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GIRL SCOUTS HOST ANNUAL DAISY ROUNDUP

It's Girl Scout Daisy Season! Westfield Girl Scouts is very excited to launch the Daisy Roundup! This annual program helps welcome adult volunteers and girls ages 5-7 to a community of lifelong friendships and fun.

Daisy troops are comprised of kindergarten and first grade girls from each of our local elementary schools. Led by vetted and trained parent volunteers, Daisies enjoy a wide variety of

activities, build relationships, and grow in confidence.

Complete the interest form today:
tinyurl.com/DaisyRoundup2022.

Information submitted will allow for rosters to be outlined beginning mid-October. Troop placement and directions for official registration will follow upon confirmation of adult volunteers.



(above) Westfield Girl Scouts is excited to launch the Daisy Roundup, an annual program that helps welcome adult volunteers and girls ages 5-7 to a community of lifelong friendships and fun.

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FREE PASS TO EVENTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



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Westfield Monthly

Westfield Public Schools

The Westfield Public School District invites Westfield residents 65 years and older to participate in the "Golden Pass" program which allows them to attend many Westfield High School events for free. The program, a longstanding tradition, was put on hold over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Golden Pass will provide free admission to events that normally collect entrance fees such as Westfield High School musicals, plays and certain concerts. While the pass provides free admission to passholders, you must reserve a ticket via an online process if you plan on attending a play or musical. A schedule of winter performances and plays is provided below. A spring schedule will be shared later.

The pass also will be accepted at Westfield High School athletic events with the exception of County and State games and at off campus venues, where the entrance gates are not controlled by Westfield. The complete Blue Devils sports schedule can be found at unioncountyconferencenj.org. Golden Pass holders may call the Athletic Office at 908-789-4512 with any questions.

Westfield residents 65 years and older can obtain the Golden Pass, about the size of a credit card, in the Business Office of the Westfield Board of Education, located in Room 101 on the first floor of 302 Elm Street from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Elevator access is available at the Walnut

Street parking lot entrance.

For more information on the program and for assistance in obtaining a ticket to performances, please contact Coordinator of School and Community Relations Mary Ann McGann at 908-789-4463 or mmcgann@westfieldnj12.org.

WINTER CONCERT & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

All performances are held in the WHS Auditorium at 550 Dorian Road, unless otherwise noted

WHS Fall Drama: "The Secret in the Wings"

November 17, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

WHS Fall Drama: "The Secret in the Wings"

November 18-19, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

WHS Orchestra

December 8, 2022 at 7 p.m.

WHS Band

December 15, 2022 at 7 p.m.

WHS Choral Preview

December 21, 2022 at 11:40 a.m.

WHS Chorus

December 22, 2022 at 7 p.m.

District Band Night

January 10, 2023 at 7 p.m.

District Orchestra Night

January 11, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.

District Choral Night

January 18, 2023 at 7 p.m.

**WHS Choir Night of Love Songs
in WHS Cafeteria B**

February 11, 2023 at 7 p.m.

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CASA OF UC'S GALA TO HONOR WESTFIELD RESIDENTS

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County's annual Foster the Dream Gala on Saturday, October 22 promises a night of memories and merriment, especially for Westfield's Robert Bridgeman and the Presbyterian Church of Westfield, as each are feted for exemplary commitment to Union County youth in the child-welfare system due to abuse, neglect or abandonment.



(above) Westfield's Bob Bridgeman will be awarded the Dream-Keeper Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. The Presbyterian Church of Westfield will also be honored.

The first in-person gala since Covid, festivities are themed around "connection" and held at a splendid setting fit for the black-tie optional event. Guests entering the elegant atrium at Kean University's STEM building will enjoy live entertainment from The Counterfeiters, silent and live auctions never before offered, gourmet food, top-shelf bar and mocktails, a champagne raffle, dancing, and more – like celebrating its champions:

The Dream-Keeper Award for Outstanding Volunteerism will go to Bob Bridgeman, who has worked two cases, both of which involved teen males. He's worked to build lasting relationships with both young men and, in addition to advocating for their basic needs, he's encouraged them to chase their dreams – careers in soccer and voice acting – and backs it up with helping research those paths and how to set goals that get them there. Robert's advocacy is thorough, intentional, encouraging, and he embraces each young man for who they are.

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield is tapped for this year's Honorable Jo-Anne B. Spatola Dream-Maker Award, as its mission has long supported the work of CASA of Union County, a nonprofit that relies upon its community for donations and grant-making. In fact, the annual gala provides the lion's share of its funding.

Said Executive Director Mariel S. Hufnagel,

"Both honorees unequivocally understand the need for consistent, caring adults in the lives of youth who are so much more than the trauma and loss they've known in their young lives. They simply need a guidepost. They need support. They need to know someone will be there day after day, year after year. And that's what these honorees have done for the organization and the youth relying on it. That's where futures come from; futures that youth will one day be proud to have."

Tickets are \$150; a 10-ticket discounted package at \$1,350 encourages friends to make a night out; and all those attending or donating make a direct difference in the life of a child, as CASA of Union County is the only organization empowered by the Union County judiciary to advocate for these youth. For details, tickets, to sponsor and enjoy year-long benefits for your business or family name, or to make a gift, log on to www.fosterthedream.org.

CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for youth in the child-welfare system due to abuse and neglect. Through time with their CASA youth, and contact with resource parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and others, advocates make observations and report findings to the judge. Visit casaofunioncounty.org for more information.

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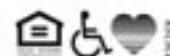
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RYAN WILLIAMSON TO PERFORM WITH NATIONAL CHOIR

Westfield High School 12th grader Ryan Williamson was accepted into the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) National Choir. Ryan first had to be accepted into the All-State ensemble (where he placed first in Bass 2 in New Jersey), before auditioning for the National Choir. The national audition consisted of learning a prescribed piece and submitting a video of a prepared solo. Ryan will be performing with other students from around the country this November in National Harbor, Maryland. "The highly regarded All National Honor program is comprised of the nation's most accomplished high school musicians who have vied for the opportunity to rehearse and perform in a one-of-a-kind national honor program," the NAfME writes on its website.



Photo by Westfield Public Schools

PROGRAM FOR SENIORS WITH ONGOING HEALTH CONDITION OR THEIR CAREGIVERS

Are you an adult age 55 or older with an ongoing or long-term health condition or their caregivers? Put life back in your life and Take Control of Your Health. Sponsored by the Westfield Regional Health Department and SAGE Eldercare, you'll get the support you need, find practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue, discover better nutrition and exercise choices, understand new treatment choices, and learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health.

If you have conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, chronic pain, or anxiety, join us for this free program at SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad Street in Summit beginning on Tuesday, October 18 at 10

a.m. Free refreshments will be served at each lesson.

This educational program offers six lessons that cover a wide range of topics. Participants will have an opportunity to meet new people and learn:

- How to manage your symptoms.
- How to get started with healthy eating and exercise.
- How to communicate effectively with your doctor.
- How to manage fear, anger, and frustration.
- How to make daily tasks easier.

For more information, please contact Amy Lewis at 908-789-4070 ext. 4080 or alewis@westfieldnj.gov.

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CLOTHING DRIVE OCTOBER 19

Westfield Area YMCA

Maybe you just finished cleaning out some closets, or maybe it's a good excuse to start! Either way, on Wednesday, October 19 from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., we invite you to drop off clothes, shoes, belts, handbags, comforters, sheets, curtains, towels, bedding, stuffed animals, small plastic toys, bikes, scooters and strollers on the tarp in the parking lot of the Bauer Branch, 422 East Broad Street in Westfield. (Note: shoes must be bagged separately).

Please note: we cannot accept pots and pans, books, board games, sports equipment, electronics, glass, furniture, VCR tapes, outdoor play sets or appliances.

The A & E Clothing Corp collects American second hand clothing and other items and resells them in the US and to other developing countries.

Proceeds benefit the Y's financial assistance program which ensures that no one who is experiencing a bona fide financial hardship and lives or works in Westfield, Cranford, Garwood or Mountainside is turned away for inability to pay for Y programs or memberships. The majority of awards enable participation in the Y's early learning and school age child care programs.

Questions? Please email Bonnie Cohen, bcohen@westfieldynj.org or call 908-301-9622.



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BOOK SALE FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS AT WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

This October the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library are excited to host the 11th Annual Children's and Teens' book sale. During the last week in October, from October 26 to 29, come to shop our wide variety of books, CDs and DVDs for babies up to high school students with the vast majority of books priced between \$0.50 and \$2.00. Looking for a particular book or just a suggestion, our volunteers will be happy to help you pick something out. For a simplified shopping experience, the books are organized by category. Whether it's Magic Treehouse, Clifford the Big Red Dog or even books with a multicultural theme, your favorite authors and characters are easy for you to spot. The book sale is the perfect time to stock up on books for all the young readers you know.

Our littlest shoppers will enjoy the book sale too. On Wednesday, October 26 at 11:00 a.m. we

will host a StoryTime read by the librarian. In the spirit of Halloween, children that come in costume will receive a free paperback book.

Mark your calendars for our donations days (October 23 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., October 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and October 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) and our sale days (October 26 and 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., October 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and October 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) If you like the best deal in town then shop on Friday, October 28 for our Half Price Day and Saturday, October 29 for Bag Day (\$10 buys you a bag to fill up with books.) Especially for teachers, October 26 and 27 are half-price days too.

Proceeds from the sale go directly towards children's programs sponsored by the Friends. To learn more or to help out at the sale go to FWMLNJ.ORG.

RARELY SEEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY



SUPERCCELL STORM CLOUD

Photo by Marko Korosec, near Julesburg, Colorado

September 1 - November 23, 2022

Liberty Hall Academic Center
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Exhibition by National Geographic Society



RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS



Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain."

- Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal."

- Perry O.

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is 'top-notch.'"

- Quenton L.

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SAVE THE DATES FOR HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

The Friends of the Mountainside Library will hold a Holiday Boutique of Christmas and Hanukkah items on November 3 from 4-8 p.m.; November 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and November 7 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. No donations will be accepted.

FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND:

Open Hearth Cooking at the Miller-Cory House

The Miller-Cory House Museum will be showcasing eighteenth-century colonial cuisine with authentic colonial-era open hearth cooking using period recipes and techniques on October 15 and 16 from 12 - 5 p.m. The grounds will be open for viewing and docents will be offering tours of the fully furnished c1740 farmhouse. Admission to Four Centuries in a Weekend is a free will donation.

The Miller Cory House Museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ. Call the museum at 908-232-1776 or email millercorymuseum@gmail.com for more information.

Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

For more information on the Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit millercoryhouse.com or westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.



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CENTER FOR CREATIVITY AT THE RIALTO RECEIVES \$5 MILLION DONATION

Landmark gift will drive revitalization and long-term strategic plan for iconic site

The Center for Creativity at the Rialto is pleased to announce that it has received a \$5 million donation to kickstart the strategic development of the Westfield landmark.

The transformative gift, made by a Westfield resident wishing to remain anonymous, will allow the Center to finalize its long-term plans to reinvent the historic Rialto building as a multidisciplinary, community-focused arts center and acts as an important preliminary spark for its anticipated capital fundraising campaign. The gift will also allow the Center to complete critical short-term repairs to allow limited interim programming.

Following the agreement to purchase the Rialto building in late 2021, the Center issued a Request for Proposals for strategic planning assistance and subsequently began working with Webb Mgmt, an arts planning firm with 25 years of experience in community-based arts projects, in spring 2022. The product of this work will be a strategic plan that provides a roadmap for the Center's future, both in terms of the building's renovations and its planned dynamic programming to celebrate and elevate the arts in Westfield.

"This donation is a game-changer for our ability to bring the beloved Rialto back to life and turbo-charge the arts scene in Westfield," said Beth Cassie, board president of the Center for Creativity. "We are deeply grateful for the incredible generosity of this donor, and we hope

it will inspire others to join our fundraising efforts when we share our plans with the community so that we can all bring our vision for the Rialto to life."

The closing on the purchase of the Rialto building was delayed several months as the result of a significant flood in the basement's building that occurred in January 2022. While necessary repairs were being addressed, the Center for Creativity team continued to plan for interim uses for the building, including an anticipated partnership with local artist Ricardo Roig.

"I'm excited about being a part of the Rialto's future, and I envision activating unused portions of the building to feature visually-dynamic artists creating, teaching, and exhibiting their art for the public," said local artist Ricardo Roig. As immediate repair work continues on the building, the Center also plans to host limited programming in the lobby and theater, including some upcoming AddamsFest events. Additionally, the Westfield Public Arts Commission recently accepted community submissions for Artist Alley at the Rialto, which will transform the pedestrian alley between East Broad Street and the parking lot into a permanent public mural installation.

Anyone interested in learning more and seeing how to get involved with the Center for Creativity can obtain information at centerforcreativity.art.

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Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway now has a garden honoring Everett Duchin of Colonia, a beloved hospital patient.

“When we first discussed it, it was going to be a bench and tree,” joked Everett’s brother Eric of South Plainfield. Everett’s immediate family, together with friends and extended family, started a GoFundMe page to raise money. The Everett Howard Duchin Memorial Garden now includes several ornamental trees, flowering plants, and benches circling the hospital’s familiar gazebo.

“We thank the Duchin Family and their many friends for providing a beautiful place for family, friends and staff,” said Hospital President Kirk Tice.

Everett Duchin was 41 when he passed away at home in 2021. An infection during infancy had left him severely brain damaged requiring 24/7 care. As an adult, he sometimes needed a ventilator to help him breathe.

His family was devoted to his care. He was often hospitalized for weeks and months at a time.

“My mom spent many a night in a chair by his bedside at the hospital,” Eric recalled. “He was hospitalized so often, we said he should have a wing.”

Everett, called Evi, was beloved by hospital staff, who would comb his hair, play with him or just come in to visit, recalled Everett’s mother,

Arleen Duchin. “He had a great smile,” recalled Nurse Theresa Dobbin. “And he really loved Teddy Ruxpin,” an animatronic toy bear that talked.

In a touching ceremony in front of the hospital’s signature gazebo, Arleen Duchin thanked the hospital staff, hospital administration

and Hospital President Kirk Tice, her family and all the family’s many friends for contributing to the garden.

“This gift from the Duchin family created a beautiful space for people to take a moment in their day,” said Vice President of Development Heather Hays.



(above) The Duchin family pose with some of the many staff members who took care of their son Everett. RWJ Rahway Nurse Melanie Mercado, Everett’s parents Mel and Arleen Duchin, RWJ Rahway Nurse Theresa Dobbin. Back row, Everett’s brothers Eric, Jared and Elliot.

Photo by J Martin Production



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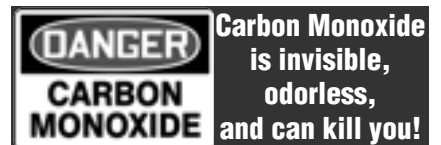
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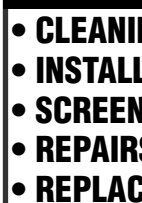
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We will be collecting on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Cranford, NJ, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please drive to the rear of the building and volunteers will unload your vehicle or you can park and drop it off in the lobby. Clean out your garages and clear the yard of used sporting equipment so that kids who are less fortunate are able to enjoy them!

To learn more about LPF, please visit levelingtheplayingfield.org or contact Detective John Rattigan at j-rattigan@cranfordnj.org or Lt. Matthew Nazzaro at m-nazzaro@cranfordnj.org.

LPF accepts new and gently used sporting equipment donations to directly redistribute to kids in need. We appreciate you making sure your donations are still in safe, functional condition. Have a question about the condition of your gear?

Contact LPF directly at info@levelingtheplayingfield.org.

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- Basketball: basketballs, basketball shoes, basketball hoops/goals, mini basketballs, basketball shorts
- Golf: golf bags, golf balls, golf clubs
- Field Hockey: balls, goggles & gloves, goalie gear, sticks
- Hockey: bags, gloves, goalie equipment, helmets, hockey pucks, pads, shorts/pants, skates, socks, sticks (any type/size)
- Lacrosse: balls, fiddle sticks (plastic), goals, goggles, gloves, helmets, pads, sticks (any type/size)
- Racquet Sports: ball hoppers, nets, tennis balls, tennis racquet covers, tennis racquets, badminton sets, pickleball sets, squash sets
- Playground/Fitness: agility equipment, ball pumps, boxing/karate pads, cones, corn hole, first aid kits, free weights, frisbees,

gymnastics equipment, hula hoops, jump ropes, ladder golf, kickballs, mouth-guards (still in package), pinnies, playground balls, resistance bands, roller skates/blades (5 years old or less), swim equipment, weighted plates, whistles, yoga/fitness mats

- Volleyball: knee pads, nets, volleyballs
- Soccer: soccer balls, cleats, goalie gloves, goals, shin guards, socks, shorts

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The Garden Club of Westfield has chosen the outstanding garden of Jason and Victoria Beyer at 631 Fourth Avenue as their September Garden of the Month. Mr. Beyer has enjoyed gardening since his youth when he helped his parents take care of their garden. Mr. and Mrs. Beyer purchased their new home in 2017. Since then, Mr. Beyer has transformed the bare bones of the garden with his own harmonious design and selection of plants, which he chose for their form and color. He also credits his father for helping him choose the plants. He planted the two October Glory Maples flanking the front steps in memory of his father.

Boxwood, Japanese hollies, and feathery ornamental grasses contribute to the structure of the garden. The primary color scheme of purples and pinks complements the grey of the house, while red provides an accent color. A selection of perennials and annuals, including carpet roses, catmint, liriop, Rozanne geraniums, lavender,

vinca, and celosia contribute to the color scheme. Japanese and Siberian irises produce more color in spring while the October Glory Maples will blaze in red in autumn. The Beyer garden may be both enjoyed for its overall scheme and admired for its individual plantings.



(above) Jason and Victoria Beyer's garden was named September Garden of the Month by the Garden Club of Westfield.

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FALYNN BALASSONE NEW DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING

Westfield Public Schools

At a special meeting on July 25, the Westfield Board of Education approved the appointment of Falynn Balassone as K-12 Director of Counseling. She will succeed Maureen Mazzarese, who retired as of August 31, 2022.

"I am looking forward to learning about the excellent work that the counselors are already doing so that I can support its continuation and I also will be happy to bring a fresh perspective," Balassone says.

For the past 11 years, Balassone has worked in the South Orange-Maplewood School District (SOMSD), serving as Director of School Counseling since March 2020 and as a counselor at Columbia High School since 2011. As SOMSD Director of Counseling, she supervises 15 school counselors and other department staff, oversees the college admissions process,

monitors all incidents of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB), maintains a caseload of 200 out-of-district placement special education students, and handles a variety of other responsibilities.

During her tenure at SOMSD, Balassone also developed several innovative programs.

"As part of a larger initiative to increase and prioritize mental health awareness, I am very proud to have built the "Counseling Annex" at Columbia High School - a place for all things Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) where students can access counseling, workshops, groups, and more," says Balassone when asked about some of her proudest accomplishments while at SOMSD. "I established Cougar Academy, an alternative program for students who benefit from a non-traditional learning environment, and revamped the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and home instruction processes. But I am most proud of the team mindset that was fostered amongst the counselors and ultimately benefited our students."

Balassone also held previous positions as Admission Counselor at Drew University in Madison and Counselor/College Readiness Instructor at North Star Academy Charter School in Newark.

"We are so pleased to welcome Ms. Balassone to the district," says Superintendent Dr. Raymond González. "I am impressed not only with her professionalism and experience but also with her sincere and demonstrated commitment to a diverse school community and to ensuring the academic success and emotional safety of all students."

As she prepares to join the Westfield Public School District, Balassone says she would "love to grow an alumni/community network to support our schools, particularly regarding college and career awareness."

"I'm also excited to contribute to anti-bullying and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives," she adds. "I am mostly looking forward to having faculty, staff, students, families, and other

community members identify other areas of need so that we can then build responsive programming."

Balassone received a Bachelor of Arts in Film, Media and Communication from Muhlenberg College in May 2007 and a Master of Arts in Counseling in May 2010 from Montclair State University, while earning certification as a K-12 School Counselor. In May 2015, she received a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Kean University and holds Principal, Supervisor, and Director of Guidance certification.

"Ms. Balassone has exhibited great administrative abilities and qualities of character in managing the daily responsibilities and activities associated with the Director of Counseling position," says Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Dr. Michael Weissman. "She has shown her adeptness in collaborating and supervising staff within her department."

Balassone says she is impressed by how so many people who grew up in Westfield decided to move back and raise their families here and by how invested the community at large is in the Westfield Public Schools.

"I truly believe that if we all work together our students will grow into kind, happy, successful, and impactful global citizens," she adds. "My initial attraction to the school district only grew after having the opportunity to personally meet some of the school leaders, faculty, and staff, most of whom have worked in the district for many years. I'm so excited to be part of such a committed team of educators and I can't wait to meet everyone else, including the students, in September."

Having moved to Westfield with her husband 11 years ago, Balassone notes that "you'll often see the Balassone crew (us and our 2 boys, ages 3 and 5) biking around the neighborhood, walking to town and supporting local businesses, or exploring Brightwood Park, so be sure to say hello!"



(above) At a special meeting on July 25, the Westfield Board of Education approved the appointment of Falynn Balassone as K-12 Director of Counseling.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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BICYCLE AND SEWING MACHINE COLLECTION – OCT. 8

Westfield Rotary Club

The Westfield Rotary Club is sponsoring a collection of bicycles and sewing machines for donation to Pedals4Progress (P4P). Get ready to bring your old but usable bicycles and sewing machines to the collection on Saturday, October 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Westfield Board of Education Building, 302 Elm Street Westfield, NJ. A \$20 suggested, \$10 minimum donation with each bike or sewing machine is requested for shipping. All material and monetary donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided on site.

Pedals4Progress effectively recycles serviceable bicycles and sewing machines to be used as economic development tools in developing countries. Since 1991, 164,721

bicycles and 5,684 sewing machine have been donated and given to people to increase their ability to earn a living or get an education.

Pedals4Progress strives “to empower sustainable economic development by recycling bicycles and sewing machines from the U.S. and shipping them to motivated people in the developing world.”

P4P rescues bicycles destined for overburdened U.S. landfills and ships them to developing countries where they are sorely needed and highly valued. P4P bikes are put to work not only as basic transportation, but are used as a supplement to school and community programs. The bikes are adapted for use as trash haulers, produce trucks, taxis, and farm machinery.

Every year, affluent Americans buy 22 million new bicycles and discard millions of old ones, abandoning many more unused in basements,

sheds, and garages. Most of these end up in our already overburdened landfills. Meanwhile, poor people overseas need cheap, non-polluting transportation to get to jobs, markets, customers, and schools.

Before you make your final decision to donate your bike to our project please consider that our bicycle collections are our major fund-raising events. It costs on average \$52 to get a bike to its new home. In order to succeed, we suggest a \$20 donation, with a minimum of \$10, with each bicycle and sewing machine at the collections. Bikes, sewing machine, and monetary donations are tax deductible; a receipt is provided at the collections. Pedals for Progress is a 501(c)(3) organization with a 100% rating rating from CharityNavigator.

For more information contact Warren Rorden by calling 908-232-6807 or emailing wrorden@msn.com.



(above) A Bicycle and Sewing Machine Collection for Pedals for Progress will take place on Saturday, October 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Westfield Board of Education Building, 302 Elm Street Westfield, NJ.

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(above) The Westfield Rotary Club is sponsoring a collection of bicycles and sewing machines for donation to Pedals4Progress (P4P) on Saturday, October 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Westfield Board of Education Building, 302 Elm Street Westfield, NJ.

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COURTYARD DEDICATED IN HONOR OF BELOVED FORMER PRINCIPAL

Westfield Public Schools

A dedication ceremony was held on September 20, 2022 for the Dr. Derrick Nelson Memorial Courtyard in memory of Westfield High School's beloved former principal who died in 2019 from complications suffered during a procedure to donate stem cells to a boy in France he didn't know.

Family, friends, and colleagues joined in the



(above, l-r) Dr. Nelson's fiancé Sheronda Braker, their daughter Morgan, and his parents, Willie and Juanita Nelson.

Photo by Westfield High School

ceremony at Westfield High School, including Nelson's fiancé, Sheronda Braker, their daughter Morgan, his parents Willie and Juanita Nelson, current and former Westfield Public Schools superintendents Dr. Raymond González and Dr. Margaret Dolan, and many others.

González welcomed all those gathered for the dedication and noted that, having joined the Westfield Public School District a year ago, he "did not have the privilege or honor" to have known Nelson.

"It is clear that he was a remarkable person and a tremendous force... as an educator, a leader, an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, a friend, and a family man," said González.

Braker expressed appreciation for the courtyard dedication.

"I'm really honored to be here today as we dedicate this long-awaited memorial garden," said Braker. "Dr. Nelson was a proud leader of Westfield High School and I might be a little biased in saying he did a phenomenal job as principal."

In preparing her remarks, Braker said she thought about the meaning of the memorial garden including happiness, purity, creating peace between people, inclusion, and community.

"Dr. Nelson believed in inclusion and community. Some of his work in Westfield at the high school and the middle school were examples of just that," she said, citing a number of programs and initiatives created by Nelson.

The smiling image of Dr. Nelson adorns a memorial stone in the Remembrance Garden surrounded by a pergola, paver bricks, benches, decorative stone mulch, and the American flag flying above. Adjacent is a paver brick plaza called "The Commons," with an overhead shade sail stretching above comfortable picnic tables. The tables were provided through a generous donation from the Optimist Club of Westfield.

"It is wonderful to finally be standing before you sharing this beautiful space that is a fitting tribute to a man we admired, respected, loved and just wanted to be around," said WHS principal Mary Asfendis. "Thinking back to three years ago, there was much discussion about the best

way to honor the memory of someone who meant so much to our school and community."

Asfendis told the gathered guests that, "after many conversations with students, teachers, administrators, and parents, it felt right that renovating our courtyard would honor what Derrick brought to this school each day. It would be a student-focused space that would allow students to connect with one another, dedicate themselves to school work and have a little fun. This was also a place important to Derrick in his connection to the staff as he started the tradition of an annual staff barbeque that we continue each year in his memory."

Gretchan Ohlig shared memories as both a parent whose children attended Westfield High School and as a former president of the Board of Education.

"When I was president of the Board, Derrick and I both participated on a panel about race relations in our schools and our community," Ohlig recounted. "I was struck by Derrick's honesty, his willingness to have difficult conversations, and his generosity in listening to others in sharing their experience. He created a safe environment to share and learn."

WHS Student Body President Patrick Lanza noted that students have been enjoying the courtyard since last spring, "eating their lunches, swapping stories, bringing their laptops to work quietly, collaborating on a class project, or stealing a quiet moment to read a good book in a sunny spot."

"We know that Dr. Nelson would have loved this space and the positive energy it brings to our school community," Lanza added.

Dolan, who served as superintendent from 2007-2021, acknowledged the dedicated efforts that took place to renovate the courtyard.

"I hope all students will look at Derrick's picture and see what I see," Dolan said as she referenced the memorial stone. "When I look at that picture of Dr. Nelson, I see a proud man, secure in his own skin, who faced each day with a broad smile, a smile and a personality big enough to reach all 2,000 students in the halls and in the courtyard of Westfield High School."

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MOBILE MEALS RECEIVES CASH AWARD

"Chasing Good is proud to present Mobile Meals of Westfield with a \$750 award for the wonderful and good service you've done for our community," declared President and Founder of Chasing Good Antonia Cleaveland. Chasing Good is a philanthropic non-profit organization that recognizes good deeds in service to the community. For more information on the organization, visit their website at chasinggood.org.

Accepting the award for Mobile Meals of Westfield was Operations Manager Josephine Walsh who expressed deep gratitude for the monetary gift on behalf of Mobile Meals clients and volunteers. Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization that provides affordable, delicious and nutritious meals with free delivery to those individuals unable to provide meals for

themselves. Visit their website at mobilemealsofwestfield.org.



(above, l-r) Antonia Cleaveland of Chasing Good and Josephine Walsh of Mobile Meals of Westfield.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The YWCA Union County is actively seeking new volunteers to serve our communities. Crisis Response Team Volunteers are needed to work with local police departments that are providing options, advocacy, and emotional support to domestic violence survivors reporting abuse.

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- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Evening or weekend availability a plus
- Bilingual a plus (Spanish, Creole, Polish & Arabic)

- Must have a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle
- Experience working/volunteering with vulnerable & diverse populations a plus
- Must complete a mandatory, free, 40-hour Domestic Violence Training session (to be held via Zoom in September)
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For more information - please contact Amanda Gonzalez, CRT Coordinator via email at:

amgonzalez@ywcaunioncounty.org.

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Westfield Community Players

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These are the factors that are woven in the suspense play "Night Watch", the opening production of the 2022-2023 Season at the Westfield Community Players.

Elaine and John Wheeler live comfortably in New York until Elaine sees evidence of a crime during a sleepless night. John tries to help her, bringing in a noted sleep doctor and planning a trip abroad, but he's caught up in her obsession with the circumstances next door. Her nurse, a neighbor investigating for his own reasons, frustrated police officers, and an unintended victim all are drawn to the mystery.

"Night Watch," written by Lucille Fletcher, has performances on October 15, 21, 22, 28, and

29 at 8 p.m. A Sunday matinee will be held at 2 p.m. on October 23.

The cast includes Robyn Mandalakis from Somerset, Thom Carroll from Raritan, Kathy Gordon from Cranford, Ed Bontempo from Elizabeth, Ruth Rocky from Carteret, Sandra Lilly from Fanwood, José Rivera from Springfield, Anthony Giangrante from Union, and Rupert Ravens from North Brunswick. Bill Seesselberg from South Plainfield is the director, Cynthia Okamoto from Flemington is the stage manager, and the producers are Linda Viel from Somerset and Lois Stevens from Roselle.

Westfield Community Players is located at 1000 North Avenue West, Westfield. Tickets are available at the door, and reservations can be made by calling the box office at 908-232-1221 or visiting westfieldcommunityplayers.org.



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Saturday, October 15 at 2:00 pm

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Cranford's CDC Theatre will open its 104th season with the Tony Award winning musical *Once On This Island* from the award winning songwriting team of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (Seussical, Anastasia, Ragtime). This highly original and theatrical Caribbean adaptation of the popular fairy tale, *The Little Mermaid*, earned eight Tony nominations for its Broadway run, including Best Musical, Book and Score.

The musical is the story of the fearless young girl, Ti Moune, in search of her place in the world. As an orphan, chosen by the Gods, she is taken into a simple and loving family. Though content, she feels she was destined for something more. After an accident caused by a terrible storm, Ti Moune falls for a handsome stranger whom she tries desperately to nurse back to health, and she is ready to risk it all for love. This sets her on the ultimate quest to answer the age-old question, can love conquer death?

CDC Theatre is happy to welcome Howard Whitmore as Director, who had this to say about the production: "I am excited to return to the Island once again! In 2002, this was the first community theatre show I ever directed, and the CDC production marks the 8th time I have worked on OOTI. Every single time, I find something new and deeper about the characters and their dreams. *Once On This Island* is built around storytelling, so we wanted to explore how hearing bedtime stories might translate to the mind of a child. Everything is staged from the perspective of how a 9-year-old might imagine the story and we do deal with some heavy topics from first love and family duty to betrayal and sacrifice. Our remarkable cast embodies the sense of community that is so integral to ancient storytelling traditions and is at the heart of *Once On This Island*."

The show will run from Friday and Saturday nights from October 7-22 with a matinee on Sunday October 16. To find the best ticket selections and prices visit cdctheatre.org. Group ticket rates are also available.

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ELKS SCHOLARSHIP HELPS STUDENTS FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS

The Elks National Foundation is proud to announce the start of the 2023 Elks Most Valuable Student (MVS) scholarship contest. The MVS scholarship is available to high school seniors who are United States citizens. Applicants do not need to be related to a member of the Elks. The judging criteria is based on academics, leadership, service, and financial need.

The application is completed online and must be submitted by the November 14, 2022, deadline. The 500 national winners will be announced in April 2023. The top 20 national finalists participate in the Leadership Weekend and interview for the top awards, ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000. The remaining 480 runners-up receive \$4,000 scholarships.

This year, the Elks National Foundation is investing \$4 million in college scholarships. MVS scholars—all of whom demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and a commitment to service—are graduating from college at a rate

of 90 percent, 30 percent higher than the national average.

Since 1931, the Elks National Foundation has awarded life-changing scholarships to thousands of students like Kaden Oqueli-White of Louisiana, a 2022 top winner. Kaden's \$50,000 scholarship will help him attend Columbia University to study astrophysics and pursue a career in academia.

Kaden might be focused on the sky, but he hopes to have an impact close to home. "My fervent resolve to contribute astronomically to humanity and increase STEM field awareness is as infinite as the cosmos themselves," says Kaden. "I yearn to know and inclusively share the stars."

Applications for the 2023 contest are available on the Elks National Foundation's website. For complete Most Valuable Student scholarship contest details including the application, visit enf.elks.org/MVS.

HELPING ELKS BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

With nearly 750,000 members and nearly 1,860 Lodges nationwide, Elks are providing charitable services that help build stronger communities across the United States. The Elks National Foundation, the charitable arm of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. To learn more, visit elks.org/enf.

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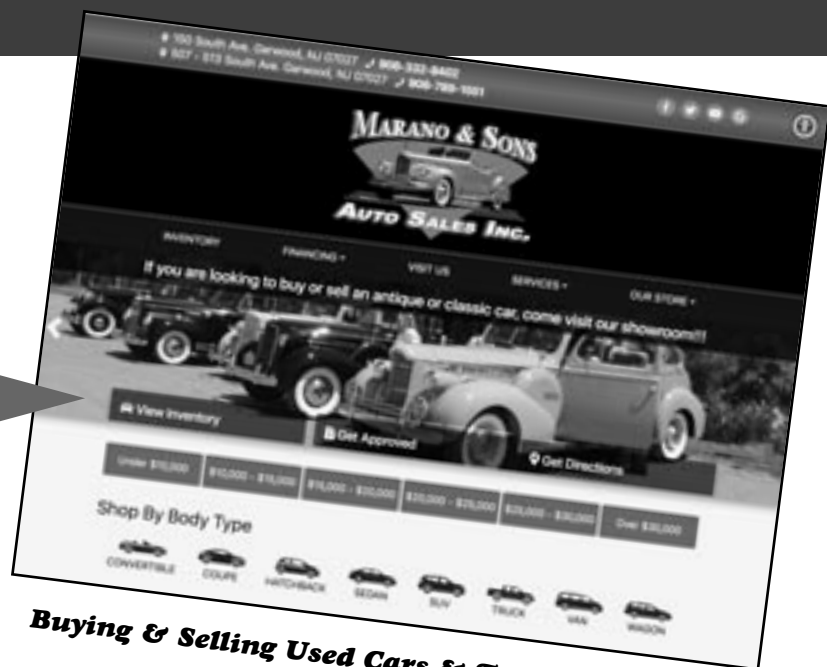
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