

Westfield MONTHLY NJ

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AMERICAN LEGION CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING

Westfield Mayor Shelley Bindle

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, officials, and community leaders from across the state gathered for the groundbreaking of a transformative new facility at the Martin Wallberg American Legion Post 3. John Rzeznik from the Goo Goo Dolls sang the national anthem to open the ceremony. This facility will provide 22 supportive housing units for homeless and disabled veterans, addressing the urgent need for affordable housing for those who served our nation.

The Town is proud to contribute \$500,000 from our Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which is funded by development fees from local projects. These rental units will help fulfill our affordable housing obligations while providing a meaningful step towards solving the homelessness crisis for veterans. This public-private partnership exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and compassion that defines Westfield.

Please consider supporting this important cause by donating to the Foundation for Sustainable Veteran Housing, www.fsvh.org. Your generosity will help bring this vision to life.

During the ceremony, I reflected on the incredible

teamwork that made this possible, including the visionary Joe Mindak, the leadership of Allan Betau, and the Post 3 members for their dedication and tireless efforts to move this project forward. I also acknowledged Greg Redington from REDCOM Design & Construction for his generous pro bono work on the initial design concepts and our Town professionals — Jim Gildea, Don Sammet, Frank Vuoso, Tom Jardim, and Liz Jeffery — for guiding this project through the municipal process.

My gratitude extends to the Town Council for their support in approving the Redevelopment Plan and Agreement in late 2023 and early 2024, and to Redevelopment Attorney Steve Mlenak and Redevelopment Planner Chris Colley from Topology for their essential contributions.

Many thanks to Union County for their partnership, and most importantly, to our residents for embracing this project with compassion and generosity.

This project is a testament to what we can achieve when a community comes together for a noble cause. May it inspire others to follow suit and remind us all that we are judged by how we care for those most in need.

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(above) Groundbreaking for new facility at the Martin Wallberg American Legion Post 3.

Courtesy photo

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ROTARIANS HOST BRIDGES OUTREACH CHARITY

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

Richard Uniacke, President of Bridges Outreach, recently spoke to the Rotary Club of Westfield about the causes of homelessness and the origins, mission, operations, and plans for the non-profit based in New Jersey. Bridges is dedicated to ending homelessness through a combination of street outreach to address immediate needs, case management, and housing assistance, primarily in Bergen, Essex and Union Counties. It has made significant strides in reducing unsheltered homelessness in the region, especially in Bergen County where functional homelessness was eliminated, and in the City of Newark where reductions in excess of 50% were achieved.

This success is attributed to collaborative efforts with city agencies, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and other community organizations.

The Rotary Club of Westfield gives a grant to Bridges on behalf of the Women's Club every year, and Rotarian volunteers make sandwiches for them every month.

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, sponsoring youth clubs in the local schools, 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 significantly change a person's life for the better.

Rotarians are successful business people who want to give something back to the community. Many towns in the US have a Rotary club. There are 1.2 million Rotarians in 35,000 Rotary clubs in 220 countries throughout the world.

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) Rotary Club President Lauren Barr; Richard Uniacke, President of Bridges Outreach.

Courtesy photo

Charlotte's Web

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COLLEGE MEN'S CLUB OF WESTFIELD ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLIDAY RECEPTION HONORS SCHOLARS

The College Men's Club of Westfield (CMC) held its annual holiday reception at Echo Lake Country Club to honor its current four-year scholarship recipients on December 18th, 2024. Also in attendance were the scholar's friends and families, members of the CMC, and the CMC Board of Trustees.

During this final event of the CMC's 102nd year, the scholarship winners from WHS classes of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 were introduced by Ryan Clark, CMC Scholarship Committee Chair and presented with their Spring Semester scholarship checks. Each of the students in attendance provided an update on their academic and career progress with the assembled group. Dave Germond, CMC President, stated that "the holiday reception is the capstone of each year for the CMC as we get to hear about our CMC Scholars' latest accomplishments."

The College Men's Club of Westfield was established 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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

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

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE FIGHTS

The CMC's next major event is its 22nd annual "Friday Night at the Fights" boxing fundraiser at the Kenilworth Veterans Center on February 7, 2025.

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



(above, l-r) College Men's Club of Westfield honored its current four-year scholarship recipients with a holiday reception at Echo Lake Country Club. Standing Front row: CMC President David Germond, Ethan Witten, Juan-Diego Lara, Gabriel Dayon, Sean Marner, Matthew Meixner, and CMC Scholarship Chair Ryan Clark. Back row: Adam Goddard, Kevin Warren, Benedict Nematadzira, and Pierce Kelly.

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STUDENTS VISIT THE NEW JERSEY STATE HOUSE

Westfield Public Schools

Westfield High School students visited the New Jersey State House in Trenton this fall to learn about the inner workings of state government and gain a deeper understanding of the legislative process at the state level.

The field trip was organized by language arts teacher Bailey Verdone and social studies teacher Antony Farag, who together teach a Global Citizen course at the high school and who arranged the trip as part of their civic engagement unit.

“Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis gave us special permission to visit the floors of the Senate and General Assembly, along with the governor’s office,” Verdone and Farag recounted.

In a separate committee room, the students also conducted a mock debate of legislation currently being debated in the General Assembly. “Our students loved sitting at the committee desks, using the microphones and debating the

bill back and forth,” the educators added. “They had a great time and learned so much. Visiting the State House made our civic engagement unit more applicable and provided real world exposure to the issues we talk about in class.”

Farag and Verdone added: “We believe that this field trip will have a significant impact on

our 12th graders, who will soon be of voting age. By experiencing the legislative process firsthand, they will be better equipped to engage in civic discourse and make informed decisions as citizens. Additionally, this field trip will benefit the Westfield community by fostering a more engaged and informed electorate.”



(above) Westfield High School students visited the New Jersey State House in Trenton this fall to learn about the inner workings of state government and gain a deeper understanding of the legislative process at the state level.

Photo Credit: Westfield High School

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ANGELS IN AMERICA PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES" AT CDC

We are excited to announce that Tony Kushner's acclaimed play, "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches," will be in performance at the CDC Theatre in Cranford from February 14 to March 1. This monumental production is a significant event in the cultural calendar and promises to be a landmark moment for theatre enthusiasts.

"Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is the first part of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic that explores the complex themes of politics, sexuality, and faith against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. The play is known for its profound narrative, compelling characters, and its unflinching examination of societal issues.

The CDC Theatre in Cranford is honored to host this powerful work. As one of New Jersey's longest producing community theatres, CDC Theatre has a rich history of bringing high-quality productions to the stage. The upcoming performance of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is set to continue this tradition, offering audiences an unforgettable experience. Directed by Michael Kidney is the cast: Corey Chichizola as Prior Walter, Brian Petty as Louis Ironson, Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Joe Pitt, Molly Reinhardt as Harper Pitt, Lisa Barnett as Hannah Pitt, Aaron Hancock as Belize, Richard Colonna as Roy Cohn and Even T. Charpentier as The Angel.

The staging of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" at CDC Theatre is not just an exciting theatrical event; it is a cultural milestone. The play's themes are as relevant today as they were when it first premiered in 1991, making this production a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggles and triumphs within our society.

We invite you to join us for this extraordinary

production. Tickets are available at cdctheatre.org. Don't miss the chance to witness Tony Kushner's masterpiece come to life on the stage of CDC Theatre in 2025. This is an event you won't want to miss.

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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February 24*

- Flute Choir 5:00-5:40 PM
- Flute Forum 6:30-7:10 PM
- Fortissimo Flutes 8:00-8:40 PM

*Location: Wharton Performing Arts School
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February 25

- Percussion Ensemble III 4:00-4:45 PM
- Sinfonia 5:00-6:00 PM
- Youth Symphony 6:30-8:00 PM

February 26

- Philharmonia 6:15-7:15 PM
- Clarinet Ensemble 6:30-7:00 pm

February 27

- Primo Strings 4:30-5:15 PM
- Percussion Ensemble II 4:30-5:15 PM
- Percussion Ensemble I 6:30-7:15 PM
- Concertino Strings 6:15-7:00 PM
- Youth Orchestra 6:15-7:45 PM



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WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC HONOREES

Westfield Public Schools

Nearly 30 Westfield High School student musicians and vocalists have been accepted into prestigious regional choirs, bands, and orchestras, including six students who will perform with the All-Eastern Honor Choirs in April.

“Students are chosen for the All-Eastern ensembles based on their scores from their respective All-State Choirs,” says choral director John Brzozowski. “The All-Eastern Choirs consist of students from the southernmost state of Maryland all the way up to Maine.”

ALL-EASTERN MIXED CHORUS: Charlotte Cotroneo, Garrett Gao, Olivia Marino

ALL-EASTERN TREBLE CHORUS: Hana Forbes, Kaitlyn D’Alessandro, Nadia Rego

Additionally, twenty Westfield High School vocalists performed with the 2025 Region II Chorus in January. This choral ensemble is organized by the Central Jersey Music Educators Association (CJMEA).

REGION II TREBLE CHORUS: Emily Bailey, Nikita Bhat, Valentina Ciucci, Olivia Marino, Luella Mockbee, Lea Turetsky, Mia Saco. Mia also placed 3rd in Soprano 2.

REGION II MIXED CHORUS: Charlotte Cotroneo: Mark D’Angelo, Kelsey Dix Parker Ebert, Hana Forbes. Hana placed 2nd in Soprano 2, Ella Hartz, Owen Ing, Kyra Lentzner-Kyra received 5th Place in Alto 2, Tom Moshier, Mia Nuzzo, Kiran Patel-Kiren received 5th Place in Bass 1, Nadia Rego-Nadia placed 2nd in Alto

2, Emily Tessitore

Seven Westfield High School student instrumentalists performed with CJMEA Region II Band and Orchestras in early January, having been selected following rigorous auditions. The instructors for these talented musicians are band directors Gabriel Batiz and Christopher Vitale and orchestra director Craig Stanton.

Anya Ausiello - Oboe, Region Band and Orchestra, Ethan Co - Violin, Region Orchestra,

Nathan DeBole - Trumpet, Region Band and Orchestra, Christian Buonopane - French Horn, Region Band, Lucas Chalfant - French Horn, Region Band, Brianna Crispino - French Horn, Region Band, Liliana Lincoln - Clarinet, Region Band



(above, l-r) Seven Westfield High School student instrumentalists performed with CJMEA Region II Band and Orchestras in early January, having been selected following rigorous auditions: Liliana Lincoln, Anya Ausiello, Nathan DeBole, Christian Buonopane, Brianna Crispino, Lucas Chalfant. Not pictured: Ethan Co.

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WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC HONOREES



(above) WHS student musicians and vocalists accepted into prestigious regional choirs, bands, and orchestras. (see article on page 12)

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH LIBRARY EVENTS

2025 Black History Month Celebration Committee

This February, the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library, in partnership with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield, and the Westfield Memorial Library, are proud to be celebrating Black History Month with a vibrant month-long initiative focusing on Americans Who Tell the Truth (AWTT) as relating to the Black Experience.

The program incorporates 14 selected portraits of individuals who showed the courage to identify and address fundamental issues such as environmental justice, civil rights and other global and local concerns. These portraits are paired with themed discussions led by local New Jersey leaders in their field. The weekly discussions will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Westfield Memorial Library Community Meeting Room. All discussions are open to the public with pre-registration required by contacting the library at 908-789-4090 ext. 0 or registering online at wmlnj.org. All the portraits will be on display in the meeting room of the Westfield Memorial Library throughout the month.

The program will open on Tuesday, February 4 with UCNJ Professor Keith Walcott discussing Beginning of the Civil Rights Movement - Slavery & The Underground Railroad to the Niagara Movement and the NAACP. The portraits reflecting this talk are Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and W.E.B. DuBois.

The 2nd talk will be on Tuesday, February 11 by Brother Rob Tuck, educator, author, poet, focusing on African American Impact on Sports and Performing Arts. Muhammad Ali, Dick Gregory, Ossie Davis, and Paul Robeson will be displayed to represent this topic.

On Tuesday, February 18, author Ethel M. Washington Author, will speak on the African American Impact on Education and Literature, including Westfield's role in the Harlem Renaissance. Portraits of Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison highlight the arts.

The final discussion will be on Monday, February 24 with Jason D. Williamson, Executive Director, Center on Race Inequality and the Law, NYU School of Law, speaking about The Power of Social Activism. Portraits of

W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Robeson, Stacey Abrams, Shirley Chisholm, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Bryan Stevenson exemplifies this theme.

AMERICANS WHO TELL THE TRUTH (AWTT) is a broad-based non-profit organization, inspired by the portraits of artist and historian, Robert Shetterly. He has portrayed numerous individuals, both living and deceased, who address fundamental issues such as environmental justice, civil rights and other global and local concerns. He has created over 260 portraits. You can view these works along with narratives and other information about the portrait subjects on the AWTT website americanswhotellthetruth.org.

The 2025 Black History Month Celebration Committee includes Alice Dillon, Marcy Lechner, Alexander Liu, Erin Miller, Michael Miller, Linnea Rhodes, Velvet Rogers, Jerry Skotnicki, committee Chair, from the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library; Allen McGinley, Director of the Westfield Memorial Library; and Dawn Nichol-Manning and Donnell Carr of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association of Westfield.



Westfield Memorial Library
FEBRUARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS
Closed Monday, February 17 for Presidents Day

- 2/1 @ 2-3pm** Guitarist Marc Berger
- 2/4 and 2/18 @ 1:30, 2 & 2:30pm** Tech Help One-One 1/2 Hour Appointments
- 2/4, 11, 18 & 24 @ 7-8pm** Black History Month Events-presented by the Friends of the Library
- 2/6 @ 1-3pm** Crafts for Adults with Marge-Book Folding Art
- 2/7, 14, 21 & 28 @ 3-4pm** The Fundamentals of Tai Chi by Gang Huang
- 2/8 @ 1-4pm** Blue Grass Jam
- 2/13 @ 7-8:30pm** MLK and WML Book Part 2 Discussion: *King A Life*
- 2/20 @ 6:30-8pm** Crafterdark-Work on your own craft projects
- 2/20 @ 7-8:30pm** Make a Cold Stratification Tray and Passive Solar Greenhouse For Seeds
- 2/27 @ 7-8:30pm** Implementing the Right College Testing Strategy

550 E. Broad Street 908.789.4090
Register or find more information at wmlnj.org



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Throughout the year, we'll be hosting a series of exciting events to honor this momentous occasion. These events will culminate in a
**Grand Anniversary Celebration:
Sunday, September 28, 2025**
2:00 PM Worship Service in the sanctuary Fellowship Reception to follow in Luther Hall, featuring food and beverages.
Whether you've been with us for years or are new to our church family, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for all that God has done, and will continue to do, through Redeemer Lutheran Church.
Stay tuned for more details about upcoming anniversary events!
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| <p>Email for Group Rates: GDPresentstix@gmail.com</p> <p>DREW THE CONCERT HALL</p> <p>Drew University Madison, NJ</p> <p>QR Code</p> <p>GDPresents.simpletix.com 917-567-5842</p> | | | |

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We provide standby services at numerous community events throughout the year such as: Little League Parade, Garwood Rocks, Summer Junior Police Academy (First Aid & CPR Demo), Memorial Day Parade, Halloween Parade, Tree Lighting & Menorah Lighting, Sponsor the Summer and Winter Craft Bazaars at the Garwood Knights of Columbus Building, Provide Mutual Aid Stand-by for Other Towns (e.g. Carnivals, Fireworks, Street Fairs & Parades).

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We have permanent Clothing Bin & Book Bin in our parking lot located at 401- 2nd & Walnut Street. (The clothing will not be turned rags. We can only accept books: hardcover, paperback, or textbooks with ISDN numbers.)

FIRST AID SQUAD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers Are Needed! If you have the desire to help others join us, we are in need for adult and junior members to join! We are staffed 100% by volunteers who live and work in the town, and surrounding communities. Squad crews respond to emergency calls 24 hours per day, every day of the week. Flex-time shifts are available. Volunteers are provided with free first aid/CPR training and uniforms.

For more information call 908-789-0300,

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

We offer a free Medical Equipment Program to residents (e.g. wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, and shower seats) at no charge. We also accept donations of new, or well persevered and clean, equipment.

Please call 908-789-0300
or e-mail informationgfas@gmail.com for more information.

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES

We offer First Aid and CPR classes to the community as several of our members are certified American Heart Association Instructors. We conduct monthly CPR classes at our squad building on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 2 to 6 p.m. (6 people minimum to run the class). We can also provide group classes on other days at our building or at another location upon request.

To learn about a First Aid/CPR program, please call 973-610-7675 or e-mail

CAR SEAT INSPECTION STATION

We also host the Union County Central New Jersey Safe Kids Car Seat Inspection Station Program on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 - 11:00 a.m. Just stop by our station at 401 - 2nd Ave & Walnut and certified technicians will ensure your child's safety seat is the correct type and properly installed.

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(above) Squad members with Garwood Mayor Jen Blumenstock in the middle along with Glen Costello, President of Garwood First Aid Squad who is holding the proclamation.

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NJ CERTIFIES NEW RECORD FISH

*New Jersey Fish and
F&W Record Bowfin 2024*

Frank Hubert caught the new state record Bowfin in Mantua Creek on December 17, 2024. The fish weighed 12 pounds, 10 ounces, replacing Pierce Dopkin's 11-pound, 8.5-ounce record from 2017, which was caught in the same creek.

Frank was casting from a kayak and using a Sixgill spinning rod with a Shimano spinning reel loaded with 30-pound test Snakehead Outlawz braided line when the fish hit. A Snakehead Outlawz Dragon Destroyer was the lure used for catching this new record bowfin.

ABOUT THE NJ STATE RECORD FISH PROGRAM

Despite its small size and high population density, New Jersey offers a wide range of fishing opportunities, including the chance to catch "trophy-size" fish. Such fish are recognized in the Skillful Angler Program and the State Record Fish Program.

The objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought after and routinely found in the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey. Separate lists are maintained for freshwater and marine species, and in 2014 a new Spearfishing category was created for saltwater species.

Presently there are 90 species (31 freshwater

and 59 saltwater, including 17 in the Spearfishing category) eligible for entry in the Record Fish Program. In May 2007, the program was revised to include Retired Categories (Saltwater) of fish no longer accepted for entry in the program, as well as Retired Historical Records which were believed to be "unbeatable" at the time.

For More information visit:
dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater



(above) Frank Hubert caught the new state record Bowfin in Mantua Creek on December 17, 2024. The fish weighed 12 pounds, 10 ounces, replacing Pierce Dopkin's 11-pound, 8.5-ounce record from 2017, which was caught in the same creek. Courtesy photo

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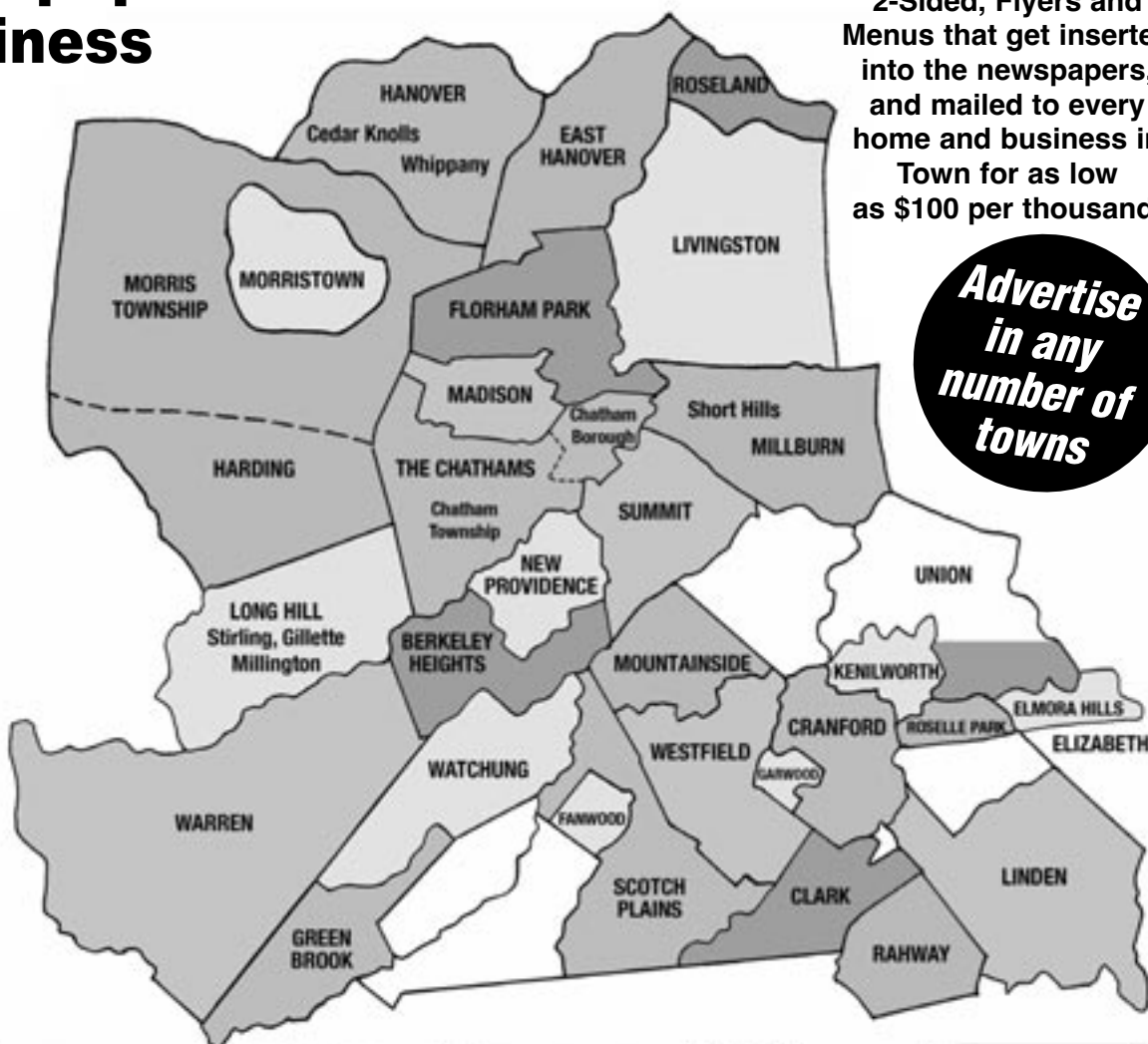
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The College Woman's Club of Westfield

For more than 117 years, The College Woman's Club (CWC) of Westfield has been dedicated to empowering young women to achieve their higher education goals. The 2025 scholarship application process is now open, offering valuable opportunities to graduating high school seniors residing in Westfield, NJ, for at least 12 months. Applicants must be planning to attend a four-year accredited college or university.

Scholarship applications are available now online at cwclubwestfield.org. Applications are evaluated each spring by a committee of CWC

members. Scholarships are funded by membership dues, community sponsorships, fundraisers, and legacy gifts. The application deadline is March 10, 2025.

Founded in 1917, The College Woman's Club of Westfield continues its intergenerational mission to promote education and lifelong learning for women. In addition to scholarships, the organization hosts social and cultural events, including college admissions seminars, book clubs, and museum trips.

For more information regarding membership and who we are, visit cwclubwestfield.org or contact cwc.westfield@gmail.com.

WESTFIELD FIREFIGHTERS COMPETE IN COOK OFF

On Monday, February 24, 2025, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival, at the Pines Manor in Edison. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mark A. Virag Memorial Cancer Fund, Family Promise of Bergen County, and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off is an integral part of the evening as firefighters will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location.

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