

The Westfield Leader

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We'd Like to Know Resumes of Cabinet Appointments in Govt.

With the current environment of government, political power and patronage objectives supersede all else. Patronage is the practice where politicians pay off their supporters with government jobs and appointed cabinet positions.

Thus, government seems to have difficulty appointing qualified people to serve in critical positions. This problem exists from top to bottom and with both Republicans and Democrats — from the federal level, the state and the county.

Non-paid town volunteer positions may be the exception.

Qualified professionals don't seem to get the jobs — they are not even considered or solicited. It is all about patronage and power. Never has it been truer, "it's not what you know, but who you know."

The examples of this are stark. Former Governor James McGreevey had an infamous list. We're still just finding out how entrenched it was. Acting Governor Richard Codey is purging the system. Golan Cipel, McGreevey's lover, was appointed head of New Jersey Homeland Security — putting the entire state at risk for personal passion. Mr. Cipel was not even a citizen and was completely without qualifications. The FBI wouldn't even talk to Mr. Cipel.

Now it appears that the former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Michael Brown, had a "trumped-up" resume. In our opinion, even if the resume were valid, Mr. Brown was hardly the best-qualified person for the job. Perhaps, worse — was he qualified at all?

How does an attorney with little experience with anything other than politics parlay his credentials as an assistant to the town administrator of Enid, Okla. to become head of FEMA?

New Jersey Governor Codey had to cover another McGreevey hole last week when the commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education, William Librera, resigned. He chose Lucille Davy to head the Department of Education. Now, we understand this is probably just a "treading water" appointment for three months — but didn't McGreevey give Mrs. Davy the job as general counsel to the Department of Education because her husband

chaired McGreevey's campaign for governor? Her husband also retains a key cabinet position in the state from his McGreevey appointment.

When the media, including *Time Magazine*, finally got around to checking out Mr. Brown's credentials, our first thought was that this is a failing of the media for waiting so long to investigate. So as not to be a part of the media problem, we decided to check out Mrs. Davy's credentials as a matter of course.

Mrs. Davy receives compliments as a nice person from those who knew her here in Westfield. But, the only experience we could uncover was that she was on the PTO of Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield in 2001 — previously having served on the Strategic Planning Committee for Westfield Public Schools. Searching Martindale.com and findlaw.com, websites listing credentials of attorneys, yielded no results for her legal experience. We called the Department of Education for a copy of her resume and received a press release with little information. We called Mrs. Davy but did not receive a return phone call.

Maybe the jump from PTO of Roosevelt to the head of the New Jersey Department of Education is not as big as the jump from Enid, Okla. to the head of FEMA. We are not intending to single out Mrs. Davy, as she may be eminently qualified. Still, we'd like to see the resumes of those appointed to state positions.

New Jersey voters will choose a new governor in less than two months. The electorate is having a hard time generating enthusiasm for this prospect. Given the nature of the campaign, the theme for both candidates seems to be: "Vote for me because I'm less corrupt than the other guy." Speeches and promises ring empty and are shallow in substance. How is one to know which icon to push on the screen of the state's new voting machine?

Maybe the candidates can help themselves, while wooing the electorate by listing key appointments intended for their cabinet if elected. Including resumes with the list would be also helpful. This would make us feel more informed and assured about the next governor's vision for the future of New Jersey.

Political, Economic Powerhouse in The County West of the Parkway

Over the weekend, some excitement was injected into Union County politics when Plainfield Mayor Albert McWilliams switched parties to run for reelection as a Republican. The mayor was bounced during the primary election in a power struggle with the county Democratic party machine led by the chairwoman from Hillside, Charlotte DeFilippo, allied with Assemblyman Jerry Green of Plainfield.

We're not sure what's best for Plainfield — reelecting the mayor, or electing the party machine choice. All that we do know is that Plainfield needs help, a change in direction. The school system is broken and murders are rising.

In a positive light, Plainfield has so much else going for it with the renaissance underway, driven by the influx of professionals making their homes and investing in the beautiful Sleepy Hollow section of the city.

So, Plainfield is a dichotomy — seemingly insoluble problems on one hand and overpowering progress on the other hand — about as immiscible a situation can be.

Why should we care? In an altruistic sense, we

hope for the well being of our neighbors. In a selfish sense, the better off they are, the better off we are.

Consider the comment by a Fanwood resident lamenting the lack of progress in the borough's downtown development, "How is it that Garwood's getting it done and not Fanwood?"

Garwood, a healthy community itself, is situated between two booming and vigorous neighbors — Westfield and Cranford. The development on North and South Avenues in Garwood is a natural economic win for the three towns. There is no downside whereby an unhealthy neighbor threatens to spoil the party.

The situation with Fanwood and Scotch Plains is different. There is a large adjacent community of an uncertain future, called Plainfield. Investors are uncertain about risking their money. If Plainfield's crime and school problems could be solved, investment would pour into South Avenue from Westfield, through Scotch Plains, Fanwood to Plainfield.

It would unite a beautiful region with well over 100,000 people. It would be a political and economic powerhouse in the county west of the Parkway.

Letters to the Editor

If You Could Beat Westfield, Then You Had 'Done Good'

It is a noble and considerate gesture for the Westfield Girls' Cross-Country team to dedicate their season to the late Walt Clarkson. Clarkson was one of the all-time great New Jersey coaches — in any sport.

As a member of the SPFHSS cross-country and track and field teams (1974-77), a lot of my motivation to run from 70-100 miles per week each summer was to beat Westfield.

And that was in great part, to the respect I had for Coach Clarkson and the tremendous runners and teams that he developed.

If you could beat Westfield, then you had "done good." Runners like Clancy, O'Brien, Hubsch, Giguere, Miller, and Paul were a few Clarkson trained kids who were state ranked and tough in cross-

country, and indoor and outdoor track.

I will never forget coach Clarkson's ground-consuming strides and gait as he "encouraged" runners across the fields of Warinanco or at the Westfield track and at Williams Field. Sometimes intimidating, but highly knowledgeable on training, racing and a master of strategy, Clarkson definitely made his mark well beyond Westfield's boundaries.

Thank you again to the Westfield Girls' cross-country squad and best of luck to you all this x-c season.

However, please forgive me, I will still be rooting for the Lady Blue Raiders of SPFHSS!

Joe Guty Jr., SPFHSS '77
 Dillsburg, PA
 Sports Editor of *Fanscotion* in 76-77

WF Board Invites Public To Kehler Field Ceremony

In celebration of the completion of the synthetic turf field and new running track, the Westfield Board of Education is inviting the public to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, October 1, at noon at Kehler Stadium on Rahway Avenue. The project was funded through the district's 2004 bond referendum, which was passed by voters.

The board will also recognize the individuals and groups who have made pledges of \$100 or more to the Friends of Field and Track Fund in support of the stadium project. Seating will be available in the bleachers with parking directly across the street in the Edison Intermediate School parking lot. Light refreshments will be served. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held in the gym at

Edison Intermediate School, which can be accessed through the parking lot.

The public is also invited to attend the athletic events scheduled for the day. The girls' varsity field hockey team will play North Hunterdon at 9:30 a.m. and the varsity football squad will face Shabazz at 1 p.m. The Blue Devil girl's varsity soccer team inaugurated play on the new field on September 9 with a 3-1 victory over Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

Superintendent of Schools William Foley said, "We look forward to more spirited sports activities taking place by our school and community teams throughout the year on our new track and field."

Board of Education
 Westfield

Scope of Impromptu Community Spirit Surprises Fundraiser Organizer

On a wonderful Labor Day weekend, Linden and Jefferson Avenues had a block party! We had games, face painting and hair styling tables for the kids, great food and great company.

During the block party, I thought it would be a great idea to do a 50/50 raffle. Half of the winnings would go to the winner and the other half would help our unfortunate neighbors on the Gulf Coast who suffered through Hurricane Katrina.

My friend Connor and I figured at most we could raise a hundred dollars or so. We were shocked when we counted up our collection. We would like to say a special thank you to our friends and neighbors on Linden and Jefferson, for generously donating to our impromptu Hurricane

Katrina Relief effort. Together, we raised a total of \$327.

When we announced the name of the 50/50 winner, Kathy Mruz, she generously donated back all of her winnings to be given to the relief effort.

But the story gets even better, my father's company matches two for one all monies donated to the relief effort. I put in an extra few dollars to raise our donation to a whopping, \$1,002!

Again, thank you so much to the residents of Linden and Jefferson Avenues for your generous donations. That's what I call community spirit!

Tyler Varian
 Westfield

WHS Girls Soccer Also Have Right to Play at Kehler Stadium

I was very disappointed to read Bruce Johnson's dismissal of the varsity girls soccer team's debut on the new Kehler Stadium turf field (Devil's Den, September 15). Several football players passed on similar sentiments to the girls when they found out they'd be playing on the new turf field first.

I thought we'd come much farther in accepting the role of girls in sports, especially at Westfield High School (WHS). Not only have many of the girls teams logged winning records and championships over the years, they train hard and compete hard. WHS girls by the dozens have gone on to distinguished college playing careers and some like the WHS Varsity Girls' Soccer coach Katie Egan, have returned home as mentors and leaders for a new generation of competitors.

Anyone who missed Westfield's "nice win" in the Friday game at Kehler Sta-

dium missed two talented and competitive teams fighting to the finish. They missed stands filled with classmates cheering them on. I'm sure even Gary Kehler of WHS football fame would have found it to be an afternoon of top-flight competition, worthy of the beautiful new field in his namesake stadium.

While the stadium was originally built in the 20s for football, we have come a long way, and girls can and should have the right to play on the best fields with the full support of the community. It's just too bad that after all the progress we've made, that it still took a fight to make it happen and that some don't feel the girls have the right to be there.

Go Blue Devils!

Jeanne Ammermuller
 Westfield

Sheehan Should Protest Insurgents Who Are Killing Our Soldiers

Cindy Sheehan has every right to express her anti-war views. I was pleased that only a handful of people attended her news conference in Westfield. Her movement is not helping any of our troops; it is only giving hope to our enemies. Our troops deserve our support, they are in Iraq to help the people, and they are not the ones blowing themselves up killing both our troops and innocent Iraqi citizens.

The 250th Signal Battalion from Westfield is in Iraq, they are not only doing their job but are supporting an orphanage and many have been working to help the children in Takrit.

During the Viet Nam war, Ho Chi Min the leader of the north said the war is being fought on the streets and colleges in America. The anti-war movement will grow and Americans will tire of the war

and leave. The anti-war movement encouraged North Viet Nam to keep fighting and resulted in the unnecessary deaths of thousands of Americans and our allies.

The worst time of my life was not serving in Viet Nam. It was coming home. Some people in the airport called us warmongers and baby killers. Some even spit at us. Their cruel remarks said to me, I will never forget. I hope and pray that this never happens to those serving in Iraq.

If Cindy Sheehan wants to do some good, she should protest those insurgents who are killing our soldiers and innocent Iraqi people. They are the enemy, not our country.

Thomas Lienhard
 Westfield

Westfield Baseball League Urges Batting Safety Improvements

Editor's Note: This letter was sent to Westfield Mayor and Council and copied to *The Westfield Leader*.

On June 21, the nine-year-old brother of a Westfield Baseball League (WBL) player was struck in the face by an opposing team's on-deck batter while walking back to his seat in the bleachers with a soda in his hand. The boy sustained numerous head injuries including a fractured eye socket, a fractured cheekbone and several broken teeth.

Immediately following this accident, the WBL Board of Directors, of which I am President, requested that the town construct fencing around all on-deck batting areas at Westfield's baseball fields. Most of our neighboring towns (Summit, Mountainside, Cranford and Scotch Plains) have long ago enacted this common-sense safety precaution.

As an interim safety measure, the WBL has implemented a "no on-deck batting" rule. However, in our experience, such rules are difficult to enforce and the necessary safety fencing should be immediately implemented to protect young children from future accidents.

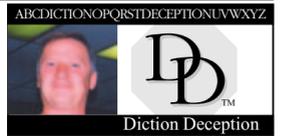
Many baseball parents have sent e-mails, written letters and have attended various Westfield town meetings asking for a status report on the construction of

the designated batting areas. In addition, I have met with the recreation director and a DPW supervisor in an attempt to get this important safety project off the ground. Unfortunately, to date, the only action that has taken place is that "On-Deck Batting is Strictly Prohibited" signs have been hung on the backstops. It took six weeks to have the signs made and installed.

The fall baseball season begins on Saturday, September 16. On behalf of the WBL and our many participants, I respectfully urge the mayor and town council to immediately implement this necessary safety improvement to help prevent future accidents.

Frank Fusaro
 WBL President

Deadlines
 General News - Friday 4pm
 Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm
 Classifieds - Tuesday 12pm
 Ad Reservation - Friday 4pm
 Ad Submittal - Monday 12pm
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 E-Mail - editor@goleader.com
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 For more information, see
 www.goleader.com



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. Surphul — To bathe with medicated water
 2. Peccadillo — A petty fault or minor offense
 3. Idoneous — Suitable; proper
 4. Tormina — Severe gripping pains in the bowels

IMPALPABLE
 1. That which cannot be felt
 2. Not subject to corruption
 3. Motionless; inert
 4. Of little or no consequence

SICCATIVE
 1. Slow-moving; sluggish
 2. Disgraceful; cheap
 3. Snarly; tangled
 4. Causing to dry

PUNGAR
 1. A horsefly
 2. A crab
 3. Literary works
 4. A fencing master

SALTO
 1. In music, a skip
 2. Muscular power
 3. Very small amount; a pinch
 4. With great speed

Letters to the Editor
 See more letters on page 11.

New User Fees on Activities Is Outrage

I am writing to express my outrage at the new user fees imposed by the acting mayor and the Westfield Town Council on many activities, including children's sports.

Our enormous property tax burden gets greater every year and to impose new fees atop those is an insult to the taxpayers. Westfield's high price tag should at least cover the use of our town's sports fields.

That's the way people felt three years ago in my campaign for mayor. I trust the sentiment hasn't changed now that taxes are considerably higher.

Thomas Fuccillo
 Westfield

Must I Include Kindergarten Tuition?

Superintendent Dr. Foley stated in the September 15 edition of *The Westfield Leader* that "a third of our parents transport their children to private kindergarten, who then enter the public schools in first grade." As a parent of future kindergarteners at Washington School and a former kindergarten teacher, I was quite shocked and dismayed when I read this.

What does this statistic say about our kindergarten program? In addition to buying an expensive home in order to live in Westfield and paying high taxes that increase yearly, I must add private kindergarten tuition on my bill.

Dr. Foley, I think our youngest students deserve better, much better.

Tricia Brown
 Westfield

Westfield candidates will be videotaped October 17 at the municipal building. Fanwood will be scheduled shortly. Please send questions to: editor@goleader.com.

Vote November 8, 2005
 See: goleader.com/05vote

- Governor (I, 4-yr.)**
 Jon Corzine (D)
 Doug Forrester (R)
 Jeffrey Pawlowski (L)
 Hector Castillo (Ed)
State Assembly D-21 (2, 2-yr.)
 Jon Bramnick (R)(I)
 Eric Munoz (R)(I)
 Steve Merman (D)
 Bruce Bergen (D)
State Assembly D-22 (2, 2-yr.)
 Linda Stender (D)(I)
 Jerry Green (D)(I)
 Nancy Malool (R)
 Elyse Bochicchio (R)
Union County Clerk (1, 5-yr.)
 Joanne Rajoppi (D)(I)
 Sandra Spector (R)
Union County Freeholder (3, 3-yr.)
 Angel Estrada (D)(I)
 Rick Proctor (D)(I)
 Nancy Ward (D)(I)
 Patricia Quattrocchia (R)
 Stuart Kline (R)
 Albert Dill (R)
Westfield Mayor (1, 4-yr.)
 Andrew Skibitsky (R)(I)
 Tom Jardim (D)
Westfield Council Ward 1 (1, 4-yr.)
 Sal Caruana (R)(I)
 Audrey Fisch (D)
Westfield Council Ward 2 (1, 4-yr.)
 Vicki Kimmins (R)
 Frank Fusaro (D)
Westfield Council Ward 3 (1, 4-yr.)
 Danielle Walsh (R)(I)
 David Haas (D)
Westfield Council Ward 4 (1, 4-yr.)
 Eric Leuthold (R)
 Thomas Bigosinski (D)
Fanwood Council (2, 3-yr.)
 Joan Wheeler (D)
 Bruce Walsh (D)
 Michael D'Antuono (R)
 Maureen Mawby (R)
Garwood Council (2, 3-yr.)
 William Schadewald (D)(I)
 Walter Tucker (D)(I)
 Anthony Sytko (R)
 Bruce Paterson (R)
Mountainside Council (2, 3-yr.)
 Keith Turner (R)(I)
 Paul Mirabelli (R)(I)
 (I)=Incumbent

