

Matthieu 'Forgets' His Campaign Promises for Garwood

Recently, Jim Matthieu, current Garwood Councilman, submitted a letter to the editor announcing his re-election bid for another term. What Councilman Matthieu pledges to do for the citizens of Garwood is quite different from what he has actually promised and "accomplished" as an elected official.

Mr. Matthieu hit the ground running two terms ago by breaking campaign promises. Despite campaigning in 2010 to bring back bulk included in the tax bill, he never brought it up again once elected. He strongly advocated for a 16th Police Officer, but he opposed the budget hiring one. Last year, as party chairman and as someone who has repeatedly pushed for shared services, Mr. Matthieu criticized the agreement between Fanwood and our Department of Public Works and pledged to restore a full-time supervisor position. However, after the two Republican candidates ran and won on this platform, this idea quickly disappeared as well and was never mentioned again by any of the three of them. In fact, Mr. Matthieu has even encouraged privatizing garbage pickup, a service that many residents hold dear. You can see how quickly he changes his tune once his politically-motivated goals are achieved! It seems that Mr. Matthieu just likes asking what the "public" wants, and claiming that he will support what the public wants, but then quickly "forgets" his promises.

Mr. Matthieu talks about "leaving the personal attacks" to the other side. It is interesting that he is trying to take the

high road now after six years on council that tells another story. The people of Garwood must decide if they want to keep a councilman that disrespects members of the public, fellow elected officials, and even people outside of Garwood. Was it acceptable for him to tell a senior citizen during public comment at a council meeting that his question "didn't matter?" Was it acceptable for him to degrade an entire ethnic group in his "satirical" piece last April in which he said the borough could get out of debt and lower taxes through bocce ball by charging fees to "vendors of Cannoli, Espresso, and brown wool sweaters," causing UNICO to storm a council meeting and have Garwood negatively portrayed on TV? Was it acceptable when he arrogantly disrespected the former Mayor of Roselle Park at a recent planning board meeting who was invited to explain what a neighboring town faced with redevelopment? If you find this unacceptable, I urge you to vote for Jennifer Blumenstock and Marc Lazarow, candidates of character with a commitment to community, not politics.

Jennifer Blumenstock and Marc Lazarow are not politicians, like Mr. Matthieu. They are neighbors, educators and volunteers. As they've mentioned, Jennifer and Marc are running because they've had enough and want to be part of the solution to restore respect and productivity to the Garwood Council.

**Hugh Sinclair, Chairman
Garwood Democratic Committee**

Not Everybody Should be President

"Hamilton" is a blockbuster Broadway musical. But we should be focusing our attention on the high standard that Alexander Hamilton set in Federalist Paper No. 68 for selecting a President of the United States of America!

"The process of election affords a moral certainty, that the office of President will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications. Talents for low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity, may alone suffice to elevate a man to the first honors in a single State; but it will require other talents, and a different kind of merit, to establish himself in the esteem and confidence of the whole Union, or of so considerable a portion of it as would be necessary to make him a successful candidate for the distinguished office of President of the United States. It is not too strong to say that there will be a constant probability of seeing the station filled by characters pre-eminently for ability and virtue."

Could Hamilton have imagined that more than two centuries later presidential campaigns had disintegrated to the point that Adlai E. Stevenson, who knew a thing or two about presidential campaigns, quipped, "Selling the Presidency like cereal. How can you talk seriously about issues with half-minute spots?" But it is even worse today!

Presidential campaigns are all about medium, not the message! The superficial rather than the substantive. In short, imagery!

Presidential campaigns are a sport to us with terminology befitting a racetrack!

We do not spend the long, hard hours, to use Hamilton's words, "analyzing the qualities adapted to the action, and acting under circumstances favorable to deliberation, and a judicious combination of all the reasons and inducements, which were proper to govern their choice"! And with "the information and discernment requisite to such complicated investigations!"

We would rather listen to the talking heads on television, pollsters and blogs. (I wonder if candidates Jefferson, Madison and Lincoln would have passed muster!)

We think campaign slogans are the future told!

But remember Hoover's "A Chicken In Every Pot And A Car In Every Garage" (1928) and his "We Are Turning The Corner" (1932), Wilson's, "He Kept Us Out Of War" (1916), and Nixon's "Nixon Now, More Than Ever" (1972)?

How startling that we spend so little time pondering the qualities a President MUST have to deal with war and peace! How indifferent we are to facts. How bound by ideological bent. How dismissive of contrary ideas. How impatient for change in a constitutional system intentionally made deliberative rather than fast acting!

Abraham Lincoln quipped, "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."

Yes, anybody can be President but...

**Stephen Schoeman
Westfield**

Letters to the Editor

Fanwood Council's Reasoning on Recycling Makes No Sense to Reader

I read with great interest the article in *Scotch Plains - Fanwood Times* explaining the Fanwood Council's reasons for switching to Curbside Recycling. Frankly, it made no sense to me.

I attended the meeting in February which was open to the community, wherein the majority was definitely in favor of maintaining the Fanwood - Scotch Plains Recycling Center. The Mayor and Council members appeared to be interested in what everyone was saying; however, I now believe they were listening with deaf ears.

As described in the article, Councilmen Molenaar and Kranz visited the PMUA facility and were impressed by the professionalism of those at PMUA and especially their newly hired executive director. It went on to explain the process of recycling. I am curious, have Councilmen Molenaar and Kranz ever visited the Fanwood - Scotch Plains Recycling Center? Their process is similar. They, too, sort, bale and process as well. In fact, there is a highly experienced Site Manager, Alan Ebersole, who has managed the facility for the last 30 years. After all the work of sorting and baling is completed, the material is sold to vendors, such as Colgate Paper Stock, by the Fanwood - Scotch Plains Recycling Association who operates the Recycling Center.

**Evelyn Pierce
Fanwood**

Never Provide A Social Security Number for License or School

Many small-minded people who work inside of New Jersey's K-12 education system mislead parents of children registering for school, by claiming that there are required documents to register a child in school.

State law says a school district is required to register any student of school age who says they live within the district. Even if the child and parent lack any form of ID or other official documentation, the child still must be registered and allowed to attend school.

Districts must admit the student and then the parent may provide whatever documents they can get together. It is the "totality" of those documents that can prove residency.

For example, a birth certificate and a piece of mail would more than be sufficient ID under the law.

To protect your child from identity

theft, you should never provide a social security number to a school district or your drivers license. They have no legitimate use for this information.

A K-12 School is not the IRS, an employer, or a bank. How dare they demand a SSN?

**Eric Hafner
Toms River**

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The Westfield-Mountainside Post Offices thank each and every one in town for their outstanding contribution to the Food Drive.

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Dear Mr. /Mrs. Next President: Who Shall Rule the World?

Those who warn of an imminent Armageddon are considered alarmists yet evidence clearly supports such an eventuality. Now is not the time for denial. Let's address four potential universal weapons: cyberspace, nuclear technology, biological-toxin warfare and the English language, a quadruple threat which, because of its combined synergistic lethality, doesn't require an army to employ. A hundred dedicated men, women and children strategically situated throughout the globe with secret headquarters on Easter Island would suffice. Regarding computers, the bold fact is that hackers can bypass and control any security system, including that of our national defense. Regarding nuclear weapons, ways to produce and unleash smart ones such as in a suitcase or on a drone will soon arrive - if not already. Regarding biological-toxin warfare, with the genetic revolution fueled by CRISPR or easy-to-do gene editing, one can assume that governments, madmen and others are increasingly creating lethal drug resistant bacterial, fungal and viral organisms as well as population decimating toxins. Regarding English, it's now the universal language allowing messages, via cyberspace, to be globally transmitted and understood by a highly persuasive dominant personality.

There is little doubt that someone or entity has at least formulated strategic ways to coordinate the deployment of these four weapons to swiftly paralyze the world, perhaps in a month, into submission by creating acute global fear and panic. My first experience with a world tyrant happened when I was a kid - a long time ago. It was Ming the Merciless, the evil ruler of the planet, Mongo, who also attempted to conquer earth but was stopped by the courageous Flash Gordon played by Buster Crabbe. Then, it was a vague future fantasy

possibility. Today it's a real one. After the hundred warriors are strategically globally positioned, the leader announces, via cyberspace in English, that he will periodically unleash the three weapons on selected targets if the world doesn't surrender within a given time. He, at first, issues the warning to turn on the panic button. The world, understandably, initially refuses to honor his request after which he unleashes the initial attack. If there is no surrender, he then, always persuasively communicating in cyberspace, unleashes the second and subsequent attacks until global surrender is achieved.

Mr. /Mrs. Next President, this is, unquestionably, the major threat of our times, and we urgently need a strong-I-emphasize the word "strong"-capable President to confront the beast. Unfortunately, our current president is either clueless or prefers not to deal with this imminent threat and is withdrawing from the world's increasing complex battlefield concentrating on social issues such as transgender bathroom rights. He has led our nation to a mindset of weakness instead of strength and also ignoring the lessons of history regarding the evil nature of mankind. David Gerlenter, Yale's computer genius, warned, "What does it mean when a culture no longer believes in evil?"

Mr. /Mrs. Next President, as Cher warned Nicholas Cage in the classic movie, *Moonstruck*, it's time to "Snap out of it" and aggressively expand our global alliances and power and lead the way in search of a solution which is not, as President Obama said at Hiroshima a "moral revolution." Ours is the only country with this capability. As Frederick the Great famously warned, "If one does not advance, one retreats." If not, dear next president, as sure as night follows day, someone will attempt to rule the world.

**Stephen DeFelic
Westfield**

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Friday & Saturday 9:30 am - 5:00 pm closed Sundays for the Summer

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS (Check website for sign up information)
**Adult Summer Reading Club:
June 27 to August 15**

6/1	7:00 pm	Creativity Workshop: <i>In Your Hands</i>
6/3	1:30 pm	TGIF! Calypso's Search for Atlantis (video)
6/6	7:00 pm	Enigma & Code Breaking During WWII
6/8	7:00 pm	Richard II-Hudson Shakespeare Co.
6/10	1:30 pm	TGIF! American Ballet Theatre (video)
6/11	2:00 pm	Ken Morr Band
6/14	10:00 am	Color Your World-Coloring for Adults
6/15	7:00 pm	Creativity Workshop: <i>It's About Time</i>
6/17	1:30 pm	TGIF! Billie Jean King (video)
6/22	7:00 pm	Armchair Art Tour: Ancient Olympics
6/24	1:30 pm	TGIF! Classic Movie: <i>Midnight in Paris</i>
6/29	7:00 pm	The Chamblins present <i>Life is ...</i>

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN (Check website for sign up information)
Children's Book Club June 20-August 13
Tweens and Teens Online Book Club June 20-August 13

6/29	11:00 am	Kiddie Rock 'n Roll with Polka Dot. Family music show for all ages. Children must have their own full service WML card to register online starting June 1.
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