

Signs Are Hazardous on Woodland and Kimball

The pedestrian crossing signs have reappeared again, at least at the intersection of Woodland Avenue and Kimball Avenue near where I live. These signs make sense on busy roads such as East Broad Street, but they are really a hazard on less traveled roads, specifically in this case - Woodland Avenue. At the precise intersection I'm mentioning, there are two of these signs less than 100 yards apart. Woodland Avenue itself is narrow and uneven; it's only a matter of time before a driver either hits one of these signs or has an accident trying to avoid them. There are not hordes of pedestrians struggling to cross Woodland Avenue. Can we please exercise some common sense in their placement?

Simon Lack
Westfield

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Third Grader Asks, Don't Change Principals

Dr. Perry is my principal. I am a third grader at Wilson Elementary School in Westfield.

I like having him as my principal because he knows us very well. He knows that we all like him and would like to keep him at Wilson School. We need to have the same principal to continue next year.

He knows all of our names and always says hi to us when we are walking in the halls. Dr. Perry can be strict, but it is for our safety. I could never have a nicer principal than Dr. Perry.

He not only is our principal but he is our friend. He even goes in the dunk tank at the carnival. Please keep Mr. Malanga at Washington School because they love him too. It seems that Washington kids want to keep their principal and Wilson kids want to keep our principal.

I really really want to keep my principal and my friend at Wilson School! Please think about changing your mind, Mr. Foley.

Stephanie Carter
Westfield

More Letters to the Editor

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WF Elementary Principal Swap Is This The Battle We Are Picking?

I am writing in response to the pending "principal swap" announced recently by Superintendent Foley. I am the parent of one former and two current Washington School students, all of whom care deeply for the school and its principal, Mr. Malanga.

I was moved by the many letters that spoke so passionately about their feelings for their respective principals. In fact, it was almost uncanny, after reading these letters, just how similar the qualities, character descriptions and styles both principals exhibit. It almost felt as if you left off each principal's respective school names, you would barely be able to tell them apart.

Why do I mention this? To demonstrate the point that both principals are highly qualified and respected, beloved within their respective schools and clearly a lynchpin to their school's overall success and that of its students. As far as I can tell, we are not talking about an uneven or

unfair exchange here.

Please don't get me wrong; it is not that I am the leader of an underground group at Washington School secretly trying to oust Mr. Malanga in hopes of luring the pre-eminent principal of Wilson School to lowly Washington, quite the contrary.

As a parent of a daughter with diabetes and another who for two years attended special education classes, our reliance on Mr. Malanga and his compassion, guidance and oversight was and continues to be nothing short of significant. We will definitely miss him. With that said, we have trust and belief in the Westfield school system.

I don't doubt those who claim there must be "other" reasons behind why such a swap is being offered up. Rarely is there ever just one reason behind a decision of this magnitude. However, perhaps unlike many of those who wrote to disagree, I believe change is good, even in regards to a decision that may appear to be, at least on the surface, cavalier and without clear purpose.

While it might not have been the foremost intention of Dr. Foley's, it is quite clear to me that a principal swap will offer both Mr. Malanga and Dr. Perry new and exciting challenges, improved career opportunity and greater personal growth in years to come.

Remember I am not speaking as some omniscient observer; we adore Mr. Malanga. But quite frankly, I welcome the change, the new opportunities this change will bring, the growth potential it will offer, the new relationships it will engender, the new energy it will infuse and the new style Dr. Perry and his years of experience will bring to Washington school.

It will yield an entirely new perspective to both students and teachers, which they will keep with them for a lifetime. Is Dr. Perry's style or perspective better than Mr. Malanga's? No, but it is a different style and that's what's important. Let us not forget that knowledge is power. I do not begrudge Dr. Perry. In fact, I would like to welcome him. I hope that many of you reading this will have the same positive anticipation and faith in all that Mr. Malanga will conversely bring to Wilson School.

One last point that may have been overlooked in all of this: Did anyone stop to consider the feelings, opinions or aspirations of Dr. Perry and Mr. Malanga? Maybe this is a decision that both principals feel strongly about and heartily endorse. Would we all not feel just a bit less righteous in our demands if we knew we were potentially contradicting the wishes of the principals we so vehemently support?

It reminds me a bit of the vociferous and angry protests that took place when ShopRite announced it was building a store in Westfield. Local residents couldn't imagine such an intrusion disrupting our tranquil north side.

They predicted with near certainty that adjacent side streets would be turned into veritable drag racing lanes, or worse yet, that South Chestnut would become the equivalent of Route 1 and 9. But at least that controversy came with an acceptable counter offer: a significant reduction in property taxes through the introduction of a new commercial-sized ratable property.

Well, we all know what happened next. ShopRite threatened and then followed through with its decision to build the store in Garwood less than 100 feet from its originally-proposed location only to absolve Westfield of any (most needed) tax abatement. Why do I bring this anecdote up? Well, let us not as Westfield residents push this issue beyond what is reasonable, to the point of inflammation or insult.

Letters supporting our principals are both a logical and supportive response. But if we decide that this issue is so visceral as to push it to the top of the agenda list, I fear we may be pushing these two highly respected and accomplished administrator's right out of the Westfield school system entirely.

Matt Felix
Westfield

More Community News

Red Cross Chapter Reveals Lifesaving Classes For June

WESTFIELD - The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross has released its schedule of June classes in lifesaving skills.

An Adult CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) class will be held today, Thursday, June 8, from 6 to 10:30 p.m. It will be offered again on Tuesday, June 20, from 9:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Participants need only attend class on one of these dates. This course teaches individuals how to deal with choking, breathing and cardiac emergencies involving adults. The course also includes training in AED (automated external defibrillation) use.

An Infant CPR class will be offered tomorrow, Friday, June 9, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. This course covers choking, breathing and cardiac emergencies for infants (birth to one year old). First Aid certification can be added to this class and will go until 2:15 p.m.

Children CPR (ages one to eight years old) will be held on Friday, June 16, from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. First Aid training can be added to this class and will go until 3:15 p.m. This course also will be offered again (without First Aid) on Wednesday, June 21, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

A Community First Aid and Safety class will be held twice in June, first as a two-day class on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 12 and 13, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. The second time will be as a one-day training session on Saturday, June 24, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This course teaches participants choking, breathing and cardiac emergency response and first aid. It certifies participants in CPR (infants, children and adults) and First Aid. The CPR portion of this class can be taken on these days without the First Aid section.

First Aid training will take place on

Thursday, June 15, from 6 to 10 p.m. It will be offered again on Monday, June 26, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. This course teaches participants how to check the condition of conscious and unconscious victims and deal with choking emergencies, as well as how to recognize and care for life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness and injuries.

A CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer (infant, child, adult, two-person CPR and AED) class will be offered on Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This course is intended for individuals who have the duty to respond to emergencies, such as lifeguards, EMTs and health care professionals.

For those who have current certification in this course but need to renew, re-certification classes will be held on Tuesday, June 20, from 6 to 10 p.m. Challenges will be offered on Sunday, June 25, at 10 a.m.

A Babysitters Training course (for youth ages 11 to 15) is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will be offered again as a two-day training session on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 27 and 28, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Participants will learn the responsibilities and qualities it takes to be an effective babysitter.

For a full listing of classes and courses offered this summer, please visit the chapter's website at: www.westfieldmountainside-redcross.org.

All training programs take place at the Westfield/Mountainside Red Cross Chapter House, located at 321 Elm Street in Westfield. Advance registration is required and space is limited. For more information, please call (908) 232-7090, visit the chapter house or e-mail the director of Health and Safety at johnsonsafety@comcast.net.



Full-Service is our standard. Quality is our difference.



Open House
Sun. June 11th 1-4pm

Westfield

Just Listed!

Location! Location! Ideally located at 611 Lawrence Avenue, this beautiful Colonial home has been tastefully decorated and lovingly maintained. Features include: formal living room with woodburning fireplace, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, 1st floor family room, five bedrooms and three and one-half baths. The spacious property 60x175 offers potential to expand if desired (architect plan for expansion available). Please stop by our Open House on Sunday, June 11th, 1-4pm to view this wonderful home or call for a personal showing.

\$1,185,000

Directions: Dudley to Lawrence.

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OPEN HOUSE EVENT THIS SUNDAY 1-4PM
136 CORIELL AVENUE, FANWOOD

Spacious and pristine home offering ideal location on a quiet tree lined street in Fanwood. Perfect for entertaining are the sun-filled Family Room, first floor Den, Dining Room & Living Room with wood burning fireplace. This fine home boasts hardwood floors, new central air & furnace, master Bedroom with full bath, irrigation system & deck overlooking manicured grounds. Walk to NYC train.

Offered for \$500,000.



CLASSIC COLONIAL ON PARK-LIKE PROPERTY
WITH SHORT WALK TO TRAIN

Classic Fanwood Colonial on a tree lined street boasts park like property. Ideal for entertaining are the formal Dining Room & Living Room with wood burning fireplace and entrance Foyer with formal staircase. Sunny filled Family Room adjacent to the newer Kitchen, hardwood floors, central air, two full bathrooms and a new deck with views of the manicured gardens in the rear yard. Walk to NYC transportation.

Offered for \$520,000.

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Open House Sunday; 6/11 1-5pm



Just Reduced!

8 Village Circle, Westfield - Three bedroom, two full bath Expanded Ranch sits on a quiet cul de sac, with a large park-like backyard, and just a "stone's throw away" from Tamaques Park and Tamaques Grammar School. This home was updated in 2005, including, Andersen Windows and Doors, a large Eat-In Kitchen with new stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, new master bath, four (4) zone gas hot water baseboard heating, central air, all brick wood-burning fireplace in family room, finished basement, tiled laundry room, and much more! \$625,000.

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for a personal tour or visit
www.ForSaleByOwner.com, Listing No. 20613190



One Floor Living at its Finest!!

Scotch Plains...Easy to maintain, this mint condition ranch home is ready to move into!! Featuring 3 well proportioned bedrooms, this home boasts an open floor plan including an updated eat-in kitchen with granite counters and hardwood floors throughout. The full basement has been finished for you and features rec room, office, 2nd full bath, and separate laundry area. Perfect for those starting out or those scaling back.

This home is sure to sell quickly at \$ 429,900!



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