

Kasko, Westfield Ward 3 Candidate Proposes Transparency Policy

As a candidate for Town Council in the 3rd Ward, I want to address several current government practices in which I have areas of concern. I would like each voter to understand that in order to facilitate transparency, accessibility, and a properly managed government, I would initiate certain policy and procedure that I believe is necessary to achieve these specific goals and objectives. I wish to put forth these policies that I would seek to pass as ordinances to achieve standards in good practice. I also ask that *The Westfield Leader* request the other candidates to take positions in favor of or opposing these policies and their willingness to vote in favor of ordinances to make them real.

1. Transparency: All records of the Town of Westfield are to be considered open for inspection unless specifically barred from the public by specifically stated statutes, executive orders or ordinances.

2. No person may be considered for the job as head of a department unless he/she volunteers as a candidate and legally waives any right to privacy or confidentiality to any record, test, or opinion, to which he/she might lay claim.

3. The Town will make public any past tests for the head of any department in which the present candidate was considered and all claims of privacy to which any candidate might lay claim must be waived by the candidate. This would also apply to any candidate seeking the job as head of a department in the future.

4. The Town will enter no contract in which confidentiality may be claimed by any party and will hereby waive any right of confidentiality it might have obtained

in any past contract.
5. The prerogative of the Town may only be exercised when supported by facts or the written opinion of a qualified expert who must be available, on notice to the public, for questioning by the public within two weeks of the creation of his/her written opinion.

6. Matters involving public safety must be treated by the Town Council only on facts and upon the written opinion of a qualified expert whose opinion must be published two weeks prior to his appearance at a Town Council meeting where he is to be made available for public questions on his qualifications, his instructions when hired to create a report, the report itself, and any facts which might taint his objectivity.

7. The Town of Westfield will actively seek the aid of the agencies of the state government and/or the colleges or universities of the State of New Jersey to obtain studies of the Town and each of its departments to assess the needs of the Town, the ability of the department to meet those needs, a description of the desired qualifications of the head of each department and the rating of the department to the stated goals. Each report is to be published for public review.

I request that each of the other candidates for 3rd Ward Westfield Town Council, Councilman Mark LoGrippo and Democratic candidate Matt Sontz respond and take a position on each of the above. By respond, I mean approval or disapproval with reasons given why the candidate takes such a position. It also includes suggestions to improve upon the above statements of intent.

Gregory Kasko
Westfield, 3rd Ward Independent Candidate for Town Council

25 Percent of Adults in The County Can't Read

UNION COUNTY -- "Reading is the most important skill anyone can possess to improve quality of life," said Elizabeth Gloegler, executive director of Literacy Volunteers of Union County. "It impacts all aspects of life. As we mark National Literacy Month, we want to draw attention to the tremendous need for literacy education throughout the county and the invaluable role our dedicated volunteers play in responding to this need."

Literacy Volunteers of Union County matches volunteers with adults who want to learn to read, write and speak English. The organization's staff supervises the matches.

More than 25 percent of adults in Union County don't have the reading ability to perform basic everyday functions. Currently, nearly 60,000 adults in Union County, ages 18 to 65, lack a high school diploma or equivalent and are more likely to be unemployed and in poverty. More than 75,000 of the immigrants in Union County are not proficient at speaking or reading English.

Last year Literacy Volunteers of Union County provided 15,946 hours of instruction to nearly 600 students. All tutoring is provided free of charge and is offered one-on-one or in small group sessions for adults 18 years old or older.

For more information, please see www.lvaunion.org.

Letters to the Editor

Westfield Clocks Initiative Has Questions Along With Potential Value

A topic of discussion at the Downtown Westfield Board meeting on September 26 was about a presentation from the group of individuals called "The Friends of the Westfield Clock." The presentation described their private capital venture to raise \$100,000 from the community, which then goes to the purchase two street clocks in the downtown. They have two different styles in mind. One called the Heritage Limited Edition style for the northside and one called the Howard Replica for the southside. They have installation sites in mind also. The fancier, Heritage Limited Edition on the corner of Broad and Elm, replacing a double acorn lamppost and a simpler, Howard Replica in the horseshoe of the southside train station parking lot. This goal has possibilities.

Questions about the project remain open at this point in time, several of which others and I raised to the group at the meeting. One question is about their Federal Tax status and established corporate structure. I hope to have an answer back as to what is the Federal TAX ID number for their group. I think that anyone who contributes would want to have this information also before making a contribution. They mentioned that they have pledges for contributions and that sounds great, but what percent of those pledges convert into real dollars? If it is not enough, will the project linger or will the clocks be downgraded to a less costly style? Can a service provided in conjunction to the project be considered a donation in lieu of a monetary donation? The estimated ongoing maintenance fee that

the clock company charges is about \$400/clock/year. Who will pay for that? The group said that they don't plan on setting up an endowment fund to ensure that they and not the taxpayers cover the ongoing costs of maintenance, repair or even replacement. So the conclusion could be drawn that the Downtown Westfield Corporation and/or the Town of Westfield ultimately could be responsible to pay for those costs.

In terms of the possible placement of these clocks, a concern of the Northside clock was raised at the meeting. The corner of East Broad and Elm in front of the vacant former bank building is certainly one of the very congested areas in the downtown. Could the placement of a regal Limited Edition Heritage clock be fully appreciated there while drivers and pedestrians trying to focus on traversing the intersection? Does adding the eye-catching structure at that location diminish the safety of that intersection? Is there a safer place to put the northside clock?

Mr. Gildea, the town administrator, informed the DWC Board and the audience that the Town Council has not given approval on this project yet. I wish the "Friends of the Town Clock" luck in their endeavor and ask the Town Council to consider the questions that are posed herein as well as others that may emerge which reflect the concerns of taxpayers, pedestrians and vehicle drivers about the financial specifics and the safety matters about this project.

Julia Diddell
Westfield

Are You Interested In World Events?

You may be interested in joining The Princeton Committee on Foreign Relations (PCFR), a member of the American Committees on Foreign Relations (ACFR). PCFR is an interactive foreign relations discussion group, hosting nationally- and internationally-renowned speakers eight times a year in Princeton, N.J. Our meetings begin with a cocktail hour, followed by the speaker's remarks, a three-course dinner with wine and a lively question-and-answer session between the audience

and the speaker. We seek to adjourn by no later than 9 p.m. In this intimate format, our members are able to learn and have their questions answered by experts in their respective fields. Each year our members also have the opportunity to attend a national meeting convention of the 33 ACFR committees from around the nation in Washington, D.C. These meetings typically include a foreign embassy reception and dinner at the State Department.

Our speakers have extraordinary backgrounds and expertise in areas

that are among the most important in the world today and, in the past, have included such persons as, Ted Kattouf, former U.S. Ambassador to Syria; Barbara Bodine, former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen; Jack Mattock, Ronald Reagan's U.S. Ambassador to the USSR; Robert Finn, former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan; Gordon Chang, an expert on China, Korea and Russia; Claudia Rosset, expert on the UN and contributor to *The Wall Street Journal*; and Monique Al-Faizy, an expert on today's Egypt and Mme. Michele Pierre Louis, the former prime minister of Haiti.

All PCFR speakers provide first-hand knowledge of today's changing world, imparting nonpartisan points of view and expert analyses that one cannot readily find in any other type of setting or medium. This is a fantastic opportunity to enhance your knowledge, and we are confident you will find it fascinating and rewarding. If you are interested in learning more about PCFR and would like further information, please contact me, Jim Baker, at jimbaker996verizon.net.

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Doxorubicin, Carnitine and Senator Kennedy's Daughter

Recently, the late Senator Kennedy's 51 year old daughter, Kara, a victim of lung cancer, probably died of what is believed to be the common cardiotoxic and not uncommon fatal effect of the widely used chemotherapeutic drug, doxorubicin (Adriamycin) which causes a weakening of the heart or cardiomyopathy. It is indicated for a wide variety of tumors including breast. There is no available antidote.

During the Vietnam War I, as a physician, was chief of clinical pharmacology at WRAIR, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, responsible for the design and supervision of early clinical studies of new drugs principally for the treatment of malaria and nuclear radiation fallout. I also, along with my colleague, Major James Vick, conducted a number of laboratory studies, including a six-month study in monkeys; all, which showed that carnitine dramatically, blocks doxorubicin's cardiotoxicity both as prevention and treatment.

Many published studies have confirmed our findings. (Visit the Internet for individual studies and carnitine-ovariancancerpromise.com for a brief summary). Yet cardiologists and oncologists, for puzzling reasons, are unaware of or have ignored these studies.

Ironically, carnitine is an FDA approved extremely safe natural substance available in pharmacies ready to be administered both for the prevention and treatment of this debilitating and fatal toxicity.

So patients who have been treated with doxorubicin, are currently or will be treated with the drug should inform their doctors about carnitine. In this situation, the FDA does not control what the doctor can prescribe. The doctor along with the patient, therefore, can make the decision. (Frankly speaking, in our litigious and heavily regulated society, physicians will understandably pause before doing something outside the norm).

Bottom line, it's a Pascal wager; little to lose and lots to gain.

Stephen DeFelic, M.D.
Westfield



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