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UNITED FUND BEGINS 84TH YEAR OF SERVICES



(above, l-r) The Westfield United Fund recently kicked off its 84th annual community fundraising campaign. The local nonprofit's new slate of officers includes Carolyn Tenney (Treasurer), Caroline Ellison (Vice President), Paul Fitzhenry (President) and Ginny Malley (Secretary).

Courtesy photo

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ECRWSS

The Westfield United Fund has officially kicked off its annual end-of-year community campaign to support local agencies that deliver essential services to children, low-income families, seniors, and people with special needs.

The goal of this year's campaign is to raise \$500,000 to directly fund a wide range of agencies that serve the most vulnerable members of the local community, day in and day out, all year long. In 2021, the Fund donated \$450,000 to 22 agencies to advance programs serving residents of Westfield and surrounding communities.

The Fund begins this year's campaign with a slate of new officers led by Westfield resident Paul Fitzhenry who begins his term as President of the Board of Trustees. Fitzhenry succeeds Rob Mustard who will continue to serve as a Board Trustee.

The other new officers include Caroline Ellison who will serve as Vice President, Carolyn Tenney, the Fund's new Treasurer and Ginny Malley, Secretary of the Board.

In addition to the new slate of officers, four new Trustees

have joined the Westfield United Fund Board – Megan Brown, Angela Kurze, Liz McAlister, and Amy Partridge.

"We are excited to have Megan, Angie, Liz and Amy join our Board of Trustees and look forward to the contributions they will make to increasing our visibility in the community and helping build our base of support," said Fitzhenry.

As part of the Fund's goal to increase awareness and build connections to new Westfield residents, a new Junior Board has been formed. Led by Ali Hazlett and Tara Sparks, the focus of the Junior Board will be to organize a limited number of small events and fundraisers with proceeds donated to the WUF.

The Westfield United Fund is an independent, grassroots organization that has played a vital role in strengthening the local community for more than 80 years by directly funding agencies that provide essential services to the most vulnerable members of our community. For more information visit www.westfieldunitedfund.org.

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WESTFIELD CLUBS HOLD JOINT MEETING

Members of The Garden Club of Westfield welcomed the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield at their joint meeting on November 9. The clubs have an annual tradition of meeting together in friendship, sharing their accomplishments, and enjoying an educational

program. This year's presenter was art enthusiast and Master Gardener Rosemary Shire with a program on flowers and landscapes in Italian renaissance art. It was an enjoyable afternoon that inspired all to look at art and gardening with renewed curiosity.



(above, l-r) Lorraine Kolibas, Beth Siano, President of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Nicole Harding-Ozturan, President of the Garden Club of Westfield, Irene Ilaria, and Marion Bavolar.

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SCAN HERE

TAKE A CHANCE TO “RING IN THE NEW YEAR” ON THE TOWN BELL



(above) The Westfield Historical Society is holding a fundraiser raffle for a chance to win the privilege of ringing the Westfield Town Bell 23 times on New Year's Eve (among other prizes).

Photo courtesy of the Westfield Historical Society

The Westfield Historical Society is holding the third annual “Ring in the New Year” raffle fundraiser where the 1st Prize Winner will Ring the Town Bell 23 times to mark 2023 at midnight on New Year's Eve (plus other great prizes). The Town Bell is located at the Reeve House.

The raffle details are as follows: 1st Prize: Winner rings the Westfield Town Bell (at the Reeve House) 23 times to ring in 2023 at midnight on New Year's Eve; plus a \$100 dining certificate, a bottle of Champagne, and complimentary 2023 Family Membership to the Westfield Historical Society; 2nd Prize: \$100 dining certificate; 3rd Prize: Three Westfield History books.

The ticket price is \$20 each and the drawing will take place at 12 noon on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022 at The Reeve House, 314 Mountain Ave. (winners need not be present at the time of drawing).

To purchase tickets, please call or email the office at (908)654-1794 or westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com; or, mail your request to: Westfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 613, Westfield, NJ 07091. Tickets can also be requested via Venmo to @Westfield-HistoricalSociety. Please provide contact information so ticket/s can be mailed (and for winner notification!). Please request tickets prior to December 13, to be included in the Dec. 18th drawing.

The Westfield Town Bell originally hung in the Prospect Street School from 1869 to 1921 where it also served as the town's fire bell. The bell rang at armistice and at the end of WW I. From 1922-1985, it hung in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Chapel's steeple and subsequently became property of the Presbyterian Church which later donated it to the Westfield Historical Society. During 1993-1994, it was restored with



DECEMBER PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Closed December 24-26 for Christmas
Closing at 3:00 pm Saturday, December 31 for New Year's Eve
and closed Sunday, January 1 for New Year's Day

The Notables Singers Concert
Winter and Seasonal Songs
Saturday, December 3 at 2—3:00 pm

Aging Services Kiosk in the Gallery
Get your Senior questions answered
Monday, December 5 at 10am—12:00 pm

Plugged-in Parents—Part 2
Protect your Children in the Digital Age
Tuesday, December 6 7—8:00 pm

Chair Yoga
Certified Chair Yoga instructor Joy Lara leads this gentle class
Wednesday, December 7 at 10—11:00 am

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MENORAH LIGHTING

The Union County Torah Center-Chabad is pleased to announce that there will be a Menorah Lighting ceremony in downtown Westfield at the train station on North Ave. on Sunday, December 18, at 4:30 p.m. There will be a "Gelt Drop" where a fireman will rain down chocolate gelt from high atop the fire ladder while children (and adults) have the opportunity to collect as much chocolate gelt as they can. There will also be LED light up dreidel and menorah necklaces for all children in attendance and of course delicious Chanukah donuts. The Mayor & Town Council will be in attendance to wish the Jewish community Chanukah Greetings.

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins on Sunday, December 18 at sundown and continues through Sunday, December 25. Chanukah focuses largely on the meaning of civil liberties and religious freedom and has served as a source of this message for nearly twenty-two centuries. The Menorah contains a universal message for all people of all faiths – a message of freedom, of good over evil, of light over darkness.

For more information please call the Torah Center-Chabad at 908-789-5252, email info@torahcenterchabad.org or visit torahcenterchabad.org

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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. Additions 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

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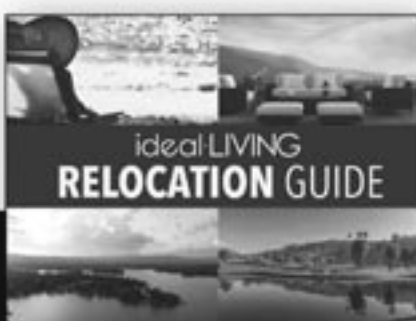
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DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATED

Westfield Public Schools

It was a celebration of family and remembrance at Roosevelt and Edison Intermediate Schools on Nov. 1 and 2, as students in grades 6-8 and their world language teachers marked Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead.

The Day of the Dead, which largely originated in Mexico but is celebrated throughout Latin America and elsewhere, honors deceased loved ones with festivals and lively celebrations. At Roosevelt, a colorful display adorned a corner near the main entrance.


“At first glance, you notice the beautiful colors of flowers and designs,” says RIS world language teacher Maria Reilly who collaborated with technology and special education teachers, the media specialist, and “creative helper students” to create the display. “Upon further glance, students and staff were able to learn more about this special day that honors our deceased loved ones by using QR codes throughout the display.”

At Edison, student-created displays, or ofrendas, blended the traditions of the holiday with traditions of their own to honor a family member who has died. Some students celebrated the life of a pet or a well-known person as well.




(above) A colorful display at Roosevelt Intermediate School included QR codes to assist students and staff in learning about Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools



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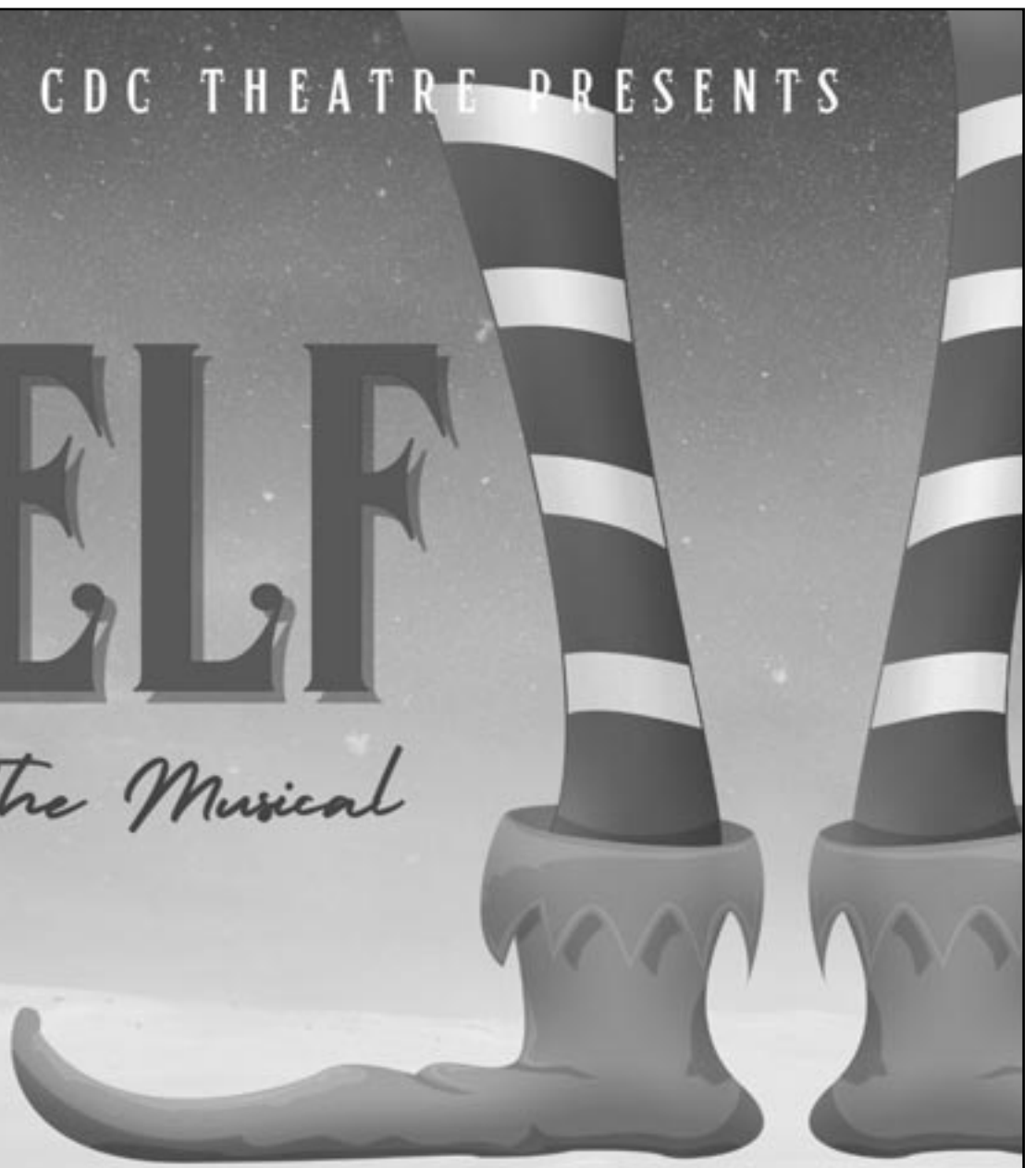
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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 24TH ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th joyous season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 17 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for two performances at 2 and 7PM. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 18 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ also with performances at 2 and 7PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," "Joy to the World", and "Amazing Grace", all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

According to producer Robert Currie, "We are absolutely delighted to be bringing our concert back to full force after two devastating years weathering the Covid pandemic. Supporting our GoFundMe campaign will continue to make these concerts possible."

The 2022 production marks the NYC solo debut of soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. In addition to Ms. Lyons, featured performers include James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which include annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School.

Proceeds also support the annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebration and the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod, and an academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience in cooperation with HomeTowne Television. In addition to winning multiple Telly Awards for broadcast production excellence, the 2020 virtual concert was a finalist for the coveted MG Alba Trad Music Award presented annually in Scotland.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

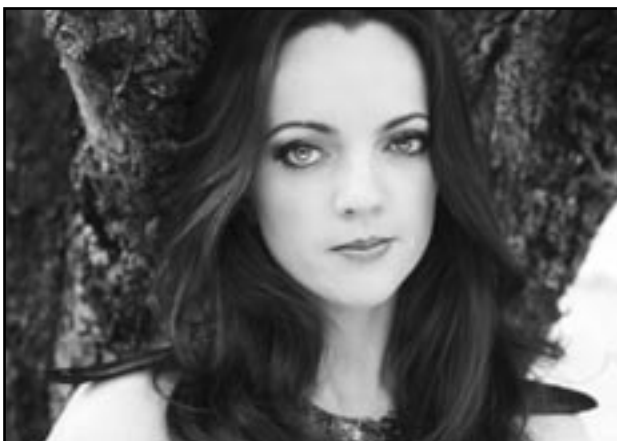
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through ShowTix4U at www.showtix4u.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine). Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.

ABOUT "THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS"

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."



(above) Soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland, will make her NYC solo debut at the 2022 Pipes of Christmas concerts in NY and NJ.



(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to the East Coast this December to join the company of the 24th annual "Pipes of Christmas" concerts.



THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS
24TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION

WE'RE BACK

Answer the call of the pipes and drums
In the midst of uncertain times, the Pipes of Christmas affords
a rare opportunity to honor the Sacred and celebrate
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found its genesis among our Celtic ancestors.

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(above) National Merit Semifinalist Andrew Matus was recognized at the October 18 Board of Education meeting, pictured here with Board President Brendan Galligan (left) and Superintendent Dr. Raymond González.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

ACADEMIC HONORS AT WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Westfield Public Schools

At its October 18, 2022, meeting, the Westfield Board of Education welcomed Westfield High School 12th grader Andrew Matus, a semifinalist in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. Matus is among a nationwide pool of about 16,000 semifinalists who represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors. These academically talented students have the opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships that will be offered next spring.

Eleven Westfield High School students have been recognized for their exceptional academic

promise as Commended Students in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program as well: Owen Craig, Elaine Deignan, Adrian Gripp, Julian Hamilton, Audrey Jones, Grace Kilbourn, Meryl Li, Michael Liebermann, Cameron Linenberg, Mackenzie Wilson, and Sophia Xing.

Additionally, five Westfield High School students earned perfect scores on June 2022 ACT and SAT subject area tests: Aprameyo Chakravarty (SAT Math), Graydon Calder (SAT Math), Audrey Jones (ACT Reading), Rachel Malkinzon (ACT Math), and Iskandar Mirtagavi (ACT Reading).

GWACC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPANDS INTO CLARK

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

GWACC Chamber of Commerce at its November Board of Director meeting approved the addition of the Clark Business Alliance, and the Irish Business Association (IBA) to the GWACC Chamber. GWACC will now cover six towns, Clark, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, and Westfield.

Elected to the GWACC Board of Directors for a one-year term were Alan Tennant, President of the Clark Business Alliance, and Steve Flood, President of the Irish Business Association. These additions will afford exceptional access to business professionals in all six towns.

The first meeting in Clark took place at

Manny's Diner on November 10 and was sponsored by the Clark Township. GWACC will now continue to schedule and publicize IBA and Clark Township events.

Gene Jannotti, GWACC CEO stated, "This is the first expansion of GWACC in many years and it will bring a new group of business professionals into the organization. All existing members will benefit from this relationship."

Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso said, "I am excited to see the Clark Business Alliance as part of GWACC working with businesses in town. We need to support our local businesses in any way we can, they are the heartbeat of a thriving community."

All future networking event information and registration can be found on the GWACC website, GWACCNJ.com.

ABOUT THE GWACC

Established over 74 years ago, the GWACC is the primary business organization in Clark, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, and Westfield. The chamber promotes local business opportunities, economic development, and community growth. The GWACC includes 500 member businesses and nonprofit organizations.

For more information, go to GWACCNJ.com or call Gene Jannotti at 908-233-3021.

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WHS MARCHING BLUE DEVILS WIN REGIONAL AND STATE HONORS

The Westfield High School Marching Blue Devils placed 7th at the Bands of America Regional Championship held at Rutgers University on October 29, competing against bands from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Massachusetts. This marks the 5th time the band has been named a BOA Regional Finalist

since 2018 and is the 2nd most Regional Finals appearances by a New Jersey band in state history. On October 30, the Marching Blue Devils capped off their 2022 season at The College of New Jersey placing 2nd in the AAAA State Championships. The band is led by drum majors Jessica Strauss and Sarah Lincoln.



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(above, l-r) Student leaders: Katie O'Connor, Sarah Lincoln, Jessica Strauss, Jessie Borenstein (front row); Joshua Metz, Nikhil Jyotishi, Sophie Braun, Ian LeWarn (back row).

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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HANUKAH: A HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS AND MIRACLES

Submitted by Rabbi Paul David Kerbel

Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday. You might be surprised by that. Most rabbis and Jewish educators would say just the opposite, that Hanukah is a 'minor' Jewish holiday. From the perspective of religious Jewish law, Hanukah does not have the same religious significance of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (our Day of Atonement and forgiveness), Passover (our Festival of Freedom), Shavuot (the holiday where we celebrate the revelation of the Five Books of Moses), and Sukkot (our Fall festival celebrating the end of the summer harvest and our relationship with God).

Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday culturally and ethnically. One of the ways we can understand any religion is not just what the religion 'teaches' but what its followers actually observe and practice. More Jews observe Hanukah than any other ritual, other than participating in a Passover Seder. Part of Hanukah's 'popularity' is that it falls in the Jewish calendar between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hanukah represents a powerful response to the feelings of exclusion and of being a minority in the larger Christian culture of America and allows members of the Jewish community to celebrate its own traditions and be proud of the Jewish heritage even as the airwaves, malls and

TV commercials are filled with the sounds and traditions of Christmas.

But regardless of where Hanukah falls in the calendar, I would suggest the following four reasons why Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday and has lessons for both Jews and our non-Jewish neighbors to learn from share:

1. Hanukah represents the first victory in human history for religious freedom. Had the Jewish Maccabees not won their war with the Greek/Syrian kingdom, Judaism may have died out and Christianity and Islam, both of which have roots in Judaism, may never have developed. The Jewish people celebrate the value for all of us to celebrate our respective religious traditions.
2. Hanukah teaches us religious tolerance and to celebrate diversity and pluralism. As America becomes more diverse and welcomes citizens of many different religions from around the world, we learn from each other and how much we have in common.
3. Hanukah reinforces the ability and opportunity of each minority to teach, learn and celebrate its religious traditions and its principles and unique ethnic and religious identity while we all share and believe in the values of freedom and democracy.
4. Hanukah reminds us of the modern-day miracles that we have participated in: the redemption of over one million Jews from

the former Soviet Union who were not allowed to learn about their Jewish faith and practice Judaism while under Communist rule; the rescue and welcoming of over 100,000 Jews from Ethiopia and the rescue and of endangered Jews and other Jewish communities around the world. We must always be prepared to deliver the few from the many, the weak from the mighty and the righteous from the wicked.

Finally, I would like to share that the word "Hanukah" means 'dedication' and comes from the same Hebrew word as 'education.' Hanukah is about making sure that we maintain our Jewish identity, that we teach our children, the values, the history, the rich heritage which is ours to embrace and pass on to the next generation. May the lights of our Hanukah menorah symbolize our love for Judaism, our right to practice Judaism as a minority while at the same time, sharing symbols of light and the theme of miracles with those who celebrate Christmas even as all of us strive to make the world a better place. For our Jewish tradition has taught us this eternal message: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Happy Hanukah and Happy Holidays to all!

Rabbi Paul Kerbel is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim in Cranford and the current chair of the Cranford Clergy Council.



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(above) Former Westfield Police Captain Frank Padovano was Board approved on October 18 as School Safety and Security Specialist for the Westfield Public School District.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

FRANK PADOVANO APPOINTED SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY SPECIALIST

Westfield Public Schools

Former Westfield Police Captain Frank Padovano has been appointed School Safety and Security Specialist for the Westfield Public School District. Padovano was approved for the 10.5-month position by the Board of Education on October 18, 2022.

"We reallocated existing safety and security funds within the school budget to create this important new position," says Superintendent Dr. Raymond González. "As the full-time School Safety and Security Specialist, Mr. Padovano will work with staff and administration to review, revise, and coordinate safety and security practices at all 10 schools while serving as the primary liaison with the Westfield Police Department."

Padovano joined the Westfield Police Department in July 1998 as a patrol officer, advancing to sergeant in 2008 and lieutenant in 2013. In 2019, he became Captain of Police for the Administration and Support Service Division where his responsibilities included serving as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the Town of Westfield, enforcing departmental rules and regulations and ensuring compliance with standard operating procedures and other written directives, and collaborating with various community groups to plan major events and address community concerns.

"We need to create a climate in our schools

that promotes a culture of wanting to be safe," Padovano adds. "A School Safety and Security Specialist can share relevant safety knowledge about which many are unaware in the educational profession. Together we can accomplish this goal through inclusion, a sense of belonging, effective communication, and teamwork."

According to Padovano, that means "including staff and student input on the security drills, keeping the staff informed on changes to state laws and regulations, and informing them on added or enhanced security features."

"Safety is everyone's collective responsibility," says Padovano.

"Maintaining a safe learning environment for our students and staff is our top priority," adds González. "As Captain of Police, Mr. Padovano conducted onsite security assessments for houses of worship, many with preschool and daycare facilities. He worked closely with the Union County Counterterrorism Task Force and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and was responsible for all tactical operations and special event planning among Westfield's emergency services. Mr. Padovano brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this newly created position and, as School Safety and Security Specialist, will help to create a climate in which our school community can feel safe."

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DAY OF PRAYER

On Thursday, October 27, over 130 people attended the Union County Day of Prayer organized by Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council (UCICC).

It was the 8th annual "Day of Prayer" event, hosted by Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. The event featured a variety of inspirational speakers and performers from Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths. The service included a chant from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness of Central New Jersey and musical offerings from Shimon Smith, Cantorial Soloist/Artist in Residence at Temple Emanu-El, who shared Hebrew songs with attendees.

CAU spearheaded UCICC in 2012 to build bonds in the interfaith community and encourage the respect and welcoming of others regardless of faith, sexual orientation, legal status, or ability. CAU is based in Union County and works statewide to assist people with developmental disabilities and youth at risk to integrate into the community through support services and support coordination. CAU services include housing, education, employment services, behavioral management, advocacy and more.

Rev. LL DuBreuil, who has been a part of UCICC since the first Day of Prayer, said "I was looking for this kind of community because I believe that when we all come together in celebration...then we're already ready to be together in difficult times." DuBreuil is the Interim Pastor of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains.



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November 27, December 4 and 11 - Regular Schedule
December 18 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Midweek Advent Vespers on Wednesdays

November 30, December 7 and 14
at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24
Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist
Sunday, January 1 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

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Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Holiday Event Schedule 2022

- ♥ Saturday December 10: Mass of Anointing at 11am
- ♥ Friday December 16: Christmas Concert featuring Choirs from St. Helen's & IHM at 7pm @ St. Helen's Church. Westfield
- ♥ December 17-24: Reflections on the O Antiphons Video Release
- ♥ Sunday December 18: Living Nativity + Hot Chocolate with Santa and Holiday Gift Shop (SPF PAL) starting at 1pm
- ♥ Monday December 19: Penance Service at 7pm

Mass Schedule

Mon-Fri: 7am + 8:30am

Sat: 7am, 8:30am, 5pm

Sun: 8am, 10am, 12 noon

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12/24: 4pm, 6pm, 10:30pm

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DECEMBER FIRST WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON

Westfield Historical Society

“The Bill of Rights: How the Losers of Constitutional Ratification Nevertheless Contributed Significantly” with Dr. James Hewitt

For the Westfield Historical Society’s First Wednesday Luncheon series in December, guests are welcome to the luncheon at Echo Lake Country Club on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 beginning with check-in at 11:45 a.m. History expert, Dr. James Hewitt, will speak about “The Bill of Rights: How the Losers of Constitutional Ratification Nevertheless Contributed Significantly to the Constitution.”

The famous French historian, Fernand Braudel (1902-1985), warned that we distort history when we ignore the losers in a conflict because losing movements are forces that at every moment have influenced the outcome. The interpretation of the ratification of the Federal Constitution exemplifies Braudel’s dictum. Generations of historians have portrayed Alexander Hamilton, and his fellow Federalists, as the epic heroes of the ratification struggle, who, like the legendary Horatius at the bridge, are seen defending the infant republic and winning a magnificent victory against overwhelming odds. If the apparent facts of the case seem to sustain such a treatment, a deeper look from the point of view of the Anti-Federalist losers may suggest another interpretation.

James S. Hewitt, Ph.D., has family roots going back to Westfield, NJ, more than a century. His great-grandparents moved to Westfield on North Avenue in 1901. The family home alone

remained standing, until 1974, in what became, in 1961, the Hayne’s and later the Lord and Taylor department store’s parking lot.

A graduate of Westfield High School and Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Dr. Hewitt has a Master’s and Doctorate at UMass/Amherst in British and European history. While in Amherst, he did college teaching and university administrative work. Following graduate work in business at the Wharton School at UPenn in Philadelphia, Dr. Hewitt moved to New York City. While in NYC he first worked with the New York City Transit Authority and then joined the Trinity Church/Wall Street’s Real Estate Department and ultimately established his own business in commercial leasing and business brokerage in Greenwich Village. Jim Hewitt now lives in his parent’s home in Mountainside and actively participates in local activities including the Westfield Presbyterian Church and the Old Guard of Summit among other places.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon may make a reservation by email to westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com; or, by calling 908-654-1794, by Thursday, December 1.

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. Depending on Covid transmission levels, tables will be spaced out and mask-wearing is suggested. 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; by Venmo to @Westfield-HistoricalSociety; or, online at westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/registration.

Registration and payments should be received by Friday prior to the luncheon. Attendees should check the club’s dress code at: echolakecc.org/guest-info

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.

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



(above) Dr. James Hewitt will present a program entitled “The Bill of Rights: How the Losers of Constitutional Ratification Nevertheless Contributed Significantly to the Constitution” for the Westfield Historical Society’s First Wednesday Luncheon Program to be held on December 7 at Echo Lake Country Club. Reservations are required.

Photo courtesy of Dr. James Hewitt


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ADOPTION DAY FETES YOUTH LEAVING FOSTER CARE FOR FAMILIES

CASA of Union County

On the morning of Thursday, Nov. 10, children from 18 months to 18 years gathered at the Union County Courthouse surrounded by courthouse staff and judiciary, county commissioners, area organizations and more – all there to celebrate youth reaching the long-awaited end to living in foster care with adoption into a forever family. Family courts see complex issues fraught with loss or discord nearly every day, yet Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by all, as fresh starts and ample smiles fill the courthouse.

November is National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day, celebrated the Saturday before Thanksgiving, is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care awaiting a family. Since its inception in 2000, more than 75,000 children have found permanency on this day. Still, more than 110,000 youth in the United States need a permanent home and the average wait is four years. More than 23,000 youth nationwide age out of the system each year and must face life on their own.

This year, Union County's celebration came

early, but no complaints; it just means children received permanency even sooner. After Judge Daniel Roberts performed the adoption ceremonies, the festivities began: from roving a balloon artist and CASA Volunteer Dina Gharaibeh providing face painting to a musician and more than a dozen superheroes from the Union County Sheriff's Heroes Initiative – the Batmobile even made an appearance – there was nothing but smiles to go around.

Speakers included 17-year-old Maeve Boger-O'Bryan of Cranford and Joseph Coston of Fair Lawn. Maeve discussed her own open adoption and Joseph shared his story as an adoptive parent of eight youth from the foster system.

CASA of Union County provided family fun baskets with donated board and card games, fleece blankets, jars of popping corn, movie candy and more from David Brearley High School's Bears that Care group, all packed into baskets donated by Cranford Girl Scout Troop 40836. The high school bear mascot also made the rounds, much to the delight of the littlest adoptees and their siblings. In addition, each

family received a ShopRite gift card made possible by a Union County Bar Association donation, as well as gifts from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Theta Phi Omega, Phi Eta Omega and Omega Psi Omega chapters.

For details on CASA of Union County and becoming an advocate for a foster youth, contact Chanel at info@casaoofunioncounty.org or log on to www.casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above) The Honorable Daniel Roberts, J.S. C. (Adoption Day Judge), with David Brearley High School Bears That Care



(above) Superheroes from the Union County Sheriff's Heroes Initiative.





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GINGERBREAD SUNDAY DEC. 4

Gingerbread Sunday will be held on December 4 from 1:30 - 4 p.m. Spicy, sweet gingerbread is a special part of the holiday season. Children will make a decorative, non-edible gingerbread house and an orange pomander to take home and will hear "gingery" stories. Members of the Cooking Committee will also demonstrate early American recipes using ginger over the open hearth.

Suggested age: 3 (with assistance for crafts) through elementary school. \$5 per child; accompanying adults free. Reservations are required. Call the museum at 908-232-1776 or email millercorymuseum@gmail.com to place yours. Please include your phone number in the email.

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.



(above) Join the holiday fun on Gingerbread Sunday, December 4 from 1:30 - 4 p.m.

POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS ENHANCE VOCATIONAL SKILLS IN NEW PROGRAM

Students who have graduated from high school but are still attending school will benefit from a new program design that has started at Westfield's Lamberts Mill Academy. According to Carrie Datillo, Superintendent of Westfield's Union County Educational Services Commission, the courses will provide a basis for transitional skills taking the students to the world of work. "Now that our students benefit from extended time in school, we are able to address the toolkit that will better prepare them for success in work and other necessary independence supports" she said.

Once fully engaged, the students will participate in morning classes and afternoon job placements. Resume building, job searching, personal budgeting, workplace attitudes, communication, attitudes for work, and organizational skills are among the many topics that will be reviewed in morning classes. These will be supplemented by jobsite visits, special presentations, role play simulations and

interviews with already working teens and their supervisors. The students have already begun to operate LMA's school store, like a local corner store, where students choose items based upon their success in school. After conducting an inventory the student compiled a shopping list and visited a local supermarket to purchase the needed items. They also provide administrative tasks, assembled fans that were placed in the classrooms, and are supporting a plastic bottle recycling initiative.

Sponsored by the Union County Educational Services Commission, Lamberts Mill Academy supports students aged 13-22 who would not find success in a typical school. The program blends academic rigor with comprehensive clinical and psychiatric services and social and daily living skills all tuned to the needs and skills of each student.

Additional details about LMA and/or to arrange a tour, please reach Principal Reed Leibfried on 862-324-6373.

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WESTFIELD VETERANS BANNER PROGRAM

The Town of Westfield is proud to partner with the Westfield Veterans Fund, a locally established 501(c)(3) organization, on the Westfield Veterans Banner Program, which honors local veterans with banners displayed in Downtown Westfield. Phase 1 of this program was introduced on July 4, 2022, when the first round of banners was unveiled on poles adjacent to Monument Circle, along East Broad Street, North Avenue, and South Avenue.

Submissions for the next round of the program are now being accepted to recognize those veterans (living and deceased) and active duty military personnel who live or have lived in Westfield. The banners will be displayed each year from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Individuals are eligible to participate if they are serving or have served in any one of the following branches of the United States Armed Forces: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Merchant Marines, Women Airforce Service Pilots (World War II)

APPLICANTS MUST ALSO MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Are active duty, retired, honorably discharged or killed in action. Deceased individuals may be honored by their families by submitting a copy of the "DD Form 214" (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) or

other official documentation confirming the individual's military service.

- Are current or former residents of Westfield.
- All submissions for this round of banners must be completed no later than January 15, 2023. Please note that the first 50 submissions will be taken for this phase. All others will be held for the next round of the program.

The fee for a banner is \$125 in order to cover the costs of the materials and bracket. Those experiencing financial hardship who would like to participate should contact the Westfield Veterans Fund at westfieldveteransfund@gmail.com. The goal of the program is not to turn away any veteran.

Residents wishing to contribute to this project without nominating a specific veteran can donate at bit.ly/Westfield-Veterans-Banners. The suggested donation is \$125 (the cost of a banner), although any amount is appreciated and helps the Westfield Veterans Fund make these banners a reality for the community.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications can be downloaded (westfieldnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4496/Veterans-Banner-Program-Application), and then may be submitted by mail or email with payment and documentation to the Westfield Veterans Fund. If you have any questions, please email westfieldveteransfund@gmail.com.



(above) The deadline for the next round of the Westfield Veterans Banner Program is January 15, 2023.

Photo by Town of Westfield

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The Retired Policemen and Firemen's Association (NJRPF) Local 3, is comprised of members from of Union and Somerset counties. Monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW.

The NJRPF was established in 1987 to promote and develop a friendly spirit among its members, both retired and associate members. There are over 3,000 members of the association in various county Locals in NJ, as well as Local 22 in the State of Florida. These members are retirees from State, County and Local Firefighters, Police, Sheriff, Prosecutors, and Attorney General's Office to name a few. These members reside in NJ, NY, PA, FL, VA, SC and many other states.

If you live in Union County or Somerset County, please consider joining our Local 3 to keep abreast of major issues which may impact on your retirement benefits and issues that may be of value to you. Our yearly dues are \$10. For more information visit: njrpf.org/local3/

During our careers as police and firemen, we never ignored a call for help from the public, we were always there and always ready, and now, that we are retired, we ask that we be--- not forgotten. We have over 300 members here in Union and Somerset Counties and we keep that comradery, and spirit of friendship by supporting our retired members, their families, and the community when they need help.

A recent guest speaker at our monthly meeting was Special Agent in Charge of the NYC DEA office, Frank Tarentino. Agent Tarentino spoke to our membership along with officials from Kenilworth's Harding School. The topic of the presentation was Fentanyl Awareness and the dangers of this drug coming into our country.

Local 3 also presented a check to the Union County Police Chiefs Association. It will go towards the new construction of the "Fallen Officers Memorial" which is located in front the Police Academy in Scotch Plains. Scotch Plains Chief Ted Conley accepted the Check from Chief

Kenneth Grady (Ret) President of Local 3.

Local 3 also participated in the National Red Ribbon week with Harding School officials. Harding School Counselor Kristen Jeans

obtained the red ribbons which were handed out at the meeting. National Red Ribbon Week is in tribute to slain DEA Agent Enrique Camarena who was killed in 1985 in Mexico.



(above) Active and retired members of Local 3 participating in National Red Ribbon Week. National Red Ribbon Week is in tribute to slain DEA Agent Enrique Camarena who was killed in 1985 in Mexico.



(above) Members of the Union County Prosecutor's Office with retired Police Chief Kenneth Grady and Special Agent in Charge of the NYC DEA Office Frank Tarentino. Special Agent Tarentino addressed the members of Local 3 on the dangers of fentanyl. Members of Harding School were also invited. The meeting was in support of National Red Ribbon Week in tribute to slain DEA Agent Enrique Camarena. Red Ribbons were handed out to the membership.



(above) Retired Police Chief Kenneth Grady, President of the Retired Policemen and Firemen's Association Local 3 of Union County presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Scotch Plains Chief Ted Conley. The donation is to go towards the new construction of the "Fallen Officers Memorial" which is under construction in front of the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains.

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COME ONE COME ALL - DEC 3RD TO THE DECK THE HALLS HOUSE TOUR

Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield invites you to tour three local homes decorated for the holidays and shop the Mistletoe Market, a boutique filled with unique handcrafted seasonal items. The proceeds from this event will support the Club's numerous community service projects for youths, seniors, and veterans. The Deck the Halls House Tour will be held on December 3.

Tickets are available at rakeandhoe.org or at Baron's East Broad Street, Westfield.

The first house is a 1950s colonial that the present owners rebuilt. The theme "Season of Delights" will be reflected in the festive holiday décor and the many handmade ornaments. A cascading garland of fresh greens will adorn the floating staircase. One large Christmas tree will be decorated with sweet delights, and another will be embellished with baseball themed ornaments. Rooms will be decorated with wreaths, topiaries, hand-stitched stockings, and arrangements of greens, flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The mantel in the family room will be clothed in a profusion of fresh seasonal foliage and flowers.

The second house is a Victorian built in 1895 and extensively renovated over the years. The theme is "Winter Fantasy." Winding around the antique handrail and newel post will be a stunning display of Alliums, Baby's Breath, Eucalyptus, and seasonal greens. A forest of white and silver branches will be created in the living room and the baby-grand piano will be topped by a tall arrangement of cascading white orchids. In the library, the original 12-foot original fireplace will be seasonally decorated. Culinary-related topiaries will be on display in the kitchen, and in the family room a Christmas tree will be decorated with shining stars created from milkweed pods.

The third house is a 1950s Cape Cod which the present owner completely renovated. Branches, pinecones, and flowers will be used to decorate this "Trees Indeed" themed house. Trees in many forms will be found throughout the house. A front door wreath of gilded magnolia leaves will adorn the front door and a magnolia leaf topiary will

stand on the entryway table. In the kitchen topiary trees and pinecone deer will set the scene for the holidays. A tree of woodland magic filled with butterflies, bees, mushrooms, and gilded magnolia leaves will be the centerpiece in the living room, while in the family room a tabletop tree of birds, nests, and birdhouses will be displayed against an outside backdrop of evergreen.

Visit the Mistletoe Market to find unique, handmade items made by our talented members. There will be grapevine and pinecone wreaths, topiaries, ornaments and many holiday decorations for the home. We will also have hand-painted birdhouse gourds, fairy houses, and fresh evergreen wreaths and swags for outside. And do not miss a large selection of gifts for friends and family, from lavender sachets to felted soap, floral coasters, and hand-made cards.



(above) Items from Mistletoe Market include many unique, handmade gifts and decor.

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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
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WILL YOU JOIN IMAGINE'S AMAZING TEAM OF VOLUNTEER FACILITATORS?

November is Children's Grief Awareness Month and at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss we're spending this month honoring the children who come to us for support by doing all we can to ensure that no child grieves alone. One of the ways that we're working to bring free grief support groups to more children is by bringing them to more communities, most recently to the Newark community.

In October, Imagine began offering free grief support groups every other week on Thursday evenings at the Boys and Girls Club of Newark on Avon Avenue. As these groups continue to grow, our need for volunteer facilitators will grow as well. Imagine's volunteer facilitators are the heart of our support group program. Facilitators first complete a three-day training to prepare them to create safe spaces and be loving listeners for the children, youth, young adults and adults in Imagine's support groups.

Imagine staff are planning a training for adults interested in facilitating Imagine's Newark support groups. The training will be held at the Teach for America location in Newark December 9-11 from 9 am-5 pm each day. If you're interested in making a difference in the lives of grieving families and would like to participate in this life-changing training, we'd like to hear from you! Imagine's training will prepare you to be present for the children and families that participate at Imagine, help you support those in your family and community who are grieving and also provide an opportunity for you to receive support for losses you've experienced. Those interested in this training can complete this form <https://forms.office.com/r/RGwq323gHg> or contact Imagine's Newark Program Manager, Sonia Nunez at sonia@imagineenj.org.

Please join us in honoring Children's Grief Awareness Month by considering joining

Imagine's amazing team of volunteers. We hope to welcome you to the Imagine community.

Imagine offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imagineenj.org.



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