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MUSIC PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

For a second consecutive year, the Westfield Public School District has been named one of the “Best Communities for Music Education” in the nation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

The 2019 Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. The award is based on music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, funding, graduation requirements and community music-making programs.

“I’m very proud of the music department on receiving this honor for a second year,” says Thomas Weber, Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts for Westfield Public Schools. “It is the support of the Board of Education members, administration, teachers, staff, community and our talented students that make this national recognition possible.”

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music.

“I congratulate Mr. Weber and all of our music instructors, conductors, directors and our student musicians for this prestigious recognition,” says Superintendent of Schools Dr. Margaret Dolan. “Each year, many of our talented students are recognized for musical honors which is a testament to the hard work of both our student musicians and our dedicated music staff.”

Recent recognition of the district’s music program include an invitation to the Westfield High School Wind Ensemble to perform at the New Jersey State Band Gala on May 5 at Bridgewater-Raritan High School.

“Each region in the state selects four ensembles to represent them at the state gala event, totaling only 12 bands from all of New Jersey,” says WHS band director Christopher Vitale. “This is only the second time in school history that WHS has been invited which is pretty exciting.”

After rigorous auditions, 15 WHS choral students were accepted to the New Jersey All-State

Chorus. Ninth grader Mia Johnson will perform with the New Jersey All-State Treble Chorus while the following singers will join the New Jersey All-State Mixed Chorus: Juniors Daniel Andrade, Vincent Mora, Lydia Nisita, Elisa Saint-Denis and Rachel Seiden (who scored 2nd in the state); sophomores Luke Barry, Olivia Ebel, Sam Horvath, Zaria Katz, Finn McGurn, Matthew Meixner, Aishik Palit, Elisa Saint-Denis; and freshmen Charles Garretson.

And the WHS Jazz Band recently was invited to play alongside world-renowned saxophonist Jaleel Shaw at the Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair as part of “Students of Jazz Program,” an educational initiative created by the professional jazz band, “One More Once Big Band.”

The WHS jazz band played a 30-minute opening set for “One More Once Big Band.” “It was a unique experience for our young students to perform in a professional environment,” says band director Trevor Sindorf.



(above) Members of the Westfield High School Jazz Band played alongside world-renowned saxophonist Jaleel Shaw (left front) during a recent performance at the Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair as part of a jazz education initiative. Photo by Michael Mullan.



(above) On the heels of performing at a national music festival in Indiana in March, the Westfield High School Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform at the New Jersey State Band Gala in May. Credit: Music for All National Festival. Photos by Westfield Public Schools.

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A MAN OF SERVICE: DR. NELSON NAMED HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL OF MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Submitted by Fiona Gillen, Editor-in-Chief of Hi's Eye

Respected leader. Dedicated service member. Beloved friend. Adored father. Dr. Derrick Nelson, principal of Westfield High School, was a hero—in every sense of the word. His courage, selflessness and integrity inspired the Westfield community and his legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched along the way.

Last month, Dr. Nelson unexpectedly passed away due to complications associated with a stem cell donation in late February. He dedicated his life to his country, to his family, to his students and to those in need. In memory of his service, Dr. Nelson was named Honorary Grand Marshal of Westfield's Memorial Day Parade.

Dr. Nelson's commitment to service began when he enlisted in the Army at 19 years old. He served as an officer in the Army Reserve for more than 20 years and was deployed with the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command to Afghanistan in the summer of 2013. His service earned him the title of Chief Warrant Officer Nelson.

"Dr. Nelson was a true American hero," said WHS Counselor Paul Valenzano. "Whether it was the work he did in education or how he served his country and even the selflessness that led up to this tragedy—all things point to the fact that he was a real American hero."

Service came in all shapes and sizes for Dr. Nelson. Service was fighting for his country and trying to save the life of a young boy he didn't know with his stem cells. Service was also asking for donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital instead of gifts for his last birthday. It was calling students into his office simply to ask how they were doing or being there for his colleagues during difficult times. Service was hosting a barbecue for the entire WHS staff at the end of the summer, running with the track team during practices and bonding with students while breaking out his legendary dance moves at prom.



(above) Dr. Nelson, the Honorary Grand Marshal of Westfield's Memorial Day Parade.

"A selfless gesture can make all the difference in the world to a person," Dr. Nelson said in a 2014 WHS graduation speech. "Most times, being kind to someone can cost you nothing, but it can pay in dividends."

Dr. Nelson's impact is still reverberating—through the hallways where he would sing at the top of his lungs after school, through Kehler Stadium where he would ignite the crowd on game days and through his own home where he would make his 5-year-old daughter smile and laugh. Dr. Nelson showed the Westfield community what it means to be a true hero, inspiring others to strive to do the same.

The Westfield Memorial Day Parade is sponsored by the Town of Westfield and the American Legion.

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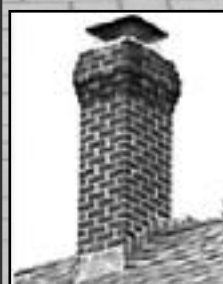
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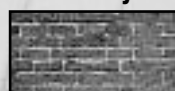
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REGISTER FOR SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUE

The Union County Baseball Association invites baseball players between the ages of 8 and 15 to register for its 2019 Summer Youth Baseball League.

All games are played in Warinanco Park, on the border of Elizabeth and Roselle, Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. The games are coached and supervised by Union County Baseball Association staff. The season will begin in late June and end the first week of August.

Players are divided into three age groups: Minor League 8-10 year olds, Major League 11-12 year olds, and Teen League 13-15 year olds.

The Union County Baseball Association has added indoor clinics to the Summer League program. UCBA staff will utilize the new state-of-the-art Warinanco Park Skating Center, which is equipped with artificial turf and indoor batting cages, to provide players weekly clinics focused on hitting, fielding, pitching, and catching. This added benefit is included with the player registration fee.

The registration fee for the Summer Baseball League is \$50 and players can register online at ucba-nj.org. In-person registration will also be held on June 15th and June 22nd from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Warinanco Park Boathouse.

RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS AND CAMPS

Registration is Open for all Summer Programs at the Westfield Recreation Department. Adult residents can take advantage of the wonderful weather beginning in June with our Outdoor Tai Chi program on Tuesday mornings on the Mindowaskin Park Gazebo. Adults can also enjoy our Tennis classes on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings or try evening class both held at Memorial Tennis Courts.

For the younger crowd, our Enrichment Camps for kids include: Sewing & Fashion Design, Junior Scientist, Creative Kids, Groovy Girls and Tech-gineering. For those who love LEGOS we have five camps: Adventures in STEM with Lego, STEM explorations with Lego, Super Hero Engineering with Lego, Super Hero Master Engineering with Lego and a full day program STEM + Ninjaneering Masters with Lego. NEW this summer, campers can explore movie making with our IncredFlix camp for ages 7-13 and available half day or full day. Young Rembrandts will be offering half day art workshops for ages 3-6 and 7-14 for those interested in drawing.

Kids can "Be Active" this summer in our Weekly Soccer and Sports programs are offered thru US Sports for ages 2 - 6. Back by popular demand our USA and USSI instructors are also hosting week-long sports camps for ages 3 to 14.

There is a camp program for every age, check it out! The Recreations traditional Sport Camps with area coaches are great programs for any athlete at all levels. Register now for Basketball, Flag Football, Tennis (adults and youth), Volleyball (girls & boys), Fencing and Wrestling. NEW this summer are two sports camps for girls completing grades 5 - 8 are Field Hockey and Girls Rugby. Both camps are sure to be fun and informative - all levels welcomed. Please refer to our website for program and camp information at westfieldnj.gov/recreation.

If you are looking for a flexible summer program, then our Playground Program is for you. Playground offers arts and crafts, multiple sports, board games, special days, playground swims at the pool and local trips. Playground runs from 9 - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday and is for Westfield resident children only (grades completed K-8) and new participants require in-person registration.

"Be Active" this summer with one of the programs offered through the Recreation Department! For additional information, please visit our website: westfieldnj.gov/recreation, or register online at secure.recl.com/nj/westfield-nj or contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 908-789-4080, recreation@westfieldnj.gov to obtain a program brochure.

SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUE UNION COUNTY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

All games are played in Warinanco Park, Roselle, Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 12:00pm. Season runs from the end of June until the first week of August. Play is coached and supervised by UCBA staff.

REGISTER ONLINE @ WWW.UCBA-NJ.ORG

Baseball Age Groups

Minor League	8-10 year olds
Major League	11-12 year olds
Teen League	13-15 year olds

New: Weekly Indoor Clinics inside the Warinanco Park Skating Center.

\$50 Registration Fee
Open to all Union County Residents

In-Person Registration

Warinanco Park Boathouse
Saturday, June 15, 2019
Saturday, June 22, 2019
9:00am - 1:00pm

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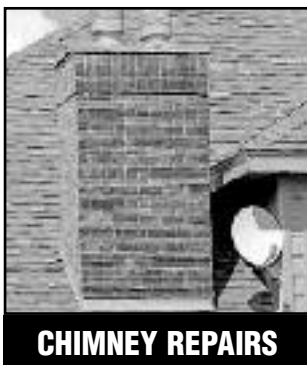




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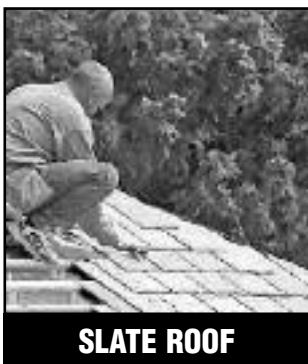
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PETER AND LISA MCNAMARA PRESENTED UNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nineteen individuals and four organizations were recognized by the Union County Human Relations Commission at the 18th annual Unity Achievement Award presentation held on Monday, May 6, 2019 at the Kean University STEM Center in Union Township.

The award recipients were nominated and selected for their philanthropic and volunteer efforts, and for fostering and promoting human rights and dignity among the people of Union County.

The mission of the Union County Human Relations Commission is to actively encourage, develop, promote, and strengthen respect for human rights and cultural diversity among the people of Union County.

The following is reprinted from the event's program.

Unity Award for Achievement by a NonProfit Organization -- Liam's Room / Peter and Lisa McNamara

Recognition for inspiring compassionate care and a comfortable environment for the child and family as they deal with difficult medical situations.

When their infant son Liam was dying from a terminal illness, Lisa and Peter McNamara spent countless hours listening to the blips of monitors as fluorescent lights flickered in a sterile hospital room. Bare, oatmeal-colored walls, tile floors and a hard wooden chair constantly reminded the McNamaras where they were and why they were there. The Westfield couple longed for a comfortable space to care for their son Liam, while attending to his fraternal twin, Nathaniel, and older brother, Trevor. As Liam's condition got worse, his visits to Overlook Hospital in Summit became longer and more frequent and the McNamaras talked about ways to carry on his legacy. Liam died in his mother's arms on March 9, 2007. He was 16-months-old.

Today, the room where Liam often stayed, newly outfitted with plush seating, a PlayStation console and murals of beaches and sea life, opened for families dealing with chronically ill

and dying children.

That was the first such room to be dedicated by Liam's Room Inc., a nonprofit initiative started by the McNamaras to increase the quality of life for terminally ill children and provide support to families whose child is faced with a chronic, potentially life-limiting illness. Liam's Room Inc. raised \$150,000 through donations, grants and fundraisers to convert Room 680 from an inpatient hospital room into a comforting space resembling a child's bedroom in a more home-like environment.

Since then, they have renovated two additional rooms -- one at the Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown, and one at the K. Hovnanian

Children's Hospital in Neptune. The rooms feature many amenities that could be found in a child's bedroom, as well as space for overnight guests.

These rooms, added to the education of hospital staff on pediatric palliative care, truly incorporate the total care of a child's body, mind, and spirit, and provide support to the entire family unit as they navigate through these uncharted and rough waters. A lovely tribute to Liam, his parents, and siblings.

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Unity Achievement Awards. For more information about the Commission, or to make a nomination, please visit its website at www.ucnj.org/uchrc.

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YWCA UNION COUNTY HONORS EIGHT ALLIES

Submitted by Shannon Myre

The YWCA Union County honored eight individuals and organizations for their committed effort on behalf of domestic violence survivors during their Annual Meeting held at the Clark Public Library on April 25, 2019.



(above, l-r) YWCA Board President, Delaine Bailey, Honorees Dana and Ryan Felmet, and YWCA CEO Janice C. Lilien.

Each honoree received a certificate and resolution in their name for their partnership in empowering survivors of domestic violence throughout the county. The honorees were Theresa Cosmas; Sgt. Mahasin El-Amin; Ryan & Dana Felmet; First Presbyterian Church of Cranford; Garden State Bank: A division of New York Community Bank; Annette Ferrigno, Kids For Kids: A Mindfulness Movement; Gail Veltre, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Rahway – Barnabas Health; and Lauren Thorne.

The YWCA's mission is eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Locally, the YWCA Union County is on a mission to empower survivors of domestic violence to become safe and free from abuse through comprehensive, client-centered services, and through education, collaboration and advocacy that builds safe, informed and supportive

communities.

Domestic violence crosses all barriers of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender and socioeconomic status and it is a crime that impacts our entire community. It is estimated that 1 in every 4 women will be affected by domestic violence in her life- more than breast cancer, lung cancer, and ovarian cancer combined. The monetary cost of domestic violence in the United States in dollars has been estimated to exceed 9.3 billion a year in medical and mental health services, loss of productivity, and loss of paid earnings. An average of 3 women per day in the United States are killed as a result of domestic violence.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing domestic violence, call the 24-Hour Hotline at 908-355-HELP (4357). For more information about YWCA Union County's services or how you can get involved, visit ywcaunioncounty.org.

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6/8	2:00 pm	Vietnam Nurse/Amy Colonel MJ Rice
6/14	1:30 pm	TGIF! Bombshell: Hedy Lamarr Story
6/19	7:00 pm	Musician Liz Queller: The Edna Project
6/20	7:00 pm	Fundamentals of Yoga: with L. Harwell
6/21	1:30 pm	TGIF! Itzhak Perlman (video)
6/26	7:00 pm	Eric Mintel Quartet plays Dave Brubeck
6/28	1:30 pm	TGIF! Hello My Name is Doris (movie)

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND TEENS:

CHECK WEBSITE FOR SIGN UP INFORMATION & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. PARENTS/CAREGIVERS STAY WITH KIDS FOR MOST PROGRAMS

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6/10, 11, 18	3-9 pm	Study Hall Hours for Finals
6/12, 13, 17	3-10 pm	Study Hall Hours for Finals
6/12	10:00 am	Pipsqueak Players-Fun with Books 3-5 years old with parent or caregiver.
6/24	10:00 am	"Moonwalk" into Summer Reading. Jump in the Bouncy House! All ages welcome

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT CLUB

Members of the Westfield High School Youth and Government Club recently participated in the 81st Annual New Jersey Youth and Government (NJYAG) Conference, receiving an experiential lesson on civic engagement and responsibility and earning top honors including "Outstanding Delegation."

The three-day, YMCA-sponsored program provides a legislative simulation that has students acting as state senators, assemblymen, justices, lobbyists, members of the media and other political powerhouses.

The honors awarded the WHS delegation included:

Seniors Austin Chen and Justin Joseph and Junior Annie Cerria served as officers for this year's conference. They spent nearly a year helping to organize and eventually run the conference. The WHS Delegation was given an

award for Outstanding Delegation. Sophomore Kailey Zhao received an award for Outstanding Legislation and was elected to an Officer position for next year's conference. Freshman Justin Anderson was elected to an Officer position for next year's conference. Freshman Samara Useloff was awarded Outstanding First Year Delegate. Senior Mark Johnson was awarded Outstanding Lobbyist. Junior Margaret Maguire was awarded Outstanding Press Member. Juniors Morgan

Rollins, Madeline Stack, and Grace Hutchinson were given an award for Outstanding Judicial Brief.

Junior Margaret Maguire and Senior Alexander McGrail were selected to attend the Conference on National Affairs (CONA) in North Carolina this summer. Seniors Justin Joseph, Austin Chen, Nicolas Guerriero, Junior Greta McLaughlin, and Sophomore Kailey Zhao were selected as alternates for the conference.



(above, l-r) Morgan Rollins, Samara Useloff, Maggie Maguire, Madeline Stack, Grace Hutchinson, Greta McLaughlin, Mark Johnson, Kailey Zhao, Justin Anderson, and Shreya Jyotishi.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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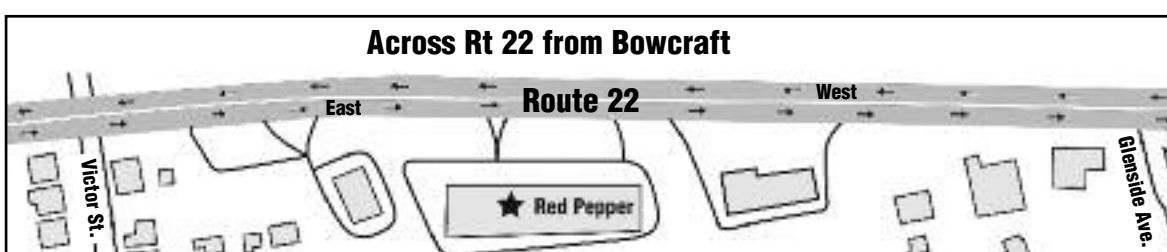
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The Kenilworth Mayor & Council is proud to announce the "2nd Annual Restaurant Week" from Monday, June 3rd through Friday, June 7th, 2019, to spotlight the global cuisines of Kenilworth's renowned restaurants. Diners can enjoy Italian, French, Portuguese, Irish, Thai, Greek, Indian, Mexican and more, thanks to specials and prix-fixe menus from participating eateries.

Kenilworth's Restaurant Week makes dining an experience like no other. This 5-day event is designed to showcase the variety and unparalleled quality of the restaurants in the Borough. It gives food lovers the opportunity to score limited-time lunch and dinner deals at some of Kenilworth's finest restaurants.

"Restaurant week is back and promises to be even better than last year. Showcasing the impact that our local businesses have on Kenilworth's dining scene in creative ways is crucial to boosting our local economy." says

Council President Linda Karlovitch, one of the event organizers. She added, "Locals and foodies already embrace Kenilworth's amazing restaurants and now it's time for others to discover them."

To enhance the experience of Restaurant Week, activities have been included uptown at various locations along the Boulevard from North 20th Street to North 24th Street. Open Mic Monday, showcasing Kenilworth's very own local talent; Wellness events; Boogie Down the Boulevard Thursday and Friday – LIVE MUSIC; Jazz, Pop and original Singer/Songwriters.

Mayor Anthony DeLuca commented, "We are excited to again host this culinary event that promotes Kenilworth's best, while taking the opportunity to get together and reconnect with family and friends."

For more information on participating restaurants, entertainers and activities, visit: www.kenilworthborough.com

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Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm
Adult\$7.99	Adult\$11.99
Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$7.49
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

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COMMUNITY THANKS CROSSING GUARDS FOR VALUABLE SERVICE

More than 50 Westfield crossing guards were recognized at a special breakfast held in their honor at Westfield Town Hall on Friday, April 26, 2019.

The breakfast was sponsored by the B.R.A.K.E.S. Group of Westfield (Bikers, Runners and Kids are Entitled to Safety) and the Parent Teacher Council (PTC) of Westfield Public Schools. School officials, town and police

representatives, and Board of Education members were among those who attended the event to thank the crossing guards for the vital role they play in keeping Westfield students and residents safe.

B.R.A.K.E.S. chairperson Mary Camacho and PTC vice president Donna Kenney presented certificates of recognition and gift cards to each crossing guard. Camacho also thanked local

merchants who donated food and gift items to the breakfast including Bagel Chateau, Baron's Drug Store, Starbucks, and Trader Joe's.

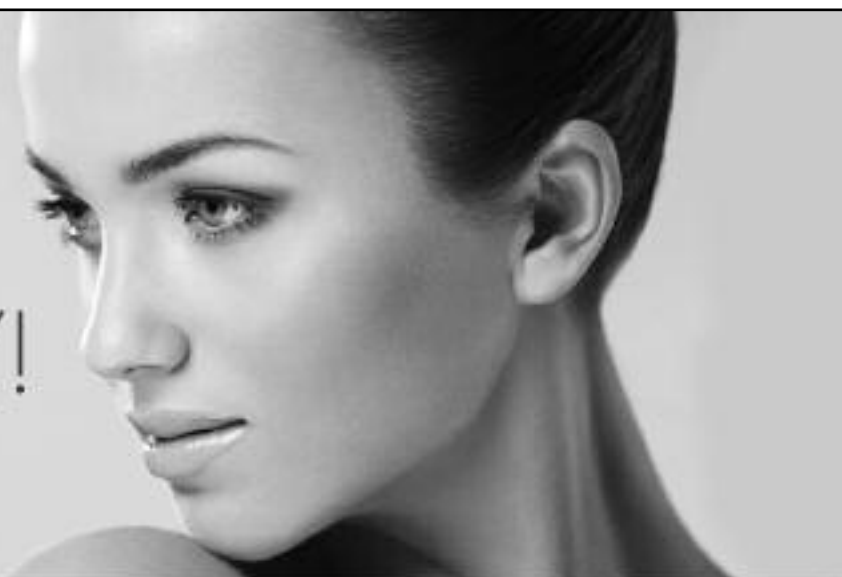
Many of the crossing guards cite retirement and "keeping busy" as reasons they report to their assigned street corner each morning and afternoon. Asked what they like best about the job, all without hesitation say it is the students that make coming to work so rewarding.



(above) Westfield crossing guards were honored for their service to the school district and the community at a breakfast on Friday, April 26, 2019, at Westfield Town Hall.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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MEMBERS OF WHS ORCHESTRA ATTEND UNIQUE DISNEY WORKSHOP

Fifteen members of the Westfield High School orchestra traveled to Disney World in Orlando over spring break to participate in a unique workshop that culminated in a polished recording in a professional studio, as the WHS ensemble performed special Disney music selections, accompanied by footage from a classic Disney film.

The “You’re Instrumental” workshop – part of the Disney Performing Arts Workshop series for which students paid their way by fundraising in advance – examined a number of skills to “increase musical and technical proficiency,”

including sight-reading.

“Our students were able to read through the Disney music catalog and perform with an experienced Disney clinician,” says WHS orchestra director Craig Stanton who, with Roosevelt Intermediate School orchestra director Brice Freeman, accompanied the WHS students on the trip. “As part of ‘You’re Instrumental,’ students were given a tutorial and hands-on professional recording session environment. At the end of the workshop, they were able to record and hear themselves as the backing instrumentals to an actual Disney movie

clip.”

Additional skills that were introduced and reinforced during the workshop included incorporating accuracy and expressiveness to maximize rehearsal productivity; emphasizing intonation, balance and tone quality, while following the conductor’s interpretation; discussing the requirements of a studio recording environment and what is expected of performers; and experiencing what life is like for a professional studio musician.

“It was a fantastic experience for all involved,” adds Stanton.



(above) Westfield High School orchestra.

Photo by Westfield High School Orchestra

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SEA SCOUT OPEN HOUSE - JUNE 8

Submitted by James Zatwarnicki

Are you interested in boating, sailing, or mechanics? Come check out Sea Scouting and let the adventure at sea begin! Sea Scout Ships 228 and 243 of Patriot's Path Council will be holding an open house from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, June 8, 2019 at their sea base located at 4400 Tremley Point Rd, Linden, NJ. The open house will include demonstrations and tours at 10 a.m., a free BBQ at 11:30 a.m., and boat rides from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Sea Scouting is open to both male and female youth member's ages 14-21 who have graduated the 8th grade; we also have a new Maritime Explorer Club for younger youth in 6th to 8th grade. Adult volunteers with maritime experience or captain's licenses are needed too. Join us for a day on the water and bring a friend! Visit our website for more information www.ship228.com.



(above) Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their base located in Linden, NJ. Sea Scouting (Part of the Venturing Program of the BSA) offers young adults the opportunity to travel and learn skills that could be useful in future careers. Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair or visiting a new port on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting. So, try something different, check us out, and prepare yourself to set sail for a real adventure.

WESTFIELD CREW TEAM

Submitted by Sally Susan Heyder

On Saturday, May 4, 2019 the Westfield Crew Team participated in the Long Island Rowing Championships Regatta that was held in Bayville, New York. Our boat was named Dr. Derrick Nelson as a tribute to Westfield High School's amazing and admirable principal.



(above, l-r) Tahani Ahmed, Taylor Dobson, Dan Carminio, Matt Eagan, Jeremy Heyder, Assistant Coach Dave Smelko, and Head Coach Rob Greenwood

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Newark Academy
Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child
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STEPHEN WELLS TAKES OATH TO ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH



(above, l-r) Among the newest advocates for Union County's foster youth are Stephen Wells of Westfield, Elizabeth Bennett of Rahway, Marykate La Bau of Cranford, Miozotty Diaz of Roselle Park, Lisa Betz of Summit, Andrea Balbuena of Kearny, Maryann Kaelin of Clark, Judge Richard Wischusen, Daniela Faibes of Mountainside, Hope Mitchell of Watchung, Samiyyah Muhammad of Linden, Sabrina Stein of Towaco, Nisha St. Louis of Irvington, Marcela Tricanico of Elizabeth, Kristin Steinmetz of Mountainside and Patricia Walsh of Cranford.

Thanks to Stephen Wells, Westfield was among 13 municipalities represented by the 15 newest court appointed special advocates tasked with serving as extra eyes and ears for family law judges on the cases of Union County youth removed from their home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in foster homes or residential facilities. The ceremony was held on April 9, 2019 at the Union County Family Courthouse.

Said Wells, "These children have been disadvantaged from the start; I became a CASA to help the innocent and defenseless, and want to make their world a better place if I can."

After completion of approximately 30 hours' training with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, Wells and his classmates took their oath and were sworn in as advocates and judicial volunteers by Superior Court Judge Richard Wischusen. After completion of three hours' court observation to see seasoned CASA volunteers in action, the new advocates will meet their assigned foster youth or siblings.

The new advocates range from age 23 to 66, are parents and nonparents, and work in such fields as education, nonprofit, and law enforcement, as well as homemakers. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

With court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers incorporate their findings into court reports and work to ensure each youth's needs are met and best interests protected. They are a constant during chaos and work to ensure the youth's trauma is not exacerbated in care.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 are still waiting for their very own CASA volunteer in their corner. Could that be you?

For further details as well as training opportunities, contact Courtney:

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(above) Stephen Wells

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE GRIEF SUPPORT

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss currently seeks volunteers to serve as peer support group facilitators for children and families coping with loss due to death. Upcoming summer trainings will be held June 27-30th and July 26-29th, 2019.

Imagine groups are facilitated by trained adult volunteers who attend a 32-hour training and quarterly continuing education, and receive ongoing supervision. Volunteers come from all walks of life and need no special background other than a willingness to listen and the ability to be with children and adults in pain without trying to fix, solve problems, or give advice. Volunteers must be 21 years or older and attend the Imagine four-day Facilitator Training. No prior experience is necessary.

"For the first time in our seven-year history we have a waiting list," said Mandi Zucker, Imagine Program Director. "As our programs continue to grow, so does our need for volunteers. We are currently serving over 380 participants every two weeks in our peer support programs and will be adding another night of support so we can serve an additional 60 people." Volunteers say the training is "life-

changing" and a wonderful opportunity for learning about themselves and how their own losses have affected the way they grieve and how they support others. People that complete the training leave feeling empowered to be a supportive person to people grieving any type of loss.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support center located in Mountainside and Newark New Jersey, serving 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. Free year-round support groups are also available for young adults 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 trainings scheduled for:

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9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, please contact Mandi at Mandi@imagineinj.org

or visit imagineinj.org to schedule a tour.

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YOUNG GARDENERS WIN BLUE RIBBONS

Submitted by Elizabeth Round

Junior members of the Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield achieved great success at the

New Jersey Garden Club's annual Flower show. The youth won ribbons in various categories, especially for the foliage and flowering plants

they had grown. They also submitted miniature gardens they designed to reflect their favorite book illustrators. In a separate category, they submitted floral designs inspired by great artists or to reflect the theme, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." Overall the Juniors were awarded 19 blue ribbons.

The Juniors also coordinated a children's activity entitled "Make Take." They taught the younger children how to make small "table-top" arrangements using laundry detergent caps that they could take home. This activity was very popular, and many adults also asked to participate in making these small arrangements.

The Juniors, ranging from kindergarten through high school students, meet monthly, after

school during the school year to work on projects focused on flower design, gardening and community service.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield 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 about the club, call Jeanne Marie Ryan 908-654-0271 or visit the club's website, rakeandhoe.org or Facebook page.



(above, l-r) Sophia Poeschi, Lexi Strauss and CJ Strauss at the "Make and Take" Table.

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WOMAN'S CLUB AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO SIX WHS SENIORS

Submitted by Anne Magnotti

At a recent meeting of The Woman's Club of Westfield, held at The Masonic Lodge, six Westfield High School Seniors were each awarded \$2,500 one time scholarships. The ladies of the club all wish these outstanding students good luck and much success in their college days and beyond. The scholarship recipients were Lia Varga, Charlotte Clausen, Nicole Boutiskaris, Daniel Han, Charlotte Moore, and Isabella Cuccaro.

Nicole Boutsikaris is the daughter of Alexandra and Peter Boutsikaris. She has two siblings, sister, Melissa, a student at The College of New Jersey and brother, Christopher who is attending The University of Delaware. Nicole is a member of The National Honor Society and The Spanish Honor Society. AT WHS, she has been President of the Spanish Club, been an Exchange Student, hosting a student from Spain for two weeks and traveling to Catabria for a stay there. Nicole has been Opinion Editor for the WHS newspaper, Hi's Eye and is a member of The National and Spanish Societies.

Charlotte Clausen is the daughter of Elise Maher and Robert Clausen. Her sister, Olivia is a student at Northwestern University. She is a flutist for the Westfield High School Symphonic Band. Charlotte holds the position of President of the young Republican's Club. She participates in a summer High School Intern Program in New York City, working for a financial company. Charlotte participated with a traveling band, taking her to Rome, Venice and Florence with band mates and rehearsed with an Italian Military Band playing in various concert settings across Italy.

Isabella Cuccaro, daughter of Anna and Tony Cuccaro, has been actively involved with playing soccer from the age of six years old, until an injury ended her physical role, so she turned to volunteering with the Westfield Soccer Organization helping disabled children learn the basic skills of the game. Isabella has learned that giving back to the community by teaching kids how to love soccer is very rewarding and results

in the best feeling in the world. She is known for her warm, loving and caring personality who is always ready to help others. Her father has always been a wonderful role model for her, giving words of wisdom.

Daniel Han is the son of Margaret and Frank Han. He is a varsity athlete, running cross country plus indoor and outdoor track. Dan is the Editor of The Hi's Eye, The Westfield High School weekly newspaper and he is a staff writer with Tap Into Westfield, a local news site. He is employed by Wendy's as a coordinator, orderly and front register worker. Daniel is both a YMCA Track and Cross Country Coach. Through school, Dan has been a Church Lector Communion Assistant and Vacation and Bible camp aide. He has played viola in the Symphony Orchestra. After college, Daniel plans to be a writer and journalist.

Charlotte Moore is the daughter of Susan and Dennis Moore. She has spent many hours inside

and outside of the classroom creating artwork and sharpening her skills as an artist. Charlotte is a very dedicated student of art. She has volunteered at the New Jersey Food Bank, been a Transition Leader at Westfield High School, was a student at the Young Entrepreneurs Academy and at The All Stars Project DSY. She works as an office assistant at One Wall Partners, assisting customers in person and over the phone.

Lia Varga is the daughter of Josephine and Honor Varga. Lia has volunteered at a homeless shelter and a food bank. She traveled to the Dominican Republic on a service trip where she helped build a house for a poor man. Lia played Westfield High School Volleyball for three high school years on the Junior Varsity team. She has interviewed Ono Bowl customers and written blogs based on stories they shared with her and has helped guide underclassmen in their path to Confirmation. She plans to attend The University of Delaware.



(above, l-r) The Woman's Club of Westfield awarded scholarships to six WHS Seniors: Lia Varga, Charlotte Clausen, Nicole Boutiskaris, Daniel Han and Charlotte Moore. Not pictured is Isabella Cuccaro.

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GREEN TEAM AWARDED SUSTAINABILITY GRANT

Zero Single-Use Plastics Initiative Expanded Through PSEG Foundation Funds

The Westfield Green Team was awarded a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey capacity-building grant funded by the PSEG Foundation for its recently-launched Zero Single Use Plastics initiative, which encourages residents and businesses to choose reusable bags and straws in an effort to help advance sustainability.

At the May 4, 2019 Earth Day event, The Green Team distributed 600 reusable bags and straws directly to residents to kick off this effort. The grant money now allows for the purchase of several hundred more reusable bags and straws to provide to Westfield businesses to distribute to their customers.

"Our goal is by focusing on both ends of the equation -- shoppers and businesses -- we can significantly lessen the use of single use plastics," said Councilman David Contract, Green Team Liaison.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant to help advance our ongoing sustainability efforts here in Westfield," said Mayor Shelley Brindle. "Thanks to the innovative thinking of our Green Team and their partnership with the Downtown Westfield Corporation, this single use plastics reduction initiative in our Downtown businesses will be an important new step in reducing waste and promoting awareness among residents."

Thirty six grants totaling \$200,000 were distributed to municipalities in fifteen New Jersey counties. The grant awards will fund a range of projects including green infrastructure, park restoration, single-use plastic reduction campaigns, raingardens, environmental resource inventories, creative placemaking, green team

capacity building and more.

"From climate change, to water, waste and equity issues, so many of the big sustainability concerns are reaching a crisis point. This investment in sustainability projects will have lasting benefits to New Jersey," said Randall Solomon, executive director for Sustainable Jersey. He extended his congratulations to all of the towns that received grants. "We're seeing exciting results from previous grant projects, and we are looking forward to similarly productive, innovative progress from the current group of awardees," Solomon added.

The PSEG Foundation has contributed 1.9 million dollars in funding to the Sustainable Jersey grants program for municipalities and schools. "Supporting local municipalities in their efforts to build sustainability programs puts resources where they're needed and aren't always available, and PSEG is proud to do so" said Barb Short, president of the PSEG Foundation. "Sustainable Jersey helps bring real change and has a lasting impact to neighborhoods throughout New Jersey."

Proposals were evaluated by an independent Blue-Ribbon Selection Committee. The Sustainable Jersey grants are intended to help municipalities make progress toward a sustainable future in general, and specifically toward Sustainable Jersey certification. Nearly 90 percent of the New Jersey population lives in a registered or certified Sustainable Jersey community. Currently 450 municipalities, or 80 percent of New Jersey municipalities, are registered with Sustainable Jersey.

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THE SUMMIT OLD GUARD JUNE EVENTS

If you are a retired male and have an interest in living an interesting life with like-minded men... new members are always welcomed. Put on your business casual attire or jacket & tie (or something more casual from May to September) and attend a meeting.

With spring approaching summer, the Old Guard weekly outdoor programs are in full swing, golf every Thursday, weather permitting, at the Summit Muni course, bocce every Wednesday at Nokia Bell Labs, fishing on Mondays for striped bass and then changing for fluke. And as the weather warms up, our canoeing and kayaking programs start.

Of course our weekly series of speakers continue. Meetings are held each Tuesday in the council meeting room of the New Providence NJ Municipal Center at 360 Elkwood Ave, New Providence NJ, starting at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and conversation, followed by programs consisting of stimulating talks.

For more information, contact James Hewitt, Chairman, Membership Committee, (908) 233-5507, info@SummitOldGuard.org. You can also visit summitoldguard.org.

JUNE SUMMIT OLD GUARD EVENTS

JUNE 4 - OVERVIEW OF THE TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE PROJECT

Rich Schrader will discuss the replacement of the old Tappan Zee Bridge covering the history of replacement discussions/actions, the procurement method selected by state, key political and private involvement, major features, design and construction parameters, and current status. Rich, a registered professional engineer, has almost 40 years of professional experience

with some 35 years in engineering and construction. He spent 11 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and taught at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

JUNE 11 - THE GATEWAY RAIL PROJECT

Martin Robins will discuss the necessity of completing the entire Gateway rail because the project is vital to the economic well-being to northern and central New Jersey. Martin led a team responsible for drafting legislation creating NJ Transit, directed the planning for the Hudson-Bergen light rail line and helped found the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University.

JUNE 18 - UNION COUNTY TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Since the early 2000's, Union County upgraded approximately 400 traffic signals on County or Local Roads in Union County. Gordon Meth was involved in the design of these traffic signals in Union County. His presentation will give an overview of some of the considerations facing the design of traffic signals and some of the future possibilities for smarter traffic signals. Gordon Meth is a professional engineer specializing in transportation planning and traffic engineering.

JUNE 25 - PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MY TRAVELS

Stephan Barcan and his wife have traveled extensively over many years and photography is his hobby, particularly travel photography. He likes to take pictures of things unique to those places. He will show selections of photographs taken in his travels to the many countries that he has visited and of course America. Stephan is retired land use attorney in New Jersey for more than 50 years. He now does pro bono work such as immigration, and teaching ESL.



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WESTFIELD TEACHER ANNA CARISSIMO AWARDED PHILHOWER FELLOWSHIP

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

Anna Carissimo, a fourth grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield, is the 2019 recipient of the Rotary Club of Westfield's Philhower Fellowship in recognition of outstanding teaching at the elementary school level.

Carissimo received the award on May 7, 2019 as the guest of honor at the Rotary Club luncheon. That evening, she was presented with a resolution from the Westfield Board of Education at its meeting held at Jefferson School. Jefferson principal Dr. Susie Hung described Carissimo as "a positive role model" who is "highly positive and highly enthusiastic." Parents and colleagues sang her praises, while her students sang a song adapted specifically for Carissimo by Jefferson music teacher Wendy Woodfield.

Carissimo began her teaching career in 1997 after graduating from William Paterson University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Elementary Education. She taught for three years in California with "amazing teachers and administrators who nurtured my career early on." Homesick for her friends and family in New Jersey, however, Carissimo returned to the Garden State and began teaching at Jefferson School in September of 2000.

Carissimo earned her master's degree in Literacy Education from Montclair State University in 2005 and is currently working toward a second master's in Educational Leadership as part of The College of New Jersey's Regional Training Center (RTC)

program.

In nominating Carissimo, one parent noted the varied experiences, interests and learning styles of 4th graders and praised the fourth grade teacher for "differentiating on a level that is above and beyond, seeing her students as individuals, and insisting they become the best that they can possibly be."

Another nomination letter by fellow Jefferson teachers Tania Bizink and Patricia Merlo, who also spoke at the May 7 board meeting, called the 2019 Philhower recipient "undoubtedly the face, heart, and future of Jefferson" who is "well deserving of such an honor." Other letters noted her warm smile, dedicated work ethic, and her willingness to serve beyond the classroom in organizing an afterschool STEAM program and as Jefferson's Safety Patrol coordinator.

Carissimo also credits her Jefferson School family, including Bizink and Merlo who she called "strong, inspiring educators who are my lifelong friends." "The teachers and staff of Jefferson School, each and every one of them are truly amazing people. My recognition is a direct result of their constant support."

The Philhower Fellowship was established in 1993 by the Rotary Club to honor former Westfield Rotarian Charles Philhower and to recognize the importance of teaching in the elementary grades. An educator for more than 50 years, Charles Philhower, who died in 1962, was supervising principal (superintendent) of Westfield schools for three decades as well as co-founder and past president of the Rotary Club of Westfield.



(above) Westfield Superintendent Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan (right) and Jefferson Elementary School principal Susie Hung congratulate Jefferson fourth grade teacher Anna Carissimo, this year's recipient of the Charles Philhower Fellowship Award which recognizes outstanding elementary school teachers.



(above) Jefferson 4th graders surround their teacher, Anna Carissimo, as she is honored at May 7 Board of Education meeting as the recipient of the 2019 Charles Philhower Fellowship Award which recognizes outstanding elementary school teachers.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools

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WESTFIELD MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
DECLARES MUNICIPALITY A STIGMA-FREE ZONE

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), stigma harms the 1 in 5 Americans affected by mental health conditions by shaming them into silence and preventing them from seeking help. At the May 7, 2019 Westfield Town Council meeting, Mayor Brindle issued a proclamation declaring Westfield a Stigma-Free Zone, which is intended to help pave the way for residents to get the mental health resources they need without judgment.

“Our goal here is to create an environment where residents will feel free to seek treatment for the disease of mental illness without the fear of being stigmatized,” said Brindle. “I’m grateful to our Mental Health Commission for spearheading this effort as part of a larger

conversation to shift the social and systemic barriers for those living with mental health conditions.”

Formed in late 2018, the Mental Health Commission is tasked with the creation of a comprehensive mental health support system for the Westfield community that promotes lifelong mental wellness, educates the public, and ensures access to available resources. It is comprised of a Steering Committee and resident volunteers with a variety of backgrounds and a common interest in facilitating these goals.

The Stigma Free campaign is NAMI’s effort to end stigma and create hope for those affected by mental illness. For more information, visit nami.org, or email the Westfield Mental Health Commission at WMHC@westfieldnj.gov.

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