

"That's usually how professionals come to boroughs."

If a business donates money towards a campaign and is qualified to work for the town, why wouldn't the elected officials who benefited from the campaign contribution consider hiring them? People who contribute money toward a campaign are making an investment that may or may not come with a return. Pay-to-Play turns negative when officials do guarantee a return, when the town is over-billed for work, and when the taxpayers start paying the price for political appointments. When this happens, you no longer have a government by and for the people.

One of the problems here is that it is very difficult to compare work when services, projects, and the economy are variables in the equation. What towns need to do is close as many of the Pay-to-Play loopholes as possible, or move to the Fair and Open process of appointments, so everything is put out in the open for everyone to see. Allowing professionals to make contributions and appointing them through the Non-Fair and Open process because of loopholes in the state law creates mystery and puts the appointment in a negative light.

As for the current appointment, the only question Emerson residents, and the council, need to ask themselves is whether or not Maser is providing them with the services that they need at a fair price.

The rest is just politics.

Hospitals are businesses

TO THE EDITOR:

I have to respond to the campaign to keep Pascack Valley Hospital from reopening. I believe that Valley Hospital in Ridgewood and Englewood Hospital are disingenuous at the best.

Shortly after Pascack Valley Hospital closed my wife was admitted to Valley Hospital after normal admitting hours which are done through the Emergency Room. We had been to her doctor's office and he had called the hospital to pre-admit her. After the initial ER paper work was completed we were moved to a corridor along with many other patients. We were told that it would be a little while to get her a bed. There was a lot staff going back and forth and it was quite obvious that they were having a hard time coping with the amount of people waiting to see the ER doctor. I tried a few times to get someone to help my wife who was sitting in a wheel chair and was very uncomfortable. Every time I tried to get the atten-

tion of any nurse that was hurrying back and forth I was told that it would only be a little longer.

I was finally able to stop a nurse, who seemed to be frazzled. I explained my wife's condition and asked if she could do something to alleviate her discomfort. She took me to the ER station and accessed the computer terminal and found that my wife, who was pre-admitted, had a bed reserved for her. The nurse apologized profusely and told me the obvious, that they were overwhelmed. We had been waiting four hours in the corridor all for naught. No one had the time to perform the simple task of looking on the computer for her name, which was plainly marked that she had a bed and did not have to see the ER doctor. We had been to Valley Hospital ER in the past and never experienced what can only be described as near chaos. The staff personnel were rushing back in forth trying to manage the best that they could but they were extremely understaffed. After the nurse intervened my wife was in her assigned bed in 10 minutes.

During my wife's five-day stay the casual observer could see that

the staff was having a hard time with the work load. In no way should this letter be seen as a negative commentary on the nurses or the nurses' assistants. The entire staff did the best that they could and the care was exceptional considering the conditions that they had to deal with.

My wife has been admitted to Valley Hospital since then and it is very obvious that they do not have a plethora of empty beds. When my wife is staying at the hospital I stay with her as much as possible and there is lot to be learned by watching and listening. There is a concerted effort to reoccupy a vacated room as soon as possible. The claim that there are too many empty beds in the Pascack Valley region seems to be very hollow.

The agenda of both Valley Hospital in Ridgewood and Englewood Hospital seems to be having a greater share of the amount of patients left stranded by the shameful closing of Pascack Valley Hospital. Will keeping Pascack Valley Hospital from opening benefit Valley Hospitals' expansion efforts? This is a financial concern on the part of the two hospitals not a health care

one.

Please do not support the effort to hinder Pascack Valley Hospital from becoming the hospital that we all need.

Robert Grippo
Woodcliff Lake

Treat our parks with respect

TO THE EDITOR:

Over the years the Borough of Westwood and Boy Scouts had upgraded this park but unfortunately some people are systematically destroying it.

An Eagle Scout Project by my son took place in which 30 azalea bushes were planted and at this point there are only a handful left. Several were destroyed during the last snowstorm when someone who lives off of the park used their ATV in it driving directly over the bushes and killing them off. Children and adults alike throw the shot rocks that align the embankment to keep the shoreline from eroding

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 35

Letters Policy

Letters may be edited and may be published, reproduced, or distributed in print, electronic, or other forms. The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of *Pascack Valley Community Life* or its affiliates. A daytime phone number should be included on each letter submitted for publication. Letters which cannot be verified or are anonymous will not be published. Not all letters will necessarily be published. E-mail letters to the editor to pvcommunitylife@northjersey.com, fax to 201-664-1332, or mail to Kevin Glynn, editor, Pascack Valley Community Life, 372 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood, NJ 07675-1600.

PASCACK VALLEY
Community Life

Published at 372 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood, NJ 07675-1600
201-664-2501 Fax 201-664-1332

JANICE FRIEDMAN
Publisher

KEVIN GLYNN
Editor

JOHN GALLACHER
Advertising Sales Manager

A community newspaper of
North Jersey Media Group

STEPHEN BORG, President
KERRY RUBIN, Director, Classified TeleCenter
GLENN GARVIE, Vice President, Production
DOUGLAS SEIFERLING, Distribution Director