



**GURRIERI REMEMBERED...**The Garwood Historical Committee will honor former Mayor Georgiana Gurrieri this Saturday, September 29, when the committee will rededicate Georgiana Gurrieri Memorial Park at 11 a.m. with a rain date of Sunday, September 30, also at 11 a.m. The public is invited to this 25th anniversary ceremony. The park is located on the corner of Walnut Street and Fourth Avenue and is known for its landscaping and gazebo erected in 1993 to Mayor Gurrieri's memory who had died in office. For further information, please contact the Committee at [garwoodhistory@garwood.org](mailto:garwoodhistory@garwood.org).

## Acknowledge Ken Williams And NJ-Transit For Their Rerouting

On behalf of The GWACC, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the thousands upon thousands of attendees who have helped make our 29th Annual Spencer Savings Bank FestiFall event in downtown Westfield such a great success, last Sunday, September 23. The weather cooperated and visitors, who came out and supported not only our local Westfield vendors but the vendors from neighboring towns, arrived from places like Watchung, Union, Pompton Lakes, Forked River, Basking Ridge, Warren, New Hope, Pa., local neighboring towns and, of course, Westfield. The new relocated enlarged Kids Zone at the North Avenue Station was a big success.

I would also like to offer my gratitude to our very generous sponsors, Spencer Savings Bank, Toyota, Z100, NJ Kids on the Go! and *The Star Ledger*. Their continued sponsorship helps us to offer these wonderful events for our community.

We appreciate Mayor Brindle and Town Administrator Jim Gildea for their assistance in helping us make this annual event so successful. Thank you to the Town of Westfield's, Police Chief and the entire police department for their assistance with street closures and redirecting traffic. I would also like to thank Greg O'Neill and the Department of Public Works for their tireless efforts with set up and clean up before and after FestiFall. We would also like to acknowledge chief regional officer of NJ Transit, Ken Williams, and NJ Transit for their help with rerouting bus service in our area for Sunday, September 23. Many thanks to executive director of the Downtown Westfield Corporation, Sherry Cronin, and the staff of the DWC for their constant support and publicity of our annual street fairs.

A special thank you goes to the residents of The Savannah, Gina Caminito and those residents above the PNC Bank for their understanding and cooperation with street closures.

FestiFall 2019 will be our 30th anniversary of being this event to downtown Westfield and we hope to see everyone there next year.

**Gene Jannotti**  
Executive Director GWACC



**NOTARY SEMINAR...**Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, left, hosted a notary public seminar for county residents on September 14 at the Union County Police Academy in Scotch Plains. County Surrogate James LaCorte, right, was the guest speaker at the event.

## Scutari Bill Focuses on Use Of Ignition Locking Devices

TRENTON - The Senate Judiciary Committee on September 24 approved legislation sponsored by Senator Nick Scutari (D-2nd, Linden) that would revamp New Jersey's Driving Under The Influence (DUI) penalties to focus more on the use of ignition locking devices.

The bill, S-824, would increase the use of ignition interlock devices (IID) for those found guilty of DUI. The ignition interlock is a device wired to a vehicle's ignition and requires a breath sample before the engine will start. If the IID detects alcohol on the driver's breath above the legal limit, the engine will not start.

"This bill would move New Jersey away from driver's license suspensions as the default penalty for offenders charged with drunken driv-

ing in favor of the use of IIDs," said Senator Scutari, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The bill would make installation of an ignition interlock device preferred for first-time offenders and required during the license suspension, as well as possibly for an extended period after the suspension. For first time offenders whose Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is 0.08 or higher and less than 0.10 percent, the required period of installation would be three to six months; for a BAC of 0.10 percent or higher but less than 0.15 percent, the installation period would be seven months to one year; and for a BAC of 0.15 percent or higher the installation period could commence in addition to the license suspension.

## Letters to the Editor

### Residents, Companies And Town Working Together On Garbage

I understand that the October 1 Westfield Board of Health agenda will include a discussion about garbage collection in Westfield. It seems earlier this year there was a survey by the Green Team of Westfield - 385 of 30,300 Westfield residents responded. The survey seemed to seek comments on moving to once a week collection, the regulation against putting garbage curbside, the noise and pollution created by the garbage collection in Westfield.

Moving from twice a week to once a week collection would not reduce the amount of garbage to be collected so it seems this proposal is driven by the noise and pollution concerns. Once a week collection would reduce both. At a minimum before going to once garbage collection another survey should be taken as such a change should not be made when just over one percent of residents responded.

This change could lead to sanitary, quality of life and other issues as well as lost jobs at the garbage companies.

But if reducing noise and pollution are the rationale for this proposal then the regulation against residents placing their garbage curbside conflicts with the proposal. Curbside pick-up would speed up garbage collection thus addressing both the noise

and pollution concerns.

During college, I spent two summers on the Millburn Township garbage crew. The town had twice a week garbage collection and required residents to place their garbage curbside. The first sweep through town averaged six to seven hours while the second sweep averaged less than three hours, even with a stop for breakfast.

By any measurement, the two communities are similar so allowing residents the option to place their garbage curbside would not diminish Westfield, but it would assist in meeting the goals of less noise and pollution.

The town codes can be modified so that residents can place their garbage curbside, if they would like, and companies can offer once a week pick-up. I trust residents and the companies can work together so that all receive the service they would like.

What a novel concept residents, companies and town officials working together to adjust town codes to reduce regulations, provide residents and business more options while avoiding mandates. These are better solutions than unnecessary overregulation from government.

**Tom Madaras**  
Westfield

### High Density Zoning Atrocities [And Affordable Housing] In Scotch Plains

The Bowcraft approvals just announced by our Planning Board are the latest stage in the series of zoning atrocities created by our Town Council in the name of "Fair Housing," a half-century-old "Mount Laurel" zoning concept which was invented and is now controlled by developers and judges.

The original modest goal in 1975 was that zoning should accommodate some housing for low- and moderate-income families. The modern reality has become a massive real estate speculators scam which forces incredible over-development in suburbs uniquely ill-suited for the densities handed out, together with decades of tax abatements, and no provision for the infrastructures about to be overwhelmed by the thousands of new residents.

These deals were all negotiated in total secrecy with the "Fair Housing Center," a large real estate developer which is a very profitable non-profit, with the contracts not even made public prior to the Council approval votes, and with none of the routine notices and hearings and expert testimony about schools and traffic and the environment and wetlands and neighborhood effects that would be required for even a routine individual variance from our town's zoning master plan.

Parker Nursery, on one of the Town's most congested streets in the very heart of residential Scotch Plains, was awarded an incredible 228 Units of townhouses and apartments, approximately 17 times the 13 homes which Parker could have legally constructed under the Scotch Plains Master Plan.

The Parker property is in an area where scores of neighboring homes have remained unsold for extended periods, years in some cases, obviously in fear of what might happen with Parker. Our residents' worst fears have now been realized.

The Parker monstrosity is a poster child for Mount Laurel zoning run amok. For decades the property, surrounded by wetlands, under towering electrical towers, was a nursery infested with hazardous fertilizers and lethal insecticides and pesticides. The degree of the contamination is obviously pervasive but still unmeasured, since the Town never required EPA testing or any cleanup program. The area is strangled by traffic, dangerously close to schools, and has no available bus or other mass transit even though it resides miles from the railroad and Town Center. Amenities? Swimming pool? Gardens? Basketball courts? There are none, just buildings jammed as closely as possible next to more buildings.

There are many solutions to Mount Laurel, such as our in-Town redevelopment, where the handful of Parker fair housing units could easily have been

located, and use of the many other properties currently owned by our Township in excellent locations. Fanwood is a classic example of a logical solution, very publicly reached and very beneficial to the area. By comparison, the Scotch Plains Plan, implemented in almost total secrecy, is a disaster.

Scotch Plains simply gave up without a fight, and without any effective notice to residents or any opportunity for voters' opinions and objections to be heard. Of the many possible solutions for lower-income housing, the developers insisted on the ones which would give them the highest profits. The Scotch Plains Council meekly agreed, as quietly as possible, in closed sessions where residents were banned, and now say they acted "with a gun to their heads and a knife to their throats." The Open Public Meetings Law was simply ignored, since the deal was cleverly cloaked in a lawsuit wrapper. Not one elected or appointed official appeared in Court to oppose the rubber stamp of the Plan.

Lower-income homes are ideally located conveniently close to shopping and other services rather than far off, such as where the contaminated Parker property is sited. Several times every day, the intense traffic on Terrill Road is positively dangerous to the children from the three nearby schools.

This incredibly high-density zoning, in the very middle of our Town's formerly finest residential area, is simply atrocious. Some lawsuits should be settled. This was not one of them. Our Council should have defended our Township. They should have fought for our values. That's why they were elected. And if this Parker insanity is their vision of the future of Scotch Plains, that's why they should not be elected again.

**Robert McTamney**  
Scotch Plains



**OLD GLORY...**Cranford Boy Scouts hold a traditional flag retirement ceremony earlier this month. The Scouts salute as the flag is given a farewell by fire, in what is regarded as a dignified way to retire a flag when it is in "such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display," according to the United States Flag Code.

### Reminding The Taxpayers That It Is Their Money On The Line

A few weeks back Peter Kane, one of my running mates for the office of Union County Freeholder, blasted out an email that just screamed to be shared. The subject line read: Who does Al Mirabella think he is? Governor?

The email featured a picture of Freeholder Al Mirabella and a picture of our governor, Phil Murphy, with a caption beneath inquiring "which of these two men makes more \$\$\$ than the other?" Kane went on to deliver the answer concisely: Al Mirabella makes over \$178K + from his two government salaries.

Phil Murphy (poor guy) ONLY makes \$175K from his one job as Governor. Kane then asks the reader who they think has the more important job. Well, who does?

Murphy has 24/7 responsibility for the more than 9,000,000 residents of the State of New Jersey. Mirabella is employed by the Township of Scotch Plains with just over 24,000 residents earning \$150K as the administrator. He earns \$31.9K in the elected position of Union County Freeholder. Al shares responsibility for the county's 563,892 residents with eight other board members giving them about 60,000 residents each. (And by the way they voted themselves a raise this year.)

Freeholder Candidate Kane asks us all "Does Al Mirabella really think he is more important than the Govern-

nor?" Compare the salaries with the responsibility and the stress attached to the positions. Mirabella does not shoulder life and death issues alone while the buck ultimately stops at the desks of Governor Murphy and Mayor Al Smith in Scotch Plains.

Holding on to his freeholder seat has Mirabella bringing many conflicts to both tables and inflates his pension along with his ego which he should just check at the door. Heading into his seventh term on the all-Democratic Board of Chosen Freeholders, he is surely guaranteed a very large golden parachute of \$1 million at a minimum upon his retirement.

Peter Kane reminds the taxpayers that it is their money on the line and asks for their support for the entire Republican Freeholder Slate in column B on Election Day, Tuesday November 6.

**Freeholder Candidates**  
Patricia Quattrocchi, Clark  
Joe Sarno, Scotch Plains  
Peter Kane, Summit

**We'll Help You  
Get Your Business  
in the Spotlight!**  
**908-232-4407**  
[goleader.com/form/bulletin](http://goleader.com/form/bulletin)

### DUGHI, HEWIT & DOMALEWSKI Criminal Defense Matters

State and Municipal Criminal Court  
Motor Vehicle Tickets • DWI



Call Brandon Minde, Former Prosecutor

Mention this ad for a complimentary conference

340 North Avenue, Cranford, NJ  
(908) 272-0200 • [www.dughihewit.com](http://www.dughihewit.com)



The Law Office of

**FRANCIS M. SMITH, ESQ.**

**INJURED?**

**LEARN YOUR RIGHTS IN PLAIN ENGLISH**



Do you really want to deal with the insurance companies yourself?

**I can help.**

**OVER 30 YEARS OF  
PERSONAL INJURY EXPERIENCE  
IN NEW JERSEY**

Motor Vehicle Accidents  
Slips & Falls  
Dog Bite Injuries  
Construction Accidents  
Wrongful Death

928 Mountain Avenue, Mountainside NJ 07092  
**908-233-5800 • [www.FrankSmithLaw.com](http://www.FrankSmithLaw.com)**

**NO FEE IF NO RECOVERY  
CALL ME FOR A FREE CONSULTATION**

### Interiors So Lovely, You'll Want to Stay Home

Think "Superior" For:

- Expert Consultation Services
- Space Planning / Room Layouts
- Remodeling Services
- All Interior Related Products:  
Furniture Floor Coverings  
Lighting Window Treatments  
Accessorizing & Finishing Touches



Joanne Womeldorf, IFDA, ASID allied  
Phone: 908.232.3875  
[www.superiorinteriorsofnj.com](http://www.superiorinteriorsofnj.com)

