

The Westfield Leader THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD
 — 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

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.

Paul Peyton ASSIGNMENT EDITOR	Horace R. Corbin PUBLISHER	Fred K. Lecomte MARKETING DIRECTOR
Suzette F. Stalker COMMUNITY	David B. Corbin ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS	Michael L. Bartiromo MARKETING PRODUCTION
Michael Pollack EDUCATION & ARTS	Karen M. Hinds OFFICE MANAGER	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

www.goleader.com/subscribe

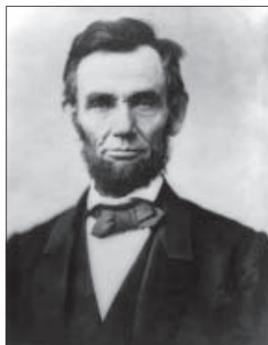
In honor of Presidents' Day on February 19 and the birthdays of George Washington (February 22, 1732) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809), the editorial below is reprinted from February 19, 2004.

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.



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.

George Washington was the great general with few victories. He's called the "Father of Our Country" and most of us know that he was the first President

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 on 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.

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.

New Jersey School Assoc. Board President Urges Citizens to Serve on Local School Boards

On Tuesday, April 15, voters in 90 percent of the state's school districts will select more than 1,500 men and women to serve on their local boards of education. For citizens with a sincere interest in the education of their community's children, it's not too late to consider school board candidacy.

To appear on this year's school election ballot, a candidate must file a nominating petition by Monday, February 25. The petition must carry the signatures of no fewer than 10 registered voters who reside in the school district. Sample petitions and other information can be found in the School Board Candidate Kit, published by the New Jersey School Boards Association and available at local school district offices. The information kits can also be accessed at www.njsba.org or by calling 1-888-886-5722, ext. 5202.

In New Jersey, the local school board plays a critical role in setting the direction for our public schools. Boards of education

set the policies under which the schools operate; they hire the district's superintendent of schools; they vote on recommendations concerning curriculum, staffing and facilities; and they serve as the public's representatives in negotiations with employee unions.

The legal requirements for board membership are simple. To serve, a candidate must be able to read and write; hold U.S. citizenship and one year's residency in the school district; be a registered voter; have no interest in any contract with (or claim against) the board; and not currently serve as an elected municipal official.

While legal requisites of board membership are few, the personal characteristics needed are far more extensive. School board membership is not for everyone. An effective board member cannot shy away from tough issues, must be willing to seek answers from school administrators and, as an elected public official,

must be able to take criticism.

Entering my 15th year of school board membership, I ask myself, why do I continue to serve? Certainly, there are no financial reasons — by law, school board members receive no compensation for their community service. Instead, the rewards are intangible and meaningful. I think of graduation ceremonies and watching my district's elementary school, middle school and high school students advance to the next level. Knowing that my school board's time, effort and decisions played a role in the students' lives is — as they say in that credit card commercial — priceless.

I urge you to consider service on your local board of education.

**Kevin Ciak, President
 NJ School Boards Association**

Editor's note: Mr. Ciak is also a member of the Sayreville Board of Education in Middlesex County.

Letters to the Editor

WHS Confirms Two MRSA Cases at School

Dated February 7, 2008

It was brought to the attention of the Westfield High School nurses on February 6 that there have been two confirmed cases of MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) in the school.

Both students have been treated by a physician and cleared to return to school. The high school has implemented aggressive cleaning and disinfecting protocols for all gym and athletic equipment.

Parents/guardians are being asked to notify your family physician if a suspicious looking skin rash or lesions is observed. MRSA infections in the community are usually manifested as skin infections, such as pimples, and boils and occur in otherwise healthy people.

If after visiting your physician the infection is not getting better after a few days, contact him/her again. According to the school policy, a physician's note is required for an unexplained rash or draining sores in order to return to school.

If you have any questions, please contact me or the Health Services website, westfieldnj12.org/health services (What's New) and access the CDC website at Cdc.gov/hciddod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.

**Margaret Teitelbaum
 WHS nurse, Health
 Services Coordinator**

Samuel: Marks Took the Side of Cell-Tower Builders and Was Wrong

A few months ago, Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks, a dentist, gave his legal opinion, suggesting that Scotch Plains residents need to accept the fact that there will have to be cell towers in residential areas because of federal law.

He took the side of the cell tower builders and was wrong. Last week, the mayor brought an electrical engineer to a township-council meeting to explain the engineer's legal opinion with regard to the need for cell tower placement in Scotch Plains.

This was done to educate the township council on the issue and get a story in the newspapers telling residents that it would not be wrong for the township council to not act on this issue. Again, this new

opinion sides with the position of the celltower builders and, of course, is wrong. Perhaps the mayor will come to what should be an obvious conclusion — ask a lawyer. This, of course, will not make the cell tower builders he seems to like happy.

To help out, I sent language to include in an ordinance to, among others, the mayor and the members of the township council, which, if passed, could protect Scotch Plains homeowners from more unwanted cell towers.

Action should be taken quickly so the ordinance is passed before any new application for the building of a cell tower is filed with the township.

**Dick Samuel
 Democrat Party Chair, Scotch Plains**

Westfielder Writes NJ Chamber of Commerce Position is Misconstrued

I read with great puzzlement the letter to the editor [Feb. 7, *Leader/Times*] by State Senator Joseph Pennacchio in which he questions the decision by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce to be supportive of the Governor's financial restructuring and debt reduction plan.

I would have expected a candidate for the U.S. Senate to have done his homework. He most certainly knows that the Chamber's support came with many conditions that he personally has called for in the past — conditions he continues to advocate for in Trenton.

As a 28-year resident of Westfield, as a local committeeman, and as vice chairman of the Chamber board, I must stress that this was not a rubber stamp of the Governor's proposal. We tasked experienced committees who put great effort and deliberation into developing our position. The Chamber's conditions call for controlling state spending, ensuring revenue raised goes to intended purposes, reforming the state pension and benefits systems, creating efficiencies within government, including eliminating and consolidating departments, and paying only for programs the state can afford. We further proposed specific line item expenditure reductions that this Governor and Legislature must take to ensure that the structural deficit is addressed.

I am sure State Senator Pennacchio would agree with these goals of fiscal responsibility and streamlined government. I voted in favor of the Chamber's

position only because these other conditions were included. While the Governor's plan is not perfect, it is the only plan on the table that provides for the long-term investment in our infrastructure that we so desperately need and the only plan that offers a way to dig the state out of the deep hole we are in. If the Chamber's conditions are not met and included in any final work product, then this will merely be a revenue plan and not the deficit reduction that the Governor and our legislators need to deliver.

I understand that the Senator is interested in creating publicity for his campaign, but he must remember, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce is an organization of volunteers that is not elected to office. He is. We operate openly and fairly, and we advocate positions that we believe will benefit all of our members and their employees. The Senator should focus his efforts on coming up with solutions — something he has already been elected to do.

As a Republican, I am offended that he is not commending the Chamber for raising the level of debate about both the Governor's plan and about how Trenton operates. We have added important deficit reduction elements to the plan. It's now our elected officials' turn to effect meaningful deficit reduction and that includes Senator Pennacchio, in fact he has obligation to do so.

**Jeffrey Scheininger
 Westfield**

'Thank You' to Those Supporting Cranford's Special Programs Fund

A little over a year ago, in my role as manager of grants and special programs for the Cranford Public Schools District and under the leadership of our superintendent, Lawrence Feinsod, I initiated a district donations fund focused on supporting special programs that provide remediation and enrichment to the almost 4,000 students attending our eight schools.

Donors and program sponsors have the opportunity to support a specific special program (e.g., character education) or give the district discretion to choose based on need. Since its inception, support from donors and sponsors inside and outside of Cranford has been nothing short of overwhelming.

Specifically, your beneficence has helped us offer struggling readers support through the Cranford School District Academy, a weekend, tutor-led remedial reading program, and to purchase an automated-calling system helping us communicate with parents, students and others quickly and efficiently.

Your donations have also supported our coffee house, Kids on the Block and social studies programs at Cranford High School, our Listening Program at Walnut and Hillside Avenue Schools, our PASE Program, and our CAP, CAMP and LEAP Programs, among others. With that, I would like to thank the following donors and sponsors for helping to make the education students receive in our public schools top notch:

AlphaGraphics, Anthony and Karen DiGiovanni, Applebees, Buy-Wise Auto Parts, Calabria Pizza, Canon Business Solutions, Century 21, Conoco Phillips,

Costco, Cranford Bike Shop, Cranford Building Association, Cranford Elks, Cranford Fire Department, Cranford Ophthalmology, Crowne Plaza Hotel, CVS, David Wise, Esq., E.F. Britten and Co., Early Bird Publishing, Elizabethtown Gas Company, First Choice Executive Suites, Fit for Life Fitness, Garlic Rose, Glitter Express Corp., Gorton Heating, Gourmet Delhi, Gourmet Grinds, Guttmann, Hall and Fuhs Trucks, Howard Blakeslee, Imperial Weld Ring Corp., IUOE Local 825, Jaelo Industries, Jacobson Distributing Co., James Gallagher, Jean Kellogg, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Linden Cogeneration, Lubexpress, Madan Plastics, Margaret Ackerman, Mears and McCullough, Merck Foundation, Miriam Moody, MRA International, NJ Plumbing and Heating, Nicholas Giuditta, Esq., NJEA, O'Donnell Agency, Okai Corporation, Oliver Bartlett, Palumbo and Renaud, Esqs., PaperMart, Peter Milwitz, CPA, PNC Bank, Precision Software Consulting, Pro Construction Enterprises, Ray Catena Mercedes, Richard Brightman, Esq., Richard Lehrich, Esq., Ridge Advertising Agency, Riverside Homes Realty, Romandetti Rubbish, Rosenberg, Neuwirth and Kuehner, Rotolo Law Firm, RSI Bank, Sovereign Bank, Stewart Cofsky, Tarantella's, The Artist Frammer, Theresa's Restaurant, Top-of-the-Line Glove Co., Victoria Florist, Wachovia Securities, Welby and Brady, LLP, William McClintock Associates and The Wine Library.

**Stephen Izzo
 Cranford**

Watchdog Questions MADD's 'Outstanding Service Award'

Although I applaud New Jersey's chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for asking Gov. Jon Corzine to block the posting of signs to name a highway in honor of former Rep. Robert A. Roe, a once-powerful Democratic congressman who was involved in an accident that injured a mother and her daughter, I find it a bit hypocritical in light of the decisions MADD have made in the recent past to honor politicians.

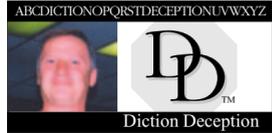
I contacted MADD in early March 2006 to alert them to the fact that the County of Union was inappropriately allowing third time DUI offenders go home on ankle bracelets rather than serve their time in prison. I forwarded MADD proof of my claims and soon after the *New Jersey Law Journal* reported on March 13, 2006 that a state law meant to keep repeat drunken drivers incarcerated for six months had been widely disregarded, despite strictures that an appeals court found clear and unambiguous. *The Law Journal* reported, "Two years after the enactment of Michael's Law — named after 19-year-old Michael Albano, who

was killed by a drunken driver in 2001 — at least 14 counties were allowing non-custodial alternatives for drivers convicted of third-time DUI offenses. One of them, Union County, Union, was allowing drivers out as part of a satellite-tracking program."

I also informed MADD that I was having difficulties obtaining information from Union County regarding just how many third time DUI prisoners were released on a satellite-tracking program to serve their time in the comfort of their own homes and attend AA meetings at their leisure as a county employee was caught doing that past summer.

I never was able to obtain that information from the county, as far as I know MADD did not attempt to investigate. Instead in May of 2006 MADD responded by honoring a Union County freeholder with their "Outstanding Service and Commitment Award."

**Tina Renna, President
 UC Watchdog Assoc.
 Cranford**



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. Plaga — In zoology, a colored band or streak
2. Pandy — To punish by striking the hand with a cane
3. Geordie — A miner or a miner's safety lamp
4. Dacoit — A member of a gang of robbers in India or Burma

SENECENT

1. Oozing; seeping
2. Abundant; plentiful
3. Sagacious; intellectual
4. Growing old

SEPICOLOUS

1. Lighthearted; cheerful
2. Putrid; foul-smelling
3. Growing in hedges
4. Arranged in groups of seven

AMYGDALINE

1. Having an alkaline imbalance
2. Resembling almonds
3. Hanging in clusters, such as with grapes
4. Resembling a honeycomb

SITOLOGY

1. The study of foods, nutrition, etc.
2. The study of eye diseases and care
3. The study of the anatomy of fishes
4. The study of microscopic organisms, especially bacteria

More letters on page 5

Letters to the Editor

Nature's Checks and Balances in Westfield

As I pulled into my driveway on Renda Circle, I could sense that something was different, yet I could not put my finger on it. I scanned the four corners of my barren backyard and had an odd feeling that something was missing. As I stepped out of my car, a shadow passed across my body and onto the grass beside me, and I instantly recognized what was different — a Red-Tailed Hawk soaring above me was hunting for its dinner.

Over the past few years the population of squirrel, rabbit, rodent and insect in the Westfield area had been on a noticeable rise. Homeowners may have seen a handful of rabbits grazing on their Hosta or spotted half a dozen squirrels playing Parkour in the treetops. This growing trend has now been tempered, thanks to the resurgence of the Red-Tailed Hawk.

I have seen the hawk in action, as it scoops down, grabs its prey with its strong talons and flies off to provide for the family. It's a welcome sight, considering that just a few years ago overpopulation and construction had threatened their existence in this county. In fact, in Eastern North America (the Buteo Jamaicaensis) population has decreased from 2 to 4 percent.

It is good to know that nature has provided a way to keep everything in balance. Now all we have to do is be responsible and protect them.

**Ken Zierler
 Westfield**

WHS and BOE Seeks To Restore Driver's Ed

Editor's Note: This letter was sent to parents of Westfield High School students and copied to The Westfield Leader.

It is clear from the e-mails that we have received over the last few days that many parents are in support of the high school offering a 30-hour driver training course in the classroom. The last time the course was offered was in 1975.

It was eliminated from the curriculum following a narrow defeat of the budget and a subsequent budget reduction. We are revisiting the possibility of offering the course again. The curriculum, program and instruction committee of the board is investigating how the course can be implemented, including personnel, materials and scheduling.

A meeting has taken place with the high school principal and teachers and further discussion and research will continue. Your support of our students and programs continues to be appreciated.

**Ginny Leiz, WF BOE President
 Margaret Dolan, Superintendent**

Leader/Times Webcasts Governor's Meeting

Obtained through the Open Public Records Act by this newspaper, the Governor's Town Hall meeting video in Cranford on January 30 regarding the state's fiscal crisis is available as a webcast at www.goleader.com. Two hours of the 2.5 hour meeting are available. The video of the meeting conclusion is being sought from the Governor's office and will be posted when obtained.

Newspaper Sets Internship Program

The *Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* invite area college and high-school students with an interest in journalism and newspaper operations to apply to the 2008 Summer Internship Program. The longstanding program will be divided into two types of part-time, paid internships: staff interns and correspondent interns.

A limited number of students will be selected to work alongside the office staff in a work/study environment with operations, writing, photography, copyediting, graphic design, layout, video, communications and the Internet.

Application to the program must be done online at goleader.com/internship before by March 8. Additional details is posted there. Early registration is recommended.

