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CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH A TOUR OF NOTABLE HOMES

The Friends of New Jersey Festival Orchestra, the auxiliary and fund-raising arm of the orchestra, has announced that the renowned Tour of Notable Homes will continue this year. Five magnificent Westfield residences will generously open their doors to benefit the NJ Festival Orchestra's outreach and music therapy programs on Saturday, May 10th 2025, Mother's Day weekend.

"Our much-anticipated local tradition is back again," according to Shuang Guo Wroe, Friend's Co-President. "There is an increasing diversity of outstanding architecture and stylish décor in our community just waiting to be seen. This year's event reflects the area's rich architectural history, as well as showcasing some of the hottest new properties, architects and interior designers in the Westfield area," she continued.

People who love grand homes, and families looking for something fun to do together to celebrate Mother's Day will have a treat in store. "This year's tour presents a stylish medley of five magnificent Westfield residences -- each with a different history, some with noteworthy renovations, all in different genres and each with plenty of appeal," added Veena Upadhyay, Friend's Co-President.

This year's event includes an award-winning, re-imagined center hall colonial transformed into a serene, modern haven for practical living; a 1917 Dutch colonial where delightful vintage charm meets contemporary flair; a perfect example

of luxurious living near the Westfield downtown featuring impeccable décor and exquisite gardens; a stunning modern farmhouse equipped with all the latest amenities; and a lovingly updated Tudor with the feel of a European boutique hotel.

The tour also presents live music at each of the homes, provided by gifted musicians from the Junior Musical club in Westfield.

Ms. Upadhyay explains that the home tour raises key revenue for the orchestra. She expressed appreciation to the homeowners for generously opening their homes to benefit the orchestra, which in turn adds significant value to communities of central New Jersey.

"The Home Tour is a critical element of the funding mix that's necessary to operate the orchestra, and bring acclaimed professional soloists to the area," explained Music Director David Wroe. "Supplemental fund raising is necessary because only about a third of our revenue comes from the sale of tickets. Income from the Home Tour will also support our important educational outreach and music therapy programs."

Tickets for the 2025 Tour of Notable Homes are \$50 in advance, \$55 on tour day. Purchase tickets online at www.njfestivalorchestra.org. Tickets will also be available at Baron's Drug Store, 243 E Broad St, Westfield.

For more information go to www.njfestivalorchestra.org or visit the Friends of NJ Festival Orchestra on Facebook.



(above) Members of the Friends of NJ Festival Orchestra gather to plan the 2025 Tour of Notable Homes to benefit the New Jersey Festival Orchestra.

Courtesy photo

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(above, l-r) Marnix Godschalk, Joanne Mitchel, Pat Meschke, Marilyn Bunting, Elaine Puma, Marie Higgins and Holly Zakharenko.

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2025 WESTFIELD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE GRAND MARSHALL

Dennis J. Dougherty, Colonel, USA Retired

Mr. Dennis J. Dougherty retired in 2007 after a 39-year career as an educator and in 2000 after a 31-year military career in the United States Army and the New Jersey Army National Guard.

During his career in education Mr. Dougherty served as a mentor and supervisor, helping to train student teachers, providing them with hands on practical classroom experience. He also, developed and placed into practice a Peer Leadership program designed to help first year high school students meet the challenges of high school. In June of 2000, the New Jersey Anti-Defamation League and the New Jersey

Commission on Holocaust Education

honored him with its Honey and Maurice Axelrod Award for his efforts in the field of Holocaust/Genocide and Prejudice Reduction. The Anti-Defamation League honored him again in 2007 with its Lighting the Way Award for lasting contributions to the children of New Jersey and dedication to the cause of Holocaust Education.

A career officer in the New Jersey Army National Guard COL (Ret.) Dougherty has had extensive experience leading large multifaceted logistical support organizations. He also authored, developed, and implemented programs for officer professional development that identified, trained mentored individuals designated as future senior leaders for both the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. His military awards include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal

with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Expert Infantry Badge and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.

He continues to be an active leader in the community and presently serves as the First Region President Emeritus of the Association of the United States Army. President Barak Obama recognized COL(Ret.) Dougherty's volunteerism with the President's Call to Service Award in 2013. In 2009 the United States Department of Defense recognized his service to the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee of New Jersey with its Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2010 he was again recognized again by the Department of Defense, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee as the National Military Outreach Volunteer of the Year. COL(Ret.) Dougherty also serves as the Honorary Colonel of the 117th Cavalry Regiment.



(above) 2025 Westfield Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall, Dennis J. Dougherty, Colonel, USA Retired
Courtesy photo

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www.westfieldynj.org

WATER WISE!
Free Water Safety Events
for Kids & Families

Sunday, May 18 | 1:00-2:00pm
Location: Westfield Area YMCA

Friday, May 23 | 1:00-1:45pm
Location: Cranford YMCA

Be prepared for summer and learn exercises to help kids adjust to being in the water, discuss safety topics, and participate in fun, themed activities that reinforce skills!

- Free & Open to the Community
- Geared toward families with children ages 5-11
- Child and parent/guardian should come dressed for the water
- Registration required
Register at westfieldynj.org/water-safety



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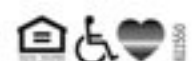
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2025 WESTFIELD MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AND PARADE

Town of Westfield

Once again, The Martin Wallberg American Legion Post 3 will host this beloved tradition to honor America's heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice. The parade will take place on Monday, May 26, 2025.

The day's events will begin with the traditional ceremony at 10:00 in Memorial Plaza to honor our fallen heroes. The parade will then process down East Broad Street and turn left on North Euclid, ending in Mindowaskin Park. The Westfield Police Department will then escort all participating veterans to Fairview Cemetery for the annual solemn service held there. Following the parade, all members of the public are invited for a gathering in Mindowaskin Park, and the American Legion will also host its annual barbecue with music and entertainment.

CEREMONY DETAILS

The community is invited to come together to commemorate the meaning of Memorial Day and remember those we lost. The traditional solemn ceremony will be held at Memorial Plaza at 10:00 AM, and will include the following participants: FUMC Bells, Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, America the Beautiful, Opening Prayer, Mayoral Remarks, Guest Remarks, Amazing Grace, Presentation of Wreaths at Memorials, Musket Salute, Taps, Introduction of Grand Marshal, Closing Prayer, God Bless America.

TIMELINE FOR MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

- 9:15 -- All parade participants to line up on North Avenue near Memorial Plaza
- 10:00 -- Memorial Day traditional solemn ceremony in Memorial Plaza
- 10:45 -- Parade begins down East Broad Street and proceeds left onto Euclid Avenue, ending at Mindowaskin Park
- 11:30 -- Memorial Day service at Fairview Cemetery (1100 E Broad Street)
- 11:30 - 1:00 -- Community gathering in Mindowaskin Park with food and entertainment
- 2:00 - 5:00 -- Picnic with live music and entertainment at the American Legion Hall (1003 North Avenue)

For additional information, contact James McDonald at jamesmc150@gmail.com or 612-910-4100. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Joe Mindak at 201-410-8282 or joe@theconnective.me.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The day's events will proceed rain or shine unless thunderstorms or other hazardous weather conditions are present. In that case, the Town will update residents via Nixle, social media, and the Town website if events have to be canceled for safety reasons.

WESTFIELD VETERANS BANNER PROGRAM

To commemorate Memorial Day, the Westfield Veterans Banner Program is displaying the next round of banners to recognize our veterans and active duty military personnel. The banners will be displayed from Memorial Day through Veterans Day in a partnership between the Town and the Westfield Veterans Fund, a locally established 501(c)(3) organization. Phase 1 of this program was introduced in 2022, when the first round of banners was unveiled on poles adjacent to Monument Circle, along East Broad Street, North Avenue, and South Avenue.

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CHILD'S PLAY: OLD-TIME TOYS AND GAMES, MAY 18

Did children in rural colonial New Jersey have time to play? Their first job was working hard alongside their families with the many tasks required of daily life on a farm. Still, they managed to find time in between chores to play and most houses had a few toys.

Bring your children (or your own inner child) and join us at the historic c.1740 Miller-Cory House Museum as we demonstrate and play some old-fashioned games and showcase some interesting colonial era toys. Our cooks will also be busy cooking over our open hearth cooking using period recipes and techniques. Admission is \$5 ages 13 and older; \$4 ages 3-12 and free age 2 and younger. No reservations are necessary.

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 visit

millercoryhouse.com

or westfieldhistoricalsociety.org.



(above) Please visit the Miller-Cory House Museum on May 18 from 2-4 p.m. for our Child's Play program. We will showcase some interesting colonial toys and games.

Courtesy photo



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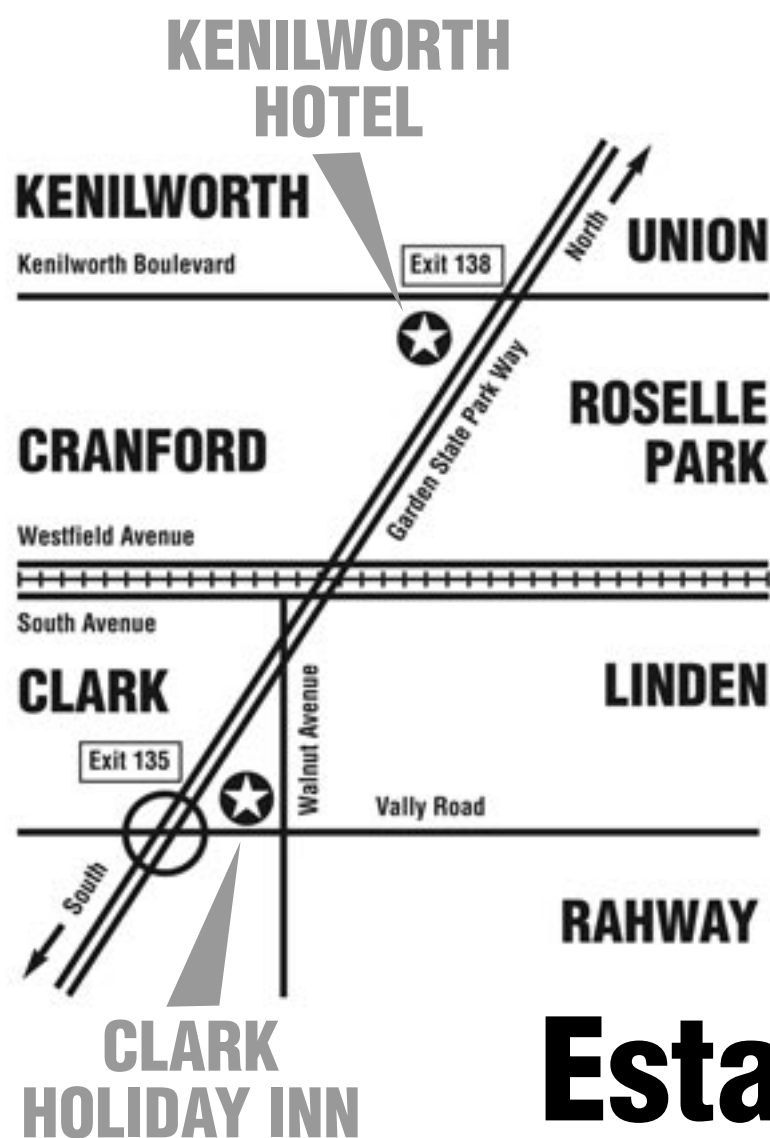


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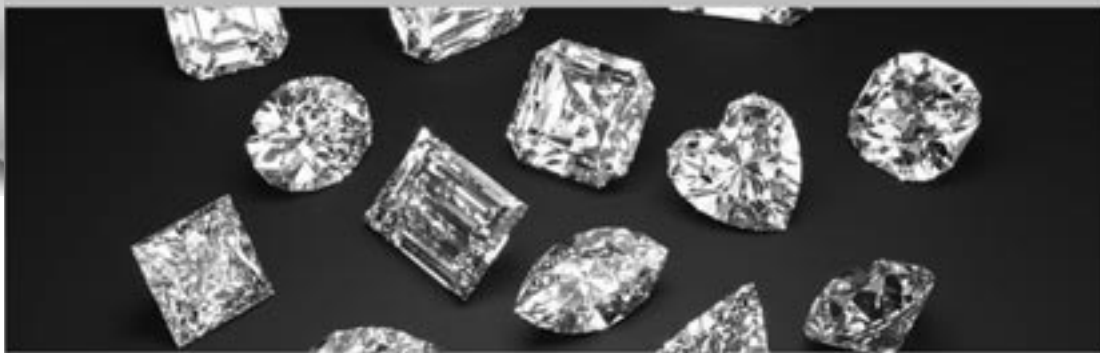
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DEIRDRE GELINNE SWORN IN AS ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties

Union County Superior Court Judge Gavin I. Handwerker presided over the swearing-in of Deirdre Gelinne of Westfield, who trained with Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties to advocate for vulnerable children in foster care. She trained alongside Ashanti Hameed of Hillside.

Both are now equipped to champion the best interests of child victims of abuse and neglect, the volunteers join a team of hundreds of devoted advocates with CASA of Passaic and Union Counties who provide life-changing advocacy and support services to each of the more than 350 children across both counties living in foster care through no fault of their own.

Gelinne noted she first learned about the CASA program during her 11-year tenure as Executive Director of the Westfield United Fund. "I was inspired by the stories of the many children whose lives were changed by a CASA volunteer." Now retired from that post, she applied to become an advocate.

When asked how she was feeling before taking the oath in court, Gelinne shared, "I'm looking forward to being sworn in so I can begin the work I've trained for. I am conscious of taking on such an important responsibility." That training, she added, "was very thorough. What I found most impactful were the real-life examples shared by the trainers who have all been CASAs themselves."

Said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director of Child Focus, the nonprofit organization that oversees the CASA program, "I'm happy to welcome Deirdre and Ashanti! Each have made a powerful commitment to ensure a child's voice is heard, and they bring their own strengths and perspectives to the table. Having completed training and court observation, and now taken their oath before the judge, this is an exciting day. More vulnerable children in foster care will now have a consistent, caring adult in their corner." She added, "I encourage anyone interested in supporting vulnerable children to attend an information session to learn



(above) Deirdre Gelinne of Westfield was recently sworn in as advocate for children in foster care.

Courtesy photo

how they, too, can make what is a lifelong difference."

No prior knowledge of child welfare is required to become a CASA volunteer; comprehensive training equips volunteers with the skills necessary to advocate effectively. Volunteer advocates visit their assigned child at least once monthly and communicate with caregivers, educators, caseworkers, and others in the child's life, and then make informed recommendations to the judge.

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties is a program of Child Focus, which prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children, and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. For details about the CASA program, call 973-832-4002, e-mail info@casapassaicunion.org, or visit www.casapassaicunion.org.

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE: CAROLE SHAFFER-KOROS, PH.D.



(above) Carole Shaffer-Koros has been named one of the seven members for the Class of 2025 Inductees to the Westfield Historical Society's Hall of Fame.

Photo courtesy of C. Shaffer-Koros

Submitted by Gail Stock

The Westfield Historical Society Hall of Fame honors past and present residents of Westfield who have brought distinction to the community.

Dr. Carole Shaffer-Koros has earned a place in the Hall of Fame for her lifelong devotion to public service and her focus on education. As a teenage volunteer candy striper to her current role as a trustee with the Westfield Historical Society (WHS), she was raised to believe we all have civic responsibility.

Dr. Shaffer-Koros was the youngest of nine. Born in the midst of the Great Depression, she and her siblings were expected to help family income with small jobs to earn money. After graduating as valedictorian from Riverside High School in western NJ, she entered the University of Pennsylvania school of nursing and earned her diploma. She worked in psychiatric nursing for two years, enrolled in Douglass College of Rutgers University and received a B.A. in Spanish all the while working part-time as campus nurse.

While at Douglass, she met Robert Koros at a dance mixer, eventually married him and they had two daughters, Diana and Silvia. The family moved to Westfield in 1965.

Dr. Shaffer-Koros returned to the University of Pennsylvania and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Romance Literature and Literature, commuting to classes in Philadelphia and to libraries to research her theses. Robert was a supportive partner in all ways.

After graduating, she found that women were not being hired by university foreign language departments. Pivoting in her career, she joined the Kean College faculty in 1974 and retrained as a professor of English as a Second Language (ESL). There, she designed and enacted a program to integrate foreign students into academic studies. Later, she taught and led the M.A. in Liberal Studies program. In Kean's English Department, she taught and created a variety of courses, became Chair, and was promoted to Associate Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and then the founding Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Kean

University.

Locally, Dr. Shaffer-Koros co-founded EDGE (Expanded Dimensions in Gifted Education). Classes ran Saturday mornings at Edison Middle School. Eventually, the Westfield School system integrated gifted education into the schools and EDGE was dissolved as per its charter.

Dr. Shaffer-Koros has published academic articles and book chapters and given many academic presentations at international conferences. She is a participant and has held leadership positions in professional associations. She has been honored by many fellowships, honors and awards.

Following retirement from Kean University, she served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Bridgeway, Treasurer of the Genealogical Society of the West Fields, the Treasurer of the WHS Board of Trustees, speaker's program co-chair and editor of the WHS Newsletter. She is a play selection reader for Premiere Stages, a professional theatre group at Kean University. She is currently a contributor to a forthcoming book entitled Edith Wharton and the Mediterranean to be published in fall 2025 and has several other projects underway about authors Wharton, Cather, Munro, Hawthorne, Poe, and James.

You just can't keep a good woman down!

The Westfield Hall of Fame is a Committee of The Westfield Historical Society which has named seven inductees for the 2025 Hall of Fame Class. In addition to Carole Shaffer-Koros, inductees include: William McLaren Bristol, Christopher Lundy Campbell, Charlotte Nichols Montgomery, Keith Hertell, Dariell Walsh and David Wroe. The Hall of Fame Committee has a long list of qualified candidates submitted by the public for its consideration in future inductions.

The 11 members of the 2025 Hall of Fame selection committee are planning the induction ceremony for Friday, October 10, 2025. Historical Society members and the public at large are encouraged to submit profiles of people believed to be strong candidates for the Westfield Hall of Fame to the Westfield Historical Society, 314 Mountain Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.

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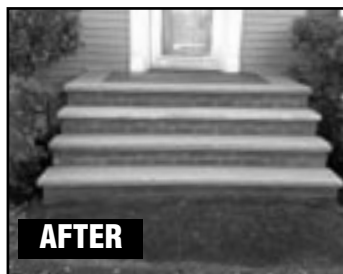
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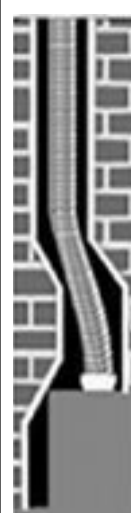
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Westfield Public Schools

At the 33rd High School Choir Invitational the Westfield High School Choraleers were awarded Grand Champion in the Pop/Show/Jazz category, placing 1st out of seven choirs in their division with a Gold rating.

Additionally, WHS 12th grader Garrett Gao earned First Runner-Up in the solo competition in the Musical Theater/Pop/Jazz category, and Nadia Rego was named Grand Champion in the Classical solo division.

The Roxbury High School Choir Department hosts the annual choir invitational, a regional festival featuring performances by nineteen outstanding choirs in the Concert and Pop/Show/Jazz categories.

“Students also had the opportunity to compete in the solo portion of the festival, receiving valuable feedback in a supportive environment focused on musical growth,” notes Director of Choirs John Brzozowski.

Additionally, the Westfield High School Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform at the New Jersey State Band Gala, just the 5th time in the school’s history the ensemble has received this prestigious invitation.

“The WHS Wind Ensemble finished 2nd overall of 31 performing bands at the Central Jersey Music Educators Concert Band Festival in mid-March,” says Director of Bands Christopher Vitale, noting that the student musicians will perform among the top six finishing bands statewide at the Gala on April 27 at The College

of New Jersey.

At the intermediate level, Edison 7th grader Emma Wang has been accepted into the Intermediate All State Orchestra. A violinist, Emma auditioned alongside more than 100

middle school students from around New Jersey and will perform with the All State Intermediate Orchestra in May. “Emma’s hard work and dedication have definitely paid off,” says Edison Instrumental Music Director Amanda Gant.



(above) At the 33rd High School Choir Invitational on March 29, the Westfield High School Choraleers were awarded Grand Champion in the Pop/Show/Jazz category, placing 1st out of seven choirs in their division with a Gold rating.



(above) The Westfield High School Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform at the New Jersey State Band Gala, just the 5th time in the school’s history the ensemble has received this prestigious invitation.



(above) Edison 7th grade violinist Emma Wang has been accepted into the Intermediate All State Orchestra.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



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MEET THRIFT & CONSIGNMENT SHOP VOLS

Submitted by Ann Ormsby

Every Monday at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield, a team of determined ladies hang and price donated and consigned clothing to sell at the Westfield Service League Thrift and Consignment Shop. Each year they raise between eighty and ninety thousand dollars from the clothing and other items and donate it to local non-profit organizations in the area. Currently, League volunteers are vetting the organizations who will receive the funds in June.

In total, more than 80 volunteers work shifts each week to process the clothing, housewares, jewelry, toys, books, small furniture, designer bags and more that is brought to the blue Victorian house which is owned and maintained by the League. But a few ladies step up each year to manage the shop, including the flow of inventory, deciding when items will go on sale, making sure merchandise is displayed in an attractive manner, and that it is season appropriate.

The women, who come from all walks of life, were all looking to find to a way to give back to the community, form friendships, and to do good work. Sarah Martin, who co-chairs the Consignment Shop with Arlene Bertrand and Charlotte Abruzzo, came to the US from the UK 11 years ago.

Many of the women join the League after retirement. Paula Davino, who chairs the Thrift Shop, was looking for something worthwhile to do after a long career as a teacher.

Others love the fact that all of the merchandise is finding a new home instead of merely being thrown out. Arlene Bertrand sees the League's operation as an opportunity to work with and



(above, l-r) Charlotte Abruzzo, Sarah Martin, Arlene Bertrand and Paula Davino volunteer to manage the Westfield Service League Thrift & Consignment Shop. All proceeds from the shop are donated to local non-profits serving Westfield and Union County.

Courtesy photo

meet wonderful women

Last year the League donated more than \$91 thousand to 41 local non-profits. The 2025 grants will be announced in June.

The WSL 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.

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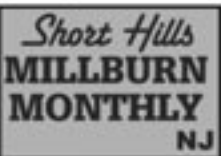
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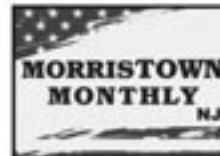
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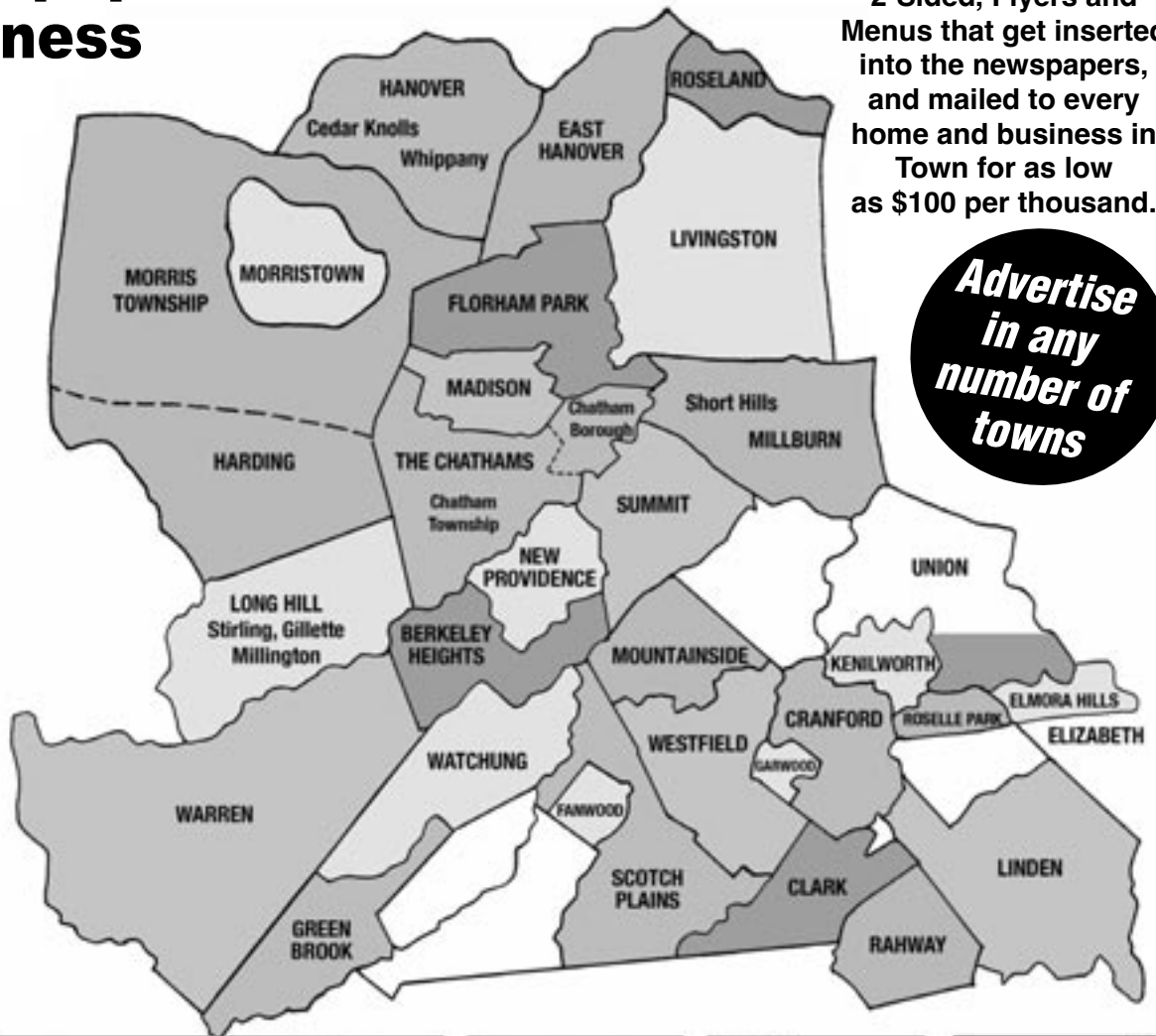
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GRETA'S RUN AND MEMORY WALK – MAY 18TH

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

We are excited to announce that registration is now open for the 12th Annual Greta's Run and Memory Walk! Join us on Sunday, May 18th at 9:00 A.M. outside Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield for a day filled with remembrance and community spirit. Whether you're a seasoned runner, a parent looking for family-friendly fun, or someone seeking a way to honor those we've lost, there's an event for everyone.

This year, Imagine is turning to the community to help reach its fundraising goal of \$250,000. They are aiming for 500 participants to commit to raising \$500 each. These funds will support Imagine in expanding their services, allowing them to provide an additional night of support for children and families grieving the loss of a loved one.

"The support of our community is truly invaluable," said Lindsay Schambach, Executive Director of Imagine. "Every dollar raised will help us provide crucial emotional support to children and families who need it most. We're excited to bring everyone together again for this special event and to continue expanding our

services to help more families in our community and across the state of New Jersey."

The day will kick off with a 5K Run, a 200-yard Kids Fun Run for children 10 and under, and a Memory Walk. We are also thrilled to welcome back Southpaw, the East Coast country band that won the 2024 Fan's Choice Award at the Josie Independent Music Awards in Nashville and was named Country Group of the Year in 2023.

To register for the event or learn more about how you can get involved with raising money to support Imagine, please visit runsignup.com/gretasrun. For any questions, contact Nora Gallagher at nora@imagineenj.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 caregivers of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imagineenj.org or visit our website at imagineenj.org.



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