

## Town of Westfield Commended for Communication During Blizzard

I take issue with the statement in Ms. Tabatchnick's letter last week that communication from the Town of Westfield was "non-existent" during and after last week's historic blizzard. I continuously received alerts and information on the town's snow removal progress throughout that weekend via the town's website, Facebook page and Twitter feed, and also from the Westfield Police Department's Nixle notification system. We were specifically informed via the website, Facebook and Twitter that streets continued to be plowed through Monday morning, and we were advised at about 7 p.m. on Monday night that the commuter parking lots were opened.

I reviewed the town website again before writing this, and found that the town began posting important information for residents on Friday, January 22, one day before the storm. The website was updated twice that day, twice on Saturday during the blizzard, three times on Sunday, twice more on Monday and a final time on Tuesday evening. During that period, the town also posted more than two dozen times to Facebook and sent at least 30 tweets to its Twitter followers - all while an entire season's worth of snow fell in about 11 hours.

## Trump, Heraclitus, Parmenides And Something Big

Pre-Socratic philosophers were fascinated by the concept of change versus non-change or "becoming" versus "being." Interestingly enough, both concepts can help shed light on Mr. Trump's popularity.

Two of the greatest thinkers on this distinction were the Greek philosophers, Heraclitus and Parmenides. Heraclitus, for example, believed that if someone submerged his foot in a river, removed it and then re-submerged it, the river changes and becomes a different one.

After all, the river constantly flows carrying with it fish and debris. Its depth, volume, speed and temperature are in continual flux. "All things change," was his mantra, and his position seems to make sense: But not to Parmenides. He would, despite these facts, claim that it's the same river. After all, a river is a river.

Regarding our political establishment which irresponsibly enacts continuous laws and regulations too numerous to count let alone evaluate, frustrated Americans currently agree with Parmenides.

As with a river, though political activity constantly flows, nothing seems to change, bringing to mind the old French epigram, "Plus ça change plus le même chose." As a result, we are experiencing an increasingly pervasive cultural syndrome of pessimism and anger due to diminished hope, a similar type that I remember well during the Vietnam War.

Donald Kagan, a highly respected conservative professor at the liberal bastion Yale, also shares in this syndrome. He opined that, in order to bring about change, "something big" must happen which many of us intuitively feel.

Enter Heraclitus again who wrote, "The mixture which is not shaken decomposes." A cultural "shaker" can

That is a lot of communication!

Ms. Tabatchnick also questioned "the decision" to plow school parking lots instead of the train station lot. There was no "decision." As I understand it, the Board of Education, not the town, is responsible for clearing snow from its school properties, and it did so. Meanwhile, the town focused its resources on plowing 380 miles of municipal roadways (multiple times) and all town-owned properties and their adjacent sidewalks first; undoubtedly for public safety reasons. The town then worked to clear the municipal parking lots, including at the train station.

I certainly understand the inconvenience; however, some perspective is necessary. Any expectation that all that work could be completed in less than 36 hours is unrealistic. Among other things, our DPW personnel have to rest and tend to their own homes and families. I commend the town's constant and multifaceted communication with residents, and especially the performance of our DPW, police and fire personnel, regarding the Blizzard of 2016. Simply stated: thank you all for your outstanding work.

**Rob Benacchio**  
Westfield

be a military confrontation or the emergence of a transforming leader. Mr. Trump is an unequivocal shaker and may be that "something big" to convert our current changeless Parmenidian river to a changing Heraclitian one.

Interestingly enough, Americans are more attracted to this quality than his political philosophy, which is yet unclear. As of now, I would label the latter as "pragmatism."

Recently, I had lunch in Manhattan with a distinguished, successful old timer whose life's many battles obviously conferred to him the gift of wisdom. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that he's very close to Mr. Trump and is frequently in contact with him.

I raised the issue that he's scaring lots of Americans out of their pantaloons with his provocative controversial style. He smiled and said that he, unlike President Obama, would not surround himself with "yes men" but with highly competent, strong men and women of different mindsets, encourage no-holds barred discussions and then make decisions - and he's superb at that type of management style.

To learn more about his style, I read Trump's book, *The Art of the Deal*, published way back in 1987. He writes, "The point is that if you are a little different, or a little outrageous, or if you do things that are bold or controversial, the press is going to write about you." Sound familiar?

There's little doubt we're in an age of "something big" where lots of shaking is coming particularly big, bad ones such as cyberspace and terrorist attacks while the river in Washington remains stagnant which, by the way, ain't the Potomac. Many Americans hope that Mr. Trump is the something big that can prove that Heraclitus' and not Parmenides' river is the real one.

We shall see.

**Stephen DeFelic**  
Westfield

## Letters to the Editor

### Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce Is Up and Running Again

Wonderful news. The Bank of America building where our offices are located is now with power.

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) staff will resume normal functions beginning January 29. The chamber would like to thank Jim Gildea (Westfield town administrator) and PSE&G for all of their efforts. Jim worked on our power issue for two days and was instrumental in obtaining all the necessary documentation.

PSE&G placed three trucks on the project which included running power from the pole that was within a 10-

foot perimeter of Trader Joe's. Even though they were cautioned against it, they did so at their own risk.

Again, thank you. All of us at the Chamber were honored by several of our members reaching out and offering temporary space within their offices.

In addition, we have appreciated your patience and words of support. Our chamber is a strong business family. We look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming events.

**Gene Jannotti**  
Executive Director  
GWACC

### Fanwood Council Hails Borough's Department of Public Works

As the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood, we would like to collectively and whole heartedly say thank you to our Department of Public Works for its performance during the blizzard. The snow started in the late evening of Friday, January 22, and didn't taper off until late the next day, leaving more than two feet of snow in its wake. Under the supervision of Clint Dickson, the seven men who make up the department deserve to be acknowledged for keeping all our streets, primary and secondary, open and passable in the aftermath of the storm. Their hard work, dedication and professionalism was evident throughout. During the lead up to the storm, they prepared. Once the storm began, they logged in long hours in terrible weather. Now, in the aftermath, they continue working and making it safe for all of us to get back to our normal routines.

We also want to thank Police Chief Richard Trigo and the entire police department that was out on the road

working in concert with public works for the benefit of every family in Fanwood. While those departments were outside, we also knew that if a family needed the fire department or rescue squad, those volunteers were standing ready to jump into action.

Finally, communication is always key in situations that test our resources. The borough's timely updates through our email alerts, with more than 1,400 subscribers, and the borough's website and borough Facebook page, handled by Brian Horton, kept the information flowing.

Again, job well done by all those who live and work in the town we love... Fanwood!

**Mayor Colleen Mahr**  
**Council President Kathy Mitchell**  
Councilpersons:  
**Jack Molenaar**  
**Erin McElroy Barker**  
**Tom Kranz**  
**Russ Huegel**  
**Kevin Boris**

### Centennial Ave. Cranford Development Parties Need Clarification

I would like to provide the following correction:

In the article entitled "Mixed-Use Building Proposed for Centennial," appearing January 21, 2016, Gebroe-Hammer Associates was incorrectly named the potential buyer/investor of 310 Centennial Avenue, Cranford. Gebroe-Hammer Associates has no affiliation with the potential owner-

ship, management or redevelopment of this property.

The broker named in the article is a member of a limited liability company pursuing this private investment.

1. Gehane Triarsi appeared before the zoning board in a private matter that has nothing to do with Gebroe-Hammer Associates being involved in said property as an investor.

2. The association between Ms. Triarsi and the firm is that she is a Gebroe-Hammer sales representative. When asked who her employer is, she stated that her full-time employer was Gebroe-Hammer Associates.

3. The LLC of which Ms. Triarsi is a partner is pursuing this private investment.

**Carin McDonald**  
Wayne

#### Deadlines

General News - Friday 4pm  
Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm  
Classifieds - Tuesday 12pm  
Ad Reservation - Friday 4pm  
Ad Submittal - Monday 12pm

#### To Reach Us

E-Mail - editor@goleader.com  
Phone - (908) 232-4407

#### Submittal Formats

Email Photos in color  
Email Ads as pdf files in color  
Please spell & grammar check  
For more information, see  
[www.goleader.com/help](http://www.goleader.com/help)  
[www.goleader.com/presskit](http://www.goleader.com/presskit)  
[www.goleader.com/classifieds](http://www.goleader.com/classifieds)

#### Upload and Feedback

For critical, large files, multiple photographs and assured delivery of items to our newspapers, you can upload direct to our server at [goleader.com/upload](http://goleader.com/upload). Call (908) 232-4407 for username and password that are required for this procedure.

## Attending Union County Freeholder Meeting: A Newbie's Observation

Although apprehensive at attending a Union County freeholders' meeting, I decided to give it a shot and see how the sausage is made at the county level of government. It did not disappoint, after watching numerous meetings from the county watchdog group.

I was quite surprised to find the room to be smaller than envisioned. It was kind of like when my father took us to Shea Stadium for the first time. When I got there, it appeared to be only slightly larger than the Garwood Little League field.

Imagine that. A half a billion dollars flowing annually through that small room.

The window dressing was nice and the photo ops were expected, with a youth group winning an award and a Roselle Park fireman receiving a much-deserved commendation for 50 years of voluntary service. It pales in comparison to our own Patsy DiFabio, with 65 years of volunteer fire department service. There were perfectly posed photos, all taken with the one-party rule of the county freeholders. I had many observations as it proceeded; thank you, Bruce Paterson, for answering my barrage of questions.

First, where is our equal representation under the law? How come all the towns are not represented? How come I am not represented? How come Garwood is not represented? How come it is all Democrats? How come there are no Republicans up there? How can we have equal representation when it is one-party ruling at the county level? How come none of these people campaigned extensively in Garwood and they all got elected? I have a million "how comes" and "why not's."

I could write a hundred pages of what is wrong at the county level.

Cronyism is the first thing that comes to mind. A bucket of contracts were given out for millions of dollars to contributors to all of their campaigns.

So how come they did not need Garwood? I suppose there were not enough contributors from our small town. These are all hypothetical questions, as I know the answers to some. I can not really know what goes on at the county level without showing up on a continued basis, and quite frankly after this first meeting in my lifetime, I felt like I needed another shower once I left. I watched people speak that were ignored, and responses that were inadequate or not answered at all.

A small group controlling all the millions of dollars doled out to their select group, all at the expense of us, the empty pockets of their constituents. So again I ask how come they did not campaign much in Garwood and were still elected? Our money is good enough to take pretty much by force, but we are not good enough to meet the people that are going to be doing the taking?

I want to thank Bruce Paterson once again for holding their feet to the fire by asking non-stop questions that are not answered. Maybe you have a stronger constitution than me. I don't like the way this sausage is made. I must leave it to all of us to keep an eye on how our money is mishandled. I will also do my duty and attend this meeting when it is my turn to do so as delegated by my fellow councilwoman, Sara Todisco, but I don't have to like it.

And I assume I will report back the same observation. How come they do not care about Garwood, but continue to take such a huge portion of our money?

**Ileen Bocchino-Cuccaro**  
Garwood Councilwoman

## Personalized Bookkeeping - Reduce Stress, Gain Control

Tax Filing—Are you dreading the upcoming process?

Getting Organized—Ready to fulfill that New Year's Resolution?

We get it done, on-time, so you don't have to.



**Elizabeth W. Miller, Principal**  
Personal Financial Navigation LLC  
(908) 568-2458  
[www.pfnavigation.com](http://www.pfnavigation.com)  
Email: [pfnav@icloud.com](mailto:pfnav@icloud.com)

- Monthly bill payment and bank account reconciliation
- Credit card consolidation
- Brokerage account statement management
- Insurance claim management
- Problem resolution
- Eldercare services management
- Property management
- Downsizing & relocation

We are bonded and insured

### HOW WILL THE NEW ALIMONY STATUTE IMPACT YOU?

WILL YOU NEED A PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT?

WILL THE COURT LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD'S PREFERENCE IN DETERMINING CUSTODY?

CAN COHABITATION AFFECT YOUR ALIMONY?

FIND OUT.

ATTEND OUR FREE SEMINAR EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE.

The Law Firm of Dughi, Hewit & Domalewski, P.C. is pleased to announce that Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq., Chair of its Family Law Department, Richard A. Outhwaite, Esq., Kristin M. Capalbo, Esq., Jennifer L. Young, Esq., and Eva Uhrig, Esq. will present to the public a free seminar entitled, "Everything You Need To Know About Divorce" on **Thursday, February 25, 2016** at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, New Jersey and **Saturday, February 27, 2016** at the Holiday Inn in Clark, New Jersey. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for over 42 years, and his group of other well-experienced attorneys, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning prenuptial agreements, separation, divorce, custody and parenting time, division of assets, alimony, child support, domestic violence, post-divorce Court review of changed financial and child-related circumstances, and how the current economic climate and new alimony legislation will impact divorce and post-divorce matters.

**Information will also be provided on Divorce Mediation**, an alternative to the traditional contested proceeding. Divorce Mediation offers the potential for significant financial savings, while assuring that your rights are fully protected by avoiding the expense, stress and delay involved in Court proceedings.

If you are experiencing marital difficulties and contemplating divorce, or if you are simply curious about your rights in a separation or divorce, this free Seminar will be of value to you. If you are already divorced, the Seminar may be of value in explaining post divorce rights and obligations of former spouses.

**A Free Personal Consultation will be offered to All Attendees**  
Reservations Required (No last names needed)

Call: (908) 272-0200

Refreshments will be served

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016**

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
TEMPLE EMANU-EL  
756 East Broad Street  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
908-232-6770  
[www.tewnj.org](http://www.tewnj.org)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016**

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
HOLIDAY INN  
36 Valley Road  
Clark, New Jersey 07066  
732-574-0100  
[www.hiclarknj.com](http://www.hiclarknj.com)

# TRIAL LAWYERS

Est. 1984



## Personal Injury & Auto Accidents

Call Jon Bramnick

Certified Civil Trial Attorney

**908-322-7000**

**BRAMNICK, RODRIQUEZ, GRABAS, ARNOLD & MANGAN, LLC**  
1827 East Second Street, Scotch Plains • [www.jonbramnick.com](http://www.jonbramnick.com)