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Issue 110 • November 2024

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PAL HOSTS FIELD TRIP FOR STUDENTS TO NATION'S CAPITAL

Westfield Public Schools

Laboratory and a Q&A session with members of Rep. Thomas Kean Jr's staff were among the highlights for Westfield High School students during a recent field trip to Washington, D.C.

The trip was organized by retired Westfield detective Ron Museum of African American History and Culture.

Allen, executive director of the Westfield Police Athletic A visit to the Homeland Security Investigations Forensic League (PAL), and WHS teacher Gail Alston, PAL Coordinator for the WHS Mentoring and Tutoring Program.

> Unable to attend the national PAL conference held during the summer, the students traveled to the nation's capital on October 3 and 4, where they also visited the National



(above) WHS students met with members of Congressman Thomas Kean Jr's staff in Washington, D.C. for a Q&A session during a Westfield PAL field trip on October 3 and 4. Rep. Kean was in New Jersey at the time.

Homeland Security Investigations Cyber Crimes Center

(above) A visit to a federal forensic laboratory was among the highlights for Westfield High School students during a field trip with the Westfield Police Athletic League (PAL).

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HOLIDAY SALE BEGINS NOV. 4TH SERVICE LEAGUE THRIFT & CONSIGNMENT SHOP

The Westfield Service League Thrift & Consignment Shop will start selling Trim-a-Tree items such as ornaments, lights, and mantel décor on November 4th and go through December 22nd. "Every week we will have new items which include everything you will need to decorate your home, holiday dishes, nutcrackers, platters, linens, Hanukah decorations and musical Santa's," said Meryl Hymson, who is serving her fourth year as Holiday Chair.

Starting after Thanksgiving on Black Friday and Super Saturday, the shops will feature new clothing, designer handbags and shoes with original tags for good prices and brand-new toys donated by our volunteers for half price.

"Our holiday sale is our biggest sale of the year, and it allows us to make generous grants to the non-profits that we support," said Hymson.

The money raised from the sale of the goods goes to local non-profit organizations, including the Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey, Moms Helping Moms, Caring Contact, Roots and Wings, and St. Joseph's Social Services Center. Last year, the League was able to donate \$90,000 to 41 organizations.

The shop is located at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield and is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to

4 p.m. For more information about donations or volunteering, call 908-233-2530 for the Thrift Shop or 908-232-1223 for the Consignment Shop. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @westfieldserviceleague.



(above) Meryl Hymson, who has served as chair of the Holiday Sale at the WSL, poses with items that will be available starting on November 4th.

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COMMENDED STUDENTS IN THE 2025 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The following WHS students have been recognized for their exceptional academic promise as Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

They are: Kevin Deegan, Benjamin Duan, Tristan Ferrier, Michael S. Fisher, Ann Luchsinger, Jake Pardes, Ethan Selvers, Aanand Shah, Neil Shastri, Owen Wei, Riley Whitlock, and Calvin Woodruff

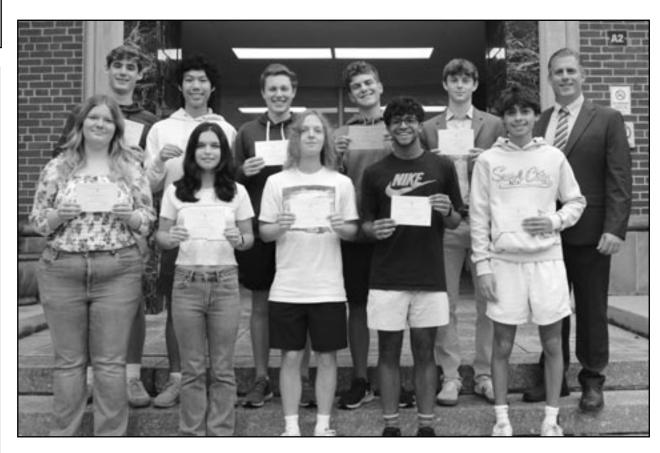


Photo by Westfield Public Schools

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MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM NOVEMBER EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE - NOV. 10TH

The grounds will be open for viewing, docents will be offering tours of the fully furnished c1740 farmhouse, and our cooks will be busy over the open hearth. Our Maker Space will be available with self-guided activities for kids and families. Admission is \$5 ages 13 and older; \$4 ages 3-12; and free for age 2 and younger. No reservations are necessary.

A COLONIAL THANKSGIVING - NOV. 24TH

A special day of thanks has been part of the American tradition since 1621. The Miller-Cory House Museum cooks will demonstrate the preparation of an early American Thanksgiving feast in the Frazee Building over the museum's open-hearth fire, using colonial recipes and seasonal ingredients. (Please note that this is a demonstration only; dinner is not being served.) Then in the main house, join us for a special program highlighting the earliest inhabitants of New Jersey, the Lenape Indians. Various aspects of everyday life such as beliefs, families, home, food, clothing, medicine, storytelling, and games will be presented. Admission is \$5 ages 13 and older; \$4 ages 3-12; and free for age 2 and younger.

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 info.

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, millercoryhouse.com

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



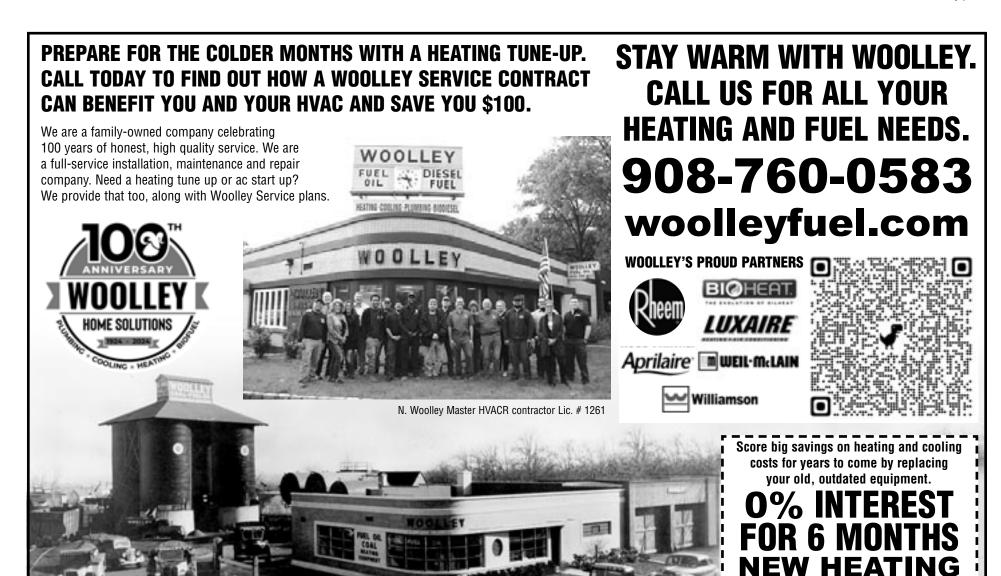
(above) Join us at The Miller-Cory House Museum for a Colonial Thanksgiving plus Lenape Lore November 24 from 2-4 p.m.

Courtesy photo

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WESTFIELD UNITED BY LIGHT 2024

The Westfield United Fund (WUF) announced it will again host Westfield United by Light, a fundraising event to support local mental health initiatives. Last year's program featured 18,000 candles and raised more than \$20,000 for WUFsupported programs focused on mental health.

With the help of the local community, WUF plans to light up the town of Westfield on Saturday, November 30, 2024, with candle luminaries lining the streets. Candle kits are available for the public to purchase for \$20 per kit. Each candle kit contains 10 candles, 10 bags and sand for a total of 10 luminaries.

To order candle kits, donors should visit westfieldunitedfund.org/unitedbylight. Donors will also have the option of signing up for text reminders for the event. Candle kit distribution will take place November 22-23 at the Memorial Pool Complex parking lot. Candle kits will be available for purchase through November 23rd or while supplies last. Instructions for pick-up and candle display will be provided upon purchase. At dusk on Saturday, November 30, the candle kits will be lit all over Westfield to show the community's support for important local mental health services.

WUF will commit the first \$25,000 raised to local mental health programs offered at agencies affiliated with the Westfield United Fund: Caring Contact (suicide prevention hotline), Imagine (grief support for children & families), Jewish Family Services (non-denominational counseling



for children & families), Youth & Family Counseling (outpatient mental counseling), YWCA Union County (supporting teens impacted by domestic violence) and more. NEW this year, we are excited to add St. Joseph's Social Service Center to our list of beneficiaries to support their Wellness Wednesdays program. All funds raised in excess of \$25,000 will be allocated across the other agencies and local community programs supported by WUF.

Westfield United Fund is proud to be a locallyfocused, grassroots organization that has served the Westfield Community & surrounding areas for more than 85 years. It is a 501c3 organization that provides funding to 20 local human care agencies & programs. WUF has remained true to its mission of helping people in the Westfield area care for one another, taking an active role in building a stronger community. Through the generosity of area residents, WUF has been able to distribute more than \$32 million to the community through its member agencies.

Support our local community westfieldunitedfund.org/unitedbylight and help us light up Westfield on November 30!

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SHOP LOCAL FARMERS' MARKETS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The New Jersey Council of Farmers and Communities (NJCFC) is excited to highlight the abundant offerings of local farmers' markets, where residents can access the freshest produce the Garden State has to offer.

By visiting jerseyfarmersmarket.com, consumers can easily locate farmers' markets in their area and explore a wide array of locally-grown fruits and vegetables, along with delicious recipes that enhance the farm-to-table experience. Look for the unmistakable Jersey Fresh sign, it insures the purchase of authentic New Jersey produce.

New Jersey boasts over 715,000 acres of dedicated farmland and is renowned for its diverse specialty crops, producing an impressive 1.2 billion pounds of tomatoes, 74 million pounds of blueberries, and 400 million pounds of sweet corn annually. With its unique climate and fertile soil, New Jersey's farmers are devoted to sustainable practices that not only elevate the flavor and quality of their crops but also support environmental stewardship. Specialty crops from New Jersey play a crucial role in both local consumption and national markets, significantly bolstering the state's economy.

The NJCFC supports numerous farmers' markets across the state, fostering community engagement and promoting sustainable living. "New Jersey's agricultural industry is thriving, and our specialty crops are among the best in the nation," said Joseph Mikulewicz, President of NJCFC. "By choosing local produce, consumers invest in their health while supporting our





dedicated farmers and strengthening their communities."

Buying local produce provides numerous advantages: it minimizes carbon footprints thanks to shorter transportation distances, stimulates local economies, and guarantees access to fresher, nutrient-rich food. Research shows that locally grown fruits and vegetables often have higher nutrient levels compared to those transported over long distances.

Farmers' markets, along with local restaurants and grocery stores throughout New Jersey, proudly feature locally sourced produce that encourages healthier eating habits while nurturing a sense of community connection. The state remains committed to upholding its leadership in specialty crop production through initiatives centered on education, sustainability, and making fresh food accessible to all residents.

For more information on New Jersey's specialty crops and the benefits of purchasing local produce, please visit jerseyfarmersmarket.com.



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ROTARY RECYCLES OVER 3,000 BICYCLES & 60 SEWING MACHINES

Dr. D. Michael Hart

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, members of the Rotary Club of Westfield collected 80 bicycles and 10 sewing machines. These items will be shipped to Guatemala in central America. This brings the total collections over the past 27 years to over 3,000 bicycles and 60 sewing machines.

The Rotary Club became involved with Pedals for Progress (P4P) in 1997, with Warren Rorden as chair. We collect used bicycles and sewing machines every fall. Bicycles do not create air pollution, do not use fossil fuels, create jobs (bike repair shops), increase productivity of the person riding the bike, helps kids get to school, and increase the country's GDP. Americans purchase 50 million new bikes every year, but dispose of 20 million perfectly good bikes in the landfills. Why not put the bikes to good use?

Alan Shultz is the President of Pedals for Progress, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. This organization collects and ships used bicycles and sewing machines to the third world. He visited Belize in May, where he made a new connection with an organization named "God Cares Outreach", which is run by Derek Pitts. Derek has hired 5 kids to sell the bikes. This has created 5 more jobs. The bikes sell for between \$20 to \$200, depending on the quality and brand. The organization is able to use the profits to help feed the poor in their community. Second, they donate the sewing machines to a woman's prison. The women can learn a skill while in prison, so when they get out, they can support their families, and become a productive member of society.



The shipping containers filled with about 500 bikes cost \$9,000 each to ship overseas. Therefore, the Rotary Club asks for a donation of \$20 for each bike donated to help pay for shipping.

Pedals For Progress asks for bikes which are useable. They do not mind fixing flat tires, or broken chains, but if the frame is rusted through, it would not be useful.

The countries these bikes are being sent to include: in Europe: Albania & Kosovo; in central America: Belize & Guatemala; in Asia: Philippines and Thailand; and in Africa: Cameroon; Tanzania; Togo; and Rwanda,

The history of how this program started was that Dave Schweidenback signed up for the Peace Corps and was sent to Ecuador in the late 1970's.

He saw that a carpenter who had a bicycle was making much more money than another carpenter who had to walk and carry his tools everywhere. Having a bike helped him carry his tools, plus he had a wider base of customers, being able to ride to the next village. So, after working a few years back in the US, Dave started P4P in 1992. Since then, they have shipped over 150,000 bikes, which has improved the lives of 150,000 families.

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) The Rotary Club of Westfield recently collected 80 bikes and 10 sewing machines to be recycled to the developing world, specifically Guatemala. This brings the clubs total to date to over 3,000 bicycles and 60 sewing machines. These devices will change peoples lives. Seated is chair of the recent event Warren Rorden.





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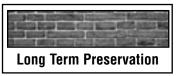
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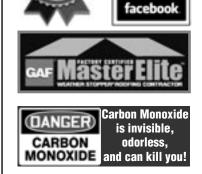
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Westfield Public Schools

The Westfield Public School District invites Westfield residents 65 years and older to participate in the "Golden Pass" program which allows them to attend many Westfield High School events at no cost.

The Golden Pass will provide free admission to events that normally collect entrance fees such as Westfield High School musicals, plays, athletic events, and certain concerts. Please contact Coordinator of School and Community Relations Mary Ann McGann at 908-789-4463, or email mmcgann@westfieldnjk12.org for a ticket.

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

Westfield residents 65 years and older can obtain the Golden Pass, about the size of a credit card, in the Business Office of the Westfield Board of Education, located in Room 101 on the first floor of 302 Elm Street from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you have a Golden Pass from previous years, please know that it does not expire.

For more information on the program, please contact Mrs. McGann at 908-789-4463 or mmcgann@westfieldnjk12.org.

GRANT FUNDING FOR LOCAL NONPROFITS

The Atlantic Federal Credit Union ("The Atlantic") recently had the privilege of facilitating \$50,000 in grant funding across ten local nonprofit organizations through the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York Small Business Recovery Grant Program ("SBRG").

The SBRG was created to support the financial security of organizations that face economic challenges due to various factors such as inflation, supply-chain constraints, the rate environment, as well as rising operating costs.

"Nonprofit organizations provide critical services throughout the communities we serve, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York is proud to partner with The Atlantic to help provide funding in support of these efforts," said José R. González, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York.

"Thank you to the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York for their partnership and the opportunity to extend recovery grants to local nonprofits who serve our communities," said Anthony Mero, Chief Executive Officer of The Atlantic. "The SBRG funding will help our deserving recipients continue to advance their worthwhile causes, which uplift our neighbors throughout Essex and Union counties. These funds will help ensure residents in need have access to food and clothing, as well as other essential resources."

The Atlantic was able to grant \$5,000 each to ten local nonprofit organizations to help them



(above) Mobile Meals of Westfield

continue their mission and serve communities.

The recipients include:

- Bianca F.L.O.W.E.R.S. Inc. Food Pantry
 - bflowersinc2021.com
- Golden Rule Community Outreach Organization - grcor.com
- Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey
- Jfscentralnj.org
- Mobile Meals of Westfield
- mobilemealsofwestfield.org
- New Jersey Veterans Network njvn.org
- People for Animals pfaonline.org
- St. Joseph Social Service Center sjeliz.org
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ALL AREA VETERANS ARE INVITED TO CRANFORD VFW VETS BREAKFAST



(above) Acting Adjutant General of New Jersey Colonel Yvonne Mays..

VFW Post #335 will be holding its annual Veterans Breakfast, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Post Home at 479 South Ave. East in Cranford. This free event is open to all area veterans, and a full "sit down" breakfast will be served by the Post Auxiliary.

Several notable speakers will be on hand, while the featured speaker will be U.S. Air National Guard Colonel Yvonne Mays who is currently the Acting Adjutant General of New Jersey and the Commissioner of the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. She previously held the position of Deputy Adjutant

Colonel Mays began her career in 1983 as an enlisted airman and was deployed overseas during Operation Desert Storm. Through her own tenacity she earned her officer's commission at the Palmetto Military Academy,

On Sunday, November 10, 2024, Cranford Fort Jackson, SC in 1999. She began her National Guard career as Director of Personnel and Commander of the Mission Support Flight of the 177th Fighter Wing and within four years went on to become the Executive Officer of the Wing. She has been Deputy Chief of Staff of the NJ National Guard while supporting Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. As todays Acting Adjutant Colonel Mays commands more than 8,400 soldiers and airmen of the NJ National Guard. She is currently awaiting Governor Murphy's actions deeming her permanent in this prestigious position.

> This highly attended event is a great chance to meet and greet other veterans. If you are a veteran of any era, VFW Post #335 encourages you to attend this important, fulfilling event. There is no reservation required and more information may be obtained at the Post website at vfw335.org.







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VOLUNTEER TO SPREAD WARMTH THIS THANKSGIVING

First Presbyterian Church of Cranford is collecting new crew socks for kids and adults.

First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, is collecting new crew socks for both kids and adults (please no ankle socks - it's chilly out there!).

SOCKS WILL BE COLLECTED UNTIL NOV 10TH AT LOCATIONS AROUND CRANFORD.

Where to drop off your donations - Look for sock donation bins around town at the following locations:

- Cranford Community Center
- Cranford Public Library
- Drever Farms
- Active Life Fitness in Garwood
- First Presbyterian Church (outside Bates Hall gym)

GET READY FOR SOME FUN AT THE "SOCK AND ROLL!" **NOVEMBER 17TH FROM 1 - 3 PM,**

The community is invited to gather in the church's Bates Hall Gym to sort and roll the socks into festive bundles for distribution. Socks will be distributed to the Cranford-Elmora Soup Kitchen, a mission of the church, and other local organizations that support the homeless and vulnerable.

On Sunday, November 17th, all are invited to an afternoon of "Sock Hop" 50's rock & roll music, sock sorting, and a whole lot of community spirit! Volunteers will be rolling, sorting, and bagging socks for distribution, and everyone - young and old - is invited to pitch in.

Plus, don't miss the bake sale and refreshing lemonade stand! All proceeds will go to support the Cranford-Elmora Soup Kitchen.

It's never been easier to give back this Thanksgiving Season. You're invited to participate in this hands-on volunteer opportunity and spread warmth!

Registration for the November 17th "Sock and Roll" event is required at firstprescranford.org/sock-and-roll.

ABOUT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD

As the body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit, the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford (FPCC), 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, seeks to live God's Word and inspire others to embrace Jesus' commandment to love one another as the Lord loves us.

FAMILIES PARTICIPATE IN BUTTERFLY RELEASE

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

Often when we've experienced the loss of someone close to us, we need opportunities to honor and remember our person who died. Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss has been partnering with Fairview Cemetery to hold Butterfly Releases where families remember their special person as they release butterflies in their honor.

The most recent Butterfly Release was held on a sunny evening and planned by Kristin Imbimbo, Imagine's Mountainside Program and Partnership Manager along with Sharon Rossman and Rick Ralph of Fairview Cemetery. The event provided an opportunity for reflection, with participants sharing their stories of loss and remembrance. The evening concluded with each participant releasing a butterfly in honor and memory of their person who died.

Kristin shared this of the event: "This year we were able to release Monarch butterflies, which are so vibrant and matched the vibrancy that the many different aged children brought to the day. We had so many children share their names and the name of the person who died, which mirrored our opening circles on a night of support. It was a beautiful evening filled with laughter, tears, and community."

If you are in need of support for your family following the death of a close family member, please reach out to Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss at 908-264-3100 or visit Imagine's website at imaginenj.org.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and 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. For more information, please contact info@imaginenj.org or 908-264-3100.

FISHING FLEA MARKET **NOV. 23**

The Rahway Fall Fishing Flea Market will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Thomas Church Hall, 1405 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, NJ. A wide variety of salt and fresh water fishing tackle will be on display for anglers looking for great buys. New, used, antique, custom fishing and boating items will be available to all.

Door prizes will be given away throughout the day which include rods, reels, tackle and much more. Food and refreshments are sponsored by St. Thomas Holy Name Society.

Admission price is \$5 per adult, children 12 and under are free. For show or vendor information visit fishingfleamarkets.com or call Jerry at 718-702-5838.

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FULFILL WISH LISTS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE - CHILD FOCUS

As the holiday season approaches, Child Focus, the nonprofit child advocacy organization that runs Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties, is thrilled to announce the launch of its annual Holiday Wish List Drive. This initiative aims to bring joy and personalized gifts to more than 400 children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, honoring their unique interests and wishes this holiday season. The holidays can be especially difficult for those involved in the child welfare system, and this drive seeks to ensure each child feels seen, valued, and celebrated.

Child Focus invites community members, organizations, and businesses to support the drive by purchasing items directly from its Amazon Wish List, donating gift cards to popular retailers such as Target, Amazon, Walmart, Macy's, Old Navy, and Sephora, or contacting Child Focus directly to learn what specific items are needed this year. All gifts must be new, unwrapped, and delivered to the Child Focus offices in Wayne or Elizabeth by Monday, December 9.

"The holiday wish list drive is always a bright spot in our programming, as our community comes together to make wishes come true for these children who have experienced so much turmoil in their young lives," stated Child Focus Executive Director, Erica Fischer-Kaslander. "It is an important reminder that a small act of kindness can have an incredible impact in a young person's life. We are grateful for our community partners who have stepped up year after year, including those who have been willing to scour the internet and pound the pavement to locate some of those special gifts, injecting some much-needed holiday magic into the lives of these deserving children."

Child Focus thanks the community partners who continually step up to make wishes come true for hundreds of children in foster care.

For more information on the Holiday Wish List Drive, including a link to the Amazon Wish List, or to learn how you can become a CASA volunteer, please visit childfocusnj.org or call (973) 832-4002.

ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information about Child Focus, log on to www.childfocusnj.org.

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GARRETT GAO -NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST

Westfield Public Schools

Westfield High School 12th grader Garrett Gao has been named a 2025 National Merit Semifinalist, among a nationwide pool of about 16,000 semifinalists who represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors. As a Merit semifinalist, Gao has the opportunity to continue the competition for National Merit Scholarships that will be offered next spring.



(right) Garrett Gao with Acting WHS Principal Thomas Paterson. Courtesy photo

NOVEMBER EVENTS FOR ADULTS Closed November 11 for Veterans Day. Closing at 1pm on November 27 and closed November 28 for Thanksgiving 11/1, 15, 22 & 12/6 The Fundamentals of Tai Chi by Gang Huang @3-4pm Artist-in-Residence 11/2, 9,16, 23,30 Kiyanna Lawrence @ llam-lpm demonstrates her art 11/2 Carrie Jackson and her @ 2-3pm Jazzin' All Stars 11/6, 13, 20 Artist-in-Residence Kiyanna Lawrence @3-5pm demonstrates her art 11/6 Violinist Dr. Podles performs A Stroll in the Piazza-Italian @7pm music favorites 11/7 Make a Holiday Cookie Plate with Marge @1-3pm 11/14 Redefining Retirement @ 6:30-8pm with Peter Dizdar 11/18 The History of the Morris @7-8:30pm Canal by Peter Roth 11/19 & 11/20 Visual Arts for Seniors @ 12:30-2:30 pm Paint a Floral Still Life Crafterdark-Work on your own craft projects @ 6:30-8pm 11/21 The Gut-Brain Connection @7-8pm with C. Schmid & E.Mundorff 550 E. Broad Street 908.789.4090 Register or find more information at wmlnj.org

WEBINAR: HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT DEATH AND DYING

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

November is Children's Grief Awareness Month, a perfect time for those at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss to raise awareness in our community regarding our children's experiences of grief and loss. Throughout the month, Imagine will be featuring stories from our families about their grief experiences and you can follow @imaginenj on social media to hear more.

On November 21st, National Children's Grief Awareness Day, Imagine will offer a webinar on How to talk to Kids about Death and Dying from 7-8:30 p.m. Staff at Imagine offered this webinar for the first time last spring and received such an overwhelming response of appreciation for addressing this difficult topic and gratitude for the content shared that offering it again on this day felt necessary and important. Those attending the webinar will learn to:

- Recognize the importance of talking to kids about death and dying
- Create opportunities to develop children's understanding of death
- Normalize conversations about death and grief
- Identify concrete tools and language to use in these discussions

The webinar is free and those interested can sign up by visiting Imagine's website at imaginenj.org.

Attending the webinar is one way to learn more about supporting children who are grieving and there are other ways you can help. Imagine is always looking for more compassionate volunteers to facilitate our rapidly growing support groups for children, youth, young adults and their caregivers who are grieving. If you think you may have an interest in joining Imagine's community of volunteers, please visit our website to complete our volunteer interest form. You can also help Imagine by following us on social media or donating to allow our free support group program to grow and support more families who are grieving a loss. You can donate at Imagine's website: imaginenj.org.

Imagine invites all who are reading this to join us this National Children's Grief Awareness Month in helping us ensure that no child grieves

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and 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. For more information, please contact info@imaginenj.org or 908-264-3100.





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ELKS FAMILY FUN DAY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS DELIVERS

On Saturday September 28th, hundreds of residents in the area enjoyed an impressive array of entertainment, food, and beverage options for a very worthy cause. This fabulous event, the 2nd annual Elks ECD Family Fun Day, raised over \$45,000 to Benefit Homeless Veterans. Hosted at the Stirling Elks in Stirling NJ, the event was organized by The Elks East Central District Veterans Committee of NJ.

The organizing committee procured help from over 25 different in-kind donors enabling every dollar raised to go directly to the cause. This occasion truly had entertainment for everyone and a wide assortment of great food and beverages.

There was a fabulous Pig Roast courtesy of Dealaman's Enterprises, professionally grilled hamburgers and hot dogs from Applebee's-Union, salivating sausage & peppers, Assorted Trays from the Committed Pig, Sandwiches

from Towne Deli-Summit. Assorted sides, corn & pies from Jonathan Sage, Tasticakes & pies from Tasticakes, scrumptious desserts from Baba's Bakery-Madison, Natale's-Summit and Bake-Summit. There were plentiful refreshing beverages: beer donated by Traprock-Berkeley Heights, Wine from Cambridge Wines, and San-Gria as well as water and soft drinks.

Guests of all ages enjoyed an amazing lineup of donated entertainment that included: DJ Mr. Socks, Live performance from New Jersey's AMP'D, the national anthem by singing prodigy Sasha Capobianco, full military honor guard, Manville Fire Dept. hoisting the American Flag, and Bagpipers from the Essex County Emerald Society. There was a Silent Auction, a 50/50, a closest to the pin golf contest, Mgr. Tom Boehm on hand for Cornhole, Bocce Ball, a Dunk Tank from Paddy the Brush, Face Painting, Seeing Eye Puppies, Elroy the Elk, and other fun entertainment for the little ones.

This event was the result of planning and preparation by an Elks East Central District Committee of - 40 members spearheaded by Apollo Hrehorovich and Rocco DiPiano of the Summit Elks.

If you didn't get a chance to attend or contribute to the 'Family Fun Day' event and would like to help a veteran in need, please scan the attached QR code or send a check payable to: ECD Veterans Committee.

Mailing address: Attn: Doreen Duffy, Elks ECD Veterans Committee, 87 Harrison Ave., Colonia, NJ 07067. Any questions email Summit Elks member:





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07946, 07980



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Qty: 3,300



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3

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860

960

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21

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2200

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560

900

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1300

1400

1800



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TOWNS

460

600

1000

1400

1600

1800

2200

12

TOWNS

560

700

1300

1600

1900

2100

2500



Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059

18

TOWNS

660

900

1700

2000

2400

2700

3000

15

TOWNS

600

800

1600

1800

2200

2400

2800



Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069

24

TOWNS

800

1100

1900

2400

2800

3300

3600



Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

30

TOWNS

1000

1300

2100

2800

3200

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27

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2000

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9	HALF	PAGE6.5"	x 9" or10"x7"	360	
12	Units		6.5"x14"	400	
18	FULL I	PAGE	10"x14"	500	
2-PAGE SPREAD 21"x14"				800	
BACK PAGE 10"x14"				600	
FRONT PAGE BANNER 8.25"x2"				360	

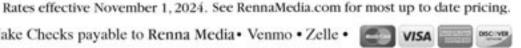
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BIG NEWS: RENNA MEDIA IS LAUCHING SIX MORE NEWSPAPERS IN DECEMBER

Renna Media will be launching six new newspapers in December 2024. The new towns joining Renna Media's family of newspapers are Livingston, Roseland, Hanover, East Hanover, Morristown, and Morris Township. The newspapers are Every Door Direct Mailing (EDDM) to every home and business in town.

The new monthly publications will add over 40,000 new postal patrons for a new total of over 200,000 newspapers mailed to 30 towns in Union, Somerset and Morris Counties.

The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns. The newspaper's goal is to have a positive influence on the economic development and overall well-being of the town. Our publications exist to share community service news and the good things that are happening in the community.

The concept of being hyper-local is to give local businesses a venue to promote services. Reaching local customers gives you the highest return for your advertising dollars. The black and white newspapers are designed to keep the cost of an advertisement to a minimum. Ads in one town start at \$100. Regional businesses can take advantage of discounted rates for advertising in multiple towns.

Renna Media also prints full-color flyers and tri-fold menus that get mailed along with the newspapers. A cost effective alternative to mailing postcards.

Renna Media is a Cranford, NJ based business

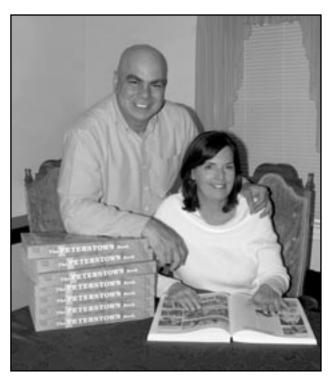
owned and operated by husband-and-wife team of Joe and Tina Renna. They are celebrating 40 years in business.

For more information about Renna Media publications, please visit RennaMedia.com.

Press releases with community service news can be emailed to editor@rennamedia.com.

Businesses interested in advertising can call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295,

or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.



(above, l-r) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, are celebrating 40 years in business.

FUNDRAISER GALA FEATURES ONLINE AUCTION

Hearts for Emma a 501©3 in Cranford, NJ is having a gala fundraising evening featuring cocktails, dinner, live music, sensational raffles, & a silent auction featuring original artwork on November 23, 2024, at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, New Jersey.

Hearts for Emma was founded by Cranford residents Nancie & Emma Rothman after Emma received a lifesaving heart transplant at the age of 12. Hearts for Emma provides assistance to families with children in crisis due to cardiac illness and creates and distributes educational materials in support or organ and tissue donation.

Co-founder Nancie Rothman states, "When Emma received her heart transplant, we were and continue to be so grateful to have the support of our family and community to help us through what was the most difficult time in our lives. Hearts for Emma was founded to help us live every day with purpose and to give back. Our gala fundraiser will be a wonderful evening and a way to support a great cause. We invite anyone interested in attending, donating, and purchasing raffle tickets as well as bidding online for the below painting & other exciting items to do so."

For further information, visit: heartsforemma.org



(above) Joe Renna holds an original 36" x 24' oil painting of the 18th Hole at Galloping Hill he created for Hearts for Emma 2024 Auction.

SOME OF THE ITEMS BEING AUCTIONED

As of this printing 11/1/24

- 10 days in Steamboat Colorado (September 19th-29th, 2025,
- Oura Ring
- Shackamaxon Round of Golf, pickle ball lesson, Hold Now gift certificate
- Pet Art -unique rendering of your pet
- Bonnie-Leigh Jones painting Beach Scene
- Original oil painting of the 18th Hole at Galloping Hill



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