope Congress will focus more on issues such as infrastructure upgrades here in New Jersey as well as across the nation. We are happy to hear that newly sworn-in Congressman Tom Malinowski (D-7th) says Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) is supportive of the Gateway Tunnel commuter rail project between New Jersey and New York.

On another issue, spending needs to be better controlled while the deficit is reduced. We believe House and Senate members' benefits need to be reviewed to ensure they are in line with what the average American is offered by his or her employer. Members currently have a choice of some 57 plans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)/ObamaCare gold plans which, as of 2017, were subsidized to the tune of 72 to 75 percent, according to a CNN report. These plans are through the District of Columbia's Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) exchange, also known as DC Health Link.

Members of Congress can continue their health care after they leave office under a system similar to COBRA.

Currently, according to polifact.com, members must serve at least five years to be eligible for a pension. We believe this time period needs to be increased. Since 1984, when the most recent Congressional pension system was adopted, members average a pension of \$41,000 annually. They can collect this at age 62, or at age 50 provided they have 20 years in Congress.

We hope there will be effort to get things done over the next two years, but we don't hold out much hope.

Letters to the Editor

Rink In The Middle Of A Residential Neighborhood On A Busy Street

In a September 20 letter to the editor, I expressed the concerns of the residents in the Gumbert Park neighborhood about the Westfield Ice Rink. I said I would continue to share our concerns once the rink was open. So here we are.

The rink has now been open for two months, enough time to take a hard look at its effect on our neighborhood. The traffic, noise and impact on local businesses have all wreaked havoc on a lot of people. The traffic is a nightmare, in part because parents ignore the no dropoff/no standing/no parking signs. Certainly, initially there was confusion; now, however, the temporary signage has been reduced to only directly in front of the rink on both sides of the street. Crossing guards either look the other way or, when they try to stop the vehicles from stopping, they are yelled at and told by irate drivers they have no authority. Buses and cars continue to idle for extended periods of time in the parking lot and on the street, although we were assured that would not be allowed.

We have been advised by the rink owner that the noise is typical "hockey noise" and nothing can be done about it. Of course, we knew before the rink opened that was going to be a huge problem, but often the noise has been even worse than we feared. For example, the sound of pucks slamming

the boards frequently sounds like gun shots and can be heard for blocks. So can whistles and music.

Of particular concern is the negative impact the rink's presence has had on the retail businesses along North Avenue. Why? Because skaters continue to use the (convenient) commercial parking lot adjacent to the rink, preventing customers from parking and patronizing the shops. More than one shop owner has said their business is down 20 percent.

Let me reiterate that no one objects to the rink concept and the opportunities it provides for ice skating fans to have a good time. But please understand that the Gumbert location is just wrong!

Mayor Brindle stated in an article she wrote summarizing "...Promises Kept..." for the December 27 Leader that she had accomplished many goals that "champion quality of life issues that impact all residents." Clearly she could not list the rink in that category. The rink needs to be in a safer location that is not in the middle of a residential neighborhood on a busy street.

We are counting on Mayor Brindle and the town council to realize that when it comes time to decide on renewing the contract for next year and find a more suitable location.

Christine Spear Garwood

From the Mayor's Desk, Sara Todisco Of Garwood

Last Wednesday, I was deeply honored to be sworn in as the 34th Mayor in the history of the Borough of Garwood. I was truly moved by the tremendous number of people who packed Borough Hall to be there and all those who watched it live on the "GarwoodLive" Facebook page. New Jersey's First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy was even on hand for the beginning of the meeting where Councilmen Michael Ince and Sean Benoit were sworn in as well. She spoke eloquently about how through hard work, optimism, and compromise, we will be able to move New Jersey forward.

I am hitting the ground running in this new role and want all residents of Garwood to know I am there for you, to do my very best to serve you as your Mayor. In my address that evening, I laid out a vision for the future of our town and a number of

initiatives to get us started, from seasonal community spirit awards to launching official Garwood social media pages. If you would like to read my full Mayor's address, you may find it on the borough website at www.garwood.org under "From the Mayor's Desk."

Also, you can find the community spirit award nomination form on the website or obtain paper copies, available at Borough Hall. I look forward to seeing the nominations as I know there are so many people who devote their time and go above the call of duty to make Garwood the great place it is.

Through the open application process, I received dozens of applications to our town's various volunteer committees, commissions, and boards. I was proud to fill all openings and to appoint such a diverse group of people to represent and serve our community at-large. In particular, I am excited to see the work of the members of the newly established Citizens' Advisory Panel.

Some may view our governing body "politically speaking," to be 5 to 1, but to me it is 6 to 0, as I am confident we all can and will work collaboratively and effectively together to serve the people of Garwood. Together, we will all share in our future success as a community. I appreciate the range of experiences and viewpoints each councilperson brings and I hope I have tapped into that when structuring our 2019 Council committees. The complete list of committee assignments can be found on the borough website under "Garwood Government."

As always, I am available to you by email, phone, or in person to talk about the issues that are important to you and to answer any questions you may have. Additionally, I will have the first one of my new Breakfast with the Mayor events on Saturday, February 2 at 10 a.m. at Borough Hall, which will be replacing the traditional, but sparsely attended, Mayor's Saturdays. I hope to see you there!

Together, we, as One Garwood, can ensure the best is yet to come for our great borough. Happy New Year!

Sara Todisco Garwood Mayor

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Planning Board, at their meeting on January 7, 2019, adopted the following resolutions for applications acted upon at the December 3, 2018, and December 17, 2018, meeting.

PB 18-10 D. Villane Construction, LLC., 885 New England Drive, Block 5301 Lot 16. Applicant sought approval to remove the existing single-family home and subdivide the property into two conforming, separate lots. Application denied.

PB 18-12 Arto Ozgub, BB Westfield, LLC., DBA Bareburger, 126 Central Avenue, Block 3116, Lot 9. Applicant sought approval to convert existing retail space into a restaurant with seasonal rooftop dining. Applicant sought variance relief from Section 11.25E3, 17.02B5/17.02C7r, and 17.02G2 of the Land Use Ordinance to allow a rear yard setback of 9.93 feet where the Ordinance requires a minimum rear yard setback of 13.25 feet; to allow no parking spaces where the Ordinance requires 36 parking spaces; to allow no parking spaces and a 26 space increase in an on-site parking deficiency where the Ordinance requires 36 parking spaces for the proposed use where 10 spaces were required for the prior use. Application approved.

Plans and applications are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kris McAloon Planning Board Secretary 1 T - 1/10/19, The Leader Fee: \$36.21

PUBLIC NOTICE

CRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION YEARLY POSTING NOTICE 2019 BOARD MEETINGS

MEETINGS HELD AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM AT LINCOLN SCHOOL (UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)

Table with columns: MONTH, WORK SESSION, REGULAR MEETING. Rows for JANUARY through DECEMBER.

FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT ANY OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS Robert J. Carfagno Business Administrator/Board Secretary Fee: \$41.82

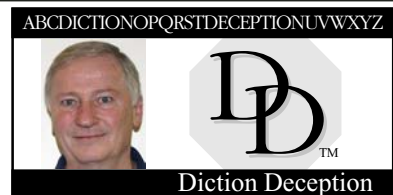
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Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions - only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

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. Goladar - In East India, one who has charge of a storehouse
2. Ferdness - The state of being afraid
3. Felo-de-se - Suicide
4. Culverin - A musket or cannon used in the Middle Ages

- CURASSOW
1. A bird of South and Central America similar to the turkey
2. A liquor of the West Indies with an orange flavor
3. A species of sandpiper
4. A soft-shelled river tortoise

- CAPILLATURE
1. A narrow passageway or crawl space in a cave
2. The striking part of a flail
3. The act of dressing the hair
4. Skylight that admits or deflects light

- FLAGITIOUS
1. Biting; very tart
2. Shameful; corrupt
3. Unfaithful; perfidious
4. Strong; powerful

- FIANTS
1. Straw
2. Poise; dignity
3. Fat; blubber
4. The dung of a fox, wolf or badger

Letters to the Editor

Letters To The Editor Must Be Respectful Of The Other Side

Society has devolved into rancor! Exchange of ideas is becoming a rare bird indeed.

People feel it their right to mouth off with little if any concern for the manner of their expression. But it is not the role of the media to aid in this.

Letters to the editor must be respectful of "the other side" and invariably polite.

Ad hominem argument is well beyond the pale.

Freedom of speech is not a license to use words to abuse anyone. There is something called etiquette.

Stephen Schoeman Westfield

SHERIFF'S SALE

SHERIFF'S FILE NO.: CH-18004098 SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY

DOCKET NO. F-001220-18 Plaintiff: LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC VS. Defendant: SERGIA ABREU AND LARIDIAN CONSULTING INC, ASSIGNEE OF HOSEHOLD BANK

Plaintiff: LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC VS. Defendant: SERGIA ABREU AND LARIDIAN CONSULTING INC, ASSIGNEE OF HOSEHOLD BANK. Sale Date: 01/30/2019. By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the Union County Administration Building, 1st Floor, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey on Wednesday, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sale.

The judgment amount is: \*\*\*Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Three and 21/100\*\*\* \$355,673.21. The property to be sold is located in the Borough of Fanwood in the County of Union and the State of New Jersey.

Premises commonly known as: 57 Locust Avenue. Block: 66, Lot: 31. Dimensions of Lot (approximately): 80 feet x 99 feet.

Nearest Cross Street: South Avenue. Subject to any unpaid taxes, municipal liens or other charges, and any such taxes, charges, liens, insurance premiums or other advances made by plaintiff prior to this sale. The amount due can be obtained from the local taxing authority. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 46B-21 the sale may also be subject to the limited lien priority of any Condominium Homeowners Association liens which may exist.

All interested parties are to conduct and rely upon their own independent investigation to ascertain whether or not any outstanding interest remain of record and/or have priority over the lien being foreclosed and, if so the current amount due thereon.

Total Upset: \*\*\*Three Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Two and 86/100\*\*\* \$364,352.86 together with lawful interest and costs.

Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:64-3 and 4:57-2 stating the nature and extent of that person's claim and asking for an order directing payment of the surplus money. The Sheriff or other person conducting the sale will have information regarding the surplus, if any.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale for any length of time without further advertisement.

Peter Corvelli Sheriff

Attorney: MCCABE, WEISBERG & CONWAY, P.C. 216 HADDON AVENUE SUITE 201 WESTMONT NEW JERSEY 08108 (856) 858-7080 4 T - 01/03, 01/10, 01/17 & 01/24/19 Fee: \$193.80

Union County Freeholders Elizabeth, New Jersey (908) 527-4200 Ed Oatman, Mgr., oatman@ucnj.org Bette Kowalski, chair bkowalski@ucnj.org Sebastian D'Elia, Public Info. (908) 527-4419 sdelia@ucnj.org

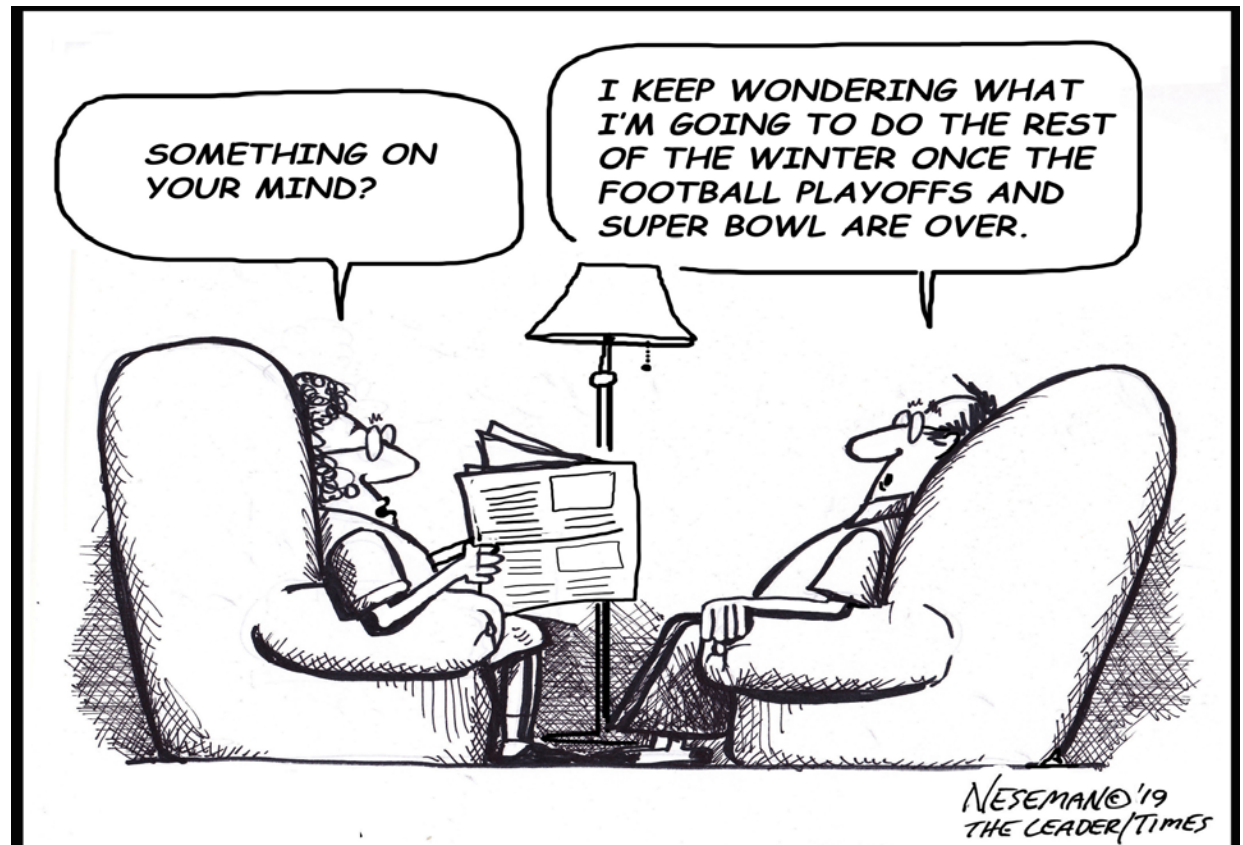


Table with columns: State LD-21, State LD-22, 7th Congressional District, 12th Congressional District. Lists representatives and their contact information.