

The Westfield Leader **The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES**
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Legal Newspaper for the County of Union, New Jersey
 and for Westfield, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford and Garwood

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

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Rahway, New Jersey
 P.O. Box 250 • 251 North Avenue, West
 Westfield, N.J. 07091

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**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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 One-year - \$36 • Two-year - \$68 • Three-year - \$99

Letters to the Editor

The Top Priority of Lower Westfield Tax Rate From Union County

First, I would like to thank everyone for your outreach to me about our initiative for tax relief from Union County to our town.

With that in mind I have what, in my view, is a bit of good news. At our February 26 town council meeting Mayor Brindle made note of a meeting with Union County Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski to discuss Westfield's priorities and request for her/the county's support.

The top priority was a lower county tax rate for Westfield! I look forward to hearing more on this, but I still believe that it would be most useful for the appropriate people from Union County to attend one of our upcoming town council meetings and present how the \$42 million we send to Elizabeth is spent/allocated.

To that end I have requested of Freeholder Mouded to schedule this at our town council meeting on Tuesday, March 26 (8 p.m.). Once confirmed I will be back to you with a further update.

Thanks again for your support of this important initiative.

Frank Arena
Westfield Ward 1 Councilman

Editor's Note: Frank, Just checking that you are aware county will hold budget meeting in Westfield Town Hall on Monday, March 18 at 5:30. Monday is first meeting at Galloping Hill clubhouse in Kenilworth.

Thanks Paul. Yes. Saw this and thanks for the reminder. I'm away starting this Wednesday, returning Tuesday the 19th, and these meetings are one-way presentations with no public comment.

My request for them to come to our Council Meeting on March 26th is to talk specifically about the \$42 million that we send to them and how it is spent/allocated.

Frank

ABCD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



Diction Deception

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. Rhob - Juice
2. Xanthochroous - Having a yellowish complexion
3. Schizotrichia - Splitting of the hair
4. Tuz - A lock or tuft of hair

TOL

1. Haughty; boastful
2. A lowland by a waterside
3. To prod; badger
4. To take away

ICTERITIOUS

1. Having yellow skin due to jaundice
2. Covered with scales; scaly
3. Abrasive; irritating
4. Given to creeping or crawling

CASINGS

1. Fine white clay used in making porcelain
2. Topsoil
3. Cattle manure dried and used as fuel
4. A stem, stalk or support

CASEFY

1. To rapidly change in density; solidifying
2. To be concise; brief; to the point
3. Forming a rough and dry surface
4. To make or become cheeselike

Will High Voltage Lines Impact Health, Safety of Residents?

Westfield residents on the south side of town are concerned over a major upgrade planned for the PSE&G power grid. While the Westfield Page link on the utility's website does not provide much information on the full extent of the power grid upgrade, only addressing removal of trees and the trimming of other trees near power lines, other documents available on the Westfield town website show a much bigger project.

PSE&G is said to be removing 45 trees and trimming another 54. The utility, in a letter to residents, said any trees that are removed would be replaced with "smaller, utility compatible trees."

"Construction crews will be actively working on the PSE&G and public-rights-of-way in Westfield, as well as surrounding communities, to install taller, sturdier utility poles and run new electric wires along an existing pole line," according to a letter to residents from PSE&G.

The utility is said to be upgrading a power grid throughout the state from 26 to 69 kilovolts (kv) with utility poles in height up to 65 feet, with the diameter at the base being 18 inches.

The new 69 kv higher voltage transmission lines will connect to switching stations and substations. PSE&G says the new lines will "alleviate demand" on the lower 26 kv lines.

The impacted area includes "portions of Scotch Plains Avenue, Shackamaxon Drive, Rahway Avenue, Grove Street, Central Avenue, and Sycamore

Street," according to information on the town's website.

Our concern is whether PSE&G has the legal authority to remove trees on private property without approval from residents, as one resident told us a tree is to be removed from his front yard. Also, why the rush? And if the utility is replacing power lines with voltage that is nearly three times what currently is provided along a residential area, will there be a health or safety impact on residents? If a line was to come down during a storm, is there a higher risk factor to homes located along the line?

PSE&G has said there would be no harm from the new lines. "The overwhelming body of scientific study shows no definitive link between EMF (Electric and Magnetic Fields) and health issues," the utility says in its question-and-answer sheet for its power grid upgrade. "After 30 years of worldwide research, there are no direct or casual links between electric and magnetic fields and adverse health effects," the utility says.

Is the increase in voltage a result of all the new housing coming to the region? Hundreds of housing units are under construction or proposed in towns like Cranford and Garwood.

We encourage all residents in Westfield and surrounding towns to pay attention to this project and attend meetings, write to PSE&G and their state legislators if they have concerns about this major power grid upgrade.

Scotch Plains Downtown Redevelopment Town Hall Meeting Set For March 28, 2019

The Scotch Plains Downtown Redevelopment Committee (SPDRC) will hold a special town hall meeting on Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Auditorium (667 Westfield Road) to discuss the redevelopment process for Tier 2, Phases 4 and 5 (East Second Street) and Block 204, Lot 5 located in Tier 3, Phase 6 (Jade Isle Property).

The town hall meeting is specifically geared towards property and business owners in the study areas, but anyone from the public may attend and ask questions. The meeting is for informational purposes only. No formal action will be taken at this meeting.

On February 19, the township council adopted resolutions to authorize the planning board to investigate properties identified in the Tier 2, Phases 4 and 5 (East Second Street) and Block 204, Lot 5 (Jade Isle property) to determine which properties meet the criteria as an area in need of redevelopment.

This meeting is intended to provide an explanation of the preliminary investigation process and provide an update on the continued progress of the downtown redevelopment effort. Members of the SPDRC will be available to answer questions.

"Scotch Plains is continuing to move forward with downtown redevelopment by starting the process on

East Second Street and the Jade Isle property," said Mayor Al Smith, chairman of the SPDRC. "These areas will provide many opportunities for mixed-use development that will benefit our residents and create a vibrant East Second Street corridor. I am looking forward to starting this process."

"This forum is a great opportunity to get feedback from our downtown property and business owners," said Deputy Mayor Josh Losardo, vice-chairman of the SPDRC. "Public input is extremely important to the redevelopment process, and the SPDRC looks forward to working together with all stakeholders throughout the redevelopment process."

For more information on the Downtown Redevelopment Initiative, please visit: <https://www.scotchplainsnj.gov/> If you have any questions about this Town Hall meeting, please contact Tom Strowe, project coordinator for redevelopment, at (908) 322-6700, ext. 317 or tstrowe@scotchplainsnj.com.

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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

May your day be touched by a bit of Irish luck, brightened by a song in your heart and warmed by the smiles of the people you love.



Thanks to Emergency Units, DPWs, For Getting Us All Through Winter

It may not feel like it quite yet, but spring is now less than one week away, and we're eagerly counting the days. While we may not have had the successive nor'easters or snow totals seen during some other years, we still experienced our share of blustery weather this time around, with the worst storm-related conditions occurring more than a month before winter officially began. None of us will likely soon forget the chaos surrounding the snowstorm last November 16, which left commuters and students stuck for hours, followed by government leaders vowing action to prevent such widespread gridlock from happening again.

We've since grappled with gusting winds, frigid temperatures, slick surfaces, potholes and other hazards that accompany most winters in this part of the country. We're a hardy bunch here in the northeast, and typically able to handle Mother Nature's many moods, yet still always glad come March 20 to bid winter adieu.

With another winter nearly behind us, we once again wish to acknowledge and offer a round of thanks to our emergency responders and all those who faithfully perform their duties even under the most severe weather conditions, sometimes directly in harm's way. These include our police officers, firefighters, first aid personnel and public works employees, among others.

The tasks associated with public health and safety are extensive and challenging at any time of the year, in any climate, but especially so during winter. The men and women who serve in these capacities investigate crime, battle fires, conduct rescues, transport patients, address infrastructure problems and respond to power outages while coping with sub-freezing temperatures, poor visibility, unsafe road conditions and fallen power lines, to cite just a few of the hurdles they face.

These individuals deserve special recognition 365 days a year, but we are particularly reminded each winter of the extent of their service and sacrifice. It also is important to note that many of those risking their safety and lives in service to their neighbors are volunteers. We have true heroes in our midst.

We periodically offer kudos in this space to our emergency responders and our local public works employees, and thank them anew for helping bring us all through another winter. We also thank them in advance in the event winter decides to have one "last hurrah" with us. They are among any town's greatest assets and literal lifelines to those in need. Likewise, we encourage our fellow residents to support their extraordinary efforts through donations, voluntarism, or simply a written or spoken expression of thanks for the vital services they provide to all of us year round.

'Three or Four Hours After Midnight, With My Head Full of the Subject'

This Sunday began Daylight Saving Time. Remember? Fall back one hour at 2 a.m.

Muddled, countries around the world have different policies and time changes. It can be confusing and its energy savings are controversial. One of the better justifications for current energy policies and one of our favorite lines - "Three or Four Hours After Midnight, With Our Heads Full of the Subject" by Benjamin Franklin.

A uniform implementation of Daylight Saving Time has eluded civilization, and controversy exists whether it actually saves energy, as Benjamin Franklin humorously suggested in a letter to *The Journal of Paris* in 1784 - (Excerpts) "Messieurs, You often entertain us with accounts of new discoveries.

Permit me to communicate to the public, through your paper, one that has lately been made by myself, and which I conceive may be of great utility... I was the other evening in a grand company, where the new lamp of Messrs. Quinquet and Lange was introduced, and much admired for its splendor; but a general inquiry was made, whether the oil it consumed was not in proportion to the light it afforded, in which case there would be no saving in the use of it... I went home, and to bed, three or four hours after midnight, with my head full of the subject. An accidental sudden noise waked me about six in the morning, when I was surprised to find my room filled with light; and I imagined at first, that a number of those lamps had been brought into it; but, rubbing my eyes, I perceived the light came in at the windows.

I got up and looked out to see what might be the occasion of it, when I saw the sun just rising above the horizon, from whence he poured his rays plentifully into my chamber, my domestic having negligently omitted, the preceding evening, to close the shutters... Your readers, who with me have never seen any signs of sunshine before noon, and seldom regard the astronomical part of the almanac, will be as much astonished as I was, when they hear of his rising so early; and especially

when I assure them, that he gives light as soon as he rises. I am convinced of this. I am certain of my fact. One cannot be more certain of any fact. I saw it with my own eyes. And, having repeated this observation the three following mornings, I found always precisely the same result....

Yet it so happens, that when I speak of this discovery to others, I can easily perceive by their countenances, though they forbear expressing it in words, that they do not quite believe me. One, indeed, who is a learned natural philosopher, has assured me that I must certainly be mistaken as to the circumstance of the light coming into my room; for it being well known, as he says, that there could be no light abroad at that hour, it follows that none could enter from without; and that of consequence, my windows being accidentally left open, instead of letting in the light, had only served to let out the darkness; and he used many ingenious arguments to show me how I might, by that means, have been deceived. I owned that he puzzled me a little, but he did not satisfy me; and the subsequent observations I made, as above mentioned, confirmed me in my first opinion... This event has given rise in my mind to several serious and important reflections. I considered that, if I had not been awakened so early in the morning, I should have slept six hours longer by the light of the sun, and in exchange have lived six hours the following night by candle-light; and, the latter being a much more expensive light than the former, my love of economy induced me to muster up what little arithmetic I was master of, and to make some calculations, which I shall give you, after observing that utility is, in my opinion the test of value in matters of invention, and that a discovery which can be applied to no use, or is not good for something, is good for nothing... I say it is impossible that so sensible a people, under such circumstances, should have lived so long by the smoky, unwholesome, and enormously expensive light of candles, if they had really known, that they might have had as much pure light of the sun for nothing. A Subscriber."

ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2019

NESEMANO'19 THE LEADER/TIMES

State LD-21 Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 425 North Ave. E. Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-3673 Asm. Jon Brannick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-2073 Asm. Nancy Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, N.J. 07901 (908) 918-0414	State LD-22 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404 Asm. Jim Kennedy (D) 34 E. Cherry St. Rahway, N.J. 07065 (732) 943-2660 Asw. Linda Carter (D) 200 West 2nd St., Suite 102 Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757	7th Congressional District Representative Tom Malinowski (D) 58 East Main St, Somerville, N.J. 08876 (908) 547-3307 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District]
LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.	LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark, Rahway and Linden.	12th Congressional District Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D) 850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 201, Ewing, N.J. 08628 (609) 883-0026 [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District]

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