

The Westfield Leader
— Established 1890 —
Legal Newspaper for the Town of Westfield,
Boroughs of Mountainside and Garwood
And the County of Union, N.J.

Members of:
New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association • Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association • Fanwood Business & Professional Association

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Westfield, New Jersey
P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, West
Westfield, N.J. 07091

Tele: (908) 232-4407 • E-mail: editor@goleader.com • Web: www.goleader.com • Fax: (908) 232-0473

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the offices of the newspapers at
P. O. Box 250, Westfield, New Jersey 07091

Published every Thursday by Watchung Communications, Inc.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
One-year - \$28 • Two-year - \$52 • Three-year - \$76 • One-year college (September to May) - \$20

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THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD TIMES SINCE 1959
Legal Newspaper for the Borough of Fanwood
And the Township of Scotch Plains

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, New Jersey
P. O. Box 368
Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076

Letters to the Editor

Westfielder Questions 'Smear' Letter From 'Prohibitionist Party' on Alcohol

One of the great problems we have today is the insistence by the self-appointed keepers of morality and taste to impose their standards on everyone else. Susan Jacobson, former councilwoman, of the Prohibitionist Party has reprimanded Keith Loughlin for hosting a party at which alcohol was served. She extends her wrath to Mayor Andy Skibitsky and some Republican councilmen for attending this "inappropriate" gathering. If Ms. Jacobson is able to produce any legitimate proof of alcohol abuse by Mr. Loughlin or his "Republican cronies," let her do so. Attempting to smear Mr.

Loughlin with this prudish complaint would certainly indicate her inability to say anything substantive against Mr. Loughlin. Her opinions seem to stem from the same omnipotence as the women who wanted to drape the windows of Victoria's Secret because of their "inappropriate" displays. I certainly prefer the realistic attitude of Mr. Loughlin to serve to adults the beverages of their choice and to insure that children understand that alcohol can be drunk in moderation.

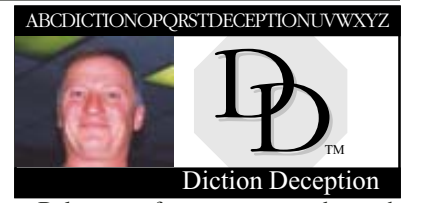
A. John Blake
Westfield

Thanks to All Who Stepped Forward To Defray Cranford Fireworks Cost

As you may know, Union County has helped defray some expenses associated with putting on the fireworks display in Cranford in recent years. Last month, however, Union County sent a letter notifying the township that the county would instead help finance fireworks in Rahway. With that, the Cranford Township Committee considered cancelling the annual Fourth of July fireworks. Before doing so, though, we formed an Independence Celebration Committee to see if the lost funding could be raised privately. I was contacted by numerous people interested in helping, and we were overwhelmed with the community support. We had hoped the Independence Celebration Committee could raise \$10,000. In less than a week, there were commitments of about \$8,000, including generous support from the Cranford Jaycees, the Cranford Junior Woman's Club, the Cranford Knights of Columbus, St. Michael's Church, local businesses, individuals and others. There were even plans underway for a PTA to have "the biggest

bake and pretzel sale [our] town has ever seen." Former Mayors Bilger, Morin and Plick were especially instrumental in rallying support for this effort. In the end, we were notified that Rahway's fireworks fell through, and Union County would again help support the fireworks in Cranford. We thank the county for its assistance. Our deepest thanks though go to everyone in the Cranford community who was committed to keeping this tradition alive. Those groups can now focus their time, resources, energy and enthusiasm to other causes in Cranford, but we'll never forget how they, and really all of Cranford, rose up to meet this challenge. We should not at all be surprised though. I have often said that our Cranford community will rise to any occasion. This occasion was no different. So, enjoy the fireworks. Celebrate our country's independence! I hope you and yours have a wonderful, safe Independence Day celebration this weekend.

Mayor Dave Robinson
Cranford



Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions - only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly - good guess. If you get two - well-read individual. If you get three - word expert. If you get all four - You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

- Answers to last week's sarcane words.**
1. Zeekoe - The hippopotamus
 2. Krang - The body of a whale stripped of its blubber
 3. Philauty - A selfish regard for oneself
 4. Stoit - To stagger or stumble
- PLAGUY**
1. Troublesome; annoying
 2. Like or consisting of flesh
 3. Ignoring; neglecting
 4. Discolored or blackened
- IMPENNAE**
1. Motionless; inert
 2. Having a notched, indented or scalloped edge as certain leaves.
 3. Without feathers or wings
 4. Twining about; twisting
- HEGEMONIC**
1. Ruling; predominant
 2. Marshy; covered with water
 3. Prophetic; oracular; mysterious
 4. Living the life of a hermit
- HEBETATION**
1. Temporary loss of memory of one's surroundings
 2. In a relaxed state; resting
 3. Humiliation; shame; falling from grace
 4. The act of making dull or stupid

SP Budget, Highest Regressive Tax Increase

This year's budget plan for Scotch Plains, pushed by our township council, includes the most regressive tax increase I have ever heard of. One third of our resident taxpayers would be saddled with a 20-point or more tax increase for municipal taxes while some would have their municipal taxes lowered. The reason this variable tax increase is regressive is that the higher point and dollar amount of these rates imposes the higher rates for those with the lower assessed value for their homes and a tax decrease for the highest valuations. When it was suggested that this plan was not well thought out, the majority of the council indignantly asserted that they had studied this plan for many months and had the benefit of experts. If one takes the council at its word, the majority lacks sensitivity to the impact this plan would have on many of our taxpayers during this recession/ depression. One might instead contemplate the possibility that these people lack the intellectual capacity to understand the consequences of what they propose, but do have the arrogance to refuse to listen to members of the public. Either way, it is scary to realize that they are in charge of passing a \$25-million budget. If, at election time, the voters keep electing one or more of this group, they are responsible for whatever these people do to them.

Dick Samuel
Scotch Plains

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You, We the Citizens

We believe the best way to celebrate Independence Day is to dedicate oneself to act with courage and honor, just like our forefathers - and our fighting men of today. Stand up to villainy. Defy our enemies, many of whom are from within. Don't shirk from the wrongdoers, the aggressors, the manipulators or the bullies. Let everyone know you're an American and proud of it - for "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

As Benjamin Franklin said during dark times, "We must hang together, gentlemen...else, we shall most assuredly hang separately."

You, we the citizens, are being pillaged by subversion and mendacity ensconced in our nation's capital, in Trenton and Wall Street. Our sons' and daughters' futures are being despoiled. The marauders' appetites are voracious, their greed unbridled. Will their tyranny take everything from you, we the citizens? You, we the citizens - stand up. Stop the ravage or the panoptic taxation will be rooted without regnant recourse. You, we the citizens, this Independence Day - demand redress. Call your elected officials now.

The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies

Continental Congress, Philadelphia, Pa., July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. —Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain [George III] is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The signers of the Declaration represented the new states as follows: New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton; Massachusetts: John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry; Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery; Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott; New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris; New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark; Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross; Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean; Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton; Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton; North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn; South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton; Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.

Neighborly Goodwill This Fourth of July

It is refreshing to discover that fellow citizens have retained their good-hearted nature in today's challenging economic climate and not only looked after themselves, but those in their own backyard. If one were to contemplate the question: "What if it were me," one may begin to understand the heartache that Kathi Sullivan and her mom, Dolores, of Garwood are experiencing in their displacement and loss of personal effects (see story, page 1). Although, it is unfeasible to wholly comprehend what they are truly going through. Most homeowners would not be able to secure the funds without an insurance reimbursement to reconstruct a house, let alone rebuild in six months, single-handedly.

Imagine the stress and emotional roadblocks that could hinder taking on such an enormous task. All of one's memories faded away with the fallen timber and disintegrated family keepsakes. What if one did not have the assistance of such generous neighbors and friends? From the local tradesmen to friends offering their skills to fire restoration advice, to strangers throughout the area donating money and supplies, it is a marvel at how a community brought together humanity and kinship to help this family return to their home. This Fourth of July, celebrate our nation's freedom - yet also remember the goodwill that affects us every day. A little neighborly help can rebuild lives and last a lifetime.

