

Westfield MONTHLY NJ

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EMBRACE THE BEAUTY OF GARDENING AND NATURE

Rake and Hoe Garden Club

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club members had a productive and eventful fall, contributing their time and talents to a variety of community initiatives and honing their skills in preparation for their upcoming flower show.

Members of the club worked together to create 65 beautiful floral arrangements, which were then delivered to homebound individuals as part of the Mobile Meals program. The heartfelt gesture brought smiles to many faces, showing the club's dedication to supporting its local community.

Members took part in Applefest, hosted by the Westfield Historical Society. During the event, the club sold daffodil and allium bulbs, with all proceeds benefiting their veterans projects. The sales were a success, helping to fund the club's ongoing efforts to support local veterans.

Over 20 members gathered for a workshop on Flower Design, an event that allowed participants to sharpen their skills and prepare for the club's highly anticipated Flower Show in April 2025. The workshop focused on four distinct categories of floral arrangements that will be featured at the show: miniature design, creative pedestal design, traditional pedestal design, and a design titled "Art in Bloom", which is inspired by a favorite piece of artwork.

The members were eager to embrace new techniques, creating a variety of stunning designs that were evaluated by Flower Show judges. The judges were impressed by the

members' enthusiasm and creativity, offering helpful critiques to ensure each design is perfected for the upcoming show.

The Rake and Hoe Flower Show is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club in Scotch Plains, NJ. The event is free to the public, and everyone is invited to come and enjoy the floral artistry on display. More information can be found on the club's website at rakeandhoegc.org.

As always, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club continues to bring beauty to the community, while supporting a variety of charitable causes and providing opportunities for members to learn and grow in their gardening expertise. The club also offers field trips and plant exchanges and facilitates education in horticulture, floral design, nature and wildlife.

The club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 pm at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns.

If you would like to embrace the beauty of gardening and nature, connect with fellow enthusiasts who share your passion, engage in fulfilling community service projects and make enduring friendships along the way, contact Nina Sylvester at nina.sylvester24@gmail.com or visit the club's website at rakeandhoegc.org or Facebook page at facebook.com/rakeandhoe.

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(above) Rake and Hoe members prepared 65 floral arrangements for Mobile Meals clients.

Courtesy photos

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GINGERBREAD SUNDAY - DEC. 8TH

On Sunday, Dec. 8th, from 1:30 – 4 p.m., the Miller Cory House Museum will present ‘Gingerbread Sunday’.

Spicy sweet gingerbread is a special part of the holiday season. Children will make a decorative, non-edible gingerbread house and one additional craft to take home and will hear “gingery” stories. Members of the Cooking Committee will also demonstrate early American recipes using ginger over the open hearth. Suggested age: 3 (with assistance for crafts) through elementary school. \$5 per child; accompanying adults free. Reservations are required. Call the museum at 908-232-1776 or email millercorymuseum@gmail.com to place yours. Please include your phone number in the email.

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



(above) Join us for our Gingerbread Sunday December 8th. It's a family fun way to get into the holiday spirit!

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF PLANTING

The Garden Club of Westfield recently celebrated 30 years of planting in Downtown Westfield. The club began planting their containers on the corners of East Broad and Elm Streets in October 1994. Since then, they have

beautified this area with an array of seasonal plantings that change four times a year. For further information, please contact the Garden Club of Westfield at gardenclubofwestfield@gmail.com.

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TRACK CLUB SHINES AT USATF JUNIOR OLYMPIC MEET

WESTFIELD AREA YMCA

Twenty-five young Westfield Area YMCA Flyers Track Club athletes competed alongside nearly 500 other participants at the USATF New Jersey Junior Olympic Cross Country Meet on November 3. Held at Central Park in Morris Plains, the Flyers delivered outstanding performances at the meet and brought home four national qualifiers:

- Greyson Dunleavy (Boys 7-8) - 3rd Place;
- Grayson Van Dyk (Boys 7-8) - 4th Place;
- Leo Anspach (Boys 11-12) - 14th Place;
- and Luke Barba (Boys 13-14) – 8th Place

In addition to individual accomplishments the team results showcased the Flyers' collective strength and teamwork:

Girls 11-12 team finished 5th in the 3000m race with runners Katalyna Aguilar, Avalee Deutsch, Sandra Jakubiuk, Sarah Licata, and Mika Snyder.

Boys 11-12 team secured a 4th place finish in the 3000m race with strong showings from Leo Anspach, Slater Centeno, Nicholas DiChiaro, Doruk Karagoz, Deven Lele, and Adrian Wood.



(above) Group of Westfield Area YMCA Flyers Athletes in the Boys Division.

Boys 13-14 team earned an impressive 3rd place finish in the 4000m race led by Luke Barba, Benjamin Halpern, Ronan Connolly, Graham Gallagher, Davin Hettiarachchi, and Liam Grunwald.

The Westfield Area YMCA Flyers Track Club is led by USATF-certified coaches and serves

hundreds of athletes ages 7-15 year-round. Athletes learn the fundamentals of distance running and techniques unique to off-track running, with more experienced runners building on fundamental skills through conditioning and in-depth training. Registration is open now for the Flyers Winter Conditioning program beginning December 2, 2024.

For more information about Flyers Track Club, visit yflyerstrackclub.com or contact Michelle Almeida at malmeyda@westfieldynj.org 908-301-9622 ext. 279.

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Visit westfieldynj.org to learn more about Westfield Area YMCA and Cranford YMCA programs. Financial assistance is available for YMCA memberships and programs to those who qualify.

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35TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT – DEC. 13

The Westfield Recreation Department will host its 35th Annual Holiday Concert featuring the Westfield Community Concert Band and the Edison Intermediate School Broadway Singers on Friday, December 13, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Avenue, Westfield. This free public concert culminates the band's 112th 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 Themes from the Nutcracker Suite, a celebration of the famous themes from the renowned Tchaikowsky ballet. The program will also include A Rhapsody On Christmas Carols, by Claude Smith, a medley of popular Christmas Carols, including Joy to the World and Deck the Halls, which was originally commissioned by the United States Marine Band. The band will also perform two new, contemporary arrangements of traditional Christmas Carols, Still, Still, Still, an Austrian carol, and Good King Wenceslas, both by New Jersey composer, Lawrence Kursar.

The band's program also includes A John Rutter Christmas V – The Story, a collection of traditional holiday carols, by English choral director and composer, John Rutter, and A Hanukkah Festival, a musical celebration of Hanukkah, arranged by composer Chris M.



(above) Westfield Community Concert Band's 35th annual Holiday Concert on Friday, Dec 13th at 7:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School. It is free and open to the public.

Courtesy photo

Bernotas.

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 20th season with the band. Westfield music educators Maureen Francis and Stephen Markowski, vocal specialists in the Westfield School District, co-direct the Edison Broadway Singers.

As the band completes its milestone 112th

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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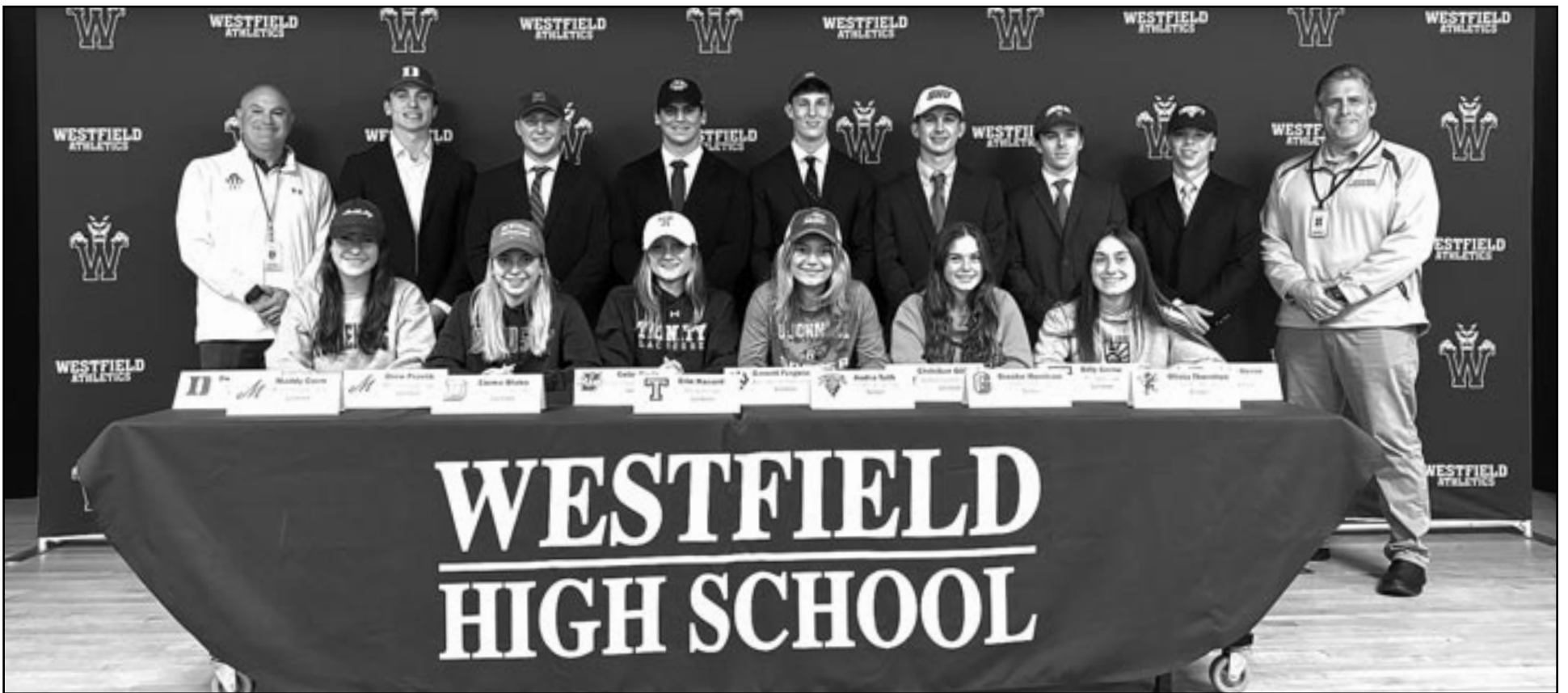


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STUDENT-ATHLETES SIGNED LETTERS OF INTENT

Thirteen Westfield High School student-athletes signed Letters of Intent with colleges and universities, signifying recognition of the seniors' accomplishments both academically and athletically.



(above) Pictured with WHS Athletic Director James DeSarno (left) and WHS Acting Principal Thomas Paterson (right), students: Emma Blake, Denison University; Madeline Coen, Muhlenberg College; Erin Hazard, Trinity College; Colin Coyle, University of Massachusetts; Garrett Ferguson, Washington and Lee University; Luke Gerne, Oberlin College; William Gerne, Trinity College; Christian Gilford, Sacred Heart University; Drew Pravlik, Muhlenberg College; Brooke Morrison, Gettysburg College; Olivia Thornton, Gordon College; Audra Toth, Bucknell University; Owen Waibel, Duke University

Photo by Westfield Athletic Department

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“BE OUR GUEST” FOR BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

CDC Theatre

One of the most enchanting musicals of all time, Disney's Beauty and the Beast is coming to CDC Theatre, 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, NJ with eight performances December 6th-15th.

This ‘tale as old as time’ is based on Disney’s Academy Award-winning film and features the timeless story you love, along with all your

favorite characters and songs. The romantic and beloved fairytale recounts the story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end, and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

With music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, and book by Linda Woolverton, the show has all the wonderful songs made famous in the Academy Award-winning animated feature film, along with new ones written for the stage adaptation. The enchantment never ends! The magic will unfold in front of your eyes as the talented cast, dancing dishes, gorgeous costumes, and spectacular settings bring this Disney classic to life on stage.

Celebrate your holidays with the most beautiful love story ever told!

For more information and the best ticket selection and prices, visit cdctheatre.org today. Disney’s Beauty and the Beast is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) and 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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Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice Book by Linda Woolverton

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SERVICE LEAGUE ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Westfield Service League (WSL) is now accepting applications for its 2024-25 grants. The deadline is Jan. 27, 2025, and grants will be awarded next spring.

“The members of the Westfield Service League work tirelessly in our shops to boost sales, enabling us to grow our annual financial contributions to local nonprofit and service

organizations. I’m happy to announce that this year we will be accepting applications via email. Our agencies asked for this and we heard them. In fact, this is now our preferred method of delivery,” said Gigi Tilocca, Co-Chair of the Grants Committee.

Grant applications will be accepted electronically. To receive an application, please email wslgrants@gmail.com requesting the application. Organizations applying for a grant must serve Westfield and/or Union County. Then return the completed application and supporting documents to wslgrants@gmail.com. However, if an agency needs to send in an application via snail mail or drop it off, please send or bring it to 114 Elmer Street, Westfield, NJ 07090, no later than January 27, 2025. No exceptions will be granted.

“I served last year on the Grants Committee and had the opportunity to visit and meet with some of our funded agencies. I heard that our grants truly make a difference in the community. I am proud to be part of the Service League and honored to be working with such great women

who give their time and talents to the community,” said Jane Francz, Co-Chair of the Grants Committee.

Each year the members of the Grants Committee are assigned a number of organizations to vet. Vetting includes a meeting with a representative of the organization, usually on site, and a review of the organization’s financial statements and their application. The committee then meets to discuss each organization and a recommendation is made to the full membership and voted on.

In 2023-24, WSL awarded more than \$90,000 in grants to 41 nonprofit and service organizations in Westfield and Union County.

The WSL shop is located at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield and is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 am to 4 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information about donations or volunteering, call 908-233-2530 for the Thrift Shop or 908-232-1223 for the Consignment Shop.

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(above) Westfield Service League Grants Committee Co-Chairs Jane Francz and Gigi Tilocca.

Courtesy photo

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(above) College Men's Club Poker Night tournament champions. The 1st prize winner of the night was David Weiss (center), finishing in 2nd place was Seth Zimmerman (right), and in 3rd place was Michael Tanella (left). One of the tournament's professional dealers is seated in the foreground. The 2024 charity tournament was held at the Kenilworth Veterans Center on October 18th.

Photo by David Germond

MEN'S CLUB POKER NIGHT WAS BIG SUCCESS

The College Men's Club of Westfield (CMC) held its 8th annual Poker Night fundraiser to benefit the CMC Scholarship Fund. The 2024 tournament set a post-Covid record for net funds raised. On Friday, October 18th, more than 50 players and supporters assembled at the Kenilworth Veterans Center which was transformed into a Poker room with professional dealers to conduct the Texas Hold 'Em tournament. The evening generated net proceeds of nearly \$7,000 for the club's scholarship fund.

CMC President Dave Germond noted, "The CMC is excited to see continued community support of our scholarship program; our annual Poker Night is one of our two major fundraising events." The tournament was run until there was a declared overall winner and prizes were awarded to the top three finishers. First prize winner of the night was David Weiss, second place went to Seth Zimmerman, and finishing in third place was Michael Tanella.

The College Men's Club of Westfield was

founded in 1922 and over the past 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 \$1.4 million in higher education assistance to young men of the Westfield community to attend over 130 institutions of higher learning. In 2024 the CMC awarded a total of \$75,900 in four-year scholarships and one-time grants to WHS students.

Scholarship applications are available on the CMC's website in February of each year and are evaluated by a committee of CMC Trustees each Spring. Funds for scholarships are generated from fund raising events like Poker Night, donations, membership dues, endowment investment income, and legacy bequests. The CMC will next host its annual boxing night fundraiser at the Kenilworth Veterans Center on February 7, 2025.

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



Westfield Memorial Library

DECEMBER EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas. Closing at 1pm on December 31 and closed January 1 for New Year's

12/3 @7-8:30pm	Making College Affordable by Jodi Bloom
12/5 @7-8:30pm	Breaking Barriers: Cultural Competency Workshop
12/7 @1-4pm	Bluegrass Jam
12/10 @7-8pm	Functional Medicine
12/12 @1-3pm	Adult Crafting with Marge Paintbrush Ornament
12/12 @7:30pm	MLK Association and WML Meet & Greet: King A Life-Pick up a copy
12/14 @10am-4pm	Friends of the Library Jewelry Sale
12/14 @2-4pm	A Painting Break for Older Teens & Adults
12/19 @6:30-8pm	Crafterdark-Work on your own craft projects

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OLD GUARD DECEMBER SPEAKERS PROGRAM

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our dues are minimal, and members manage all aspects of the operation. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." The organization was founded in 1930.

IN DECEMBER, WE WILL HAVE TWO SPEAKERS:

On December 3rd, our speaker will be **Ron Brachman**, an internationally known expert in Artificial Intelligence. In 2023 he retired from his positions as the Director of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech and Professor of Computer Science at Cornell University. Ron will discuss the amazing leaps forward in Artificial Intelligence over the past several years, and examine the unexpected, humanlike blunders the programs continue to make. Briefly, the algorithms, capable of constructing solutions to many complex problems, lack what is generally perceived as 'common sense'. In his talk, Ron Brachman will consider what common sense is about, what AI has tried to do about it, and what's still missing.

On December 10th, **James M. Kossler** will discuss the FBI versus the Cosa Nostra. Jim spent 23 years as an FBI agent and was the Coordinating Supervisor for the New York office responsible for directing the Organized Crime unit. As an expert witness he testified in numerous mob trials in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia. Jim was featured in the Netflix documentary "Fear City: New York vs. the Mafia." Jim will provide a brief history of Cosa Nostra (Mafia) and how they went from controlling unions and industry in New York and New Jersey, to being turned into street gangs.



(above, l-r) Dr. Brachman, James Kossler

Courtesy photos



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This special concert will be held in the church sanctuary and will feature multiple performers in several musical genres, from rock, to classical, to jazz, pop and familiar, traditional holiday songs.

Noted performers will be classical organ by Townley's resident organist, Bill Jensen; Piano/organ duets with Jeff Manno and Bill Jensen; The Townley Church Choir; piano and vocals with Cynthia and Jeff Manno; jazz with Carrie Jackson & Radam Schwartz; blues with Robert Hill; rock/pop and original holiday tunes by Zuko, Phillips, Cohn & Starr; Kayla

Richardson; Brazilian Saxophonist Gerson Galante; Rich Kubicz; and the Praising Pillars choir.

The holiday extravaganza will feature special lighting and Christmas decorations within the sanctuary.

You won't want to miss this live holiday show. All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, so bring the entire family!

Plan now for an evening of great music and holiday fun. Admission is free. A free will offering will be accepted for the benefit of Groundwork Elizabeth. Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ. Saturday, December 14, 2024. Doors open 6:30 p.m. The show starts at 7:00 p.m.

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ROTARY CLUB HOSTS WESTFIELD UNITED FUND

Submitted by D. Michael Hart

Beth Saad, the Executive Director of the Westfield United Fund, spoke to the Rotary club members during a recent regular lunchtime meeting.

The Westfield United Fund provides funding for programs for social service organizations in Westfield or Union County area. 92% of the donations come from Westfield residents, which is why they try to keep the donations local. The organization was started in 1938, 86 years ago.

They evaluate each recipient agency every year to see if they still need funding, and if they are using the funds properly. Last year they distributed \$375,000 and provided funding to 16 agencies. They keep their overhead down by having a lot of volunteers help them. Their service to residents involves assessing the charities' need for ongoing financial support by evaluating the urgency of funding each year and the effectiveness of the programs.

The agencies they are funding this year are: After School Tutoring; BSA Patriots Path Council; Caring Contact; Center Path Community Wellness; Cerebral Palsy League; Imagine; Jewish Community Center; Jewish Family Service; Literacy New Jersey; Mobile Meals of Westfield; Moms Helping Moms; St. Joseph's Social Service; Westfield Area "Y"; Youth & Family Counseling; & YWCA Union County.

Beth Saad graduated from Vanderbilt University, then worked as a recruiter in London and New York. She moved to Westfield with her family 8 years ago and became involved with the Westfield United Fund as the Social Media

Manager. Last year she was selected as Executive Director when Deirdre Gelinne retired. She has two children and "too many pets."

Major projects for the Rotary Club of Westfield include helping homeless veterans, collecting used bicycles and sewing machines to send to the developing world, helping to feed the local food insecure, and eradicating Polio worldwide. Westfield Rotary donated \$35,000 in community grants, and \$150,000 in scholarships this year. Since 1967, Westfield Rotary has awarded \$3.5 million in college scholarships to 1800 students. A college education can change a persons life for the better.

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.

Courtesy photo



(above, l-r) Beth Saad, Executive Director of the Westfield United Fund, Rotary Club of Westfield President Lauren Barr.

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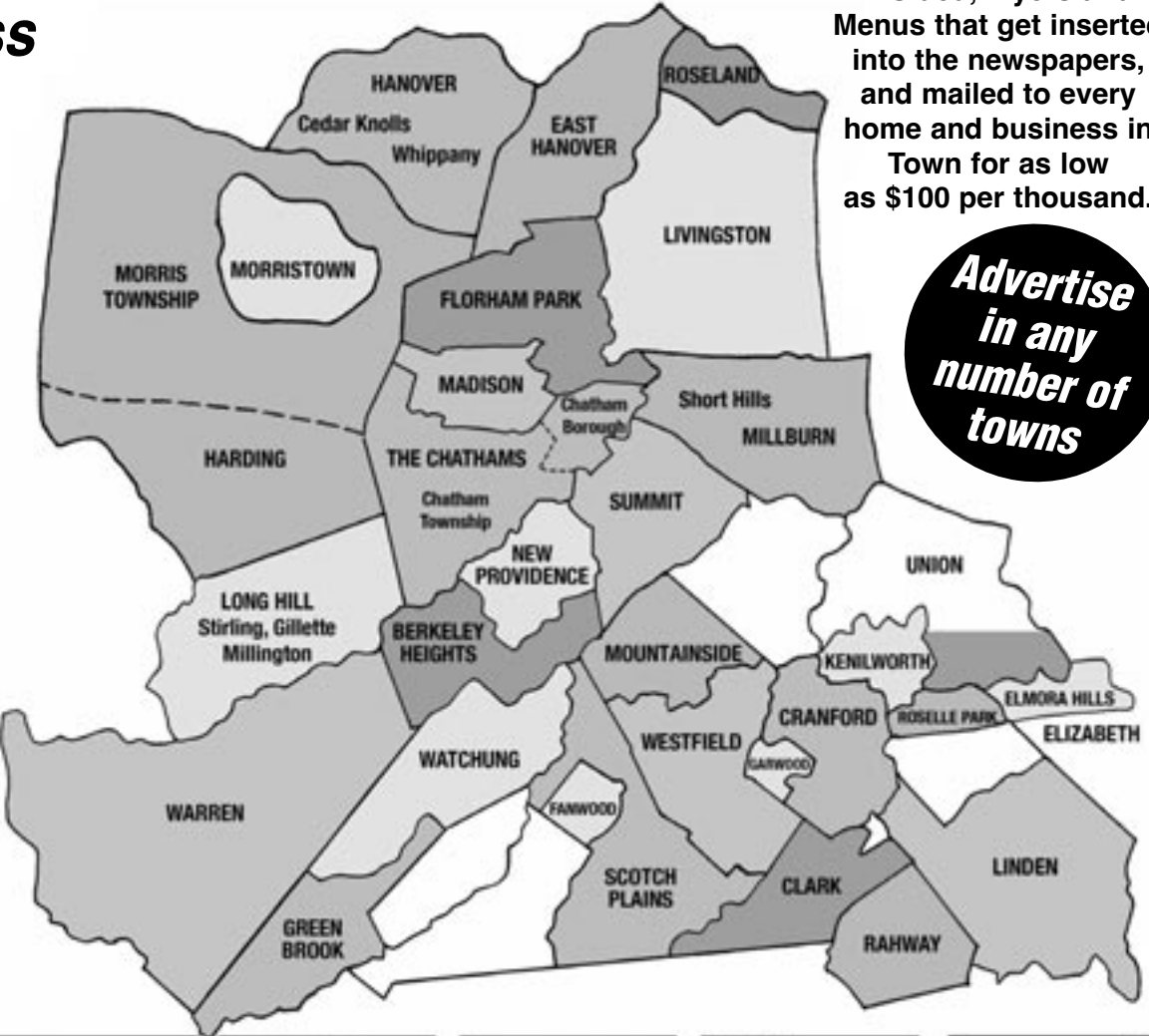
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NJIO PRESENTS FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT IN SUMMIT

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will be entertaining families on Sunday, December 8, 2024 with a free concert of seasonal holiday favorites. The concert will be from 2pm to 3pm at Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ. Families with children of all ages are invited to come and join in the fun!

NJIO's three orchestral ensembles will combine to perform music by Corelli, Reinecke, Strauss, and more! The concert concludes with Leroy Anderson's exciting Sleigh Ride, with percussion accompaniment provided by the youngest members of the audience!

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Following the concert, the famous NJIO Instrument Petting Zoo returns! Experienced NJIO musicians will guide young audience members and assist them in safely trying out the instrument of their dreams. Instruments are loaned by Elefante Music of New Providence and Scotch Plains.

Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 2 pm

Summit High School

125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ

Admission is free;

donations are gratefully accepted.

This concert is made possible by funds from: the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation; The Lillian Schenck Foundation; The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation; Investors Foundation; Standish Foundation; and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more information regarding the concert or to inquire about patron services, please contact NJIO at info@njio.org, or visit NJIO's website njio.org.

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 31st season, has been nationally recognized as a leader in intergenerational excellence through its unique approach to teaching musical performance and as a model for intergenerational orchestras across the country. Depending on space availability, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities each concert period to one of its several orchestras - no auditions needed!

NJIO's Winter Concert

Sunday, February 23, 2025, 3 pm – Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, NJ

NJIO's Spring Concert

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 3 pm - Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, NJ

We hope to see you there!

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Sunday December 8th, 2024 at 2 PM

Summit High School
 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ

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More information:

www.NJIO.org
 info@njio.org
 (908) 603-7691

NJIO is committed to creating an accessible concert experience for all.

This concert is made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; Instrument Petting Zoo sponsor Elefante Music; and our season sponsors: the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation, The Lillian Schenck Foundation, The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation, Standish Foundation, and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.

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