

## The Westfield Leader

— Established 1890 —

The Official Newspaper of the Town of Westfield  
Legal Newspaper for Union County, New Jersey

Member of:  
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National Newspaper Association  
Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

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## 911 - Remembering September 11, 2001

Dedicated to the over 3,000 people who lost their lives,  
especially to our Westfield and Scotch Plains family:

**Andrew Alamo**      **Thomas Glasser**      **John S. Salerno**  
**David Campbell**    **Matthew Horning**    **See-Wong Shum**  
**Michael Davidson**   **Leo Russell Keene, 3rd**   **Anthony M. Starita**  
**Dean Eberling**      **Richard B. Madden**    **James Walsh**  
**Stephen M. Fogel**    **Mark Rothenberg**



## I Watched as the Plane Castrated the Second World Trade Center Tower

September 11, 2001 - I was finishing dressing to be at an appointment at One Liberty Plaza across from the WTC at 11 a.m. The limo was waiting to drive my associate and I into the city. I was watching CNN when the horrific announcement came on that, supposedly, a small plane had hit one of the towers.

I called my colleague and told him I didn't think we could make it to our appointment because of the rescue and clean up in the area. He reminded me that this was New York City, after all, and told me to keep watching for a few more minutes before we made up our minds. I did, and watched as the second plane castrated the second tower.

Our limo driver came into my house crying. I called my boss and the three of us sat and talked and cried together, and spent the rest of the day saying "hereby

but the Grace of God," mesmerized in shock and horror and pain at what had happened, and the losses that had shattered our innocence. I will never forget September 11th - not only for what happened, but also because if it had occurred at 10:46 instead of 8:46, we too may have been a name to mourn and remember.

Risa Lower  
Westfield

## Jose Marrero Earned His Place Among Heroes

Heroes are defined only when they are asked to put their lives on the line for others. Jose Marrero earned his place among heroes on 9-11 by refusing to leave the South Tower while others needed saving. His wife, Jody and his sons have only that memory to keep them going.

Patricia Balke  
Scotch Plains

## From Japan, I Saw Two Great Buildings Tumble

Sept. 11, 2002 - Sitting in my living room at night in Kobe, Japan, suddenly the TV screen changed to an image of an airplane stuck in one of the World Trade Center buildings. I assumed it was a small plane and simply a tragic accident that would cost a few lives. As I continued watching with my family, another plane hit and one after another the two great buildings tumbled down.

Stephen Petrucione  
Kobe, Japan

## Remembering Town In Wake of Tragedy

Sept. 20, 2001 - I send my heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all in the Westfield area who are being touched by the World Trade Center attack. I lived and worked in Westfield for most of my life, and know that many of my friends, neighbors and business associates must be affected.

God Bless Westfield and the United States of America.

Sandra Rust  
Hague, N.Y.

## The Forces of Darkness Came to Our Shores

Sept. 11, 2002 - I saw on television, like many others, the fire and collapse of the WTC. I saw "gray" people escaping through clouds of dust. I saw the cheering from various places also; I thought from the West Bank or Bagdad, but actually from Patterson, Passaic and Jersey City.

It was six weeks before I could go to Ground Zero to see for myself. If I didn't see for myself, maybe it only happened on television? What I saw was what looked like some huge gray beast that had fallen from the sky, its bones sticking up and its flesh hanging. People there spoke in hushed tones. Some, when they first got a view, stopped, transfixed by the scene. The police were extra gentle in moving them onto the sidewalks.

Since then, I have seen people squabbling over getting their "fair share" of relief funds and too many politicians and charities warming themselves at the funeral pyre. The squabbling continues over what, if anything, should be built there and who gets the most say.

It's been a year and all that I see are longer lines at airport gates and nail clippers being declared dangerous weapons. The "Forces of Darkness" came to our shores and threw down the gauntlet and we're arguing over money, position and personal power.

Mike Ferrante  
Weehawken

## Our Building Shook 1/4 Mile Away

Sept. 11, 2002 - I traveled through the WTC early. I would normally be walking through at the time the first plane hit the north tower. We heard the second plane in a tremendous crash. Our building shook, which was 1/4 mile away. One thing I remember was people on the streets helping, handing out water to those who had to walk uptown, in my case to catch a ferry.

It was very sad, but even more shock the actual day. A continuing thought was "our world has changed."

Mike McGlynn  
Westfield

## Not all of Those Ideologies are Benign

Sept. 11, 2002 - We must realize that our world is not all sweet smells, ice cream and fluffy landings. With more than six billion people on the face of the earth, there are six billion different ideologies, not all of those ideologies are benign. We must respect people's thoughts, but we must be forever vigilant.

Dave Corbin  
Assistant Publisher/Sports Editor

## We Must Not Let Trade Center Tragedy Create Culture of Hatred, Fear

Reprinted from September 13, 2001

Our people know there's grief to face as the scope of this senseless, horrific matter becomes known. We're solemn now. But, face it we will. We will be together; with all our heart, all our humanity and, most assuredly, with all our strength and resolve.

Our leaders are organizing emergency management. Our institutions are caring for those in need. Individuals are doing what they need to do. There are thousands of volunteers lined up to help. Have every confidence in them. Believe in yourself.

Sadly, while writing this editorial, a lady in her 30s, walked into our office proposing an alternate point of view to this mass murder. We listened in disbelief and told her that we're on deadline at the moment. Her response was something we can't print.

With all the tolerance imaginable to us, it's difficult to find room for the inhumanity of her thoughts. With all the tolerance imaginable to us, there is absolutely no room for the inhumanity of the events of September 11, 2001.

As Americans and as a democracy, we're comprised of all peoples of the world, blessed with freedom. We have individual rights and responsibilities. We have respect for our fellow man. For those that have no respect for their fellow man, can they be called Americans?

Let's not be guided by fear and hatred. For, if we are, then our attackers have won. Simply said, we're "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Let's act that way — we know we will.

September 2006 - Has mankind made progress?

## Letters to the Editor

### There Are Several Things About Sheriff Story That's Shocking

We just read your article, published on August 31, concerning the Union County Sheriff's sale of three luxury cars to the son-in-law of the Union County Sheriff. There are several things about this story that are shocking. The first is that the Sheriff's office is not required to publish notice of an auction in a public forum, such as a newspaper. According to your article, notice of the auction was given only by posting a notice inside the Sheriff's office.

The second is that the judge would not allow the winning bidder at the auction a

reasonable period of time to have a certified check delivered for the exact amount. According to the article, winning bids are required to be paid in cash or by certified check or by approved money order. In this case the original winning bid was in excess of \$110,000 but since the winning bidder did not have cash in that amount (and couldn't possibly have a certified check or money order available since he could not know ahead of time what the winning bid would be), the judge used his "discretion" and decided that he would not wait for a certified check to be deliv-

ered.

The third is that the judge then awarded the three luxury cars to the Sheriff's son-in-law for a grand total of \$300. How fair was that? Courts in our system of jurisprudence are supposed to operate not only as courts of law but of equity. Even if the auction in this case satisfied the technical legal requirements (which Union County itself has made a point of saying that it did), our system of justice — indeed our entire system of government — is not supposed to allow those requirements to be used to unjustly enrich one party over the other.

This debacle, combined with the recent disclosure of Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada's (who is also the manager of the Elizabeth office of the DMV) involvement in reinstating Hamlet Goore's registration and driver's license without receipt of payment, really makes us wonder what is going on in Union County. Do the people running the county government think their positions give them the right to do whatever they think they can get away with? Are they really so disdainful of the public that they don't give any thought to what the public will think? How long will we let them get away with this?

Richard and Heba Fortunato  
Scotch Plains

upon to address this in a public forum. It struck me as almost comical that much of this story appeared on the same page as the police blotter section of your paper where offenses including the stealing of merchandise worth hundreds of dollars are detailed right next to this story where more than \$100,000 was basically stolen by our sworn law enforcement officials.

This is shameful.

Larry Sanders  
Scotch Plains

### Sheriff's Article Seemed too Unbelievable to Reader

I just finished reading the article written by Paul Peyton on the car sale to Sheriff Froehlich's stepson Officer Christopher Coon. I had to call Mr. Peyton at the newspaper to make sure I understood the article because it seemed too unbelievable to me.

I applaud Assemblyman Munoz's introduction of legislation to address this glaring loophole, but let's call a spade a spade here — this is a case of nepotism and corruption of the first order. Both the Sheriff and his stepson should be called

### Presbyterian Women Thank All Who Sewed

On behalf of the Presbyterian Women of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, I'd like to thank the almost 70 people who contributed their time and skills to our Sew-a-Thon that was held on August 17 to provide funds for a well to be dug in a village in Kenya. It was truly a community effort, as FPW members and their friends and family cut, pinned, ironed and sewed fabric into bags that were made and sold that day.

Additional tote bags, book bags, gift bags, wine bottle bags and laundry bags have been created for sale on Sunday, September 17, from noon to 5 p.m. at the church's booth at this year's Fanny Wood Day celebration on Martine and South Avenues in downtown Fanwood. Hope to see everyone there.

Cena Pollitt  
Sew-a-Thon Chair

To Reach Us  
E-Mail - editor@goleader.com

### Debate Over Gasoline Prices is Filled with Political Opportunism

Linda Stender's op-ed in your paper last week struck me as the worst sort of political opportunism. Gas prices are high (though currently falling) and Linda Stender wants you to believe that it is Congressman Mike Ferguson's fault. How simple does she think we are?

Gas prices, like those for many commodities, are subject to massive international forces like nature, weather, war, accident, government regulation, terrorism and ultimately to the laws of supply and demand. But Linda Stender wants you to think it's Mike Ferguson's fault.

And to convince you, she misleads your readers about his record, citing procedural votes in Congress and not mentioning that Congressman Ferguson voted this year to impose (for the first time) stiff criminal penalties and fines at the federal level on companies and individuals guilty of gas price gouging. Specifically, Ferguson voted to make

price gouging of gas and fuel a crime punishable by up to two years in prison and millions of dollars in fines. The bill he voted for also required the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to define price gouging for the first time in our history and impose fines of up to \$150 million for refiners and other wholesalers and \$2 million for retailers plus jail time.

I'm sure this won't be that last time that Linda Stender misleads us about Congressman Mike Ferguson's record, but your readers are entitled to the facts, not her campaign spin.

Since Linda Stender thinks that Congressman Ferguson controls gas prices, I wonder if we can now expect her to issue a new press release thanking him for the recent reduction in gas prices to as little as \$2.79 per gallon?

Julie Diddell  
Westfield

