

**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 Periodicals - Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, New Jersey  
 P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, West P.O. Box 368  
 Westfield, N.J. 07091 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  
**Suzette F. Stalker** COMMUNITY  
**Michael Pollack** EDUCATION & ARTS

**Horace R. Corbin** PUBLISHER  
**David B. Corbin** ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS  
**Karen M. Hinds** OFFICE MANAGER  
**Ben Corbin** SERVICES

**Fred K. Lecomte** MARKETING DIRECTOR  
**Michael L. Bartiromo** MARKETING PRODUCTION  
**Robert P. Connelly** OPERATIONS & LEGALS

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

www.goleader.com/subscribe

See more letters on page 21  
**Letters to the Editor**

**On Education: Media Has More Clout To Obtain Information Than Public**

The article written by Jerry Cantrell of NJTA, New Jersey Taxpayers Association, [letter to the editor, April 17 in *The Leader/Times*] was very enlightening and informative. I do believe that it would be interesting and useful for all residents of Scotch Plains-Fanwood to be fully informed by the board of education and superintendent as to the ranking of our students in SAT exams, cost to educate a student, size of classes, average teacher salaries, percent of students who pass the high school graduation exam and any other information to be shared as referenced by Jerry Cantrell.

I do believe your newspaper should make every effort to request this information from all school board presidents in your area of news coverage. If nothing else, it would make a great learning experience for any reporter, the newspaper and all the residents.

How about performing this great local service for all of us. The news media has more clout to obtain this information than the public.

**Marvin Agran, MD**  
 Scotch Plains

**If Bus. Owners Would Pay to Replace Revenues, Parking Could Be Free**

As a long-time resident and frequent shopper in our downtown, I support the increase in parking fines. What the business community hoopla is all about is not loss of business due to parking rules enforcement, it is loss of money by employees and shoppers who choose to take a chance and not plunk a quarter in the meter.

Two years ago, the town wisely changed the meters to allow 10 minutes free parking and added long-term parking meters outside of downtown's core. Now we have additional long-term parking for employees who want to park away from downtown's core and leave convenient

parking spaces for customers. The land taken up by a parking space is expensive real estate that does not have a property tax. The meter rates are more than reasonable. They help offset the ever increasing property tax on all of us.

This is about people's feeling of entitlement to meter feeding or a free lunch and a vague notion of persecution. Enforcement maintains open parking spaces. If downtown business owners will pay a special assessment to replace parking revenues, then let parking be free for all, not just the scofflaws.

**Rob Nehring**  
 Westfield

**Mindowaskin Park Cleanup was Shining Example of Our People**

I extend a big thank you to the over 50 volunteers that came out to our semi-annual Mindowaskin Park Cleanup on this past Saturday. The date marked the end of Earth Week and the beginning of National Volunteer week.

There were many families with young children helping in so many ways. Paul Nazzaro, Craig Stock and several of Paul's students donated and planted 11 azaleas around the bandstand and installed mulch rings around young trees. So many set excellent examples of being responsible citizens of the world.

We had an artist making poetic statements with words and design in the form of beautiful chalk drawings. Boy Scouts from Westfield Troop 72, many Westfield Jaycees (ten years of involvement and

counting), a Congressional candidate (P. Kelly Hatfield of Summit) raking and cleaning, along with several representing three town boards, as well as Councilwoman Vicki Kimmins.

The support of those that were at the clean-up, as well as the continued support of those who help throughout the year with their time, talents or treasures is much appreciated.

Mindowaskin has been a Westfield landmark and treasure for 90 years. Our community is a shining example of people that step up when needed. As I consistently tell my family, "We are so lucky."

**Debby Burslem, President**  
 Friends of Mindowaskin Park

**County MusicFest is Free Campaign Event and a Waste of Money**

A press release popped up on the Union County government's website confirming my belief that some people in this world can always be counted on to be predictably consistent. I am referring to the all-Democrat Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and George Devanney, our county manager. The press release is about the new and improved MusicFest 2008 taking place in September at Nomahegan Park in Cranford.

This year's invasion of a quiet residential neighborhood will not only feature a repeat of last year's Rock On Walkathon, but a 5K Rock-N-Run — an additional third stage. Now the event will take place on Friday night, as well as the usual Saturday from dawn till whenever. You have to hand it to these guys. They just won't give up a great free re-election campaign event when they see one.

I am sure that the local residents can hardly contain their enthusiasm at the prospect of having cars blocking their driveways on the narrow residential streets for two days and nights (two nights and one day) rather than one. And how exciting to anticipate finding a devoted concert attendee camping out under the shrubbery on a finely manicured lawn because they didn't want to spring for a hotel room at the Holiday Inn — or lose their much coveted parking space.

This year, the walkathon and newly added 5K run will again raise money for the Love Hope and Strength Foundation — Mr. Devanney's favorite charity. It looks like he will again benefit with an opportunity to travel to the far reaches of the globe. Last year, with the help of sponsors, he was able to climb with his "teen idols" to the Mount Everest Base Camp in Nepal. This year, they will be sending him to Machu Picchu in Peru. Inquiring minds can check it out here for details — perurocks.org — clicking "trekkers" you will find George.

Part of the proceeds raised from the walk and the run will be sent to Peru,

however the board wised up this year and the second charity will be The Valerie Fund; a venerable New Jersey organization that supports children stricken with cancer and blood disorders, and their families. "Atta Boys" go to the board for making a good choice this time keeping at least part of the money here in New Jersey.

Last year, they turned over thousands of dollars raised to an organization that in essence was a group that lobbied for our tax dollars to be spent on embryonic stem cell research. The ill-fated effort was defeated at the polls last election day when wise New Jersey voters decided that the state shouldn't plunge deeper in debt by pursuing this controversial science.

In what looks like a serious effort to legitimize the two-day campaign event, the Freeholders have managed to suck Overlook Hospital into the mix as their main sponsor. Hopefully the hospital hasn't dug too deep into their pockets to lend financial support to recreate "Woodstock in Cranford" as even a few grand could go toward a charity care bill for someone who cannot afford health insurance.

The Freeholders claim that they are merely giving the taxpayers what they want, and as a side bonus, they are showcasing Union County and contributing to the local economy. They say concert goers are likely to shop and eat dinner that day in downtown Cranford.

They also point out that last year the event drew 50,000 attendees and this year even more are expected to come — making MusicFest one of the fastest growing events of this type in New Jersey. The press release encourages lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets be brought along — but what the heck, why doesn't the "Gang of Nine" just go for it and erect a tent-city on the campus of Union County College.

**Pat Quattrochi**  
 Garwood

**American People Are Being Sold Out By the Likes of Chris Christie**

It's no wonder the illegal immigration issue in this country is at the crisis stage. In a recent newspaper article, U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie defended the actions of illegal immigrants. He declared their presence in America as "non-criminal" and "not his job" to assist in their arrest, detention and deportation.

I hope the American people will view this latest act of betrayal by a public official as a wake-up call to gather their forces and prepare for battle to save this nation from soft-headed bureaucrats like Chris Christie. He may enjoy a stellar reputation for his crime-fighting and corruption probes, but he is out-of-touch with the reality of the illegal immigration issue that is tearing this nation apart.

His remarks defend this foreign free-for-all and the defiance of the rule of law, while dismissing as unimportant the need for border security and respect for American sovereignty. His "passing of the buck" to the Immigration Department to deal with the matter without his assistance is

an obvious attempt to avoid any cooperation teamwork strategy that is needed to fight and win this war against foreign invaders.

His disgusting display of pro-illegal alien groups is a troubling sign. He may be laying the foundation for a political career and is desperate to curry favor with the so-called minority element that is fast-becoming a major political force — thanks to the government's long liberal history of refusing to rewrite and enforce the nation's immigration laws.

The American people are being sold out by the likes of Chris Christie, who seems destined to go from passionate prosecutor, relying upon his "crime buster" reputation, to [seeking] much-needed support from ethnic-identity elements, whose self-serving allegiance to their fellow countrymen leads one to question their allegiance to America.

**Joseph Doherty**  
 Elizabeth

Your State Legislators	
---LD-21--- Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 203 Elm Street Westfield, NJ 07090 (908)-232-3673 Asm. Jon Bramnick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, NJ 07090 (908)-232-2073 Asm. Eric Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, NJ 07901 (908)-918-0414	---LD-22--- Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, NJ 07036 (908)-587-0404 Asw. Linda Stender (D) 1801 East Second St. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 (908)-668-1900 Asm. Jerry Green (D) 17 Watchung Ave. Plainfield, NJ 07060 (908)-561-5757
LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford. LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark and Linden.	
<b>E-mails</b> senkean@njleg.org senscutari@njleg.org asmbarnnick@njleg.org asmunoz@njleg.org aswstender@njleg.org asmgreen@njleg.org	



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. Vedro — A Russian liquid measure equal to 3,249 gallons
  2. Crassamentum — The thick red part of the blood
  3. Pandiculation — The act of stretching and yawning
  4. Jager — A hunter or rifleman

- JAGAT**
1. In Hinduism, animate beings
  2. A swordsmen
  3. A dwarf or pigmy
  4. A fish net

- PROTIST**
1. An enduring conflict
  2. An extra seat behind the driver's saddle on a motorcycle
  3. A religious sect of the early church, the Aquarians
  4. Any one-celled plant or animal

- RIEF**
1. A claw
  2. Robbery
  3. Treason
  4. Starvation

- CURMUDEGEON**
1. A miser; cantankerous fellow
  2. A boil of the gums
  3. An instrument for boring
  4. A mendicant or homeless person

**Hearing Directly from Soldiers — Refreshing**

We are writing regarding your interview with Lt. Colonel Tim Whalen and the March 13 article about Iraq. We first would like to thank Lt. Colonel Whalen and his troops for their tremendous efforts and sacrifices on our behalf, and for granting you the interview.

We would also like to thank you and your staff for your efforts, mainly a tremendous amount of time, in conducting the interview, writing the article and posting all on your website.

It is not often that we get to hear directly from the soldiers on the ground, and it is a refreshing change.

**Jeff O'Connor, Terry O'Connor**  
**Dave O'Connor, Westfield**

**Grateful to Businesses for Scholarship Funds**

It was an honor to receive the "Business of the Year" award from the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) and the Fanwood Business and Professional Association at the SPBPA's annual Spring Fling held at The Westwood on April 25. Thank you on behalf of all of us at Family Investors Company.

The proceeds of this event raised funds for the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association's Scholarship Fund. The event was attended by elected officials, BPA members and their families, and all the Family Investors Company associates.

**Fred Chemidlin, Jr., CEO**  
 Family Investors Company

**Fanwood Committee Says 'Thank You'**

The Fanwood Clean Community Committee would like to extend their thanks to the 100 volunteers who participated in the April 19th Clean Community Day. Thanks also go to the Lions Club, Fanwood Bagels for donating bagels and cream cheese, and to New Jersey Transit for providing two flagmen while litter was removed from the train track areas. Approximately 1.5 tons of litter was removed from Fanwood's public areas.

On behalf of Mayor Colleen Mahr, Councilwoman Donna Dolce welcomed the volunteers and read a proclamation stating that it was "Clean Community Day."

Environmental education material was given to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system and the libraries of both Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

The Fanwood Clean Community Committee:

**Chairman Clint Dickson,**  
**Bob McCarthy, Linda Talcott,**  
**Greg Cummings, Dean Talcott,**  
**Pat Mays**

**Volunteering Spirit Is Heart of United Way**

The spirit of volunteering is the heart of the Westfield United Way. This is National Volunteer Week, a week when America makes a special effort to recognize the contribution of hundreds of thousands of volunteers.

At the Westfield United Way, we don't need a special week because volunteers are at the heart of the Westfield United Way every day. When the Westfield United Way reaches out, volunteers help do the stretching. The volunteers and non-profit agencies of the Westfield United Way work hard to make your generosity felt through our entire community.

So, to our volunteers, we say thank you for every person you have touched. Thank you for your time, your talents and your treasures. People often say, Westfield is different. One of the primary ways in which we are different is the level of caring and the involvement of our fellow Westfielders.

So, a thousand times, thank you.

**Linda Maggio**  
 Westfield United Way

**The American Spirit**

"The Gilded Age — The Titanic, the Lusitania and the Tuscania were some of the famous lost liners during this era. "The Tuscania was a luxury ocean liner that was converted to a troopship. On the evening of February 5, 1918, a German U-boat sent the Tuscania to the bottom of the North Channel Sea. The passengers aboard consisted of a large contingent of American Army soldiers. This was a story that shocked America, for it was the first time since the American Civil War, that Americans had felt the loss of mass casualties on such a large scale."

"The Tuscania went through a heavy sea with a tremendous downpour of rain, the next morning the sea was calm. Alcohol consumption was off limits, even so the men found the bar leaking at times." - renton.50megs.com/Tuscania/

**The Westfield Leader**  
 Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1918

Vincenzo Simone, a former resident of this town was among the survivors of the Tuscania. Simone enlisted from Westfield last August, but his address in the official list was given as Newark. He was a member of the 100th Aero Squadron and for a time was stationed in Mineola, L.I.

Word has been received of the safe arrival in France of First Lieutenant J. F. Tubby of this town. Mr. Tubby is in the aviation corps.

**They Died For Their Country**

There has been nothing that would indicate any lack of care in their conveying of the Tuscania and much has been reported to show that precaution was observed. When the number of American troops who have been safely transported to Europe is taken into consideration, we may regard ourselves as extremely lucky to have suffered no greater disaster. It was reasonably certain that sooner or later the submarines would succeed in sinking some of the ships that were transporting troops. The loss of life was small and the number of men who were rescued shows very clearly that the lives of our men who must cross the seas to go to war is being well safe-guarded.

Every disaster is a lesson and that impressed by the loss of the Tuscania will not be wasted, but the American people must not count upon immunity from such events. The prompt measures for the comfort of the men, who were rescued, which were taken by the British authorities, will not be forgotten by the friends and the relatives of the soldiers.

**Unfair Criticism**

Just about every so often some individual in looking about for an excuse to criticize something calls attention to the number of army officers who are on duty in the City of Washington, and intimates that most of these officers ought to be at the front or on duty somewhere with troops. It has always been true that someone who knows very little about such matters is the bitterest critic.

It is safe to say that there is not one percent of the officers among the many hundreds of officers on duty in Washington who would not be on duty with the troops in France if he had his choice in the matter. There are very few officers who seek what may be termed bombproof jobs in time of actual war. Every red-blooded man in or out of the army prefers the active life of field service to the dreadful monotony of detailed desk work.

A large percentage of the men who are on active duty in Washington today are officers who have spent practically their entire army career in the field service of the army, and many of them are, at this time, detailed for duty in Washington by reason of this experience. There is no glory for any man to be found seated at a desk in a well-warmed office and no one knows this better than the army officer.

The army officer knows better than most of us that his opportunity for promotion and material advancement and ultimate recognition as a soldier lies in his efficiency and courage on the battlefield. The chances of the American officer is to be found in France and every one of them who can obtain orders for trench work welcomes that opportunity.

**Home Front Stop The Profiting**

Each new food and fuel order brings the realization of the meaning of war nearer to the American people and there is not one single indication that they are not meeting every requirement of the situation with common sense and the proper spirit of patriotism. There has never been a nation in history that did not have its profiteers and men who sought to profit by the misfortunes of their country, but the percentage in this country today who are not willing to give full support to every measure for the country's sake is extremely small.

No step has been taken, which in any degree interferes with what is ordinarily termed the rights of the people until it was essential that such steps should be taken. A great many of us may not be enthusiastic over the flavor or the appearance of war bread and the sugar question has been a most trying one, but the people have complied willingly and they realize that much more sacrifice may be required before many months have passed.

With the exception of the fuel order none of the precautionary measures brought any actual physical discomfort and we may consider ourselves extremely fortunate that we have not been compelled to deny ourselves many other comforts. The American people are willing to sacrifice any luxury and most of our creature comforts to win this war and if sacrifice is needed it will be made in the right spirit.

**The Weather**

Every now and then, the oldest inhabitant gets a shock and must start a new period of reckoning. The past four weeks have been regular paralyzers to the old fellows, who have been so fond of talking about old-fashioned winters. There is nothing in the records and nothing in the memory of any of the oldest inhabitants of any community anywhere to compare with the season, which has recently been inflicted on this country from the weather headquarters.

It has been a strain on the nerves and the health of the people, and coming at the period when there was an unfortunate shortage in fuel it has been doubly hard upon the public. But outstanding above everything else has been the manner in which the newly revived American spirit met the condition and made the best of it. There has been a great deal of actual suffering in many localities, but there has not been any lessening of the determination of the American people to go right ahead and win the war.

You cannot beat the American people — they have the right sort of stuff in them and the ability to undergo hardship has been inherited from an ancestry, which built up a nation under hardships that have never been equaled. The sufferings of Washington's Army at Valley Forge did not destroy that array and a few weeks of unusually disagreeable weather is not going to halt American progress at this time.

*Editor's Note: Words and deeds of the past can help us today when we may lose our way.*

*While experimenting with digitizing techniques for 100 years of microfilm of the newspaper with director Phil Israel of the Westfield Library and curator Stan Lipson of the Westfield Historical Society, the above editorial was found. There are many treasures such as this from the past, which we hope to bring to the public — when funding is found.*

