

**The Westfield Leader**  
— Established 1890 —  
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  
Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association • Fanwood Business & Professional Association

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Westfield, New Jersey  
P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, West  
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

One-year - \$28 • Two-year - \$52 • Three-year - \$76 • One-year college (September to May) - \$20

**THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD  
TIMES** SINCE 1959  
Legal Newspaper for the Borough of Fanwood  
And the Township of Scotch Plains

Members of:  
New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association • Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce  
Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association • Fanwood Business & Professional Association

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, New Jersey  
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.

**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

### Writer Last Week on High School Parking Ignores Conservation

This letter is in response to the June 7 letter to the editor re: "WF Council, BOE Need to Work Together for WHS Parking Solution."

First, thanks to *The Westfield Leader* for placing this article between Assemblyman Munoz' statement on the "Gas Tax Hike" and Cory Lipschutz' statement on "Making our Westfield Schools Environmentally Clean and Green."

I'm not sure if the writer of last week's article is a WHS student or a working, tax-paying adult resident. However, what I am sure of is that his priorities are quite ignorant to say the least. I use the word ignorant, and I think I'm being kind. The writer is ignorant to the undeniable facts of life here in Westfield and must have been absent from school when teachers taught the word "conservation."

Westfield is the blessed and beautiful town that it is because of the very hefty real estate taxes that homeowners pay to live here. Some are senior citizens who made Westfield what it is, pay exorbitant real estate taxes and don't even get a rebate or discount and live on very limited incomes. Others are hard working middle class folks struggling to meet their taxes and send their children to a good school system. Some, like myself, don't even have children or are single and want to live in a lovely town that offers suburbia with a somewhat close commute to New York City. All are paying for your education, teachers and beautiful facilities.

Westfield is also fortunate to have a town council that is devoted to its citizens and tries to address any and all issues of concern to them. They give many hours of their time after working their regular full-time jobs at little or no financial reward to insure that Westfield is on the right track.

The town has a board of education, who while having the school system's best educational interests at heart, also only sees the teachers and student's best interests as its goal. I say that because, while they make some excellent decisions, they also make some frivolous ones such as spending over \$1 million for an artificial turf field, not utilizing the real estate it currently has in the most economic manner and always thinking there is no bottom to the well from the taxpayers.

Mr. Nemeth apparently also thinks there is no bottom to the well too. His proposals that we hire an independent traffic safety and parking consulting firm is ludicrous, as well as making a circular driveway in front of the school. What a ridiculous idea that the town council and

BOE should waste their time and the town's revenues on such an insignificant, wasteful and selfish issue.

I will say that the idea of possibly making Dorian Road a one-way street was very constructive (and practically cost-free) and possibly doable at least for certain hours of the school day, providing that crossing guards are located at Westfield and Rahway Avenues (which I believe they are already).

I'll give you the best correction of the problem. Leave the cars at home.

How about saving gas and the environment? How about walking or riding a bike? Bike racks could be installed along the fences to the field adjacent to the high school at a minor expense. This is an unbelievable idea, right? I know the poor little student who have their cars or they will be traumatically and terribly disadvantaged. After all, they must have status symbols.

Here's an idea. Let them pay \$5 a day like we commuters do at the south side train station, while we wait years to get approved for one of the parking lots. Or alternatively, look into parking at the armory for a specified amount per day that the individual students would pay themselves (not on the taxpayers' backs). Possibly, that money could be sent to our troops in Iraq or Afghanistan for phone cards or special equipment.

In all the years I've been in Westfield, I've seen a lot of articles in the editorial section that have warranted a response, but this one was a "beauty." I suggest Mr. Nemeth go back to school if he is an adult or go back to science or conservation class if he is a student. He still has a lot to learn.

Michele McIntyre  
Westfield

### 2nd Grader Raised Very Good Point

I wish to thank Ms. Katie Foley, 2nd grader, who wrote a recent letter to this paper in which she raised a cogent question about why the pool [Westfield] was not open on Memorial Day even though it is called "Memorial." I hope she gets her answer promptly.

People who raise questions, seek accountability, and take the time to help solve problems are a real asset to our community and nation. I hope that Ms. Foley will run for mayor or president or pursue another goal in her bright future.

Mercedes Fol-Okamoto  
Westfield

### SP Teachers, Coaches and Residents Together Help Children Grow

Our youngest child is a high school senior, so this time of year brings a certain bittersweet feeling that all parents understand.

As I sat last night at our senior athlete awards dinner, I couldn't help thinking about how much help we have had raising our children in Scotch Plains. Teachers, school administrators, friends, neighbors, local business people and police officers have all eased our workload in a myriad of ways.

There are teachers who go beyond the minimal expectation of their jobs to ensure success by giving extra time and effort, coaches who teach the valuable life lessons about how to be a better person and local business people who provide jobs and the education they bring. There is the police officer who spent his free time coaching and mentoring. He donated \$1,000 to our soccer team to travel for summer training. He meets our kids in the course of his profession and helps show them the right way rather than straying from the path. Friends and neighbors provide an extra eye for the well being of our children, set an example and provide the first time jobs of babysitting and yard work.

I am sure we are not alone receiving these benefits in Scotch Plains. It is like

this in most towns if we take the time to see it. Remember to return the favor by helping other parents, keeping an eye out for the safety of children other than just our own, setting a positive example and being a friend when needed.

One of the coaches last night commented about how important it is for kids to know how to be a good person — and that there are not enough good people in the world. He is right. I think the good people are there; they just get trapped in the negative thinking so common today, looking for ways to challenge the very public employees who are trying to help us. Rather than looking for the positive to highlight, we seem conditioned to overlook the good and find the negative.

It might be good for all of us to sit in a room of young adults, many of whom we've known since a young age, and reflect upon their achievements. We should take the time to understand how far they have come and how limitless the opportunities truly are for them. They are still works in progress and will need our support, but what a wonderful start they have gotten thanks to the joint effort of a group of people with a common goal.

Tom Meredith  
Scotch Plains

### County Freeholders Must Put Us Back On the Road to Fiscal Integrity

The following were my comments during the Union County budget commentary session held on May 24.

Last year, Union County finally received the dubious distinction of being in the top 10 of American counties with the highest taxes on its residents. And what did the freeholders do? They increased the budget 3.4 percent and raised county taxes 5.9 percent.

I went to a budget meeting in February. Certain freeholders asked questions. The public could not. Any financial concerns that were brought up were minimal. Department heads answered, "Next year we will do this," or "next year we will do that."

Next year is now. In the last five years, county taxes skyrocketed. Taxes increased over 50 percent, putting us in the 10 worst counties for taxes.

Freeholder Adrian Mapp, when he ran three years ago, said in a publicized debate that he wanted to be part of the budget process. Mr. Mapp has a degree and is strong in accounting. He is the only one with accounting and financial experience. But you wouldn't let him on the budget committee for the three cycles he has been on the board. Now you are dumping him from this next election.

The taxpayers are now on life support. For five years, we have faced financial disaster and fiscal mismanagement at the county. Now we are in the top 10 worst taxed counties in the nation!

I'm not going into depth on the budget since I only have five minutes to comment. Some items would start us on the road to fiscal integrity.

Dump the taxpayer funded booze at the freeholder VIP tent during county events. You're already drunk with power.

Cut down the county car fleet. We had a freeholder who put 30,000 miles on his vehicle in one year and he lives four miles from this county administration building. A county director uses his to go to exercise class. (This is where Chairwoman BJK leaned to Attorney Barry and the chairwoman said that I am getting close to the line regarding legal accusations.)

Make sure part-time jobs are part-time jobs. Your Union County improvement director sits at home making \$140,000 a year for nothing. Stop mailing her the check. She'll get the message.

Make sure the full-time jobs are full-time jobs. Your finance director works also as finance officer of Linden. This is disgraceful and many financial errors have been made since he's had these two jobs.

On "Pay to Play," pass a resolution to stop the millions of dollars that go to professionals who donate money to your political pockets. Since the contracts are non-competitive, it's easy to fatten up contracts with extra dollars in order for the professionals to donate to your political campaigns. No more dealing with these types of people.

Get rid of the retroactive raises and 4 to 5 percent raises. For a \$415 million dollar budget, I have a hard time seeing any county employee results that are stellar and deserve raises like that.

Stop giving out health benefits for life. You offered early retirement and about 150 people took it, with health benefits for life. You have lost control of benefit costs with this type of mismanagement. The taxpayers of Union County have big problems and you created them. There is no more future; the future is here and now.

You just can't make hard financial decisions. Everything's a mess. You are throwing off the only accountant on the freeholder board.

The only choice now is to vote down the budget and vote down the tax increase. Then start again with a zero increase.

\*\*\*\*\*

Epilogue: The budget that evening was approved. Freeholder Adrian Mapp abstained from voting. It was subsequently reported in *The Star-Ledger* that photos were taken of a Linden councilman, who is also a county employee, using his county vehicle on the campaign trail.

Bruce Paterson  
Garwood

## Salute All Fathers And 'Father Figures' This Coming Sunday

There's an old joke where a son says, "Since I've turned 25, I can't believe how much smarter my father has gotten." It's Father's Day this Sunday, and it's not easy to describe the sentiment of the holiday.

In most families that are fortunate to be two parent families, Dad often spends most of the year working hard to be the provider; and then is drafted during moments of child raising stress to be the disciplinarian. This role, day in and day out, can create remoteness at the time. It might be many years later before the meaning of that old joke starts to become apparent to offspring.

In researching the origin of Father's Day on the Internet, one encounters many "pop up" advertisements suggesting gifts to buy. That tie one might buy, when Dad smiles and says thanks, is on the suggested gift list. Sure, he'll probably never wear it — but he knows there is a thought with it. Contrary to popular opinion, the Father's Day holiday was not created by card companies. Most seem to agree that it first started in Spokane, Wash. on June 19, 1910.

A farm girl wanted to honor her father for the strength and self-sacrifice he portrayed. There are

others in the minority who believe that a Father's Day celebration occurred at the Central Church of Fairmont, West Virginia in 1908. Still, the holiday concept from Spokane quickly caught on throughout the country.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge backed the Father's Day national holiday notion. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson formalized it with a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day. There are many 'father figures' that the holiday seems to honor today — grandfathers, uncles, friends, mentors and stepfathers.

We salute all fathers and extend many well-deserved sentiments this Sunday. We hope they get the right tie, slippers, card or breakfast; or perhaps better — a big hug.

"I watched a small man with thick calluses on both hands work 15 and 16 hours a day. I saw him once literally bleed from the bottoms of his feet, a man who came here uneducated, alone, unable to speak the language, who taught me all I needed to know about faith and hard work by the simple eloquence of his example." — Mario Cuomo.

## Pedestrian Behavior, Are We Sinking Deeper into 'Wallyworld'?

Many more people are J-walking these days in our downtowns. The situation is quite pronounced on busy business district streets such as North Avenue, Central Avenue and East Broad Street in Westfield — on South Avenue in Fanwood and Park Avenue in downtown Scotch Plains.

All the while, drivers seem to be increasingly aggressive and impatient. Other drivers are distracted with cell phones permanently implanted in their ears.

Putting this whole mix together is a formula for disaster. It's been a while since a pedestrian death has occurred at these locations, and the number of incidents with serious injuries has been low recently. We dread that this recent good luck is putting society to sleep and producing a false sense of security.

Legislators have passed more than enough laws, signs and traffic lights are everywhere and the police have their hands full.

We think the problem is one of public behavior and attitude. Is it a sense of entitlement where too many think they are the center of the universe? Is it anger and frustration? Is it thoughtlessness, carelessness, ignorance of the dangers, selfishness or lack of concern for one's fellow citizens?

How can a young mother J-walk while pushing a stroller with her child in it with one hand and a 3-year-old toddler walking and holding on to the other hand — all the while weaving between cars? What's going through her mind?

How can a driver knowingly turn into a one-way parking lot entrance the wrong way just to save 10 seconds, yet endangering others walking in the lot? What's going through the driver's mind?

Most pedestrians and drivers are courteous and mindful. It's the small group of others that concerns us. Can they be reached and their behavior modified? If not, will we sink deeper into "Wallyworld?"

### Thank You, WHS Class of 2007 for Giving Our Son a Wonderful Life in Friendship

Congratulations WHS Class of 2007. This month our son will graduate from Westfield High School with the Class of 2007. It might not seem to be an event to warrant a special note to many, but for our family, it is a big deal. You see, our son James has Down's Syndrome and has been included in the Westfield school system with the Class of 2007 since first grade.

The support, consideration, guidance and understanding we have received from the child study team, his aides, the special education department and administration of the schools has been tremendous, but the real miracle of life has been the friendships, care and support from James' classmates. The kids have included James in many activities, have come to his birthday parties year after year long after it was cool to have a birth-

day party, have laughed at his jokes and have taken him to lunch off campus.

Over the years, he has been manager of the basketball team and the biggest fan of the football team. While all the years have been whole and fulfilling for James, senior year has been the best. He was elected Homecoming King at the bonfire the night before the Thanksgiving Day football game — a huge honor he will never forget, and he will likely tell you about it when you have known him for five minutes! He wore the crown to school every day until Christmas vacation!

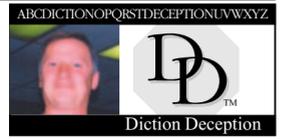
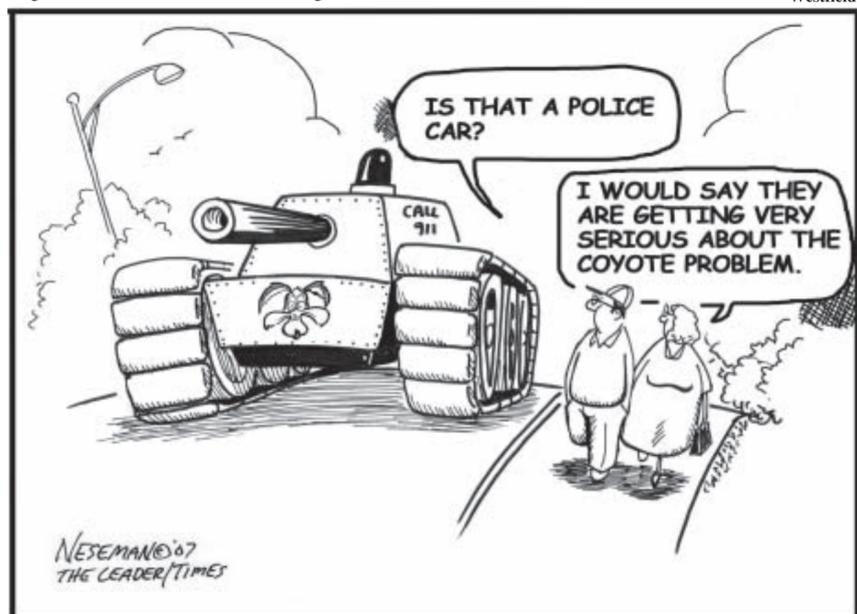
He has been invited to the class banquets, and the guys have always made sure he had a spot to sit with them. Most recently, he attended the Senior Prom, which was another night he will remember forever.

Again, the kids invited him to the pre-prom party, made sure he had a place at the table and treated him like one of the guys. While he can't wait to graduate and attend the bash, he also realizes that next year will be different because most of the guys will go off to college and he will only see them at breaks.

We owe the world to the WHS Class of 2007 because they gave our son a wonderful life in friendship. The parents of these young people and the community should be very proud of the character of these individuals and the future of our world is in their hands.

WHS Class of 2007, thank you for everything you have done for James and the best of luck in life to you all as you go off to pursue your dreams.

The Meylor Family  
Westfield



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. Reredemain — A backhanded stroke
2. Tinnitus — A whistling or ringing in the ear
3. Loup-garou — A werewolf
4. Gramarye — Magic, wizardry

#### ZINGARO

1. Pertaining to a family of tropical plants including ginger, turmeric, etc.
2. A gypsy
3. A genus of fish closely related to the perch, having an elongated body
4. The monetary unit of Poland, originally established to equal the gold franc

#### HYSTRICINE

1. In botany, putting forth leaves after the opening of flowers
2. A species of green tea from China
3. A state where there is a falling or inversion of the uterus
4. Resembling a porcupine

#### NOTONECTAL

1. Pertaining to the night
2. Having wits; sense; understanding
3. Having the back below in swimming, as certain insects
4. Having only a partially developed spinal cord

#### REMEX

1. Oar-shaped
2. A large quill feather of a bird's wing
3. In fortification, the earth or materials used in filling up a trench
4. A delay; a hindrance; an obstacle

### High School Parking Requires User Fees

I would like to build upon Mr. Mike Nemeth's letter about Westfield High School parking. I admit that I do not know what remedies have already been applied; however, I would like to add some "greener" and "pay to play" approaches that may help reduce demand.

First, students within one mile of the school should not bring a car to school. Parking permits should have a cost — perhaps \$400 to \$600 per school year, or roughly \$4 to \$6 per day.

Develop a car pool program. Each student that rides with another creates a \$100 credit applied towards the cost of the annual parking permit.

Construct bike storage facilities. The revenue generated from parking permits can pay for a part-time, supervisor of parking to monitor and coordinate all of the above.

I understand that the above suggestions will no doubt incur the wrath of the parents. However, we need to be moving to greener approaches for our community. The great thing about capitalism is that it can work to be green too.

Morgan O'Brien  
Westfield

### Citizen Seeks Action on Illegal Dumping in Watchung Reservation

*Editor's Note: This letter was sent to Union County officials and copied along with the response to this newspaper.*

I commute through the Watchung Reservation everyday and am really getting tired of seeing the garbage that is dropped off by others. There are garbage cans in all the parking areas, and I always see bagged garbage and household items stuffed in the cans. I have even spotted people dropping off their garbage.

I've noticed there are no "No Dumping" signs posted in the parking areas. The garbage cans are conveniently located near the parking areas instead of further into the grassy areas, thus making more convenient for dumpers than for the people using the areas.

I know how much I pay yearly to have my garbage picked-up and am annoyed these dumpers are able to get away with this. What is the cost of this activity to the Union County taxpayer?

I would hope you could move the cans making it less convenient for dumping, limit the number and areas where the cans are placed along with the signs posted not to dump. I would also hope someone would go through the garbage, find the offenders and either fine them or have them do litter patrol for a year.

Donna Spangler  
Scotch Plains

P.S. Dear editor, the two couches I saw laying in the parking lot today (June 8) really put me over the edge. I'll do whatever is necessary to get these people to stop dumping their garbage.

### County Authorities Respond on Dumping

Dear Ms. Spangler:  
Thank you for your email and your concern.

Please be advised that in response to your email, Union County Police Chief Daniel Vaniksa has advised me that he directed the police patrols in the area to increase their vigilance with respect to household dumping. This began the weekend we received your email.

Further, Director Charles Sigmund (Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities) recently visited several locations within the reservation with an eye towards your specific concerns. Director Sigmund has instructed the park maintenance supervisor in the reservation to reposition some of the garbage cans to discourage dumping. Further, some signs prohibiting illegal dumping will be posted in the near future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information.

Nicole DiRado  
Clerk of the Board  
Union County

*Editor's Note: Leader/Times photographer Ben Corbin inspected the Watchung Reservation and the park areas on Friday afternoon, June 8. The condition was immaculate and all trash had been removed.*