

The Westfield Leader THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD
 — Established 1890 —
TIMES SINCE 1959
 Legal Newspaper for the County of Union, New Jersey
 and for Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford and Garwood

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

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Rahway, 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.

Paul Peyton
 ASSIGNMENT EDITOR
Suzette F. Stalker
 COMMUNITY
Lauren S. Barr
 EDUCATION & ARTS

Horace R. Corbin
 PUBLISHER
David B. Corbin
 ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS
Ben Corbin
 SERVICES

Jeff Gruman
 SALES MANAGER
Michael L. Bartiromo
 MARKETING PRODUCTION
Robert P. Connelly
 BUSINESS OPERATIONS

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
 One-year - \$33 • Two-year - \$62 • Three-year - \$90

www.goleader.com/subscribe

At the Holidays and Always, Local Rescue Squads Need Our Support

'Tis the season for giving, and for remembering in a special way our neighbors as well as those organizations that keep us connected as a community all year long. A quintessential example of both is our rescue squads, which are comprised of local residents and represent one of the most vital threads in the fabric of a town.

These dedicated first responders answer the call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, handling emergencies under all sorts of weather and other conditions. Rescue squads also maintain a presence at community events, help to educate the public and provide additional services to those in need. They lend a helping hand beyond their own borders in the form of mutual aid.

Many squads are staffed entirely by volunteers, among them Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Cranford, Garwood, Clark and Berkeley Heights, providing their services at no cost to the public. Ranging in age from young adults to

senior citizens, volunteers also reflect a broad scope of educational experiences and professional backgrounds. Many have served with their squads for decades.

Volunteer rescue squads depend solely on donations from the community to maintain their operations and facilities, including equipment, ambulances and supplies, as well as to train volunteers.

During this holiday season, multiple rescue squads are conducting fund drives. We encourage area residents to respond as generously as they are able and, if possible, to consider volunteering with their local squad. The demands of modern life have made it especially challenging for squads to recruit volunteers in recent years, yet the vital role these organizations play remains constant.

Every dollar counts, as does the contribution of every volunteer. Let us all do our part to support our rescue squads, as they do their best for us, each day of the year.

Local Boards Offer Opportunities In Towns; Volunteer Now

Ahead of next month's reorganization meetings, local mayors are in the process of filling vacancies on dozens of municipal boards and commissions. These volunteer positions are important for the future of the community. Planning and zoning boards impact future development in the town, while the recreation commission has people focused on ensuring that athletic facilities are well maintained and that the towns offer popular programs for all ages. Local library boards ensure they have facilities that are maintained and budget conscious.

Many boards are more specific, such as historic preservation, board of health, housing and environmental commissions or the Emergency Management Council. Some positions are regional in nature such as the Union County Transportation Advisory and Union County Community Development boards. Representatives on the Municipal Alliance help the organization's community-based fight against alcoholism and drug abuse. The Cable TV board focuses on local access channel programming.

All boards and commissions require a major time commitment, especially planning and zoning boards, as they are multi-year appointments. They meet monthly in addition to special meetings. Members also serve on sub panels. But, in our view, these positions shape the community. In Westfield, there

are two seats expiring on the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board and Recreation Commission. There are six seats up on the Garwood Planning Board. Appointments and re-appointments are at the discretion of the mayor. For instance, in Westfield, the mayor will reach out to those whose terms are up to see if they want to continue to serve.

Anyone interested in serving should contact their mayor and include a resumé with relevant information on where they would like to serve. This should be done ASAP as mayors need to get their lists of appointments to their town clerks so that the council re-organizational meeting agendas can be completed. Even if there are no openings on the board sought by the applicant, mayors like to have resúmes in their files should a vacancy occur.

In addition to the volunteer positions, there are a number of paid officials who are appointed at the local level such as the town attorney, municipal judge (a five-year appointment), planning and zoning board attorneys. These positions usually go to those of the political persuasion of the majority party in the town.

We hope that volunteer appointees are chosen based on their backgrounds and not on whether they are a Democrat or a Republican. Thank you to those who serve.

Letters to the Editor

Reader Recalls His First Meeting With Frank Sinatra

It was during my first year in medical school - way back then! - when I first met Frank Sinatra. An attractive young lady invited me to his performance at the internationally famous 500 Club in Atlantic City, which was owned by the equally famous and highly respected, Skinny D'Amato. Her alpha male and big hearted father owned a large trucking business and had, let's say, influential contacts. My memory of things past has never been optimum, but here's one exception: As soon as I passed through the club's entrance I noticed people were intently staring in awe at something just behind me. When I turned around to take a look, there they were only a few feet away: Rocky Marciano and Jersey Joe Walcott, both historic heavyweight greats. Evidently they knew the father for they warmly called him by his first name as they shook hands after which they did the same with me. By nature, I'm not easily impressed but nature took a leave at that moment and I was excited!

The audience was a mature and measured adult one absent of adoring, bubbling teenage bobby-sockers. Then came a puzzling moment that I never forgot. After he completed the performance listed on the program, he asked for additional requests. An old timer from Italy with a heavy accent asked that he sing an Italian song. Sinatra, by using punting language, the nature of which I don't remember, refused, despite the old timer's relentless pleading. I said to my lady companion, "What's this all about?" Years later, shortly after Sinatra's death, a group of his friends, including the famous singer, Vic Damone, were interviewed on a television show. I believe it was Damone

who revealed that Sinatra refused to sing Italian songs but, unfortunately, no explanation was offered probably because no one knew the reason why.

Anyway, after his performance Skinny personally escorted us backstage where only he and we three sat down for a brief chat with Sinatra. And of my first impression, I also have no memory problems. His eyes were deep and strikingly blue which commanded immediate attention and respect. I also remember his first remark. He asked me, "How in God's name do you tie your bowtie the way you do, and what's the right size?" For the record, he used to be a bowtie wearer.

With his 100th birthday approaching on December 12, much is now being touted about his life and, of course, his lady loves. Little is mentioned, however, on how he, like a great opera singer, relentlessly practiced and developed his multiple singing skills early in his career. One exercise that impressed and surprised me was that he, as with a poem, read and spoke aloud to himself the lyrics of a song before putting them to song absorbing the critical art of first understanding and learning to verbally express the messages behind them.

I often wonder what makes a singing voice rise above the others in diverse cultures such as Edith Piaf in France and Javier Solis in Mexico. Whatever it is, Sinatra more than fits the bill. So Happy Birthday, Francis Sinatra, and may your stay in Purgatory have been short-lived, and you are now singing, along with Luciano Pavarotti and the heavenly angels, O' Sole Mio.

Dr. Stephen DeFelicé
 Westfield

Ferris Place Homeowner Descendant Decries Westfield Demolition

It was wonderful to see the photo on the front page of your Thanksgiving issue depicting a typical Westfield family celebrating the holiday more than a century ago. It gives me hope that there are still people in Westfield who care about preserving history and remembering the importance of those families that helped build Westfield and make it what it is today.

My great-grandfather, James Royce Ferris for whom Ferris Place was named, owned the home that now stands at 112 Ferris Place. The street name was changed from Union Place to Ferris Place before the turn of the last century because of the family's significance in the town.

He long ago donated the land on which the Methodist Church now stands across the street from our homestead. For many years, the communion grape juice came from the grapevines of the back yard.

My maternal grandparents, Mary Palmer Ferris (James' daughter) and Edgar Randolph Pearsall, moved to 112 Ferris in 1898 with eight of their soon-to-be-nine children. My mother, Virginia Lee Pearsall, was one of them. Her sister Helen Pearsall lived at 112 Ferris Place well into her 90s and it was always home to us and the large extended family.

Edgar Randolph Pearsall was a founder of the Union County Standard newspaper. He was also an original member of the Westfield Hook and Ladder Company, in the National Guard for 18 years and had charge of the Boy's Brigade of Westfield.

I fondly remember many family gatherings and holiday celebrations around the dining room table (which now stands in my dining room) that served the family of 11 at the start of the last century. The floor then sloped slightly but noticeably toward the fireplace. Another memory is the entry to the "wing room" right at the top of the stairs that was accessed from the step below the top step. We were all somewhat worried about Aunt Helen (Pearsall) as she aged, going up and down those quirky stairs while she lived there well into her 90s, but soon realized that since she had learned to navigate those steps as a toddler it was as she knew best.

This historically significant home was purchased by a developer and he has taken down the beautiful majestic trees that once lined the yard to prepare for tearing it down. What this developer does not understand is that this house is not just remembered as "home at 112" to the offspring and

extended family of Edgar Randolph Pearsall and Mary Palmer Ferris nor is it just a pile of bricks and mortar that have stood strong since 1746.

One hundred twelve Ferris Place is a significant piece of the history of Westfield. It is distressing and unconscionable that any consideration be given to razing a structure that has survived for so long and contributed so much from within its walls. The future is anchored in our history. If the house with so many stories to tell could talk, much would be divulged about the history of Westfield.

Joan Heller
 Wilmington, Del.

Climate Change Is Real, Not Kool Aid

In his recent Letter to the Editor, Mr. Schoeman has obviously swallowed the Kool-Aid of climate denial orthodoxy perpetuated by the Republican Party.

A recent peer review of over 12,000 climate science papers has found "a 97 percent consensus among papers taking a position on the cause of global warming in the peer-reviewed literature that humans are responsible." You can easily find the facts all over the Internet from reliable sources.

Next I expect Mr. Schoeman to utter the phrase "I'm not a scientist but".....

Morgan O'Brien
 Westfield

Gun Control: 'Common Sense'

Day after day Americans endure another mass shooting. Following the latest incident in California, Republicans offered prayers and praise for law enforcement officials. Democrats, on both the national and state levels, have offered concrete, common-sense legislation which would tighten background searches, prevent suspected terrorists on the no-fly list from purchasing guns, close the gun show loophole, and prevent the sale of weapons with large magazines. Until the voters stop sending do-nothings like Leonard Lance to Congress and our lame state representatives in Trenton who vote for gun control legislation and then vote against the same bill when Governor Christie vetoes it, shame on us.

Bill Gottdenker
 Mountainside



ABCDIJKLMNOPQRSTUDEFLECTIONUVWXYZ
 Diction Deception

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 arcane words.

1. Defecate - To purify or remove impurities
2. Stingo - Strong beer or ale
3. Lugubrious - Excessive grief; very sad
4. Instauration - Renewal or restoration

TRIDDLER

1. A species of sandpiper
2. A street merchant who sells items of little value
3. A confidence man; swindler
4. A person who is physically fit, trim or neat

PISTAREEN

1. A former Spanish gold coin
2. A basin with a drain, near the altar of a church, for the disposal of holy water
3. Concerned with petty affairs
4. Resembling a pea in shape and size

LALLATION

1. The ejection of the small, glassy igneous rock from a volcano
2. Imperfect pronunciation of the letter "R" making it sound like "L"
3. Playing lightly over a surface without burning it; flickering; said of a flame, etc.
4. The act or sound of yodeling

MINIATE

1. To diminish in importance
2. To tunnel
3. To paint with red lead
4. To condense without altering the meaning or effect

See more Letters on page 5

Letters to the Editor

Thank You Cranford First Aid Squad

As the end of the year approaches and volunteer rescue squads, among other volunteer organizations, send out letters asking for financial assistance for the services they provide, I am reminded about the day my toddler son started choking while I was driving through Cranford. I happened to be a block away from the Cranford First Aid Squad building and so my instinct was to pull in and take my son there for help.

The responders didn't think twice and helped my son. In the end, it turns out the small bouncy ball he had in his mouth he had spit out and not swallowed, thank God. I want to give thanks to those three responders for helping a frantic mom and calming down my scared son. I'm not even sure if pulling in to their facility is something I was "supposed" to do, but I'm so thankful they were there to help.

Christina Miskewitz
 Cranford

Editorial About Tree Growth Rates

I enjoyed the *Leader/Times* editorial last week about tree growth rates. I'm a 4-H Master Tree Steward through Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County. We teach 4th graders about trees. We go to any 4th grade class that wants us.

I've done this for 12 years and have taught about 2,500 students. Two years ago I wrote a paper about tree growth rates, which contains similar info like you had in your editorial. I have included some local trees. (download Mr. Talcott's paper at www.goleader.com/news/docs).

Dean Talcott
 Fanwood

IS WELCH'S GRAPE JUICE KOOL-AID?



Useful Information. It is all there at www.goleader.com/help
 (Your subscription Renewal Date and Customer ID are printed on your mailing label.)
 The *Leader/Times* website provides robust features to assist you. Do you want to find out if your honor roll has been published? Do you want to view Recent Home Sales? Do you want to search past editions? Need help?

Deadlines General News - Friday 4pm Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm Classifieds - Tuesday 12pm Ad Reservation - Friday 4pm Ad Submittal - Monday 12pm	To Reach Us Visit Us - 251 North Ave. West E-Mail - editor@goleader.com Phone - (908) 232-4407 Mail - The Westfield <i>Leader/Times</i> PO Box 250, Westfield 07091	Submittal Formats Email Photos in color Email Ads as pdf files in color Please spell & grammar check For more information, see www.goleader.com/help
--	---	--

Dear friends and advertisers. Join us in providing seasons greetings to your customers, our subscribers in our Christmas newspaper edition, December 24. There is no charge. We thank you for your business. Please fill in the form before December 21 at www.goleader.com/christmas/greeting

State LD-21 Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 425 North Ave. E. Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-3673 Asm. Jon Bramnick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-2073 Asm. Nancy Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, N.J. 07901 (908) 918-0414	State LD-22 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404 Asw. Linda Stender (D) 1801 East Second St. Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076 (908) 668-1900 Asm. Jerry Green (D) 17 Watchung Ave. Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757	7th Congressional District Representative Leonard Lance (R) 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District] 12th Congressional District Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D) 850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 201, Ewing, N.J. 08628 (609) 883-0026 [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]
---	--	--

LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.
 LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark and Linden.

senkean@njleg.org, senscutari@njleg.org
 asmbramnick@njleg.org, asmunoz@njleg.org
 aswstender@njleg.org, asmgreen@njleg.org