

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 • 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.

<p>Michelle H. LePoidevin <small>A&E and EDUCATION</small></p> <p>Suzette F. Stalker <small>COMMUNITY</small></p> <p>Jennifer Pinto <small>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</small></p> <p>Lauren S. Pass <small>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</small></p>	<p>Horace R. Corbin <small>PUBLISHER</small></p> <p>David B. Corbin <small>ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS</small></p> <p>Karen M. Hinds <small>OFFICE MANAGER</small></p>	<p>Fred K. Lecomte <small>SALES DIRECTOR</small></p> <p>Michael L. Bartiromo <small>MARKETING & PRODUCTION</small></p> <p>Robert P. Connelly <small>CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS</small></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



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. Taurumachian - A treader; bull-fighter
 2. Homunculus - A dwarf or pigmy
 3. Impostation - The act of making into paste
 4. Holosiderite - A meteorite containing nothing but iron

- HYDROPARASTATAE**
1. A water wheel
 2. A pathological accumulation of serous fluid in a bodily cavity
 3. Disease causing bacteria in water
 4. A religious sect of the early church, the Aguarians

- STEENING**
1. Howling with a high, shrilling sound
 2. The lining of a well or cesspool
 3. A rough sketch or outline
 4. A fish net

- HYALOPTEROUS**
1. Having very large eyes
 2. Without the sense of sight
 3. Having transparent wings
 4. Foresight; discernment

- INTEGERTVITAE**
1. Blameless; upright
 2. Essential or necessary for existence
 3. Full of life; very lively
 4. Insertion in a calendar to make the calendar year corresponds to the solar year

HUNG UP!!

Mother Encouraged to Seek 'Traditional' Form of Therapy

By Milt Faith, Executive Director
Youth and Family Counseling Service

Disappointed Man Needs to Look At Future Options For Happiness

A sad man writes: I'm sitting here listening to some music from earlier years. The song on the CD is "The Anniversary Song," a nostalgic look at a long-term, loving marriage. I'll be celebrating 40 years of being married to Gail (disguised name). We have two sons; we are in good health; we are financially secure; we have loving family and friends.

So why does the song make me uncomfortable? Because I have to admit that this has not been a good marriage. It's been one filled with anger over just about everything. My wife has always been critical of me: I've been too abusive with the children; I neglected her and always worked; I've never been too sensitive.

I don't know why I stayed in the marriage. Too insecure to leave? It hasn't been easy in recent years. If I could relive the years, I would've left a long time ago. A relationship without love has little or no value. Let your readers remember this.

Answer: I am sorry that you have been so unhappy in the marriage. I am sure your wife has been unhappy, too. I don't know why you stayed around, but I do know that your life isn't over yet. Since you seem so depressed (the song reflects your emotional state), I urge you to talk to a professional counselor to help clarify your feelings and the situation, and focus on healthier future options.

The September 11, 2001 horror has helped us tune into our vulnerability.

The adage "live one day at a time" should include "love one day at a time." Try, with proper professional help, to bring this into your reality. Good luck.

A frustrated young adult writes: When I was growing up, my mother used to tell me, when I had fights, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never harm me." Well, it's not true. Since I was always overweight, my family and friends called me names like "Fatso," "stupid," "lump-lump," "barrel," etc.

It hurt; it always hurts. I have a 12-year-old daughter, and guess what? She has a weight problem, and although she is under medical care and is on a good diet plan, she is teased by her brother, "Mr. Muscle" (always exercising) and by her father, who says boys won't date her.

My own mother is always "reminding" her to eat less and exercise more. I'm always defending her and yell at everyone, since I know how my daughter feels. Is there anything else I can do?

Answer: Name calling is emotional abuse and does damage to one's ego. One grows up to feel inadequate, inferior, "different." I encourage you to support your daughter's attempts to be on a healthy diet plan, which includes proper exercising, etc. At the same time, speak to each member of your family: tell them they must cease and desist all name calling, insults, criticisms, etc.

You must obtain your husband's support and both of you must curtail your son's nasty comments about his sister and her weight problem. And then, finally, confront your mother and tell her she is welcome to visit, etc., only if she is supportive and decent in all of her comments to you and your daughter. This is long overdue!

A distraught daughter-in-law writes: My mother-in-law is very critical of me. She never liked nor accepted me because she feels I "took her son away from her" and now he rarely contacts her. She refers to the cartoon "Momma," in which the daughter-in-law is depicted as an incompetent.

She is sarcastic and biting and I try to overlook her comments. She has also done silly things which have hurt me, like praising my choice of decorating the house, but adding that it would be even better if I listened to her and redid this or that. My husband tells me to go on with my life and he is supportive and feels we should maintain a distance. Any other recommendations?

Answer: Your husband sounds reasonable and is fully aware that his mother is a control freak and will not let go. I encourage you to move on and enjoy your life and marriage. Keep at a distance and try not to let her "touch you emotionally."

A colleague of mine has a wonderful saying: "People will forget what you said, People will forget what you did, But people will not forget how you made them feel."

Your mother-in-law will continue to do what she wants; you may be right - she's still competing with you regarding her son. Since she tries to create feelings of insecurity and inadequacy in you, minimize contacts and maximize your good sense of worth.

A father writes: I am a coach for my son's soccer team and I am angered by the recent incidents of parents getting too involved with their children's performances and whether the coach uses their children enough.

The manslaughter conviction of a parent recently was an example of how out of control these competitive situations are. And the ones who really suffer are the children. Let me tell you readers my philosophy. Before every game, I get the kids together and I tell them: "Recognize you will win some shots and some games, and you will lose some. Just give your best and be proud of it."

It works for the children; they know they are supposed to have a good time and do what they can. I wish there were some way to get this across to their parents.

Answer: Yours is a very true, yet simple saying. If parents could detach from their own personal needs to have their children win (which they may feel is proof of their own adequacy), children would enjoy their activities more and parents would calm down and not demand that their children prove something!

WSO Tour Friends Thank The Community

It is with heartfelt appreciation that we thank all the members of Westfield and the surrounding community that contributed so generously to the Westfield Symphony's *Tour of Notable Homes* on Saturday, May 4. In a year that we have all come to appreciate the importance of community, the true spirit of this town was on glorious display for the close to 1,000 visitors who came to Westfield on that day. The generosity began with our five homeowners - the Burgdorfs, Ertmans, Hanleys, Lupescus, and O'Learys - who welcomed us into their homes. Without their support, this event would not have been possible.

In addition, more than 90 volunteers lent their time and enthusiasm to the day, and over 100 Westfield area merchants donated products and services to our Raffle. As a result of everyone's tremendous support, a significant contribution will be made to the Westfield Symphony Orchestra, allowing the Orchestra to continue to bring world class soloists and outstanding musical performances to Westfield and the greater Union County community.

Deirdre Trabert Malacrea
President, WSO Friends
Sharon Zydner Walker
2002 Home Tour Chair

Letters to the Editor

Teaching Supervisor Favors Ending WHS Open Campus

It has come to my attention that your committee (Concerned Parents) is interested in revising and possibly reversing Westfield High School's policy of an open campus during student lunches. Because I have a strong opinion on the topic of the open lunch, because I am a former Westfield school district employee, and because I currently work in a high school that also has an open lunch policy, I feel compelled to share my opinion with you.

Without hesitation, I am in favor of closing the open campus and of keeping all students, grades nine through twelve, in school for the entire school day.

As a supervisor in my current district, I am privy to information that is not always shared with the entire school population. One piece of information along these lines is the recurring concerns and complaints from parents and police officers about students' behavior during their open lunch period. Car accidents, sexual relations, impromptu parties - which include alcohol consumption and drug use - in homes where parental supervision is nonexistent (because parents are at work), and other less serious mischief all occur regularly during the open lunch period.

I taught for seven years at Roosevelt Intermediate School and have since kept in touch with several students. During private conversations with current Westfield High School students of various ages and "cliques," I have listened to these students disclose the exact same sort of information - sexual relations, alcohol consumption, and drug use - about their peers' activities during the open lunches.

This is not to say that all Westfield High School students are engaged in unsavory and illegal behavior during open lunches; however, even if only a few students are engaging in these acts, it means that the possibility exists for ANY student to become involved in these activities.

As I understand it from years of teacher training in undergraduate and graduate schools, the school is supposed to act *in loco parentis* during the day for any and all enrolled students. How can it be good and logical practice, then, for a school system to allow its students, the vast majority of whom are minors and all of whom are emotionally immature, to have unsupervised time in the middle of the day? The school day is meant primarily to achieve educational goals. Certainly, some of those goals involve socialization skills as well as "book learning," but socialization does not have to be and should not be unsupervised.

I do not believe the students of Westfield High School are any less mature than any other high school students; nor do I believe them to be any more mature. The bottom line is that they are KIDS; they are children; they should spend the school day in pursuit of educational goals and not be left unsupervised, during which time they can much more easily be hurt or harmed or do some kind of harm to themselves.

Will closing the open campus eliminate all of these problems? Of course not. But keeping the campus open only allows the problems to continue to exist - right under the noses, so to speak, and with the tacit approval of the school officials - and certainly does nothing to try to decrease them.

Rose McCauley
Whippany

Ordinance on Underage Drinking Will Violate Residents' Rights

I have been watching the progression of this ordinance's development in this town with dismay. Never an activist for the Bill of Rights, I do however certainly recognize an encroachment on my basic freedoms with the possible passage of this ordinance.

When I attended the informational meeting last September, I was shocked at the attendees' general acceptance of this proposed ordinance. First, all seem to think that this will "cure" underage drinking in these towns, replacing parental authority with that of the local police force, which is the rationale and driving force behind this ordinance. We all agree that there is a problem, and it needs to be addressed - but not at the cost of one of our basic freedoms.

Second, I vehemently object to the situations in which the local police will have the authority to enter private residences without a warrant. As proposed, the investigation would be initiated upon

"a complaint from a concerned citizen or an officer's observation that underage drinking is taking place on private property". I don't think that any of us, in any of our towns, like to think that having several cars in the driveway and out front of the house would be valid grounds for searching our houses. Even casting aside our rights, this would subject our towns to the possibility of numerous and expensive lawsuits whenever searches take place without proper warrant.

Third, when I protested the violation of our rights at this meeting, several people in charge seemed to think that this loss of our rights was "worth it if it just saved the life of one teenager". To that, I offer Ben Franklin's famous quote from 1759: "They that can give up essential Liberty to obtain a little temporary Safety, deserve neither their Liberty nor Safety."

Kristen Papareffa
Scotch Plains

Resident Says Previous Letter On Temple Parking Lot Diverts Attention

I have lived in Westfield for over 30 years and would like to respond to a recent letter from Joanna Cherenksy of Brooklyn, New York, in which she criticizes my neighborhood's opposition to the construction of a large parking lot in our backyards.

I disagree with her assertion, that our objective is motivated by anti-Semitism. Our objective to this expansion is based solely on preserving our neighborhoods' ambience, as well as property values. This neighborhood is zoned residential and a giant parking lot does not fit.

I agree with Ms. Cherenksy that there are few times when parking conditions are crowded and temple members and neighbors are slightly inconvenienced, but constructing a giant permanent, and brightly lit parking lot

right in the middle of our neighborhood is a totally inappropriate solution. Our feelings have nothing to do with the fact that this is associated with a synagogue. We would feel this way if it were a church, the Y or even a library. I would also like to mention that it is my understanding that the library was built on the same grounds that housed Grant school at one time, and no additional property was purchased to accommodate the library. I also believe that because it was a school before, the library falls in the last professional/commercial zone. So please, Joanna, don't divert attention from the real issue which is to maintain the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Ann Tilyou
Westfield

Club Malibu, Once A Troublesome Night Spot, Now An Eyesore

It's been almost 3½ years since a fatal shooting in its parking lot led to the closing of Club Malibu on Terrill Road in Scotch Plains. Two years ago, the Township Council, after several hearings that included testimony from the club's new owners about their plans for a better, safer and friendlier nightclub, denied the renewal of the establishment's liquor license.

A year ago, however, the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control authority overturned the Scotch Plains government's denial, and issued the Malibu owners a liquor license that was predicated on their adherence to a host of conditions regarding crowd control, noise abatement and other safety issues.

In the meantime, the Terrill Road property, which was an eyesore two years ago, is even more of one today. There is no evidence of any work at all being done to the building or the surrounding property. Besides the sketches unveiled at the license renewal hearings back in 2000, there have been no indications

of what is being planned for the nightclub. All that appears inevitable at this point in time is that another generation of grass and weeds are thriving on the premises.

Perhaps the earnest promises of the owners two years ago to make a re-furbished nightclub a better neighbor to those residents who live across Terrill Road in Plainfield and behind the property on Farley Avenue - people who had complained of noise, litter and general late-night disturbances when the club was open - are actually being kept through the many, many months of inactivity, and, thus, silence on Terrill Road in Scotch Plains.

Or one could look at the lack of any progress at the Club Malibu site as showing a complete lack of caring about the neighbors, the neighborhood and the town. We realize the local government can do little about this festering eyesore, but the owners of the property owe it to the residents to let them in on their plans.

Commuters Are A Resourceful Lot, Especially In These Inconvenient Times

Commuting never has been that much fun. But when you take a whack in the eye like this area did with the World Trade Center tragedy, commuting gets a little tougher. With the path to the WTC and downtown New York City destinations knocked out, the rest of the system understandably gets stressed. The people do, too.

As we understand, the daily train service between Newark and Penn Station in New York is oversubscribed by about 10,000 riders. Our leaders know about the situation, but there's little that can be done about it for the moment.

Part of the reason for the overburdened trains into and out of Newark is that the 1,800 riders from our area who take the Raritan Valley Line are forced to change trains once they reach Newark. Why? The Raritan Valley's diesel engines aren't permitted in the electric engine-only Hudson River tunnels. This long-standing problem may seem absurd and somewhat solvable but, then again, how much of what NJ Transit does makes perfect sense? After all, despite the apparent full houses on their trains, the agency continues to bleed some \$200 million annually.

People just grin and bear the overcrowding or find an alternative commuting means. There are buses, ferries, subways and cars. Commuters use many novel means, circuitous routes and odd timetables to reach their targets and to retreat home each day. Some commuters have even changed jobs, and companies have relocated to deal with the situation. Some commuters have lost their jobs too.

Commuters are a resourceful lot, and they equip themselves with many tools of the trade. For some,

it's a simple umbrella; for others it's a tough overcoat for the wind and grime. There are special walking shoes to save the feet and to quicken the pace. There are handkerchiefs to deflect the sneezes in crowded places. Many traditional briefcases have given way to sport utility backpacks. Commuters know where the parking is, and they know the cost. They know the transportation schedules and many of the alternatives. Perhaps, they are best equipped with a sense of humor.

So, when you see someone get off the train some evening, remember that they probably spent a few tough hours on the road in addition to the hours at work. Give them that little extra "atta boy."

Most commuters don't like to give out their trade secrets of unique means to cope with the travel. They don't want others to find out about it. However, for those commuters that don't mind telling others, we'd like to hear of a few of yours. We'll print them. When you have a moment, email us your story at press@goleader.com.

Life was a little simpler in the '70s when you could take the club car home on the "Jerky Central Railroad."

Despite the sometimes nightmarish commuting conditions, our area is uniquely positioned on off hours though to take advantage of a Subway Series - not one between the Mets and Yankees, but between our two local minor league ball teams, the Newark Bears and the Somerset Patriots. Their delightful stadiums are both just a short train ride away from us, and it beats fending for yourself on the New York City subway any day.

