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WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PITCH IN TO HELP COMMUNITY

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

Whether donating 10,000 medical gloves to an area hospital, helping to disinfect Westfield police vehicles, or setting up a social media fundraiser to buy grocery gift cards for families in need, the Westfield Public Schools community is pitching in to help during this public health crisis.

Custodial and maintenance crews from the district's Department of Buildings and Grounds are working with the Town of Westfield's Department of Public Works to disinfect municipal offices, police squad cars, fire stations, and other town equipment and facilities.

"We also donated a case of nitrile medical gloves and a case of masks that we had in the school district," says Sean McArthur, district supervisor of buildings and grounds. "I cannot tell you how much we appreciate what all of the Westfield emergency services are doing to keep us safe in the community on an everyday basis, but especially now in our time of crisis."

Having thoroughly disinfected the school buildings as well, the buildings and grounds staff also makes routine checks on the district's buildings to ensure all is safe and well in the absence of a regular school day.

District Coordinator of Health Services Carole Stavitski and her nursing staff arranged for 100 boxes of medical gloves to be delivered to an area hospital. Stavitski had ordered the gloves and other supplies as the COVID-19 infection began to spread. With most of these supplies in huge demand and backordered, only the gloves arrived. The shipment was delivered to the high school on the last day before schools closed for remote learning.

"With the help of Westfield High School head custodian Werner Wolf, Roosevelt Intermediate School nurse Sharon Dorry and her daughter were able to load their car and deliver 10,000 gloves to the hospital," says Stavitski.

Robert Ripper, a member of the high school nursing team, is organizing a drive to collect extra thermometers in good working order to send to healthcare providers. Ripper asks families willing to donate an extra thermometer to seal it in a plastic bag and place the bag in a box outside of his home at 779 Hancock Street in Westfield. His wife, who is an emergency room physician at a hospital in Newark, will disinfect the thermometers before distributing them to healthcare workers.

There are simple, uplifting gestures like elementary principals enlisting families to "brighten up our neighborhoods and our spirits" with the Rainbow Project which invited students to create a colorful rainbow and place



it on a front door or window with the message "Everything is going to be OK!" And WHS math teacher Callie Campbell expanded the idea and now posts both a math joke and puzzle in the windows of her Westfield home for passersby. "I hope the math joke and puzzle bring a smile or chuckle to people in this time of uncertainty while also serving as a fun learning for people of all ages."

The Westfield Parent Teacher Council (PTC) has set up a fundraiser on Facebook to assist local families in buying food and household items. All money raised will be distributed in the form of local grocery store gift cards; families are asked to donate to this link: <https://bit.ly/ptcfundraiserforfamilies>. Please reach out with any questions to westfieldptc@gmail.com.

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RETIRED SCOUTS HELP MAINTAIN BOY SCOUT CAMPS

The Flintlocks repaired the Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers in Stanhope, NJ over the winter. This camp serves the Union County area scouts, as well as Morris, Sussex and Middlesex Counties.

The Flintlocks are retired scouters who volunteer every Thursday at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. All it took was some lumber, some screws and some elbow grease. Since the Flintlocks are all volunteers with outstanding

construction skills, it saves the Council from hiring outside contractors to do the repairs. A small group goes up to Camp Somers on Wednesdays to work over there. Most of the men had fathers who helped the Boy Scouts when they were in the scouts as lads, and have sons and grandchildren who were, or are, in the scouts.

For more information please visit the Facebook Page "Flintlocks", or contact Flintlocks Secretary Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above) The Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers received repairs by the Flintlocks over the winter.

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ACT/SAT PERFECT SCORES

Westfield High School principal Mary Asfendis congratulates 11th graders Eric Palia for a perfect score on the Math portion of the December SAT, and Sean Hazard who achieved top scores on the Science and STEM sections of the December ACT.

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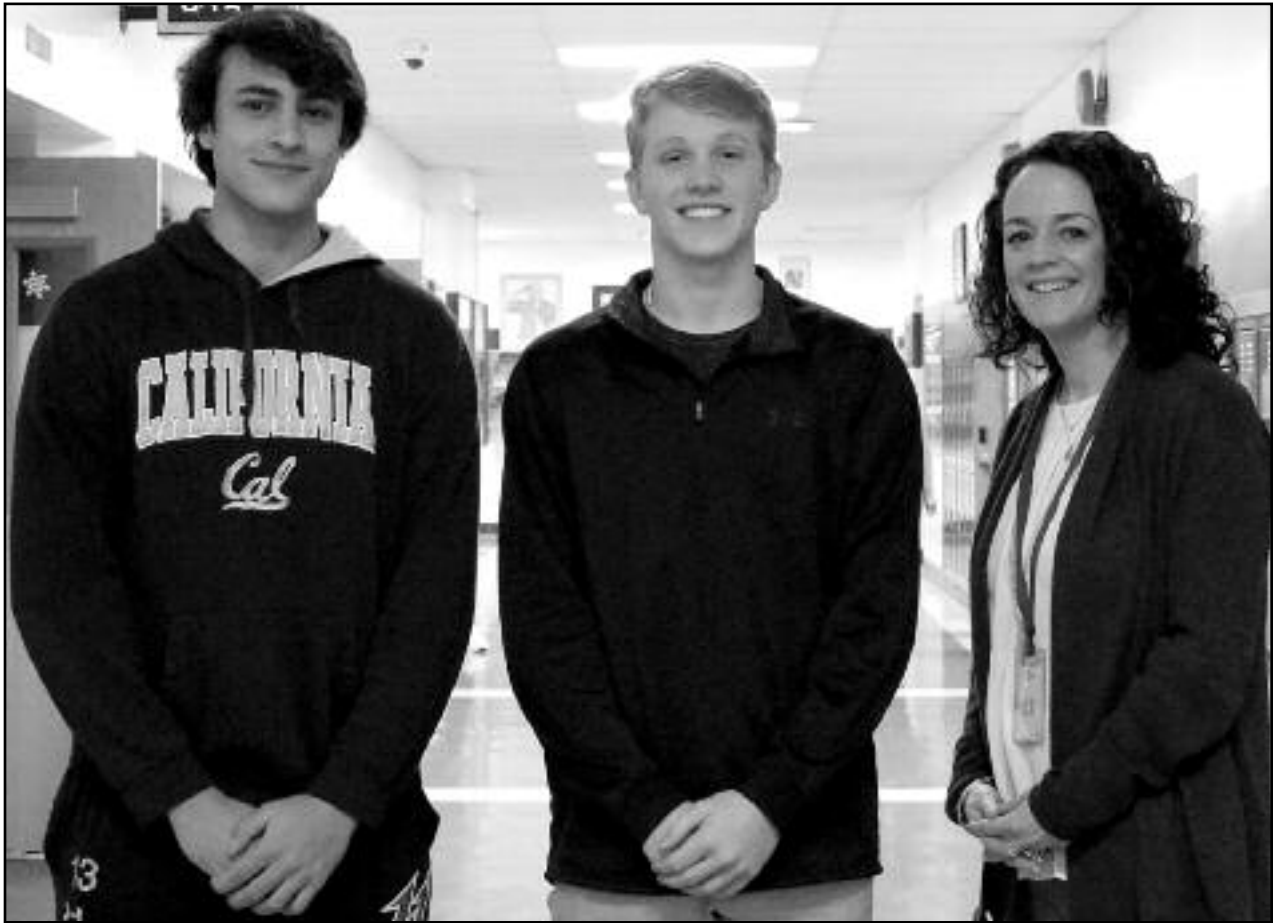


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SECOND WESTFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING SUPPORTS RESCUE SQUAD

The senior citizens of Second Westfield Senior Housing held a fundraising event, "Have a Heart," last February 14 to support the volunteers of the Westfield Rescue Squad for helping those in need. The seniors thanked the squad for their dedication and service, and handed a check in the amount of \$250 to the following squad volunteers: Jennifer Hernandez (EMT), Jason Evans (EMT/Technology Officer), and David Sloan (EMT/President).

The Westfield Rescue Squad has been servicing the town since 1951. All of their trained emergency technicians (EMTs) are volunteers providing services for free and are always available 365 days a year. The squad is supported by the townspeople's tax deductible donations.

Second Westfield Senior Citizens Housing, 1129 Boynton Avenue in Westfield, NJ opened in October, 1995. The building is a three-storied, elevator equipped building for low-income

senior citizens. It is designed specifically for seniors, and meets all of the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Sitting on 8.5 acres of park-like land, it is adjacent to the existing senior citizens building, located at 1133 Boynton Avenue. The grounds were designed with the safety, security and special needs of the residents in mind. The Trustees of the Corporation oversee the development and set policy, subject to federal and state laws and regulations.



(above, l-r) Connie LaFalce and her dog Missy, Yvonne Arbuckle, Jennifer Hernandez-EMT, David Sloan- EMT/President, Jane Barris, Jason Evans-EMT/Technology Office and Ralph Vecchione.

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HICKORY TREE CHORUS ANNOUNCES ANNUAL \$1,000 MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a high school senior woman who has applied for a college music program? Hickory Tree Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, is pleased to offer the \$1,000 Diane Cecala Memorial Scholarship to a musically talented high school senior woman interested in pursuing a career in vocal music. Rehearsing in Stirling, New

Jersey, we are dedicated to teaching, singing, and performing four-part, acappella harmony. Hickory Tree Chorus has awarded an annual scholarship for over 20 years to students from areas in which its members reside.

Qualified high school senior girls with good academic records and exceptional

talent in vocal music are encouraged to apply. Students should also have applied for acceptance into a music program at a college or university. Completed applications and recordings of at least two vocal performances must be received by April 30, 2020.

Details and applications are available on the chorus web site at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, is now accepting applications for their annual \$1,000 music scholarship.

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WESTFIELD RESIDENTS JOIN VOLUNTEER LITERACY TUTOR PROGRAM

Submitted by Nancy Lama

Westfield residents Leah Brown, Carolyn Daurio, Sherry Krakauer and Ken Mirsky are among the ten recent trainees who completed Literacy New Jersey's winter tutor training and are now teaching English as a Second Language classes throughout Union County.

The 15-hour training prepares tutors to work with adults who struggle with reading, writing

and speaking English. Literacy New Jersey tutors work in libraries, schools, and church centers within the county helping adults improve their skills in order to find better jobs, help their children in school, and become more involved in the community.

Literacy New Jersey runs tutor training twice a year, in January and September. The training provides a practical, hands on approach to

working with adults, and includes ideas for materials and activities as well as strategies for lesson planning. Previous teaching experience is not required.

For more information on training and other opportunities at Literacy New Jersey, please call 908-486-1777 or email bbagger@literacynj.org.



(above) Ten new volunteer tutors from Union County have completed their training and joined Literacy New Jersey as English as a Second Language tutors.



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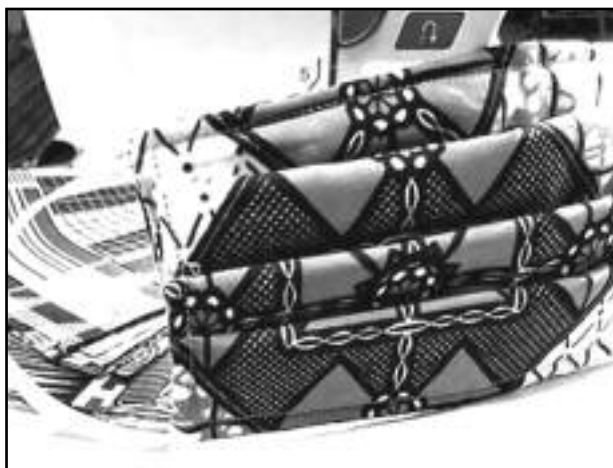
With schools closed indefinitely and an increasing number of work-from-home parents and guardians due to the COVID-19 situation, planning daily activities for your favorite little people will obviously be key for the well-being of all involved!

Once their online schoolwork is complete, try using your own interest in sewing and quilting to keep them occupied. Depending on the age group, they could be happy gluing colorful scraps to cardstock to create collage artwork. Older kids might want to stitch together fabrics in their favorite color (by hand or machine) to make a simple pillow or tote bag.

Whether they've expressed an interest in learning more about the needle arts, or the suggestion is yours, we've gathered a few tips for quilting with children to make the process both fun and successful!

- Keep it simple – begin with quick fabric crafts like bookmarks, sachets, fabric pendants, pouches or a fabric collage that can also become a simple art piece suitable for framing.
- Mending is Trendy! Show them how to creatively mend their clothes and/or add decorative patches and pockets with hand stitching and easy embroidery stitches.
- Take into account the child's personality when planning your quilting session. For younger kids, keep it fun (and safe) by avoiding projects that require precise measuring and cutting. Instead, pull out some precuts from your stash, focusing on the fun of design and the creativity of blending colors and patterns.

- For older kids, or those who are naturally inclined to math and geometry might be open to the more precision-based aspects of quilting, where templates & rulers are used.
- Remember that children's taste levels are more sophisticated than ever; have a variety of fabrics and embellishments available for experimentation. Provide the opportunity to work with batiks and other cool "adult" fabrics that aren't strictly juvenile in design and coloration.
- Let the child work with scraps of one of your own current projects, to create a small "featured block" you can use as the back label for your quilt. The label can include both of your signatures.



(above) Sewers and quilters interested in making their own fabric face masks will also find CE's FREE face mask video tutorial on Instagram @culturedexpressions.

- Remember, creative expression can help to relieve some of the stress of the situation for people of any age – with any luck, you might also create a budding new fiber artist in the process! Have a follow-up project in mind to keep up the momentum and encourage their efforts as they work. The follow-ups can introduce new techniques to gradually increase their quilting skills.
- Stay safe, and keep creating!



(above) AfriCrafts fabric activity kits feature supplies for fun and easy projects for kids – Call Cultured Expressions.866-683-2568 or email info@CulturedExpressions.com.

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WESTFIELD ROTARY CLUB INDUCTS FOUR NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

The Rotary Club of Westfield, NJ was honored on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 to have the Rotary District Governor Ray Freaney come to our club and officiate four inductions. The four new inductees are Heidi Caponigro, Burim Regjaj, Dr. Paul Zhivago, and Glenn Kalinowski.

The Rotary Club is composed of local business men and women who want to network and give back to the Community. We meet the first two Tuesdays of the month for lunch, the third week in the evening, and perform at least one service project a month. We also sponsor four service clubs in the schools. Guests are always welcome. For information, contact Secretary Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com or visit the Club website at westfieldrotary.com.

Heidi Caponigro is the Bank Manager of Haven Savings Bank in Westfield. She has been with the bank for 23 years. Her husband Anthony works for Toyota Logistics in Port

Newark. They have two children and two beautiful grandchildren who are active in sports. Her hobby is spending quality time with the children and helping with their activities.

Glenn Kalinowski was a former member of the Westfield Rotary Club, and looks forward to being an active member again. He was a baker and has recently retired after 42 years. He had been an avid scuba diver, but also likes hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and judo. He likes having time to ride his bicycle again. He has been on a spiritual quest since 1990 and has traveled to several sacred sites throughout the world, and is avid in his faith.

Burim Regjaj escaped from war in the former Yugoslavia in 1992. He worked as a waiter, painter, restaurant manager and doorman to get his college degree in Economics and Finance from Hunter College in NYC. After a few years in finance he switched to real estate. Burim currently manages 222 units worth over a half billion dollars. He also owns a 3D interior

scanning business, and is the owner of Outtahand Pizza on South Ave, Westfield. Burim is the father to two smart and beautiful children and is the luckiest husband to his beautiful wife. His hobbies are travel and hiking, and he loves cooking.

Dr. Paul Zhivago is a board certified prosthodontist- which is a dental specialist in cosmetic and implant dentistry that is also able to do general dentistry. He is the course director of digital dentistry at NYU College of Dentistry postgraduate prosthodontist program. Paul opened Down Town Dental on North Ave in Westfield a year ago. He created innovative workflows in dentistry with 3D software that is mostly used for motion pictures and special effects-(CGI). His wife Eileen is a board certified adult and child psychiatrist that also just recently opened her office in Westfield next to him on Broad Street. They have an 8 year old daughter. Paul's hobbies are snowboarding in the winter and motorsports in the summer.



(above, l-r) District Governor Ray Freaney, new member Heidi Caponigro, new member Burim Regjaj, President Liz Ensslin, Past District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart, new member Dr. Paul Zhivago, Dr. Bill Bonsall, and new member Glenn Kalinowski.



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION SEEKS ENTRIES FOR DEVLIN AWARDS

The Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) seeks entries for the Harry Devlin preservation awards honoring homeowners for outstanding efforts in the restoration, expansion, and maintenance of older properties.

Created in 1993 to encourage the use of established historic preservation standards, the Devlin awards are named for Harry Devlin, a prominent local artist and architectural historian. Any project completed within the past five years that is visible to the public is eligible. Residential, commercial, professional and institutional buildings may be entered. Categories for nomination include:

- Addition or alteration sensitive to original architecture;
- Restoration or repair of original or existing improvement;
- Period-appropriate painting or residing;
- Adaptive reuse of a property in a manner sensitive to the original architecture and/or neighborhood;
- Persons, actions or events that promote preservation may also be considered.

Nominations may be made by neighbors, architects, builders or self-submitted by owners. The deadline is Monday, April 20, 2020. Criteria and entry forms can be found on the town website at westfieldnj.gov/historicpreservation.

For additional information, please contact hpc@westfieldnj.gov.



(above) 2019 Student Art & Writing Contest Winner Shirzad Mustafa, 9th Grade, Westfield High School "Walk Down Boulevard"



(above) Westfield's Flatiron Building was the recipient of a 2019 Devlin Award from the Historic Preservation Commission for outstanding renovation of a commercial property. Nominations are currently being sought for the 2020 awards.

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This Week in Westfield Rotary

Rotarians have been collecting sandwiches and food for families in need in Elizabeth during this time of quarantine. The sandwiches and food is being delivered to St. Joseph's Social Services Center for distribution to the community. Visit <https://westfieldrotary.com> for more information if you can help out!



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“SKATING FOR SMILES” BUILDS AWARENESS ABOUT OPERATION SMILE

Submitted by Beth Ellen Hornstein

“Skating For Smiles” was an event organized by a group of area teens in an effort to build local awareness about Operation Smile, a charity that sends volunteers all over the globe to correct the facial deformities of children born with cleft lips

and palates.

Held at the Westfield Rink on February 29, with a very special guest appearance by ex-Captain of the NJ Devils, Bryce Salvador, the skating fundraiser will end up paying for close to 30 surgeries, changing the recipients’ lives forever.



(above, l-r) Katey Coleman, Courtney Pinkin, Anna Salvato, Caitlin Kearney, Bryce Salvador, Samantha Kisztelinski, Adison Marshall, Leo Shear, and Jacob Hsu



(above) Local teenagers organized “Skating For Smiles,” an event to raise funds and build local awareness about Operation Smile.



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JULIENNE CHERRY TAKES HELM AT CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP CASA

Submitted by Gretchen M. Boger-O'Bryan

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is pleased to announce the selection of Julianne Cherry as its new Executive Director. The organization recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned Union County youth removed from home and living in foster care.

"Julianne's history in the nonprofit arena, as well as her experience, knowledge and connections within the state, make her ideal to lead CASA of Union County. The board is excited to welcome her to the organization just as it celebrates 15 years of advocacy for our community's foster youth," said Dr. Ron Silver, president of the organization's Board of Trustees.

She joins the Elizabeth-based nonprofit from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside, where she was Director of Agency Relations, overseeing more than 1,000 feeding programs in eight New Jersey counties. Among

Cherry's community service efforts in Union County are serving on the board of Moms Helping Moms, a diaper and baby supply bank in Plainfield, and remaining active with the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Eta Omicron Zeta, including serving as its Health Fair Chair. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kean University.

"I'm very thankful for the wonderful opportunity to join the CASA family," said Cherry. "As a resident of Union County, this new position aligns perfectly with the last 20-plus years I've devoted to advocating for our community's underserved and voiceless. I'm looking forward to meeting with key stakeholders and community members to help move our mission forward. Ensuring the best interests of every Union County youth in foster care through no fault of their own will remain my top priority. As the organization reaches its 15th year of advocacy, the goal continues to be providing an advocate for every fragile youth that needs one.

To do this, we need the support of our village. From monthly gives, employer matches and event sponsorships to corporate and business partnerships, every dollar of support for our small-but-mighty nonprofit directly impacts how many waiting foster youth we can reach. Simply, writing a check means writing another chapter. Help us Change a Child's Story."

Through court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers ensure the best interests of foster youth remain a priority while parties work toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home. There are nearly 500 Union County youth in foster care and the organization currently serves just over half those. Its goal is to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one.

To make a tax-deductible donation, log on to casaofunioncounty.org/donate.

To learn about how to become an advocate for a foster child, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org or Call 908-293-8136.



(above) Julianne Cherry has joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as its new Executive Director.

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PLEASE CHECK WITH EVENT PROMOTERS AND VENUES IF YOU AREN'T SURE OF CANCELLATIONS.

DON'T FALL FOR SCAM CALLS AND EMAILS IMPERSONATING IRS

The IRS is urging the public to be aware of suspicious individuals claiming to be from the IRS.

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll, and tax professionals.

Scammers and cyberthieves continue to use the IRS as bait. The most common tax scams are phone calls and emails from thieves who pretend to be from the IRS. Scammers use the IRS name, logo, fake employee names and badge numbers to try to steal money and identities from taxpayers.

Taxpayers need to be wary of phone calls or automated messages from someone who claims to be from the IRS. Often, these criminals will say taxpayers owe money and demand payment right away. Other times, scammers will lie to taxpayers and say they're due a refund. The thieves ask for bank account information over the phone. The IRS warns taxpayers not to fall for these scams.

Below are several tips that will help filers avoid becoming a scam victim.

IRS EMPLOYEES WILL NOT:

- Call demanding an immediate payment. The IRS won't call taxpayers if they owe taxes without first sending a bill in the mail.
- Demand payment without allowing taxpayers to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Demand that taxpayers pay their taxes in a specific way, such as with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to contact local police or similar agencies to arrest taxpayers for non-payment of taxes.
- Threaten legal action, such as a lawsuit.

If taxpayers don't owe or don't think they owe any tax, and they receive an inquiry like this, they

should:

- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Use TIGTA's "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page to report the incident.
- Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your report.

In most cases, an IRS phishing scam is an unsolicited, fake email that claims to come from the IRS. Some emails link to sham websites that look real. The scammers' goal is to lure victims to give up their personal and financial information. If the thieves get what they're after,

they use it to steal a victim's money and identity.

For those taxpayers who get a phishing email, the IRS offers this advice:

- Don't reply to the message.
 - Don't give out your personal or financial information.
 - Forward the email to phishing@irs.gov. Then delete it.
 - Don't open any attachments or click on any links.
- They may have malicious code that will infect your computer.

For more information visit www.irs.gov or call your local police department non-emergency number.

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ALEXANDRA CICALA RECIPIENT OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM

Westfield High School freshman Alexandra Cicala, pictured here with principal Mary Asfendis, is a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award which recognizes people of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of time to their communities. Cicala also received the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for exemplary volunteer service.



Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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