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Issue 5 • February 2016

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CASA HONORS WESTFIELD'S JANE HOFFMAN

Child advocates cite birthday program for foster youth

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County's 3rd annual Foster the Dream Gala at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth in November was sold-out, as more than 240 attendees joined the festivities to celebrate the nonprofit's advocacy work for children in foster care and honor several of its supporters, including Jane Hoffman and her organization, A Birthday Wish, which provides specially selected birthday gifts and cards for Union County's foster children.

Hoffman launched A Birthday Wish in 2014 in partnership with CASA of Union County and the Tuesday Club of Westfield, took home the Honorable Jo-Anne B. Spatola Dream-Maker Award for her work to celebrate each child's inherent worth on a day that should be as special as they are. Throughout the year, CASA of Union County provides a list of birthdays, special interests and wishes for the children it serves. Hoffman and her dream-makers step up to the challenge, delivering unique gifts, festively wrapped and finished with a personalized card – all ready for delivery to the youth by their very own CASA. A Birthday Wish continues to grow, now reaching foster children in other counties. Hoffman and her husband became adoptive parents in 2011, and A Birthday Wish came to life after a conversation with their three children on how to help kids in foster care.

CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to serve as the eyes and ears of the judge, and the voice for children in foster care through no fault of their own. After training in Westfield, CASAs are sworn in by a family court judge and empowered by court order to speak to all parties in the child's life: foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more. CASAs regularly meet with their foster youth to ensure their needs are met and best interests remain priority. There are nearly 600 Union County children currently in foster care due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, and CASA of Union County serves 143



of them. Its goal is to secure one CASA for every foster child.

For details on ways to help Union County children in foster care, including information on CASA's next advocate training class, visit www.casaofunioncounty.org or call 908-527-7040.

WESTFIELD CHAMBER NETWORKING AT UNION CATHOLIC

Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains was delighted to host the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce at a networking breakfast on December 15. Student ambassadors guided Chamber members to the cafeteria and hosted tours of UC. Principal Sister Percylee Hart, RSM welcomed the Chamber and Director of Development Susan Dyckman offered a brief snapshot of what sets makes the UC high school experience so unique. Taylor Salomon, a member of UC's Class of '16, enthusiastically shared some of her experiences in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy and strongly encouraged Chamber members to get their own children involved in this exciting hands-on learning opportunity that is sponsored by GWACC.

(right) Susan Dyckman, Director of Development Union Catholic HS, Gene Jannotti, Executive Director - GWACC, Sister Percylee Hart, Principal, Union Catholic HS, Chris Devine, Chairman - GWACC



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3rd Annual 2016 White Castle

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Saturday, February 27, 2016
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sign-in/setup starts at 9:00 am

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Open to all registered Boy Scouts/Venturers/Explorers.
Limited to 40 players who must know how to play chess. Registration is \$6
Use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line
at ppbsa.doubleknot.com
Email Jim Parlapiano jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com for more info.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.
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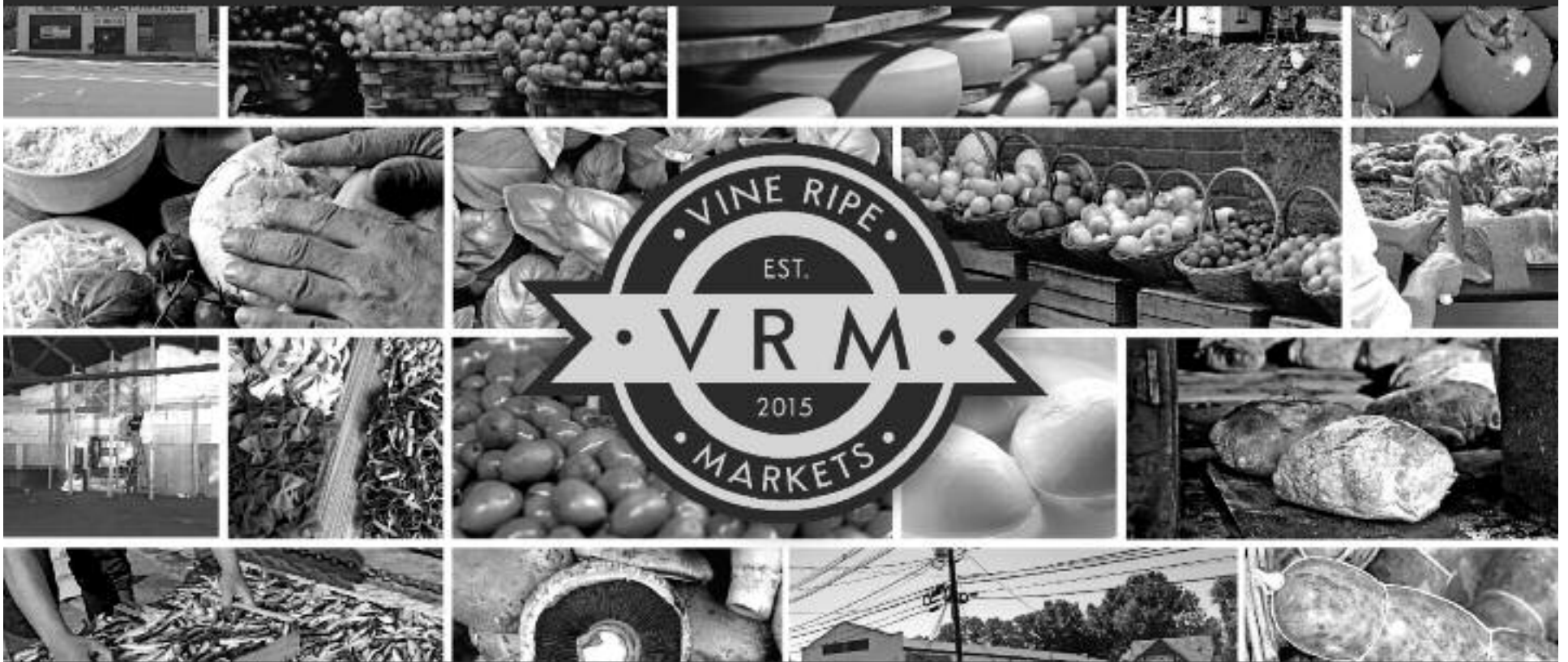
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WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES SIX PERFECT SAT SCORES

7 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE PUTTING YOUR HOME UP FOR SALE

Westfield NJ - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

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Westfield High School announced that 6 students have achieved perfect scores in November 2015 on SAT standardized tests widely used for college admission criteria. Westfield High School Assistant Principal, Mary Asfendis (far left), expressed her congratulations

to these 10th and 11th graders for their top scores (l-r): Sophomores Soo Min Chung and Cindy Qiang – each scoring 800 in Math; and Juniors Emma Cravo – Writing; Charlotte Perez – French w/Listening; Charles Rule – Reading; and Mackail Liderman – Math 2.



(above) Westfield High School Assistant Principal, Mary Asfendis (far left), expressed her congratulations to these 10th and 11th graders for their top scores (l-r): Sophomores Soo Min Chung and Cindy Qiang – each scoring 800 in Math; and Juniors Emma Cravo – Writing; Charlotte Perez – French w/Listening; Charles Rule – Reading; and Mackail Liderman – Math 2.

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REMEMBERING WESTFIELD TEACHER DAVID M. HART, 89

David M. Hart, 89 of Mountainside, N. J. passed away on January 18, 2016, after a two year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dr. Marilyn McGuire Hart, his son, Dr. D. Michael Hart and his wife Eileen of Westfield, N.J.; his daughter Ellen Richardson and her husband A. Brad Richardson of Dover, Delaware; and by his daughter Alison Brafman, and her husband Ari, of Westfield, N.J. He is also survived by seven grandchildren.

David was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and raised in Springfield, N.J. He earned a B.A. in Science Education at Montclair University in 1950 and a Masters in Administration and Supervision at Montclair in 1957. A scholarship

in his name has been established for a graduating senior at Westfield Senior High School, for one who has demonstrated an extraordinary interest in natural or environmental sciences.

He joined the army in 1945 and served with the 15th Infantry regiment in the Philippines, receiving the Asiatic Pacific Campaign World War II Ribbon and an Honorable Discharge. David was an active member of the Mountainside Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was honored to be the Grand Marshal of the 2014 Memorial Day Parade.

In his professional career, David started as a Science Teacher in Roselle Park, NJ for 2 years, followed by teaching Natural Science to 7th graders Westfield, NJ for 12 years. He served as principal of Deerfield School, Mountainside, Charles H. Brewer Middle School, in Clark, NJ, and the Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark, for an additional total of 25 years.

Community involvement included 6 years as a Councilman on the Mountainside Borough Council, service for 6 years on the Union County Regional High School Board of Education, service on the Board of Directors of the Children's Specialized Hospital, membership for many years in the Lions Club, including being President in 1986-87, membership in the VFW-Post 10136, a member of the Mountainside Music Association. David was a Scoutmaster and Leader in Boy Scout Troop 76 for 4 years during which time they graduated 6 Eagle Scouts; he was a Little League Coach for 2 years, which included winning the pennant, and the Jonathan Dayton Choral Parents Society. David loved Fishing, and was on the New Jersey State Council for Central Jersey Trout Unlimited, and



served on the Board of Directors for The Warren County Rod and Gun Club

In his retirement, David was an avid fisherman, and fished frequently with his son, Michael, and other family members. David has photos of almost every child and grandchild holding a fish. Marilyn and David loved to travel and sometimes combined fishing with their trips. They traveled all over Europe, went to China, and the Caribbean. David included fishing in his trips to Alaska 5 times, New Zealand, Belize, and all over the United States and Canada.

David Hart was a pillar of the community, had high moral values, was active in his church, was a wonderful father and family man, and a man of great accomplishments. He brought out the best in everyone around him, and was beloved by all. He will be sorely missed.

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Dance

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DIVORCE AND TAXES: TIPS FOR THOSE CONTEMPLATING DIVORCE IN 2016

By: James McGlew II, Esq.

Tax season is now descending upon all of us and for individuals either planning to file for divorce, or those who are presently in the midst of divorce litigation, understanding how your current marital status can impact your tax liability is of significant importance. While each individual's specific circumstances are unique, this article intends to provide general guidance to assist you in your decisions. By highlighting several areas where Divorce and Tax Law intersect you can make informed choices that will help to ensure that you're not paying more than your fair share of taxes owed.

For individuals contemplating separation or divorce, tax planning prior to these events can often result in significant savings during the divorce process. Consulting a tax professional to discuss the pros and cons of filing joint or separate tax returns is always advisable for individuals who plan to divorce in the coming months. With respect to previous year's tax filings, regardless of whether they were filed individually or jointly, gathering copies of these documents today will expedite the discovery phase of your divorce case and help to reduce your overall divorce costs.

Do you and your spouse own your own business? In situations where a business operates as a cash business it is important to collect and maintain information as to the businesses' monthly income. This information will be important for the valuation and eventual equitable distribution of marital assets. Depending upon your particular circumstances, pre-planning and consultation with your attorney and accountant can often result not only in tax savings but ensuring your overall financial protection.

For those presently involved in divorce proceedings, an individual's tax filing status is often an issue as it will determine which party has the right to claim their children as dependent exemptions. Many individuals in the midst of a divorce case also have questions concerning the tax treatment of court ordered

payments which have been put in place while their divorce is pending. The tax treatment of payments made from one spouse to another, or payments made by one spouse on behalf of their children is often dependent upon the language contained in the Order signed by the Judge. While legal advice generally is not tax deductible, it is important to note that under certain criteria attorney fees regarding counsel provided in respect to alimony can often be claimed as a deduction.

For individuals whose divorce from their ex-spouse has already been finalized, ensuring the appropriate credit for support payments made to an ex-spouse is key. The potential tax implications of asset transfers made pursuant to the Divorce Agreement including the transfer of any retirement assets such as pensions or 401k plans, along with the tax effect of any court mandated home sale proceeds are often relevant. For those individuals already divorced the appropriate implementation of the terms of their settlement agreement can spare the individual unwanted future correspondence from the Internal Revenue Service.

Whether you are presently divorcing your spouse, contemplating doing so or are already divorced, you should have knowledgeable and experienced advice regarding any potential tax liability. The Family Law Group at Lindabury is thoroughly experienced in these areas and has the additional resource of an in-house Tax Practice whose attorneys are thoroughly familiar with the intricacies of the Internal Revenue Code. Our attorneys are experienced in dealing directly with Internal Revenue Service when that situation becomes unavoidable.

Lindabury's Family Law Group has decades of experience representing clients in divorce and other serious New Jersey family law matters. We provide the full range of divorce and family law services and are easily accessible from our Westfield New Jersey office. Call today to schedule a consultation with James McGlew at (908) 897-0055.

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Moms Helping Moms collects diapers, wipes, toiletries and clothing for children three years old and younger. The organization serves families by providing access to these supplies and connecting them with key social services to support them during pregnancy and parenting. If you are interested in donating baby items or would like additional information about the foundation and how you can help, please visit their website <http://www.momshelpingmomsfoundation.org/home.html>.

Moms Helping Moms hosted their second annual Snow Ball on Friday, January 29, 2016 at Stone House at Stirling Ridge in Warren, New



(above l-r) Jackie McCormack, Vice President, Megan Deaton, Secretary, Bridget Cutler, President and Founder, and Jerusha Oleksiuk, Treasurer.

Jersey. This event featured live music from Brian Kirk and the Jirks, along with an open bar, appetizers and a silent auction with amazing prizes.

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The Westfield Public School District is now accepting applications for the Integrated Preschool Program for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Located at Lincoln School's Early Childhood Learning Center at 728 Westfield Avenue, the integrated program, which uses the Creative Curriculum for Preschool, is comprised of general education students and students who have been found eligible for special education. General education students will be selected for this program by lottery. Deadline for applications is February 26.

Preschool classes will meet Monday through Friday, from 8:45 to 11:15 a.m. for the 3 year old morning session and from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. for the 4 year old afternoon session.

Applicants must be residents of Westfield and three or four years of age before October 1, 2016.

Applications for the lottery are available on the district website at westfieldnj12.org/preschool. During school hours, applications may also be

obtained in person at Lincoln School, the Office of Special Education Services and the main office of any of the elementary schools in Westfield. All applications must be returned to Lincoln School no later than 2:00 p.m. on February 26, 2016.

The lottery drawing will be held at Lincoln School, 728 Westfield Ave. on February 26, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by phone and or email.

An original birth certificate with raised seal and proof of residency will be required for those new students admitted to the program. A tuition fee of \$370 per month will be charged for participation for general education students in this program for the 2016-2017 school year. Students who qualify under the income eligibility guidelines set forth under the Federal Child Nutrition Program may be eligible for a reduced charge.

For more information, please call Lincoln School at (908)789-4455.

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NJWA HOSTS FAMILY MARDI GRAS TO BENEFIT MUSIC CONNECTION

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts will host a Family Mardi Gras and Gala Concert and Dinner on Sunday March 6 at 5:00 pm. The event will take place at Snuffy's Pantagis, 250 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The evening will feature performances by the band Watson and the Florian Schantz Jazz

Combo. In addition to the professional music performances, the evening will showcase selected NJWA Music Studio students and ensembles, and will also feature a silent auction and a 50/50 drawing.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Music Connection, a program designed for

students who are neurologically, developmentally and/or physically handicapped. The Music Connection focuses on acquiring musical skills, enhancing self-esteem, developing pride in achievement and providing families with an activity to share.

Watson, directed by "Cadillac" Phil Rinaldi, reflects the jazz, rock and funk genres, and is well known for its appearances at the Westfield Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival, as well as performances at numerous venues throughout the area.

A highlight of the evening will be the music provided by the Florian Schantz Jazz Combo. Florian, now 13 years old, started as a student in the Music Connection in 2009, went on to form his own professional jazz band and has performed all over the greater New York City area. His band has played at various fund raising events for the Music Connection, so that other children may benefit from the opportunity given to him.

This arts program is made possible in part by a HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Tickets for the event are \$100 for adults and \$50 for children. Please call 908-789-9696 or visit the NJWA studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield, for additional information. If you cannot attend, but would like to make a donation to The Music Connection, please call the office for further details. To learn more about the NJWA, log on to our web site at www.njworkshopforthearts.com, and visit us on Facebook and Twitter.



(above) The Florian Schantz Combo (L-R Margaret Schantz, Lowell Schantz, Florian Schantz, Jeff Little, Rup Chattopadhyay) will perform at the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Family Mardi Gras Gala Concert and Dinner, which is a fundraising event for The Music Connection.

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RAKE & HOE GARDEN CLUB DECORATE JARDINE ACADEMY

As part of their service commitment to the Westfield community and Union County, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, decorated the holiday tree at the Jardine Academy of the Cerebral Palsy League in Cranford. The Club has provided this decorative service for

many years.

Club members select a theme for the tree, make decorations and purchase a children's book which pertains to the theme. This year the members created 90 original reindeer ornaments by hand themed to match the book titled "Little

Deer Lost" by Janet Bingham & Rosalind Beardshaw.

The Jardine Academy is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education and is proud to maintain Middle States Accreditation. The Academy provides a comprehensive Educational Program designed to meet the cognitive and physical needs of children who have multiple disabilities – needs that may not be fully met within the local school system.

The Cerebral Palsy League operates a new, state-of-the art facility in Cranford for students aged 3-21.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield has a long-term reputation for its service to the community and donations to worthy causes by maintaining the gardens at the northside of the Westfield Train Station, the Miller Cory House Museum, the Shadowlawn Pocket Park and the Claire Brownell Wildflower Garden at the Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center of the Westfield Historical Society.

The Rake and Hoe Junior Garden Club, which meets once a month, has members between first grade and eighth grade. After a busy fall of planting daffodils around town and helping to clean up the Westfield train station garden, they are learning the basics of flower arranging, which will help them make flower arrangements for the Garden Club of New Jersey Flower Show on... If interested in joining, call Beth Siano at (908) 233-4150.

Anyone interested in joining the Rake and Hoe Garden Club is invited to call Club President, Diana Kazazis at (908)654-8783.



(above l-r) Standing Lee Perry, Betty Gulino, Beth Siano, MaryLou Nolas, Connie Sato, Julie Dvork, Janet Gardner, Barbara Spellmeyer.

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