

The Westfield Leader **The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES**
 — Established 1890 — 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

Tel: (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 **Horace R. Corbin** **Jeff Gruman**
 ASSIGNMENT EDITOR PUBLISHER SALES MANAGER
Suzette F. Stalker **David B. Corbin** **Michael L. Bartiromo**
 COMMUNITY ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS MARKETING PRODUCTION
Christina M. Hinkle **Ben Corbin** **Robert P. Connelly**
 EDUCATION & ARTS SERVICES BUSINESS OPERATIONS

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE www.goleader.com/subscribe
One-year - \$36 • Two-year - \$68 • Three-year - \$99

Letters to the Editor

The Westfield Board Of Health Met On May 6, 2019

Concerning the epidemic of measles in the state, the board will continue to vigorously promote vaccinations to prevent this deadly disease. Since vaccinations are so effective, people forget what it was really like when measles caused an average of 6,000 deaths, 1,000 cases of encephalitis and 48,000 hospitalizations each year. We strongly support a proposed state law to require measles vaccinations for school entry, except for documented medical contraindications, and encourage our elected representatives to join us.

Concerning the epidemic of vaping among adolescents and children, the board agreed to develop regulations to license the addictive nicotine liquid pods, in addition to the delivery devices, to further control their sale in town. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one-fifth of high school students and 5 percent of middle-school students currently use addictive e-cigarettes and over two-thirds use flavored varieties. We will further discuss whether to ban the flavored nicotine pods.

Rabies is a continuing presence in Union County. It occurs most often in wildlife, particularly raccoons, bats, skunks, groundhogs and foxes. However, cats account for most of the rabies among domestic animals. Therefore, you must license your dogs and cats and protect them with vaccinations against rabies. You can obtain the license application through the Town Clerk's office, which can be reached at (908) 789-4030. An owner of an unlicensed or unvaccinated dog or cat will be issued a summons.

In March, there were two reports of animal bites in town. Please protect the community through proper leash-

ing. Also, please clean up after your pet since we all share our streets.

Twelve pre-school immunization audits were completed in March and April. Altogether, records for 1,417 children were reviewed. Initial compliance rates ranged between 68 percent and 100 percent for three programs. Nine programs were counseled. Seven of the eight reaudited in April were 100 percent compliant and one was 99 percent. One program will be reaudited in May. The board appreciates the cooperation of the parents, preschools and school nurses to best protect all our children, including those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical contraindications.

In addition, with the support of the mayor and town council, we will increase our efforts to educate residents concerning health issues. We plan to better share facts to prevent communicable diseases, such as measles and influenza, chronic diseases, addictions, such as vaping and opiates, and injuries, especially among pedestrians. Current cancer screening programs are available through the New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program at (908) 241-5222.

Information about all of the Westfield Regional Health Department's activities is available on its website <https://www.westfieldnj.gov/health>. The complete minutes of the May 6 meeting will be posted after review and approval at our Monday, June 3 meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal building. The public is invited to attend.

Lawrence Budnick, MD, MPH
 President, Westfield Board of Health
 Westfield

ABCDIJKLMNOPQRSTUWXYZ



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. Kibe - A crack or chap in the flesh caused by cold
2. Despumation - The act of skimming or scumming
3. Garran - A small work-horse
4. Eyra - A reddish or chestnut-colored wildcat of Central and South America

SUCCESSOR

1. Aid or assist
2. Scatter
3. Discontent
4. Poise; dignity

ONEIROSCOPIST

1. A snake charmer
2. One who interprets dreams
3. A wine taster or expert
4. A hypnotist

SUDOR

1. Thick or hard
2. A freed slave
3. Sweat or perspiration
4. The male falcon

WYNKERNEL

1. A surplus in supplies, materials, etc.
2. The European water hen
3. A cornfield
4. Corn meal, mush

State Needs to Address Impact Of 'Builder's Remedy' on Towns

Legislation sitting in a committee since it was introduced January 9, 2018 would address the upper hand builders in New Jersey have over towns in filing "builder's remedy" lawsuits. These suits are filed against municipalities that have failed to meet their court-approved obligations of providing affordable housing.

A-1650 and ACR-79 would eliminate the builder's remedy by law and constitutional amendment, "saving towns millions of dollars they don't have and helping keep property taxes in check," according to an Assembly Republicans' press release. The legislation was assigned to the Asm. Housing and Community Development Committee where it has stayed since its introduction. Senate and Assembly bills were introduced in the 2016-2017 Legislative Session, but never advanced out of committees.

According to a press release from Assembly Republicans, "The so-called builder's remedy allows developers to sue municipalities and force massive residential development with only a small percentage to be used for affordable housing. It forces towns to unnecessarily build four times more homes than mandated."

"The builder's remedy has been very troubling because it doesn't build enough affordable housing while it creates this high-density suburban sprawl," said Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz (R-21st, Summit) during last week's Assembly Budget Committee hearing on the 2019 state budget. Asw. Muñoz is co-sponsoring the above legislation.

She said a 37.5-percent population growth would be required to meet that supply of 285,000 new affordable units over the next five years as approved by the New Jersey Supreme Court in 2017.

"Those nearly 300,000 units would force more than 1.4 million new homes to be constructed," according to the release.

Republicans pointed out that a Rutgers University study on population growth revealed that the state population is only supposed to increase .3 percent annually, or 219,000 in total by 2026. New data will be coming out following the completion of the 2020 Census.

"We're going to have more units built than we're going to have people coming into the state," said Asw. Muñoz, noting that the builder's remedy could create "a building glut that ultimately may collapse the housing market in the State of New Jersey."

As we have been reporting, there are large developments either under construction or proposed in our area that will bring thousands of new housing units to the area. This will put a strain on our public-school systems and emergency services, while creating gridlock at peak commuting times on our roadways, trains and buses.

Under the bill proposed by Republicans, the legislation declares "that the use of the builder's remedy, as a method of achieving fair share housing, has been contrary to the public interest and public policy goals in that it resulted in the development of extraordinary amounts of market-rate housing in densely-populated regions, while producing comparatively little affordable housing to the overall detriment of specific communities and the state as a whole."

Governor Phil Murphy and his administration apparently are not interested in addressing builder's remedy.

"I have not been privy, nor have I participated in any discussions with anyone within the administration or with any external entities who have expressed any interest in addressing the builder's remedy," Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver testified before the Assembly Budget Committee last week. She also serves as commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, which oversees housing issues across the state.

Saluting the Heroes Among Us During National EMS Week

We witness their heroism and humanity every day, under every imaginable circumstance, and for which they often receive no fiscal reward. We know their names and their faces, and they know ours, because their ranks frequently include our family members, friends and neighbors. Who are these exceptional men and women in our midst? Our Emergency Medical Service (EMS) members.

National EMS Week will take place this year from May 19 to 25, according to naemt.org, the website of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians. President Gerald Ford established the week in 1974 to laud the key role EMS personnel play in the overall health of a community.

The 2019 theme for EMS Week, "Beyond the Call," is one we feel truly reflects the year-round commitment of our local emergency response units. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, they provide the critical conduit between the scene of an emergency and a medical facility. EMS responders faithfully fulfill their oath under the most extreme weather conditions, while dealing with many facets of human behavior they encounter in the performance of their duties, and sometimes at the risk of their own safety or lives.

The rescue squads that serve our immediate area have been a fixture in their communities for generations - longevity made even more distinguished when considering how many of these units are exclusively staffed by volunteers. These include the squads of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Cranford, Garwood, Clark, Berkeley Heights and Summit.

The Garwood First Aid Squad celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, a milestone reached by both the Scotch Plains and Mountainside squads within the past two years. The Clark and Berkeley Heights units have each been in existence for over 75 years; Fanwood follows close with 71 years. The Westfield and Cranford squads have served for more than 65 years each, while Summit's squad has answered calls for 55.

Some of our "hometown heroes" have been members of their local rescue squad for decades, and for some, squad service has become a family tradition, with several generations on board. Our squads also offer opportunities for teens to participate and learn emergency-response techniques, which not only build skills and confidence but can pave the way to future careers and/or community service.

Yet rescue squads today continue to face the dual challenges of retaining enough members to cover all shifts and sufficient funds to support their crucial operations. The demands of modern life have left less hours available for volunteer pursuits, especially in the daytime. Additionally, squads often rely solely on community donations to cover the cost of maintaining their headquarters and ambulances, clothing and equipment needs, as well as providing training.

As we mark the 45th anniversary of National EMS Week, we encourage our readers to join us in thanking the members of all our rescue squads for their dedication, service and sacrifice. We also urge residents of our communities to support the life-saving mission of these organizations by considering volunteering or making a donation. Either way, it will be one of the best investments you could ever make.

Private Business Should Not Profit From Public Parkland

Why do the Union County Freeholders and County Manager Ed Oatman allow a private business to operate on taxpayer-funded Union County parkland? I'm talking about the River and Rail Cantina in Cranford that sits next to the Rahway River Parkway.

What was once lovely public parkland has been turned into an eroded dustbowl and gaming field for the restaurant's customers. It is covered with plastic games, cigarette butts, broken glass, bottle caps and plastic drinking straws despite being adjacent to the Rahway River.

That is all county parkland that exists to absorb rainwater, supported by our tax dollars. The restaurant does not rent that land. The Cranford Township Committee, Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski, and the rest of the Union County Freeholders, should demand it be restored to its former beauty.

The owners of River and Rail should volunteer for an immediate clean up and resowing of the county land they have eroded. If they refuse, their landlords or the county should charge them for the clean up. Private business should not profit from public land.

Steve Russo
 Garwood

The Catholic Church Must Deal With Much In The Modern World

Dear Pope Francis: Maybe It's Time to Join Pope Benedict But in the Meantime...

In Ecclesiastes it is written that for everything there is a season, and maybe your season as pope should be nearing closure. The reason? Inexorable, sweeping and infiltrating technologies and communication methodologies are, virtually unopposed, altering the nature of mankind. Both must be understood before being confronted in order for the core Judeo Christian message, the sacred value of a human being, to survive. The Catholic Church must deal with genetic engineering, gender transformation, artificial intelligence, transhumanism, virtual reality, robots to replace humans and apps and algorithms for most human actions. For puzzling reasons, chimera technology, the transplantation of human body parts into a pig to grow human organs, particularly struck my worry bone. I immediately thought of some maverick scientist somewhere now doing the opposite!

Father Francis, unfortunately, you're my age where the capacity to handle the overwhelming aforementioned is no more. Also, as a physician I've observed your fading smile, a weak, hardly audible monotone voice as you read your spiritual messages and unsteady gait - hardly manifestations of energy and inspiration. A change in the nature of the Papacy is desperately needed. Future popes must be younger with high energy levels and gifted with the capacity to grasp the forces of modernity. A creative, forceful and inspiring personality such as Henry V comes to mind. At the victorious Battle of Agincourt, he dramatically changed the nature of warfare with long bows, pointed wooden stakes and broke the laws of chivalry by killing the enemy knights instead of traditionally holding them as prisoners. This younger pope must create a new multi-talented team, which covers the broad spectrum of change. And because of the rapidity and breadth of changing technology, one cannot expect even the brightest of popes to keep up with it. The solution? Term limits! Complicated as it is - and it is extraordinarily complicated - it makes compelling sense. What else? Just stand by while losing the battle over the hearts and minds of humanity?

Unfortunately, time is a-flying for the undermining of religion and God's existence is accelerating. The encouraging news is that a successful counterattack is eminently doable if one understands the clever dynamics behind the attack. Firstly, the connection between religion and God is the fatal flaw for religion is no match for technology. Attacking religion, *pari passu*, leads to persuasive spurious attacks on God's existence. For example, the Bible, the foundation of Judeo Christian religions is being increasingly criticized as an historical document and thereby losing its influence. How many times has a college student cynically wondered how Noah could possibly place all those creatures in a single ark. Speaking of Noah, someone recently encountered a man who believed that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife and a woman who believed Sodom and Gomorrah was a happily married couple!

To repeat, the existence of God is the foundation of religion, not the other way around. And the evidence of such a being far outweighs that of his non-existence. Evolution, the origins of the universe and the trillions of signals in the human body, which elude mathematical interpretation persuasively support this argument. But the Church's Jesuits, Dominicans, approximately 5,000 bishops and 400,000 priests have mysteriously - unforgivingly? - missed this critical dynamic.

Father Francis, your heartfelt messages of love and caring for the poor, let alone the magnificent sacramental rituals such as the partaking of the Eucharist, are losing the battle. It's war time so go forward and arm your warriors with long bows and pointed stakes and forget about chivalry. And, like no other, you have the enormous human resources in your Church to spread their now folded wings to lead the way.

In the meantime, don't forget the need for term limits!

Stephen DeFelice
 Westfield

First Amendment Clarification

Last week's issue [Westfield Leader] indicated that I "asked the town council not to allow lawn signs during political campaign season." Actually, I recommended a friendly agreement between the political parties, to refrain from using lawn signs.

Any town council action regarding lawn signs would violate the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and a corresponding provision of the New Jersey Constitution. Thus, the appropriate way of dealing with this matter is a friendly agreement between the political parties.

Kenneth Macritchie
 Red Bank

Residential Power Lines

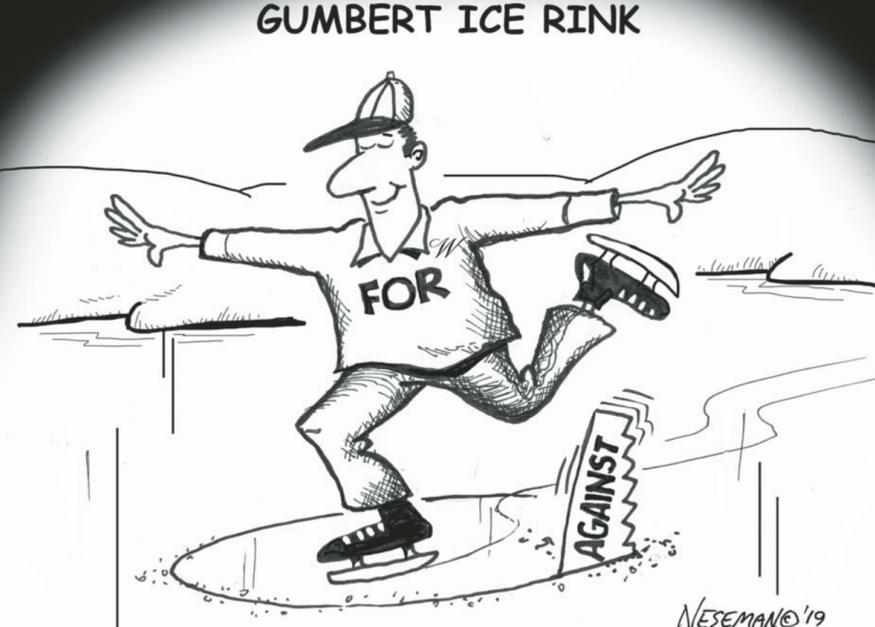
The voltage of a local transmission line is 13,800 volts. This voltage is then lowered even further to between 220 and 440 volts for industrial use and from 120 to 240 volts for commercial and residential customers.

What is a 69 kV Line?

Subtransmission lines carry voltages reduced from the major transmission line system. Typically, 34.5 kv to 69 kv, this power is sent to regional distribution substations. Sometimes the voltage is tapped along the way for use in industrial or large commercial operations.

Union County Freeholders
 Elizabeth, New Jersey
 (908) 527-4200
 Ed Oatman, Mgr., eoatman@ucnj.org
 Bette Kowalski, chair

GUMBERT ICE RINK



NESEMANO '19
 THE LEADER/TIMES

<p>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</p>	<p>State LD-22 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404 Asm. Jim Kennedy (D) 34 E. Cherry St. Rahway, N.J. 07065 (732) 943-2660 Asw. Linda Carter (D) 200 West 2nd St., Suite 102 Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757</p>	<p>7th Congressional District Representative Tom Malinowski (D) 58 East Main St, Somerville, N.J. 08876 (908) 547-3307 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District]</p> <p>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]</p>
--	--	---

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

senkean@njleg.org, senscutari@njleg.org, asmbarnnick@njleg.org, aswmunoz@njleg.org, askennedy@njleg.org, aswcarter@njleg.org