

Commentary: School, County Taxes Making New Jersey Less Affordable

With Governor Phil Murphy releasing his budget calling for a large increase in state funding, towns and school boards were hoping for big increases in state aid to help soften the impact on taxpayers. But a look at school aid shows that while increases are between 5 to 10 percent over last year, the bulk of school budgets – 90 percent – will continue to be funded through local property taxes. The Governor also has kept aid to towns flat over 2017.

Westfield will see an increase of \$355,000 to \$3,604,871 in its school aid, a hike of 10.9 percent; Cranford's aid will rise \$187,300 for a total of \$2,624,844, up 7.7 percent; Scotch Plains-Fanwood is to receive \$3,527,217, an increase of \$327,337, up 10.2 percent; Garwood is to receive \$504,445, an increase over last year of \$35,000 or 7.5 percent, and Mountainside is receiving \$613,011, up \$43,427 or 7.6 percent. By comparison, Elizabeth will get \$390,553,502, an increase of \$17,238,687 or 4.6 percent, with Plainfield garnering \$132,241,297, up \$5,772,958 or 4.6 percent.

Municipal aid numbers are as follows: Westfield, \$3,073,326; Scotch Plains, \$2,227,587; Fanwood, \$755,288; Cranford, \$2,900,712; Garwood, \$490,186, and Mountainside, \$767,600.

According to the website <http://www.njspotlight.com>, "Over the past eight years, while municipal aid has remained stable for nearly every town, inflation as measured by the change in the Consumer

Not As Many Services To Offer Its Residents As Westfield, Yet Chatham..

I recently read the article of March 18th in The Westfield Leader about plans for maintaining the vitality of our local downtowns, with Westfield in particular. The ideas presented were good, but overlooked the basic underpinning of a thriving commercial community, which is Parking, with a capital P.

I am quite familiar with downtown Westfield, having grown up in the town; my father's business was in the downtown area. As an adult and living nearby, I continued to shop in Westfield. It was familiar and more convenient than driving to a mall.

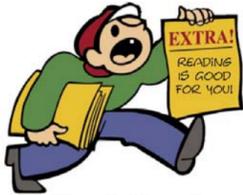
But over the years, as the population of the town increased, parking became a problem. Several times, after searching for a space and not finding one, I'd give up and park on a

Price Index has risen by 15 percent." For instance, Westfield received \$4.6 million in 2007 while Cranford received \$4 million and Scotch Plains \$3.2 million. Even the county seat, Elizabeth, has seen aid decline from \$35.9 million to \$29.2 million during that time period.

In our view, the aid picture must be addressed as well as the ratio of public salaries versus those in the private sector if we are truly going to get property taxes under control in New Jersey. We also call on the Governor and Legislature to reinstate the 2-percent cap on interest arbitration on police and firefighter contracts.

In terms of county taxes, the Union County Freeholders will introduce their budget on Thursday, April 19. As we said last year, the county should use more of its surplus to lower the tax impact in towns. The executive budget proposed \$24 million to be used from surplus in the 2018 budget out of total surplus of \$57.4 million. County taxes in that plan would go up \$8.7 million for a total county tax levy of \$363.5 million.

Something needs to change on school and county taxes or New Jersey will continue to see residents moving out due to the high cost of living.



Garwood DEM Chairman Announces Party Line for Election

I am excited to announce that Incumbent Mayor Charles Lombardo, and his running mates Jennyfer Guerrero and Vincent Kearney, have been chosen as the candidates of the official Democratic Party of Garwood in the Primary Election.

Mayor Charles Lombardo, former councilman for 21 years and Mayor for the last three and a half years, is running for re-election with Jennyfer Guerrero, a PSE&G executive with children in our school system, Vincent Kearney, who will have children in school this fall, fills out the ticket with his strong police experience working for the Union County Sheriff's Office. Jenn and Vincent have never run for public office before. They both are homeowners, both ironically have twins and both have chosen our Small Town with the Big Heart to raise their families.

The motto of the Lombardo-Guerrero-Kearney team is "Garwood Forward" and we would have it no other way. Garwood is moving toward much change and we embrace that change for the betterment of our residents. Yes, we look to the past to build on the future, but we do not dwell on it. If Garwood is to remain a viable and vibrant community, we must change and continue to move forward, otherwise we stagnate. However, it should not be "out with the old and in with the new." We, as a community, will continue to thrive with a broad range of ideas from all of our residents. Our team has the energy, vision, and determination to continue what was begun 10 years ago, under the former two Mayors, and was continued under the leadership of Mayor Lombardo with regard to redevelopment, bringing it to completion. Un-

der Mayor Lombardo's leadership, he has re-energized the Historical Committee so we do not forget our past as we look to our future. But we do not stop there – our team is committed to meet every challenge before us, no matter how small, with vigor and fairness to all constituents in our community. This team is diverse and knowledgeable and our group is one. There is no "I" in our team.

Mayor Lombardo has forged many relationships within our community and with other nearby towns, and met with government leaders of the state and county, with Garwood in mind, not to grab headlines, or for personal gain, but only for the furtherance of Garwood and its residents. Mayor Lombardo brings experience, integrity, fortitude and civility to whatever he does for the Borough. His running mates bring their own strong values and principles and will be an asset to Garwood's current and future viability while we move forward as a community. It is our belief, as Garwood Democrats, that integrity and loyalty are the most valuable and respected qualities of leadership. That is the foundation for the bonds of trust.

To learn more about Mayor Charles and Council Candidates Jenn and Vince, please visit Facebook under @GarwoodForward and their website GarwoodForward.com. Our candidates look forward to engaging with their fellow residents during this campaign, as they demonstrate that their team is the best choice to move Garwood Forward.

Hugh Sinclair,
Chairman
Garwood Democratic Committee

NRA Is Political Weapon Targeting Liberal And Moderate Officials

Thank you for the coverage of Westfield High School Students who like students from other U.S. schools participated in *Standing Together Against Gun Violence*. More than 3,000 schools were involved in this demand for gun reform in one of the largest student-led days of protest in the U.S.

NRA's response has been only to distract from the real threat of guns – and the usual attack on the victims. Politics affect our lives every moment of our lives – and that includes the lives of our children. As parents and towns come together to protect children/youth, remember that members of Congress usually have offices in those same towns and some door-banging might be included. Citizens' demands for *Gun Control* and for *National Health Care for All* must become battering rams on those doors to ensure that the will of the people is no longer ignored.

We are beyond a simple call for "Gun Control" – just as we are beyond believing that America cannot afford a *National Health Care System for All* while our President shops for "Walls" to shut in Americans in the delusion that it will shut out illegal immigrants.

This "Wall" craze costing billions continues on while our government ignores the simplest way to control illegal immigrants and our jobs is by an "Instant Social Security Check" which other nations all use to protect their workers.

America must return to a time when it was rare for any American citizen to own a gun by permit/licensing.

And certainly no one owned an AR15 to protect their home or to hunt with. The NRA has been used as a political weapon targeting liberal and moderate government officials of both national parties over the last decades. The political power of the NRA is suspect as those liberal and moderate members of government were the most likely to call for accountability of government agencies and for consumer protections. NRA is also backed by the Koch Bros./John Birch Society which invested \$40 million in the 2016 elections and plans to increase their investment to \$400 million in the next election.

The Koch model is one of corporate-fascism.

Let's support the children of this community and other towns and schools by coming out to join them in "Standing Together."

Barbara Briemer
Westfield

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD

RESOLUTION 18-03-65

CONTRACTOR: CME Associates, 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, New Jersey 08859

NATURE OF SERVICE: To provide surveying, permitting, design and bid documentation for Forest Road Park

DURATION: Period ending February 28, 2019

AMOUNT: Not to exceed \$48,400.00

A copy of this resolution and contract relating to the services are on file and available for public inspection in the Municipal Clerk's office.

Eleanor McGovern
Borough Administrator/Clerk

1 T - 3/29/18, The Times Fee: \$18.36

Why Did Rep. Lance Signed Off To Repeal Net Neutrality?

Congressman Lance continues to assert his position as a moderate, a position he established while serving in the New Jersey State Assembly. However, a review of his Congressional voting record no longer supports a moderate stance. It appears that his conscience has moved sharply to the right and does not reflect the desires of his constituency.

According to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, The Northeast (Hurricane Corridor) has long been home to illegal pirate radio operations. Illegal use of the airwaves results in harmful interference to nearby licensed stations, and the delivery of emergency announcements to the public.

On March 22, 2018 Congressman. Lance introduced bi-partisan legislation that would strengthen the FCC's enforcement process in preventing illegal radio abuse. Implementation of the regulatory amendment, coupled with maximum fines, would limit the disruption of emergency announcement content and protect the end user, the consumer.

If one considers the need to deliver unfettered information to constituents, regardless of category or importance, you might ask why Congressman Lance signed off on the unpopular position to repeal Net Neutrality. The Internet has become an essential part of our lives and the Net Neutrality guarantee ensures that Internet

Service Providers cannot discriminate against the end user regarding content delivery offered by government, universities, charities, and non-profit organizations.

Congressman Lance's support of the FCC's proposed repeal of Net Neutrality directly harms the consumer by allowing Internet Service Providers to censor content by charging additional fees and subjectively slowing the speed of delivery.

In a December 12, 2017, telephone call to his D.C. office, I was advised that Congressman. Lance had taken no position on Net Neutrality. On December 13, 2017, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, of which Lance is Vice-Chair, released the letter signed by lawmakers supporting the repeal of Net Neutrality. Congressman Lance was one of 107 signatories. The letter was also clearly posted to the FCC website. It should be noted that 132 House Republicans did not sign the letter supporting the repeal.

Perhaps those members who did not sign the letter, were swayed by a recent study that showed an overwhelming majority of Republican voters were not in favor of the FCC's repeal proposal.

Christine Mosquera
Cranford

Legal Advertising

MORE IN BACK SECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the ordinances of the Township of Cranford and the statutes of the State of New Jersey, Notice is hereby served that an application for development, Application No. ZBA-17-031 to be located in Neighborhood Commercial District on the premises known as the Address: 496 Centennial Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016, Block No. 594, Lot No. 8, has been submitted by Applicant: Emanuel Nimrud of 12 Hickory Street, Cranford, New Jersey 07016.

Applicant is applying for preliminary and final site plan approval for a mixed use structure consisting of two (2) bedroom apartments, two (2) one bedroom apartments and one store. Eleven parking spaces are provided.

The application requires the following variances:

1. Section 255-39 B (22) (a) (7) D-3. The permitted residential density is 3.65 units. Applicant is proposing 4 units which is a deviation from the standards of a conditional use.

2. Section 255-34 Attachment 1, Schedule 1. Variance for side yard setback. The ordinance requires each side to be at least 12 feet. The Applicant is proposing 3 feet on the east side of the property.

3. Section 255-34 Attachment 1, Schedule 1. Variance for both side yard setbacks. The ordinance requires a combined side yard setback of 24 feet. The Applicant is proposing 18 feet.

4. Section 255-34 Attachment 1, Schedule 1. Variance for maximum lot impervious coverage. The ordinance limits impervious coverage to 75%. The Applicant proposed 84.9% impervious coverage.

5. Section 255-39 B (2) (g) D-5 variance for density – Applicant is proposing to increase the use to 4 units.

6. Section 255-39 B (22) (h). D-3 and/or D-5 variance for residential on first floor where the use does not meet the conditions and/or the use on the first floor is not defined.

There are two pre-existing non-conforming conditions existing:

1. Section 255-34, Attachment 1, Schedule 1. The minimum lot area required is 15,000 square feet. The property is 7,960

PUBLIC NOTICE

square feet.

2. Section 255-34, Attachment 1, Schedule 1. Minimum lot width. The required lot width is 100 feet. The property is 60 feet wide.

Applicant also requests the following design waivers:

1. Section 255-26 G.3 (a). Waiver for parking setback from street right-of-way. The ordinance requires parking setback equal to the building setback of 7.5 feet. The Applicant is proposing no parking setback from the Cranford Terrace right-of-way.

2. Section 255-26 G.3 (a). Waiver for parking setback from the principal building. The ordinance requires a 5 foot setback. The Applicant proposes to have 4 parking spaces under the second floor of the building.

3. Section 255-26 G.3 (a). Waiver for parking setback from a Residential Zone boundary. The ordinance requires 25 feet. The Applicant proposed less.

4. Section 255-26 G. (8) (a). Waiver for parking lot landscaping. The ordinance requires 10%. The Applicant proposes less.

5. Section 255-26 G. (a). Waiver for parking lot lighting.

6. Section 255-26 G. (11) (a). Waiver for off street loading space.

7. Section 255-26 L. (1) & (2). Waiver for facade materials.

Applicant also requests any other variances, waivers or relief that the Board may require.

The Zoning Board will conduct a public hearing on this matter on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 8:15 p.m., in Room 107 of the Cranford Township Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016. Any person or persons affected by this application will have an opportunity to present any objections to the proposed development. The Board does, however, have the right to exclude repetitious testimony.

All documents relating to this application may be inspected by the public Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Zoning/Planning Department, Cranford Township Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016.

Gary S. Goodman, Esq.
23 North Avenue East
Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Attorney for: Emanuel Nimrud
1 T - 3/29/18, The Leader Fee: \$95.88

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinances were finally adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey, on the 20th of MARCH 2018.

ORDINANCE 2018-2

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XII "SEWER AND WATER" OF THE TOWNSHIP'S GENERAL ORDINANCES.

ORDINANCE 2018-3

ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER XVII ENTITLED FIRE PREVENTION IN ITS ENTIRETY.

ORDINANCE 2018-4

ORDINANCE TO AMEND SCHEDULE IV (TIME LIMITED PARKING) IN CHAPTER VII (TRAFFIC) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS TO AMEND THE TIME LIMIT BARTLE AVENUE, PARK AVENUE AND WESTFIELD AVENUE.

ORDINANCE 2018-5

ORDINANCE TO AMEND SCHEDULE I (PROHIBITED PARKING) IN CHAPTER VII (TRAFFIC) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS TO INCLUDE CHURCH AVENUE.

ORDINANCE 2018-6

ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER XXIV (HEALTH) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF SCOTCH PLAINS TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 12 ENTITLED "SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY".

ORDINANCE 2018-7

ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-25, FEES FOR SERVICES, AT SUBSECTION 2-25.5, "FEES FOR POLICE SERVICE," OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS.

ORDINANCE 2018-8

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 2-19A.6 (TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR CONSTRUCTION – OFF DUTY POLICE OFFICERS REQUIRED) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS.

BOZENA LACINA, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK
1 T - 3/29/18, The Times Fee: \$63.75

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