

## Facebook Has Cruel And Offensive Language, No Administration

Open letter to Mayor Brindle: I would like to call your attention to a Facebook post that appeared on Wednesday, April 26 on the Westfield, NJ page. Jeff Bryk wrote the post. The post by Mr. Bryk referenced Councilwoman Neylan's disheveled appearance during the budget meeting.

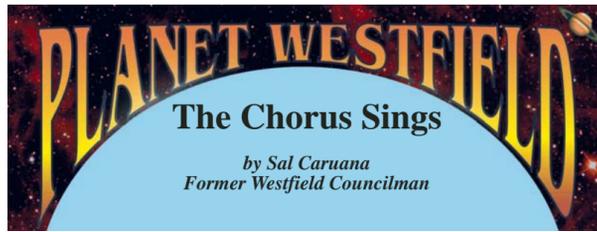
In this climate of sexist awareness, I was appalled that someone would post this on social media. This is a classic example of disparaging women's appearances, which I am quite sure this administration does not condone.

I subsequently discovered that this person was appointed to and serves on the Solid Waste committee. Do we really want someone like this representing our town?... We have had enough of this nationally. It was an

insulting and degrading comment and as a woman I am offended and disgusted by it. I sincerely hope that you will consider dismissing him from his position.

Reasonable people can have an intelligent discourse without resorting to name calling and quite frankly gender bias. As a Westfield resident I do not want our town to mirror the current air of cruel and biased comments referring to women. There is no room in the town administration for those who use cruel and offensive language regarding not only women but all human beings, as I'm sure you would agree. I trust you will do what is right and just and remove Mr. Bryk from his position.

**Karen Saleme**  
Westfield



The downtown Westfield parking deck chorus is about to begin again, and it includes some stakeholders who believe it is not high asking rents that are prolonging some larger vacancies, it's the lack of a parking deck that is. This time, 14 years since it was last defeated by a voter referendum, we are living in a much changed economy. Traditional companies are focusing their growth strategies on Internet shopping not downtown expansion. Popular retailers - including some who have left town - are slashing the number of brick and mortar stores in operation. As half vacant malls and strip malls have begun to litter the American landscape (and Route 22), the retail paradigm has now shifted dramatically and perhaps irreversibly in ways that are detrimental to downtowns too. It's called the Amazon Effect.

Ordinarily, the "invisible hand" of the marketplace would correct the Westfield supply/demand space imbalance. In a rational marketplace, asking rents for the oversupply of vacant retail space would begin to drop to demand price points, encouraging even more demand and new business formation, including Mom and Pop once again. Is that happening in downtown Westfield? To some extent yes, new businesses are emerging, and the Downtown Westfield Corporation led by Sherry Cronin is working tirelessly in this regard. How economically rational or irrational are Westfield landlords being about prices on vacant space? It's not a transparent market so it is difficult to tell. Is it a competitive jungle with every landlord man and woman out for himself or herself, even if they are married? Or is there some "friendly conversation" between a few major owners as to cooperative pricing, otherwise known as price-fixing? Who knows.

Economists do know how an efficient free market successfully responds to vacancy issues, and here is

one snapshot recently provided by the *Wall Street Journal* (April 28, 2018). In the first quarter of 2018, the average asking retail rents in Manhattan plunged by 20 percent from the previous year, in 13 of 16 shopping corridors. In addition to cutting new rents, landlords responded to an impending vacancy crisis by providing more generous tenant improvement allowances and shorter term leases. Many NYC landlords encouraged new business formation by now allowing tenants to walk away from a lease if their retail concept or business plan does not succeed. Mom and Pop, you may have been able to find an overall better deal on Broadway than on East Broad Street. And the result of these aggressive landlord moves? The amount of vacant retail space in NYC did not increase in the 2018 period compared to 2017, even as demand significantly weakened. Why? Because landlords were flexible on price.

Don't be fooled. The retail vacancy rate in downtown Westfield is not a parking problem, it is a pricing problem, one of many price dislocations created by Internet disruption. New York City landlords solved their problem by reducing rents 20 percent and making other concessions too. Apparently some downtown Westfield stakeholders also believe concessions are a good idea - from the Westfield taxpayer and a new administration - in the form of a multi-million dollar parking deck to prop up the rental market and the private investment values of a select few now that the economy is changing. Should public funds be purpose in this way? Not with my money. That said, I would welcome any suitable private developer who would want to build and operate a downtown deck with his own funds. And good luck with that. As for an immediate solution, we all know what it is and who it should cost.

Cut the rent.

## Join With Your Letter Carriers To Stamp Out Hunger

Saturday, May 12, marks the 26th anniversary of one of America's great days of giving - the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Letter carriers walk through the community every day, often coming face to face with a sad reality for too many, hunger.

So each year on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations from our customers. These donations go directly to the local food pantries to provide food to people in Scotch Plains who need our help.

Last year, we collected over 70 million pounds of food nationally, feeding an estimated 30 million people. Over the course of its 26 years, the drive has collected well over one billion pounds of food, thanks to a postal service universal delivery network that spans the entire nation, including Puerto Rico, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The need for food donations is great. Currently, 49 million Americans - one in six - are unsure where their next meal is coming from. Sixteen million are children who feel hunger's impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. And nearly five million seniors over age

60 are food insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes often too embarrassed to ask for help.

Our food drive's timing is crucial. Food banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations during Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. By spring time, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need.

Participating in this year's Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. Just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by your mail box on Saturday, May 12 and your letter carrier will do the rest. I invite you to join in America's great day of giving and help us in our fight to end hunger.

**Letter Carriers**  
Scotch Plains

## Legal Advertising

MORE IN BACK SECTION

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD**  
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

### NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD AMENDMENT

The Township of Cranford has amended a Contract Award to provide general litigation services to the Township of Cranford. The Township of Cranford advertised a Request for Proposal for general litigation services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 17:27A-20.4 et seq. This contract and Resolution No. 2018-185 are available for public inspection at the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**AWARDED TO: Ryan J. Cooper, Esq., Cooper LLC, 600 Linden Place, Cranford, New Jersey 07016.**  
**SERVICE:** General Litigation Services  
**FEE:** Not to Exceed \$90,000  
**DATE:** April 24, 2018

Patricia Donahue, RMC Township Clerk  
1 T - 5/3/18, The Leader Fee: \$22.44

ing coverage with a deck & porch of 24%. Proposed is 24.6%. Ordinance requires a minimum front yard setback of 25 feet. Proposed is 20 feet 9 inches. Ordinance requires a minimum side yard setback of 10 feet. Proposed is 8 feet 8 inches.

**John Kim, 417 Tuttle Parkway.** Applicant is seeking approval to add three dormers to the third floor contrary to Section 11.07E8 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance allows a maximum story height of 2 1/2 stories. Proposed is a story height of 3 stories.

**William Bible, 29 Galloway.** Applicant is seeking approval to retain an existing pergola contrary to Section 11.07E7 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a minimum rear yard setback of 35 feet. Proposed is 27.5 feet.

**Pawel Kierzkowski, 171 Tudor Oval.** Applicant is seeking approval to install a six-foot fence in the front yard contrary to Section 12.07C of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance allows a maximum fence height of four feet in the front yard. Proposed is 6 feet.

**Michael Cunningham, 420 Jefferson Avenue.** Applicant is seeking approval to construct an addition contrary to Section 12.03D and 11.06E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a minimum front yard setback of 44.42 feet. Proposed is 39.32 feet. Ordinance requires a minimum side yard setback of 12.5 feet. Proposed is 9.67 feet.

**Clarissa & Paul Dobek, 712 Norman Place.** Applicants are seeking approval to construct an addition contrary to Section 11.07E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a minimum side yard setback of 10 feet. Proposed is ± 7 feet.

Variances, waivers or exceptions from certain site plan details or relief from requirements may be sought as appropriate. Plans and application are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Linda Jacus  
Board Secretary  
1 T - 5/3/18, The Leader Fee: \$89.25

## Concerns About Union Co. Machine Politics And Opponents' Connections

I'm honored to have Michael Ince and Sean Benoit on the "Democrats for Garwood" ticket with me. Together, we share a passion for making a difference, a love of learning, and a pride in being independent-minded. In the past seven years on council, I have worked with 15 different council members and from that experience, I can attest that Michael and Sean have the character, experience, and drive to make excellent councilmen.

Michael committed himself to public service starting back when he joined the Clark Police force after college. While having an impressive 30+ year career in law enforcement, he continues to strive to learn more. Even in retirement, he is taking graduate courses. He will not pretend to know all of the answers because of his career. Instead, Michael will listen to you and seek out reliable information to make knowledgeable decisions on all the issues. This type of open-minded, professional, and inquisitive person is exactly what Garwood needs on council.

Sean is invested in Garwood as it is the place he and his wife chose to raise their 5-year-old son. Sean and his wife, Maria, both joined the Education Foundation of Garwood this past September. They want to be in-

involved in our town to ensure it has a bright future as Garwood is, and always will be, their son's hometown. Sean is the type of person that dives right in, whether by using his background as a lawyer to research legal precedent or volunteering to help a local organization. He made a career out of listening to and advocating for his clients to receive the services they deserve as individuals with disabilities. Sean will bring that same accessibility, reliability, and accountability as a councilman.

In speaking with fellow Democrats, a number of them have raised concerns about Union County machine politics and our opponents' connections to them. They appreciate that Michael, Sean, and I are not dependent on the County in any way. While all Democrats, we put Garwood before party. We will ensure Garwood is independent in all decision-making and in representing the people's voice to higher levels of government.

I'm proud of the ticket we share and hope you will support Michael Ince and Sean Benoit for Council on Column D on June 5.

**Sara Todisco**  
Garwood Councilwoman  
Mayoral Candidate (D)

## With Honesty, Integrity, Transparency, And Unfailing Determination

Garwood has been my home for the past 43 years. It is safe to say that I am committed to making it the best place to live, work, and raise a family. It has been my honor to serve as your Mayor for the past three-and-a-half years. I am currently seeking re-election for a second term in the upcoming Primary Election on Tuesday June 5, 2018, with the support of the Regular Democratic Party of Garwood.

I will continue to bring a sense of maturity, stability, respect and integrity to the Office of the Mayor. I will continue to apply my knowledge obtained from my Master's Degree in Public Administration and my 21 years on Council to help create policies that will truly benefit Garwood, now and in the future. I will continue to demand excellence in the delivery of municipal services, transparency and fiscal responsibility.

I have been an ambassador for Garwood at the state, county and local levels to bring in much needed funding from them and have negotiated and entered into multiple shared

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**GARWOOD, NEW JERSEY**  
PLANNING BOARD

**TAKE NOTICE** that on April 25, 2018 the Garwood Planning Board memorialized the following resolution of their March 14, 2018 decision:

**Case #PB18-01:** 257 North Avenue, B. 211, Lots 2 & 3, C/C Zone, Applicant: Princeton Food Service, LLC, Granting a D-2 Use Variance for modification of a preexisting Non-conforming drive-thru together with Site Plan Approval for a Wendy's.

The resolution is on file and available for inspection in the office of the Planning Board located in the Municipal Building located at 403 South Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey.

Adele C. Lewis  
Board Secretary  
Fee: \$19.89

service agreements with surrounding communities, to help keep costs low.

My running mates, Vincent Kearney and Jennifer Guerrero, bring fresh eyes and new ideas to Garwood, and we will work as a team to continue to move Garwood forward. We will continue to work toward responsible re-development, and informed and fair revaluation in the best interests of Garwood while keeping quality services in place at the lowest possible impact to the residents. We will continue to plan for the future, as it is of utmost importance to our residents and their families, and it must be done with honesty, integrity, transparency, and unfailing determination.

We, as a team, look forward to your support on Tuesday, June 5.

**Charles Lombardo**  
Mayor of Garwood

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD**  
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

### NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD AMENDMENT

The Township of Cranford has amended a Contract Award to provide redevelopment legal services to the Township of Cranford. The Township of Cranford advertised a Request for Proposal for redevelopment legal services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. This contract and Resolution No. 2018-186 are available for public inspection at the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**AWARDED TO: Wanda Chin Monahan, Esq., 50 Cardinal Drive, Suite 102, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.**  
**SERVICE:** Redevelopment Legal Services  
**FEE:** Not to Exceed \$65,000  
**DATE:** April 24, 2018

Patricia Donahue, RMC Township Clerk  
1 T - 5/3/18, The Leader Fee: \$23.97

## Some Of Her Ideas And Plans For Garwood With Significance

I am writing to endorse Councilwoman Sara Todisco, Michael Ince, and Sean Benoit in Garwood's mayoral race.

I met Sara last fall when she knocked on my door to introduce herself and talk about some of her ideas and plans for Garwood. I am thrilled that one program she mentioned - the volunteer rewards card program - has been launched, and several local businesses are already participating. I think this is a great way for the town to show its appreciation for volunteers while also encouraging people to shop locally and enjoy all that Garwood has to offer.

Sara also shared her interest in creating a citizens' advisory panel that would provide Garwood residents an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about major town decisions. Creating a space for citizens to discuss issues like roadwork and departmental equipment purchases will bring added perspective and insight to elected officials as they make important decisions that will have significant local impacts.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD**  
PLANNING BOARD

Please take notice that on May 23, 2018 at 7:30 PM at the Fanwood Borough Hall, located at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, the Planning Board will hold a hearing on the application of the undersigned. The property in question is located at: 185 Westfield Road, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block 46 Lot 11, as shown on the Fanwood Tax Map, owned by Austin and Davonne Berry.

The applicant requests open air pergola over an existing patio which is in violation of:

Section Article 184-134 of the Fanwood Land Use Code. Variance Requested: Open air pergola over 100 square feet; Permitted: 100 square feet; Present: None; Proposed: 320 square feet.

The applicant will also seek such other relief as may be determined necessary at the public hearing based upon review of the application or amendment(s) to the application.

The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection during normal business hours (8 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday) from the Secretary of the Planning Board at the Administration Office of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.

Any interested party may appear at said hearing and participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Fanwood Planning Board.

Applicant:  
Austin Berry  
185 Westfield Road  
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023  
1 T - 5/3/18, The Times Fee: \$35.19

**Michael Ince**  
Garwood Council Candidate (D)

Please vote Column D, Todisco-Ince-Benoit on June 5 for a stronger Garwood.

Our team stands for a stronger Garwood. Studying and potentially privatizing garbage pickup would certainly not make our town stronger. We do not need to spend taxpayer dollars on a study to tell us what we already know and what Democrats have resisted for decades in this town - privatizing garbage does not make sense in Garwood.

Another consequence is that privatization makes it so much easier and more likely for garbage pickup to be separated from the tax bill. This would be an extra burden on residents who will have to decide which garbage company they want, figure out their schedule, and pay another bill. Who wants another bill to pay? As someone who has lived in other towns, I can say with confidence that it is not better. For one, you cannot write off garbage pickup from your taxes unlike when it is inside the tax bill.

the very department we take so much pride in would slowly disappear, weakening Garwood.