

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 Periodicals - Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, New Jersey
P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, Westfield, N.J. 07091 P.O. Box 368 Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076
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.
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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE One-year - \$28 • Two-year - \$52 • Three-year - \$76 • One-year college (September to May) - \$20

21st District News Cable Access to Local TV
Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. - Westfield Asm. Jon Bramnick - Westfield Asm. Eric Munoz - Summit

ABCDICHTIONOPQIRSTDECEPTIONUWXYZ
Diction Deception

This letter is being sent to local officials advising them that consumers who have switched cable providers may not receive local access channels in the foreseeable future.
Dear Mayor and Members of the Governing Body.
New cable installations by Verizon may not carry local access channels. We are all aware that these channels provide local emergency information and other valuable programs.
A dispute has arisen between cable providers that may delay access for a very long time unless local officials begin the process of involving the [New Jersey] State Board of Public Utilities (BPU). We

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. Saracenet - A soft silk cloth, used for ribbons, linings, etc.
2. Hornotino - A bird in its first year
3. Juramentado - A Filipino Moslem who takes an oath before a priest that he will die killing Christians
4. Pileous - Hairy
ULOTRICH
1. A disease of the gums characterized by bleeding or hemorrhaging
2. In South Africa, an outsider; a foreigner
3. The woolly-haired peoples
4. The elm family of trees
EXPERRECTION
1. To remove the bones from
2. Putting out or destroying the eyes
3. Coughing up or spitting
4. Awakening from sleep
DELIQUATE
1. To melt or be dissolved
2. To make harmful or injurious
3. To please, charm or delight
4. To accuse or inform against
PRATTI
1. Established practice or custom
2. Cymbals
3. A translucent quartz of leek-green color
4. Idle babble or chat

Notorious, Route 22 From Mountainside to Scotch Plains

The stretch of Route 22 that traverses through our area suffers from neglect, has some dangerous conditions and is a conduit for robbers and car thieves. The tragic auto accident deaths last week of two youths is one example. Each week the Mountainside police blotter tells an action-packed saga.

Avenue where it intersects with the highway's east-bound lanes. That intersection is not only located near three closely situated u-turns from the west-bound lanes of Route 22, but it also sits in the midst of a fairly sharp curve in the highway. This means a westbound driver making a u-turn with the intention of turning off onto Mountain Avenue or into Echo Lake Park must cross two lanes of fast-moving traffic that is entering a curve in the road.

The police from Scotch Plains to Mountainside do a terrific job on Route 22 in protecting our area from Irvington invaders and Newark narcotics. At times, blazing gun battles and high speed chases ensue.

Highway drivers heading further east on Route 22 must contend not only with the cars making u-turns but also with cars entering the highway from Mountain Avenue. Often times, Mountain Avenue drivers are not aware of how fast eastbound drivers are traveling and, as a result, carelessly enter the highway in the midst of its sharp curve with oncoming traffic literally at their bumpers.

During daylight, Route 22 is a stalled commuter artery. During nighttime, the empty road can be a NASCAR testing ground for teenagers or an escape route for criminals.

One question: is it really necessary to have three u-turns located so close together? The easternmost u-turn is for drivers wishing to make a simple u-turn while the westernmost turn also allows cars to quickly cross over to the Mountain Avenue exit. What is the purpose of the middle u-turn that is located a few hundred feet from the others? It's much too close to Mountain Avenue for drivers to cross over, although we've seen some try. And a simple u-turn can be accomplished at one of the other two u-turns?

The 5.5 miles of roadway that runs through Scotch Plains and Mountainside is a major east-west artery not only for drivers heading to and from New York City but also for those traveling between Union, Somerset and Middlesex Counties and points north, such as Route 78 and Springfield, Summit, Union, Newark and elsewhere in Union, Essex and Morris Counties.

It would be interesting to see what a traffic safety study of this section of Route 22 would conclude and recommend. While such a study would be time-consuming as would the actual implementation of any suggested changes, it shouldn't take the state that long to conclude that significant sections of this portion of the highway are badly in need of resurfacing.

Slow-moving traffic on eastbound Route 22 during the morning rush is as commonplace as slow-moving westbound traffic during the evening rush. Feeder roads such as Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, New Providence Road, Mountain Avenue and Summit Road in Mountainside, Lawrence Avenue in Westfield and Springfield Avenue at the Mountainside-Springfield border are often backed up with cars and trucks during those busy times.

But we need to think about what might happen if a major expansion of Route 22 is recommended. Since its inception in the 1930s and being hailed as the highway of the future, Route 22 has been dysfunctional in many ways. Yet, that dysfunction has actually protected this area from shopping malls and crime.

The racetracks of the Nascar and Indy 500 variety offer drivers smooth driving surfaces. Our stretch of Route 22 is in such disrepair that it's hard to drive more than several hundred feet without encountering major potholes, large gaps where the seams in the pavement have opened and other roadway hazards that make driving perilous, if not for drivers then for their vehicles.

Just ask residents of Summit how they like the Route 24 raceway to Newark and the rapid transit connection of their downtown to the Short Hills Mall. Berkeley Heights residents are now becoming fearful of a proposed new interchange of Route 78 in the township. Cranford and Clark have always been plagued by the traffic of Parkway exits - and now the Clark circle is to undergo a major renovation.

We don't know when the last time Route 22 in our area was paved, but its condition these days puts it on a par with some of the worst of New Jersey's highways. Heavy traffic and large trucks just keep giving it a pounding.

More roads and more traffic? - perhaps it's best to "let sleeping dogs lie."

We didn't spot any plans to resurface the highway when we looked at the DOT's website. In fact, it seems the best hope for area drivers these days is to call the DOT's 1-800-POTHOLE hotline. Perhaps a barrage of phone calls will spur the state to take a look at the highway's abysmal condition.

There are also several access points along Route 22 that concern us, specifically the one at Mountain

Letters to the Editor

Pedestrian Saved from Bus Pinning in Downtown Westfield Thanks Couple

On Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., I was crossing East Broad Street at the corner of Elm. When I was about three-quarters of the way across, a bus coming from Elm Street started to make a right turn into Broad Street. Since I use a walker, and since the bus cut the corner very sharply, my walker and I were pinned between the side of the bus and the curb. Luckily, a young couple heard my screams and ran to my aid, banging on the rear door of the bus and dragging me to safety on the sidewalk. The bus just continued down Broad Street. I was extremely traumatized and in

shock from the experience. Several people got me onto the seat of my walker and took very good care of me. However, I didn't have the presence of mind to get the names of the wonderful couple that probably saved my life. I am taking this opportunity to thank them publicly for their much-appreciated assistance. I know that all motor vehicles are supposed to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, but this particular New Jersey Transit bus driver was apparently asleep at the wheel.

Joy Krauss Westfield

Politics, Religion and Volunteerism in the Union County Workplace

A recent letter regarding the upcoming Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders sponsored MusicFest 2007 and other events including a walkathon reads: "I am personally committed to these causes, and have joined forces with those organizations benefiting from the walkathon, including the Love Hope Strength Foundation and the NJ Citizens Coalition for Cures. Once you have had a chance to read the enclosed material, I hope you will register for this walkathon. I will be walking on Sept. 15, and we look forward to having you join us!"

Employers must be careful that their "encouragement" does not lead to compulsion which poses legal risks under these laws. How an employer approaches a volunteer situation is of paramount importance because in some cases for some types of off-duty charity projects, employees can actually expect to be compensated for the volunteer work that they undertake for the employer.

This letter was addressed "to all County Employees" on County of Union letterhead bearing the official county seal and signed by George Devaney, County Manager. The letter also says that the first step is to register for the Rock On Walkathon by signing up and viewing updates at www.ucmusicfest.com.

Stacey Mark, Chair of the Labor and Employment Group at the legal firm Ater Wynne, LLP in her 2006 "Employment Roundtable" memo entitled "Pushing Politics, Religion and Charity at Work" offers two examples of communicating volunteerism to employees for comparison: "Employer will sponsor a team of volunteers at the homeless shelter next Thursday evening. Please contact human resources for information if you are interested". As opposed to: "Employees are encouraged to show their community spirit and civic-mindedness by participating in next Thursday's company volunteer event at the homeless shelter. Sign up today with human resources."

Showing the letter to one of my grown children, who is not at all political and lives in another county, I posed a question to her. Inquiring that if she received that letter from the chief operating officer of the chain of hair salons she is employed by, what would she think and do. She responded without hesitation, "I would be on the website signing up because I want to keep my job." I would have to speculate that there are many of the 3,000 county employees who reacted just that way upon receiving this written communication.

According to Ms. Mark, though the later version is more effective, it may be characterized as more coercive. Employers are advised to have the charity organization do the recruiting and the activities directed by the organization. Employer managers [should] stay out of the mix, including the day of the event. The county manager has not taken the steps so far.

Federal and State laws exist which address promoting politics, religion and charity/volunteerism in the workplace.

In his letter to county employees, Mr. Devaney states that "MusicFest will also offer you an opportunity to change the world." Who wouldn't feel compelled to be a team player and sign-up to be part of the team? After all, team players are those who see the raises and promotions, aren't they? And what would the county manager think of an employee who wasn't interested in saving the world?

New Homes Should be Built in Line with the Rest of Neighborhood

In a letter to the editor by William Heinbokel (The Westfield Leader, July 12), chairman of the land use task force states, "...this committee is working to preserve the character of our neighborhoods while also preserving the property rights of individual homeowners."

The letter to the county workforce really should have been a simple announcement that a walkathon would be taking place the same day as the MusicFest and probably should not have directed employees to the county-owned and operated website which prominently features an online sign up sheet. The Co-Chairs are also listed on the county website. They just happen to be Democrat Assemblyman Neil Cohen, Assemblywoman Linda Stender and Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jean Kowalski.

No resident in Westfield has a problem with individual homeowners. The Westfield resident has a problem with contractors who come in to a neighborhood, knock down an older home and build one or two "McMansions" from designs out of his truck. These are out of character as the rest of the neighborhood houses are colonials.

The pressure to be a team player is certainly evident as is the pressure to support one of their favorite politically charged causes, publicly funded stem cell research. The New Jersey Citizens Coalition for Cures is a not-for-profit group, which says they are dedicated to educating the public about the importance and potential benefits of increased public funding for biomedical research including both embryonic and adult stem cell research in NJ. The NJCCC's website clearly states that contributions to NJCCC are not tax deductible; this may create a fundraising issue for volunteers.

Mr. Heinbokel criticizes Mr. Nehring for wondering where the overdue report is. Well, where is it? Do we have to wait another 12 months so contractors could knock down another 100 homes without any concerns of the town?

The Love Hope and Strength Foundation website states that proceeds from their various events will go to local charities. They list three. The Ryan Gibson Foundation in Texas who's only goal is to find a cure for Leukemia and DKMS of NYC which connects bone marrow and stem cell donors with patients in need. These are commendable. Lastly, and especially interesting, is the Nepal Cancer Relief Society who educates the Nepalese people against the use of carcinogens. Nepal happens to be the home of Mount Everest, which Mr. Devaney is planning to climb in the near future with the founders of the Love Hope and Strength Foundation. He describes this upcoming trip as the opportunity of a lifetime.

Years ago, people wanted a house balanced with a nice property. Now, people do not have a choice. Every house built is the maximum for the property. This is sad. We should keep new homes in line with the neighborhood.

Undoubtedly, our county workforce has been backed into an unfortunate situation and may have to compromise their political or religious values. They may not support embryonic stem cell research, and they may not support the co-chairs of the event who are all up for reelection this year. Also, they may believe that "voluntary" participation in the walkathon alongside the county manager for his favorite causes may be an indicator of who is and who isn't a team player and in the future may determine just who is in and who could be out of a job. And what caring worker would want to deprive their boss of the opportunity of his lifetime.

The Westfield Rescue Squad Has Been Busy And on Top of the Job

This past week was one of the busiest summer weeks in many years for our [Westfield] Rescue Squad. On Saturday, July 7, we answered 13 EMS calls.

Could this all lead to a disgruntled former employee filing yet another suit against the county? Only time will tell.

One of these calls, the fire at the Westfield Post Office, required us to have two of our ambulances, staffed by six volunteer EMTs, stationed at the fire scene to treat the firemen who were fighting the fire. Our third ambulance handled the balance of the EMS calls in Westfield. On Wednesday, July 11, we had another busy and challenging day. After handling four calls in a short period of time, we were dispatched to a call on South Avenue to treat several people who were overcome by carbon monoxide fumes. At one point, we had all three of our ambulances, staffed by eight volunteer EMTs at the scene. We also had to call in rescue squads from other towns to provide mutual aid.

At a time when volunteer squads are on the decline, we remain an active and dedicated all-volunteer rescue squad. Our commitment and dedication to Westfield is as strong now as it was when our rescue squad was founded 56 years ago.

Reid Edles, President Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad

Patricia Quattrochi GOP Candidate for Freeholder

Letters to the Editor

SPF Board of Education Needs to Address the Proposed Cell Tower to be Located Next to McGinn School

Please help in keeping these towers away from all of our schools. Since schools were out of session when the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education was notified of a cell tower proposal near McGinn School, shouldn't all Scotch Plains-Fanwood community school members be notified of this? Please see the link below for complete New York Senate

legislation on cell towers, dated 7/13/2007. Our community should consider the wisdom of New York and follow suit. "Senate Committee Approves Golden Bill to Prevent Installation of Cell Phone Towers Near N.Y.C. Schools" can be read at www.senatorgolden.com.

The next public hearing on the cell tower proposal will be on Thursday, Sep-

tember 6. As citizens of Scotch Plains and McGinn School parents, we fully expect that the board of education will step forward and address this matter and fulfill their obligation as our elected representatives.

Mark and Mary Ducran Scotch Plains



Letters to the Editor

Kidsave Thanks Westfield Community

On behalf of my family and the Kidsave organization, I extend my gratitude to The Westfield Leader for describing our efforts to find permanent homes for several Colombian orphan children this summer. We have received lots of support from the Westfield community and from many of our neighbors and friends. We thank Mayor Andy Skibitsky and all those who attended the picnic to show their support. We also extend a special thanks to Hershey Subs for donating some of the food for the event.

It's too Rare Today, Children Playing

This past Sunday night, I participated in my final practice as a Westfield coach for one of my daughter's teams. This one was for her 14 and under traveling softball team, but it could have been any number of recreation, traveling soccer or softball teams over the past eight years. Being with her every step of the way from her first soccer game and goal to her final recreation game championship softball victory, I knew someday my participation with her athletic career would end. I just didn't think it actually would.

Years of countless drives to 8 a.m. practices and rainy soccer games or drained out softball games and trips to the Sports Authority for socks or cleats or balls or gloves have come to an end. Last week her team played in their annual summer tournament, won three of four games and played for the championship in their bracket. They lost to a very good team, but Caroline was voted co-MVP by her teammates for her tournament play and deservedly so. She made some outstanding defensive plays, had some timely hits and always knew where to be and what to do.

And for the first time, I was able to watch her play with a detached exuberance. I no longer cringed or fretted when she batted; she knew what she was doing. So on a warm and summery Sunday night at Tamaques Park, nine girls and three dads held their final practice for the season. We practiced fly balls to the outfield and cut off throws to the infield and then held an old-fashioned scrimmage where they ran and laughed and played until dusk, like they did the first time they played so many years ago.

While Caroline will go on to play in wonderful new activities, I will always remember the coaching parents, friends and neighbors like Ed Ronk, Wally Roff, Kevin Mooney, Joe Kiefer and Jim Marvin - but most of all, I will remember the children whom I had the privilege to work with and watch doing something way too rare nowadays: play.

Sergio Vera Westfield

Michael Snizek Westfield

Thank You Westfield For Crossing Guards

The Jefferson School community and neighbors would like to thank the community leaders who were instrumental in creating and maintaining crossing guard posts on Summit Avenue.

Sincere thanks to Mayor Andy Skibitsky, Councilman Mark Ciarrocca, Mr. Jim Gildea, Police Chief John Parizeau, Chief Tracy, Detective Perrotta, Dr. Foley, Principal O'Brien, Principal Munoz and the BRAKES committee. These leaders recognized a community need and worked to make changes to improve public safety. A special thank you is sent to all the crossing guards who endeavor to make street crossings safer for children and adults each school day. Thank you to all the individuals who faithfully serve and plan for our community. Your efforts are most appreciated.

Sokol Family Westfield