

Reader Disagrees with Dissenter on Westfield \$10 Million School Bond

The [Westfield school] bond referendum is positive for neighborhoods. I'll give more than one good reason. After reading (December 21 letter to the editor) Mr. Sumner's extremely negative and cynical opinion regarding the upcoming bond referendum, I felt a need to respond. After thoroughly reading Mr. Sumner's piece, I ascertain his three main issues are:

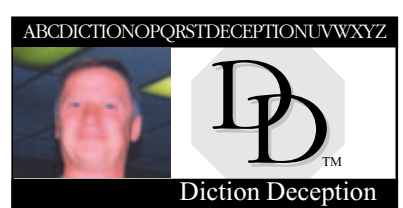
- 1. The renovations at Roosevelt do nothing for the overcrowding issue at the intermediate level.
 - 2. The Lincoln renovations should not occur for it will take away neighborhood school kindergarten.
 - 3. The electives of Mandarin and Robotics are unnecessary and only a means to help solve the overcrowding issue.
- The decision to do the renovations at Roosevelt came from recommendations from a citizen's advisory committee appointed by the board of education. I don't know if Mr. Sumner has viewed the physical space himself, but I have and it is clear to me there are serious space issues in Roosevelt's cafeteria and library.
- There are also safety concerns as well. With recent school shootings all over the country, it is imperative that Westfield schools be secure. With the present Roosevelt school, not everything is secure, as doors must be left open so students may pass from one building to the next.

To me the Lincoln School project is a necessity. Mr. Sumner failed to mention that almost every elementary school has no music or art room. Students have art on a roving cart and some students have music in kitchens and hallways. Renovating Lincoln will open up elementary school space we desperately need for art, music and potentially better class size for our kids.

Moreover, our special education programs will be improved, which opens up possibilities to bring more 'special ed' back into our district, potentially saving tax dollars.

Mr. Sumner's contention is that Westfield families will forgo Lincoln and send their children to full day, private kindergarten. If you can afford it — what about the families who have no choice about where their kids go to kindergarten? I know I couldn't afford it. It is also a place that could house full day kindergarten in the future.

Is having Mandarin and robotics as an elective only a means to help move kids to Edison in an effort to avoid redistricting? I'm not so sure. I would imagine some families who move to Westfield for an



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. Rhexis — In medicine, the rupture of an organ or vessel
- 2. Lampadedromy — A torch in honor of Prometheus
- 3. Spoor — The tracks of a wild animal
- 4. Matanza — A slaughterhouse

- TENEBOUS**
- 1. Shameful; corrupt
 - 2. Tired, mean, or worn out
 - 3. Dark; gloomy
 - 4. Tentative; timid

- TEFF**
- 1. To make or look smart; to dress up
 - 2. A mild, friendly slap on the back or shoulder
 - 3. A grain plant of Abyssinia from which flour is made
 - 4. Excessive grief; very sad

- MAMMONISM**
- 1. Acting indiscreetly; carelessly
 - 2. The act of defiling; corruption
 - 3. Devotion to the greedy pursuit of riches
 - 4. Passing on unfavorable genetic traits

- SPRAINTS**
- 1. The waste or dung of an otter
 - 2. Splints used for broken bones
 - 3. Spittle
 - 4. Small number; insufficiency

County Audit 2005

Public Record Available

The Union County Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2005 has been obtained by *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* and has been posted on the Internet for the public to download at www.goleader.com/features.

Christie Receives JNF Award

FLORHAM PARK — Political leaders honored U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie at Jewish National Fund's Tree of Life award gala on November 30 at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston. Westfield resident William Palatucci and Jerold Zaro of Ocean Township co-chaired the event. The humanitarian award recognizes outstanding community involvement, dedication to the cause of American-Israeli friendship, and devotion to peace and the security of human life.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the great work of Jewish National Fund," said Mr. Christie. "To be associated with them by receiving this honor is one of the best things I have had a chance to do as U.S. Attorney."

The gala guest list included political notables such as Gov. Jim Florio, Attorney General Stuart Rabner, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, Ambassador Clay Constantinou, Senate President Richard Codey, Asm. Jon Bramnick, Sen. Bill Gormley, Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo and Essex County Prosecutor Paula Dow. Former award recipients George Norcross, Michael Griffinger and David Samson were also in attendance.

For more information on JNF and the event, contact Joel Leibowitz at (973) 593-0095 or jleibowitz@jnf.org.

Letters to the Editor

Roosevelt School Bond Needed, Redistricting Strongly Opposed

excellent education would expect these types of electives for the tax dollars they pay.

I truly feel to characterize these curriculum subjects as "Spongebob Squarepants" and songs by Greenday and The Killers is not only offensive, but also unnecessary.

Lastly, I ask Mr. Sumner for solutions. His whole piece never mentioned one solution for elementary school overcrowding, safety issues at Roosevelt, inadequate space for Roosevelt's library and cafeteria. As someone who is a manager in his professional life I see how easy it is for the people not making the decisions to criticize those making them without offering viable alternatives.

I encourage everyone to vote 'yes' for the upcoming school bond in the referendum on Jan. 23, 2007. It is viable investment in the education of our children. Having safe children at Roosevelt, art and music in elementary classrooms, better elementary school class size and higher quality special education are reasons enough for me.

Eric Leuthold
Westfield

I grew up in Westfield, attended Roosevelt in the late 1970s, and graduated from WHS in 1981. Earlier this year, I was a member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Enrollment (CACE).

Our committee toured Roosevelt and it was obvious that renovations are needed to the library and cafeteria. The CACE voted to recommend a bond to upgrade the facility. A town such as Westfield whose reputation is based in large part on the quality of its schools cannot afford to have substandard school buildings. I believe that citizens should keep this in mind when deciding whether to support the bond on January 23.

The CACE did not vote for an Early Childhood Center at Lincoln School because that was not one of the options with which we were presented for a final vote. However, the proposal seems to make good sense and I defer to the Superintendent and the Board of Education's considered judgment on that issue.

As a member of CACE, I strongly opposed middle school redistricting and sup-

ported the creation of a magnet program at Edison as a creative way to balance enrollment between the two middle schools. The CACE spent a considerable amount of time discussing and debating this issue and, eventually, a majority of the committee voted to recommend the creation of a voluntary magnet program at Edison. The two magnet programs that have been proposed are Mandarin and Robotics. Ultimately, however, if not enough students express interest in the proposed magnet programs, the Superintendent and Board of Education may decide to redistrict on the middle school level beginning in the 2008 school year. Unlike the bond for upgrading the schools, redistricting will not be the subject of a town-wide vote. The proposed magnet programs are worthwhile and will enhance our middle school curriculum. It is my hope that enough students will express interest in them so as to eliminate the need for any middle school redistricting.

Joe Aronds
Westfield

Pedestrian Hazard at Rialto Discussed By Westfielder and Police Department

I just arrived home after driving through downtown Westfield and witnessing something that will eventually cost someone their life. At least once a month, I see someone trying to cross East Broad Street directly in front of the corner at the Rialto Theater, instead of going around and using the designated crosswalks. Today happened to be the beautiful Saturday before Christmas at 2 p.m. when the streets and sidewalks were as busy as possible.

Drivers turning right from Central Avenue onto East Broad Street typically are looking left and straight ahead to make sure there are no cars coming from the left or pedestrians crossing Central Ave. from the Rialto. Now with the new lights, it is even easier just to glance left and flow to the right knowing that you have the light and there is no cross walk in front of the Rialto (and now a green arrow encouraging you to go).

With unfortunate certainty, some unlucky driver will eventually make that right a little too quickly, and strike an even unluckier pedestrian who is crossing East Broad St. illegally across from the Rialto. The town should quickly put up some sort of barrier at the sidewalks, or

at least an obvious and stern warning to not take their lives into their own hands by just being too lazy to use the appropriate cross walks.

As my wife just said, "Better to wait for a green light than wait for an ambulance."

Don Rosenthal
Westfield

Editor's Note: Westfield Police Department's reply:

Thank you for your information on your observations. We have been aware of this problem and have been in contact with Union County on this matter. It appears that the County of Union will not allow us to place a barrier up. We have been looking at this since the construction of the lights. The county feels that a barrier will only cause more problems. Example: An evacuation of the theater, pedestrians that will attempt to cross anyway, etc.

The town council and the police department are continuing talks with the county to address this hazard.

Chief John Parizeau
Westfield Police Dept.

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Happy New Year 2007

ShopRite Wines & Spirits Marketplace

- Veve Clicquot Brut Yellow Label Champagne** 35⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Korbel Brut, Extra Dry or Brut Rose** 10⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Domaine Chandon Brut or Blanc de Noir** 13⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Piper Heidsieck Brut or Extra Dry** 29⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Moet & Chandon White Star** 29⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Dom Perignon** 109⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Mionetto Prosecco di Valdobbiadene Frizzante** 12⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Louis Roederer Brut Champagne** 36⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Pommery Brut** 29⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Heidsieck Monopole (Blue Top)** 24⁹⁹ 750 ML
- M&R Asti** 9⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Cook's Sparkling Wines** 5⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Andre Sparkling Wines** 3⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Freixenet Cordon Negro** 7⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Nando Asti** 7⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Due Torri Pinot Grigio or Merlot** 9⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Black Swan All Types** 9⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Real Sangria** 9⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Ruffino Chianti** 11⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Marques de Riscal Tempranillo or Rueda** 7⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Franzia Wines House Wine Favorites** 8⁹⁹ 80K
- Old World Classics** 10⁹⁹ 80K
- Vintner Select** 12⁹⁹ 80K
- Luna di Luna All Types** 14⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Barefoot Cellars All Types** 8⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Arbor Mist All Types (Exc. Blenders)** 6⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Foxhorn All Types** 4⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Porto**
 - Quinta do Noval Ruby or Tawny** 9⁹⁹ 750 ML
 - LB** 15⁹⁹ 750 ML
 - LBV '98** 19⁹⁹ 750 ML
 - 10-YR. Old Tawny** 24⁹⁹ 750 ML
 - 20-YR. Old Tawny** 59⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Coppola Diamond Series** 11⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Ravenswood Vintner's Blend** 8⁹⁹ 750 ML
- CK Mondavi** 10⁹⁹ 1.5 L
- Georges Dubouef** 7⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Mondavi NAPA All 750 ML**
 - CABERNET** 17⁹⁹
 - MERLOT** 15⁹⁹
 - PINOT NOIR** 15⁹⁹
 - CHARDONNAY** 14⁹⁹
 - FUME BLANC** 12⁹⁹

Stolichnaya Vodka 30⁹⁹ 1.75 L

Dewar's White Label 28⁹⁹ 1.75 L

Bacardi Rum Light or Gold 19⁹⁹ 1.75 L

Beefeater Gin 27⁹⁹ 1.75 L

Jack Daniels 36⁹⁹ 1.75 L

Sauza Ex-Gold or White 29⁹⁹ 1.75 L

VODKA

- Smirnoff 80°** 19⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Smirnoff Flavors** 20⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Wolfschmidt** 13⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Crystal** 9⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Plymouth** 19⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Gilbey's** 13⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Crystal** 10⁹⁹ 1.75 L

JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY

- Jim Beam** 24⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Seagram's 7 Crown** 15⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- E&J Brandy** 16⁹⁹ 1.75 L

SCOTCH

- Johnnie Walker Black-12 yr old** 54⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Chivas Regal 12 yr old** 49⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Clan MacGregor** 15⁹⁹ 1.75 L

CANADIAN

- Seagram's VO** 19⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Canadian Mist** 14⁹⁹ 1.75 L

RUM

- Malibu** 24⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Ron Romero Light or Dark** 12⁹⁹ 1.75 L

CORDIALS

- Kahlua** 31⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Grand Marnier** 28⁹⁹ 750 ML
- Southern Comfort** 24⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Baileys Irish Cream** 17⁹⁹ 750 ML
- DeKuyper Pucker Sour Apple** 16⁹⁹ 1.75 L
- Kamora Coffee Liqueur** 16⁹⁹ 1.75 L

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