

## The Westfield Leader

— Established 1890 —  
The Official Newspaper of the Town of Westfield and the County of Union

Member of:  
New Jersey Press Association  
National Newspaper Association  
Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Periodicals — Postage Paid at Westfield, New Jersey  
P.O. Box 250 • 50 Elm Street  
Westfield, N.J. 07091

Tele: (908) 232-4407 • E-mail: [press@goleader.com](mailto:press@goleader.com) • Web: [www.goleader.com](http://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.

<p><b>Michelle H. LePoidevin</b> <i>A&amp;E and EDUCATION</i></p> <p><b>Suzette F. Stalker</b> <i>COMMUNITY</i></p> <p><b>Jennifer Pinto</b> <i>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</i></p>	<p><b>Horace R. Corbin</b> <i>PUBLISHER</i></p> <p><b>David B. Corbin</b> <i>ASSISTANT PUBLISHER &amp; SPORTS</i></p> <p><b>Karen M. Hinds</b> <i>OFFICE MANAGER</i></p>	<p><b>Fred K. Lecomte</b> <i>SALES DIRECTOR</i></p> <p><b>Michael L. Bartiromo</b> <i>MARKETING &amp; PRODUCTION</i></p> <p><b>Robert P. Connelly</b> <i>CLASSIFIEDS &amp; LEGALS</i></p>
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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE  
One-year — \$24 • Two-year — \$46 • Three-year — \$66 • One-year college (September to May) — \$16

## THE TIMES of Scotch Plains - Fanwood

— Established 1959 —  
Official Newspaper of the Borough of Fanwood and the Township of Scotch Plains

Member of:  
New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association  
Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association  
Fanwood Business & Professional Association

Periodicals — Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, New Jersey  
P. O. Box 368 • 1906 Bartle Avenue  
Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076

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## Letters to the Editor

### Former Westfielder Questions Residents Against Temple Lot

As an adult who grew up on Jefferson Avenue and attended Temple Emanuel, I am sickened by the news that there is a significant group of Westfielders who are fighting the proposed addition of a temple parking lot.

Every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Temple members have been forced to park on East Broad Street and on residential streets, including Jefferson Avenue. Families, children and older members had to cross East Broad Street, without a traffic light, thereby risking their own safety. Residents nearby the temple, including my own family, had temple members parking in front of their house, occasionally walking on their lawn, and narrowing the already narrow streets for oncoming traffic. I never blamed anyone for this inconvenience. Temple members had no choice.

Finally, a lot has become available which would alleviate these problems. East Broad Street would not be parked up on both sides on Jewish holidays. Neighboring residents would be able to park in front of their own house, and not feel overcome by temple traffic. Most importantly, members could park adjacent to the temple and walk safely to services without crossing the very busy East Broad Street.

Residents nearby the proposed parking lot understandably have concerns. I am confident that Temple Emanuel would abide by their concerns and provide enough greenery and privacy to everyone's satisfaction. Property values are also an issue, but I ask each and every person opposed to the temple parking lot to replace the word temple with church. Or perhaps library. Did the neighbors of the Westfield library clamor about property values when a parking lot was built in a residential area? Would anyone complain about a church expanding, needing more space for its members? Everyone has prejudices, myself included. I only ask that the people of Westfield examine their own prejudices and ask themselves why they really are fighting against this parking lot so hard.

Joanna Cherenisky  
Brooklyn, NY

ABCD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

# D

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. Septentrion — The northern regions
2. Strath — A wide river valley
3. Escopet — A short rifle
4. Zarf — Small metal cuplike stand for holding hot coffee cups

**EXCECATION**

1. Loss of the control of speech
2. The act of making blind
3. To force or drive out; expel
4. Removing the skin or pelt of an animal

**TEMERARIOUS**

1. Headstrong; reckless
2. Tentative; timid
3. Shameful; corrupt
4. Shivering; trembling

**VARUS**

1. A plug, such as in barrels
2. An unidentified parasite on trout
3. Sweat or perspiration
4. Bowlegged

**VECCITATION**

1. The state of being carried
2. Envy; resentment
3. Shooting upward, as a rocket
4. Discharging backwards

## County Should Not Use Taxpayers' Open Space Funds For Developer Projects

While the Union County Freeholders' recent decision to approve the \$9 million acquisition of 63 acres of land in Summit for open space purposes was a worthy one, the almost-simultaneous admission that some of that same property could eventually be sold to developers was troubling.

The county's trust fund was established two years ago to preserve as much open space as possible. It was voted on by the public and approved. The public did not suspect that fine print in the law would enable the county to use the funds for other purposes. Open space in Union County is not in great supply, so any that can be secured for parks and recreational purposes is a positive development for county residents.

The Summit property in question is owned by New Jersey American Water Co. and is adjacent to the Watchung Reservation. It would seem to be a natural extension of sorts to that large park. We believe that preserving this land as open space is precisely what the public voted for when approving the funds.

Thus it was puzzling, at last week's Freeholder Board meeting, to hear Chairman Lewis Mingo Jr. tell a group of Summit residents that the county,

which had minutes earlier voted to purchase the 63 acres using open space trust fund money, was considering subdividing a portion of the property for potential development.

When pressed further by those Summit residents, who had come to the Freeholders' meeting to express their opposition to any development, Mr. Mingo declined to provide any details on how possible decisions regarding development would be made. Instead, he merely said that no decisions had yet been made on the question, but added that the county was dedicated to conserving open space.

Which is it, Chairman Mingo? Will the county's open space trust fund be used solely to acquire open space that will remain open space? Or will these taxpayer funds also be used to provide some new areas for developers to build?

We think county taxpayers are entitled to some straight answers, instead of dissembling, on why open space in Union County—in this case, at least—apparently seems to be open space not only for those who revere the great outdoors, but also for eager developers.

## SP-F Scholarship Fund Thanks Community for Fund Drive

The 35th annual Dollars For Students Drive was conducted over the weekend of April 13 and April 14 by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation. We would like to express our appreciation to the local students who participated in our drive and to the generous citizens of Fanwood and Scotch Plains who made their efforts a successful venture.

The monies collected will be presented as scholarships to graduating high school students at the annual awards night at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on May 23 and to college students on June 14 at our awards reception to be held at All Saints Episcopal Church.

This year marks the 36th anniversary of the founding of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation. For 35 consecutive years, the foundation through its volunteer Board of Directors has been able to assist local students with scholarships with a total value of \$971,070. This year we have received 113 applications for assistance with 31 submitted by college students.

We look forward to announcing our own Dollars for Students recipients as well as those students who will be receiving monies from the 25 additional funds which we maintain and the 21 pass through funds which we administer. This year we will be administering \$95,975 which will take us over the \$1 million mark of community assistance to local students.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to all of our neighbors who so willingly continue to show the young people of Scotch Plains and Fanwood that they value them and their effort to continue their education. If you were not at home when our students stopped by, or if you did not receive a request through the mail but would like to support our efforts, please send your contribution in care of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schol-

arship Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

**Ellie Kramps,**  
President  
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation

### Munoz Says More Needs To Be Done For Autistic Children in New Jersey

Parents of Autistic children are keenly aware of how this developmental disability impacts the lives of their children. But, unless directly connected closely to a friend or a family of an Autistic child, one cannot fully comprehend nor appreciate the struggles its victims and families face each day, especially in the early years.

Infantile Autism is the third most common developmental disorder, more prevalent than Down's Syndrome, childhood cancer or cystic fibrosis.

I am the proud sponsor of a bill (AR-112) that designated the month of April, 2002 as Autism Month in the State of New Jersey. The bill coincides with National Autism Awareness Month. We here in New Jersey have recognized the importance of investing in research, diagnosis and treatment of this disorder with the enactment in 1999 of the "New Jersey Infantile Autism Biomedical Research Act." This act was signed into law on May 11, 1990 after passing both houses of the State Legislature by a tally of 75-0.

It established a seven-member "Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Infantile Autism" at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey where I am on the medical staff as a trauma surgeon.

The Council makes awards of grants and contracts with public and non-profit entities to pay all or part of the cost of

## Income Tax Filing Is A Mess Each Year; It Feels So Good When It's Finally Over

Another tax year has come and gone and we're relieved that it is over! Many people stood in line at the post offices in the region to get that April 15 postmark before midnight. They seemed to have that all-too-familiar queasy feeling in the pit of their stomachs.

To illustrate how nervous people get our photographer was verbally accosted at the Post Office in Scotch Plains when trying to take a picture of the long lines. Several people told her that our newspaper would hear from the Justice Department over invasion of privacy if we published the picture. Maybe their nerves are a little calmed down now that filing day has passed.

Many of us filed at the last minute; was this procrastination? It's not like we didn't know April 15 was coming, maybe we just didn't think it would come so soon. Whether people are getting money back, had to pay, or are just happy to be breaking even, it is still a relief to get that envelope in the mail.

After all, no one can figure out how to fill out the forms. Take your best guess and sign it or have an accountant do the guessing for you. At least with the accountant, it's sort of like buying protection.

Much like the tolls on the Garden State Parkway,

income taxes were supposed to be a temporary solution to assist with the wartime efforts in 1862. They later became permanent in 1913 with the 16th Amendment to the Constitution. But then again, a lot of things in life are temporary, until they become permanent.

As it stands now, it takes about five months of work to pay a year's taxes. Tax freedom day occurs sometime in May but it is advancing toward July. We are always left wondering where all the money goes, especially when we start hearing about tax increases.

Approximately 50 percent of the federal government's revenue comes from income tax. Then, on the state level, we have sales tax, gas tax, the lottery and cigarette tax, among others. On the local level, there is everyone's favorite, the property tax.

The new numbers on municipal and state taxes are coming out, and the school board budgets are on the ballot just in time for April 15. So reasonably, at this time of the year, we always seem to be left feeling a little tapped out. The old saying goes, only two things are certain in life, death and taxes.

We're paying taxes every day. Whether it is in the store or from our paychecks, April 15 is just the day we tally up the score with the Feds and with the state.

## Former Foreign Exchange Intern Of The Leader, Visits From Denmark

So finally I'm home on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. As always, USA leaves me with a lot of impressions. This time the unity among the people of the USA has stricken my wife, Kirsten, and I as an outstanding will to fight the evil and defend openness, political pluralism, freedom of speech and the outmost defender of democracy.

What a nice stay we had with the Wexler-family of Scotch Plains and with the Corbin brother's Of The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood; they were so kind to invite us to the Jolly Trolley in Westfield, a splendid restaurant with a gorgeous dinner and a nice sweet cold Heinenken beer from Holland.

We spent the second week with the Wexler-family celebrating in the spirit of Passover. Thursday we drove to Colts Neck to be with the family. Altogether,

26 people sat at the table and celebrated the ceremonies to mark the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. The whole evening was really relaxing, easy going and a time to gather, talk and just be together. Kirsten and I definitely enjoyed it a lot.

We experienced people all over to be just friendly and embracing; in New York City, New Jersey, Scotch Plains, Westfield, and Fanwood. They are all good people, who only wish the best for everybody. That's why we will continue to return to the States over and over again. We will be back in a few years time, that's for sure.

**Poul Erik and Kirsten Tarp**  
Denmark  
Poul Erik Tarp was an Intern for The Westfield Leader on an Exchange Program from Denmark

## Thank You For Your Input

We appreciate input and frequently receive unsigned letters. This week, we received a packet of information alleging that private sales of public land are occurring in Westfield. We were challenged to investigate the circumstances. The letter closed by saying "I will be reading your paper to see if you have the backbone to ask the tough questions." We say, "I'd like to see you have the conviction to sign your letter. If you want free speech, that's what it's all about."

## Leader Reader Says Congratulations To New Westfield BOE Members

I would like to congratulate those that were elected to the School Board on Tuesday and in advance thank them for the time they will commit over the next three years as they serve the students and citizens of Westfield.

I would also like to suggest two items they might wish to ponder during the planning retreat they will hold in the near future.

My first suggestion is in terms of setting the 2003-2004 school budget. The board needs to commit to building a budget which has a tax increase in line with the rate of inflation, while not cutting programs or seeking outside sources of funding for budget items, as they are considering for the high school athletic program.

By keeping the tax increase around the rate of inflation the impact of a family budget will be more in line with pay raises in the private sector than the tax increase citizens face this year. A tax increase such as the one tax payers face this year forces families to make changes in their budget as their property taxes out pace their pay raises. The School Board needs to make the tough decisions and not shirk this responsibility, and by default pass it along to the citizens.

Secondly in addition to reporting student performance on the SAT and state tests compared to the state average the results from our District Factor Group should also be reported. This second comparison will be a more apples to apples comparison than the state comparison as the schools systems within our district factor group are our peers in the eyes of the state.

Once again I congratulate the winners and thank them for their service and ask them to consider these items.

**Tom Madaras**  
Westfield

### Arbor Day Foundation Offers Free Oak Trees

AREA — Ten free oak trees will be given to each person who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during the month of April.

The free oaks are part of the non-profit foundation's Trees for America campaign and are being given in recognition of the oak's selection as the People's Choice for America's National Tree.

More than 440,000 people made their selection in the Vote for America's National Trees, hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation between January 1 and National Arbor Day of 2001. The oak was the favored tree, with 101,000 votes.

The ten trees offered in the special oak membership package include two red oaks, two pin oaks, two bur oaks, two scarlet oaks and two willow oaks.

The free trees will be shipped post-paid at the right time for planting in April or May, with enclosed planting instructions. The six- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free National Tree package, please send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Oak Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Tuesday, April 30.

## ONE SOLUTION TO THE PARKING PROBLEM AT WHS.

NETEMAN/02  
THE LEADER/TIMES

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**Tom Madaras**  
Westfield

ERRATA

The name of the Republican candidate for the Fourth Ward on the Westfield Township Council was incorrectly spelled in the March 14, 2002 edition of The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. Christopher Panagos is the correct spelling of the candidate's name.

See it all on the Web!

www.goleader.com