

## The Westfield Leader

— Established 1890 —

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Michelle H. LePoidevin  
A&E and EDUCATION

Suzette F. Stalker  
COMMUNITY

Paul J. Peyton  
BUSINESS and GOVERNMENT

Horace R. Corbin  
PUBLISHER

David B. Corbin  
ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS

Karen M. Hinds  
OFFICE MANAGER

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Fred K. Lecombe  
SALES DIRECTOR

Michael Bartiromo  
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Melissa Betkowski  
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## Next Legislature Must Give Voters Greater Say on Property Taxes and Redistricting

This Election Day may seem on the surface as not being a big deal, yet nothing could be further from the truth. New Jersey will be electing a new governor and all 120 members of the State Legislature. There are local races in Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Fanwood, as well as county freeholder and sheriff contests.

The state level, however, is where most of the focus will be on Tuesday. Republicans have held the majorities in both houses of the Legislature, the General Assembly and the State Senate, for the past decade. The GOP has won four of the past five gubernatorial races, including the past two elections in 1993 and 1997.

Following the behind closed doors dealing that was done this past spring leading to the redistricting of New Jersey's 40 legislative districts, Westfield and Mountainside find themselves in the newly-carved out 21st District dominated by Republicans. Scotch Plains and Fanwood will stay in the once GOP stronghold, the 22nd District. This district now gives Democrats a 3-1 advantage over Republicans.

The redistricting process is gerrymandering at its worse. Why weren't voters given a say as to how their districts were carved up?

This election will likely set the agenda for the next decade for the state. Republicans want to keep control, while Democrats are looking to regain the majority for the first time since the days of the administration of Governor Jim Florio.

Both political parties are doing their best to entrench themselves in Trenton politics. Even if the GOP maintains control of the Legislature, there will be a new Senate President and Assembly Speaker come January.

The next Legislature will be taking up issues such as property tax and auto insurance reform, as well as

state indebtedness, just to name a few. Of course there will also be home defense issues following the terrorist attacks of September 11.

On the issue of property taxes, why not give voters one opportunity to vote on the entire amount of money to be raised through property taxes, namely the school, municipal and county portions. Currently, voters only can cast tallies on school board budgets. But those elections are held in April, and the polls don't open until 2 p.m. If the idea was to give voters the chance to express their views, then it only makes sense to have one election in November. And let people vote on their entire tax bill. If nothing else, this would cause county, municipal and school officials to work together to ensure a fair property tax system, instead of the turf wars that currently exist.

Also on the issue of elections, why is New Jersey's Presidential Primary held in June, long after the candidates for both political parties have long been decided? We advocate either holding New Jersey's Primary at an earlier date, to coincide with Primaries held in other parts of the country, or, even better, why not hold one nation-wide Primary election? In this way, voters could have a chance to choose from among a long list of Presidential hopefuls. And why does one have to suddenly be declared a Republican or Democrat just by the fact they voted for one side or the other? This process significantly cuts down on the number of persons participating in the election process and is contrary to Americans' right to cast silent ballots.

We hope the next Legislature takes on these issues so New Jersey voters no longer feel disenfranchised. In the mean time it is important that all registered voters turn out this Tuesday at elections polls, which will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Process of Dividing of Westfield's Wards Needs to Be Significantly Enhanced By 2011

In what is likely to continue to be a heated discussion for months to come, the process of dividing up Westfield's four wards needs to be significantly altered. But not just in how the attorney is picked or who draws up the maps.

The Town Council spends more time drawing up the annual leaf pickup schedule than the Westfield Ward Commission (consisting of the four members of the Union County Board of Elections and the Town Clerk), did in voting on the new map.

Why did it take a directive from the County Board of Elections Administrator to have the process move forward? Why was the technology available today not used? The first meeting had Commission members adding up the number of residents per ward, by calculator or by hand, as they tried to carve up the map in their heads. How unscientific is that?

Why was their no text prepared on the existing map as well as the two maps proposed before the Com-

mission cast its votes? Shouldn't there have been another public hearing with this information readily available before it was adopted? Or are Westfield's zoning and parking ordinances, which require two votes, more important than the district a person votes in?

As far as politics are concerned, this is a political issue. After all, the Board of Elections, consisting of two Democrats and two Republicans, is the most political organization in the county, aside from the Democratic and Republican Committees themselves. But this issue could have been placed on a council agenda for discussion well in advance, with the public, including the Cacciola neighborhood, invited to participate.

Hopefully, by 2011, the next time this process will be completed, these serious kinks will be worked out and the Commission will run its meetings more along the way other government divisions operate.



## HUNG UP!!



### Mother Encouraged to Seek 'Traditional' Form of Therapy

By Milt Faith, Executive Director  
Youth and Family Counseling Service

## Looking for Emotional Release? Here's 25 Things You Can Do

**A dedicated reader writes:**  
With winter setting in, could you print an article which highlights the top 25 things we can do to "Avoid the Craziest — the pressures of everyday"? I first read it in 1986 and could use it again.

**Answer:** Thanks for remembering. Being in control, feeling that we are the masters of our destiny, creates a state of mind which makes us feel comfortable and secure.

Here are the 25 ways to help us through cold, dark winters or other times, when we need an emotional release. Many are simplistic, but they are practical and do work. Enjoy:

1. Create a word game, taking words and making names out of them. Examples: Dan Druff, Paul Bearer, Tommy Rot, Ella Vator, Polly Esther Fiber, etc. (I must have 250 of these).

2. Choose one drawer in which to throw work which was not completed — save it for the next day.

3. Think: I will never relive nor repeat this day again. I will not pressure myself nor make it bad. I will make it good; I will make it work.

4. Do away with guilt trips. Don't feel you are responsible for everything bad that occurs.

5. Say "no" — to excessive pressures and expectations.

6. Say "yes" — when you like to do something.

7. Enjoy those activities in which you become involved.

8. See to it that you have (at least) half an hour a day for yourself.

9. Get a hobby — passive or aggressive, like sports, reading, etc.

10. Fantasize — about anything or everything, including how to resolve problems.

11. Let out hostility (or tension) — tactfully. Yell in a car, with the car windows up, of course. (I once told a patient to do this, but forgot to tell her to keep the windows up. She let me know she had a slight altercation with someone).

12. Let out frustration by using relaxation techniques; sing a song, purchase a relaxation and/or meditation tape (they can be bought for \$5 to \$6).

13. Exercise!

14. Reward yourself by buying something for \$2, \$5 or \$10, such as a movie, gift, book, food, compact disk, costume jewelry.

15. Don't play God — we have limitations in life and cannot be omniscient.

16. Realize your assets — family, friends, health and job.

17. Utilize a sense of humor (number 1 for me).

18. Writing is an excellent outlet, be it a journal, letter, poem, fiction, etc.

19. If you feel troubled, go to a therapist for consultation — to gain insight.

20. Learn to deal with authority — you will then feel freer in expressing your emotions.

21. Like yourself. Tell yourself that, "You deserve good in life!"

22. You are replaceable — don't push yourself to the wall, risking health. You must consider yourself first.

23. As we get older, our bodies and psyches become more vulnerable — take it easy.

24. Show your teeth — be animated, smile, relax facial muscles.

25. We do not have to do something meaningful everyday.

If this is helpful, remember me; if not, "don't call me, I'll call you." Good luck.

**A distraught woman writes:**  
On August 3, 2001, I attended a rock concert at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel. My boyfriend of three years couldn't be there because he said he was working late.

There I am, with thousands of people singing our hearts out with Jay and the Americans to "Cara Mia," when suddenly I look sideways and there is Jim (disguised name) sitting with one of my girlfriends, clapping and singing. He never saw me because I left abruptly, crying.

We have been living together for a year and although we've known each other for three years, he promised he would be faithful and no longer "play the field," which he had done for

years. And "Amy" (disguised name), my best friend, I can't believe it.

Several weeks have passed. I've said nothing, hoping one or both of them would admit to something. So far, nothing. I'm afraid to confront because I don't want to lose either. Please don't label me as a masochist; just tell me what to do.

**Answer:** A masochist is one who endures pain because the individual receives an unhealthy satisfaction when being abused or mistreated, or offended physically and/or emotionally.

In this situation, it is unfortunate that you have waited several months, causing yourself a great deal of grief. You are afraid to lose your boyfriend and/or your best friend, despite knowing that he lied to you and that he and Amy were out together.

Keeping these feelings in helps no one; it creates sadness and anxiety. Your healthy reaction to this situation is long overdue. I feel you have nothing to lose by confronting Jim and then Amy. It sounds like it is time for you to move on — into new relations. If you do nothing, or if you permit yourself to be manipulated by him (them!), you do walk that fine line of masochism. Don't.

## Letters to the Editor

### Former Westfielder Remembers Town Following WTC Disaster

I grew up in Westfield, where for over 50 years my family owned Auster's Appliances.

I have lived in Arizona for the last 26 years, but I still consider Westfield my home.

While Arizonans were geographically removed from the September 11 tragedy, our collective compassion for the victims was not. Our inability in Tucson to adequately demonstrate our outrage for the horrible, terrorist act, coupled with our desire to demonstrate, in some way, our allegiance to America and its victims, led 15,000 people to turn out to form a human flag. I was moved to be one of them.

The local newspaper, a television and a radio station organized the event to raise money for the relief effort. A pho-

tograph was taken from the air, and a poster was produced to raise additional funds.

I understand from *The New York Times* that Westfield lost eight people in the tragedy.

I'm so sad that those who live in my idyllic town must endure the pain of losing someone in such a sadistic act. Please know that many people across the nation care about you. If I can help organize, from afar, any relief efforts that will benefit those Westfield families, please let me know. There is a network here of ex-New Jersey patriots who would love to help.

My family offers their deepest condolences to those Westfield families.

Patt Rudy Hale and family  
Tucson, Ariz.

### Family of Thomas Glasser Thanks Westfield Community for Support

We would like to thank all the people that have been so kind to us since the tragedy at the World Trade Center on September 11. Our son and brother, Tom, was lost to us that day. He would have been 41 years old on October 18.

Tom was born here and grew up in Westfield. He went to Jefferson Elementary School and graduated from Wardlaw-Hartridge before going off to Haverford College. He was a wonderful human being, a thoughtful, caring son and brother. We shall miss him beyond measure.

We have all received so many wonderful cards, donations to various charities, plants, flowers, cookies, cakes, candy, dinners and fruit baskets that we

could not begin to acknowledge all of these thoughtful gifts. We also want to express our appreciation or all of your prayers, good thoughts and visits. It does help to know that "the world mourns with us."

We are especially thankful to Rabbis Kroloff, Edelman, Zamore and Cantor Novick at Temple Emanu-El for their remarkable support. Without waiting to be asked, they were there for us.

Anne Glasser Goldstein (mother)  
Gerald J. Glasser (father)  
Laura Glasser-Baker (sister)  
Westfield  
Margie Glasser Ticknor (sister)  
New York

### Public Works Dept. Thanked for Help In Planting Tree In Front of Town Home

We were reminded last Friday, October 19, once again, why Westfield is a great place to live.

As a wedding anniversary gift to each other, my wife and I had planned to have a street tree planted in front of our home. I coordinated the nursery, the delivery, and the landscaping company to help me have it installed. It was all set up — until the tree actually arrived.

On the phone, a five-inch Sugar Maple didn't sound very big, but when the 30-foot tree with the four-foot diameter burlap ball arrived on a trailer, I realized that the two men and myself, equipped with rakes and shovels, were in big trouble.

I was at a complete loss as to what to do. With an angry nursery truck driver looking for this tree to get unloaded by a machine, which we did not have, I called the Westfield Department of Public Works — hoping to find out who has backhoes in the area.

The new director, Claud Schaefer, was pleasantly amused by my story (knowing, of course, how big a five-inch Maple was...) but after he en-

joyed his moment the only thing he asked me for was my address, saying he would get something down there to help me right away.

Relieved, I ordered lunch for the truck driver and my helpers. Before lunch arrived, the street was full of big yellow machines. Within a half hour the tree was off the truck and in the ground in front of my house.

Now, thanks to Mr. Schaefer, Kenny LeCroy, Buzzy Turner, and Clint Trzesniowski of the Westfield Department of Public Works, and Craig Stock from Stock Landscaping Design, we have a beautiful street tree in front of our house. My wife and I wish to thank all of them for their assistance and their continuous dedication to Westfield.

Greg Redington and Michele Modestino  
Westfield

### More Letters On Page 8

### Library Is Not In Need of Expansion And Thus Did Not Apply for State Aid

Your editorial (October 25) asks whether the Westfield Memorial Library dropped the ball in not seeking a share of the \$45 million the state made available last year to aid library construction. Does this mean that the library is fully satisfied with its present facilities?

In answer to the first question, Westfield did not apply for aid because it had no need for new construction at the time. Many libraries receiving the biggest grants are severely overcrowded or, like the Rahway library, which was damaged by flooding, have had to build an entirely new facility.

Westfield's library, built only 13 years ago with \$403,000 in state aid and a \$3.5 million town bond, is not cramped for space despite heavy and growing usage. We are happy to see so much money

going where the need is greater than ours.

This hardly means that our library may not need to expand in the future. Since last winter, members of the library board's long-range planning committee have been visiting other libraries in search of ideas for improving services and physical layout.

Expansion or extensive alteration is not ruled out. But the need would have to be sufficiently compelling that the library could ask the town's citizens to finance most of the cost. Even under the current state aid program, it should be noted, municipalities have to come up with three-fourths of the money.

Edmund Faltermayer  
President, Board of Trustees  
Westfield Memorial Library