

Mrs. Harrison to Seek Seat on Westfield Board of Education

My name is Anastasia Harrison and I have been a Westfield resident since 2007. I am running for a seat on the Westfield Board of Education. I have three daughters, two presently in high school, and one in 5th grade at Franklin School. My husband, Rob Harrison, grew up in Westfield and always said he wanted to "go back to Westfield to raise our girls." We have had wonderful experiences, but we have also had to make challenging decisions, regarding our girls' education here in Westfield.



Anastasia Harrison

district has facilities that are aging and not growing with our children. I believe that my time and talents as an architect and facility planner can be of assistance to the WBOE with managing our aging schools.

At the end of this year I will be completing my term as a board member/officer for the N.J. Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, where I served for five years, one as secretary and two as chair of the board. Working as part of a team enabled me to learn how to establish policies, implement strategies and achieve goals as a collection.

If elected to the board, I will work toward creating an acceptable budget to the taxpayers. At budget time I would like to insure that the needs of the children are met and not the first to be cut, improving the facilities in which they learn, and develop partnerships to continue this work.

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What Ever Happened to 'Please' and 'Thank You' or 'I Apologize?'

Somewhere somehow good manners must be taught to the general public if we are to have a society! As it is now, public manners are on the sharp decline!

My wife and I recently attended a patriotic July 4th concert of the New York Philharmonic and the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps at Lincoln Center. Two huge signs on the back wall of the stage asked the audience to turn off their cell phones! Even a public announcement was made to this effect on the concert hall's loud-speaker system!

We attend performances of the vaunted Metropolitan Opera at the gorgeous Metropolitan Opera House. Kicking the back of our seats, talking during the performance, getting up to leave even during the last few minutes of an opera, photographing with flash during the performance, and other incivilities are becoming standard fare.

Asking a person not to kick, not to talk during a performance risks backtalk of the most egregious kind.

Nor is it any better on the roads. In fact, it is now downright dangerous to drive. The tailgaters who come within a foot of the car. Motorists who think nothing of passing on the right. Motorists who switch lanes inside the Lincoln Tunnel. The honkers who honk and honk if you have not instantly moved the car when the light turns green or other cars have left the traffic circle. Motorists who use a particular appendage to show displeasure.

Motorists who do not yield or are intolerant if you do yield. Motorists who think nothing of going through an orange and even a red light and even a stop sign. Motorists who refuse to wait while pedestrians cross at the pedestrian crossings! Who pays any attention to the posted speed limit?

What ever happened to "please" and "thank you?" What ever happened to "I apologize?"

Then there are the people who use their cell phones as if a restaurant or other public place were their private dining room. Conversations so loud they can be heard clear across the room or train car or an auditorium.

I would give lectures, always fearing that at some crucial point a cell phone would go off, disturbing the audience, disrupting my presentation. And strange thing, the person knows well enough how to turn the cell phone on, but mysteriously does not know how to turn it off! During this learning period valuable time is lost

by audience and speaker.

Some cell phone users purposely leave their cell phones on even during religious services and as well at lectures because they are waiting for a call!

My wife and I noticed at one restaurant that of the eight people at the large round table five had their cell phones on at the same time. Passing the bread became an exercise in futility!

Who queues in line anymore? The Westfield Memorial Park Complex is a world-class facility. Every effort is made by staff to keep the grounds spotlessly clean, but there is not a day when people leave cups and bottles and plates and paper on the ground or on the table when they leave!

Then there is the delicate matter of public attire. My wife and I have seen people wearing shorts at performances at the Metropolitan Opera House and in upscale restaurants and on formal nights on cruise ships!

Good manners are the grease that eases human relations by blunting the rough edges of human interaction. But how can there be good manners when today people are more and more cocooned inside their own worlds of "home entertainment centers" and cell phone usage?

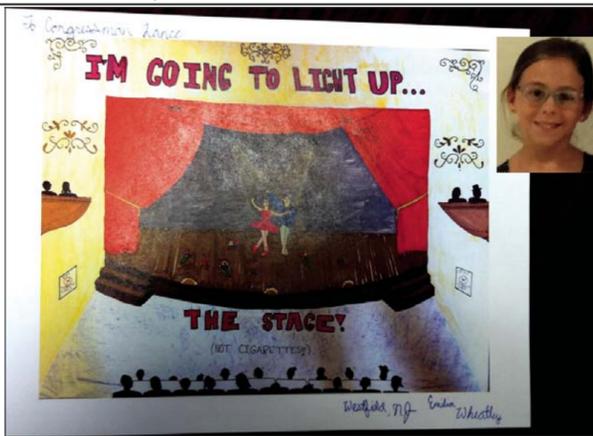
Society loses, but so do families, when parents think nothing of being on the cell phone rather than talking to their children! Or when all members of a family are busily engaged not in talking to each other but talking on their individual cell phones? How can good manners be observed when our encapsulation in these modern methods of communication requires no personal interaction with anybody? Thus learning from the facial expressions or other body language what is appropriate behavior becomes impossible.

In consequence of increasingly poor public matters there is a hostile brittleness to human relations. That is, we have rights to do as we wish but no responsibilities to do as we should!

Put another way, being with the public becomes problematic. A point well understood by our elected public officials who hold or attend public meetings. Democracy becomes the loser as debate of the issues and presentation of points of view become increasingly impossible given a public that thinks that shouting and heckling and even booing are perfectly okay!

Teaching good manners must begin at home and in grade school.

Stephen Schoeman Westfield



TAR WARS...Emilia Wheatley, 10, of Westfield is congratulated by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) as she was selected as the 2014 New Jersey State Tar Wars Poster Contest Winner by the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians. Emilia and her family traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national conference of state winners where they discussed Tar Wars and the nationwide tobacco-free education program for 4th and 5th graders.

Garwood Councilman Is 'Scared' of Mayor Candidate's Planning Bd. Views

We live in scary times. Israel and Palestine are fighting again. Russia and Ukraine are on the verge of war. Terrorists are shooting down passenger airliners. And Jim Mathieu and Sal Piarulli (the name order is correct) are jointly running for the Garwood mayoral seat.

They say that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and this campaign is a certain sign of that truth. Mathieu/Piarulli have recently claimed that a planning board member said, "We (the board) dictate what we want" when it comes to voting on board issues. Well, guys, taken out of context that may sound menacing, but if you place it in its context, it is nothing more than the planning that a planning board is charged to do.

As you may recall, the board was discussing the In Need of Redevelopment Study on South Avenue. Within that context, board members were discussing how the boro's creation of a redevelopment plan would allow the boro to be in charge of its own future, not some developer embarking on his personal trip at the potential detriment to the boro. We - the duly appointed planning board members charged with carrying out the boro planning responsibilities - want the boro to create its

own plan, not the developer. We want the boro to dictate the regulations and standards for development, not the developer. We want the boro to plan its destiny, not a developer. We do want to do what we, as a responsible board, believe is best for the boro, and not make the boro subject to a developer's whims. That is what the statement meant in context.

The way we do that, gentlemen, (just to give you some more knowledge) is to create our boro's redevelopment plan, and then yes, guys, tell a developer what kind of project we want. Mathieu/Piarulli may want to allow a developer to come in to our boro and dictate to us what we have to accept. But I am aware of too many times where that has happened (i.e. - Cranford) and I do not want my boro to suffer the same fate. I am scared of your potential joint mayoralship and what else you intend to 'take' away from adopted boro rules, policy, standards, and guidelines and give to developers and others who may want to come to town. I hope it scares other boro voters also.

Bill Nierstedt Garwood Councilman Planning Board member

Advertisement for Unique Cruise & Travel featuring a tropical scene and contact information for Carol Bevere Hearney, Proprietor.

Sal Piarulli as Mayor of Garwood Has The Character, Vision and Leadership

It is my pleasure to endorse wholeheartedly Sal Piarulli, the Republican candidate for mayor of Garwood, for election in November. I met Sal going door-to-door the first time I ran successfully for Council in 2010 and again in my primary bid to be a Republican candidate for council during the summer of 2013. From the start, I was impressed by Sal's grasp of the issues, and his political and economic acumen. I made it my mission to find out more about this man who had the audacity to have four children.

I soon found that Sal had the character, the vision and the leadership qualities necessary to set Garwood on a successful path for the future. He shares my belief that first and foremost Garwood must be affordable for its current residents as well as for new families and businesses moving to our boro. He does not accept the nostrums we constantly hear from the Republican/Democrat establishment that the fight against taxes and spending is lost and all we can do is better manage the decline of New Jersey until either we or our children decide to move somewhere more affordable. Sal is willing to make the hard choices and take on the special interests to see if indeed the solutions they propose are really the best and most cost-effective for our boro and its residents.

During Sal's run for the Republican nomination for mayor there transpired an event that I believe revealed a great deal about his character and intelligence. A member of our campaign sent out a group email that gave

Sal some negative feedback about what he saw as flaws in the campaign he felt would jeopardize Sal's chances for victory. How did Sal react? Did he freeze out this individual? Did he justify himself and dismiss the criticism? Did he target this person for a political vendetta? No. Rather, he actually listened to the criticism, digested it, and changed course, ultimately winning the election. How rare is that trait in any political, business, or community leader these days? Imagine how fortunate Garwood would be to have a mayor humble enough to hear criticism from its residents, to put his ego aside, to realize he doesn't have all the answers, and to make a change for the better in response. If you feel Garwood's Republican/Democrat establishment hasn't been listening to you, then Sal Piarulli is definitely your candidate. Since the beginning of this year, I have met and come to know Sal's wife, Linda, his four children, his parents, and his brothers. He is the son of Italian immigrants who came to America to pursue their dreams and to make a better life possible for their three sons. In that endeavor, they have been immensely successful. Please come out and vote for Sal Piarulli for mayor on November 4th. He'll be a breath of fresh air and a long overdue antidote to the venom of Garwood's Republican/Democrat establishment.

Councilman James A. Mathieu Chair, Garwood Republican Party

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Advertisement for Jon Bramnick, Criminal Defense Team, featuring contact information and address.

Large advertisement for Downtown Westfield 5K & Pizza Extravaganza July 23, 2014, listing sponsors like Trinitas Regional Medical Center, City Sports, Stop & Shop, and others.

Advertisement for August 2014 events at the Westfield Memorial Library, listing programs for adults and children.