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ARNOLD'S

#### Issue 35 • August 2018

### **RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB TENDS COMMUNITY GARDENS**

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#### Submitted by Elizabeth Round

The Junior section of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield recently held their final meeting of the year at the Shadowlawn Pocket Park located at the corner of Shadowlawn and Rahway Avenue in Westfield, NJ.

The Juniors cleaned up the butterfly garden, planted parsley, fennel and dill herb seedlings they had grown themselves, and annual flowers. In addition, they decorated plant identification markers and placed them in the garden.

The Club invites the community to visit this peaceful garden which is designed to provide a nurturing habitat for butterflies and other pollinators.

The Juniors, students ranging from kindergarten through high school, meet monthly after school during the school year to work on projects focused on flower design, gardening and community service.Earlier in the year, the Juniors competed in the Design Section of the Garden Club of New Jersey's Annual Flower Show and won several Blue Ribbons.

At the end of June, several members of the Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield got together to clean up the community garden at the north side of the Westfield Train Station. During the year members of the club also maintain community gardens at Shadowlawn, Miller-Cory House Museum and the Clare Brownell Wildflower Garden at the Westfield Historical Society's Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center. The garden at Shadowlawn includes a butterfly garden which is designed to provide a nurturing habitat for butterflies and other pollinators. This section of the garden is maintained by the Rake & Hoe Juniors. All the gardens are open to the public.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Jeanne Marie Ryan (908-654-0271) or visit the club's website (rakeandhoe.org) or Facebook page



(above) The Rake and Hoe Garden Club's Juniors pictured at the butterfly garden. (back row, l-r) Amanda Saba, Riley Dupuis; (front row, l-r) Arabella Morabito, CJ Strauss, Lexi Strauss, Arlene Bound, Malissa Morabito, Alyssa Stumpf, Lila Spadaro.



(above, l-r) The clean-up crew: Carole Smillie, Kay Cross, Beth Hanscom, Alice Cowell, Richard Pelikan and Jeanie Pelikan; not shown: Nancy Smith and Helen Pasterczyk



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### WESTFIELD VVA #688 LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

The Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter Veteran newspaper. #688 of Westfield is fully immersed in the community, working to promote and support issues important to Vietnam-era veterans.

The service organization invites those who served in Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or were in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, to join them in creating a new identity for this generation of veterans and to change the public perception of Vietnam Veterans.

Some of the activities the Westfield VVA chapter takes part in include making visits to supporting veterans hospitals, veterans memorials and observances, assisting disabled and needy veterans and their families, sponsoring programs for homeless veterans, and presenting patriotic and historical projects in schools.

The VVA also offers Veteran Services, including medical and benefit claims assistance and financial management. Joining VVA allows veterans to connect with other veterans and stay up with the latest news and special events. You will also receive a free subscription to the VVA

Whenever the VVA's Westfield chapter is seeking a helping hand with fundraising and recruiting efforts, Kings supermarket of Garwood has been there for them.

Chapter president Rick Harrison of Roselle says Kings has been a generous supporter of the organization and has regularly allowed the group to set up stations in front of their store at 300 South Ave. in the Garwood Mall.

Kings is also known to support the hunger relief efforts of a number of organizations in Union County, including St. Teresa of Avila Soup Kitchen, Westfield Food Pantry, and more.

The Westfield VVA chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary with a catered barbecue party on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at the American Legion Post #328 in Clark.

Meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the American Legion Post #3 at 1003 North Avenue West in Westfield. The Westfield chapter can be reached by calling 908-416-5930 or emailing rickvva688@aol.com.



(above) Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter #688 of Westfield recently set up a fundraising and recruiting station at Kings supermarket in Garwood. From left to right are John Ferry of Rahway, George Stakovich of Matawan, Ed McElroy of Elizabeth, and Chapter President Rick Harrison of Roselle.



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# **VOLLEYBALL GAME RAISES MONEY FOR THE JAKE TOOLEY SCHOLARSHIP**

Franklin Elementary School staff members teamed up on May 29, 2018 to play a charity volleyball game. The game raised money for a scholarship fund in honor of former student Jake Tooley.

Through ticket sales, concessions, raffles and donations, the best-of-three

series held at the Westfield High School gymnasium raised \$5,807.10 to go to the Jake Tooley Scholarship. The event was organized by 5th grade teacher Daria Gerber. Jake's mother and brother attended and helped to flip the coin to decide which team served first.



(above) Franklin Elementary staff participating in charity volleyball game.

Picture by Westfield Public Schools





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### **KAYLA EGBERTS HONORED AT NJBOE RECOGNITION CEREMONY**

represented Union County at the New Jersey State Board of Education's Annual Recognition Ceremony on May 16, 2018 where she was among students from across the state honored for making significant contributions to their schools, communities, families or others. Among those congratulating Egberts (above, center) on May 16

Westfield High School senior Kayla Egberts were (below, 1-r) New Jersey State Board of Education members Mary Beth Berry of Hunterdon County and Kathy Goldenberg of Burlington County, Union County Education Program Development Specialist Maria Mendez, Westfield High School Principal Dr. Derrick Nelson and Acting Commissioner of Education Dr. Lamont Repollet.



Photo by Westfield Public Schools





### MEHTA AND ZHAO EXCEL IN DEBATE COMPETITIONS

Westfield High School freshmen members of the Westfield Debate Team Mira Mehta and Kailey Zhao were recent quarterfinalists at the 43rd University of Pennsylvania Tournament and semi-finalists at the state championship of the New Jersey Speech and Debate League.

The Westfield Debate Team is a partnership of the Westfield Public School District, the Westfield Parent-Teacher Council Gifted Education Committee and the Westfield Area YMCA. The team consists of 24 members from Westfield High School and Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools, with such Public Forum Debate topics as the repeal of the capital gains tax, authorization of military force and whether college athletes should be paid.



(above l-r) Mira Mehta and Kailey Zhao, WHS freshmen members of the Debate Team. Pictures courtesy of Amisha Mehta.

### NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER BENJAMIN KEVELSON



(above) Westfield High School senior Benjamin Kevelson, pictured here with WHS Assistant Principal Mabel Huynh, has been awarded a National Merit University of Rochester Scholarship. As a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship winner, Kevelson is part of a distinguished group of about 7,500 high school seniors in receiving National Merit Scholarships this year for college undergraduate study.

# **SPAGHETTI DINNER COMMITTEE RAISES \$1,400**

On May 18th the Roosevelt School cafeteria was transformed into an Italian Cafe to host the annual Spaghetti Dinner Committee sponsored by Girls Learn International.

The event raised \$1,400 for the Veerni Institute, benefiting girls in India seeking secondary education and services. There were over 250 participants, guests, and volunteers. The room displayed Italian decor donated by the PTO, giving the look of an Italian cafe complete with floating lanterns, basil pot centerpieces, Italian faire and a placemat from a student artist. Two student jazz bands orchestrated flawless entertainment.

The food was a highlight. The food selection included marinara sauce, bolognese, meatballs, salad, bread and pasta from generous donors including Outta Hand Pizza, Hershey's Deli, Fettle & Fare, Casa De Pizza, Ambeli Greek Taverna, Al's Deli, and Gennero's Italian Restaurant. Guests enjoyed their meals and desserts donated by the student body and PTO.

The event was a success and Mrs. Asfendis, Mr. Gechtman, and the Spaghetti Dinner Team would like to thank all sponsors, attendees, volunteers, and donors! Thank You!



(above) Roosevelt students raised \$1,400 at their Spaghetti Dinner



Photo by Westfield Public Schools.



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Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99				
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#### **FRIDAY - SATURDAY**

Lunch 11am • 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm				
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Kids 7-10\$5.99	Kids 7-10\$7.49				
Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99				
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Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 9/10/18.



### Westfield MONTHLY • Page 10 • August 2018 WESTFIELD GIRLS ICE HOCKEY TEAM RAISES FUNDS FOR IMAGINE

The Westfield Girls Ice Hockey Team recently hosted an event 'Yoga on the Green' to raise funds to support its third season. Over 130 members of the community attended the event at Shackamaxon Country Club. Gina Pachkowski from Alluem Yoga in Cranford lead the group in a yoga class and Marie and Chris Olguin of Space in Westfield followed with singing bowls. The team donated four bean bag chairs to Imagine in Mountainside, which were requested by children that attend the center.

> (right, l-r) Maddie Katz, Maddie McDevitt, Hannah Brogan, Ally Hornstein, and Alex Sumas of the Westfield Girls Ice Hockey Team with bean bag chairs that were donated to Imagine in Mountainside.









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### Westfield MONTHLY • Page 12 • August 2018



(above) Kay Cross, a long time member of the Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, was announced the winner of the Golden Perennial Bloom Award, presented by the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs Inc.

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8/3	1:30	m TGI	P! Maya Angelou. (video)				
8/6	6 2 & 6:30 pm		ign Film: The Midwife French				
8/8	7:00 p	m Rew	ind-Back to Classic Rock				
8/10	1:30 p		GIF! Classic Movie Week: The Monuments Men				
8/13	28 63	0 pm Fore	ign Film: Loveless Russian				
8/22	7:00 p		s Night with planes. Dave is and Rob Paparozzi Duv				
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8/7		10:30 ans	Feeling Crafty? (4+years)				
8/7		7:00 pm	Pajama Storytime & Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Bring your stuffed animal to spond the night at the library				
8/10.	17, 24	11:30 am	Lunch Bunch Storytime All ages				
8/15	8 8/22	3:00 pm	Alternicon LEGO club (3+years)				
8/16		7:00 pm	Family Games Night All ages welcome to play games.				
8/23	& 8/30 10:30 am		Zumba Fun (2+years)				

### KAY CROSS RECEIVES GOLDEN PERENNIAL BLOOM AWARD

The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield has announced that at the Garden Club of NJ's 93rd Annual Meeting on June 7, 2018, Kay Cross, a long-time member of Rake & Hoe Garden, received the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs Inc.'s "Golden Perennial Bloom Award." Selected from among the applicants of 6 state garden clubs and the National Capital Area club, the award recognizes Ms. Cross' almost 40 years of committed service, endless enthusiasm and superior leadership skills in Rake & Hoe, the Garden Club of NJ and of the National Garden Club, Inc.

During her time as a garden club member, Ms. Cross has held many local, state and national leadership positions, become an accomplished floral designer and earned her accreditation as a Flower Show Judge and Master Judge. In addition to these achievements, Ms. Cross was acknowledged for her skill and devotion to mentoring newer members of Rake & Hoe and encouraging them to accept new challenges with skill, enthusiasm and good humor, just as she has done.

"We are delighted that Kay has been honored with this award. It is a timely and well-deserved tribute. Practicing her philosophy has given Kay an outstanding career in the non-profit sector and how lucky Rake & Hoe was to have been one of the principal beneficiaries," said Pat Wilson, Rake & Hoe President.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Jeanne Marie Ryan (908) 654-0271 or visit the club's website rakeandhoe.org, or Facebook page.



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### **BELZ AND CECCIO NAMED OUTSTANDING INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TEACHERS**

Westfield Public School educators Michele Belz and Dominick Ceccio were named Outstanding Intermediate School Teachers for 2018 by the Optimist Club of Westfield and were honored by the Westfield Board of Education on Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

The Optimist Club, a not-for-profit service organization that supports youth and the community, presents awards annually to two Westfield teachers, one each from Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools. Belz and Ceccio, both special education teachers from Edison and Roosevelt, respectively, are the recipients of the 21st annual Optimist award which recognizes the importance of teaching at the intermediate level.

"I congratulate Ms. Belz and Mr. Ceccio for this well-deserved honor," says Superintendent Margaret Dolan. "The Intermediate School Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes teachers who provide an educationally stimulating and

supporting environment during the critical stage effective instructor," a true "professional with her of adolescence."

Michele Belz began teaching at Edison in May 1999, the day after graduating from Rutgers University with a Master in Education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Rutgers as well. Belz has taught all three intermediate grade levels, with most of her time spent in seventh and eighth grade over the past 19 years at Edison.

"Being in the same school for so many years has afforded me the opportunity to come in contact with a number of people, both colleagues and students, who have had a profound effect on my life," says Belz. "I've always enjoyed my job and felt lucky to be in such a supportive, positive place. But this award has made me feel truly privileged to be part of the Westfield community."

Belz is described by those nominating her for the award as a "dedicated, empathetic and



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students' best interests at heart" who has "an excellent demeanor, a selfless and helpful attitude, and commitment to involvement in making [Edison School] a better place." Belz coached the Westfield High School cheerleading team for many years and, in recent years, has been a co-advisor to the Edible Crafts Club at Edison. This is the 22nd year of teaching in the Westfield Public School District for Dominick

Ceccio who began at Roosevelt in 1996. He has remained there since, instructing all three grades, most recently sixth and seventh grade. Before becoming an educator, Ceccio was in sales and marketing for a publishing company.

Ceccio has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Pace University and a Master of Special Needs Education from Simmons College. He serves on the Instructional Council, as 7th grade Field Trip Advisor, and as assistant advisor to the Roosevelt chapter of "Girls Learn International," a non-profit service learning initiative.

"I am honored to have received this recognition. My parents always told me that the more you give, the more you will get back. This award is more proof that they were correct," Ceccio says. "I am lucky to work in a place where teachers are supported by the Westfield Board of Education, administrators, parents, students, and the community at large."

Described as "nurturing and understanding," Ceccio also is praised by a parent for "helping children of all abilities make connections that lead to knowledge, self-confidence and selfworth." Photo by Westfield Public Schools.





(above, top-bottom) Edison's Michele Belz and Roosevelt's Dominick Ceccio are this year's recipients of the Optimist Club's Intermediate School Outstanding Teacher Award.



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### **KENILWORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT CARNIVAL** AUGUST 13-18TH, 2018

The Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Department \$10,000 in past years. will continue its long running summertime tradition of hosting its annual fundraising carnival on August 13 - 18th, 2018.

Stop by St. Theresa's School for lots of rides (kiddie rides too), games, food, music and safe family-friendly fun. Pay-One-Price-Ride-All-Night wristband nights are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Visit the Beer Garden, enjoy a sausage sandwich or grab a bag of zeppoles and try your luck on the Money Wheel. There will be a Super 50/50 grand prize drawing on Saturday night, which has amounted to over

Proceeds benefit the Kenilworth Volunteer Fire/Rescue Support Organization. The Kenilworth Fire Department thanks you for your continued support and hopes to see you and your family there. Like "Kenilworth, NJ Fire Rescue" Facebook updates. on for Visit Kenilworthfire.org.

Carnival hours are Monday thru Friday 6:30 -10:30 p.m., and Saturday 5:30 - 11 p.m. St. Theresa's School is located at 540 Washington Ave., Kenilworth, NJ. One block off of Kenilworth Blvd.



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# WHITECAPS UNDEFEATED SOCCER CHAMPIONS

#### Westfield MONTHLY • Page 15 • August 2018



(above) The Westfield Whitecaps recently completed a 10-0-0 season with an exciting 3-1 victory in the Intercounty Youth Soccer League U12 Boys Flight C Championship Game. (front row l-r) Judah Kim, Brian Polito, Chris Quinn, Cole Marano, Aidan O'Donnell, and Kevin Deegan. (back row l-r) Coach Tom Hatch, Seth Bekker, Owen Williams, Tristan Callow, Cole Mueller, Logan Peterson, Brenton Hatch, Jared Whelan, and Thomas Holland.







Dr. Richard Lukenda's new office is now open and accepting new patients!

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# **ROTARY CLUB OF WESTFIELD'S COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROJECT**

Submitted by Dr. Michael Hart

On Friday afternoon June 8, 2018 at exactly 4 p.m., volunteers started planting trees on Dudley Court, Westfield, New Jersey. By 4:18 p.m. they had planted all 25 trees, faster than one tree per minute, proving that "many hands make light work". 33 people from several different community groups helped hands-on with the project, making it a true community effort to provide trees that clean the air and beautify the town.

The Rotary Club of Westfield brought together



(above, l-r) Township Forestry Supervisor Rob Kosciolek, Mayor Shelly Brindle, Dr. D Michael Hart, and Rotary Club President Phil Salerno.



(above, l-r) Rotarians Dr. D. Michael Hart, Maria Fuentes, Chris Beck, Marta Alexandre, and high school Interact Club member Matt

other community groups to plant the trees as part Alex Caiola, Spencer Linenberg, and Shaan of an international initiative. The Tree Planting Project is an official program of Rotary International (RI) this year. RI President Ian Riseley has challenged every one of the 33,000 Rotary Clubs in 172 countries of the world to plant one tree per member. This means that 1.2 million Rotarians will be planting 1.2 million trees this year.

The project was funded by sources secured by PDG Michael Hart's grant proposals. The Westfield Foundation gave \$2,000, the Rotary Club of Westfield Foundation grants committee donated \$2,210, and the Rotary International District 7510 grant was another \$1,000.

The 14 attendees from the Rotary Club were Marta Alexandre, Jayson Astel, Chris Beck, Sherry Cronin, Maria Fuentes, Deidre Gelinne, Michael Hart, Nancy Jackson, Joe Mindak, Mary Ellen O'Boyle, Phil Richardson, Chung Shih, Warren Rorden, and Blake Width.

The High School Interact Service Club was represented by Matt Doyle.

Boy Scout Troop 77 attendees were Will Arida,

Patel.

Neighbors helping were Dr. Nina O'Connell, Dr. Elizabeth Alger, Michael Saxon, and Cynthia Wolfe. Some of the neighbors made donations to the Rotary Club. One neighbor made her bathroom available, and another provided a cooler of ice with water bottles. One father dropping off his Boy Scout picked up a shovel and helped- dentist Dr. Ken Arida.

Westfield Township Forestry Supervisor Rob Kosciolek of the Department of Public Works had his men helping and had all the heavy equipment and trucks in place necessary for a smooth operation. The Rotary Club commends their organization and professionalism.

The Rotary plans to have a second tree planting over the summer at Jefferson School in Westfield. Volunteers are welcome. The Rotary Club meets the first three Tuesdays of the month (but not July 3rd) on the second floor of the Westfield Y, at 12:15 for lunch. Guests are always welcome. Contact Dr. Michael Hart drmhart@yahoo.com for information.



(above) "Many helping hands make light work" as the Rotary Club of Westfield was joined by volunteers from other organizations and the community to plant trees along Dudley Court. Pictured are some of the 33 community volunteers, including Boy Scouts and neighbors.



(above) Dr. D. Michael Hart planting the first tree.



### **UNCHAINED AT LAST RECEIVES A UNITY AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

Fifteen individuals and seven organizations final restraining order against her ex-husband. recently received the Union County Human Relations Commission's prestigious Unity Award for Achievement, an honor given to role models who dedicate their time and efforts to activities and programs that raise and honor the human spirit.

The awards were handed out during a special presentation held at the Kean University's STEM Building in Union Township on May 7, 2018. The 2018 awards marked the 17th yearin which the Commission has named honorees.

Fraidy Reiss, Executive Director/Founder of the Westfield non-profit Unchained At Last, was presented with the Unity Achievement Award for Achievement by a Community Organization.

Below is preprinted from the event's program. A woman's wedding day is usually one of the most anticipated days of her life. But for too many women and young girls, it is a dreaded day, because they are pressured, bribed, tricked, threatened, beaten, or otherwise forced into marriage. That's when their nightmare begins.

Fraidy Reiss's nightmare began when she was 19 and forced into a marriage filled with violence. With no education or job, living in an insular religious community where only men have the right to grant a divorce, she felt trapped. At age 27, she defied her husband and community to become the first person in her family to go to college, and at age 32 graduated from Rutgers University with a journalism degree, and as valedictorian. She excelled professionally while managing to get divorced, and won full custody of her two daughters, and a

She founded and now leads Unchained At Last to help others like her break free, irregardless of community, culture, or religion...whether married for many decades with many children, or facing an eventual arranged/forced marriage...whether brought here from overseas, or taken from the U.S.A. and brought to another country for such a marriage. Unchained At Last -- a non-profit organization based in Westfield -- is the only of its kind in the United States.

Her goal is simple: To help these women break free and rebuild their lives by providing free legal and social services and emotional support to these women as they work to push forward, regardless of immigration, religion, income status, sexual orientation, or sexual identity.

Her goal is also wonderfully complex: To lead the charge to create social, policy, and legal change to end forced and child marriage in America. Unchained raises awareness and pushes for relevant legislation to protect women and girls in the United States from coercive marriages. The organization leads a growing national movement to end child marriage in America.

Recognized internationally in print and broadcast media as an expert on forced and child marriage in America, Fraidy has also helped to write legislation to end or reduce child marriage that has been introduced and, in some cases, already passed, in multiple states. She has also led Unchained to be named an Organization in Special Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2017.



(above) Fraidy Reiss, Executive Director/Founder of the Westfield non-profit Unchained At Last, was presented with the Unity Achievement Award for Achievement by a Community Organization.









### **JOHN CRONIN RECEIVES YMCA GOLDEN VOLUNTEER AWARD**

At its annual meeting held on June 14, 2018 the Westfield Area YMCA awarded its highest honor -- the Golden Volunteer Award - to Westfield resident John Cronin for his dedicated service, volunteerism and leadership.

The Golden Volunteer Award was initiated in 1973 at the 50th anniversary of the Westfield Area Y to honor individuals for outstanding service to the community and the Y. It is presented annually to a board member or volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional dedication, involvement, and service to the Westfield Area Y and the four core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and caring.

John is a long-time Y member and became a E member of the Board of Directors in 2012. John: is the current Chair of the Westfield Area Y Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Presidents Council. He has participated on numerous committees, served as chair of the <sup>f</sup> Physical Programs Committee and especially enjoys his involvement on the Annual Golf Outing Committee.

He also remains involved in the Westfield

community supporting many local organizations, especially the Westfield Flag football program where he serves as league commissioner.

John is an outstanding ambassador in promoting the Y mission to the community and is extremely deserving of this award.



(above) John Cronin (center) accepts the Award from Mark Elsasser, Westfield Area YMCA CEO and Darielle Walsh, Westfield Area YMCA Board Secretary and Past Chair.







### **CHARITABLE HEARTS AT TAMAQUES**

Jenna Utman (6th and 5th from left, respectively) presented a check for \$4,000 to Ahisha Quallis of the Westfield Neighborhood Council on June 13, 2018 to be used towards a new roof for the community center.

The money was raised during the school's

Tamaques 1st grade teachers Mary Montes and charity volleyball game between teachers and parents last month. Additionally, Montes plans to donate the stipend she received as this year's recipient of the Philhower Fellowship to refurbish a classroom at the center. Montes and Utman will donate their time as well to the project.





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### MARTIN WALLBERG POST 3 PARTICIPATES IN JERSEY BOYS STATE

Submitted by Sharon A. Knight

Martin Wallberg Post 3 of the American Legion in Westfield sent 7 boys to American Legion's Jersey Boys State. Boys State is a civics conference teaching Americanism and is held across the country in 49 states.

This year's Boys State conference was held on June 17-22, 2018 at Rider University. The boys set up a mock local city, county, and state government and are assigned to a political

party when they check in. Participants are either a Patriot (Pat) or a National (Nat). The event ends with the election of a Boys State Governor and two Senators who go on to American Legion Boys Nation in Washington DC, where they meet the President of the United States. While at the conference they attend career seminars, participate in sports, band, and choir.



(pictured l-r) Boys State Co-Chairman Rob Whitehead, Chris Kraemer, Lin Congrui, James Scacifero, Matthew Gomez, Patrick Harnett, Luigi Franzese, Patrick Jackson and Boys State Co-Chairman Jack Ford, .





### **TROOP 77 EAGLE SCOUTS BENEFIT BERNICE'S PLACE**

#### Submitted by Liz Ensslin

Four boy scouts from Troop 77 in Westfield who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout chose Bernice's Place as the recipient organization of their Eagle Scout projects. Bernice's Place is part of the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and has an after school and summer program for elementary school age children who are homeless or at-risk, offering a safe and supportive place to learn and play. All of these scouts chose Bernice's Place because they have been volunteering there since middle school and wanted to help the kids.

Kyle Huber realized that the outdoor area of Bernice's Place could use some cleaning up. For his Eagle Scout project, he installed a new picnic table and benches, and revitalized the yard and garden area. Enlisting the help of the children, he planted the garden with vegetables. Throughout the summer and early fall, the children were able to enjoy and take home fresh vegetables.

"When I saw how much the fresh vegetables and the garden meant to the kids and their families last summer, my family and I decided to replant the garden this spring." Kyle is a senior at Westfield High School and will be attending Purdue University in the fall.

Noah Ensslin designed and built a science cart for his Eagle Scout project. He filled the cart with age-appropriate science experiments that included all materials and instructions so anyone can run the program. According to Noah, "The science program shows the children that science can be fun, and it also lets them see that they can learn on their own if they put their minds to it. I realized that I am able to use my own passions and talents to make an impact on the lives of others, and I am confident that my project will allow other youth leaders to realize they can, too." Noah is a senior at Westfield High School



Four members of Boy Scout Troop 77 received their Eagle Scout awards this year, leading projects to benefit Bernice's Place. (above, l-r) Sean Melone, Joe Ensslin, Carina Grajales (Director Bernice's Place), Kyle Huber, Noah Ensslin





and will be attending Stevens Institute of Technology this fall.

Joseph Ensslin used his passion and enjoyment of music to create a music program for his Eagle Scout project. He collected over twelve musical instruments as well as numerous music stands. He put together a large cabinet for storage of the instruments and materials for the program. He raised over \$1,700 to repair instruments, purchase lesson books and materials, and was able to allocate money to keep the instruments in good working order. As part of his project, Joe formed a club at Westfield High School, "Music for Bernice's Place," where the members go to teach lessons a couple of times a month.

"Music is such an important part of my life," says Joe. "I wanted to provide that opportunity for these kids who otherwise may never have the opportunities with music that I had. It was important to me that my Eagle Scout project was something that would continue past my time, and that's what this program will do." Joe is also a senior at Westfield High School and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Sean Melone saw the need to organize the kitchen area in Bernice's Place where many donations were haphazardly stored. For his Eagle Scout project, he built wooden shelving, moved items into plastic bins for storage and labeled everything. His project increased the overall storage space while making the area more functional. Sean is a senior at Westfield High School and will be attending Stevens Institute of Technology this fall.

Only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted rank of Eagle Scout after a lengthy review process and is the highest rank attainable for a Boy Scout. The requirements necessary to achieve this rank take years to fulfill. Since its founding, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by almost 2.5 million young men. Troop 77 out of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield has 101 scouts who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. For information about Troop 77,

contact Scoutmaster, Donald Pizzi, at donaldmpizzi@gmail.com.



# SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION CONTINUES AT WESTFIELD REC

#### Submitted by Linda Johnson

Programs at the Westfield Recreation Department. Residents are encouraged to get out of the house this summer beginning with our Outdoor Tai Chi program on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at the Mindowaskin Park Gazebo or by joining the "party" with our "LaBlast" Fitness Class on Mondays evenings 7:30-8:20 p.m.! Both programs provide an enriching and fun experience. Drop in and try a class. All are welcomed.

For children ages 5-12, the Recreation Department offers a variety of weeklong half day and full day enrichment camps. For those interested in Designing and Sewing we offer "Fashion First Camp." Participants learn how to sew a piece of clothing from conception to completion. If your child loves LEGOS we offer Lego-Engineering Camps: Intro to STEM and STEM Challenge, Minecraft and Minecraft Master, Jedi and Jedi Master. These are a half day programs designed to keep everyone interested and having fun!



Kids can "Be Active" this summer with our Registration is ongoing for all Summer new Weekly Soccer Classes in conjunction with United Soccer Academy and Weekly USSI Multi-Sports for ages 2-6. Back by popular demand, our USA and USSI instructors who also host weeklong Sports Camps for ages 2 to 14. Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Soccer, Multi-Sports and Golf are just a few offered. There is a camp program for every age, with full and half days and evenings options available. Check out the schedule at www.ussportsinstitute.com.

> You do not need to be a Westfield resident to attend our Traditional Sport Camps/Programs lead by knowledgeable local area coaches. Register now for Tennis (adults & youth), Fencing and Wrestling. These week long half day camps offer a chance to explore a new sport or to improve on a sport your child already enjoys.

> Do you love Amusement Parks? The Recreation Department offers Discount Tickets

to many of the areas attractions such as: Morey's Piers, Great Adventure, Hurricane Harbor, Hershey Park, Dorney Park/Wildwater Kingdom, Clementon Park, Splash Zone, Sahara Sam's Oasis, Casino Pier & Breakwater Beach, Philadelphia Zoo, Adventure Aquarium, DiggerLand USA and Medieval Times. Tickets are purchased at the Recreation Office during business hours and payable only with checks or exact cash.

This summer keep yourself and your family active with a variety of our many programs offered. For additional information, please visit our website: westfieldnj.gov/recreation, or register at register.communitypass.net/westfield, by email recreation@westfieldnj.gov, visit our Facebook page at FaceBook.com/ WestfieldRecreation or contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 908-789-4080.

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