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CELEBRATING THE WHS CLASS OF 2023

Westfield Public Schools

Four hundred and seventy Westfield High School 12th graders graduated on June 21, as family and friends cheered loudly from the stands at Gary Kehler Stadium.

WHS principal Mary Asfendis congratulated the Class of 2023 and thanked their teachers and parents for encouraging and supporting the students during their educational journey. She noted the many student achievements and accomplishments and praised the Class of 2023 for meeting every challenge "with grace and positivity."

"May you look forward to each new experience and opportunity with the same strength and fortitude," Asfendis told the seniors. "You have a fresh start on the path of your choosing, whether that be college, a trade, the military, or a gap year."

Keynote speaker Maureen Mazzaresse stressed the importance of "looking inside to learn what you stand for or against, who you will stand up for and who you will stand up to."

"If you know who you are, what you want to be will follow. You will be motivated from within," said Mazzaresse, the former K-12 Director of Counseling who retired in August 2022 following 34 years with the Westfield Public School District. "You will handle frustration. You will accept some failure. You will get help when you need it and, if Plan A doesn't work out, you'll be open and able to find plan B."

Mazzaresse wished the graduates well as their new journey begins.

"I don't promise you an easy journey but I promise it will be worth it. If your journey is an easy one, be grateful. If your journey is hard, don't travel alone. Find help. It's out there and have faith," she told the students. "I hope, along the way, you will experience great joy and only sweet sorrow that comes because you cared. I hope that you have great success and appreciate the gift of failure as a reason to try again. I hope that you travel with good companions and helpers when you need them. I hope that, as you travel, you feel loved and always know you matter. And I



(above) WHS Senior Class President Sean Henderson receives his diploma during graduation ceremonies on June 21.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools

hope that you take the time to play and have fun."

The Class of 2023 and their guests were welcomed to the commencement ceremony by senior class president Sean Henderson and student government president Patrick Lanza. Members of the WHS Band and Orchestra performed during the processional and recessional, conducted by band directors Trevor Sindorf and Christopher Vitale and orchestra director Craig Stanton. Choral director John Brzozowski led graduating members of the WHS Choir in a presentation of "I Lived."

"It was a great day for the Class of 2023," says Superintendent Dr. Raymond González. "There were so many family members, friends, current and former teachers, administrators, Board of Education members, and others on hand to wish the graduates well as they begin the next step in their life's journey."



(above) Westfield Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Raymond González (front left) and Westfield High School principal Mary Asfendis (front right) lead the processional at the start of the commencement ceremony for the WHS Class of 2023 on June 21.



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GARDEN CLUB BUS VISITS NEW YORK CITY

The Garden Club of Westfield recently sponsored a bus trip to New York City, which included the Cloisters, the Central Park Conservancy and the Met Museum. The club

offers trips of horticultural interest, which are open to the public. For more information, please contact Margaret Allen at gardenclubofwestfield@gmail.com.



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IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?



(above) Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains to host a free spirituality seminar. Registration is required, please visit ihmparish.net/alpha.

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A free spirituality seminar is being offered by Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains, NJ. Most meetings are on Zoom. In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard-warriors, Alpha offers content and guidance for churches, ministries, and individuals to create a space for honest and open conversations about life’s biggest questions. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits.

Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Alpha fosters honest, open, and judgment-free conversations for anyone to explore the Christian faith. Each session includes a time to connect with others, watch a short video on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share thoughts and questions with the group.

“I was invited to participate in the Alpha pilot. From the initial meeting, I knew this was something that I wanted to be a part of,” explains Nancy Schreck. “After completing the pilot, I

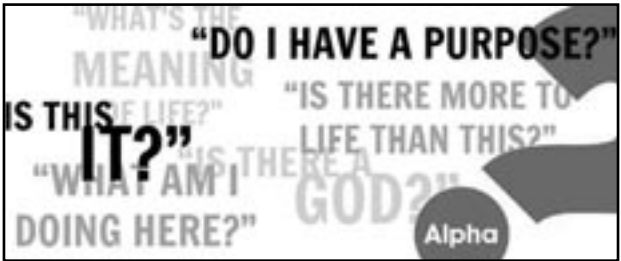
joined the Alpha team to help plan for the future of Alpha at IHM. It’s a wonderful opportunity for people at any level of faith to meet new people and explore new ideas.”

Sessions are free to attend and are scheduled on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting will be live and in-person on Monday, September 18, 2023, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Nazareth Center of Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Church: 1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains. Good food and conversation will be offered to all in attendance. Most meetings after that will be hosted on Zoom. Links and directions will be provided to those who register. Participation is capped at 30 people.

“When I offered tech support for the pilot program at IHM, I had no idea what I was in for. I’m not very religious, but Alpha was an unexpected surprise!” offers Gabe Lamberty. “The program is interesting and entertaining. And it’s nice to meet new folks from the community. Overall an unforgettable experience.”

“I’m looking forward to the Alpha experience,” says Lou Zappo. “It sounds like a lot of fun, and who knows, I might learn something about myself.”

Registration is required, please visit ihmparish.net/alpha or call 908-889-2100. If you have questions about Alpha, please email office@ihmparish.net.



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15 Bennett Pl	4	3.2	1	\$1,699,000	\$1,837,000	9
257 Sylvania Pl	6	3.1	2	\$1,695,000	\$1,650,000	14
1012 Cranford Ave	4	2.1	2	\$935,000	\$1,181,000	16
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Westfield Rotary Club members attended the Sweet Sounds of Westfield events each week collecting donations for the homeless veterans’ project. The club uses the collections to purchase and deliver items of necessity to homeless vets who are temporarily placed at the Lyons VA. For more information about the Club visit westfieldrotary.com.



(above, l-r) Members of the Rotary Club of Westfield attended the Sweet Sounds of Westfield event on July 18: Burim Regaj, Tony LaPorta, Club President Barbara Frantz and Jim Lucarelli.

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“AFRICAN ACCENTS” CELEBRATES AFRICAN FABRIC MONTH IN SEPTEMBER

The Cultured Expressions Sewing & Quilting Studio in Rahway is marking African Fabric Month in September with a special event at the Barron Arts Center in Woodbridge on September 7, 2023. Studio owner Lisa Shepard Stewart will share her passion for the unique textile arts of the Continent, and how to use them creatively. Learn how and why the fabrics are made traditionally, and view some of the most recent projects she has made with them. Sewing skills are NOT required to enjoy this informal presentation of creative ideas and inspiration. “Of course, if you ARE inspired to learn to sew after the presentation, we do offer beginner classes at the studio, and lots of virtual classes”, says Lisa.

African Fabric Month promotes the beauty and cultural significance of textiles like bogolan (mudcloth), kente cloth, adinkra, batik, ankara

prints and more. Their suitability and versatility for DIY enthusiasts ranges from fashion and quilts to home décor, crafts and gifts. Embellishments like Krobo beads and brass accents from Ghana will also be shown and discussed as the perfect finishing touches for any project.

(NOTE: The lecture is FREE but advance reservations are required; please call Barron Arts Center at 732-634-0413)

Regular studio hours are Wed 4-8pm;

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For information on workshops, upcoming Handbag MasterClass, the studio’s Sewcial Impact initiative and more,

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GERRY COONEY SPEAKS TO ROTARY CLUB

Gerry Cooney, former heavyweight professional boxer, was the speaker at the Rotary Club of Westfield May meeting. Mr. Cooney, a Fanwood resident, talked to the club about his professional boxing career, his triumphant battle with addiction, and his recently released autobiography "Gentleman Gerry, A Contender in the Ring, A Champion in Recovery".



(above, l-r)) Rotary Club of Westfield President Tony LaPorta and "Gentleman" Gerry Cooney. Courtesy photo

WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED SHOPRITE CUP

Westfield Public Schools

For the second consecutive year and the third time in the history of its athletic department, Westfield High School has won the Group 4 ShopRite Cup. The prestigious award is presented by Wakefern Food Corporation and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) to high school athletic programs with the most state championships and for being disqualification-free in all sports.

The top earning schools in each group - 4 public and 2 non-public schools - are named at the end of the school year. Before being awarded the ShopRite Cup for the 2022-2023 and 2021-2022 school years, Westfield High School last received the award in 2010.

The following Westfield High School teams won the NJSIAA State Group Championship:

Girls Volleyball, Boys Winter/Indoor Track & Field, and Boys Swimming.

A number of WHS teams placed second in the State Championships, including:

Boys Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Boys Winter/Indoor Track & Field Relays, Girls Swimming, Boys Spring Track and Field, and Boys Golf.

Boys Soccer and Boys Ice Hockey contributed toward the ShopRite Cup recognition, along with 15 varsity teams with nj.com rankings during the 2022-2023 school year. WHS Boys Swimming finished with a #1 ranking in New Jersey.

Supervisor of Athletics Sandra Mamary praised all who contributed to this special recognition: "As we strive to achieve the Tradition of Excellence in sports and athletics, we must also recognize the dedication and vision of our coaches, student athletes and the community to provide the support of all of our athletic programs."

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Carol Mullen, "Monarch," collage, 18x3x5 in.

Melissa Stern, "Deflated," 2020, sculpture, 43x18x17 in.

Lisa Ficarella-Halpern, "Joy, after Reynolds," 2023, oil on canvas, 62x38 in.

Giants, Dragons & Unicorns: The World of Mythic Creatures is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org).

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THE FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE

GEORGE A. CASTRO IV (21) SELLS RECORD-BREAKING \$4.36 MILLION DOLLAR MANSION

By: Abraham Friedman

CASTRO - When it comes to the world of business, there is no mistaking that attaining success is anything but an effortless feat. Simply charting a clear-cut way to do so necessitates utmost tenacity and discipline, and to then realize such a goal pivots on consistency. This is precisely what can be said in regard to Real Estate, where one's expertise in communication and character must stand at the forefront of every endeavor, making it a demanding profession, regardless of age. Thus, it's nothing short of outstanding when the youngest in the industry work their way up to greatness, and in regard to those who have gone as far as to break records, look no further than George A. Castro IV of Premier Homes who, at just 21 years old, has realized unprecedented triumph in his career through a most recent transaction worth millions, making a name for himself as the true future of real estate.

Having been acclaimed time and again for his unwavering dedication and ingenuity as a businessperson, it is beyond doubt that George Castro has made impactful strides within the Real Estate industry, and the vast recognition brought about by his latest sale of a new residence is no exception. Located at 420 Ludlow Avenue in Spring Lake, New Jersey, the property was built by "AllertonFox Construction", one the biggest commercial construction and development companies in Manhattan, New York, and is but one of many multi-million dollar homes throughout the prestigious neighborhood.



As with all his previous work, George enthusiastically took this unique opportunity presented to him, procuring a contract on the property under 30 days from the original listing date. The residence was initially listed at \$3,995,000, and was ultimately sold for \$4,367,000, a whopping \$372,000 above the original listing price. While this in itself is an exceptional accomplishment, it is made even more significant by George's remarkably young age, recognized as the most ever expensive residential sale by a 21-year-old in the entirety of the United States.

Castro emphasizes the importance of his medium of both marketing and selling, a crucial variable in his mastery of Real Estate. In the case of most Realtors who are selling million-dollar properties, they often focus solely on the market and local areas surrounding a particular residence, which is considered an outdated means to advertise to affluent buyers. Meanwhile, George has been marketing luxurious properties to purchasers not only from New York but several states throughout the country and even overseas. It is exactly this which differentiates him from the majority of agents. "There are many rich and affluent purchasers in Manhattan who live in small apartments but are paying hundreds upon thousands of dollars in rent," he states. With his concentration on efficient and contemporary ways of selling, George has been able to hone into this market and grant a myriad of buyers, whether near or far, the opportunity of purchasing opulent homes in New Jersey.

With his record-breaking achievement, George Castro's eminence in the tri-state area's Real Estate scene is ever-increasing and has been actualized by the aptly named "Wonder Boy" in the short span of only 3 years, at that. First setting foot in the industry at 18, his talent in Real Estate was put to the test by the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought change to our lifestyles, and hence, the state of the business. George rose to the challenge without hesitation, honing his potential with ceaseless determination to be greater than meets the eye. "If you're looking to think at all, you might as well think big, and in the Real Estate industry, it's important to always look to have the upper hand" he says.

By virtue of his prowess and passion for Real Estate, George Castro has come to establish himself not only as a distinguished professional in an industry marked by competition but as a paragon of his age. Through 2022 and beyond, he has earned numerous commendations as a top agent in the Premier Homes company and the state of New Jersey. More than that, George is the youngest realtor to have received the 2022 Gold New Jersey Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Award, further underscoring his ascendancy in the industry, all through skill well beyond his years.

In recent times, opportunities for prosperity have been sought out on a progressively larger scale, giving rise to new and innovative talent more so than ever before. However, it is George Castro who has proven that the scope of one's success hinges on the individual mindsets of those who strive for it. As he strongly believes "There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking. Usually those who are the most competent and committed, are the ones that rise to the occasion."



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DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT – SEPT 18TH

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on September 18, 2023.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$851,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children, Paramus, NJ, Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ), ECLC (Chatham, NJ) and Seton Foundation for Learning (Staten Island, N.Y).

Grant recipients use money to fund health and fitness programs, social skills programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games.

The golf event is the main fundraising

function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXII

ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2023

The Drive for Autism XXII is scheduled for Monday Sept 18, 2023 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, New Jersey. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information

please visit

www.birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXII,

call 908-451-8033

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Submitted by Peter DeSarno

Perhaps it is because I see today due to the generous life changing gifts of two donated corneas, I tend to become very reflective when I collect the donated glasses that are received in the Lions drop box.



(above) The New Providence Lions Club Eyeglass collection site is in front of the New Providence Library which is located at 377 Elkwood Ave. When collected, these glasses are sorted and sterilized and are then donated to a charity and/or medical organizations that provides free eye exams and eyeglasses to needy people in the countries they serve.

When I sort the glasses and package them to be sent into the Lions Processing Center, I am reminded of the good in people who are eager to help. I look at all the glasses that were once worn on the faces of members of our community which form a beautiful mosaic representing so many different shapes, sizes, colors, glasses for the old and young....and think that this is beautiful on many levels. I then think about the people who will experience that magical moment I had when sight is restored.

The New Providence Lions Club Eyeglass collection site is in front of the New Providence Library which is located at 377 Elkwood Ave. Since January 2022 we have collected 2,165 pairs of glasses.



(above) Mosaic of some of the 2,165 pairs of glasses collected to date.

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IMAGINE GRIEF SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

Volunteers recently completed three full days of training in order to join Imagine's amazing team of volunteer facilitators. During their training, space was provided where they could share their stories of loss with one another and give and receive support as Imagine staff modeled the skills utilized in Imagine's peer support groups. Imagine practices Alan Wolfelt's Companioning Model which encourages us to walk beside someone on their grief journey, so they feel felt and know that their story matters. Those who participated in this training can utilize the same skills and tools modeled by Imagine staff as they create safe spaces for Imagine participants in our peer support groups.

When asked about their experience at the training, one participant shared: "This training gave me skills that I didn't even know I needed. What I gained from taking part in this facilitator training will assist me in every relationship I have. I've already learned how to be a better listener to my children, to my husband, and to my friends. It may be cliché to say, but it's true that this training was life-changing!" Another shared: "I loved the whole thing" and a third shared a belief that the training should be offered in every school. We are so pleased that they found the training valuable and are excited to welcome this wonderful new group of facilitators to Imagine's community of volunteers!

Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that 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. Groups are also available for parents

who have lost a child aged 30 or younger. Imagine's Training and Education staff provide grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information, please visit imagineenj.org or contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imagineenj.org.



(above, l-r) Imagine's June Facilitator Training Class - Back Row: Katie Perlowitz, Bridgewater; Doug Roberts, Basking Ridge; Mouli Patel, Union; Imagine's Program Supervisor, Abigail Preece; Arielle Miller, Springfield; Curtis Moore, Irvington; and Rong Lui, Chatham; L-R Front Row: Imagine's Summer Intern, Emma Heinze; Meghan Cole, Westfield; Lyrica Smolenski, Cranford; Imagine's Family and Community Engagement Manager, Ashley S Allen; and Imagine's Executive Assistant, Najiyyah Bailey.

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MOBILE MEALS RECEIVES DONATION

Sheet Metal Workers' Union No. 22 recently presented Mobile Meals of Westfield a \$1,000 ShopRite gift card donation. Representing the union was Business Representative, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Jason Rooney. Accepting the donation was Mobile Meals Operations Manager Josephine Walsh.

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides nutritious and affordable hot meals for those unable to provide meals for themselves. The organization serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. For more information about the organization, visit mobilemealsofwestfield.org or call 908-233-6146.

Sheet Metal Workers' Union No. 22 serves Union, Morris, Somerset and Sussex Counties. The union members support veterans, the homeless and non-profit organizations as part of their community assistance programs. In addition, new union members, as part of their apprenticeship, provide 20 hours of community service annually over a five-year period for a total of 100 hours. For more information on the union, visit SMWIALU22.ORG.



(above) Union representative Jason Rooney
and Mobile Meals Operations Manager
Josephine Walsh.

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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. 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.

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The College Woman's Club of Westfield and the College Men's Club of Westfield jointly announce that the 2023 recipients of the awards honoring the female and male seniors earning the highest grade point average at Westfield High School (WHS) are Alyssa Rubenstein and Cooper DelGaudio. The \$500 awards for academic excellence were bestowed at the WHS graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 21, continuing each club's legacy of recognizing student achievement.

Alyssa Rubenstein will attend the University of Maryland where she plans to study aerospace engineering. While at WHS, she was a member of the varsity swim team which won the state championships in 2022. She was active in the Rare Disease Awareness Club and the Spanish Club and was inducted into the Spanish National Honor Society and earned the Spanish Seal of Biliteracy. She is a member of the National Honor Society and an AP Scholar.

Cooper DelGaudio will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he plans to study Mechanical Engineering with an eye towards a career in engineering and technology. While at WHS, he played on the varsity soccer team, served as Vice President of the 3D Printing Club and as Treasurer of the

Science Olympiad. His academic honors include earning a perfect score of 800 on the Math SAT, receiving the AP Calculus and the AP Physics Awards, and being a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society.

The College Woman's Club was founded in 1917 to promote higher education for women and serve the general interests of the community. It has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships to young women from Westfield based on academics, leadership and financial need. In addition to fundraisers, the club offers social and educational events, including college admissions and financial aid seminars, book clubs, and museum trips. For further information, please visit cwclubwestfield.org.

The College Men's Club of Westfield was founded in 1922 and over the past century has helped hundreds of young men by providing college tuition assistance and funding for standardized test preparatory courses. Since its founding, the CMC has raised and distributed over \$1.3 million to young men from the Westfield community.

For more information about the CMC, including membership and scholarship applications, please visit cmcwestfield.org.

Courtesy photos



(above) Cooper DelGaudio



(above) *Alyssa Rubenstein*

Friends of Brightwood Park
Calling all nature and photography enthusiasts! Don't forget to visit Brightwood Park this summer on the regular to witness the wonders of the season!

Friends of Brightwood Park invite you to observe the goings-on in the park through your own photo lens!

The submission challenge runs from August 1 - August 3. It is for two youth age groups - 4-9 and 10-14. Submit your picture and we will

upload all entries onto our website to document the summer months and compile a community photojournal with your help!

Each participant is also eligible to partake in an art class in Brightwood with former Franklin School teacher and artist Donna Stein on September 30, with limited space. Registration for the art class opens after Labor Day.

Register for the challenge and photo submission details on the Westfield Recreation Website: secure.rec1/NJ/westfield-nj/catalog



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OPEN HOUSE TOURS OF REEVE HOUSE AUG 13

The Westfield Historical Society invites visitors to their Sunday Open House at the Reeve House on Sunday, August 13, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Have you driven down Mountain Ave., noticed the Reeve House, and wondered what it was like? Here's your chance to find out! Ongoing tours of the Reeve House will be available during this Sunday Open House.

The Reeve House is home to the Westfield Historical Society and houses the Reeve History and Educational Resource Center. The Reeve House was constructed around 1872 and features Victorian architecture and furnishings. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the house serves as a museum of Victorian style and Westfield history.

The Reeve History and Cultural Resource Center (The Reeve House) is located at 314 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ.

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 and on Facebook and Instagram.



(above) Westfield Historical Society's Reeve House during a Sunday Open House held on August 13, 2023 (2-4 pm).

REEVE HOUSE GETS A DAY OF BEAUTY

Volunteers from the L'Oreal Corporation of Clark visited the Westfield Historical Society's Reeve House to take part in L'Oreal USA's Annual Volunteer Day held on June 22nd.

It was a day of weeding, mulching, dead plant removal, bamboo shearing, decorating, sweeping and cleaning as twenty volunteers from the L'Oreal Corporation pitched in and accomplished these tasks as they have done in many previous years. Westfield Historical Society President, Brian Remite supervised the

volunteers who worked despite the misty rain.

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 and like us on Facebook.

Photo by Westfield Historical Society



(above) Volunteers from the L'Oreal Corporation in Clark worked to accomplish much-needed tasks at the Westfield Historical Society's Reeve House during the June 22nd L'Oreal Annual USA Volunteer Day.

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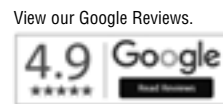
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CELEBRATING WORLD LANGUAGE HONORS AND CULTURE

Westfield Public Schools

Westfield High School students were recognized in June for a number of world language honors, while English language learners of all grade levels and their families joined teachers and administrators for the 42nd Annual English as a Second Language (ESL) Dinner with homemade dishes representing more than 11 countries.

One hundred and twenty WHS 12th graders received the Seal of Biliteracy, an award granted to students who attain proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.

WHS sophomore Keira Deignan earned a perfect score on the intermediate level of the National Latin Exam, which is given annually in all 50 states and a number of countries. The distinction of a perfect score was only attained by a very small number of students out of more than

100,000 who took the exam across the world. Additionally, 49 WHS students earned a variety of awards and recognitions at all four levels of the National Latin Exam, including 1 Gold Summa Cum Laude Award, 2 Silver Maxima Cum Laude Awards, 2 Magna Cum Laude Awards, and 1 Cum Laude Award for Beginning Latin. One student earned a Cum Laude Award for Advanced Latin Poetry and, for the Intermediate Latin Exam, there was 1 Gold Summa Cum Laude Award with Perfect Score, 4 Gold Summa Cum Laude Awards, 6 Silver Maxima Cum Laude Awards, and 2 Cum Laude Awards.

“The students of Westfield High School did well on this year’s National Latin Exam, as they usually do,” says WHS Latin teacher James Rowan. “I was particularly pleased to see the number of gold and silver medals this year, but,

most of all, I was happy to see that Keira Deignan received a perfect score on the intermediate level exam. It is always great to see the hard work of students like Keira and the other award winners publicly recognized.”

K-12 Supervisor of World Language and ESL Enrique Pincay congratulated the high school award winners, noting “we are very proud of all of these accomplishments.”

Pincay and his team also organized the well-attended ESL dinner on June 5, as staff and families celebrated English language learners at all grade levels. Each family brought an entree or dessert from their native country... Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico, Ukraine, Italy, France, Germany, Israel, among them.

Superintendent Dr. Raymond González stresses the importance of these educational and cultural celebrations.



(above) One hundred and twenty WHS 12th graders received the Seal of Biliteracy, an award granted to students who attain proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



(above) WHS sophomore Keira Deignan earned a perfect score on the intermediate level of the National Latin Exam, which is given annually in all 50 states and a number of countries. (L-R) K-12 Supervisor of World Language/ESL Enrique Pincay, WHS Latin teacher James Rowan, Keira Deignan, and WHS principal Mary Asfendis.

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WESTFIELD SENIORS GET PAMPERED

The GlamourGals Foundation organizes teen and adult volunteers willing to give their time to bring glamour to seniors in senior home settings. According to their website they currently have 100 chapters across the country visiting senior homes. Their mission: "Our program impacts two generations. Elderly residents in care feel a renewed sense of community and self-worth.

Teen volunteers gain essential leadership skills demonstrating empathy and compassion through our intergenerational programming."

Recently chapter coordinator Zara Zhao, and Evelyn Yuan, from the Union County Magnate High School, and Sparsha Shetti from Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School, gave free manicures to the seniors at Second Westfield

Senior Citizens Housing.

Zara commented, "I'm grateful that I have the opportunity to interact with such amazing seniors and to see them come back each makeover. I've learned so much about intergenerational bonds, and it's immensely rewarding to see our seniors happy from a simple act like getting a manicure. It is in these moments where I understand the importance of connecting with others, not just inside but outside of my generation. It is a wonderful opportunity to share stories and just have a fun time."

SWSCH Executive Director remarked, "We couldn't be happier that the GlamourGals have chosen SWSCH to provide such wonderful makeovers and manicures to our residents. We are very thankful for their time, talents, and the joy that their interaction brings to the residents."

For more information about GlamourGals visit glamourgals.org.

The Second Westfield Senior Citizens Housing, 1129 Boynton Avenue, Westfield, NJ, opened in October, 1995. The building is a three-story, elevator equipped building for low-income senior citizens. It is designed specifically for seniors and meets all of the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.



(above) Residents of The Second Westfield Senior Citizens Housing recently had a visit from the GlamourGals.

Courtesy Photo

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STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN MATH AND SCIENCE

Westfield Public Schools

Edison 7th grader Jasmine Parran is the New Jersey State Merit Winner for the 2023 3M Young Scientist Challenge, a nationwide project-based science competition. Jasmine's project - created in a gifted education "Inventions" elective course and entitled "Solar Roadways and Energy Trappers" - won her recognition as the top entry among all other submissions in New Jersey. Additionally, 4th grader Christian Cuccaro and 5th grader Logan Chen are national student winners in the Pythagorean Division of the Continental Mathematics League Competition. The Pythagorean Division requires participating students, with above-average reading comprehension and analytical reasoning capabilities, to compete in 5 proctored meets with 6 questions per meet. Participants have 30 minutes to complete all 6 questions per meet and must work independently. Christian and Logan earned perfect scores on all 30 questions and are ranked as the top-scoring students in their grade levels nationwide.



Photo by Westfield Public Schools
(above, l-r) Gifted education instructor Esther Van Riper and Jasmine Parran, the New Jersey State Merit Winner for the 2023 3M Young Scientist Challenge, a nationwide project-based science competition.

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4-H FAIR CELEBRATES MILESTONE AUGUST 9-11

This year's Somerset County 4-H Fair will celebrate 75 years of Free Family Fun. For many families, a visit to the fair is a multi-generational summer tradition. The first county 4-H Fair was held in 1948 at the fairgrounds in Far Hills. In 1962, the fair moved to its current location at North Branch Park in Bridgewater. The fair is the highlight of the year for 4-H club members who showcase their skills through a variety of exhibits, demonstrations and competitions. You can reconnect with the county's agricultural past with farm animals, or glimpse the future with 4-H projects in robotics and rocketry. Be sure to bring your appetite. A large food tent features many items to tempt your tastebuds. Food sales benefit local nonprofit organizations and help to make the fair possible.

The Somerset County 4-H Fair is August 9-11, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., at North Branch Park on Milltown Road in Bridgewater. Admission and parking are free. Visit 4HisTops.org.



(above) The 4-H Fair offers 15 acres of Free Family Fun.



(above) Animals shows from pets to livestock are popular events.

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Summit Repair Cafe closes out their 2023 repair season with their fifth year of repairing. Every event since its inception in 2018 has successfully repaired an average of 67 beloved but broken items from entering the landfill.

On September 9, bring your beloved but broken items to be repaired to Summit's Repair Cafe from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Avenue. The last items accepted for repair will be at 2:30 p.m.

Repair services available at this event will include sewing/textiles, lamps, clocks, woodworking, jewelry, computers, knife sharpening, electronics and bicycles. To allow all patrons to have the opportunity for repair, repairs are limited to 2 total items per person and 1

jewelry item per person.

Replacement parts for lamps and clocks will be available for an at-cost fee. Please only bring items that you can carry into our event unaided. No appointment is necessary, wait times may vary.

Summit Repair Cafe events are co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Cafe Garden State. Visit repaircafes.org for the full schedule of all upcoming Repair Cafe events in New Jersey for the autumn season.

Repair and event (setup/check-in/clean-up) volunteers are wanted for the September 9 event in Summit and all future events. If you would like to help please contact us via email: summit@repaircafes.org.



GARDEN CLUB CLEANS UP MINDOWASKIN PARK

The Garden Club of Westfield members recently worked at Mindowaskin Park. They weeded and pruned the garden dedicated to Betty

List, a distinguished club member from 1998 to 2017. For more information about the Club, visit them on Facebook.



(above, l-r) Rosemary Shire, Marion Bavolar, Marie Higgins, Jane Manniello and Marnix Godschalk.

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VOLUNTEER CLASS 102 IS READY TO LISTEN

Caring Contact Crisis Line

Residents from Westfield, Summit, Linden, Clark, Florham Park and North Plainfield completed training in June to become volunteers on the Caring Contact crisis hotline. During the 52-hours of training the graduates developed the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support. The training included dynamic and interactive presentations by guest experts in active listening, grief recovery, mental health issues and suicide intervention. Volunteer Listener Training was taught by trainers who are long-time listeners and nationally certified instructors in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

"This training and volunteer opportunity is ideal for people of varying backgrounds - retirees, empty-nesters, stay-at-home parents,

and full-time professionals" said Mary Claire Givelber, Caring Contact's executive director. "Many of our listeners are looking for something meaningful to do after they retire, or their children leave home. Full-time professionals also participate finding the flexible volunteer hours work well with their work obligations."

Following the training, new volunteer crisis counselors are supported by seasoned listeners during 24 hours of internship before they take calls on their own. Even once a volunteer is a certified listener, Caring Contact provides a range of support and training opportunities to allow them to keep honing their skills.

The next volunteer crisis counselor training begins September 20th through December 13th. The training will run once a week on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and will be

a combination of in-person training and via Zoom. Anyone interested in registering for the training should visit caringcontact.org/listener-training/ or call the Caring Contact administrative offices for more information at 908-301-1899.

Caring Contact is a volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community, providing active listening support and best-in-class training to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. More than 80 trained volunteers answered over 17,000 calls last year from people in crisis, having suicidal thoughts or simply needing someone to talk to.

If you need someone to listen, call us at 908-232-2880. If you, or someone you know, are in crisis call 988, the new access code to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To learn more, visit caringcontact.org. You are Not Alone.



(above) Caring Contact Crisis Line Graduates Volunteer Class 102. Next training begins in September. Visit caringcontact.org/listener-training/ or call the Caring Contact administrative offices for more information at 908-301-1899.

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GABRIELLE WRIGHT RECEIVES 2023 JUNIOR LEAGUE AWARD

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield awarded five \$5,000 scholarships at their Annual Dinner to college bound women who demonstrated a passion for volunteerism. The scholarship recipients are: Hagr Elweshahy of Linden, NJ who will be attending Princeton University, Olivia Encarnacion of Plainfield, NJ who will be attending Duke University, Sweksha Mehta of New Providence, NJ who will be attending Cornell University, Shalini Ramakrishnan of Springfield, NJ who will be attending Cornell University, and Madison Gabrielle Wright of Westfield, NJ who will be attending University of Michigan.

All five young women were committed to volunteerism during their high school careers. As Ms. Elweshahy mentioned in her application, "one act of positive volunteering can ripple across an entire community". We look forward to seeing what wonderful things they do in the future.

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2023. In honor of the Centennial Celebration, the JLEP awarded five \$5,000 scholarships (an increase from its traditional \$2,000 scholarships) to

college bound women who reside in Union County and demonstrate a commitment to volunteerism.

The JLEP is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. The JLEP is located in Cranford, NJ with our nonprofit thrift shop – The Jumble Store and our signature service project – The Career Closet. JLEP has been serving our community for over 100 years.

ABOUT the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield: The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. Learn more about us at: jlepnj.org or contact Heidi Martindill or Laura Lanigan, Co-President 2023-2024, Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield president@jlepnj.org. For more information about becoming a member, please reach out to newmembers@jlepnj.org.



(above) The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield awarded five \$5,000 scholarships in 2023.

Courtesy photo

VETS OF CIVIL WAR INDUCTS NEW MEMBER

The General Phil Kearny Camp #20 swore in its newest member on December 22 at the Abraham Clark house in Roselle, NJ. Senior Airman Nathan Sands was home on leave from the Air Force and was sworn in by Camp Secretary Clark McCullough.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a fraternal organization preserving the history of those that fought in the Civil War, including hereditary membership from a Civil War Veteran or associate membership. To learn more visit suvchw.org.

General Phil Kearny Camp #20 meets five times a year at 1 p.m. at the Abraham Clark Memorial House, located at 101 W 9th Ave, Roselle, NJ. 2023. Dates are March 18, May 6, September 9, October 28, and November 11.



(above) Camp Secretary Clark McCullough swears in Nathan Sands.

Courtesy photo


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