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## YMCA 5K RUN FOR EVERYONE REGISTRATION OPEN THE WESTFIELD AREA YMCA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO RUN, WALK, ROLL, SPONSOR OR VOLUNTEER AT THE 5K RUN FOR EVERYONE.

*The event will be held Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. and supports special needs programs at the Y.*

The start and finish for the 5K Run for Everyone will be in front of the Main Y Facility at 220 Clark Street. Awards will be given to the top three overall male & female, the top three male & female in each age group and the top three male & female hand cyclists. Participants will have a chance to win prizes and refreshments will be served. Online registration is open through 9/13. Walk-in registrations at the Main Y Facility are available 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. on 9/14 and 8:00- 9:00 a.m. on 9/15. A free Kids Run for ages 8 and under will be held at 9:00 a.m. from Roosevelt School to the Main Y. Registration is required, and all participants will receive a ribbon.

Past proceeds established the Dragonfly Program which offers physical, recreational and social programs for young adults with special needs for free or at minimal cost. This year's proceeds will continue to support Dragonfly and inclusion camp for children with special needs while helping

launch a new socialization program entitled Crafty Crew, adding a second yoga class, a new cooking class and expanding the gardening program to help provide produce to the local food pantry.

Businesses and individuals are invited to sponsor, volunteer or participate with friends, family or coworkers. Tax-deductible sponsorships are available at various levels.

For details and registration, visit [westfieldnj.org/get-involved/5k-run-for-everyone](http://westfieldnj.org/get-involved/5k-run-for-everyone), the Westfield Area YMCA Welcome Center at 220 Clark Street, Westfield, or call 908-301-YMCA (9622).

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Visit [westfieldnj.org](http://westfieldnj.org) to learn more about Westfield Area YMCA programs. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

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*(above) Run, walk and roll! Participants at the starting line of last year's 5K Run for Everyone are cheered on by the community in support of special needs programming at the Westfield Area YMCA.*



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## HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH BACKPACKS FOR LIFE

Submitted by Michael Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years our charity racing team, Operation Rebound, has been sponsored by Backpacks for Life (BFL). This amazing charity is responsible for providing thousands of homeless veterans backpacks full of essential toiletries and personal items. Also, the BFL will seek out veterans in need and help them with housing, food, employment and any other service that will help them live a better life.

The founder of the BFL, Brett D'Alessandro, is a United States Marine Corps veteran and

started this outstanding charity shortly after he returned home from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Brett recalls living out of a backpack during the war and felt a backpack can be a life-saving tool. In just a few years, Brett and the BFL are responsible for making thousands of backpacks for our homeless veterans.

The BFL doesn't just do backpacks, they are committed to helping our disabled veterans by providing them with the necessary resources and life-saving services by participating in various health fairs and PTSD groups. The BFL estimates about 350 disabled veterans have benefited from their resources and outreach. The BFL feels it's easy for a veteran to feel lost in the system. There are amazing resources out there, but it can be overwhelming trying to navigate it alone, so the BFL is there to help and guide the veteran through this agonizing process. What makes the BFL special is they invite veterans into their home and help with filling out paperwork, draft resumes, apply for housing, or whatever else is needed to help the veteran.

The future looks bright for the BFL. They're excited to expand their backpacks distribution and reach even more homeless veterans. As they connect with more veterans' organizations across the country, they will equip even more communities with backpacks.

Their mentorship and coaching process will

soon be accessible online. In this exciting development, veterans from across the country will be able to utilize the organization despite their location. Through this growth, the BFL focus remains on bringing hope back into the lives of veterans.

The BFL is out there every day making a difference and the Operation Rebound Racing Team is lucky to be a part of this incredible charity.

If you are interested with helping the Backpacks for Life please visit their website [backpacksforlife.org](http://backpacksforlife.org).

For more information about New Jersey Veterans Network visit [njvn.org](http://njvn.org).

About Operation Rebound

Operation Rebound is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. For the last two years, our team has made huge strides with suicide prevention simply by building trust and cementing friendships with people in need. It's most important to be honest with each person in crisis and follow up with ways to help them regain purpose in life. Setting goals motivates them to stay on a positive track. If you are interested with joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at [mdbollio@optonline.net](mailto:mdbollio@optonline.net) or call 973-332-1556.



(above) Brett D'Alessandro, Founder of Backpacks for Life

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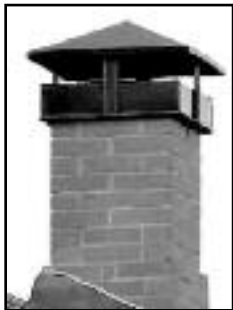


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## FALL PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Registration is open for Fall Programs at the Westfield Recreation Department. Adults are encouraged to get out of the house this Fall beginning with our popular Tai Chi program on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Another energizing program to join is our Aerobics & More classes on Mondays evenings 7:30-8:20 p.m. For both of these classes, all levels are

welcomed. Try a class by dropping in for one session.

Westfield Recreation Department offers a variety of enrichment programs and afterschool classes which include: Sewing/Fashion Design (Thursdays grades 2-5 & grades 6 & up), Cartooning 5-6 p.m. and Pre-School Drawing 4 – 4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays, Creative Art on Mondays at 5 p.m. and Cool Chemistry on Fridays at 5 p.m.. If your child loves LEGOS we offer Lego-Engineering: Jedi Master Engineering for ages 5-12 on Thursdays 4-5 p.m.. We are offering again our popular “Mannerations” courses: Social Etiquette on Oct. 29 and Dining Etiquette on Nov.13. Both courses are an hour program for ages 6-10 and are geared for participants to learn and practice manners & correct behavior in both situations.

To keep your kids active this fall by participating in our Fall Sports Classes with United Soccer Academy and Weekly USSI Multi-Sports. Classes are available for ages 2-11 and are offered in soccer, multi-sports, T-ball and lacrosse. Back by popular demand are our Pre-school Parent & Me classes & Pre-school Sport Squirts classes lead by US Sports Institute. There is a program for every age, with weekdays and weekends available. Check out the schedule at [www.ussportsinstitute.com](http://www.ussportsinstitute.com)

Westfield Recreation also offers Tennis lessons for both youth (ages 3 and up

afterschool) & adults (Thursday & Sunday mornings). For those who want to experience a new sport, try Fencing for boys and girls grades 2-6. Participants will learn the basic positions, rules & techniques of this sport. No prior experience is needed.

For teens, we are once again offering the Safe Sitters Babysitting course. This course is for girls & boys grades 6-9 and will be offered on three dates: Saturday September 14, Wednesday October 9 and Saturday October 26. On Monday September 30, the Rec. is offering for teens a CPR/First Aid certification class. All of these courses require pre-registration.

Females can register for a special event on women & self-defensive “Women’s Protection Workshop”. Run in collaboration with Sensei John Mirrione (Harmony by Karate) and the Rec Department, this workshop teaches simple moves to stand up for yourself and protect yourself in violent or hostile encounters. This workshop is on Sunday November 2, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. and pre-registration is required.

To register online for any of the programs go to <https://secure.rec1.com/nj/westfield-nj> . For additional information, please visit the website [www.westfieldnj.gov](http://www.westfieldnj.gov) or email us at [recreation@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:recreation@westfieldnj.gov) You can also visit our Facebook page or contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 908-789-4080.



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Mountainside Library  
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**Search Mountainside Newcomers Events  
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Lifelong Westfield will host a Senior Activities Expo on Friday, September 20, from 9 to 11 am at Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad Street in Westfield. Seniors seeking social, volunteer and employment opportunities are encouraged to attend to learn about the many local clubs and organizations offering such activities. The event is free and a light breakfast will be served.

Gail Cassidy, a longtime resident and active volunteer, will kick off the event with a talk on "Finding Your Passion in Retirement." Ms. Cassidy is the author of a website and monthly newsletter titled "Retired—Next Phase," which provides helpful information for seniors seeking purpose in later life. Her talk will focus on the four pillars of happiness -- Community, Purpose, Health and Beliefs -- and the action steps seniors can take to find fulfillment.

Following her talk, participants will have an opportunity to visit a wide variety of clubs and organizations offering social and enrichment activities for seniors. Among the exhibitors will

be groups promoting lifelong learning, including the Adult School, College Woman's Club and Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library; art and music organizations, garden clubs, houses of worship, and more.

Local businesses and non-profit agencies with volunteer and part-time employment opportunities will also be represented, including CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), the Downtown Westfield Corporation, RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), and the Westfield Rescue Squad, among others.

Lifelong Westfield is an initiative of the Mayor's Senior Advisory Council to attract and retain seniors, a vital part of our community. This is the sixth event hosted by the group on topics relevant to seniors. For additional information, including a calendar and inventory of senior services, visit [westfieldnj.gov/lifelong](http://westfieldnj.gov/lifelong).

To join the mailing list for the newsletter and notice of future events, please email [lifelong@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:lifelong@westfieldnj.gov).

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## ADRIAN LOBO AND BETH RUDNICK BECOME ADVOCATES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Two Westfield residents — Adrian Lobo and Beth Rudnick — are among the latest community volunteers to successfully train as advocates for Union County youth removed from home due to abuse or neglect, and now living in foster care. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is the only organization serving as extra eyes and ears for family law judges in an effort to protect best interests and ensure needs are met.

Before being sworn in, Lobo shared, "Children are the future of our country and through no fault of theirs, some have been abused, neglected and abandoned. Desmond Tutu said, 'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.' I am motivated and committed to helping these children who deserve a better future." His classmate, Rudnick, takes her oath at a later date.

As the soon-to-be advocates arrived at the courthouse, Judge Richard Wischusen continued his practice of exiting his courtroom to greet and speak with the waiting volunteers. Later, while on the bench during the ceremony, he commended each for their commitment to the community's fragile child victims, and discussed the value of the CASA program to

those children and case stakeholders, noting he always reads the CASA report and seeks their input during hearings.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class, ages 24 to 71, is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including an adoptee, an adoptive parent, former military, immigrants, nonparents and parents, retirees, full- and part-time employees, and undergraduate and graduate students. Professional backgrounds include education, retail, nonprofit, information technology and academia. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

The final step before meeting their assigned foster youth is observation of seasoned CASA volunteers in court. Once assigned to the case, a court order grants access to the child, foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, enabling advocates to make informed recommendations in the child's best interests.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 are waiting for a CASA volunteer. Is that you?

Contact Courtney at [cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org) or 908-293-8136 to learn more.

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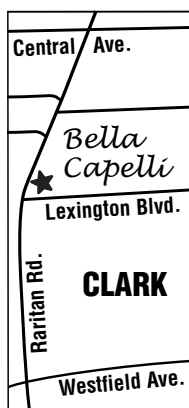


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(above, l-r) Joining Judge Richard Wischusen, center, are Union County's newest child advocates. They are Lisa Riley of Elizabeth, Anuja Bhamere of Berkeley Heights, Diane McCurdy of Mountainside, Adrian Lobo of Westfield, Guitry Banks of Jamesburg, Magdiel Rubiano of Elizabeth, Chris Tobin of Cranford, Victoria Utoh of Union and Karen Villareal of Scotch Plains. Not pictured, Beth Rudnick of Westfield.



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## THREE WESTFIELD AREA YMCA EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM STAFF MEMBERS ACHIEVE 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Submitted by Marla Itzkin

Three Westfield Area YMCA early learning program staff members were recently recognized for 25 years of service: Maria Nierstedt, Preschool Site Director; Catherine Wendel, Preschool Teacher; and Lorraine Wolski, Preschool Teacher Assistant. They join Cathie Brief, Karen McCutheon, Nancy Redlund, Maryann Renfree and Eileen Rooney. Twenty-nine staff members have been at Westfield Area YMCA child care education programs for ten years or more.

“Our experienced staff are great for the program because of the consistency, experience and familiarity. They stay for the love of the children and know they are part of the process of them learning and growing” says Maria Nierstedt. “The new teachers are drawn to the Y when they hear about the longevity of our staff.

They will have the same opportunities to grow professionally through workshops and seminars and be able to express their creativity within the curriculum.”

Westfield Area YMCA Early Learning Programs are located at the Bauer Branch, 422 E. Broad St., Westfield (preschool and full-day Kindergarten), Early Learning Center, YMCA 170 Elm St., Westfield (full-day child care) and the Garwood Family Center YMCA, 500 East St., Garwood (full-day child care and preschool).

The Y is the nation’s leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Learn more about Westfield Area YMCA programs at [westfieldynj.org](http://westfieldynj.org).

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#### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESTRICTIONS\*\*

9/11	7:00 pm	"The Year 1969-50 Years Later" by Evan Weiner
9/14	2:00 pm	Guitar Power with guitarist Anton Del Forno
9/18	1:00 pm	Peak into Fall: Cooking with Victoria Coglianese, RD <sup>®</sup>
9/18	6:30 pm	Secrets of Landscape Photography by Joel Simpson
9/19	7:00 pm	Art of Crossword Construction by Ruth Margolin

#### PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN:

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9/7	10:00 am	Drop-in Chess Club No age requirement but child must know how pieces move.
9/17 & 24	10:30 am	2's on Tuesday Storytime
9/17 & 24	1:00 pm	Crafternoon Storytime 3½ - 5 years
9/17	6:30 pm	Evening LEGO Club 5+years
9/19 & 26	10:30 am	3's on Thursday Storytime
9/21	10:00 am	Paws to Read Beginning readers read to library dogs for 10 minutes each.



(above, l-r) Three Westfield Area YMCA staff members recently reached 25 years of service: Maria Nierstedt, Catherine Wendel, and Lorraine Wolski. Not pictured but also with 25+ years of service are: Cathie Brief, Karen McCutheon, Nancy Redlund, Maryann Renfree and Eileen Rooney. 29 staff members have been at Westfield Area YMCA child care education programs for 10 years or more.

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S OCTOBER FIRST WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON: "The Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe" with Dr. Carole Shaffer-Koros

Submitted by Carol Goggi

As part of The Westfield Historical Society's First Wednesday Luncheon series, Dr. Carole Shaffer-Koros will talk about the many theories surrounding the Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe for October 2, 2019. The event will begin with check-in at 11:45 a.m. at the Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue, Westfield.

Edgar Allan Poe is well known today for his Gothic horror stories as well as his poem "The Raven." Born to popular stage actors in Boston on January 19, 1809, Poe experienced a life of tragedy from his earliest days. His father David Poe deserted the family before the birth of Edgar's sister Rosalie. At the age of three, he lost his mother Elizabeth to tuberculosis, a disease that later killed his brother Henry. Edgar was taken in by the Richmond businessman John Allan, with whom he had a continuing fraught relationship, receiving no inheritance on the death of his foster father. Although he had a large literary output during his lifetime, Poe struggled with poverty trying to support his ailing wife Virginia, who died of tuberculosis at the young age of 24. Desperately seeking female companionship, Poe travelled to Richmond in the fall of 1849 to propose marriage to an old friend. On his return to New York, Poe somehow landed in Baltimore, and on election day he was found on the street disoriented and in a stranger's clothing. Feverish and incoherent, he was taken to Washington College Hospital where he died on October 7, 1849. No diagnosis was made, and scholars have theorized endlessly about the cause of Poe's death. Dr. Shaffer-Koros will discuss some of those possible causes.

Dr. Carole Shaffer-Koros is Professor Emerita of English/History and Founding Dean of the School of Visual & Performing Arts at Kean



(above) Dr. Carole Shaffer-Koros will present a program on "The Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe" during the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society on October 2, 2019 at Echo Lake Country Club.

University. During her 42 years of teaching at Kean, she taught a great variety of courses including World Literature, Asian Literature, Women's History, Spanish and American Literature. She holds a BA in Spanish and Latin American Studies from Douglass College (Rutgers University), and an MA and PhD in Spanish Language and Literature from the University of Pennsylvania. She has published a text on World Literature and scholarly articles on Gwendolyn Brooks, Edith Wharton and Edgar Allan Poe. She has served for 13 years as Treasurer of the Poe Studies Association and is a member of the Editorial Board of The Edgar Allan Poe Review. She is also Treasurer of the Genealogical Society of the West Fields, a Trustee of the Westfield Historical Society and Program Co-Chair.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon may make a reservation by email to westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com; or, by calling 908-654-1794, before Friday, September 27. Please advise if there are special dietary needs. The luncheon fee of \$35 (WHS members) or \$40 (non-members) includes a three-course

meal, coffee/tea, and gratuity. The luncheon fee should be paid in advance (check payable to Westfield Historical Society) by mailing to Westfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 613, Westfield, NJ 07091; or, online at westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/registration.

Payments should be received by Friday prior to the luncheon. Westfield Historical Society memberships will also be available at the luncheon.

The Westfield Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

Echo Lake Country Club is located at 515 Springfield Ave, Westfield, NJ. For Echo Lake County Club dress code information, check out the Guest Information at: echolakecc.org/club.

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and like us on Facebook.

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## IMAGINE'S TEAM OF SUPERHEROES RAISES NEARLY \$25,000 AT DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD 5K & PIZZA EXTRAVAGANZA

Submitted by Val Stierhoff

At this year's Downtown Westfield 5K & Pizza Extravaganza held on July 24, 2019, Imagine, A Center For Coping with Loss, had a team of about 60 people, including approximately 20 children, who raised nearly \$25,000 for the nonprofit. The event was B.Y.O.C.: Bring Your Own Cape, and all the kids wore superhero capes. The hero theme reflected Executive Director Mary Robinson's nomination as a CNN Hero of the Year, but more importantly, highlighted a theme near and dear to Imagine – that all children can be the heroes of their own stories if they grow up in an environment that is open and supportive. Imagine's goal is to be that place that supports children who have experienced traumatic loss – and to create communities that support children, listen to them, and let them know their grief matters.

"It was great to see the kids having so much fun while knowing they were raising money for an important cause," said Mary Robinson, Imagine's founder and executive director. "We've

participated in the run for five years now, and all proceeds raised go to support the kids and families that participate in our grief support programs." Following the event, the team was grateful to enjoy an after-party hosted and sponsored by Keller Williams on Elm Street in Westfield.

### About Imagine

Imagine, A Center for coping with Loss, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, provides year-round grief support for children and young adults using a peer-support group model. Trained adult volunteers and professionals provide children and teens with comfort and the tools needed to process grief resulting from death or life-altering illness. In addition to providing grief support at its two centers in Mountainside and Newark, Imagine provides education in the community, leading workshops and providing on-site support in schools and workplaces where traumatic loss has occurred. Groups, which meet on weeknights, serve children and adults from more than 55 New Jersey towns.




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(above) In rear, Mary Robinson, CNN hero and founder and executive director of Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, holds her cape out in an embrace of Imagine's wonderful team of children participating in the 18th Annual Westfield 5K & Pizza Extravaganza.

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# ANNUAL FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT CENTER FOR HOPE

The Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care auxiliary will present its annual fashion show and luncheon on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Pines Manor, 2085 Lincoln Highway, Edison, NJ. All proceeds will directly benefit the center.

The event is always a sold out affair, featuring a professional show of fashions by Lord & Taylor of Westfield. The parade of prizes includes themed baskets, sports items, household items, jewelry, electronic equipment

and many more. There will be a 50-50 raffle and grand raffle offering a \$2,000 visa gift card, 55" smart HD TV and a \$500 shoprite gift card.

The mission of the auxiliary is to increase public awareness of the valuable services provided by the center and to raise funds to enable them to continue their policy of coverage for everyone in need, regardless of their ability to pay. The cost per ticket is \$65.00. Information and reservations may be made by calling Jo Favor at 908-276-2236.

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## WESTFIELD VVA #688 LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter #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 veterans hospitals, supporting 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 Veteran newspaper.

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](mailto:rickvva688@aol.com).

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# WASHINGTON SCHOOL GYMNASIUM GETS MURAL MAKEOVER

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

There are colorful new murals in the Washington School gymnasium, thanks to a creative collaboration involving 5th graders, parents, and teachers, Westfield High School graphic design students, the Westfield Coalition for the Arts and a nearby graphics art company.

“We wanted to highlight our love of Washington School and the many things that make it such a special place,” says Washington art teacher Diana D’Amico, who spearheaded the mural project.

Earlier this year, D’Amico says, 5th graders formed discussion groups and brainstormed what each mural should look like, submitting sketches to WHS graphic design students who, under the direction of WHS art teacher Roy Chambers,

finalized the drawings and layout. With funding from the Washington PTO and the Westfield Coalition for the Arts, the mural drawings were sent to Signart Graphix in Andover, New Jersey for production.

The ten murals – each a 3x12 adhesive vinyl decal – surround the gym and depict favorite learning moments in Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, and other subjects at Washington. A “Wildcats” mural lists field trips, assemblies, projects, and other events enjoyed by students throughout the years.

At a mural unveiling on April 22, D’Amico told students and staff that the “Wildcats” panel showcasing “favorite school memories will serve to recognize the legacy of learners at Washington School.”

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



(above) Washington School art teacher Diana D’Amico looks on as 5th grader Nicholas Benson speaks at an unveiling of new murals in the school’s gymnasium. “We wanted to highlight our love of Washington School and the many things that make it such a special place,” says D’Amico who spearheaded the mural project.



(above) Ten new murals adorn the Washington School gymnasium, thanks to a creative collaboration of 5th graders, parents, teachers, WHS graphic design students, the Westfield Coalition for the Arts, and a local graphic arts company.



(above) Washington School art teacher Diana D’Amico (center) thanks PTO Co-Presidents Wendy Nitche and Jennifer Moshier for their help with a creative and collaborative murals project that was unveiled on April 22 in the school’s gymnasium.

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# STRENGTHENING SKILLS DURING EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

The Extended School Year Program in the Westfield Public School District focuses on maintaining and strengthening academic skills through the summer to prepare students for the



(above) Drawing and painting as part of an Extended School Year (ESY) program for students identified as those who would benefit from additional instruction and related services in the summer.

new school year. In its 17th year, the five-week, state-mandated ESY program assists students in preschool through high school who have been identified as those who would benefit from additional instruction and related services during the summer.

Instructional specialists in reading, behavior/social skills, speech, occupational and physical therapy join special education teachers, paraprofessionals and a registered nurse in administering the program. Many of the ESY staff are longtime educators and aides with Westfield Public Schools.

“The ESY program prevents significant regression for students who require direct, intensive instruction throughout the summer,” says Andrea Lo, supervisor of special services for preschool to 12th grade. “I applaud the creativity of our staff who provide academic instruction which is engaging and exciting for their students.”

Approximately 32 students in grades 6-12 attend the ESY program at Westfield High School, each with a morning homeroom and a

rotation schedule of core academic classes. Students at the high school program also receive OT, PT, speech, behavioral services and reading instruction through the Wilson Reading System.

Enrolled in the preschool through fifth grade ESY program at Wilson Elementary School are about 130 students who also receive instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics, along with related services, while learning about conflict resolution through an engaging course called Peaceful Playground.

“I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to supervise the ESY program this year. I love seeing how much students have grown over the years and reconnecting with the parents of my previous students,” says TranLe Hill, a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTC) at Lincoln. “ESY is the perfect blend of providing students with the opportunity to maintain the academic skills they learned during the school year and strengthening their social emotional skills within a structured and safe environment.”

The ESY program in Westfield Public Schools runs from July 1 through August 6.



(above) Kindergartners enjoy painting during an Extended School Year (ESY) program in Westfield Public Schools.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



(above) Roosevelt School Counselor Kim Schumacher leads Peaceful Playground, an ESY course on conflict resolution for preschool to 5th grade students.



(above) Students in grades 6-12 attend an Extended School Year (ESY) program at Westfield High School to maintain and strengthen skills.

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# WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT HOST 2019 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Westfield Police Department hosted National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 6th, 2019, on Quimbly Street. The police were joined by the Westfield Fire Department and Rescue Squad for the community building event.

First responders held demonstrations for the kids, and allowed them to explore their vehicles, complete activities, and ask any questions. The night also featured entertainment from live bands performing along Quimbly Street, and free food.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign celebrated by millions of

neighbors across thousands of communities in America to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

Furthermore, it is designed to: Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; Generate support for local anti-crime efforts; Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships; and Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. For more information visit [natw.org](http://natw.org).



(above, l-r) Westfield Fire Department:  
Rich Allocco, Chief Tony Tiller,  
Ryan Dullea, and MJ Sawicki



(above, l-r) Westfield Rescue Squad:  
Steven Corba, Sergio Guzman,  
Chief RJ Williams



above, l-r) Amanda White, Lauren Donaohue, Officer Ricardo Johnson,  
Anna Cioffi and Brynne Burke.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on the Westfield Monthly page on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com). Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



## SCOUT OPEN HOUSES CUB SCOUT OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 12th, 3:15 - 4:45 PM  
Wilson Elementary School,

301 Linden Ave, Westfield, NJ 07090

## BSA TROOP 73 OPEN HOUSE

Monday September 16th, 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
Holy Trinity School,

336 First Street, Westfield, NJ 07090

## SCOUTS BSA OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 22nd, 11:00 a - 1:00 p

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield,  
140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, NJ, 07090

Troops 71, 72, 73 and 772 welcomes all families in the Westfield area to attend their fall open house. Join us to learn more about the program and the opportunity to register as members.

Cub Scouts is a year-round family-oriented program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Pack 171 is an all-boy unit open to boys in kindergarten through 5th grades. Pack 171 is a non-denominational unit that has boys from Wilson Elementary School.

Troop 73 is an all-boy unit that includes boys in 6th through 12th grades.

Troop 72 is for the boys and Troop 772 is for the girls. It open to both girls and boys in 6th through 12th grades.

The troops is a non-denominational unit that has members from all schools in Westfield.

Prospective Scouting families can participate in activities as a family. Some examples of these activities include weekend and summer camping, field trips, fishing, hiking, museum sleepovers and community service. Benefits of Scouting include character development, team building, and personal fitness.

For more information, visit our Facebook page or websites: [westfieldnjpack171](http://westfieldnjpack171), [troop73nj.org](http://troop73nj.org)  
To join now, visit [BeAScout.org](http://BeAScout.org).

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(above, l-r) At STEM Camp, Washington 5th graders Emily Gaeta and Molly McDermott create an animated movie clip, capturing one frame at a time as they painstakingly move physical objects between each frame.



(above, l-r) Roosevelt 7th grader Aashma Pant and Edison 6th grader Jenny Butler team up to design and build robots at STEM Camp.



(above) Campers learn how to score a film clip, composing their own music and sound effects during STEM Camp at Westfield Public Schools.

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## PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING AT STEM CAMP IN WESTFIELD

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

There were drones in the hallway and robots in the classroom, marshmallow toasting in hand-made solar ovens and painstaking stop motion animation, as the Westfield Public School District's STEM Camp concluded a 7th successful summer session on Friday, July 26.

Begun in 2013 with 6 workshops and 150 campers, STEM Camp now offers 15 workshops for more than 400 students in grades 3-8. Course offerings during the three week camp include beginning and advanced robotics, film scoring, cryptology, mechanical engineering, laser engraving, stop motion animation, computer-aided design/3-D printing, and much more.

"I feel the growing popularity of the camp has been due to, not only the fact that we have amazing instructors, but that the kids and parents of Westfield see the value behind hands-on, problem-based learning," says camp director Sean Bonasera, who teaches industrial technology at Edison. "Parents recognize how this type of learning engages and strengthens the mind at a different level than traditional learning while also exposing their children to skills, resources, and technology that they will one day utilize in a future career."

STEM Camp was launched in 2013 after a STEM committee - which included Bonasera and Edison computer technology teacher Laura Paiva, along with other district technology

education teachers and district administrators - designed a program of activities to promote awareness of careers that integrate the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math.

"Our goal is to appeal to all types of interests, so we offer over 10 always-changing workshops for students to choose from. Each offers an insight into a real-world skill or career, but they are also engaging and fun for their particular age group," says Paiva. "Instructors hope to create a spark that will encourage our campers to continue to be thoughtful and creative. It's great when we see return campers who remember what they learned last year, and apply it to what they are doing this year."

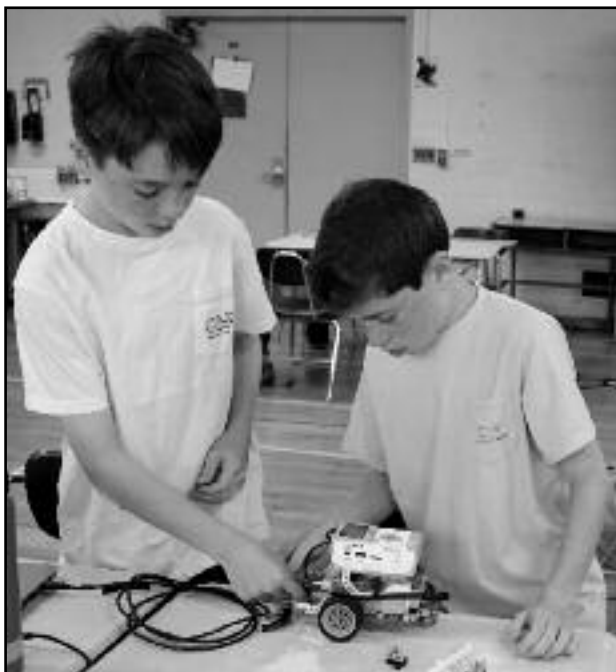
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Programs Paul Pineiro says campers learn by trial and error while directing their own activities.

"They feel free to fail which is an important part of the learning process," Pineiro says.

Pineiro and Bonasera meet each summer at the end of the camp to review the feedback from teachers and families to help determine what courses to offer the following year.

"Visiting STEM Camp is a highlight of my summer," adds Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dolan. "I love seeing our students working collaboratively and creatively to approach a challenge."

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



(above, l-r) Edison 7th graders Brody Henderson and Max Burrick work collaboratively to design and program a robot at STEM Camp in Westfield.



(above) Edison 8th grader Caleb Wiggins observes a drone aloft, after programming its flight pattern during a popular course at STEM Camp in Westfield.

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# NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Submitted by Marcy Lechner

Mark your calendars for an interesting '19-'20 year with the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library. Our programs begin in September with our annual Children and Teen focused Book Sale with donation days on September 23 and 24; the sale runs from Wednesday, September 25 through Saturday, September 28. Now is a good time to go through your book shelves and pull what you would like to donate. We will accept all books in good condition for readers up to the teen age (from baby books to easy readers, picture books to young adult). The sale is a great time to refresh your household or classroom library.

Opera fans will also welcome September as the Season Premier of the New York Metropolitan Opera Series begins on September 25 with Macbeth. Attend this performance and others this season with the Friends Opera Club. The round trip bus transportation takes all of the hassle out of going to the Opera.

In October, the Friends will host a book discussion, which is our book club, on Wednesday the 16 at the library. All are welcome to participate in the book discussion. Also on October 16, the Hale Speaker Series will continue with a talk by Stacey Farley on 'The Art of the Ceramic Tile.' In November there is another book discussion on the 15. Carol Tener returns to the Hale Speaker Series on Wednesday, November 6. Westfield residents enjoyed Carol's 2018 talk so much that they requested her again to continue

her tour of 'Architectural Gems in Westfield.'

Once again the 47th annual Spring Book Sale will happen from April 29 to May 2. This wonderful tradition is a great way for readers of all ages and interests to refresh their book collection.

In between all of these programs visit a New York Area museum via the Museum Pass

Program sponsored by the Friends. Passes are available per the program guidelines at the library circulation desk.

To learn more about these events and programs, volunteer opportunities or to register for a Hale Series Speaker, please visit the Friends website at fwmlnj.org or contact the Friends at info@fwmlnj.org.



(above) Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library celebrate their volunteers at the Volunteer Luncheon in May 2019.

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# ELISHA ISRAEL RECOGNIZED FOR HIGHEST GPA

Submitted by Ingrid Mckinley



(above) Elisha Israel, recipient of the College Woman's Club award for earning the highest GPA

This year's recipient of the College Woman's Club award for earning the highest GPA at Westfield High School is Elisha Israel. Elisha will be attending Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences, in the fall and plans to major in Biological Sciences on a pre-med track.

When asked about her experience at Westfield High School she replied, "I feel lucky to have attended Westfield High School. I learned so much from my incredible teachers who were so committed to their students, and I feel prepared for college. In addition to the academics at WHS, students have so many opportunities to grow in different ways."

Elisha loved being a part of WHS's girls' soccer program for all four years and ultimately became one of the varsity captains her senior year. She also feels fortunate to have been involved with the WSA Soccer Buddies program to share her love of soccer and teach soccer skills to the participants. For the past four summers, she has worked as a camp counselor at Camp Yachad. Elisha had the opportunity to participate in the Spanish exchange program her junior year, and she feels it was one of her most memorable experiences in high school.

"There is so much I will miss about high school, but I am also really excited for these next four years as I head off to college. Thank you to the College Woman's Club for all you do to help young women attend college"

For more information about the CWC, please visit their website: [cwclubwestfield.org/about-us](http://cwclubwestfield.org/about-us).

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# THE ROCK OPERA CHESS WILL OPEN CDC THEATRE'S 102ND SEASON

The 2020-2021 season at CDC Theatre in Cranford will open with the complex rock opera Chess, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of ABBA fame. In the musical the ancient game becomes a metaphor for romantic rivalries, competitive gamesmanship, super-power politics and international intrigues.

The pawns in the drama form a love triangle: the loutish American chess star, the earnest Russian champion and the Hungarian American female assistant who arrives at the match with the American but falls for the Russian. From

Bangkok to Budapest, the players, lovers, politicians and spies manipulate and are manipulated to the pulse of a monumental rock score that includes the international pop hits "One Night in Bangkok" and "I Know Him So Well".

"In addition to Chess being one of the most beautiful musical scores ever written, what excites me about the show is that it is at once a historical representation of the Cold War and a very timely exploration of US/Russia political relations given present day tensions.", said director Edgar Hidalgo. "CDC Theatre is

producing the original London stage version of Chess, with the addition of "Someone Else's Story" from the Broadway production. We are excited to be presenting Chess in association with the New Jersey City University (NJCU). Students and alumni of NJCU are represented on-stage and in the orchestra, and the university's musical theatre and music departments are providing support in other areas of the production."


Information on how to get tickets can be found by visiting [cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org), with the best selections and prices available on-line.

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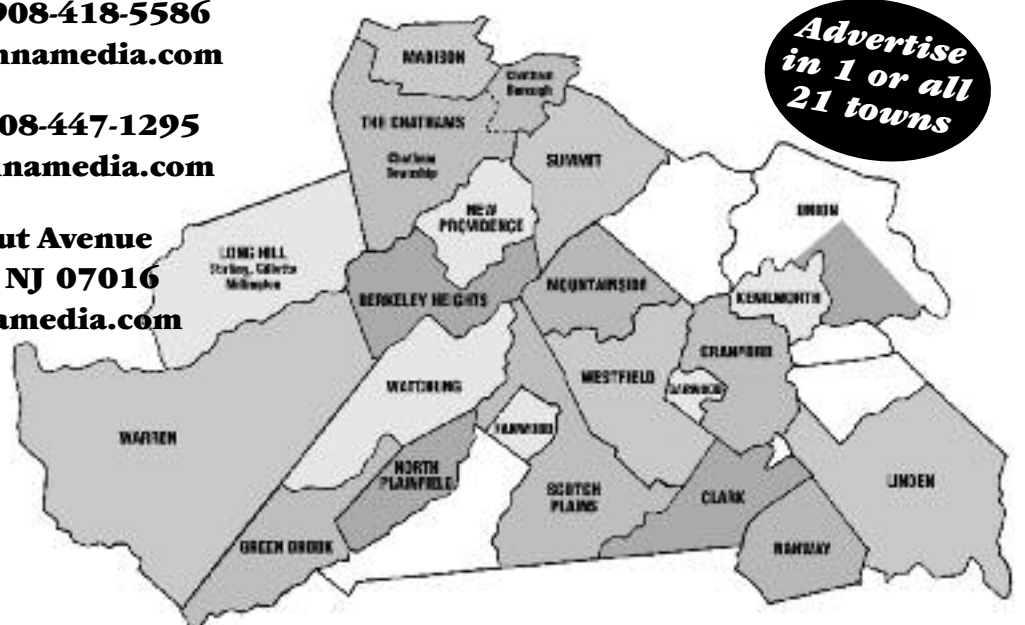
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