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WESTFIELD PRESERVATION EFFORTS CELEBRATED

Historic Preservation Commission

Westfield's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) presented the 2023 Devlin Awards for outstanding efforts in preservation to a full house on Thursday night, November 2, in the Community Room of Town Hall. Over fifty attendees, including property owners, architects, builders, and guests, were on hand to recognize the eight commercial and residential winners and three honorary recipients. For a slideshow of all the recipients, visit westfieldnj.gov/Devlin-Awards-2023.

Commercial/Institutional properties recognized included Mimi & Hill Design Studio for their storefront at 150-152 E. Broad Street; St. Paul's Episcopal Church for their steeple restoration; and the Town of Westfield for the restored train station kiosk.

Residential property honorees included Lisa Colone and Curtis Tao for 100 W. Dudley Avenue (Sensitive Addition), Eric and Meredith Bridge for 601 Lenox Ave. (Restoration and Painting); Gregory and Shannon Crooks for 612 Elm Street and David Villane for 121 Effingham Place (Restoration and Addition), and Thomas and Christina Walsh for 256 W. Dudley

Ave. (New Construction Sensitive to the Area).

Special Achievement Awards went to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association and the Friends of Brightwood Park for outstanding effort in raising awareness of historic properties linked to African-American residents, sites and events. Sherry Cronin, former executive director of the Downtown Westfield Corp., received the Chairman's Choice Award, the Commission's highest honor, for her longtime dedication to preserving the architectural heritage of the central business district.

"This was a great night for preservation," said HPC Chair Maria Boyes. "While these awards may highlight the beautiful historic properties in this town, it's really about the people. The stories we hear as each recipient stands at that podium are priceless."

Established in 1984 by municipal ordinance, Westfield's Historic Preservation Commission is charged with preserving historical sites and structures while fostering an appreciation for these landmarks as an essential element of the town's unique character. For more information, please visit westfieldnj.gov/historic-preservation.

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(above) The Westfield Historic Preservation Commission presented its 2023 Devlin Awards before a full house on November 2 in the Community Room of town hall.

Courtesy photo



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Submitted by Colby Sheppard

Westfield's Franklin School Cub Scout Pack 172 recently made cards and decorations for the troops serving both at home and overseas. The Cub Scouts are one of the many organizations and classes throughout Westfield, Cranford, Kenilworth & Scotch Plains-Fanwood that participated in making more than 4,000 handmade cards, ornaments and decorations that were sent all over the world by several organizations including the American Legion in Westfield.

In addition to making cards and crafts, a program was presented and they learned how our

“freedom isn’t free” and how members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard have dedicated their lives to protecting us, all over the world. They listened to how the troops and veterans appreciate all of the handwritten letters.

A big thank you to this generous community, who over the past 15 years, has supported the effort in collecting over 41,000 cards, letters, and ornaments to help make our troops’ holidays a little brighter and feel appreciated!

And thank you to all the schools, scouts, churches and individuals that participated in brightening the troops' lives this holiday season.



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MARCHING BLUE DEVILS FINISH SEASON STRONG

Westfield Public Schools

The Westfield High School Marching Band wrapped up its 2023 season with impressive performances in back-to-back weekend competitions.

The WHS Marching Blue Devils competed on October 29 in the New Jersey Marching Band Directors Association (NJMBDA) State Championships at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), placing 2nd in Class AAAA for the 3rd consecutive year.

“The band won best music and had the 2nd highest score of the 35 bands attending state championships this year,” noted band directors Christopher Vitale and Gabriel Batiz.

The WHS marching band also finished as one of only 2 high schools in New Jersey to be named a Bands of America Regional Finalist for the 6th time.

On October 28, in the Bands of America regional competition of top bands from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, and North Carolina, the WHS Marching Blue Devils placed 9th in the preliminary competition, before placing 7th in the evening finals performance at Rutgers University.

The previous weekend, the Marching Blue Devils earned several 1st place recognitions at an NJMBDA competition at East Brunswick High School,

“The band won Class 4A, received awards for best overall music and best overall effect, and was named Grand Champion of the event, with the highest score of 14 attending bands with a score of 90.7,” Vitale said.



Photo by Jim Robinson



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1050 Wyandotte Trl	4	3.0	2	\$1,395,000	\$1,500,000	14
235 Sinclair Pl	4	2.1	2	\$1,369,999	\$1,375,000	33
715 Fairacres Ave	4	2.2	1	\$1,199,000	\$1,325,000	8
22 Genesee Trl	4	2.1	2	\$1,249,000	\$1,255,000	14
925 Central Ave	4	4.1	1	\$1,149,000	\$1,149,000	48

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Source: GSMLS, select properties sold 10/13-11/13/2023. If your property is currently listed with another Realtor, this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Each office independently owned and operated. Equal housing opportunity. Some homes may be sold and listed by other brokers.



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GARDEN CLUB PLANTS FALL FLORA



(above, l-r) The Garden Club of Westfield members planted ornamental cabbages and pansies in the planters in Downtown Westfield to welcome fall.. Estela Tarradellas, Pat Meschke, Marie Higgins, Jane Manniello, Rosemary Shire, Cheryl Siko, Nicole Harding-Ozturan, Marnix Godschalk and Marion Bavolar.

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BLUE ENVELOPE POLICE PROGRAM FOR AUTISTIC RESIDENTS

The Blue Envelope Program is accessible to all Union County residents on the Autism Spectrum. Residents can obtain a Blue Envelope at their local police departments throughout the county.

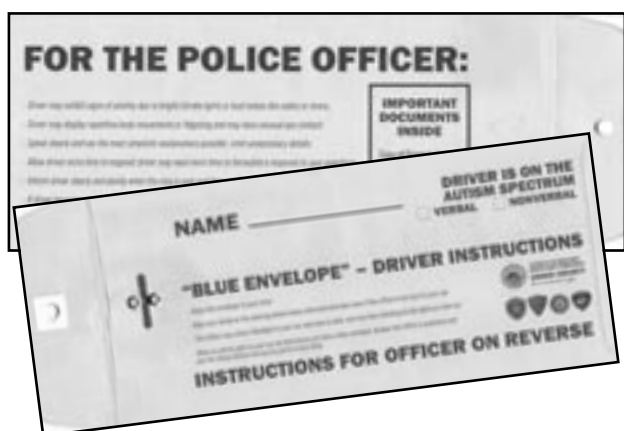
The Blue Envelope Program introduces a simple yet effective tool that contains essential information for drivers with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This includes a copy of their driver's license, vehicle registration, insurance details, and an emergency contact card. Additionally, the envelope provides clear instructions to drivers on how to navigate a traffic stop and interact with law enforcement officers in a manner that promotes clarity and safety.

Key features of the Blue Envelope Program include:

- **Specialized Training:** Every officer in Union County, including local officers in all 21 municipalities, will undergo specialized training to develop a deeper understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the best practices for engaging with individuals during traffic stops.
- **Communication Facilitation:** Drivers with Autism Spectrum Disorder can present the blue envelope to the officer upon being stopped, allowing officers to quickly recognize the situation and adapt their approach accordingly.
- **Essential Information:** The envelope includes guidance for officers to simplify requests and minimize the risk of misunderstandings or potential escalation. Additionally, officers are advised to contact the person listed on the emergency contact card for assistance if needed.
- **Verbal or Nonverbal Indication:** A checked-off box on the envelope indicates whether the driver is verbal or nonverbal, which aids officers in communicating effectively.

"Every single police department in Union County is proud to be a part of this initiative," said Elizabeth Police Chief Giacomo Sacca and President of the Union County Police Chief's Association. "Our officers have undergone thorough briefings and trainings to ensure they are well-versed in the proper protocols, and they are eager to put their training into action."

For information on this program in your town, contact your local Police Department's Community Outreach Unit.



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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Scot Paris MD, FACS

Here's what our patients have to say

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

- Patricia G.

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

- Perry O.

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

- Quenton L.



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STUDENTS SIGN NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT

Westfield Public Schools

Seventeen Westfield High School student-athletes signed Letters of Intent with colleges and universities, signifying recognition of the seniors' accomplishments both academically and athletically. The following student-athletes will continue to compete at the college level:

- Caitlin Cabrales, Jacksonville University, Beach Volleyball
- Ella Cadigan, La Salle University, Soccer
- Joshua Caramagno, University of Lynchburg, Lacrosse
- Jack Chavez, Villanova University, Baseball
- Emily Constable, Vanderbilt University, Swimming
- Sofia Della Rocco, University of Florida, Lacrosse

- Giuliana Gallo, Johnson and Wales University, Volleyball
- Genevieve Gauthier, Oberlin College, Volleyball
- Kate Giglio, Hamilton College, Soccer
- Cody Lam, Princeton University, Lacrosse
- Clare Logan, Duke University, Swimming
- Michael Marshall, Cornell University, Lacrosse
- Dan McGann, Denison University, Lacrosse
- Lucy Mineo, Marquette University, Lacrosse
- Marisa O'Connell, Ursinus College, Soccer
- Jack Paris, Muhlenberg College, Lacrosse
- Sarah Chloe Wiedman, Franklin and Marshall, Volleyball

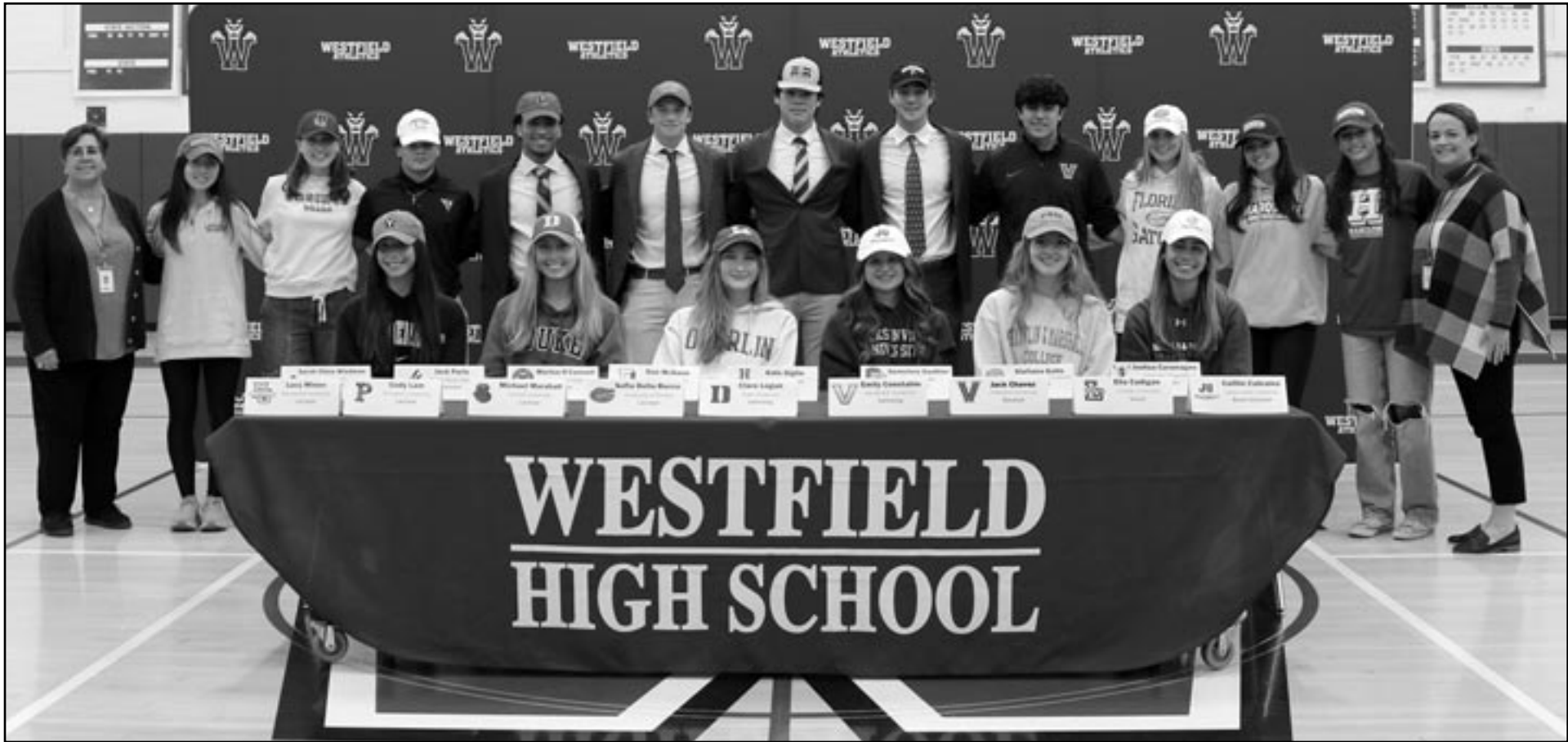


Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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Midweek Advent Services with Eucharist
December 6, 13 and 20 at 12 noon
Organ Recitals After Services on December 6 and 20

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24
Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25
Nativity of Our Lord Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist
Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 a.m.

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Visit our website at www.famfaith.org
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YouTube at FLCNJAV
We practice an open Communion table - All are welcome!

ASSUMPTION CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Church of the Assumption in Roselle Park, in conjunction with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, is coordinating a Christmas Concert on Wednesday evening, December 6th @ 7 PM.

New Jersey's own Chris Pinnella and His Quartet will be performing an array of Christmas and Holiday Classics. Chris is a world class vocalist who has been compared to Josh Groban and Micheal Buble.

All proceeds from the concert will benefit Assumption Church and Catholic Charities.

Tickets in advance are \$20, and can be purchased via the Rectory or by visiting assumption23.givesmart.com Tickets at the door will be \$25.

Sponsorships are also available.

For more information contact Peter Ruccione @ 973-818-4060. pruccione@ccannj.org

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TICKETS & INFO



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GINGERBREAD SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD

The Miller Cory House Museum

Spicy sweet gingerbread is a special part of the holiday season. Children will make a decorative, non-edible gingerbread house and listen to "gingery" stories. We will also be demonstrating and offering visitors a chance make orange pomanders, which have been decking the halls since the Victorian era, but date back to medieval times. Members of the Cooking Committee will be in the Frazee House preparing 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.

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 visit millercoryhouse.com or westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram.



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

The Westfield Historical Society is holding the fourth annual “Ring in the New Year” raffle fundraiser where the 1st Prize Winner will Ring the Town Bell 24 times to mark 2024 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) 24 times to ring in 2024 at midnight on New Year's Eve; plus a \$100 dining certificate, a bottle of Champagne, and complimentary 2024 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 12:00 noon on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, 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 12, to be included in the Dec. 17th 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 funds raised by the Westfield Historical Society (with the help of Jack R. Panosh (Town Bellmaster), Ralph H. Jones (Town Historian) and Richard Edge, of the Westfield DPW) for the Westfield Bicentennial in 1994. It was originally made by Vickers Sons & Co. Limited, Sheffield

[England] in 1869 of cast steel.

For many years, the bell was displayed and rung during the Westfield Memorial Day parade and stored by the Westfield Historical Society. In 2019, a stone monument was erected by Alexander McGrail for his Eagle Scout Award project. The monument currently displays the bell on the grounds of the Reeve House. A roof and column structure has since been built by the Society to protect the bell for future generations to enjoy.

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 <http://westfieldhistoricalsociety.org>; follow on Instagram and like on Facebook.



(above) The Westfield Historical Society is holding a fundraiser raffle for a chance to win the privilege of ringing the Westfield Town Bell 24 times on New Year's Eve (among other prizes).

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HOLIDAY MAGIC AT THE HOPE CHEST

The Hope Chest Thrift Store, located at 26 Prospect Street in Westfield, is outfitted for the Holidays! The store welcomes shoppers in with an array of beautiful holiday items. There will be holiday table linens, glass and dishware, serving pieces, centerpieces and wreaths. For a Christmas tree the store will be offering lights, garlands, and ornaments. In our book and CD section there are many options for children or adults.

For the man of the house the store maintains a wonderful selection of slacks, jeans, sweaters, sports jackets, suits, and outerwear that will outfit him for the chilly weather and perhaps that special holiday party. Women can choose anything from casual clothes to a glittering gown or dress. To accessorize there is a selection of beautiful earrings, necklaces, and bracelets. Dress and casual shoes along with boots will complete the look. Add one of our many pocketbooks and clutches and you are all set!

Be sure to check out our sales promotions which change weekly.

The Hope Chest is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and gladly accepts donations of new or gently used items on Tuesday and Saturday. The store is manned totally by volunteers and all of our profits go to support the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care in Scotch Plains. To volunteer at the store or to enquire about joining the Center for Hope Hospice Auxiliary please call the store at 908-233-9973 or stop in and speak with one of our volunteers. We always welcome new members.

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CASA of Essex County is thrilled to announce the upcoming screening of "Earth Mama." Prepare for a thought-provoking cinematic journey that delves into the complexities of the foster care system. The film unravels the heartache and resilience within the foster care system, focusing on the life of a pregnant single mother who seeks solace and strength in her Bay Area community. As she navigates the daunting challenges before her, she must make life-altering decisions that will shape the destiny of her family.

Following the screening, we are delighted to present an exclusive Q&A session with the brilliant Director and Writer, Savannah Leaf. The discussion will be expertly moderated by Michelle Miller, distinguished CBS Anchor and New York Times Best-Selling Author of

"Belonging."
Screening Details: Date: December 6th; Time: 7:00 p.m.; Venue: The Claridge, Montclair, NJ

Rating: R (Some Drug Use|Language|Sexual References|Nudity)

For more information and to secure your complimentary tickets, please visit casaearthmama.eventbrite.com.

For nearly four decades, CASA of Essex County has been dedicated to a singular mission: providing unwavering support to the young individuals placed in foster care, who, through no fault of their own, bear the weight of repeated traumas and uncertainties. Our commitment is to offer them the advocacy, guidance, and care they so desperately need to rise above adversity and carve out brighter futures.

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Dec. 9,10,16,17/2pm

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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.

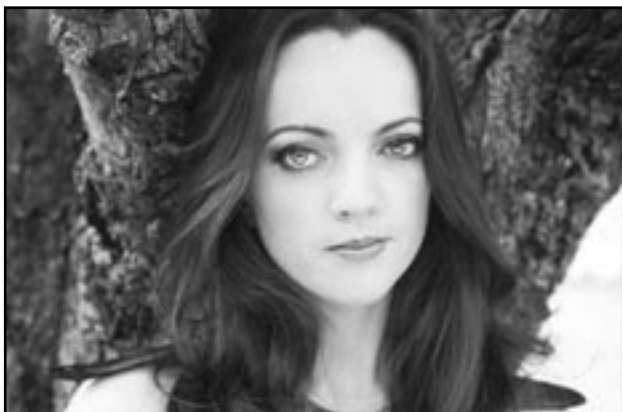
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

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, made her NYC solo debut at the 2022 Pipes of Christmas concerts NJ.



(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to join the company of the 24th annual “Pipes of Christmas” concerts.



THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS
24TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION

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Answer the call of the pipes and drums

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2PM & 7PM	2PM & 7PM
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Full details at pipesofchristmas.com. Brought to you by the Learned Kindred of Currie.



Merry Christmas from IHM Parish!

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
Holiday Event Schedule 2023**

- ♥ **Saturday December 9: Memorial Tree Lighting** following 5PM Mass
- ♥ **Sunday December 10: Living Nativity** + Hot Chocolate with Santa and Holiday Gift Market (SPF PAL) starting at 11AM
- ♥ **Friday December 15: Christmas Concert** featuring Choirs from St. Helen's & IHM at 7pm @ St. Helen's Church, Westfield
- ♥ **Saturday December 16: Confessions** at 10AM
Mass of Anointing at 11AM
- ♥ **Monday December 18: Confessions** at 7PM
- ♥ **Sunday December 24: Children's Christmas Pageant** at 3:30PM

Mass Schedule
Mon-Fri: 7am + 8:30am
Sat: 7am, 8:30am, 5pm
Sun: 8am, 10am, 12 noon
Christmas Mass
12/24: 4pm, 6pm, 10:30pm
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They're back! Under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, the orchestra will kick off the festive season with a bang and plenty of bling as The Three Holiday Tenors join NJFO to present a family festival of traditional and contemporary holiday songs and music.

"We cannot wait to return to The Presbyterian Church at this special time of year and are thrilled to welcome back The Three Holiday Tenors – each more talented than the next – to help us celebrate the Holiday season," said Wroe.

The concert features Metropolitan Opera's internationally acclaimed tenor Errin Brooks and award winning tenors Jeremy Brauner and Mackenzie Whitney to celebrate and captivate with a dazzling selection of renowned tenor arias. Traditional carols, signature versions of familiar fare and a host of wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

"We believe there is something for everyone in this performance. Our holiday concert is a vessel for children, parents, grandparents and friends – indeed the entire community – come together through festive music at this unique time of the year."

The concert will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave in Westfield.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH NJFO!

NJFO's quintessential New Year's celebration is also back on Sunday, December 31 in Westfield with "The Great American Songbook," a superb revue of American song and dance showstoppers.

Audiences are invited celebrate the New Year and revel in the musical genius of America's great composers, outstanding vocal performers, dazzling dance numbers and a world-class professional orchestra led by Maestro David Wroe.

A cabaret style event for the whole family, the concert promises a superb review of musical theatre classics presented in glorious symphonic splendor. The concert features renowned guest singers direct from the Broadway stage and dancers from Dance Theatre of Harlem who join NJFO to swing to favorites from Broadway and beyond.

The performance will take place on Sunday, December 31 at 7pm at Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield.

"There is much to celebrate this holiday season," continued Wroe. "So gather your friends and family for a series of merry musical programs of song and dance for audiences of all ages!"

This seasonal stroll of timeless classics and sentimental favorites, sure to bring us together with joy, smiles, and distinctive holiday memories, has been made possible in part by support from The Westfield Foundation, a Union County H.E.A.R.T grant and The NJ State Council on the Arts.

For tickets and further information for both events go to www.njfestivalorchestra.org or call 908 232 9400. ~

Celebrate the Holiday Season with

NJFO NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA



BRAUNER BROOKS WHITNEY

THE THREE HOLIDAY TENORS

Return of THE HOLIDAY TENORS

Saturday, December 9 at 7pm The Presbyterian Church, Westfield, NJ	Sunday, December 10 at 3pm Drew University, Madison, NJ
David Wroe conductor	Jeremy Bauner tenor
Holiday Choruses	Errin Brooks tenor
	Mackenzie Whitney tenor



THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Sunday, December 31, 2023 at 7pm
WHS Auditorium, Westfield, NJ

Monday, January 1, 2024 at 2:30pm
Sieminski Theater, Basking Ridge, NJ

David Wroe conductor
Guest Vocalists
Dancers from Dance Theater Harlem

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On December 20th at 7 p.m., the College Men's Club of Westfield (CMC) will hold its annual holiday reception at the Echo Lake Country Club to honor its current four-year scholarship recipients. All current and past CMC scholarship awardees, their families, CMC members, and those interested in joining the CMC are welcome to attend. During this final CMC event of 2023 all the scholarship winners in attendance from WHS classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 will share updates on their academic and career progress.

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

over \$1.3 million in higher education assistance to young men of the Westfield community. In 2023 the CMC awarded a total of \$74,500 in four-year scholarships and one-time grants.

Scholarship applications will be available on the CMC's website as of February 1st and are due by May 1st of each year. Applications are evaluated by a committee of CMC Trustees each Spring. Funds for scholarships are generated through fundraising events, donations, membership dues, endowment investment income, and legacy bequests.

The CMC's next major event is its annual Boxing Night fundraiser on February 2nd to be held at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center.

To learn more about the College Men's Club of Westfield, please go to cmcwestfield.org.

BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

The Church of the Little Flower will be hosting a Blue Christmas prayer service on Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m. The service will be held in the Bernauer Parish Center, 290 Plainfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights.

Many of us feel down or depressed this time of year, whether due to stress, financial issues, broken relationships, death of a loved one, or may be looking for a brief respite from the hustle and bustle of the season.

The Bereavement Ministry of the Church of the Little Flower invites anyone from the parish or any faith community to attend our service where we can pray for renewed strength and hope and experience the presence of the Lord.

Light refreshments will be served afterward.

For further information, you may call the parish center at 908-464-1585 and ask for Dan Grossano or email bereavement.lf@gmail.com.

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GARDENERS GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The Rake & Hoe Garden Club has been very busy this fall. Along with holding their regular monthly meetings and going on three field trips, the members have performed the following community projects. Fall clean-up at Miller-Cory House Museum; Created 55 Floral arrangements for Mobile Meals; Fall clean-up and bulb planting at Jardine Academy, Cranford; Planted bulbs and perennials at the Westfield Rescue Squad; Fall clean-up at Shadowlawn Park; Planted the urns in Mindowaskin Park; Made 100 ornaments for the Holiday Tree at Jardine Academy; and Sent cards to Veterans at Lyons Veterans Hospital, Bernards Township.

The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the Scotch Hills Country Club. If the activities described above interest you, and you want to connect with fellow gardening enthusiasts and make enduring friendships along the way, join our club. At every meeting, you will be able to expand your knowledge and skills, to enrich your gardening journey. Come be a part of our vibrant community, where growth, both in gardens and friendships, is our constant goal.

For more information, contact Cathy Becker via email cathymbecker@gmail.com, or visit the club's website, rakeandhoegc.org, or Facebook page.



(above) Planting Bulbs and Perennials at the Westfield Rescue Squad

Courtesy photo

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KNITTING TOGETHER WHILE MAKING NEW FRIENDS

The Gates Avenue Knitters celebrated their 23-year anniversary in April. The group has been meeting at the Long Hill Township Library, located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, every Monday from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in.

In the month of April in the year 2000, Gates Avenue, Gillette resident Arlene Kaplan, started a knitting group along with 4 friends. Twenty-three years later the group, now called the Gates Avenue Knitters, are still knitting together, including 4 of the 5 original knitters who still live in town.

Eighteen to twenty ladies show up on any given meeting day. Their skills range from beginner to experienced knitters (and crocheters). They help each other get past problems with patterns, and they are excited and willing to teach beginners to knit.

They come from Long Hill Township and surrounding towns, including Warren, Watchung, Bridgewater, Springfield, Chatham, Madison, Summit, and Westfield. Many were introduced to the group thru friends.

Along with their own projects, the group knits for causes. They knit approximately 500 hats per year and distribute them to local charities. Beginning in November they have a display at the library and the hats are sold as a fundraiser thru the end of February for \$10 each. The group

recently presented the library with \$1,300 from the proceeds of the last hat sale, which is the most funds ever raised.

The group welcomes donations of yarn and knitting and crocheting supplies. Donations can be dropped off at the Long Hill Township Library any day during business hours.



Photo by David J. Kaplan

(above) A display at the Long Hill Township Library features items made by the Gates Avenue Knitters. They are for sale as a fundraiser for the library. It will be stocked thru the end of February, or while supplies last.

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YOUTH TRAIN TO BECOME FACILITATORS

Imagine a Center for Coping with Loss

In the 10 years that Imagine has been offering peer support groups for children, youth facilitators have played an important role in the groups for children ages 3-12. Imagine's youth volunteers are high school age and co-facilitate with adult facilitators in support groups for younger kids. Recently, Imagine staff trained twelve young people who devoted a full Sunday to learning the companioning model of facilitation practiced at Imagine. Imagine's youth facilitators are such a valued and essential part of their support group program, and their staff are grateful for the commitment of this new group of youth facilitators and the many others who have been supporting Imagine's kids.

Abigail Preece, Imagine's Program Supervisor ran the training along with their Bilingual Program Manager, Sonia Nuñez. Abigail said this about the new group of youth facilitators: "Imagine's Youth Facilitators are such an inspiring group of people and this training class is no exception. They are an empathic and

enthusiastic group and will do an amazing job being present and supportive to our participants. We are so excited to welcome them to the Imagine community!"

Imagine's youth facilitator training program is held once a year in September. If you are a youth who is interested in participating in the 2024 training, Imagine staff recommend you and a parent or guardian schedule a tour of Imagine's center. Tours can be scheduled by visiting Imagine's website at imagineenj.org.

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. 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.



(above) Imagine's staff members Paul Muir, and Abigail Preece with youth facilitators Gavin LaConti, Aanya Wright, Alexis Zhang, Arissa Xiang, Elsea Reynoso, Haley Motz, Kira Goldman, Noa Goldstein, Benjamin Ooi, Robert Qi, Chloe Katz, and Jagger Cohen

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SHINING STARS CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR – DEC. 2ND

With cast members from all over Union County and beyond, the Shining Stars Network has been producing live programming for the special needs community for eleven years.

Celebrate the holiday season when the Shining Stars take the stage for their 2023 Christmas Spectacular” set for Saturday, December 2nd, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

The show will take place on the main stage at the historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway as this talented cast sings and dances to your holiday favorites.

This year’s Christmas Spectacular marks the return of the Shining Stars to one of the most beautiful theaters in New Jersey and will feature 35 special needs cast members and their volunteer buddies from local high schools, who serve as mentors to the cast during rehearsals.

Two previous Shining Stars shows at UCPAC drew more than 1,000 audience members for each performance, and already, the buzz is building in the community.

“We’re so excited to ring in the holiday season,” noted Shining Stars Network founder and President Mike Curci. “Our stars are ready to share their smiles, energy and amazing talents with everyone. This will be a great way to cap off our 11th year.”

“We strongly believe in creating an inclusive environment for our cast, and our buddies are an integral part of the Shining Stars experience,”

noted Shining Stars founder and show director Sally Curci. “We are so excited to bring a new show to the stage and cannot wait to connect with our incredible audience again to celebrate the holiday season.”

Shining Stars Network is wrapping up their biggest year yet, which included their annual “Evening of Shining Stars” Spring Show, their Broadway debut at the Gershwin Theatre, and their impressive main stage debut at the iconic Paper Mill Playhouse.

The Shining Stars performed “This Is Me” on Broadway as part of the Arts for Autism concert and soon after, took the Paper Mill stage to present The Greatest Show, a history-making performance which was the first full production of performers with special needs in Paper Mill history.

“Shining Stars Network is not only about

performing, but more importantly we’re about building self-confidence and self-esteem,” said Shining Stars co-director Nicole Greene. “Our cast members are not only talented, but inspire us every day, and we are all very excited about seeing our cast take the stage again to share another magical night with the audience.”

Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org. For groups of 10 or more, email shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com.

The night will also feature a Tricky Tray and 50/50 raffle. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

Shining Stars Network is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. that offers opportunities in the performing arts for the special needs community.

For more information on Shining Stars Network or to make a donation, please visit shiningstarsnetwork.org.



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The Westfield Recreation Department will host its 33rd Annual Holiday Concert featuring the Westfield Community Concert Band and the Edison Intermediate School Broadway Singers on Friday, December 15, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Avenue, Westfield. This free public concert culminates the band's 111th anniversary concert season. The band performed its first annual Holiday Concert at the Roosevelt Intermediate School in December 1990 with the Roosevelt "Sharps and Flats" chorus.

Highlighting a program of holiday favorites, the band will perform The Night Before Christmas, a music setting of Clement Moore's poem of the same name, featuring Kerry Stubbs, a Union County based vocalist, actor and music educator, as narrator. The programs will also include The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, made famous in the 1960's by vocalist Andy Williams. The band will also perform contemporary arrangements of the classics, Ukrainian Bell Carol, and Once in Royal David's City, both arranged by Philip Sparke.

The band's program also includes A John Rutter Christmas Suite, a compilation of traditional holiday carols, by English choral director and composer, John Rutter, The Eighth Candle, a celebration of Hanukkah, by composer Steven Reisterer. The band will also perform Leroy Anderson's popular holiday composition, A Christmas Festival, written for the Boston Pops. This very well-known selection is a medley of the most popular Christmas carols, including "Joy to the World", "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night".

The Broadway Singers will perform a variety of holiday music featuring the choir's unique arrangements and choreography. The program will conclude with a combined performance of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" with both band and choir, an annual tradition dating back more than twenty-five years.

The Westfield Community Concert Band is conducted by Dr. Thomas Connors, now in his 19th season with the band. Westfield music educator Stephen Markowski, vocal specialist in



(above) Dr. Thomas N. Connors.

Courtesy photos

the Westfield School District, co-directs the Edison Broadway Singers.

As the band completes its milestone 111th concert season, the band continues to seek out experienced area musicians to perform a wide variety of concert band literature for its many area concert events. Interested musicians should contact Dr. Connors through the band's website, info@westfieldcommunityband.com. The band rehearses each Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the community room located in the Westfield Municipal Building 425 East Broad Street.

The band's holiday concert program is sponsored in part by the Westfield Recreation Department, Megan Schaffer, Director. Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

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SUMMIT OLD GUARD DECEMBER SPEAKERS PROGRAM

The Summit Old Guard was founded in 1930 and meets most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

December speakers include Bill Freund, Mitch Erickson, and a special event featuring Joe Regan.

On December 5th, Summit Old Guard member, Bill Freund, will tell us about fleeing Nazi Germany with his family in 1936 at age 11. A refugee doesn't look for happiness, only survival. He was a shoe-shine boy, learned English, and attended school. He eventually earned a PhD from Columbia and became Chief Economist at the New York Stock Exchange. He wrote several professional books and later, two children's stories, including one about a cookie that played a central role in his life. We'll hear the remarkable life story of one of our most notable members.

On December 12th, another distinguished Old Guard member, Mitch Erickson will review the science, biology, and environmental and social uses of water as a parable of the intersection of science, environment, policy, recreation, safety, climate change, and social justice that affects all 8 billion of us. It is important to be informed about the fundamental properties of H₂O to participate in societal discussions. Mitch is an environmental chemist with a lifetime of



(above, l-r) Bill Freund, Mitch Erickson, and Joe Regan

professional experience with water. He also enjoys a variety of beverages comprised largely of water.

December 19th will be our last meeting of the year. We always try to make it a little special and a little festive. This year we will feature Joe Regan, a well-known cabaret singer and pianist we have always enjoyed, and he'll appear with a repertoire of popular standards and holiday songs. There will be special refreshments and decorations, and the bigger the turnout the better it will be. Join us for the music, snacks, and SOG bonhomie.

Past speakers and much more can be viewed at SummitOldGuard.org but we encourage people to drop in on our meetings which take place at the church at 10:00 a.m. most Tuesdays. "Come for the Speakers. Stay for the Friends." We look forward to meeting you.



(above) The Summit Old Guard has 19 activity and interest groups. During a Nov. 3rd fishing outing Bob Eng, along with Joe Geist, Joe Corona, and Marv Gersten all landed some sizeable striped bass for dinner and the freezer. Besides fishing, members golf weekly, play bocce followed by lunch, discuss the latest technology issues, and much more.

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Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041 07078	Summit NJ Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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COPING WITH LOSS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

There is so much pressure to be happy in our culture, especially at the holidays. We are supposed to have a Happy Thanksgiving, a “merry little Christmas” or a Happy Hanukkah. But grief doesn’t take a holiday.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss would like to offer support to those navigating the challenges of grieving during the holiday season and offer some coping strategies as well. On Thursday December 14th from 6:30-8 pm, Imagine will offer a workshop on Coping with Loss During the Holidays. The free workshop will be held at their center at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside and is open to adults and children grades 3 and older.

Imagine’s Grief Educator, Connie Palmer, LCSW will present the workshop in English and Training and Education Director, Veronica Ortiz, LPC and Bilingual Program Manager, Sonia Nuñez will present the workshop at the same time in Spanish. Pizza dinner is available prior to the session beginning at 6:15 for those who sign up. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served as well.

If you are looking for support as you cope with a loss this holiday season, the staff at Imagine would like to help, and hope to see you at the workshop on the 14th.

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. 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.



(above) If you’re interested in attending the workshop presented in English, please scan the QR code or visit Imagine’s website at imagineenj.org/education-training/community-webinars/ to register. Registration is not required for the workshop presented in Spanish.

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