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## MARCH TO YORKTOWN DAY FEATURES ENCAMPMENT FEST

### Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music to be signature group

As the country enters a year of celebrations leading up to 2026 and America 250, the Semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route New Jersey (W3R-NJ) announces an event that is a prelude to Westfield Celebrates America 250.

The 6th Annual March to Yorktown Day Commemoration & Encampment Festival in Westfield, NJ will be held on Sunday, August 17th from 12:00 noon – 4:00pm.

The event will kick off at 12:00 noon at outside of Westfield's Town Hall with an opening ceremony and the playing of patriotic music followed by remarks about the importance of Westfield commemorating when the French and American troops marched from Newport, Rhode Island to Yorktown, VA (an almost 700 mile, nine state, land and water journey) to lay siege to the British forces there, securing independence for the United States. The march of the troops took place in the summer of 1781 taking them through several Union County towns including Westfield, Mountainside and Scotch Plains on August 29, 1781. The March route was designated in 2009 as the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, a unit of the National Trail System, administered by the National Park Service.

At 12:30, the community is invited to watch or join-in the symbolic march re-enactment along East Broad Street to Mountain Ave. Wreaths of remembrance will be placed at the Presbyterian burial grounds where over 70 Revolutionary War Veterans, their families and other patriots are buried. The march will continue into Mindowaskin Park accompanied by the Generals Rochambeau, Washington and Lafayette, the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the New Jersey Fifes and Drums, the Miller-Cory Museum colonial living history group, women camp followers and the New Jersey Militia Heard's Brigade.

From 1:00 to 4:00, a history themed festival will be set up in Mindowaskin Park. A talk on African American experiences in the Revolutionary War will be given by Dr. Sean Dineen, Adjunct History Professor, Kean University and disabilities advocate. The event's signature group is The Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music. They will be on hand to share news about their mission and they will have an exhibit with engaging items. Children's games and activities along with information will be provided by local history organizations such as the Forgotten Victory Trail Association, Westfield Historical Society, Miller-Cory House Museum, Princeton Battlefield Society, Westfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, West Fields Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution in New Jersey, Washington Association of New Jersey, North Jersey American Revolution Roundtable, Fortnightly Club, Swan Historical Foundation, Trent House Museum, Merchants & Drovers Museum, Frazee House Museum, Center for Creativity at the Rialto, Liberty Hall Museum and others.

An encampment with tents, cooking demonstrations, fife and drum music, musket firing and marching drills will occur during the festival.

Food by A Taco Affair of Westfield, will be available for purchase.

For more information email [info@W3R-NJ.org](mailto:info@W3R-NJ.org) Follow on Facebook @W3RNJ and [www.w3r-nj.org](http://www.w3r-nj.org)

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### Canine Companions

Mike Saverino was recently matched with his third Canine Companions service dog names Arbor. Mike is overjoyed about how Arbor has picked up right where his retiring service dog Webster left off, making a difference in Mike's daily life.

Arbor II is a two-year-old lab-golden retriever cross specially bred and trained by Canine Companions to serve people with disabilities. Arbor knows over 40 professional commands to assist Mike in his daily life. Arbor opens doors, turns on lights, and picks up dropped items for Mike to name just a few.

Mike enjoys sled hockey, weightlifting, and is heavily involved in the Canine Companions New Jersey Volunteer Chapter.

About Canine Companions: National nonprofit Canine Companions is celebrating 50 years of empowering people with disabilities to live with greater independence — and it all started with a service dog named Abdul. Canine Companions invented the concept of the modern service dog in 1975 and has since placed more than 8,200 expertly trained dogs at no cost to clients, entirely supported by donations. Today, as America's first and largest provider of service dogs, Canine Companions leverages seven locations across the country to serve adults, children and veterans with disabilities as well as professionals working in health care, law enforcement and educational settings in all 50 states. Volunteer, donate and learn more at [canine.org](http://canine.org).



(above) Mike Saverino & service dog Arbor

Courtesy Photo



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# LT. REYNOLDS DEFENDING AMERICA UNDER THE SEA

Submitted by Megan Lemly, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Lt. James Reynolds, a native of Westfield, New Jersey, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to USS Scranton, homeported at Naval Base Point Loma. As a submariner, Reynolds is part of a small percentage of Navy personnel continuing a



(above) Lt. James Reynolds, from Westfield to defending America under the sea, one sailor's journey to USS Scranton

Courtesy Photo

125-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure Americans' safety.

Reynolds graduated from Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City in 2013. Additionally, Reynolds earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the United States Naval Academy and a master's degree in cyber security, operations and leadership from the University of San Diego.

Reynolds joined the Navy eight years ago. Today, Reynolds serves as a weapons officer.

"I have two older siblings who served," Reynolds said. "I joined to follow the example they set of serving the country."

Known as America's "Apex Predators!," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technologically advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security.

USS Scranton (SSN 756) is the second U.S. Navy ship to be named for Scranton, Pennsylvania. Scranton is a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine. Los Angeles-class submarines have been the backbone of the submarine force for the last 40 years, with approximately 23 now in commission. They are equipped with 12 Vertical Launch System tubes for firing Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Strategic deterrence is the nation's ultimate

insurance program, according to Navy officials. As a member of the submarine force, Reynolds serves aboard a platform capable of bringing the fight to enemies in defense of America and its allies.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, "America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom."

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Reynolds has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"My proudest accomplishment is serving as a weapons officer aboard USS Scranton," Reynolds said.

Reynolds serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"Serving in the Navy means honoring this country and its Constitution to promote freedom and democracy around the world," Reynolds added.

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Drew University's Concert Hall in Madison

This fall, Drew University's Concert Hall in Madison, NJ, comes alive with a 14-show series spotlighting iconic American sound and viral comedy. From legendary rock tributes to timeless doo-wop harmonies and internet-famous humor, this lineup invites audiences of every generation to celebrate, sing, and laugh together.

Whether you're reliving the golden age of rock with tributes to Mellencamp, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Led Zeppelin, swooning to the timeless croon of Sinatra, swaying to soulful harmonies from The Duprees and The Classics, or laughing out loud with the offbeat charm of Rodney Norman, this series is designed to stir memories, spark new favorites, and keep every guest entertained from curtain rise to final bow. With appearances from The BStreet Band, Jersey Four, Motor City Revue, and A Brother's Revival, Drew University's Concert Hall has become a destination for music lovers and comedy fans alike.

Nestled in the scenic campus of Drew University, the Concert Hall boasts seating for 433 and features rich acoustics in an intimate setting, ensuring every performance feels personal and immersive.

- Sept. 13 – Human Wheels: A Tribute to John Mellencamp
- Sept. 19 – A Brother's Revival: Feat. David Rooks - The Allman Brothers Experience
- Sept. 20 – Gypsy: A True Stevie Nicks Experience, Feat. Sabrina Staats
- Sept. 26 – Southern Steel:  
A Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd
- Sept. 27 – Rodney Norman Live:  
Comedian and Viral Star
- Sept. 28 – Lights Out: The Jersey Beach Boys
- Oct. 5 – Afternoon of Doo Wop:  
The Chimes, Emil Stucchio  
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- Oct. 11 – Michael Martocci and Brandon Tomasello, Sinatra, A Man & His Music
- Oct. 18 – Jersey Four: A Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Feat. Gerry Polci
- Oct. 25 – Four Sticks:  
A Led Zeppelin Experience
- Nov. 1 – The BStreet Band:  
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- Nov. 15 – Your '80s Request Show  
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- Nov. 21 – Motor City Revue: From Hitsville to Soulsville Feat. Layonne Holmes
- Nov. 29 – Christmas with The Duprees and Anthony Duke Claus

## BECOME A LITERACY NJ VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Literacy New Jersey-Union and Middlesex Counties announces its Tutor Training Program. There will be a information session on Wednesday August 6 at 6 p.m. If you are interested in registering for tutor training, you must attend one of the information session.

The Tutor Training Program will begin on Tuesday August 19th and will provide tutor trainees with the tools and strategies necessary for working with adult students in one of four categories: English As A Second Language, High School Equivalency, Basic Skills or Job Skill/Digital Literacy.

All training sessions will be conducted online via Zoom. The five required training sessions will take place on August 19, 26, Sept. 2, 9, 16 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

After completing the training sessions, tutors are matched with a small group of adult students from the growing waiting list of students who need to improve their literacy skills. Tutors meet with their students online for 2 hours per week. After meeting your students, tutor trainees may be matched with a tutor mentor to guide them

through their first lesson plans. New tutor volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least 50 hours of instruction with students.

Literacy New Jersey provides ongoing supervision and support to tutors in the form of free Professional Development workshops on specific topics such as Health Literacy, ESL Conversation, Small Group Instruction and Job Readiness.

To volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old, able to speak English and willing to tutor in Union County or Middlesex County. You do not need to have any teaching experience and you do not need to speak a foreign language. The training will provide volunteers with techniques and strategies for working with adult learners, as well as sample instructional materials and activities. There is a \$25 registration fee to cover the cost of books and materials. Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization.

For more information or to register, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 or email Barbara Bagger, Program Director at [bbagger@literacynj.org](mailto:bbagger@literacynj.org).



Courtesy Photo

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# COLLEGE CLUB’S HIGHEST GPA AWARDS



(above, l-r) Gabrielle Flanner, Ethan Selvers

WHS Yearbook photos

*College Woman’s & Men’s Clubs of Westfield*  
The College Woman’s Club of Westfield and the College Men’s Club of Westfield jointly announce that the 2025 recipients of the awards honoring the female and male seniors earning the highest-grade point averages at Westfield High School (WHS) are Gabrielle Flannery and Ethan Selvers. The \$500 awards for academic excellence were bestowed at the WHS graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 24th, continuing each club’s legacy of recognizing outstanding student achievement.

“The College Woman’s and College Men’s Clubs of Westfield congratulate Gabrielle and Ethan on their remarkable achievements,” remarked Alyssa Welsch-Rovito, CWC President. Dave Germond, CMC President, stated that “we are proud to continue our multi-decade tradition of honoring academic excellence at WHS via the collaboration of the CMC and CWC.”

Gabrielle Flannery will be attending the University of Florida, where she intends to major in Finance. While at WHS she was a member of the Volleyball Team, the Service Club, and the Spanish Club. Her academic honors include membership in the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society.

Ethan Selvers will attend the University of Virginia, where he plans to study Physics and Economics. While at WHS, Ethan served as

Captain of Ultimate Frisbee team, a member of the Science Olympiad team, and was a Transition Leader. His academic honors include being a National Merit Commended Scholar and achieving a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. Ethan also received the “Lift While You Climb” Award in memory of WHS Principal, Dr. Nelson.

The College Woman’s Club was founded in 1917 to promote higher education for women and serve the general interests of the community. It has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships to young women from Westfield based on academics, leadership and financial need. In addition to fundraisers, the club offers social and educational events, including college admissions and financial aid seminars, book clubs, and museum trips. For further information visit [cwclubwestfield.org](http://cwclubwestfield.org).

The College Men’s Club of Westfield was founded in 1922 and over the past century has helped hundreds of young men by providing college tuition assistance and funding for standardized test preparatory courses. Since its founding, the CMC has raised and distributed over \$1.5 million to young men from the Westfield community to attend over 130 institutions of higher learning. For more information about the CMC visit [cmcwestfield.org](http://cmcwestfield.org).

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## IMAGINE GRATEFUL FOR FUNDRAISERS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR PROGRAMS

### *Imagine, A Center for Coping*

The support group program offered at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss exists because of the financial and volunteer support of our community members. Imagine could not offer free support groups for children, teens, young adults and caregivers who have experienced the death of someone close to them without the support of our community.

We wanted to share the stories of some community members who have stepped up recently and created fundraisers to support Imagine's programs. One such individual was MaryLynn Schiavi who hosted a Dance for Love and Healing event in April. The event held at the Elks in Stirling offered line dance lessons, open line dancing and a silent auction with over 30 donated baskets. Over 75 people attended and \$2,000 was raised in support of Imagine's programs! We're so grateful to MaryLynn for all of her efforts!

Another recent fundraiser was hosted by The Westfield High School boys' and girls' tennis teams who collaborated for a Play It Forward fundraiser tournament. This year's event was spearheaded by varsity seniors Bianca Vesuna, Garrett Gao and Ben Duan; junior Evan Kahn; and sophomore Lauren Roszak. The co-organizers planned a family-friendly event featuring tennis, music and food at Tamaques

Park in Westfield.

Prior to the event, co-organizer Bianca Vesuna said: "Every year, the planners of this event vote and unanimously choose Imagine because of the tremendous aid they provide our community and those in need. We've raised about \$5,000 in the past four years, and we hope to exceed that this year with the town's help and support." Bianca recently received the Infantino Long Award through the Westfield Foundation presented to a Westfield High School student who exemplifies compassion, empathy and kindness to their (fellow) classmates by contributing/volunteering in the community in a significant, meaningful way. All of us at Imagine so appreciate the efforts of everyone on the Westfield High School boys' and girls' tennis teams who helped raise funds for Imagine through this event!

Another fundraiser for Imagine was led by Bridgewater Lacrosse team member, senior Brody Nussmann who conducted a fundraising effort called #GoalsForImagine. This was the second season that the Bridgewater Lacrosse program adopted Imagine as their charity of choice. Players and their families would pledge one, two or three dollars per goal, and since the fundraiser's inception, the team has raised almost \$9,000 from this initiative! Nussmann plans to play lacrosse at the University of Stockton and will take #GoalsForImagine with him to college.

This year, he wanted to make a larger impact, and he included the girls' lacrosse team in this initiative.

There's a deep connection to Imagine for Bridgewater Lacrosse as one of their lacrosse community members was Mike Schambach who played for them in 1998 and died in 2018. Mike's wife, Lindsay, is the Executive Director at Imagine, and the members of the lacrosse community in Bridgewater are honored to support Imagine in memory of Mike.

The staff at Imagine are so grateful to all who have worked so hard to create fundraisers that help us grow our programs. If you'd like to create a fundraiser in support of Imagine's programs for families who are grieving, please visit [imaginej.org/support/fundraising/](http://imaginej.org/support/fundraising/) for more information. You can help us ensure that no one grieves alone.

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 Imagine at 908-264-3100 or [info@imaginej.org](mailto:info@imaginej.org) or visit our website at [imaginej.org](http://imaginej.org).

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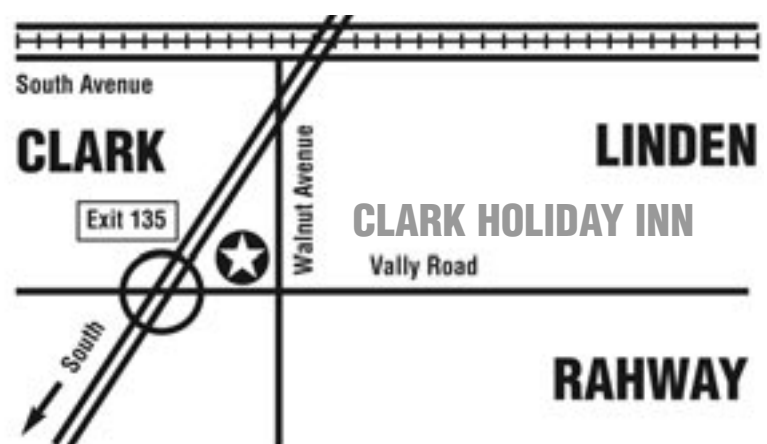
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- Gold Charms
- Gold Watches

## BUYING ALL COINS

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## WATCHES

- Rolex
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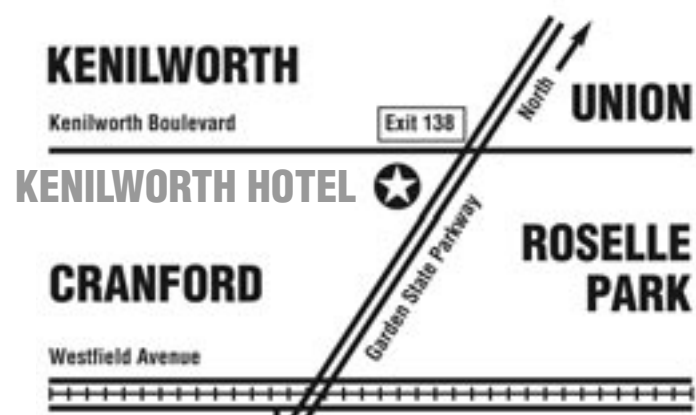
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# POLICE OFFICERS ADOPT LUCKY PUPPIES THEY RESCUED

**Best Friends Animal Society**  
In December 2024, a trio of officers with the Clark Police Department in New Jersey responded to a call from a Good Samaritan about puppies that were abandoned in a five-gallon bucket. When they arrived on the scene, the officers discovered eight tiny puppies, only a couple of weeks old, huddled together for warmth in the freezing winter temperatures.

The puppies were immediately rushed to Associated Humane Society-Newark after hours by their Animal Care Officers (ACOs) for veterinarian evaluation and treatment. They were cold, starving, severely dehydrated, and infested



(above) Clark Police Officer Ronny Taborda (adopted Capri), Detective Bruce McDonald (adopted Zeus), and Detective Paul Sosnowski (adopted Ozzy).

Courtesy photo

with fleas. “Deann Bowen, the Manager at AHS’s Tinton Falls location and a veteran vet tech with experience in neonatal care, was able to meet our ACO’s halfway up the Parkway and took them right into foster,” said Danielle Mania, Chief Operating Officer of AHS-Newark.

With the puppies safely in foster care, which included round-the-clock feedings until they were able to eat on their own, the team at AHS-Newark set about finding their family. They posted the story and photos on social media the next morning, took press interviews, and raised \$40,000 to provide for the puppies’ medical treatment and care.

“We did receive a few tips, but all were unsuccessful,” said Mania. Once they were old enough, the puppies were sent to foster in different foster homes.

The officers were instantly interested in adopting puppies from the litter. With each passing day, they could not stop thinking about the puppies’ wellbeing and regularly checked in on them. When they were all spayed/neutered and ready to adopt in March 2025, there was no need to list them all. Three of the puppies - now named Ozzy, Capri, and Zeus - had already found their loving homes with the three police officers that saved their lives on that cold winter day. Officer Ronny Taborda (adopted Capri), Detective Bruce McDonald (adopted Zeus), and Detective Paul

Sosnowski (adopted Ozzy). “The Clark PD has an adorable group chat to keep in touch with all of the adopters, and they frequently have play dates with each other,” said Mania. “This situation was really a testament as to how we work together as a team across the entire organization to save lives and find pets homes.”

This full circle moment highlights modern animal services practices, and the pet lifesaving work that police and animal control officers do in their communities. It is also a reminder of the importance of microchipping pets and having them wear up-to-date identification tags, so in the event they become lost, they can be quickly reunited with their owners. Data indicates that 52% of lost dogs and two out of every five cats are successfully returned when microchipped, which reduces the amount of time lost pets stay in shelters that often already have limited space.

Best Friends Animal Society, a leading national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of cats and dogs in America’s shelters, is partnering with AHS-Newark to help them achieve their pet lifesaving goals. Best Friends’ most recent data shows that New Jersey is on the verge of becoming a no-kill state with an 89% save rate. There are just ten shelters in the state that need to save less than 100 pets to achieve no-kill. For more information, visit [bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org).

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## JLEP ANNOUNCES 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield (JLEP) awarded three \$4,000 scholarships at their Annual Dinner on May 21, 2025 to college bound women who demonstrated a passion for volunteerism. The scholarship recipients are:

- Vasyah Mars of Rahway who will be attending Howard University
- Erica Donohue of Westfield, NJ who will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Laila Quallis of Westfield, NJ who will be attending Morgan State University.

Bernadette Houston, chair of the JLEP Scholarship Committee said “With over 32 qualified scholarship applicants, our Scholarship review committee had their work cut out for them. It is amazing the dedication that these young women have, excelling in studies, sports, and community activities. It was quite a challenge to come up with the top three for the year, but we were finally able to reach a consensus and upon meeting the award winners, our decisions were confirmed. All the young women are well qualified and great representatives of their schools and communities, truly the future volunteers of Union County.”

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield awards scholarships each spring. To find out more about the League’s scholarship program or about how to join as a member, please contact the League at 908-709-1177, or via email at [office@jlepnj.org](mailto:office@jlepnj.org).

### JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Its purpose is exclusively educational

and charitable. To learn more about the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield please visit [jlepnj.org](http://jlepnj.org).

For more information about the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield, please contact: Stephanie Eckenrode, President, Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield, call (908)709-1177 or email [information@jlepnj.org](mailto:information@jlepnj.org)



(above, l-r) Liz Strong, Mary Jackson, Teri DiFrancisco, JLEP Scholarship Committee members, Vasyah Mars, Laila Qualis, Erica Donohue, Scholarship recipients, Bernadette Houston, JLEP Scholarship Committee Chair.

Courtesy Photo

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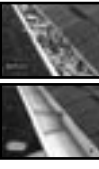
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- FLAT ROOF

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- REPAIRS
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# ENTRIES FOR DEVLIN AWARDS DUE SEPT 15

## Historic Preservation Commission

The Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) seeks entries for the Harry Devlin Awards program honoring property owners for outstanding efforts in the restoration, expansion, and maintenance of older properties. Any project completed within the past five years that is visible to the public is eligible. Residential, commercial, professional and institutional buildings may be entered. Categories for nomination include:

- Addition or alteration sensitive to original architecture
- Restoration or repair of original or existing improvement
- Period-appropriate painting or residing
- Adaptive reuse of a property in a manner sensitive to the original architecture and/or neighborhood
- Persons, actions or events that promote preservation may also be considered

Nominations may be made by neighbors, architects, or builders and can be self-submitted by owners. Created in 1993 to encourage the use of established historic preservation standards, the Devlin Commendations are named for Harry Devlin, a prominent local artist and architectural historian.

The deadline for entries is September 15, 2025. Criteria and entry forms can be found on the commission’s website at [westfieldnj.gov/historicpreservation](http://westfieldnj.gov/historicpreservation). For additional information, please contact [hpc@westfieldnj.gov](mailto:hpc@westfieldnj.gov).



(above) This 1911 Craftsman home at 121 Effingham Place received a 2023 Devlin Award for outstanding restoration and addition. Nominations are currently being sought for this year’s awards.

Courtesy Photo

On Sunday, September 21, Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) will host its annual “I Run for Girls 5K Run/Walk” at a brand-new location: the scenic Orange Reservoir in West Orange. The event kicks off at 9:00 AM, with check-in beginning at 8:00 AM.

This USATF-sanctioned race is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities—including families with strollers and individuals using wheelchairs. Participants will enjoy a vibrant morning of community, fun, and purpose, with proceeds supporting Girl Scout programs that help girls explore new interests, gain real-world skills, and build lasting friendships.

All registrants will receive a custom event T-shirt and medal. Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each USATF age category.

Proceeds from the race help fund Girl Scout programs that spark curiosity, build confidence, and foster leadership in more than 13,000 youth from kindergarten through 12th grade. Girl Scout troops from across the region will also be on hand to help bring energy and spirit to the day.

“Whether you’re racing or strolling, you’re helping create life-changing opportunities for young people,” said Natasha Hemmings, CEO of GSHNJ.

To register, donate, or start a fundraising team, visit [www.gshnj.org/irunforgirls](http://www.gshnj.org/irunforgirls).

## ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF NEW JERSEY

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) believes in the power of every girl. Our leadership program is designed to help girls discover who they are, what they can do, and

connect with a powerful community of girls and mentors to make it happen. With unique opportunities, Girl Scouts explore, learn, succeed, and take action to make a difference in their community. Providing over 13,000 girls from kindergarten through 12th grade access to leadership programs and mentors throughout Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, southern Warren, and parts of Middlesex counties, GSHNJ offers girls a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership. GSHNJ operates two service centers located in North Branch and Westfield and the Girl Scout Leadership Center in Newark as well as three camp locations: Camp Hoover in Middletown, N.J., Camp DeWitt in Hillsborough, N.J., and The OVAL in Maplewood, N.J. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, please visit [www.gshnj.org](http://www.gshnj.org).

## Event Details

- Location: Orange Reservoir, 9 Cherry Lane, West Orange, NJ 07052
- Check-In Opens: 8:00 AM
- Race Starts: 9:00 AM
- Awards: Top three finishers in each USATF age group category
- All registrants receive: T-shirt and medal

Registration Fees Category	Sept. 1 - 20	Race Day
Adult Runners (18+)	\$50	\$60
USATF Members	\$45	\$55
Adult Walkers (18+)	\$45	\$50
Youth (under 18)	\$25	\$25

- running or walking  
**Register/donate: [gshnj.org/irunforgirls](http://gshnj.org/irunforgirls)**

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I RUN FOR GIRLS 5K



SUN, SEPT. 21, 2025 • 9AM  
ORANGE RESERVOIR, WEST ORANGE

All proceeds go to support GSHNJ programs that serve more than 13,000 youth members from kindergarten through 12th grade.

RUN WALK

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
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## ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE TRAINING BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

### CASA of Passaic and Union Counties

At just nine years old, Jayden has endured years of neglect due to his parents' substance use and mental health challenges. After they lost their apartment, the family began living in their car in various parking lots, and Jayden often went without food or basic care. Before things reached that point, Jayden had been enrolled in school and enjoyed it. Math was his favorite subject and he loved weekly math club and seeing friends. One night, police were called after Jayden was found alone and barefoot at a gas station. He was removed from his parents and is now living in foster care. A judge assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer to Jayden — and now he has someone who listens, shows up, and stands up for him.

Jayden is one of more than 500 children removed from home in Union and Passaic counties due to abuse and neglect. Living in foster care and separated from all they've known, each child needs a caring, consistent adult in their corner to protect their best interests while in care. Is that you?

Fall training to become a CASA volunteer starts mid-September and will be held at the Linden Library. The first step is to attend an information session. Register now at [casapassaicunion.org/info-session](http://casapassaicunion.org/info-session) for one of the following: Friday, August 1 and Wednesday, August 6, both at 12 pm at the Child Focus office in Elizabeth, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor;

Wednesday, August 6 at 5:30 pm at the Linden Library; Monday, August 11 at 5:30 pm, Rahway Library; Wednesday, August 13 at 12 pm at the Child Focus office in Elizabeth, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor; Wednesday, August 13 at 5:30 pm at the Plainfield Library; Monday, August 18 at 12 pm at the Child Focus office in Elizabeth, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor; Monday, August 18 at 5:30 pm at the Colleen Fraser Building in Westfield; and Wednesday, August 20 at 5 pm, Mountainside Library.

CASA volunteers are trained advocates who visit the child monthly and have court-ordered access to all parties in the case. Supported by CASA staff, advocates make fact-based observations about outstanding needs or concerns and make recommendations to the court. The CASA volunteer is often the only consistent person in the child's life. Applicants must be at least 21, be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, have computer skills, pass a background check, and complete the 36-hour training. View the training dates at [casapassaicunion.org/casa-training](http://casapassaicunion.org/casa-training).

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 CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, call 973-832-4002, email [info@casapassaicunion.org](mailto:info@casapassaicunion.org), or log on to [casapassaicunion.org](http://casapassaicunion.org).

  
**Celebrating 100 Years Of God's Grace 1925-2025**  
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**Centennial Year Fundraiser Information**  
Redeemer Lutheran Church is honoring its centennial by supporting the

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A 100% volunteer-run organization that depends on donations to provide lifesaving care. As Christians, we are called to look after our neighbors, join us in showing love and support to those who serve our community in times of crisis.

**Here's How You Can Support This Milestone Fundraiser:**

- **By Mail:** Send a check made payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church, with "Westfield Rescue Squad" written in the memo line.

Mail to:  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
229 Cowperthwaite Place  
Westfield, NJ 07090

Online: Scan the QR code to donate directly through the Rescue Squad's Square link.

For more detailed information about the rescue squad and their specific needs, please visit our website at [www.redeemerwestfield.com](http://www.redeemerwestfield.com).

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**Battin, Thomas Jefferson & Edison High Schools**  
in Elizabeth NJ  
**Saturday, October 11, 2025**  
from 6-11pm  
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The cost is \$145.00 per person - guests invited. Donations are also welcomed.  
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## THE GARDEN CLUB

Standing in the Robinson's Branch tributary of the Rahway River at Tamaques Park, NJ Watershed Ambassador Kaitlyn Pinto demonstrated how to sample the water for macroinvertebrates, which were then identified and sorted according to pollution tolerance. Her audience, The Garden Club of Westfield, learned that macroinvertebrates can reveal a lot about the health of a freshwater stream. They are key indicators of water quality and are an important part of the stream food web. The club invites the community to follow them on Facebook at [facebook.com/TheGardenClubofWestfield](https://facebook.com/TheGardenClubofWestfield).



Courtesy Photo

## LANDSCAPE WITH BIRDS IN MIND

### The Raptor Trust

How many Eastern Screech Owls do we currently have at The Raptor Trust? Apparently ALL of them! Most of these owlets were displaced after the trees that held their nests were cut down.

Cutting down trees and landscaping - especially during nesting season - can destroy active nests, scare off parents, and even injure adult birds during a critical time.

Most birds nest between March and August. Even small projects - like pruning shrubs or pulling out vines - can have a devastating result on a nest.

Here's how you can help:

- Delay major trimming until fall
- Check for nests before cutting or clearing

- Leave a few brush piles - birds and critters love them
- Avoid pesticides and non-native plants

These small steps can make all the difference for birds trying to raise their families nearby—or young birds in the first days of their lives.

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization which provides free medical care to thousands of orphaned or injured birds each year. Our infirmary staff is available seven days a week during daylight hours to admit injured birds, but we must rely on the people who find them to bring them to us for care.

If you find a bird that needs help, please visit our website [theraptortrust.org](http://theraptortrust.org) for instructions. We cannot do what we do without the kindness of many – including our visitors!



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## \$82,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 2025 WHS GRADS

### College Men's Club of Westfield

On Thursday, June 19th, the College Men's Club of Westfield (CMC) held a reception at the home of CMC Trustee, Terry O'Connor to honor the four 2025 recipients of the club's multi-year college scholarships. Ryan Clark, CMC Scholarship Committee Chair, introduced this year's scholarship winners and noted that "this year's scholarship program was the most competitive in memory and that the recipients were selected based on their academic achievement, community involvement, and career direction." The four young men graduated from Westfield High School as members of the Class of 2025 and include:

**Niko Pierce** who will attend William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. He plans to major in Finance, laying the foundation for a career in banking. Niko was awarded a \$24,000, four-year CMC scholarship.

**Griffin Scholder** who will attend the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania this Fall. He plans to study Finance & Accounting, with a long-term goal of working

on Wall Street. Griffin was awarded a \$24,000, four-year CMC scholarship.

**Jake Stinton** who plans to study Computer Science at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. He hopes to pursue a career in software and game development. Jake was awarded a \$24,000, four-year CMC scholarship.

**Herman Krasnozhenov** who will attend Union College in Cranford, New Jersey this Fall. He plans to study Cybersecurity, with a long-term goal of working in software development. Herman was awarded a \$10,000, two-year CMC scholarship.

During the reception scholarship recipients from previous Westfield High School graduating classes of 2022, 2023 and 2024 shared updates on their academic and career progress. CMC President David Germond stated that the club's Spring scholar's reception is "the highlight of the year as the CMC trustees get to meet our newest class of awardees as well as learn about the latest achievements of previous CMC scholars."

In addition to the multi-year scholarships,

earlier this Spring the CMC awarded a WHS junior a one-time grant valued at \$1,800 to fund one-on-one standardized test preparation courses.

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 nearly \$1.5 million in higher education assistance to young men of the Westfield community to attend over 130 institutions of higher learning. In 2025 the CMC awarded a total of \$84,550 in multi-year scholarships and one-time grants.

Scholarship applications are available online at the CMC website and through the WHS guidance department in February of each year. Applications are evaluated by a committee of CMC Trustees each Spring. Funds for scholarships are generated through fund raising events, donations, membership dues, endowment investment income, and legacy bequests.

To learn more about the College Men's Club of Westfield, please go to [cmcwestfield.org](http://cmcwestfield.org).



(above) College Men's Club of Westfield honored its 2025 scholarship recipients with a reception at the home of CMC Trustee, Terry O'Connor. Standing left to right is CMC President David Germond; scholarship winners Niko Pierce, Griffin Scholder, Herman Krasnozhenov, and Jake Stinton; and CMC Scholarship Chair Ryan Clark.

Courtesy Photo

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4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
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Courtesy photos

# RAYMOND GONZÁLEZ NAMED COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

## Westfield Public Schools

Dr. Raymond González, Superintendent of the Westfield Public School District, has been named Union County Superintendent of the Year for the 2025-2026 school year. This honor was awarded by the Union County Superintendents' Roundtable, a professional group dedicated to sharing best practices in educational leadership and addressing common challenges.

González joined Westfield Public Schools on August 1, 2021, bringing with him 23 years of experience in educational leadership across various New Jersey school districts. During his tenure in Westfield, he has successfully led three voter-approved budget campaigns and most recently spearheaded the approval of a \$225 million bond referendum to improve the district's facilities and resources.

"Dr. González has remained committed to an innovative, supportive, and inclusive environment for students, staff, and families," Board President Robert Benacchio said, during recognition at the June 17 Board of Education meeting. "His leadership has been key in

improving educational outcomes and strengthening school-community ties, with a focus on leveraging data and technology to enhance education and leadership."

González has presented at numerous conferences, most recently "AI-Powered Governance: Work Smarter. Lead Better." at the 2025 New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) Techspo Conference and before the New Jersey Superintendents' Study Council (2025) and "Beyond the Cap: From the Fiscal Cliff to a Return of the Budget Vote" at the NJASA/NJAPSA Spring Conference (2025).

His publications include "Creating Equitable Environments for Students: How Data Is Driving the Way Forward" (School Leader, 2025), "Culture and Processes Affecting Data Use in School Districts" (Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education, 2007), and "Educational Tug-of-War: Internal and External Accountability of Principals in Varied Contexts" (Journal of Educational Administration, 2013).

"While I am extremely honored to receive this



(above) Dr. Raymond González

recognition by my Union County colleagues, it is really a testament to the amazing work of our team of educators and staff members here in Westfield. Every day, we're focused on creating a space where everyone in the school community feels valued and supported, and where educational excellence is at the heart of all we do," says González. "With the recent voter-approved bond referendum, we're also poised to make great strides in improving our facilities and resources as well. I'm excited to see where we can go from here."

González earned his Doctoral and Master's Degrees in Educational Administration and Supervision from Rutgers University. He also has a Master's in Urban Education from New Jersey City University, and received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Princeton University.

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