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SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED FOR PROMOTING WALKING & BICYCLING

Westfield Public Schools

All six elementary schools in the Westfield Public School District have received Gold level certification under the New Jersey Safes Routes to School Recognition (SRTS) Program (SRTS), which applauds school districts for implementing programs and events to create safer environments for walking and bicycling in their communities.

"We are excited by this important achievement which dovetails with the district's recent recognition by the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program," says Superintendent Dr. Raymond González, referencing the district's Bronze level recognition by Sustainable Jersey which supports and rewards schools as they pursue practices that promote sustainability.

Among the events and programs that contributed to the three-year Gold certification by SRTS is the longstanding Walk and Bike to School in October, organized by Westfield B.R.A.K.E.S. (Bikers, Runners, and Kids are Entitled to Safety) and the elementary school parent-teacher organizations (PTOs).

Additionally, as part of the certification process, baseline data was collected to determine what modes of transportation were used by students to and from school, while the Board of Education adopted a district policy in support of walking and bicycling as a way to promote student wellness. Pedestrian safety assemblies also were held for all 2nd graders, with important safety demonstrations of how to cross an intersection safely.

Going above and beyond the points required for SRTS certification, B.R.A.K.E.S., in partnership with the Westfield Police Department, also piloted a Bike Rodeo at Washington Elementary School in June, with 5th graders learning important bike safety tips.

González thanked all who worked together to achieve the SRTS certification, including B.R.A.K.E.S. co-chairs Meridith Bridge and Claudine Gimlette, the Westfield Police Department, EZ Ride, and parent volunteers.

"The recognition of our district for its efforts in sustainability and safe and healthy fitness initiatives closely aligns with our 5-year Strategic



(above) The Walk and Bike to School event in October is an annual favorite at Westfield elementary schools.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools



(above) Washington 5th graders learned important bike safety tips during a "Bike Rodeo" in June.

Plan," González adds. "We look forward to continuing these important steps in fostering a healthier, more sustainable future for our students and community. By embedding these values into our daily practices and curriculum, we aim to not only achieve our strategic goals but also to inspire lifelong habits that contribute to the well-being of our students and the environment."

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FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND
AT THE REEVE HOUSE

The Westfield Historical Society invites visitors to the Union County’s Four Centuries in a Weekend Open House at the Reeve House on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20 from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Tours of the Reeve House will be available throughout the weekend. Exhibits from the Westfield Historical Society Archives will be on display including an exhibit on Westfield’s Virginia Apgar, who is accredited with developing the Apgar test for newborns. A new exhibit for the Westfield Historical Society will feature the Marion Holmes Keeler Memorial Collection of 19th century Rose Canton China pieces featuring a monogrammed platter once owned by Susan B. Anthony.

Passports will also be available and stamped for those visitors traveling from site to site.

As an added treat, the Westfield Historical Society’s Annual AppleFest event will also take place on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 12-4 p.m. at The Reeve House.

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 www.westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and on Facebook and Instagram.



(above) Visitors are encouraged to stop by the Reeve House, in Westfield, during Union County’s Four Centuries in a Weekend on Oct. 19-20.

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BRONZE CERTIFICATION IN SUSTAINABILITY

Westfield Public Schools

All ten schools in the Westfield Public School District have achieved Bronze level certification under the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program.

“This was no easy task to achieve given the amount of work required to collect, organize, and submit the required evidence for consideration,” says Superintendent Dr. Raymond González. “We are proud to achieve Bronze certification in sustainability, recognizing the important role our school district plays in promoting sustainable practices and educating our students to be responsible environmental stewards.”

To qualify for certification, schools must receive at least 150 points through a variety of different actions. Points earned for district actions are applied to school level applications.

“The majority of our points earned focused on our efforts to put digital and curricular systems in place to promote sustainable practices for years to come,” says González, citing examples such as electronic newsletters and other digital communications, curricular lessons involving school gardens, student-led composting programs, outdoor classrooms, and other initiatives that reduce waste, conserve resources, and promote environmental awareness.

González praised district administrators and teachers for their hard work on the project, led by Supervisor of K-12 Science Tom Paterson.

An awards luncheon will be held in October at the annual New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) conference in Atlantic City. Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for public schools in New Jersey, launched to support and reward municipalities and schools as they pursue sustainability programs. To date, according to the Sustainable

Jersey organization, nearly 1,200 schools are participating in the program.

In March, Westfield High School received a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools to install a “Student Bike Oasis,” a weather-protected shelter to promote bicycle safety and eco-friendly commuting to and from the high school.



(above) School gardens, like this one at Jefferson Elementary School, are among the many considerations that led to all Westfield Public Schools receiving Bronze level certification.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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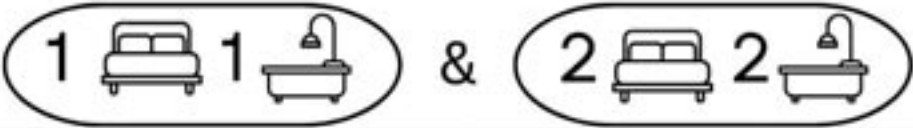
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BURIM REGJAJ AWARDED LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Rotary Club of Westfield

Burim Regjaj was awarded the Union County Lifetime Achievement Award at a dinner held on September 12, hosted by the Patriot's Path Council, Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Michael Hart introduced Burim, and highlighted one of the programs he started to support homeless veterans living at Lyons VA Hospital in Basking Ridge, NJ.

Burim Nimon Regjaj came to the U.S. from Kosovo at age 19. He graduated from Hunter College with honors and went to work in finance. He became successful in property management. In 2018 he bought Outta Hand Pizza in Westfield, NJ, and now splits his time between the restaurant and real estate property management.

Burim helps minority students in Kosovo, but does most of his philanthropic work in the U.S. He chairs the Homeless Veterans Fund with six regional Rotary Clubs. Burim is active in raising funds for rebuilding the Westfield American Legion Post and for the YMCA's Men's Club. Burim is a board member of the Downtown Westfield Corporation and the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he serves as Secretary to a newly established 501C3 Albanian American Relations Council in Washington, DC and NYC.

This past June Burim was named New Jersey Immigrant Entrepreneur of 2024. He has received

the Congressional Flag from Congressman Tom Kean Jr. for his patriotic dedication to New Jersey's veterans in need. The Rotary Club of Westfield has awarded Burim, Businessman of the Year in both 2021 and 2022. Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle and Westfield Police Chief Chris Battiloro gave him a special recognition for his unwavering support of the Westfield Police Department. And the Rotary Club of Westfield

presented him with the "Paul Harris Fellow" recognition award in 2022.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets the first three Tuesdays of each month for lunch at noon, at Limani Seafood Grill on North Ave. Guests are always welcome. For information check out the website westfieldrotary.com or contact club secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart by email at drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above, l-r) Rotarians Ray Kostyack; Mary Ellen O'Boyle; Barbara Frantz; Recipient Burim; Master of Ceremonies Gene Jannotti, Burim's brother Beck Rexhaj; award presenter Dr. D. Michael Hart Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Westfield attended the ceremony to show support and respect for Burim.



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VISIT MILLER-CORY HOUSE ON FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND



(above) If you haven't visited the Miller-Cory House Museum now is a great time. The house is open for a two-day event on October 19 and 20 for Four Centuries in a Weekend.

Courtesy photo

Open Hearth Cooking at the Miller-Cory House Museum will take place on Four Centuries in a Weekend on October 19 and 20 from 12-5 p.m. Throughout the weekend, the Miller-Cory House Museum will be showcasing eighteenth-century colonial cuisine with authentic colonial-era open hearth cooking using period recipes and techniques. The grounds will be open for viewing and docents will be offering tours of the fully furnished c1740 farmhouse. George Washington will pay a visit and various fiber crafts will be demonstrated. Admission to Four Centuries in a Weekend is a free will donation. The Miller Cory House Museum is located at

614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ. Call the museum at 908-232-1776 or email millercorymuseum@gmail.com for more information. Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs. For more information on the Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit millercoryhouse.com or westfieldhistoricalsociety.org, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram.

HALLOWEEN FUN AT THE MILLER-CORY MUSEUM



Visit the Miller-Cory House Museum for some Halloween fun! The Hocus Pocus program will be held on October 27 from 2-4 p.m. The program is appropriate for children, ages 3 through elementary school. The museum's costumed docents will greet visitors in front of the farmhouse. There are numerous activities planned for the afternoon, including decorating your own Halloween treat, a scavenger hunt, crafts, and storytelling. Members of the Cooking Committee will also demonstrate early American recipes over the open hearth. Be sure to come in costume! Admission is \$5.00 for children; accompanying adults are free. No reservations required.

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UNICO NEWS

The Greater Westfield Chapter of UNICO draws members from Westfield and surrounding towns. UNICO stands for Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, Opportunity.

On Sunday, October 13th, the public is invited to attend a Columbus Day Celebration starting 11:00 a.m. at Mindowaskin Park, there will be food trucks, and music. This is a cooperative event with UNICO, the Knights of Columbus and the Italian-American Club of Westfield.

UNICO's mission is "To promote the image of Italian Americans along with Italian Heritage and culture by supporting charitable, scientific, cultural, educational, patriotic and literary projects". For more information visit: unicowestfield.wixsite.com/greater-westfield-un



(above, l-r) On Monday September 16th during their monthly meeting UNICO's newest member Fran Giglio (center) was sworn in by Anthony Bengivenga (National President), and Sam Della Fera (new chapter president).

Courtesy photo

FALL ARRIVES AT THE HOPE CHEST

The Hope Chest, located at 26 Prospect Street in Westfield, has been busy preparing for the fall season. The shelves have been filled with autumn themed home décor, pottery, candles, dishware, glasses and linens. Summer fashions have been replaced with beautiful fall clothing for men and women. Sandals and straw bags are being removed to make space for boots and fall bags. Warmer coats, jackets and hats are available. As always, the Hope Chest has its usual wide selection of books and CDs along with earrings, necklaces, bracelets and accessories. It's always easy to find a treasure at a reasonable price.

The store is open Monday through Saturday and donations of new or gently used items are accepted Tuesday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. til 3:30 p.m.

The Hope Chest is managed by the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary and is staffed entirely by volunteers. All of the profits from sales in the store go to support the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care in Scotch Plains. Through funds raised at the Hope Chest and through various other programs the Auxiliary is able to provide over \$100,000 to aid in charity care at the Center.

The Auxiliary is always happy to welcome new members. Anyone interested in joining can call 908-233-9973, stop into the Hope Chest, or contact the Center at 908-889-7780.



(above) Kris Mench, one of the Hope Chest's co-managers, pictured with a display of the store's fall merchandise.

Courtesy photo



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Town of Westfield

The Westfield Fire Department is getting ready to mark a momentous milestone in our community’s history, as they begin planning for their 150th anniversary next June. This significant anniversary will not only commemorate a century and a half of dedicated service and commitment to the safety and well-being of the Town, but will also provide an opportunity to celebrate the legacy and spirit of the Westfield Fire Department.

The June 2025 celebration will kick off with a parade through Downtown Westfield, and will conclude at the Westfield Armory with a full day of fun and festivities for the community. Any resident or business in the community who would like to help support these efforts through sponsorships can find additional information at bit.ly/wfd150.

The Westfield Italian American Club and the Greater Westfield Chapter of UNICO are sponsoring a Columbus Day ceremony to be held at Mindowaskin Park in Westfield on Sunday, October 13, 2024, at 11 a.m. There will

be speakers highlighting Christopher Columbus, and the Italian American heritage and culture. Italian music and refreshments will follow the program. All are invited to this free event.

APPLEFEST 2024 – OCT. 19

Westfield Historical Society

On Saturday, October 19th, 2024 (rain date Oct. 20), the Westfield Historical Society will hold the Annual AppleFest on the lawn of the Reeve House, 314 Mountain Ave., Westfield from 12:00-4:00 p.m. On the same weekend, the Westfield Historical Society will also host Union County’s Four Centuries in a Weekend Open House at the Reeve House.

Now in its 16th year, AppleFest is an annual fund-raising event, hosted on the lawn of the Reeve House on Mountain Avenue, and it draws visitors of all ages who participate in activities centered around a theme that celebrates a particular time in history, past or present. The theme this year will focus on Celebrating the Westfield Hall of Fame and its many members – currently 52 distinguished Westfielders throughout history.

As part of the day, there will be a display of Hall of Fame member plaques and literature. Children will also have the chance to participate in some hands-on activities, including a scavenger hunt. Hall of Fame student poster art contest entries will be on display. Inside the

Reeve House, there will be an exhibit on Virginia Apgar, one of the Hall of Fame’s many celebrated members.

The Apple Café will be back for yummy hot food and beverages, and of course, apple pie! As always, younger children visiting AppleFest will enjoy participating in old-fashioned outdoor games, and pumpkin and face painting. The Apple Pie Contest is coming back this year and entries are encouraged! Guidelines for the pie contest are posted on the website: westfieldhistoricalsociety.org/events

Admission is \$5 per person, and free for veterans and children under 3 years old. The AppleFest committee is grateful for all the sponsors who support this event and all Westfielders for their commitment to this town, its past and its future. The Westfield Historical Society’s AppleFest Committee looks forward to seeing many families on October 19.

For further information on the Westfield Historical Society and its activities, or to volunteer, call 908-654-1794 or visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org, like on Facebook and follow on Instagram.



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INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS – 2024

Westfield Optimist Club

The Optimist Club Intermediate School Outstanding Teacher Award was established in 1998 to give recognition and credit to distinguished intermediate school teachers who are dedicated to providing an educationally stimulating and supporting environment during this critical stage of adolescence and to recognize

the nobility of the teaching profession. The 26th annual award will be presented to Ryan Belline, Mathematics Teacher, Edison Intermediate School and Marissa Conneely, Social Studies Teacher, Roosevelt Intermediate School. The recipients were announced at a Board of Education meeting in May and invited to an Optimist Club award dinner at Echo Lake

Country Club in September. The recognition includes a cash grant award to further professional growth or to enhance classroom experience for students and a plaque presented at the dinner.

The criteria for recipients of this award are outstanding teaching, interest in children, dedication to teaching and continued pursuit of professional growth. A committee of five Optimist Club members Maria Fuentes, Martin Gulino, Gene Jannotti and Vic Mankoski, Superintendent Raymond González, Director of Human Resources Dr. David Greer, Edison principal LaNova Schall and Roosevelt principal Brian Gechtman, selected the 2024 award recipients. The recognition includes a cash grant award to further professional growth or to enhance classroom experience for students and a plaque presented to the recipient at an Optimist Club dinner.

“The Optimist Club mission and purpose as a “Friend of Youth” is to support the positive development of children,” says Optimist Club President Darielle Walsh. “We are proud to provide resources for this meaningful annual award that recognizes the dedication and achievements of our intermediate school teachers.”

The Optimist Club is a not-for-profit service organization that supports youth and the community. For additional information go to westfieldnj.com/optimist.



(above) Ryan Belline and Marissa Conneely with Edison principal LaNova Schall, Superintendent Raymond González, and Roosevelt principal Brian Gechtman.



(above, l-r) Ryan Belline, Marissa Conneely
Courtesy photo

HEMINGWAY in comics

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BRETT CURTIS, HS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



(above) At its first regular public meeting for the 2024-2025 academic year on August 27, the Westfield Board of Education approved the appointment of Brett Curtis as Westfield High School assistant principal, effective August 1, 2024. Curtis succeeds James DeSarno who was appointed in May as Director of Athletics / Supervisor of K-12 Physical Education and Health.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools

SEPTEMBER GARDEN OF THE MONTH

The Garden Club of Westfield chose the picture-perfect garden of Maribel and Donald Mokrauer at 617 Boulevard Avenue, Westfield, as its September Garden of the Month. The Mokrauers have a splendid collection of houseplants, but their interest in gardening began during Covid when time allowed them to concentrate on transforming their home landscape into a colorful cottage garden filled with charming garden favorites. Since then, Mrs. Mokrauer has worked indefatigably with the help of Mr. Mokrauer to design a garden with all the elements to delight the eye. Rows of round boxwoods line the path to the house. Japanese holly, a glorious palm, topiary pines, ferns and sky pencil boxwood provide a verdant complement to the flowers in front of the house. These include marigolds, celosias, petunias, coneflowers, shasta daisies and Chinese forget-me-nots. There are also a number of fragrant herbs. The floral excitement continues on the porch where enormous morning glory vines climb up the columns. In addition, floral hanging baskets, potted orange hibiscus and pink and red roses thrive there. The sunflowers on the ground

are so tall that they have become part of the porch decoration. Mrs. Mokrauer has also chosen other plants that provide flowers for every season. Spring features rhododendrons and azaleas. In fall there will be colorful mums and other plants throughout the garden. For further information, please contact The Garden Club of Westfield at gardenclubofwestfield@gmail.com.



(above) The garden of Maribel and Donald Mokrauer was chosen as the September Garden of the Month by the Garden Club of Westfield.

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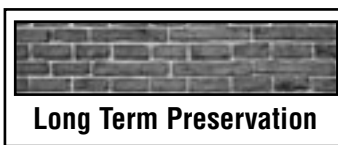
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CASA SHaW

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) has announced they have been selected as a grant recipient from Atlantic Health System to provide community education in the form of trauma informed care trainings. Broad exposure to these concepts will inevitably help children by building a healthier community.

"Community partnerships mean so much to not only our CASA program, but especially to the children and families we serve," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW. "Atlantic Health has been a tremendous partner with us, and we greatly appreciate their dedication to healthier communities, especially with the objective of reducing childhood trauma. When we work together, the foundation of child abuse prevention is infused within our community," said Heisler.

CASA has been at the forefront of speaking up for children who are living in foster care in our region and for those touched by trauma. At CASA, professionally trained community

advocates ensure that the wishes and needs of children living in foster care are not overlooked by the many competing interests at play. CASA's goal is to ensure that every child served has a safe, permanent home and the resources and services needed to thrive and not just survive adverse childhood experiences. CASA is committed to educating the community about the causes and impacts of child abuse and neglect, the need for equity in a disproportionate system, and how to best advocate for and meet the needs of children in foster care in Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties.

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To find a local CASA program in your county, visit casaofnj.org.

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Tickets for WONDERMENT
range from \$30 to \$60.
Accessible seating is available.
New Brunswick Performing Arts Center
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For more information, contact Grant Jacoby, Director of Marketing, at gjacoby@arballet.org, or by calling 609-921-7758 x 34.

ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET
Founded in 1954 as the Princeton Ballet Society, ARB has been designated a "Major Arts Institution" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and has been awarded a Citation of Excellence by the Council. Princeton Ballet School, ARB's official school, attracts talent from around the world while providing opportunities for local students of all ages, such as through its award winning DANCE POWER program. Find American Repertory Ballet online at arballet.org.
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There will be something for everyone.
Most of the restaurants offer outdoor dining or if you prefer to eat in the comfort of your own home, all of the restaurants offer take out.

Visit the Restaurant Week website mountainsiderestaurantweek.com for more information, including a full list of participating establishments.

Participating Establishments:

- Bovella's • Chrono's • Echo Tap • Famous Dave's
- Mazzella's • Mosaico • Mountainside Deli
- Publick House • Spanish Tavern • Stage House Tavern



American Repertory Ballet

WONDERMENT

October 18-20, 2024
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Ethan Stiefel (World Premiere)
Antony Tudor
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10/3 & 10/10 @ 7-8pm	The Fundamentals of Tai Chi by Gang Huang
10/5 @ 2-3pm	MRB Jazz
10/6 @ 2-4 pm	Cartooning Workshop with New Yorker Cartoonist Dan Misdea
10/16 @ 7-8pm	The Frost Kings-R & B
10/17 @ 6:30-8pm	Crafterdark: Bring your own craft project
10/21 @ 7-8pm	Banned Book Discussion: The Bluest Eye-T. Morrison
10/22 @ 7-8:30pm	Retirement Road Blocks: On Zoom
10/28 @ 7-8pm	Ron MacCloskey presents Charles Addams
10/30 @ 7-8pm	Climate Proofing your Yard- Hazel England of the Great Swamp Watershed Assoc.

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BILINGUAL VOLS NEEDED TO HELP FOSTER YOUTH

Child Focus

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Child Focus, the nonprofit organization that runs Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties, proudly recognizes the extraordinary efforts of Advocacy Supervisors Tiffany Mendoza and Wendy Monterrosa. Amid a significant shortage of bilingual volunteers, each has embraced the role of primary advocate on five cases with Spanish-speaking children, biological parents or resource parents, showcasing their commitment to making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children.

Tiffany and Wendy have stepped up to bridge this gap, in addition to their work supervising a team of volunteer advocates. Their efforts in taking on these additional 10 cases total, navigating complex situations where language barriers could impede access to essential services and support for children and their families, underscore the urgent need for

bilingual community members to join CASA of Passaic and Union Counties as volunteer advocates.

The need for bilingual Spanish-English CASA volunteers is more pressing than ever. Child Focus is actively seeking community members fluent in both English and Spanish to join CASA of Passaic and Union Counties. Volunteers will undergo comprehensive training to become effective advocates for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. This training equips volunteers with the skills needed to navigate court proceedings, build trust with children, and collaborate with caseworkers and attorneys.

For those interested in making a difference, the first step is to attend an information session in Union County: Wed., Oct. 9th or 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at the Colleen Fraser Building at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield; Wed., Oct. 16 at noon in the Elizabeth office at 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor.



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LONG-TIME PUPPY RAISERS HONORED

The Seeing Eye

The Seeing Eye recently honored five long-time puppy raisers with induction to "The Seeing Eye 21 Club", a special honor for volunteers who have raised at least 21 Seeing Eye® puppies. The non-profit also honored the Seeing Eye puppy raising club volunteers with two awards, the Outstanding Leader Award and the 20-year Leader Award. Finally, 34 exceptional college-bound puppy raisers were awarded college scholarships totaling \$64,000.

"Each year, The Seeing Eye's Family Day is a celebration of all the hard work and dedication of our volunteer puppy raising families," said Seeing Eye director of canine development Peggy Gibbon. "An army of volunteers provides each Seeing Eye puppy with a loving home environment, socialization, and basic training that prepares them to become Seeing Eye dogs for people who are blind."

"We're actively recruiting puppy raisers and puppy sitters for our upcoming litters that are planned for the coming months. If you're interested in joining our community of dog lovers, now is a great time to reach out to us and learn what puppy raising is all about," said Gibbon. "We need homes and families of all shapes and sizes for our puppies because fully trained Seeing Eye dogs are placed in similarly diverse families and living situations with people who are blind."

A puppy raiser family is responsible for providing a loving and nurturing home environment for approximately one year. During

that time, the raiser is responsible for teaching basic obedience, house manners, bringing the puppy to Seeing Eye puppy club meetings and socialization trips in their area. The Seeing Eye puppy could be a German shepherd, Labrador retriever, golden retriever, or a Labrador/golden retriever cross.

Puppy raisers must live within New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware or New York (Rockland or Orange Counties) so they can attend regular puppy club meetings where they will receive help and coaching with their puppies. All veterinary expenses are covered by The Seeing Eye and a stipend is provided to help cover the cost of dog food. If a Seeing Eye puppy does not graduate from the program, the family who raised the puppy is offered the first option to adopt the puppy they raised. For more information visit seeingeye.org/raise.

Established in 1929, The Seeing Eye provides specially bred and trained dogs to guide people who are blind. Seeing Eye dog handlers experience greatly enhanced mobility and independence, allowing them to retain their active lifestyles. The Seeing Eye is a 501(c)3 non-profit supported by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, bequests, and other planned gifts.

The Seeing Eye is a trademarked name and can only be used to describe the dogs bred and trained at the school's facilities in Morristown, N.J. If you would like more information on The Seeing Eye, please visit the website at SeeingEye.org, call 973-539-4425, or email info@seeingeye.org.

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SENIORS OF DISTINCTION AWARD GIVEN TO DR. D. MICHAEL HART

Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. representing the NJ Federal Congressional District number 7, hosted his second annual Seniors of Distinction event at the Bridgewater Township Senior Center, to honor outstanding seniors in the community, on Friday, September 13, 2024.

Congressman Kean honored 29 seniors, who represent all six counties in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District. Each senior was nominated by their friends, families, and neighbors and recognized at the event.

Dr. D. Michael Hart enjoyed a distinguished career in his profession of dentistry, earning several recognitions from the Academy of General Dentistry. However, his record of volunteerism is equally as impressive. Dr. Hart has been active in Rotary International for 42 years. He has served as President of two clubs, was District Governor, and International Foundation Chair for 6 years. He was awarded the Rotary International Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, and he created a Foundation for the Rotary District, in 2011, of which he is still chair. A scout since first grade, Dr. Hart earned his Eagle Scout, went on to be a Pack and Troop leader for his son, and after retirement 7 years ago, joined the Flintlocks, a group of scouter volunteers who support the Patriot's Path Council. In this role, he has been a tireless advocate for the scouts, serving in several leadership roles, chairing fundraising efforts, securing critical grants and earning several

scouting awards. This May 2024, Dr. Hart was inducted into the Eagle Scout Hall of Fame.

The seniors selected were chosen for their long history of giving back to their community and for continuing to lend their expertise, experience and many talents to helping and supporting others. Every honoree has a long list of achievements but more importantly, a long list of professional, philanthropic, charitable, and spiritual activities to which they devote their time and energy.

"All the seniors honored dedicate their talents, passions and experience toward enriching the well-being of New Jersey communities," said Congressman Kean. "Their impressive achievements and extensive involvement in both professional and volunteer activities reflect their dedication and hard work. I extend my warmest congratulations to all the seniors recognized today and thank them for their tireless efforts to uplift our communities."

The honorees in alphabetical order are: Eleanor Annis of Mountainside; Ida Brown of Hopatcong; Brad Chananie of Westfield; Edna Deacon of Mine Hill; Robert English of Gillette; Julie Flynn of Berkley Heights; David Gardner of Mount Arlington; Dr. D. Michael Hart of Westfield; Martin Kane of Mountain Lakes; Norma Kania of Clinton; Harvey Kessler of Budd Lake; The Hon. Allen Kurdyla of Bridgewater; The Hon. Colleen Labow of Budd Lake; Sandra Masklee of Budd Lak; Richard Mason of Gillette; Donna Moser of Hopatcong; The Hon. Howard

Norgalis of Bridgewater; Kathleen Piedici of Basking Ridge; Anita Rogers of Belvidere; Robert Rossi of Landing' Dennis Ryan of Berkley Heights; Elisa Sananman of Westfield; The Hon. Kenneth Short of Long Valley; James Smythe of Belvidere; The Hon. Victor Sordillo of Warren; Sharon Still of Netcong; The Hon. Elmer Still of Netcong; Harold Willard of Somerville; and Robert Wolff of Hardwick.



(above) Congressman Tom Kean Jr. congratulating Dr. D. Michael Hart for the Seniors of Distinction Award.

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