

# Westfield MONTHLY NJ

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Issue 12 • September 2016

**JOINT NETWORKING EVENT**

**THE GREATER WESTFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE SUBURBAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**WILL HOLD A JOINT NETWORKING EVENT**

**SEPTEMBER 12TH**

**6 – 7:30 pm.**

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For more information and to RSVP, go to [gwaccnj.com/events](http://gwaccnj.com/events) or call

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## TWO RESIDENTS SWORN IN AS FOSTER CHILD ADVOCATES

Union County Superior Court Judge Daniel R. Lindemann recently administered oaths to 16 Union County residents — among them Janice Fusaro and Anne Koons of Westfield — to serve as extra eyes and ears for Family Court judges on cases involving abused, neglected or abandoned children currently in foster care. This marks the 30th training class since Court Appointed Special Advocates of Union County began in 2005. A 17th volunteer was sworn in at a later date.

The new CASA volunteers completed 30 hours of training over six weeks. After performing the oath, Judge Lindemann stepped off the bench and thanked each advocate for committing to serve children in need of a voice. A member of the nonprofit's board participated, and each new advocate was provided a commemorative pin and certificate. During a celebratory luncheon that followed, advocates were matched to their new case. Before starting that work, though, they observed court proceedings to see other CASA volunteers in action. Already, most are in the trenches, working their cases and making inroads for their assigned youth.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds and experiences make successful advocates, and this class is no exception: Ages

range from 33 to 80 and include parents, empty-nesters and non-parents; careers include health professionals, school personnel, attorneys and stay-at-home parents. Several experienced abuse in their own childhoods, and one was a CASA years ago who returned to help another child now that her schedule allowed. Most have no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate both in the community and court to ensure their youth's needs are met and time in care is as short as possible. There are 600 Union County children in foster care; CASA of Union County advocates for approximately one-quarter of those and its mission is to provide an advocate for every child that needs one.

The next training class kicks off Sept. 27 in Westfield. For details on that training class, or other ways to help stand up for foster children, contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or [lporis@casaofunioncounty.org](mailto:lporis@casaofunioncounty.org).

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(above) Shown with CASA of Union County's Interim Director Lori Morris, far left, is the newest graduating class of volunteer advocates, Team 30. From left are Vanessa Chivers, Summit; Susan Boykin, Scotch Plains; Cynthia Galligan, Summit; Linda Fuller, Berkeley Heights; Delores Perkins, Roselle; Caroline Parker, Elizabeth; Erica Sack, Summit; Sharyn Perlstein, Springfield; Kristin Sanborn, Summit; Anne Koons, Westfield; Nicole DellaVecchia, Cranford; Tracy Forsyth, Summit; Janice Fusaro, Westfield; Lorraine Loza, Kenilworth; and Bev Luehs and Ellen Moore, Summit. Not shown: Tawana Love of Linden, sworn in at a later date.

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**RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE**

## SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE GROUP DONATES TO CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL

*Westfield Monthly* is published by Renna Media. 11,800 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Westfield.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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Email: [lori@rennamedia.com](mailto:lori@rennamedia.com)  
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A beautiful assortment of over 100 hand knitted, crocheted and woven items were donated to the Children's Specialized Hospital and the Streetlight Mission. The items donated consisted of baby caps, booties, sweaters, lap afghans, blankets, women's and men's caps, scarves and woven finger/hand puppets and hand knitted fleece blankets.

The Creative Hands Community Service Group of SWSCH are committed in bringing comfort and warmth to the men, women and children assisted by these two organizations. Since 2014, these ladies have faithfully come together every week to knit and crochet items for donation.

The Children's Specialized Hospital is the nation's leading provider of inpatient and outpatient care for children from birth to 21 years of age facing special health challenges — from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries, to

developmental and behavioral issues like autism and mental health.

StreetLight Mission is a faith based community outreach center located in the inner city of Elizabeth, NJ. serving people struggling with poverty, mental illness, substance abuse and most of all hopelessness.

Second Westfield Senior Citizens Housing, 1129 Boynton Avenue in Westfield, NJ opened in October, 1995. The building is a three-storied, elevator equipped building for low-income senior citizens. It is designed specifically for seniors, and meets all of the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Sitting on 8.5 acres of park-like land, it is adjacent to the existing senior citizens building.

Our Community Service Group would be grateful to receive donations of yarn/wool to continue their projects. If you would like to donate any yarn, please contact: Carezza Motley at 908-518-9586 ext. 5.



(above l-r) Kimberly Armenti, Madeline Ayres, Millie Boguski, Judith Sandala, Helene Glawitsch, Amy Jester.

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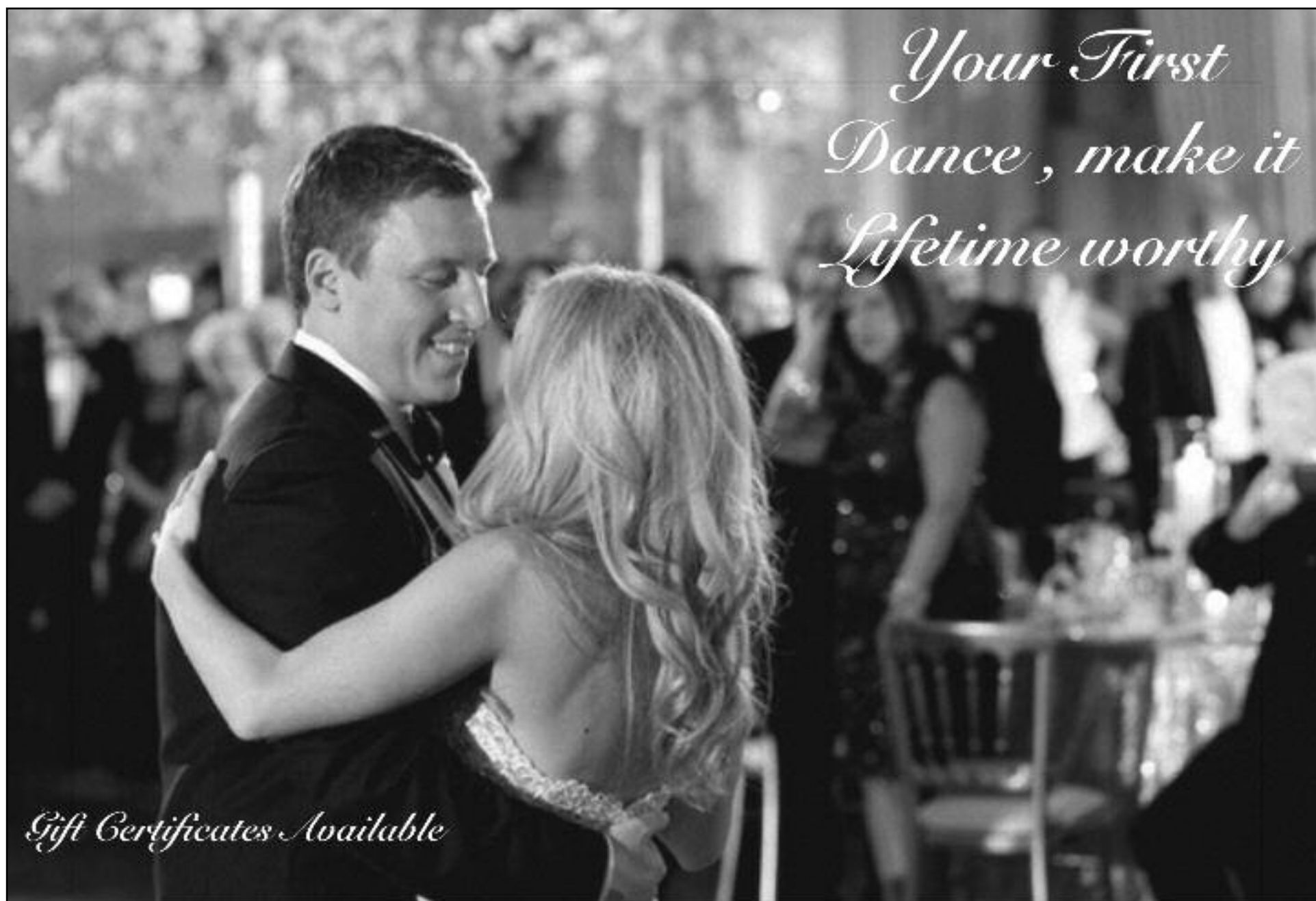
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## FOUNDATION PRESENTS \$1,000 GRANT TO THE WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation (GWACC) approved a \$1,000 grant to the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad. The money will help defray a sharp spike in their expenses. This year the squad purchased a new ambulance and was required to purchase new FCC-compliant radio equipment.

GWACC Executive Director Gene Jannotti said, "The Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad provides an indispensable service to our community. Their dedicated staff of volunteers continue to ensure no-fee transportation and emergency care 24/7. The Chamber is honored to support their mission."

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(above l-r) Judi Caron, WVRS Secretary; Gene Jannotti, GWACC Executive Director; Maria Fuentes, GWACC Chair; Steve Becker, WVRS Chief; Darielle Walsh, GWACC Secretary; Lynn Feldman, WVRS Treasurer; Nick Calello, EMT.



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## WESTFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY LUNCH & LEARN -THE AMERICAN HOUSE IN HISTORY AND IN COLOR

The Westfield Historical Society will present the opening program for the Westfield Historical Society's 2016-2017 year on September 14th, 2016 at 12 pm at Echo Lake Country Club. Our speaker will be Janet W. Foster and she will be presenting her illustrated lecture which is titled "The American House in History and in Color".

Historic documentation of old architecture tends to show buildings in black and white drawings or photographs. It is hard to appreciate how these buildings actually looked when they were new. Color played an important role in the appearance of these buildings, just as it does now. Most buildings have been updated to follow color fashions, so their original appearance may be surprising to us now. Join us for a lively, fast-paced review of American architectural styles, and the colors that enriched those styles.

Janet W. Foster is an architectural historian and historic preservation consultant with over 30 years of experience with New Jersey's buildings. She studied at the Columbia University Historic Preservation Program, and then founded Acroterion, a preservation consulting firm, in 1983. At Acroterion, she had the opportunity to study hundreds of buildings in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania through preparation of National Register nominations, Historic Structures Reports, historic buildings surveys, and other projects.

All those wishing to attend the luncheon are asked to make a reservation by calling Mary Orlando at 908-233-2930, by noon Monday September 12, 2016. There is a luncheon fee of \$30 (WHS members) or \$35 (non-members), which includes a three course meal, coffee/tea, and gratuity. The luncheon fee can be paid at the door. Westfield Historical Society memberships

will also be available at the door.

Echo Lake Country Club is at 515 Springfield Ave, Westfield, NJ.

For Echo Lake County Club dress code information, visit: <http://www.echolakecc.org>.

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society events, visit <http://westfieldhistoricalsociety.org>



## STEP BY STEP GUIDE FOR WHEN YOUR SPOUSE FILES FOR DIVORCE

By: James McGlew II, Esq.

Whether you have been served with notice that your spouse has filed for divorce, or if you are contemplating filing for divorce yourself, there are important steps anyone facing this scenario should undertake.

The first is to stay calm. This is obviously easier said than done but it is important as many people do or say things while processing this major life change that they later come to regret.

If you have children, take whatever steps necessary to distance them from the proceedings you or your spouse are considering. At this early stage of the process there is no benefit to advise them of the situation and they should not be involved in any discussions between you and your spouse. Children should never be compelled to "choose sides" regardless of their age.

Do not post or share any form of information regarding the situation on social media! While venting about your feelings may make you feel better in the present, any negative and inflammatory comments about your spouse will have a detrimental long-term effect on the disposition your case. Once comments are posted online, even if they are deleted, they are never completely gone.

Do not allow your spouse to intimidate you with threats or claims of withholding access to children or financial support. The Courts are available to you and can resolve these immediate

issues before your divorce is finalized.

Organize and secure any and all financial or other legal or family documents in your possession. These would include prior tax returns, bank statements, credit card statements and retirement account statements. If any person or child suffers from a serious medical condition, secure copies of medical records. The more information you can collect and which does not need to be obtained from a third party such as the IRS, an employer or a bank or credit card company, can save significant costs over the duration of your case. If you and your spouse signed a Prenuptial Agreement, be sure to maintain a copy and provide it to your attorney.

Do not transfer any significant amount of financial assets or property, nor should you incur any major debt. Do not change beneficiaries on any insurance policies or modify your existing health and life insurance coverages. You should also confirm that your spouse has not taken any of these actions.

Lindabury's Family Law Group has decades of experience representing clients in both contentious and civil divorces. 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) 233-6800.

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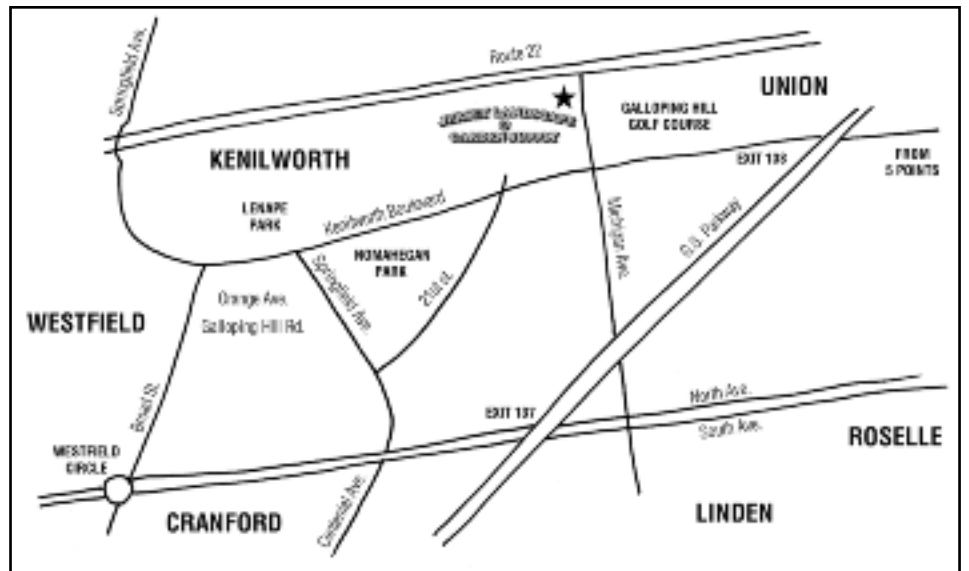
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### 11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Westfield NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale. Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

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## AUBURN TIGERS WIN SUMMIT JUNIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Auburn Tigers won the Summit Junior Baseball League Championship 7-1. The 7th and 8th grade team also won the Regular Season trophy after finishing the Suburban League recreation season 10-2, a full 3 games ahead of the 2nd place team. During the regular season they scored 114 runs and gave up 66

runs.

They were undefeated in the playoffs, going 3-0 while scoring 19 runs and giving up only 3. They had multiple games where every boy had a hit and several games where every boy scored a run. During the regular season they managed to use 8 different pitchers.



(above) Al Lord and John Mencke coached the team. The players included: Bradley Chao, Ronnie Faris, Austin Groce, Jonathan Liang, Charlie Lord, Brendan McDonald, Jack Mencke, Jake Puskar, Palmer Shikany, Gregory Spitznagel and Ryan Tomlin.

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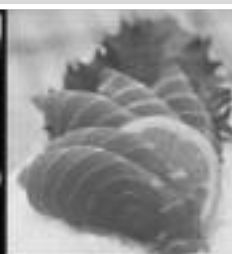
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Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$6.99
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## Town of Westfield

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### Commemoration Ceremony 15th Anniversary of 9/11 WE WILL NEVER FORGET...

Sunday  
6:30 P.M.

September 11, 2016

#### September 11th Memorial Site

North Avenue at East Broad Street  
(rain or shine)

- Opening Comments  
Mayor Andrew K. Skibitsky
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Prayers of Commemoration
- Presentation of Ceremonial Wreath
  - Taps
  - God Bless America
- Silent Reflection and Show of Community Support

## WESTFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT PREPARES ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Westfield Public School students in the “English as a Second Language (ESL)” summer program enhanced their study of English prior to entering first, second, or third grades in September. The eleven participants in the extended school year program are from China, Brazil, Mexico, Ukraine, Germany, India, Philippines, and Russia.

This year, the program focused on learning through the themes of animals and dinosaurs. Inside the classroom, with guidance from ESL teacher Maggie Gonzalez, students described and compared the daily lives and habitats of zoo animals and dinosaurs.

They predicted the sizes of dinosaurs and stood arm and arm in a human chain until they reached the correct calculation based on their research.

In preparation of their trips to a dinosaur museum and a zoo, the students crafted several questions to ask the field paleontologists and zookeepers. To be visible as a group, they designed and tie-dyed their own t-shirts and visors to wear on the excursions.

In addition to Westfield ESL teacher Maggie Gonzalez, the federally funded one week program was taught by former student teacher Elizabeth Fredas. “The purpose of the summer program is to give the students the opportunity to enrich their English language acquisition in a social and academic environment,” explained Gonzalez. “I thoroughly enjoyed working with these motivated learners and was quite impressed with their growth after just one week. I look forward to expanding on these themes in the fall.”



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## ATTORNEY SETTLES HOME EXPLOSION LITIGATION FOR \$975,000.00

Berkeley Heights attorney David C. Bendush announced the settlement this week of a lawsuit arising from a home explosion in Hunterdon County in September of 2014. The blast was caused by a contractor who was converting the home of his clients, from oil to natural gas. The clients were in the home with their infant daughter at the time of the explosion and fire. Davis Heating and Cooling had recently installed gas lines inside the home, and the time of the blast was attempting without success to purge the new gas lines. Large amounts of natural gas were caused to accumulate inside the basement until the gas exploded, nearly levelling the structure and knocking the clients to the ground where they stood. Mr. Bendush litigated the liability issues aggressively, and attained the unusual result of summary judgment for plaintiff on liability based on the legal doctrine of res ipsa loquitur. The defense had little choice but to settle quickly and on favorable terms, in order to avoid a trial.

The initial blast lifted the house off the foundation, blew out windows and doors, and started a fire. Although the clients were tossed about by the initial blast, they sustained no serious or lasting physical injuries, other than emotional distress. Other losses claimed included lost time from work, loss of use of their family home, and damage to portions of a comic book collection which had been stored in the basement. Evidence demonstrated that many original rare and valuable comic books and other collectibles were either partially or totally damaged in the fire.

This litigation was also unique because the homeowners insurance carrier asserted a lien of \$715,000.00 for the damages paid out on behalf of the insured (to demolish and rebuild the house, etc.) , and that lien was reduced significantly with the carrier receiving \$287,500.00 of the overall settlement, leaving the balance to compensate the homeowners for emotional distress and other losses.

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## NOS VINO GRAND OPENING

On Saturday, August 20th, NosVino had their grand opening. Over 100 people attended throughout the afternoon to try free wine samples from Spain and food from local eateries.

NosVino or "Our Wine" specializes in fine wine, sprits and beer and is located at 127 Central Ave, Westfield, NJ. They offer free delivery in Westfield (call for delivery times) and free customer parking directly behind the store.



(above) The Garcia family, Anthony, Alicia, and Erick

## WHEN IT COMES TO PREVENTING SUICIDE, YOU MATTER!

September is Suicide Prevention Month. It's a time when organizations, communities and individuals throughout the nation will bring attention to how each of us can be a part of the solution to end suicide. Can you imagine feeling so hopeless that you'd consider taking your own life? For some what feels unthinkable is optional, and the experience often goes unnoticed and unaddressed. The unfortunate reality is that suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in America; occurs every 12.3 minutes; and, takes the life of approximately 117 individuals on any given day. Those who complete suicide most often suffered in silence and were desperate to end their emotional pain. Experts believe that people don't really want to die, but in a moment choose a permanent solution to solve a temporary problem that felt overwhelming. However, suicide can be prevented and help is available. Therefore, our challenge as a society, neighborhood, family member, friend or concerned individual is to be educated about suicide prevention, and prepared to take action in the event that we find ourselves in the difficult position to assist someone in distress.

It's important to know that we should always take a person serious whenever they suggest they no longer want to live. Also, we must understand that age, ethnicity, gender or economic status does not protect a person from experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviors. It is always right to tell somebody who can partner with you to keep the person safe whether that be a parent,

spouse/partner, adult sibling, teacher, doctor or police officer to name a few. Finally, in a crisis immediately call 911 or the National Suicide Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

There are many opportunities to learn more and equip ourselves with helpful information. A few resources to assist us in our efforts to obtain important knowledge includes: 1) New Jersey Hopeline at 1-855-654-6735 or [www.njhopeline.com](http://www.njhopeline.com) - includes a live chat option; and, 2) National Suicide Prevention Lifeline ([www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)). The list is not exhaustive nor intended to exclude a host of organizations that are invaluable in the effort to prevent suicide. It's simply a beginning step that each of us can take. Suicide prevention is everyone's business. So, speak up, speak out, and speak often because you matter!

Dr. Carla J. Cooke, Licensed Psychologist/Founder and Director of Sanctuary of Hope and Healing in Scotch Plains, NJ.

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# WESTFIELD'S STEM CAMP WOWS MORE THAN 340 STUDENTS

The Westfield Public School District hosted its fourth annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Camp in July for the students of Westfield. More than 340 girls and boys entering grades 3-8 participated.

Three weekly sessions were held to accommodate the growing interest in the program by both boys and girls. Taught by Westfield

School teachers, campers attended one week of STEM experiencing high-quality learning using state-of-the-art equipment and software.

Campers participated in four engaging workshops of choice consisting of hands-on, real-world STEM activities that encouraged them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer

specialists.

Due to the ongoing interest from the community to involve their children in STEM, the camp continually introduces new themed workshops. With a workshop for every interest, offerings included Animatronics & Robotics, LEGO Stop Motion Animation, Forensics, CAD & 3D Printing, Augmented Reality, Transportation Engineering, Food Science, Zombie Apocalypse Survival, Stop Motion Animation, Instrumental Engineering, Scratch Programming, and Videography & Special Effects.

One of the newest workshops this summer was Instrumental Engineering. Campers learned about the science of sound and designed their own musical instrument out of everyday supplies. "There is science and math all around us. Understanding the physics of sound is essential to understanding how musical instruments are engineered. STEM Camp lends itself nicely to blending the two worlds of music and engineering design," stated James Doyle, the Roosevelt Band Director and STEM Camp Instrumental Engineering instructor.

"Every year it is awesome to see how creative, engaged, interested, and capable these campers are," stated Sean Bonasera, STEM Camp Coordinator.

"Getting children exposed to STEM activities at a young age promotes a growth mindset where students feel successful and, at their own pace, learn and build knowledge through meaningful experiences, encouragement, and hands-on learning while still having fun. Here at STEM Camp there is no right or wrong answer. Only the process of problem solving and inquisitive thought matter."



(above) At Westfield Public School District's summer STEM camp, students learn how to prepare slides for use under microscopes during the CSI-themed Forensics Workshop. Led by Roosevelt Intermediate School Science teacher, Andrew Bausch, students at the table include Sophia Silecchia, Gabriella Zerafa, Hannah Burton, Joseph DeMattina, Cody Lam, Evan Alvarez, Aiden Alvarez, Joseph Michaeli, Lincoln Meyers, Erin Doherty, Sienna Pastore, and Quinlan Doherty. They are among the more than 340 campers entering grades 3-8 attending the popular camp, now in its fourth year.

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# RAPHAEL'S LIFE HOUSE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Monday, October 3, 2016, the 13th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit Raphael's Life House, will be held at Colonia Country Club. It is a fun-filled event beginning at 10AM, and the \$225 golf fee includes a full breakfast, barbeque dinner with cocktails, and many exciting raffle prizes and golf contest awards. This year the two "Hole-In-One" prizes are a 2016 Buick from Miller Buick GMC in Woodbridge and a Rolex watch donated by Martin Jewelers in Cranford.

Raphael's Life House, founded by Cranford residents Edie Coogan and Mary Orrico, is Covenant House New Jersey's Mother Child Program, and provides non-sectarian transitional housing for homeless, pregnant women and their babies when born, for up to one year. The goal is to assist the women in establishing an independent living situation for themselves and their babies.

The house shelters 12 women at one time. Each mother shares quarters with her baby in a safe, homey environment. The women in the program are 18-23, alcohol and drug free, mentally and physically capable of caring for themselves and their baby, and willing to obey the house rules while either working or going to school.

Since opening in December 1993, Raphael's House has cared for and housed over 600 women and babies.

Enjoy a wonderful day with friends and colleagues while supporting this worthy cause. The tournament this year is being sponsored by Ruth and Tom Sharkey of Cranford, and there are also several levels of tournament sponsorships

still available, as well as ad pages in the tournament ad journal. All proceeds of the Golf Tournament will be used for the sole benefit of the women and babies housed at Raphael's Life House.

For information on tickets, sponsorships or journal ads, please contact Ann Beams; 908-272-5608 or abeams4@gmail.com.



(above) Ty, a former Raphael's mom who shared her experience at last year's Golf Tournament dinner, is pictured with Cranford residents and golf committee members (l to r): Donna Maginelli, Barbara Bilger, Ann Beams, (Ty), and co-founder of Raphael's Life House, Edie Coogan.

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### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

- 9/13 10:00 am Coloring for Adults-all materials supplied; tea & coffee, too
- 9/17 1:30 pm Design a Modern Victory Garden by Karen Camden
- 9/20 7:00 pm NJ's Economy by Dean Hughes of Rutgers' Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
- 9/23 1:30 pm TGIF! Madness of Jerry Lewis
- 9/24 2:00 pm Special Ed Law-What Parents Must Know by Greer Gurland
- 9/30 1:30 pm TGIF! Classic Movie Week: "Quartet"

### PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Check website for more info  
(Check website for sign up info, dates and eligibility)

- 9/20 & 27 1:00 pm Afternoon Fun for 4's & 5's
- 9/21 & 28 10:30 am Time for 3's Storytime
- 9/22 & 29 10:30 am 2's on Thursday Storytime
- 9/23 & 30 10:00 am Playgroup for Babies up to 23 months

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# BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIME FOR FOSTER YOUTH, TOO

*Westfield residents needed to serve as advocates*

Just as the kids head back to school, you may find yourself with more free time — and thrilled at the possibilities! How about changing the life of an area foster child? Train in Westfield later this month with like-minded locals and enjoy a light dinner, guest speakers and a team of trainers that equip you with all the tools needed to become a successful Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. While many Westfield students happily settle into school routines, buoyed by active parents readying for Back to School Night, there are foster youth without that support system who face educational challenges. Your commitment to their success helps ensure access to an education that meets their specialized needs:

Five-year-old Samantha is severely autistic and almost completely nonverbal. Due to excessive violence in the family home, a concerned neighbor called for help and, after investigation, Samantha was removed from her parents' care and placed in foster care. Although primarily nonverbal, the two phrases Samantha does say graphically depict the violence she witnessed at home and confirm the trauma she endured. Since entering care, it has become clear Samantha also is a victim of educational neglect. At age three, Samantha was entitled to an Individualized Education Plan from the Department of Education to ensure continued in-home speech and behavioral services to move her toward enrollment in a half-day educational program. Unfortunately, Samantha's parents neglected to utilize these services and she is now two years behind others her age! A CASA volunteer can advocate for Samantha's

educational rights and needed services, among other things, and make recommendations to the family court judge that will ensure her best interests remain prioritized.

CASA of Union County is seeking Westfield residents to be the voice for one of the nearly 600 Union County youth, ages 0-21, in foster care through no fault of their own, as there are currently only enough volunteers to serve one-third of those youth. Trained CASA volunteers are sworn in by a judge and empowered to speak to foster parents, teachers, doctors, lawyers, tutors, therapists and more. They visit the youth regularly, incorporate findings into court reports and attend court hearings quarterly, working to ensure best interests are considered and a safe and permanent home is secured as quickly as possible. Although not required, there is a particular need for advocates who speak Spanish.

Fall training kicks off Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016 and includes 10 sessions over several weeks. A swearing-in at the Union County Courthouse by a family court judge and luncheon follows. Training is 6 to 9 p.m. at the County Clerk Building, 300 North Avenue East in Westfield, across from the diner. A light dinner is provided.

Attend an information session to learn more: Evening sessions are Tuesday, Sept. 6 and Wednesday, Sept. 21 at the County Clerk Building in Westfield; morning sessions are 10 a.m. Sept. 9 and Sept. 23 at CASA's offices, 1143-45 East Jersey Street in Elizabeth.

Westfield residents are encouraged to contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org for details or to RSVP for an information session.

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# WESTFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**Westfield Farmers Market**  
September 3, 10, 17, 24

Take a stroll through The Westfield Farmers Market on Saturdays from 8:30 am– 1:30 pm. It's conveniently located on the south side of the Westfield Train Station. In addition to fresh produce, you'll find flowers, organic products, baked goods, local honey, gourmet sauces and spices, fresh pasta, and more. Sponsored by Two River Community Bank.

**27th Annual FestiFall Street Fair**  
September 25

Downtown Westfield will be abuzz on September 25th from 10 am to 5 pm (rain or shine) for the 27th annual FestiFall street fair! Enjoy nonstop entertainment, scores of vendors, fantastic food, a KidZone with rides, games, and activities, and so much more.

Fun for the whole family.

**GWACC & SCC Joint Networking Event**  
September 12th

The Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce and the Suburban Chamber of Commerce will hold a joint networking event at Masker's Barn in the Watchung Reservation from 6 – 7:30 pm. For more information and to RSVP, go to gwaccnj.com/events or call 908-233-3021.

# BARK-A-QUE TO FIND DOGS FOREVER HOMES

Non-profit organization Home for Good Dog Rescue will launch its Sixth Annual "Bark-a-Que," a celebration of the 4,500 dogs the organization has rescued since its inception in 2010, on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 11 AM to 4 PM on the Village Green in Summit, NJ.

The event, which is open to the public, features food and merchandise vendors, family activities, dog contests, including the annual Mr. and Mrs. Bark-a-Que Costume Contest, on-site prizes and raffles, and live music by New York-based rock, funk, and soul band Deep C Revival.

"The support of our local community is really what allows us to keep doing what we do," Rich Errico, Home for Good's co-founder and treasurer, said. "And for the past six years, this fun-filled day has been our way of welcoming all our friends and neighbors back to celebrate the successes they helped create!"

For families seeking to welcome a dog of their very own into their homes, the annual Bark-a-Que also hosts Home for Good's largest adoption event of the year, with last year's festivities placing nearly 30 dogs in loving permanent households.

"It's always so wonderful to see our dogs go home with families who really love them," volunteer Anna Newmark said. "After working with so many of these pups and getting to see their journeys, I always look forward to seeing Bark-a-Que create so many more happy endings!"

Along with inviting the local community and



potential adopters for a day of family fun, Bark-a-Que also reunites Home for Good's southern and local foster families with the dogs they looked after prior to adoption.

"Our foster program is truly our cornerstone," Foster Coordinator Susan Strell explained. "Many of these families have welcomed tens or even hundreds of dogs into their lives, and seeing them reconnect with those animals after they've grown so much is truly a sight to behold!"

The 100-percent foster-based Home for Good Dog Rescue is committed to rescuing dogs from high kill shelters throughout South Carolina and Georgia. Once rescued, all dogs stay in southern foster homes until they are transported to New Jersey for adoption.

For more information on Home for Good Dog Rescue, the Sixth, Annual Bark-a-Que, to see available dogs, or to apply for adoption, visit [www.HomeforGoodDogs.org](http://www.HomeforGoodDogs.org).

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## RAISING RESILIENT GIRLS

On Tuesday, September 27th at 7:30 pm at Edison Intermediate School, the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield will host a program on "Raising Resilient Girls," presented by Simone Marean, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the internationally recognized Girls Leadership (GL). Her engaging presentation, which is open to the public, will cover the development of girl dynamics beginning in preschool through high school years.

This presentation for parents and teachers will focus on how to help girls practice assertive, self-expression, emotional intelligence, and healthy relationships, preparing them for a life of

personal and societal leadership.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn how and why girls of all ages are aggressive with one another, the importance of emotional intelligence for healthy conflict, the role of mistakes and the limitations of blame, the concept of contribution, as well as establishing a road for healthy conflict. The one-hour program will be followed by a 30 minute Q&A session.

To RSVP for the event, which is being sponsored by the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield, please visit [www.girlsleadership.org](http://www.girlsleadership.org) or email [Patty@GirlsLeadership.org](mailto:Patty@GirlsLeadership.org).

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# SEEKING YOUTH TO VOLUNTEER AS YOUTH FACILITATORS FOR IMAGINE, A CENTER FOR COPING WITH LOSS

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, a free grief support center for children and adults coping with loss due to death, is recruiting youth volunteers for its Fall 2016 class of Volunteer Youth Facilitators and for the Imagine Youth Advisory Council (iYAC.) Youth Facilitators provide support to children ages 3 to 12 who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or caregiver while iYAC provides advice, outreach and event support.

Caroline Sullivan, 17, of Cranford, has served as a youth facilitator in one of Imagine's children's groups for a year after attending a one

day, seven hour training. Propelled by her experience as a bereaved child who received support, Caroline is now dedicated to helping other children while they grieve.

The experience thus far has been life-changing. Caroline stated, "Volunteering for this program has given me the opportunity to provide for others the same support and acceptance that was once provided for me. Imagine breaks down the walls that separate us in the rest of our lives and provides a unique space for coping with loss any way that's necessary."

Volunteers come from all walks of life and

need no special background other than a willingness to listen, a heart inclined to serve, and the ability to be with children and adults in pain without trying to fix, solve or give advice. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Volunteers serve as companions and loving listeners for those who are grieving.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support center located in Westfield, New Jersey and serving all of Union County and beyond. Imagine serves children age 3-18 who have had a parent or sibling die, with concurrent support groups for their parents or guardians. Support for children and teens living with a parent or sibling with a life-altering physical illness is also available through Imagine's Coping with Illness program. Free year-round support groups are also available for adults 18 and up who have had a friend, sibling, parent or other important person in their life die, or who have a parent, sibling or friend living with an illness.

If you are interested in learning more about the upcoming training scheduled for September 10, 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., or about Imagine, please contact Connie Palmer, LCSW, Imagine's Clinical Training Director at [connie@imagineinj.org](mailto:connie@imagineinj.org) or 908-264-3100. For information about iYAC contact Program Director Mandi Zucker at [mandi@imagineinj.org](mailto:mandi@imagineinj.org) or 908-264-3100 or visit [www.imagineinj.org](http://www.imagineinj.org).



(above) You too can be a Teen Facilitator! Pictured are our Fall 2015 Teen Training Class members: Conor Larkin-Westfield; Noelle Blackford-Westfield; Sarah Ward-Westfield; Aleacia Jensen-Scotch Plains; Julia Sikora-Scotch Plains; Caroline Sullivan-Cranford, Olivia Turner-Westfield; Julia Salvato-Westfield; Katie Sullivan-Westfield; Imagine Program Assistant Corey Wisler of Scotch Plains; Patrick Sullivan-Cranford; Kimmi Zimmerman-Westfield.

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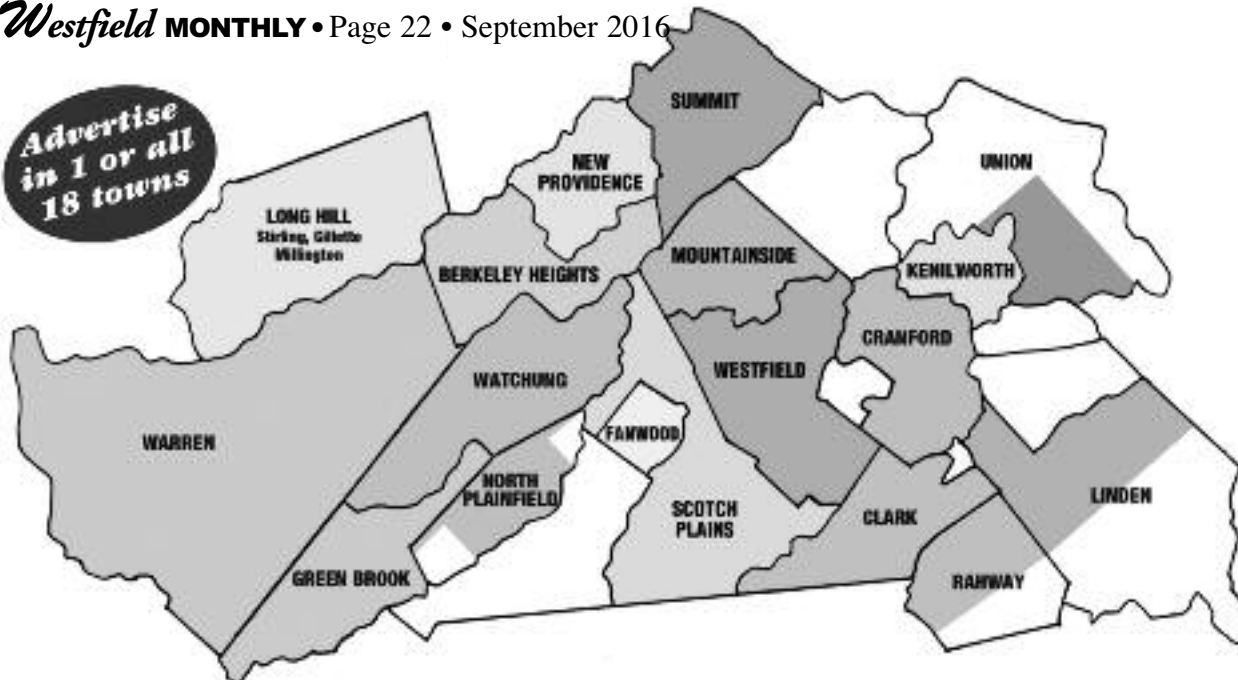
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# TWIST AND SHOUT WITH THE BEATLES

On Friday, September 23rd, the Kenilworth Historical Society will present "Twist and Shout With The Beatles," an exciting, fun-filled evening of Beatles music and a Beatles-themed buffet dinner, at the Kenilworth Veterans Center (33 South 21st Street) from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The event will feature a spectacular live two-hour Broadway-caliber show by the renowned Beatles tribute band "Beatles Faux Sale," which has won acclaim for capturing the voices, style, appearance, instruments and stage setup of the famed Fab Four so authentically and remarkably well as to create the sensation of participating in an actual 1960s Beatles concert. All phases of The Beatles' legendary career and song-writing genius from the Ed Sullivan era to "Sgt. Pepper" and "Abbey Road" are reflected in the impressive repertoire of Beatles music that Beatles Faux Sale will perform live for everyone's listening and dancing pleasure. The band will present Beatles trivia and prizes during intermission, and a 50/50 raffle and gift auction will also take place during the event.

In addition, a special Beatles-themed buffet

dinner, including such musically related selections as Honey Baked Chicken (for "Honey Pie"), Sausage and Peppers (for "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"), Penne Vodka (for "Penny Lane"), assorted submarine sandwiches (for "Yellow Submarine") and Strawberry Field Greens Salad (for "Strawberry Fields Forever"), plus dessert, coffee and tea, will be served during the evening.

Admission to the dinner and show is \$55. Advance reservations (by September 9) are requested. The event seating plan accommodates eight to ten people per table. Early reservations are encouraged to ensure availability and avoid disappointment. For reservations/tickets, please call 908-709-0434, 908-709-0391 or visit Especially Yours Florist (13 North 20th Street, Kenilworth), where tickets for the event also are being sold.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the Oswald J. Nitschke House, local history and culture.

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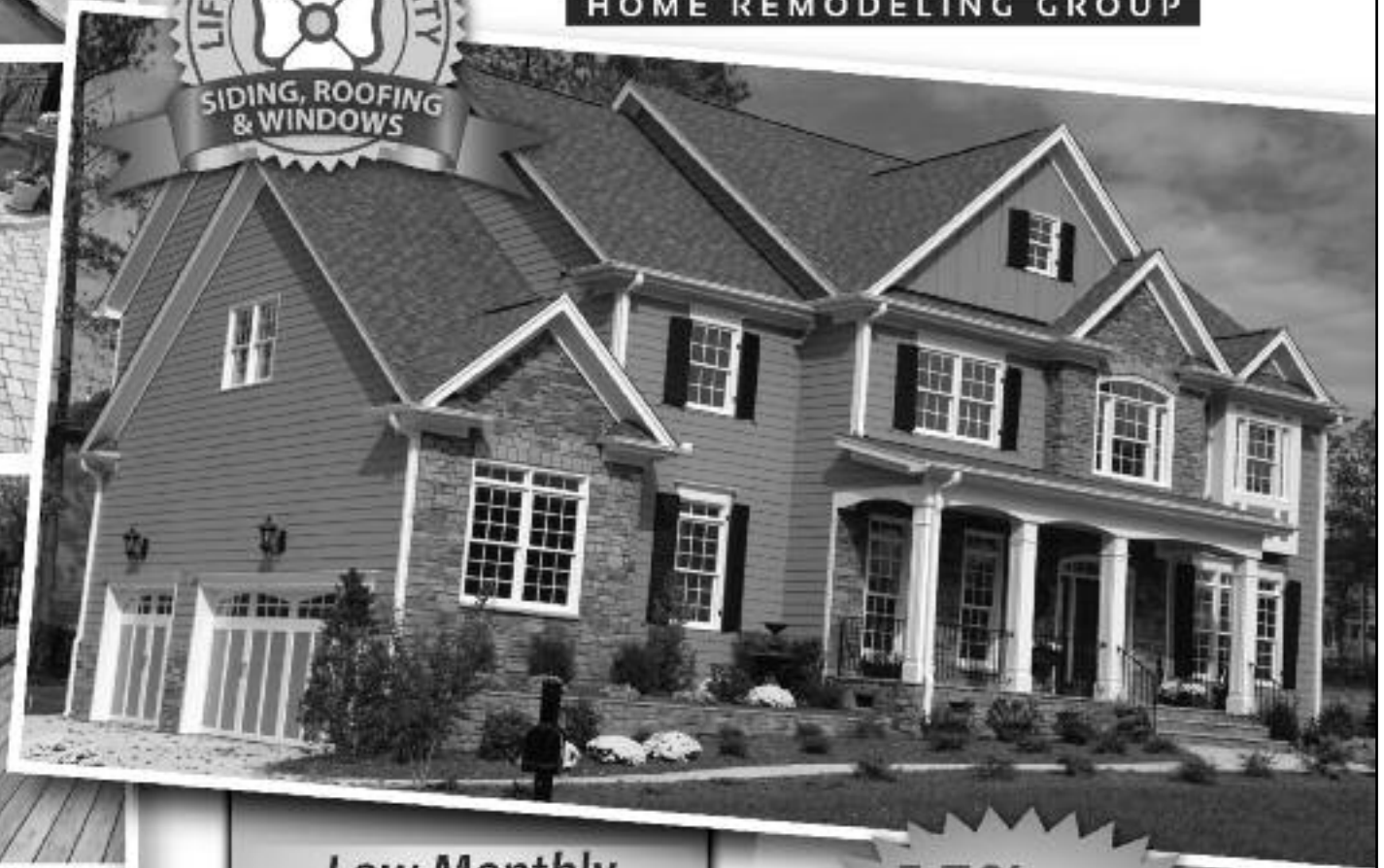


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