

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

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Letters to the Editor

Westfield Board of Health Discussed Coronavirus at March 2 Meeting

The new coronavirus disease of 2019, Covid-19, is now firmly in the United States and many people are concerned. For some people, it is alarming to see what happened in China and Europe and is now starting to happen here. So, we should be prepared and take precautions. More on that later.

For now, let's put this into perspective. We actually have many coronaviruses every year, but almost all have resulted in mild colds and have not been of concern. Covid-19 is the third severe coronavirus disease to sweep the globe. The first coronavirus outbreak years ago, SARS, was a major threat. It was much more lethal, but it faded. Similarly, the second deadly coronavirus, MERS, fortunately was more limited. Covid-19 appears to have emerged recently from wildlife, apparently bats, and crossed over into people, so it is not similar to the more usual coronaviruses.

Young people seem to get mild infections and their immune responses appear robust but not out of control, so they appear to recover well. In general, so do women. However, older people, especially men, and those with underlying medical conditions are more likely to get seriously ill. The death rate from Covid-19 is greatest among people over 70 years old and those with certain chronic diseases.

Covid-19 behaves very much like the flu, although it may have a higher case fatality rate. The symptoms and transmission of flu and Covid-19 appear similar. Unfortunately, influenza virus is currently widespread in New Jersey and we are still seeing many cases of influenza as well as other respiratory illnesses.

Testing for Covid-19 is currently limited. Therefore the wisest course is to deal with Covid-19 like a bad influenza, except there is no vaccine or antiviral medicine. So, we all should use other protective measures.

Some actions you can take to protect yourself and your family include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice), especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. But, always wash with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.
- Get the influenza vaccine if you did not get it yet. It does not prevent Covid-19, but may still prevent the flu, which can also infect you.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick and for 24 hours after symptoms resolve.

• Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

• If you don't have a tissue, sneeze into your elbow - a Dracula sneeze! - to avoid contaminating your hands.

• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

• If you are concerned you may have Covid-19, please call your health care provider BEFORE you visit the office. Although there are no antiviral medicines, there are measures you can take to manage your symptoms and prevent transmission to others.

• NO need to use a respirator or mask in everyday situations yet, unless you are already sick. Otherwise, it is too early to use them outside medical environments.

• If you have upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms, then use a facemask to help prevent spreading the virus to others.

• Additional guidance on preparing your family and your home for all emergencies is available from the Westfield Regional Health Department at <https://www.westfieldnj.gov/health/intheCovid-19PreparednessTab>.

• The 24-hour New Jersey Covid-19 Information Hotline is 1-(800)-222-1222. This is also the number for the New Jersey Poison Information and Education Service.

The Westfield Regional Health Department is actively monitoring the evolving situation, working with our local partners and the state health department, conducting surveillance, developing response and prevention plans and communications, providing consultations to local hospitals, physicians, schools and others, and assisting residents and addressing their concerns.

More information is available at the Westfield Regional Health Department <https://www.westfieldnj.gov/health>, the New Jersey Department of Health <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml> and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. This is a rapidly changing situation, so recommendations may change.

The complete minutes of the March 2 meeting will be posted after review and approval at our Monday, April 7 meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal building. The public is invited to attend.

Lawrence D. Budnick, MD, MPH
 President, Westfield Board of Health

ABCDICTIONOPQRSTDECEPTIONUVWXYZ

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. Tenebrous - Dark; gloomy
2. Teff - A grain plant of Abyssinia from which flour is made
3. Mammonism - Devotion to the greedy pursuit of riches
4. Spraints - The waste or dung of an otter

CUMSHAW

1. Apathetic; disinterested
2. An undue burden or unfair demand
3. An ample amount or quantity
4. A tip or gratuity

SARCOID

1. Like or consisting of flesh
2. Slow-moving; sluggish
3. Rust-colored
4. Scaly, as with fish

PHILTER

1. A pleasant stroll
2. To please, charm or delight
3. To scold or nag
4. A love potion

PICARON

1. A guardian spirit
2. A fool or imbecile
3. A rogue, pirate, or thief
4. A medieval catapult for hurling stones

Goodbye From Horace Corbin, Congratulations to Lauren Barr

As my retirement begins from *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, I am gratified and fortunate to turn over the leadership to Lauren Barr. Her experience, capabilities and good heart are unequaled to serve you, the community. Please give her your support as you have done so for me.

Be assured the staff remains equipped and ready to serve you. The state of the newspaper is strong. I am honored to have been a part of this enterprise. Over the 130-year history of the newspaper, so many talented people have contributed to the success - Their names, we may

now not remember. From time to time, as you may ponder matters, please consider my name favorably, my 25 years as a positive contribution. Thank you, Goodbye and good luck. All the best!

Horace R. Corbin
 Publisher Emeritus

Publisher Lauren Barr to Readers: Please Let Me Introduce Myself

First and foremost, I want to thank Horace Corbin. It was Horace who saved the papers from the brink of closing back in 1996. He took a Westfield institution and brought it into the 20th century. Horace was and is a visionary, bringing the papers from the old typeset days to a fully digital platform. I am eternally grateful for the countless hours he put in to building the papers up and keeping them going the past 24 years. He gave me my start in this business and taught me more than any journalism class ever could. It has been my honor to work for him and I am blessed to call him my friend.

a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Thomas Edison State University, and started a family. My husband, Jon-Henry "JH" and I are both Union County born and raised, and we're proud to raise our four children here. Our children are the light of our lives. JH and I strive to lead by example in our professional and volunteer work lives. They are learning first-hand how to

I believe very strongly in the need for local news. Informing the public of what is happening in our own backyards and encouraging civic participation - enacting change begins at the local level. With our talented and dedicated staff of editors, writers and photographers, I am confident that we can continue to bring you, the readers, a well-written, fair and informed newspaper both in print and online each week.

There will be changes coming, hopefully ones that you find positive. We will be expanding our social media presence and updating our website. You will also see changes in our editorial page as we opine on local, county and state issues.

I look forward to hearing from you, our readers. Send us letters on local issues, send us your photographs - let us know what's important to you and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.



Lauren S. Barr
 Publisher & Editor-In-Chief

Growing up in Westfield I read *The Westfield Leader* and *The Westfield Record* each week, comparing the differences and often omissions. From a young age, I had a burning interest in local government and politics. After graduating from Westfield High School, I put myself through Union County College by working as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). *The Leader* ran an ad looking for a reporter, and I was able to land the job covering the Borough of Mountainside. It wasn't long before I was covering a multitude of events and meetings, interviewing local politicians and copy-editing in the office, eventually working my way up to Assignment Editor.

I left for a little while, working in the marketing field for a large construction management firm and then a manufacturer's representative, but it wasn't long before I was back in the news industry. It was my first love, and I just couldn't give it up. In the meantime I got married, earned

be the change you want to see in the world - how to work hard, play hard and enjoy life. In addition to my professional life, I serve on both the governing boards of Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah and the JCC of Central NJ. I was a volunteer EMT with both the Westfield and Clark rescue squads. I have assisted with coaching my kids for their softball and basketball teams. I am the first female publisher in *The Westfield Leader's* 130-year history and *The Times'* 61 years - this is a responsibility I take very seriously.

Coming This May
 Our 48th Annual Edition

This Is Westfield

To reserve your space
 Contact Jeff Gruman,
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Letters to the Editor

The Deadline is Monday 9 AM for publication on the coming Thursday. The size limit is 200-500 words.

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Nominations Welcomed for Annual Philhower Award

WESTFIELD - Westfield Rotary Club President Liz Ensslin has announced that Friday, April 3, is the deadline for nominations for the 28th annual Charles Philhower Fellowship Award, which recognizes an outstanding full-time elementary teacher in the Westfield Public Schools each year.

Letters of nomination are invited from interested citizens, parents, students and Westfield public school staff members and should be addressed to: Charles Philhower Fellowship Committee of the Westfield Rotary Club, c/o Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090, or emailed to rotaryphilhower@westfieldnj12.org.

Nominations should specify ways in which the teacher has demonstrated outstanding teaching, interest in children and continued pursuit of professional growth. The teacher must be a full-time faculty member in kindergarten to grade 5 in the Westfield Public Schools for a minimum of five years.

The Fellowship recipient will be honored at a Rotary luncheon and at a Westfield Board of Education meeting, both scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, and will receive a Rotary grant to further professional growth or to enhance classroom activities for students.

The award was instituted in 1993 by the Rotary Club of Westfield to recognize the importance of teaching in the elementary grades and to honor Westfield Rotarian and School Superintendent Charles Philhower. Mr. Philhower, who died

in 1962, was supervising principal (superintendent) of Westfield Public Schools for 30 years from 1917 to 1947 and president of the Westfield Rotary Club in 1929-1930. As Rotary president, he instituted the club's annual scholarship awards to graduating Westfield students.

EFG to Hold Annual Appreciation Dinner

WESTFIELD - The Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) will host its 16th Annual Appreciation Dinner honoring Margaret Hak, Lincoln School's Educator of the Year, and Marano & Sons, People Making a Difference in the Community, on Thursday, April 30. The dinner will take place at The Westwood, located at 438 North Avenue, Garwood, from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Dinner tickets cost \$50 in advance and at the door. They are available at the Garwood Public Library, 411 Third Avenue; Lincoln School, 400 Second Avenue, or through Foundation President Candace Kilmer at cad11174@aol.com or (908) 358-6963. Tickets will cover a buffet dinner, beer and wine. A tricky tray and raffle also will be included.

The EFG is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. It was founded in 2004 to work with the Garwood school district "in pursuit of educational excellence."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD
 WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY
 GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2168

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD

General Ordinance No. 2168, a summary of which is included herein, was introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield held on March 10, 2020 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by said Town Council at the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090 at a meeting beginning at 8:00 PM on March 24, 2020 or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance. Copies of this ordinance are available in full at the Office of the Town Clerk, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

A Summary of General Ordinance No. 2168 is as follows:

SUMMARY:

Amends and restates Section 2-44.30 of Article III, "Town Boards and Commissions," within Chapter II, "Administration," of the Town Code of the Town of Westfield by expanding the membership of the Human Relations Advisory Commission to nine (9) members; and amends and restates Section 2-33.31 as to the length of the term to be served upon the initial appointment of members.

Tara Rowley, RMC
 Town Clerk
 1 T - 03/12/20, The Leader Fee: \$43.35



State LD-21 Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 425 North Ave. E. Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-3673	State LD-22 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404	7th Congressional District Representative Tom Malinowski (D) 75-77 N. Bridge St., Somerville, N.J. 08876 (908) 547-3307 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District]
Asm. Jon Brannick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-2073	Asm. Jim Kennedy (D) 34 E. Cherry St. Rahway, N.J. 07065 (732) 943-2660	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]
Asm. Nancy Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, N.J. 07901 (908) 918-0414	Asw. Linda Carter (D) 200 West 2nd St., Suite 102 Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757	senkean@njleg.org, senscutari@njleg.org asmbrannick@njleg.org, asmunoz@njleg.org asmkennedy@njleg.org, aswcarter@njleg.org

LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.

LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark, Rahway and Linden.