

More Letters to the Editor

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

My running mates, Vincent

Kearney and Jennyfer 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 redevelopment, 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

No Need To Spend Taxpayer Dollars On A Study To Tell Us What We Know

In speaking with residents, it's abundantly clear that our DPW is a beloved department in the community. While just a small group of eight laborers, they get so much done for our town and we can see the difference they make. Just drive through other towns after it has snowed to see how effective our DPW really is. If elected, Sara Todisco, Sean Benoit, and I will ensure our great DPW is here to stay.

One of the campaign promises of the Lombardo team is to pay for a study on whether or not to privatize garbage. We do not support wasting taxpayer dollars for a study that will give us an answer we already know. Furthermore, this was proposed by Republican Council members for the past few years and the Mayor sat silent. Now, he is taking a bad Republican idea to run with as part of his Democratic Primary bid. That is truly troubling.

With a department of just eight laborers and garbage pickup taking about 60 percent of their time, how would you save money through privatization? There would only be one way — to reduce our staff of eight men.

What about snow plowing, leaf pickup, or emergency situations? With an even smaller department and the possibility of sick/vacation time or disability leave, you might have even fewer personnel to plow, pick up leaves, and more. Imagine what the streets would like with just a handful of people plowing roads and clearing public sidewalks and parking lots. Who is to say the plowing, leaf pickup, and other DPW services wouldn't make sense to privatize at that point?

Essentially, the services we have come to depend on become second-rate because they would no longer be done in house. The bottom line is that the very department we take so much pride

in would slowly disappear, weakening 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.

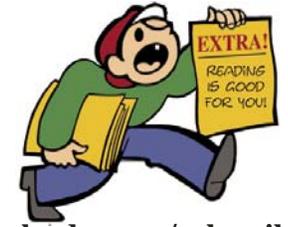
Also, with more companies servicing the town on different days, trucks are down your street practically every day. This is a scenario where you can see multiple carting companies servicing a single block, which will result in more truck traffic, more noise, and increased air pollution in Garwood. Finally, it means we will lose control of how that garbage pickup is done and how much it costs. In other words, we would be placing our services in the hands of private companies who can freely choose to raise the prices, change the quality of their services, and would not be as accountable to you.

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.

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

Michael Ince
Garwood Council Candidate (D)

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Enraged Machine

I have read Garwood council candidate Mr. Kearney's response of April 19 to my original letter in *The Westfield Leader*. He uses untoward language toward a Garwood resident, which is not a good quality in a candidate.

He attempts to rebut my support for Ms. Todisco's challenge to the Garwood Regular Democrats' slate for mayor and council. Mr. Kearney is a Regular Democrat candidate and of which I referred to his party as being part of a "political machine." I find his letter is just a brand of spin. I have two items for Mr. Kearney. One is a question: Why do we have primary elections? If he could respond for the readers' information? And two is a request: If you are not manipulated by your job at Union County as you state, then you will stand by my side to publicly voice outrage at the Union County Freeholders in hiring the new county manager from outside the county and without any interview process. These are both in violation of the county's own procedures and laws. Anything short of that, will show Mr. Kearney is afraid and, thus, is certainly manipulated by the county Democrat machine.

Letters attacking Ms. Todisco's perfectly legal challenge, his stating there should be no other challenger, and the others stating she should "wait her turn" certainly smacks of an enraged "political machine." I rest my case.

Bruce Paterson
Garwood

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 depart-

mental equipment purchases will bring added perspective and insight to elected officials as they make important decisions that will have significant local impacts.

I am supporting Sara Todisco for Mayor because I am confident she will organize the citizens' advisory panel and fill it with a diverse group of individuals who are invested in our town and its future. I am also supporting the full Democrats for Garwood team on Column D. The enthusiasm and passion that Michael Ince and Sean Benoit have expressed in our meetings gives me confidence that they, too, are dedicated to making Garwood a great place to visit, work, and live.

Please join me in voting for Sara, Michael and Sean on June 5!

Bonnie Underwood
Garwood resident