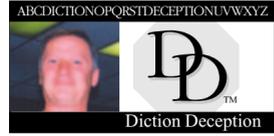


The Westfield Leader THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD TIMES SINCE 1959
Legal Newspaper for the Town of Westfield, Boroughs of Mountainside and Garwood, and the County of Union, N.J.
Members of: New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association • Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Periodicals - Postage Paid at Westfield, New Jersey
P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, Westfield, N.J. 07091
Tele: (908) 232-4407 • E-mail: editor@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.
Paul Peyton ASSIGNMENT EDITOR
Suzette F. Stalker COMMUNITY
Michael Pollack EDUCATION & ARTS
Victoria McCabe TECHNOLOGY
Horace R. Corbin PUBLISHER
David B. Corbin ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS
Karen M. Hinds OFFICE MANAGER
Fred K. Lecomte MARKETING DIRECTOR
Michael L. Bartiromo MARKETING PRODUCTION
Robert P. Connelly OPERATIONS & LEGALS
Ben Corbin SERVICES
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
One-year - \$28 • Two-year - \$52 • Three-year - \$76 • One-year college (September to May) - \$20

Letters to the Editor
Mountainside Public School District Offers Message on Meningitis Case

Editor's Note: The Mountainside School District sent this letter to the Mountainside School Community.
On Wednesday, February 7, the Berkeley Heights administration sent out a letter to its school community, which included our students who attend Governor Livingston High School, indicating that a central office administrator had been preliminarily diagnosed with viral meningitis.
Nevertheless, I learned this morning from a local resident that the person who was preliminarily diagnosed lives in our community and has a child who is enrolled in the Mountainside School District.
I have contacted our school physician, Dr. Ronald Frank and consulted with other health agencies and our school nurses to confirm that at this time, there are no known health concerns for the students and staff. The student has been examined by our school nurse and has shown no signs or symptoms. The medical doctors I have consulted indicate that the risk of transmission is exceedingly low.
Our school physician has provided some information and resources below. However, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Frank at (732) 356-0266 or our school nurses, Anne Berardi at (908) 301-9104 ext. 104 or Kathleen MacDonald at (908) 232-8828 ext. 218; Beechwood School, 1497 Woodacres Drive, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092 (908) 232-3232 and fax (908) 232-1743.
What is meningitis?
Meningitis is an illness in which there is inflammation of the tissues that cover the brain and spinal cord. Viral or "aseptic" meningitis, which is the most common type, is caused by an infection with one of several types of viruses.
What are the symptoms of meningitis?
The more common symptoms of meningitis are fever, severe headache, stiff neck, bright lights hurting the eyes, drowsiness or confusion, and nausea and vomiting.
Is viral meningitis a serious disease?
Viral ("aseptic") meningitis is serious but rarely fatal in persons with normal immune systems. Usually, the symptoms last from seven to 10 days and the patient recovers completely.
More information can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website at: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/enterovirus/viral_meningitis.htm
If you or your child have or develop any of the symptoms listed above, please contact your physician.
I will continue to be in contact with our school physician and nurses and keep you apprised of any further developments.
Richard O'Malley
Mountainside
Chief School Administrator



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. Thirling - The act of boring, drilling, etc.
2. Tursio - A large dolphin of the North Atlantic having few teeth
3. Ouzel - The European blackbird
4. Titubate - To stumble or stagger
DEFECATE
1. To lower in volume; to mute
2. To purify or remove impurities
3. To fall away or decline
4. To fade or erode
STINGO
1. A stem, stalk or support
2. Limit; restraint
3. Strong beer or ale
4. In mining, an inclined trough for washing ore
LUGUBRIOUS
1. Playful; sportive
2. Muddy; turbid, thick
3. Pertaining to a freak of nature; a monstrosity
4. Excessive grief; very sad
INSTAURATION
1. Blowing or breathing into or on
2. To stud or adorn with stars
3. Brief exposure to radiation
4. Renewal or restoration

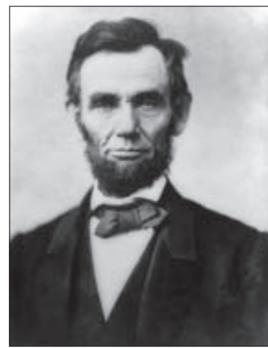
We Think Our Children Should Recognize These Presidential Portraits

What we call the Presidents' Day holiday is really not that. It's actually the holiday celebrating George Washington's birth in 1732 according to the United States Office of Personnel Management. Granted too, there's some argument about what calendar was in use during that time. Although it's popularly thought that Presidents' Day is the combination of Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays, Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 1809 never became a federal holiday; but it did become a legal holiday in several states, such as New Jersey.
In 1968, legislation moved several federal holidays. Washington's Birthday holiday of February 22 was moved to the third Monday in February each year. Since taking effect in 1971, it was intended to simplify the calendar and give government workers three-day weekends.

of the United States.
Abraham Lincoln was the great statesman who hardly won an election. Considered one of the greatest, he was the sixteenth President of the United States and was assassinated in office at the start of his second term in 1865.



Which of the two above said "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company." or "Government is not reason. Government is not eloquence. It is force. And, like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."
These are quotes of George Washington.
And then you would know that Abraham Lincoln said at Gettysburg: "that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."



His quote inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. is, "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds..."
We think it is important for our children to know of these great men of perilous times, of their character and sacrifice, of their contribution to country and mankind.

The fact that there are three-day weekends now seems the important feature of most holidays today - such as Presidents' Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day. It's hard to remember the real reasons for the holidays. The reasons seem to be passed over in the news and neglected in the classrooms. Are there more pressing, "politically-correct" issues to espouse on the air and to teach in the schools? Are shopping, vacationing and appealing to the lowest common denominator now more in vogue?
One could question the significance of a general who hardly won a battle, except for his last one - or a statesman who hardly won an election, except for his last one.

We hope society, the media and the schools reverse their trend of overlooking them. If not, will our good fortune overlook us? Try an experiment, ask your children to identify them.

2007 Comment on President's Day

In honor of Presidents' Day on February 19 and the birthdays of George Washington (February 22, 1732) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809), the editorial above is reprinted from February 19, 2004.
In 1932, the federal government placed portraits of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in schools throughout the country to keep American history, the importance of character, leadership traits and patriotism in the forefront of our nation's youth. However, since about 1970, the schools have gradually removed these portraits.
In 1998, William Sanders of Mountainside started a movement to again place portraits of George Washington in New Jersey schools and others throughout the country. He has since received national and international recognition, along with moderate success in the initiative.
As innocuous and beneficial for education as Mr. Sander's proposal sounds, it has drawn criticism and unlikely opponents from the educational sector, including the teacher's union - the NJEA (New Jersey Education Association). In 2002, a spokesperson for the NJEA, Karen Josephs, told The Westfield Leader and The Scotch

Plains-Fanwood Times that the NJEA opposes Mr. Sanders' project for several reasons, including the idea that "singling out one individual was insulting to another," and that there are "equally important historical figures, (who) children should also learn about."
Mr. Sanders said that this type of egalitarianism fails to recognize the greatest leader of America's history and the origins of our great nation. He claimed that Ms. Joseph's position reflects a recent trend in educational curriculum to water-down, exclude and change significant historical facts in the interest of being politically correct.
"Our Founding Fathers are being excluded from the history books in favor of teaching a more pluralistic, but inaccurate version of history," he claimed. "We are so afraid of offending, that we deprive American children of the truth."
The public can learn more of this matter by viewing the online video of an interview last week with Mr. Sanders. Please see goleader.com/video.
While there, take the time to view the other video also made last week, where Chairman Bill Palatucci discusses the 2007 goals of the Westfield Recreation Commission.

It's Time for Scotch Plains' Website To be Updated and Join 21st Century

I was pleased to attend the Scotch Plains Township Council agenda meeting on Tuesday night, February 6. I saw a wonderful demonstration of what a town can do with its website to benefit the citizens and make the administration of the town work more smoothly.
The demonstration was initiated by Councilman Kevin Glover and supported by Councilman Jeff Strauss. John Thompson, who was just appointed to the technology committee, gave a report before the demonstration as to the state of the town's present website.
City Connections, a large developer and maintainer of municipal websites throughout our state did an outstanding job showing the benefits of an enhanced website. For a nominal annual cost of approximately \$7,500, which would include development and maintenance, our town could finally realize the many benefits associated with a "state of the art" website.
An updated user-friendly website has been on the council's drawing board for years. Finally, we are close, only months away, to bringing, as Councilman Glover stated, the township's site into the 21st century.
Let's not miss this exciting opportunity to enhance communications between our municipal government and residents. The council needs to take Councilman Glover's challenge and commit itself and our township's resources to this long overdue project.
Dick Samuel
Scotch Plains

Blaming Township Budget Crisis on Special Interests is 'Shortsighted'

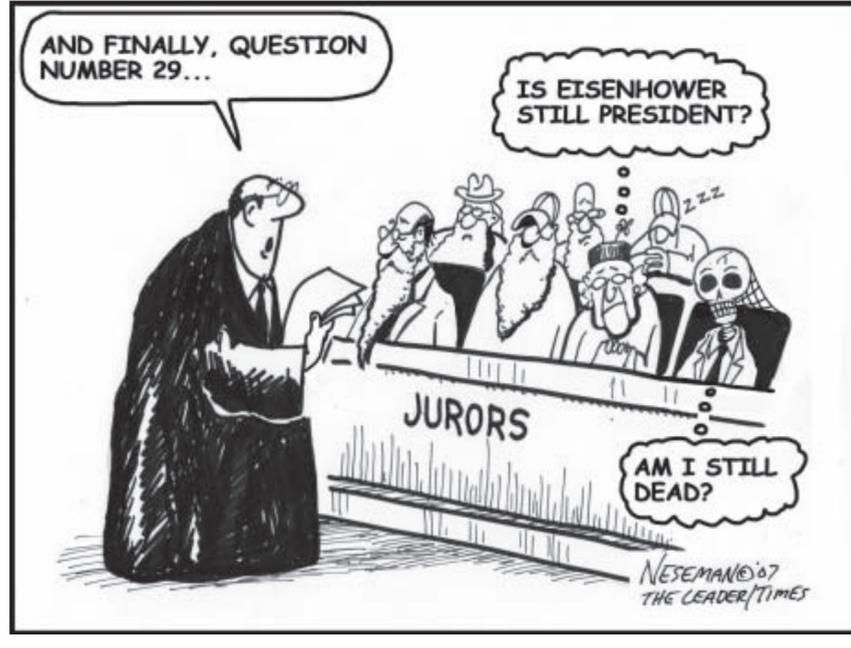
I read with great interest Mayor Marks' "reMARKS" article that appeared in your paper on February 1, regarding his claim that our legislators in Trenton lack the backbone and even guts to propose meaningful legislation to reduce property taxes.
Clearly, we must address the need to lessen the property tax burden on our citizens, but, unlike Mayor Marks, I want to commend our Governor for making this concern we all have, his concern as well, by his continuing efforts to press for real tax reform.
I think our mayor could better serve the community and state by attempting to be less confrontational in his remarks. Our tax burden did not develop overnight, and although we all wish it could, it will realistically not be solved in one legislative session. I believe the process has begun and to paraphrase the saying "the most difficult part of any journey is the first step."
Mayor Marks can continue to conveniently blame special interest groups for the current budget predicament; however, I think that is shortsighted, recognizing our State legislatures are faced again with ongoing cuts from Washington. Clearly, our legislators will need to work harder to find areas of compromise and fairness that will result in lowering property taxes. Lastly, I cannot see any benefit that can come from insinuating that our teachers are the source of our tax problems.
As we begin the process of reviewing and preparing our township's budget for 2007, I would ask that the mayor be committed, responsible and open on fiscal matters, which he can affect in an effort to stabilize our local municipal tax burden. This year, I hope we are spared from again hearing that the municipal budget is only approximately 20 percent of ones township tax bill, the balance going to the Board of Education and county.
We have many needs. To share a few, our children need safe hometown fields to play on, our courageous volunteer firefighters need to have a well-maintained firehouse with a roof over their heads that doesn't leak and our seniors living on fixed incomes need relief from ongoing municipal tax increases.
This year, the mayor needs to work with the entire council to instill good business practices that would enable the township's governing body to act in a non-partisan manner to stabilize taxes in a meaningful way, an action that would be consistent with his outspoken views of what is needed at the state level. Or, to put it another way, "Practice What You Preach."
Kevin Glover
Councilman Scotch Plains

The Cornerstone was First in Fanwood Redevelopment to Break Ground

Please be advised that front-page feature "Fanwood Redevelopment Progresses" in the February 8, edition of The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times incorrectly identified the completed foundation of The Cornerstone as the Station Mews.
The Cornerstone is owned by life-long Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents Renato Marcovecchio and his family. Mr. Marcovecchio has been a Fanwood business owner for over 35 years. The Cornerstone development was the first to receive construction approval and later break ground under Fanwood's revised Redevelopment Plan.
Located on the corner of South Avenue and Second Street, the building will feature 10 condominiums and highly visible retail businesses directly across from Fanwood's historic train station. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2007.
Please feel to contact us if you have any questions. You may also visit www.222southave.com for more information and photos of the progress.
Michael Marcovecchio
Fanwood

Fanwoodian Seeks Freeholder Response to Spending Analysis

Since sending my Union County, NJ 2005-2006 Spending Analysis to Freeholder Dan Sullivan and his fellow Freeholders on November 3, 2006, I have followed up repeatedly in an effort to ascertain their interest in implementing my cost-saving recommendations. Unfortunately, their lack of response merely confirms my earlier suspicions that they are simply going to maintain the status quo and wasteful ways of county government - "doing business as usual."
Perhaps the media can get the attention of our Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and ask if they are at least willing to consider implementing cost-saving recommendations.
Thank you for keeping a watchful eye on our elected representatives who seem to be detached from the taxpayers and citizens of Union County rather than "Connected to You" as their slogan suggests.
Editor's Note: Excerpts of Mr. Marquardt's letter follows:
Dear Freeholder Sullivan: Since I have not heard from you, I assume you have no interest in my spending analysis and recommendations for Union County to achieve significant cost savings. George Devanne's 2007 Budget calls for a tax increase of 5.7 percent, which is twice the current annual rate of inflation and confirms that Union County is still conducting "business as usual."
Union County must first get their own financial house in order before trying to implement Shared Services among the county's municipalities and in concert with other NJ counties. Based upon my brief review of the 2005-2006 Union County check registers alone, it is obvious that the county has a long way to go before they can demonstrate sound purchasing practices and leadership necessary to lead Shared Services initiatives.
I am equally disappointed in the inaction and feeble efforts of Governor Corzine and the New Jersey legislative leadership to effectively address property tax reduction, pay-to-play, ethics reform and a host of other issues that have made corruption a cornerstone of government at all levels. New Jersey is the laughingstock of our nation.
Rather than cast the blame up to the state or down to the municipalities, why doesn't the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders take some responsibility for solving the real problems? They should spend less time on political posturing, campaign photo ops and patting one another on the back.
Mr. Sullivan, if for some reason you have already taken positive action on the Spending Analysis recommendations but simply forgotten to acknowledge this to me, please let me know.
John Marquardt
Fanwood



Letters to the Editor

Why Does Ward 2 Have Most Speed Humps?

Ever since former Mayor Greg McDermott and former Councilman Rafael Betancourt had speed humps placed on certain roads in Ward 2, those humps have been a pain. Why are they mostly in Ward 2 and not on other roads in Westfield [Rahway Avenue being the exception]?
I have asked a couple of our town leaders about how to get rid of them with no real answer - except, I have been told some people like them. Ninety-eight percent or more of us do not like them. If the people in Ward 2 really want to have the town take action on the complaints over these humps, propose for the town to place more of them on the following roads - Canterbury Lane, Wychwood Road, Irving Avenue, Tuttle Parkway, Shackamaxon Drive, Dudley Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, Scotch Plains Avenue, Longfellow Avenue and Sherwood Parkway.
Once those humps are in place (near where town officials live), I am sure within one week there will be action to have the humps removed.
John Mancini
Westfield

Resident Questions Pool Registration Process

I would like to clarify a few points in your article describing the February 5 [Westfield] Recreation Commission discussion regarding the pool registration process. I attended the meeting to ask that the commission consider changing the process to allow everyone an equal and convenient chance of registering for the pool.
I suggested that perhaps a lottery system could be implemented, or a waiting list (such as for parking at the train station) could be maintained. While I did not leave the meeting with much hope that the process will be changed for this year, I was under the impression that the issue would be discussed by the pool committee.
I look forward to their response. If nothing is changed, perhaps The Westfield Leader could send a reporter to town hall at 6 a.m. on pool registration day to find out if the people in line think the current process works well.
Bernadette Murphy
Westfield

Washington School Show Thanks Donors

The producers of Washington School's 59th Annual Fundraiser Stick to the Status Quo would like to thank all the folks in the community who supported our efforts. The show, which was presented the weekend of January 27, is our largest fundraiser and all proceeds from the show fund a substantial portion of our annual PTO budget. We encourage you to please make an effort to support the following local businesses, which so graciously support our school:
Editor's Note: Too numerous to list, more than 100 businesses and many individuals were acknowledged for assisting the program.
Ken Schildge
Anita Muehl
Charlie Bowmar
Lois Walter
Westfield



Creative Writing Contest
See the Bernard Heene Creative Writing Contest details at: www.goleader.com/tiw/contest
Intern Program Note
See the LeaderTimes summer internship program details at: www.goleader.com/internship
For More Information, See www.goleader.com/help