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<b>Paul Peyton</b> ASSIGNMENT EDITOR	<b>Horace R. Corbin</b> PUBLISHER	<b>Fred K. Lecomte</b> MARKETING DIRECTOR
<b>Suzette F. Stalker</b> COMMUNITY	<b>David B. Corbin</b> ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS	<b>Michael L. Bartiromo</b> MARKETING PRODUCTION
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**21st District News**  
**New Jersey Motorists, be  
 Warned about Gas Tax Hike**

**Assemblyman Eric Munoz, Summit**

New Jersey motorists, as gas prices continue their steady climb, Democrats are sending clear signals that other commuting expenses are also about to increase - probably not long after this year's election.

All New Jersey residents need to do is read the newspaper and they can see the warning signs that more tax hikes lurk beyond this year's election. Last week, we learned of a plan to guarantee annual toll increases and we learn that Governor Jon Corzine is again exploring the idea of a gas tax hike.

Haven't New Jersey taxpayers had enough? After 94 tax increases in the past five years this is outrageous.

An Associated Press story today [June 1] quoted Governor Corzine as saying that the gas tax may have to go up someday to help pay for mass transit and highway needs. "It's certainly something we have to take



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?

- All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.**
- Answers to last week's arcane words.**
1. Lusk - Lazy; idle
  2. Tuberous - A shark
  3. Pilirogenous - Covered with hair
  4. Braccate - Having feathers which conceal the feet and legs
- REREDEMAIN**
1. Slight of hand; trickery
  2. Armor for the part of the arm above the elbow
  3. In military usage, the beat of a drum, summoning to arms
  4. A backhanded stroke
- TINNITUS**
1. A whistling or ringing in the ear
  2. Gaudy and superficial
  3. A skin disease caused by a fungus; ringworm
  4. Crude borax
- LOUP-GAROU**
1. A small globular vessel of polished brass
  2. A gold coin of France, first struck in 1640, in the reign of Louis XIII
  3. In aviation, a downward spiral
  4. A werewolf
- GRAMARYE**
1. Elements or rudiments of any subject
  2. Great thanks; formerly used to express thankfulness with surprise
  3. Grief; misery
  4. Magic, wizardry

**How Much Growth is Smart  
 For Fanwood's Development?**

This is one of many questions being asked as the Borough of Fanwood conducts hearings on the development of the South Avenue corridor as part of a pilot program called Transfer of Development Rights (TDR). Assemblywoman Linda Stender of Fanwood arranged for a grant from the Department of Smart Growth. Then, Mayor Collen Mahr and the council hired T&M Associates to prepare a TDR plan that would allow increased development above and beyond current zoning allowance.

In March of 2004, then Governor James McGreevey signed into law the State Transfer of Development Rights Act, authorizing municipalities statewide to enact TDR ordinances. TDR is an experimental process, complex in our view, in which homeowners in an historic district would sell their development rights (and encumber their deeds) to a TDR bank. Developers would buy rights at market price from the bank and cash them in for permission to increase the density of property over what is otherwise allowed under zoning in another area - in this case along South Avenue.

New Jersey has used TDR for open space preservation projects, but this is the first time that it is being proposed for municipal historic development.

T&M Associates, after a number of public visioning meetings, developed a plan. It was presented to the council and then to the planning board in Febru-

ary. This plan increases building footprints, housing density and reduces parking requirements. It proposes 242 residential units above first floors containing commerce. A multi-family building near the train station is another potential. Two other scenarios of 112 and 151 residential units were submitted in April of this year.

Fanwood is already making good progress with revitalizing its shopping district without TDR. As such, 70 new apartments/townhouses are earmarked. With this and TDR, there is a potential for over 300 residential units. To think about it, the combination could increase the population of Fanwood by 10 percent. What impact will this have on traffic, parking and schools? Does this extent of development go beyond the purpose?

To answer some of these questions, the planning board has scheduled a special meeting for June 18. This is the time for the public to provide their input.

Other towns that were part of the state TDR experiment have abandoned their efforts, considering TDR to be too complex, burdensome and without a clear point. Maybe TDR would somehow preserve historic homes. But Fanwood, a fully developed community comprised predominantly of single-family homes, has to ask itself, "How much growth is really smart, is it worth the cost and are there less burdensome means than TDR to do so?"

**Letters to the Editor**

**WF Council, BOE Need to Work  
 Together for WHS Parking Solution**

Every morning Westfield High School (WHS) students are circling around neighborhood streets looking for a place to park. Without any off-street parking on WHS grounds provided for them, what else can they do? In recent years, some streets have been selectively closed off to students, while others have two-hour parking restrictions. This has left streets that are further away from the high school, unfairly burdened with parking on both sides. It is a concern for students, parents and residents alike.

The board of education and town council members should consider working together to remedy this situation. Why have some streets been granted a ban from WHS student parking, which only pushed the problem out onto other neighborhood streets? A fair, equitable, burden sharing system should be implemented. Streets that currently restrict WHS student parking completely should be reopened on an alternate-side basis.

A system like the one Cranford put in place around their high school should be considered. On school days, alternate side parking on odd and even days with permitted residents excluded, which means residents could park in front of their house. With cars lining both sides of the street it is difficult for service people such as landscapers, plumbers, Comcast, Verizon, etc. to find a place to park. All streets surrounding WHS should have the same sign, same parking restrictions. No unfair special treatment for some streets. Why are some streets currently given special treatment without consideration for their neighbors?

It is selective closures like this that have exacerbated the problem. It has been four years since the "Southside Redevelopment Project," otherwise known as the parking deck, has been tabled. Those streets that were earmarked to provide parking for displaced commuters during deck construction still have two-hour parking restrictions. Safe off-street parking is needed for students. Currently, stu-

dents are not permitted to park in the WHS parking lot, as was allowed in past years.

When the addition to WHS was being built, additional parking spaces should have been added to WHS grounds to provide parking for the additional teachers and staff that were hired. Instead, the BOE simply stopped allowing students to park in the lot behind the high school and forced every student that drives to school out onto local streets. Having cars lined up along both sides of the street creates a dangerous situation for drivers as their line of sight may be blocked, especially along streets that have curves in the road. The board of education should look at adding 40 spaces to WHS property next to the auditorium along Rahway Avenue and building three additional rows of parking, dedicated to students, behind the high school.

Also, a circular driveway in front of the school could provide additional parking. Making Dorian Road, in front of the high school, a one-way street in the morning should also be considered. This would create a circular traffic flow around the high school and prevent kids from being dropped off opposite the high school and then having to run across the middle of the street.

This would be similar to what has been done around some of the town elementary schools. Perhaps an independent traffic safety and parking consulting firm needs to be hired to specifically solve this problem. I urge students, parents and residents to contact the board of education and their councilpersons to work on remedying the current unfair system and provide safe off-street parking for students. I politely request the BOE to please work with the mayor and town council for a solution. I also urge all council members, no matter which committee they are on, to follow through on this issue.

**Businesses Helped Our  
 Students Flourish**

On behalf of Redeemer Lutheran School, I'd like to thank some wonderful local businesses that generously contributed to a green thumb gardening event for parents and students at the school on May 19. We had a dedicated group of moms and students who gardened (in the rain) and turned a weedy plot into a bright, flowering garden with donations from the Watching Home Depot, Parkers Garden Center, Ferrara Garden Center and Williams Nursery.

The students got a chance to exercise their creativity with color and pattern and learned something about gardening in the process. The moms who participated were treated to manicures donated from Galaxy Nails and Rejuvenations. The newly brightened outside of our school is now as lovely and flourishing as the students inside.

**Scotch Plains is a  
 Patriotic Community**

I am leading an Eagle Scout leadership service project to replace the U.S. flags in downtown Scotch Plains. The project is nearing completion thanks to overwhelming support from the community.

My fellow scouts and I collected nearly 400 flags for retirement. These flags were inspected and folded by Boy Scouts from BSA Troop 104 in preparation for honorable retirement. Generous donations by residents and friends succeeded in raising nearly \$4,000 for the Township of Scotch Plains Flag Replacement Fund, far exceeding our original goal of \$2,500.

These funds were used to purchase 180 new flags and 15 new flagstuffs. Township employees installed the new flags on lampposts in downtown Scotch Plains in time for the Memorial Day Parade. The new flags lined the parade route, and they looked really great. They were a great backdrop for the marchers, including the traveling contingent of the U.S. Marine Corps Marching Band.

I would like to thank Mayor Martin Marks for his personal support and kind words about my project during his opening speech at the parade. I would also like to thank all of the many township employees and staff members such as Mr. Tom Atkins, Ms. Rutkowski, Ms. Lori Majeski, Mr. Bob LaCosta, Ms. Cathy Fluta, Ms. Meg Kolaya, Mr. Cerami, Mr. Carmen Grausso, Mr. Randy Grizzard and the many employees of the public works department. All contributed to the success of the project.

I'm sorry if I missed anyone's name. There were so many people who contributed. The Township and Scotch Plains Public Library also served as collection points for the donation of damaged and worn out flags by local residents.

The project was also supported and promoted by Ms. Lisa Mohn, president of the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association, and many of its member businesses. Ms. Colleen Paschal, assistant vice president of the Unity Bank Branch in Scotch Plains was particularly helpful by allowing me to use the bank branch as a collection point for old flags and promoting my project to bank branch customers for donations to the Flag Replacement Fund.

Numerous residents, former residents, family members, friends, fellow Scouts, veterans' associations like the VFW and American Legion, other civic-minded organizations and congregations from local places of worship also actively contributed encouragement, volunteer time and donations to the fund. This project was truly an example of how team effort makes great accomplishments possible together with community involvement, patriotic spirit, civic pride and dedication to community service.

The final step is to retire the flags collected with the honor and respect they deserve, in a solemn flag retirement ceremony. Scouts from Troop 104 and members of American Legion and VFW Post 10122 will act as honor guard. The ceremony will be held at American Legion, 237 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 16. A rain date will be announced if necessary.

Many thanks to Mr. Alex DiPace (American Legion) and Mr. Joseph McCourt (VFW) for helping to arrange for the American Legion and VFW participation.

**Julia Moore  
 Westfield**

**Mike Nemeth  
 Westfield**

**Corey Lipschutz  
 Edison Intermediate School  
 Westfield**

**Dan Michalak  
 Scotch Plains**

**It's Amazing How Useful Westfield's Trash Would be  
 To Others of the Area Who are in Great Need**

This past weekend, I once again had the opportunity to witness the amazing amount of wealth in our community. Everywhere we drove, I saw beautiful antiques, bicycles, children's furniture, toys, baby seats and strollers, gardening equipment, and more. In fact, it was a virtual treasure trove. Then I came to my senses and realized it was not some town wide garage sale but the weekend before the spring bulk pick up.

I have truly grown fond of this town

over the years, proud of it to the point of wearing Westfield garb, and fiercely protecting it in all manners as an extension of my own home and family. However, I write this letter today as it seems that some people do not realize or care about waste, others not as fortunate as themselves, or environmental consequences.

What amazes me is that some of us cannot take the time to bring many of the items we see tossed on the curb to the local Good Will, Salvation Army, or other

charitable collection agencies of their choice. In fact, for certain furniture, some charities will even pick up and take it right out of your house. As for children's items, baby strollers, and high chairs, for example, there is always a needy family out there who is looking for these items.

That Bug-a-boo might look pretty nice walking down the streets of downtown Elizabeth instead of filling a landfill after two years because lime green is no longer the "in" color and some Italian company came out with a stroller that's the new must have.

For all of you knocking down your houses or doing major renovations, call up Habitat for Humanity. They will come to your house, survey what is useful to them such as windows, doors, appliances, etc., and take them right before demolition time - a huge win-win for everyone.

For that little effort of donating these items, you get charitable receipts for tax purposes, less landfill (have I told you that Union County has the most expensive carting charges in the entire state because we have almost nowhere left to dump), and most importantly a good sense of community.

It's now politically in vogue to be charitable to the people of Darfur. How about helping our own as well and sending your useable items to charities in our area? Help our needy so they do not have to embarrassingly pick over our garbage with their own children.

**Aaron Turnoff  
 Westfield**

**Families Thank  
 Towns for Sympathy**

The Giannobile and Carter families would like to thank everyone who expressed their love, concern, and sympathy during such a difficult time. Your support and kindness are truly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

**Karen Colucci  
 Cranford**

**Westfield Councilman Describes  
 Town Traffic Safety Initiatives**

Two years ago, the Westfield Town Council formed Citizens' Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. This committee consisted of residents, town professionals and members of the town council's Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Committee (PST). The group's goal was to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in Westfield, a key quality of life concern.

The committee gathered information as to specific traffic safety problems at eight selected locations, held numerous meetings to listen to comments and concerns of residents, reviewed solutions, and made recommendations to the PST. Ultimately, we were able to achieve consensus traffic safety improvements at each location. Most of the work is completed with the exception of areas where we are coordinating with the county and state to get the work done.

As was announced earlier this year, the town council has selected four new traffic "hotspots" to review this year. Those locations are: The intersection of Summit Court, Rahway Avenue and Lamberts Mill Road; Boulevard from Park Street to South Avenue including both intersections; the Memorial Pool area and Lenox Avenue in the vicinity of Stanley Avenue.

I am pleased to announce the four residents who have been selected to serve on the Citizens Traffic Safety Advisory

Committee. They are: Dave Cappiello, a nine-year resident who lives with his wife and two children on Summit Avenue; Mary Camacho, who has been active in the BRAKES Group and has resided on West Broad Street since 1998; Gary Strano, a Summit Court resident since 1990 who has two teenage children and Rich Elbert, who has volunteered in many capacities and has lived on St. Paul Street since 1990.

Thank you to these volunteers and to the others who offered to serve on this committee. Over the next few months, we will be scheduling meetings to listen to the concerns, experiences and suggestions of residents in each of the selected hotspot areas. I expect that we will have notice of those meetings on the town website, westfieldnj.gov, on TV-36 and in our local papers. If you would like to receive an e-mail notice of the meeting, please contact me at mciarrocca@westfieldnj.gov.

The input from residents of each of the locations is crucial since they best know the areas. I encourage all citizens to become involved in the process as we work to enhance public awareness of traffic and pedestrian safety and to achieve appropriate, effective and inexpensive safety enhancements for our town.

**Mark Ciarrocca  
 Westfield Councilman**



**Why Wasn't Pool Open  
 On Memorial Day?**

My name is Katie Foley and I am eight years old. I would like to know why the Westfield Memorial Pool does not open on Memorial Day weekend.

Since its name is the Memorial Pool, I would think it should open on Memorial Day.

**Katie Foley, 2nd grade  
 Franklin Elementary School  
 Westfield**