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## OPTIMIST CLUB THOM HORNISH YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

### Optimist Club Of Westfield

Gaby Castillo, a senior at Westfield High School, is the recipient of the 2026 Optimist Club Thom Hornish Youth Volunteer Award. The award is named in honor of Thom Hornish, a former Westfield High School history teacher and Optimist Club past president, in recognition of his dedication to youth, club service and community involvement. This is the 31st year the Optimist Club has recognized outstanding young men and women who distinguished themselves through volunteer service in the community.

Gaby is an organized and proactive student and community volunteer with a strong work ethic, leadership skills and a passion for helping others. Skilled in leadership and team collaboration through various clubs, internships, and employment, she is recognized for academic achievements, and volunteer community service. Gaby is

involved with the Westfield Area Y programs where she was elected to serve as the Secretary General of the 2026 YMCA Model United Nations Conference.

The Optimist Club Youth Volunteer Award is given annually to a Westfield high school junior or senior who has dedicated a substantial amount of time and effort to benefit the local community by demonstrating volunteer service, work ethic, leadership and involvement in community and school activities. The recognition includes a scholarship award presented at a dinner at Echo Lake Country Club on April 8.

As an organization founded on the principals of volunteerism and community service and whose mission is "service to youth," the Optimist Club is proud to recognize young men and women who have embraced these ideals.

For additional information about the Westfield Optimist Club visit: [westfieldnj.com/optimist](http://westfieldnj.com/optimist)



(above, l-r) Darielle Walsh, Optimist Club President, Gaby Castillo, Youth Volunteer Award recipient, Marty Collett, Westfield Area Y Senior Director Teen Programs, Susan Morton, Westfield Area Y CEO.

Courtesy Photo

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Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

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*Michael D Boll, NJVN President*

For the past 10 years the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has proudly marched on Memorial Day parades alongside our troops and veterans to honor those we have lost. While these events are deeply meaningful, our mission extends far beyond parades and ceremonies.

NJVN is a dedicated team of volunteers committed to actively reaching veterans in need and connecting them with life-changing—and often life-saving—resources. We have built a strong, statewide network focused on improving the quality of life for our veterans.

Our support includes essential services such as food, clothing, personal items, and transportation. However, our primary focus is on outreach programs and recreational therapy events designed to support mental health and overall

well-being.

Veteran mental health remains one of the most critical challenges facing our community. Tragically, veteran suicide continues to be an ongoing crisis, with numbers that have remained steady or increased each year. This is why outreach, connection, and mentorship are at the heart of everything we do.

We are always eager to collaborate with organizations that share our mission. Most importantly, we are in need of dedicated volunteers who can support our efforts on a regular basis.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact us: Email:

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## CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH B'DAY - MAY 17

The Musical Club of Westfield presents Celebrating America's 250th Birthday, a scholarship benefit concert on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 3 p.m. at The First United Methodist Church in Westfield, 1 East Broad Street.

The concert is being held in conjunction to Westfield's America 250 initiative. It features American music performed by The Musical Club's scholarship winners, adult performers, and musicians from the Club's youth organization, the Garden State Musical Arts Club.

The Musical Club has a long history in Westfield, beginning in 1915. They present at least 7 free concerts a year to the community and provide scholarships to local students majoring in music. In 2025, the Club awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships.

"The Musical Club of Westfield has changed my life with their scholarship opportunities," says saxophonist and scholarship winner Ryan Marino. "Thanks to their generosity, I've had access to high quality instruments and equipment that have helped transform me into the performer I always dreamed I could become."

Tickets to this benefit concert are \$15 and are available at the door.

New members are always welcome. For more information on the Club or the concert, check out [Westfieldnj.com/mcw](http://Westfieldnj.com/mcw).

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - MAY 25

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 25 and registration to participate is open through May 20. Register at: [westfieldnj.gov/memorial-day-parade](http://westfieldnj.gov/memorial-day-parade)

The day's events will begin with the traditional ceremony at 10:00 a.m. 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.


## STARS AND STRIPES: FLAGS OF THE REVOLUTION, MAY 17

The Miller Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will present 'Stars and Stripes: Flags of the Revolution'. Join us on May 17th, from 2 - 4 p.m., to learn about the flags of the Revolution and how the American flag has changed over time. Meet Betsy Ross, create your own flag, play some flag games and listen to our flag expert guest speaker share information on different flags of the American Revolution. Admission is \$5 ages 13 and older; \$4 ages 3-12 and free age 2 and younger. No reservations are necessary.

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](http://millercoryhouse.com) or [westfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://westfieldhistoricalsociety.org).



(above) Join us for our final program of the season, Stars and Stripes:Flags of the Revolution. Learn about our nation's symbol, the American flag, and how it has changed over time. Courtesy Photo




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# THE SCALE IS GOING DOWN - BUT AT WHAT COST?

*Most women on weight loss medications want to be lighter and stronger. Without strength training, the medication may make you lighter and weaker instead - here's what you need to know.*

Women make up the majority of GLP-1 medication users. And for many of them, the results have been genuinely meaningful — weight they've struggled with for years finally moving in the right direction. But there is something important that most women on these medications haven't been told.

Not all of what you're losing is fat. Studies show up to 39% of total weight lost on GLP-1 medications can be muscle — and for women over 40, already losing muscle due to hormonal changes, that loss is not just a cosmetic concern. It is a direct path to frailty.

## LIGHTER AND WEAKER IS NOT THE GOAL

Muscle is what keeps you strong, stable, and independent. It protects your joints, supports your bones, powers your metabolism, and allows you to live the life you want at 60, 70, and beyond. When medication strips it away along with the fat, you may step on the scale and feel like you've won — while your body has quietly lost something far more important.

Frailty doesn't announce itself. It creeps in as a little more difficulty on the stairs, a little less confidence on uneven ground, a little more hesitation before a hike or a grandchild's birthday party. The women who avoid it are the ones who protect their muscle while they lose the weight.

*“The goal isn't just a lower number. It's a stronger, more capable body - lighter and stronger, not lighter and weaker.”*

- Kim Musikant, Co-owner, Active Life Fitness

## THE PROBLEM WITH JUST WATCHING THE SCALE

GLP-1 medications suppress appetite so powerfully that many women enter a severe calorie and protein deficit without realizing it. The scale moves fast — and that feels like success. But the scale can't tell you whether you're losing fat or muscle.

That's why at Active Life Fitness, every member gets a body composition analysis using the InBody 270 — a clinical-grade scanner that measures fat mass, muscle mass, and body water separately. Not just total weight. When you can see exactly what you're losing, you can protect what matters before it's gone.

### • MUSCLE LOSS & FRAILTY

Every pound of muscle lost makes daily life a little harder. Over time, unchecked muscle loss leads to frailty, falls, and loss of independence — the very things women on these medications are trying to avoid.

### • BONE DENSITY LOSS

Women can lose up to 20% of bone density after menopause. GLP-1s without strength training accelerate this further, raising fracture risk significantly.

### • REBOUND WEIGHT GAIN

Less muscle means a slower metabolism — making it harder to keep the weight off long-term and easier to regain it all when the medication stops.



*“Training has made me really strong and has helped me to be more active as I age. I just learned today that my bone density is ‘perfect’ at age 60 - I owe that to consistently working out with weights. ALF makes me want to keep coming back.”*

- Gretchen K., Cranford

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

### 1. START STRENGTH TRAINING NOW

Don't wait until you've lost the weight. Resistance training 2–3x per week signals your body to preserve lean muscle even in a caloric deficit — and stimulates bone density, critical for women over 40.

### 2. PRIORITIZE PROTEIN

GLP-1s reduce how much you eat — but your muscles still need protein to survive. Even on a suppressed appetite, hitting your daily protein target is essential to preserving the muscle you need.

### 3. TRACK WHAT ACTUALLY MATTERS

Every ALF member gets regular InBody 270 body composition scans — measuring fat, muscle, and water independently. So you always know you're losing fat, not the muscle that keeps you strong and independent.

### 4. GET EXPERT GUIDANCE

At Active Life Fitness, we specialize in women over 40. Every program is personalized around your medication, your stage of life, your injuries, and your goals — coached by certified experts every session.

*“Love this gym!! I feel so much stronger! Coaches who gently guide technique to maximize safety & target specific muscle groups. I have never been at a gym more than a few months! No turning back.”*

- Robin I., Garwood

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## WELCOME SPRING

The Garden Club of Westfield welcomed spring with the annual planting of spring blossoms in the sidewalk planters on the corners of Elm and East Broad Streets on April 2. In addition to a colorful assortment of pansies, the planters are crowned with pussy willows and maroon hellebores. A variety of stock, some white alyssum and a trailing yellow pansy complete each container. Thanks to Home Depot for donating many of the plants and to Dreyer Farms for their kind contribution as well. For further information, please contact the Garden Club of Westfield at [gardenclubofwestfield@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofwestfield@gmail.com) and visit the Garden Club of Westfield on Facebook.



(above, l-r) Cary Prisch, Margaret Allen, Rosemary Shire, Joanne Mitchel, Heidi Remak Ziff and Jane Manniello.

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## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF COMING IN MAY

The final production of the 107th season at CDC Theatre in Cranford will be the wonderful musical Fiddler On The Roof. The multi-award-winning tale of Tevye the Dairyman and his family's struggles in a changing Russia is a true musical theatre "tradition."

Premiering on Broadway in 1964, it became one of the longest-running shows of its time. Featuring memorable songs like "Tradition," "If I Were A Rich Man" and "Sunrise, Sunset," this beloved work explores the universal human struggles of tradition and change, family love, generational conflict and displacement and migration. Using strong cultural storytelling to blend serious social issues with music and humor, Fiddler on the Roof is a poignant exploration of family, community, and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.

Director Emma Taylor Schwartz, a Cranford native, shared "This is my fifth production of Fiddler, and I only love it more and more each time. You could call me a superfan. What a gorgeous show that is both classic and contemporary, with nuance in every scene. It is a non-traditional love story, one that features romantic love, but also love of culture, love of community, love of family and love of identity. I've always resonated with the story and find that anyone of any background can find something to relate to. You don't have to be Jewish to connect with it on a deep level. If you have or had a parent, a child, a family, or a community,

you'll relate to these characters."

Continuing a new program at CDC Theatre, the final performance on May 17th will feature a talented quartet of ASL interpreters. ASL interpreters in theatre do more than translate dialogue; they bring the emotional and artistic essence of a performance to Deaf audiences, making live theatre a truly inclusive experience. While making the performance accessible to Deaf and hearing-impaired audiences they are also performers in their own right, contributing artistically to the performance and we are pleased to welcome them back to CDC Theatre.


The show will run from May 1st through the 17th with 8pm curtains on Fridays and Saturdays and 2pm matinees on Saturday the 9th and Sundays May 10th and 17th.

The company will be led by Larry Brustofski as Tevye and Elle Michaeli as his wife Golde. Their older daughters will be played by Gabrielle Traub (Tzeitel), Katherine Hope Stelma (Hodel), and Nina Randazzo (Chava). Mark Zebro Jr is Lazar Wolf, Bill Geltzeiler, Max Kopla and James Hahn will portray Motel, Perchik and Fyedka. Lori Travers and Rachel Love, Fruma Sarah and Grandma Tzeitel with Gloria Schnure taking the part of Yente.

Visit [cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org) for more details and ticket information. These performances are 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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Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by special permission of Arnold Perl Produced on the New York stage by Harold Prince Portions of the original choreography reproduced by Emma Taylor Schwartz Fiddler On The Roof is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

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## NEW MAKER SPACE AT THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library are proud to support the new Maker Space at the Westfield Memorial Library. The announcement of a \$50,000 donation at the Maker Space ribbon cutting on March 18 in the Maker Space room at the Library, will contribute to equipment, supplies and programming for residents from first grade students to adults. The Friends share the excitement of the entire team, including the Library Administration, The Library Board of Trustees, The Westfield Library Foundation, The Westfield Foundation and The Westfield Town Council and Administration, who were instrumental in making the Maker Space happen.

The Friends funding of the Maker Space aligns with the goal of partnering with the library to support new activities, representing changing interests and ideas of our community. In addition, the efforts of all our fundraising events enable us to sponsor a breadth of programs focused on our four pursuits: community engagement, service, discovery and ideas and building enhancements. Alongside the generous and enthusiastic participation of the Westfield community the Friends are grateful to offer many value-added programs, the Maker Space included, at the library. To learn more about the Friends visit online at [fwmlnj.org](http://fwmlnj.org) or contact [info@fwmlnj.org](mailto:info@fwmlnj.org).

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(above, l-r) Liz Kennedy, Assistant Director of the Library, Christine Mason, Lori Wendler, Friends co-presidents, Allen McGinley, Library Director, Alexander Liu and Frances Lemberg, Friends Executive Board Members

Courtesy Photo

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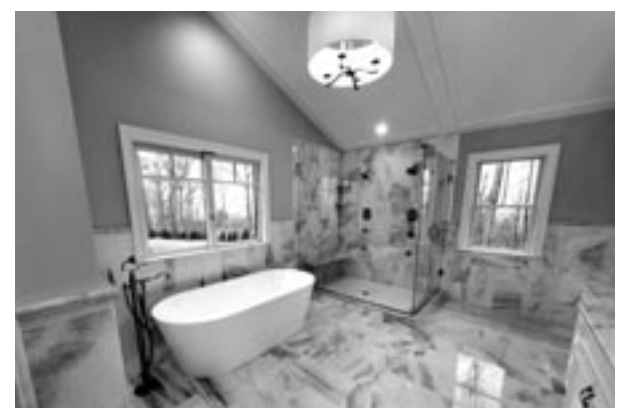
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## MAY 14, 6:30 PM - AN EVENING WITH COMPOSER MARK HAYES

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*36th Annual  
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**Sunday, May 17, 2026**  
**2:00 pm**  
 Lenfell Hall, The Mansion  
 Fairleigh Dickinson University,  
 Madison, NJ

**\$30 General Admission**  
 Tickets & Information  
[operaatflorham.org](http://operaatflorham.org) | 973-443-8620  
[info@operaatflorham.org](mailto:info@operaatflorham.org)



Opera at Florham is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
 This event is not sponsored by Fairleigh Dickinson University.

## OPERA AT FLORHAM INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026 AT 2:00 PM

Opera lovers won't want to miss this thrilling opportunity to experience the next generation of Opera stars before they take the world stage. Opera at Florham proudly announces its 36th Annual International Vocal Competition, a celebrated event that continues to attract exceptional talent from around the world. Established in 1987 in honor of the organization's benefactor and co-founder, Violetta DuPont, the competition reflects her visionary leadership and 25 years of unwavering dedication to the arts.

Each year, hundreds of aspiring Opera singers apply, with a select group advancing to live semi-final auditions in New York City. Finalists then compete before a distinguished panel of industry leaders, offering audiences a rare chance to witness rising artists at a pivotal moment in their careers.

Singers will compete for substantial prize money, including Grand Prizes of \$5,000, \$3,000, and \$1,500, along with encouragement awards recognizing exceptional promise. This directly aligns with Opera at Florham's mission to support and elevate young, up-and-coming Opera singers as they launch their professional careers.

This year's final competition will take place on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2:00 pm in Lenfell Hall at the Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University, located at 285 Madison Avenue,

Madison, NJ, 07940.

Join us for an afternoon of extraordinary vocal artistry and the excitement of the international Opera competition firsthand.

Don't miss this year's International Vocal Competition, because you will ...

- Hear world-class voices at the start of their professional journeys
- Experience the energy and drama of live competition
- Discover tomorrow's Opera stars before they headline major stages
- Enjoy an afternoon of extraordinary artistry in an intimate setting
- Support emerging talent in the performing arts

Tickets available online at  
[operaatflorham.org](http://operaatflorham.org)

General Admission: \$30

Students (25 & under): \$10

FDU Students (25 & under): FREE

### OPERA TALK: THE OPERATIC HARP SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 - 2PM

Also, consider joining us on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at Hartman Lounge at The Mansion for Opera Talk: The Operatic Harp, given by Opera Lecturer Lou Barrella. 2:00 pm, Tickets \$10 at the door or online.

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## OPA! NJ GREEK FEST RETURNS TO WESTFIELD MAY 29-31

Pop Star Evangelia Turns Up the Excitement as Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Hosts a Weekend Serving A Taste of Greece Right in Your Backyard

Area residents look forward each year to immersing themselves in the vibrant culture of Greece at NJ Greek Fest, hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Westfield. And this year, the event - known for delectable Greek cuisine, a Mega 50/50 raffle and many other family-friendly activities - turns up the excitement, welcoming the sensational Evangelia, the Greek-American pop star and Eurovision finalist.

Enjoyed by generations for over half a century at the church, located at 250 Gallows Hill Road in Westfield, the festival this year will take place from Friday, May 29 to Sunday, May 31. Free shuttle service will be provided from the nearby UCNJ parking lot. Highlights of this year's festivities include:

- The Greek-American Pop Star Evangelia, whose music blends modern pop with Greek sounds, returns to her Garden State roots for a live performance at the Saturday "Big Night Out." A variety of ticket options are available for the performance, including standing front stage single tickets, as well as high-top and front-row tables, both of the latter including food and drink. Tickets are selling fast, so secure your spot now for an unforgettable evening.
- Authentic Greek Cuisine: Indulge in mouthwatering gyros, souvlaki, spanakopita, baklava, loukoumades and other traditional homemade Greek delicacies.
- Kids' Activities: Keep the little ones entertained with games, face painting and other fun activities designed just for them.
- Mega 50/50 Raffle: Win up to \$10,000 in our Mega 50/50 Raffle. Purchase a raffle ticket for 7 chances to win up to half of the total amount collected from ticket sales. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold at \$50 each, maximizing your odds of winning!
- Church Tours: Tours of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, founded in 1965, will be given during the festival. The tours of the church, currently under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Peter Delviziis, offer a glimpse into the sanctuary and Orthodox faith.
- Live Music and Dance Performances: Throughout the festival, enjoy live performances of Greek music and traditional dance, featuring vibrant costumes and energetic routines that celebrate Greece's rich cultural heritage.
- Marketplace: Responding to popular demand, event organizers will for the first time be offering NJ GreekFest merchandise such as sweatshirts, T-shirts and hats. Event guests also can browse the emporium offering Greek-themed arts, crafts, jewelry and souvenirs, perfect for taking home a piece of the southeastern European country.

"We are excited to welcome the community to our annual NJ Greek Fest, where everyone can experience the warmth and hospitality of

Greece right here in Westfield," said Fr. Peter Delviziis, presiding priest of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. "It's a wonderful opportunity for people of all backgrounds to come together, enjoy delicious food and lively music, and celebrate our cultural traditions."

Admission to the festival is \$3. A portion of the festival proceeds will benefit Holy Trinity's community outreach programs.

Join us in celebrating Greek culture, heritage and community spirit at the annual Westfield Greek Festival. For more information and updates, please visit [njgreekfest.com](http://njgreekfest.com) and

follow @njgreekfest on Instagram and Facebook.

About Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church: A cornerstone of the Westfield community and surrounding area, Holy Trinity, founded in 1966, is dedicated to enriching lives through faith, fellowship and service. Our annual NJ Greek Fest is one of the many ways we connect with our neighbors and celebrate our shared values.

For media inquiries, please contact: Jeannie Arida, Media Liaison, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, (908) 233-8533.



Westfield, NJ 

# GREEK FEST 26

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 GALLOWS HILL ROAD, WESTFIELD

## May 29, 30, 31

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 pm - 11 pm	Noon - 11 pm	Noon - 6 pm
Greek Food & Pastries ◊ Greek Music & Dancing		
Kids Zone ◊ Marketplace ◊ Mega 50/50 Raffle		

**Big Night Out, SATURDAY, MAY 30 featuring**  
**Greek-American pop star and Eurovision finalist, EVANGELIA!**  
For tickets, simply scan the QR code or visit us at:



### [www.njgreekfest.com](http://www.njgreekfest.com)

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# STAMP OUT HUNGER - FOOD DRIVE PU AT YOUR MAILBOX - MAY 9TH

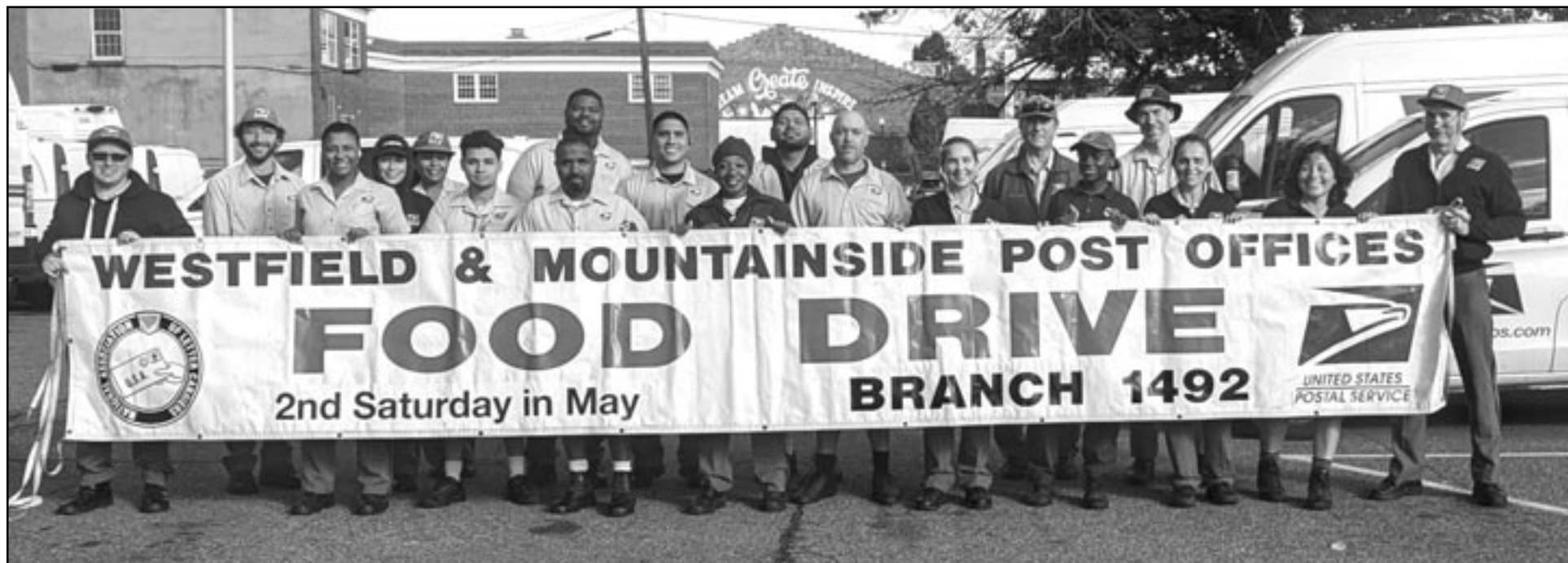
The Westfield & Mountainside Post Offices will be participating in the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive which takes place on Saturday, May 9th.

We ask that you leave a bag (or two, or more) of non-perishable food items near your mailbox

to be collected by your carrier.

Your letter carrier, and your neighbors, thank you. Since 1993, local letter carriers from the NALC have held the largest single-day food drive annually each May. Together across over 10,000 communities nationwide we have

collected nearly two billion pounds of food for people in need. The USDA reports that nearly 48 million people in the United States deal with food insecurity, including over 7 million children. This number accounts for 1 in every 7 households across the country.



Courtesy Photo

**SATURDAY, MAY 10**  
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## NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS FREE "NATIONAL SPIRIT" CONCERT

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) invites the public to a free concert celebrating music has inspired national pride on Sunday, May 3rd at 3pm at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield, NJ.

NJIO's three orchestras (Prelude, Intermezzo, and Symphony) will present music by Mozart, Grieg, Vaughn Williams, and more, culminating in Sibelius's Symphony no.2.

NJIO concerts provide a relaxed concert atmosphere: no dress code, assigned seating, ticketing, or shushing. To ensure all audience members feel comfortable, NJIO offers a Concert Comfort Station in the concert lobby where attendees can borrow additional cushions, fidget toys, coloring pages and crayons, and large print program books.

This concert is the final performance for NJIO's 2025-2026 season. Information on NJIO's summer education programs is available now at [www.njio.org/summer](http://www.njio.org/summer) and an announcement about the 2026-2027 concert season will be available in July.

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



### EVENT DETAILS:

**NJIO's Spring Concert: "The National Spirit"**  
**Sunday, May 3rd, 2026 at 3pm**  
**Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church**  
**716 Watchung Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060**  
**Admission: Free, no tickets required**

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

### ABOUT NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA:

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 32nd season, creates accessible opportunities for people of all ages and stages of life to joyfully participate in classical music. Recognized nationally as an Intergenerational Program of Distinction by Generations United, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities to one of its orchestras, depending on space availability – no audition required!

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## STEP INSIDE WESTFIELD'S HISTORY: A TOUR OF NOTABLE HOMES CELEBRATES 250 YEARS OF AMERICA

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, the Friends of the New Jersey Festival Orchestra, in partnership with the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission, invites the public to experience A Tour of Notable Homes, a self-guided journey through four of Westfield's most storied residences. This beloved community tradition offers a rare opportunity to explore architecturally significant homes while enjoying live music, refreshments, door prizes, and delightful surprises along the way.

This year's featured homes span decades of design and reflect the evolution of Westfield as a thriving suburban community:

The Victorian Jewel, one of the town's most striking homes, showcases the grandeur of the late 19th century. Originally built in the Italianate style and later transformed into a Queen Anne masterpiece, the home features exquisite woodwork, stained glass, and thoughtful modern updates—including a creatively repurposed dumbwaiter bar.

The Garden Retreat, built in 1910, blends Colonial Revival symmetry with emerging Craftsman influences. Its charming stucco façade and lush grounds, known for their beauty, have become a beloved outdoor setting for New Jersey Festival Orchestra performances.



(above) French Keelwr House

The Georgian Manor, a stately 1924 residence, reflects the elegance of Westfield's prewar housing boom. Designed for entertaining, the home features grand interiors, original architectural details, and a meticulously executed modern addition that honors its historic character.

The Classic Kit Home, built in 1926, offers a glimpse into the accessibility and charm of early 20th-century design. This Sears "Honor Bilt" Homewood model has been faithfully restored and thoughtfully updated, preserving its timeless appeal for modern living.

Guests are invited to wander at their own pace, taking in the beauty, history, and craftsmanship of each unique property while

celebrating the rich heritage of Westfield and the nation. Live music by the Garden State Musical Arts Club will add to the festive atmosphere throughout the tour.

For more information and tickets, please visit [www.njfestivalorchestra.org/concerts](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org/concerts) or call (908) 232-9400.

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## CONCERT FEATURES RENOWNED SLOVAK GUITARIST

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) concludes its season with One Thousand and One Nights, presented in collaboration with the Slovak American Cultural Center (S-ACC). Showcasing international artistry and cultural exchange, the program features acclaimed Slovak guitarist Karol Samuelčík as guest soloist.

Performances will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 7:00 pm at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 2:30 pm at the Sieminski Theater in Basking Ridge.

At the heart of the program, Samuelčík brings his artistry to Joaquín Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*, a work inspired by Spanish baroque dance traditions and celebrated for its elegance, lyricism, and expressive vitality.

"The Slovak-American Cultural Center is thrilled to partner—again—with the NJFO to introduce world-renowned guitarist Karol Samuelčík to American audiences," writes S-ACC Board Member and longtime NJFO supporter Tanya Pulver. "Performing Joaquín Rodrigo's celebrated *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*, Samuelčík promises to enchant listeners, pairing the concerto's historic elegance with his signature vibrant energy and technical brilliance."

Born in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, Samuelčík trained at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Bratislava, graduating with



(above) Slovak Guitarist Karol Samuelčík

the institution's highest honor, the Prize of the Rector. He has performed throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas, appearing with leading orchestras and in renowned venues including London's Purcell Room and Shenzhen Concert Hall. A prizewinner of numerous international competitions, he is also an educator at the Academy in Bratislava, a recording artist, and a respected scholar, having published a landmark work on guitar technique in 2022.

The program culminates in Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, a cornerstone of the orchestral repertoire inspired by the legendary tales of One Thousand and One Nights. With sweeping melodies and vivid orchestral color,

the work evokes a world of distant voyages, mystery, and imagination, bringing these timeless stories to life.

Blending international collaboration with evocative repertoire, One Thousand and One Nights offers a richly imagined and memorable close to NJFO's season.

Tickets are available at [njfestivalorchestra.org/concerts](http://njfestivalorchestra.org/concerts) or by calling (908) 232-9400. Student discounts are available.

NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

**ONE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS**

SAT, May 30 | 7:00 PM  
The Presbyterian Church  
Westfield

SUN, May 31 | 2:30 PM  
Sieminski Theater  
Basking Ridge

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# BROOK ARTS CENTER FEATURES RAGETIME & FREDDIE MERCURY IN MAY

## PARAGON - MAY 3

The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra will turn the Brook Arts Center in Bound Brook back into a 1920s movie palace on Sunday, May 3rd. The 12-piece ensemble performs Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* live, with the film on the big screen and the orchestra playing the score from the pit. Showtime is 3 PM.

Paragon Ragtime Orchestra (PRO) is led by founder and conductor Rick Benjamin, who stumbled into his life's work in 1985 when he unearthed thousands of turn-of-the-century orchestra scores that had been packed away and forgotten. Since then, millions have heard the ensemble's recordings as the daily music on Main Street, U.S.A. at Disneyland, Disney World, and Disneyland Paris.

PRO and Benjamin were recently featured on Great Performances on PBS: "Now Hear This: Everyone Loves Joplin," which aired April 17 with host Scott Yoo tracing the life of ragtime's most famous composer. The Bound Brook performance brings the orchestra to New Jersey just weeks after that broadcast.

In *The Gold Rush*, Chaplin stars as the Little Tramp, a lone prospector braving the Klondike in search of fortune. Facing blizzards, hunger, and a cast of rough-and-tumble gold seekers, he relies on his wit, charm, and slapstick brilliance to survive the wilderness and win the girl.

The performance is part of the Brook's "Road

to 100," leading up to the theatre's centennial in 2027. The Brook opened in 1927, near the end of the silent era, as a vaudeville and movie house. This is exactly the kind of show it was built for. The only surviving vaudeville theatre in Somerset County, it is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and is run entirely by volunteers.

Sunday, May 3 at the Brook Arts Center, 10 Hamilton Street, Bound Brook. Theatre organist Ian Fraser opens with a pre-show performance at 2:30 PM; showtime is 3:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. Get yours at [brookart.org](http://brookart.org) or call 732-469-7700.

Paragon Ragtime Orchestra concerts are sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

## MERCURY - MAY 15

Terry Barber is bringing his most requested tour to NJ and is available for interview. His recording of this material was considered for 8 Grammy nominations.

May 15, The Brook Arts Center, 8pm

Internationally acclaimed performing artist, Terry Barber who moved to NJ five years ago, has just signed an agreement for his most recent project, "3 Tenors of the Americas" to headline for the World Cup (FIFA) Festival in Mexico City in July.

In the meantime he is bringing his band from

Phoenix, NYC, and Chicago to share the best selling music of all time. "Mercury" has been touring the USA and Canada and is now headed for the historic Brook Theater in Bound Brook. Barber connected with Gail Woerner and Andrew Golden who are working to restore The Brook to its previous glory days.

The show not only features the hits of QUEEN live, but also helps the audience get to know legend, Freddie Mercury as Barber shares stories about him and his actual words.

"I am not impersonating this iconic artist who taught a generation how to Rock... But I believe my audience leaves with a better sense of the man, his triumphs, and tragedies," Barber explains about his most requested tour to date. "Like Mercury, my goal with this show is to entertain, of course. He cared deeply about the audience having a great time and this show is a party for all who attend, I hope. In short, We Will Rock You," Barber shares with a chuckle.

As a past member of the multiple Grammy award-winning group Chanticleer, American countertenor, Terry Barber has been a soloist at many of the world's best venues from the Metropolitan Opera to Moscow's Svetlanov Hall. He can be heard on recordings alongside artists from Madonna, Jewel, Chaka Khan and Cyndi Lauper to the London Philharmonic. Terry's recent album and tour, the music of Freddie Mercury was considered for 8 Grammy nominations.



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10 Hamilton Street  
Bound Brook, NJ

12-piece orchestra  
plays to  
Charlie Chaplin's film,  
*The Gold Rush*

**FRIDAY  
MAY 3, 3 PM**



SCAN FOR TICKETS




Terry Barber

**MERCURY**

The Music & Life of  
QUEEN's Freddie Mercury!

**FRIDAY, MAY 15, 8 PM**



GENE DINAPOLI PRESENTS  
RE-LIVE

**THE BEATLES**

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 27, 7:30 PM**

An Early and Latter Beatles Tribute



# ST. ANTHONY FEAST - ROSELLE PARK, JUNE 4-7

The Church of the Assumption's annual St. Anthony Italian Feast returns for its 26th year! The Feast will feature rides, games, live entertainment, homemade cooking, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, and a SUPER 50/50 drawn Sunday, June 7th, at pm! The Feast, located on the Church grounds at 113 Coolidge Place, Roselle Park, NJ, begins on Thursday, June 4 and runs through Sunday, June 7. Feast hours: Thurs 6-10pm, Friday 6-10pm, Saturday 5-10pm and Sunday 2-7pm. On Sunday, June 7, there will be a 12 noon mass honoring St. Anthony, followed by a procession through Roselle Park beginning at 12:45pm.

Pay-One-Price Unlimited Ride wristbands are available for opening day, Thursday, June 4. Wristbands will be sold at the Feast for \$35. Visit the Church of the Assumption website at

<http://www.assumptionrp.com/> for more information and sponsorship opportunities. If you would like to volunteer at the Feast of St. Anthony, scan here:

**THE FOLLOWING MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT IS BOOKED FOR THE FEAST:**

- Thursday, June 4:  
Paper Statues and Deadlinez (Valencia School of Music), 8pm-10pm
- Friday, June 5:  
Valentied, 730p-830p, Serenphoria, 9p-10p
- Saturday, June 6:  
Diamonds in Jupiter, 7pm to 10pm
- Sunday, June 7:  
Simply the Best, 4pm-7pm

Additional entertainment will be announced on the Church of the Assumption website as acts are confirmed.

## Annual 2026 Feast of St. Anthony

Church of the Assumption • 113 Coolidge Place • Roselle Park, NJ

### Four Days of Faith, Family, Friends and Fun

**50/50s Rides Games Music Homemade Food**

Thursday, June 4	Friday, June 5	Saturday, June 6	Sunday, June 7
 Valencia School of Music <b>Paper Statues &amp; Deadlinez</b> 8:00pm-10:00pm	 <b>Valentied</b> 7:30pm-8:30pm <b>SERENPHORIA</b> 9:00pm-10:pm	 <b>Diamonds in Jupiter</b> 7:00pm-10:00pm	 <b>Simply the Best</b> 4:00pm-7:00pm

**A special thank you to the Borough of Roselle Park for supporting our Feast!**

Sponsored by the Union County Board of County Commissioners

For More Information:  
Call Parish Office at 908-245-1107  
[www.assumptionrp.com](http://www.assumptionrp.com) or  
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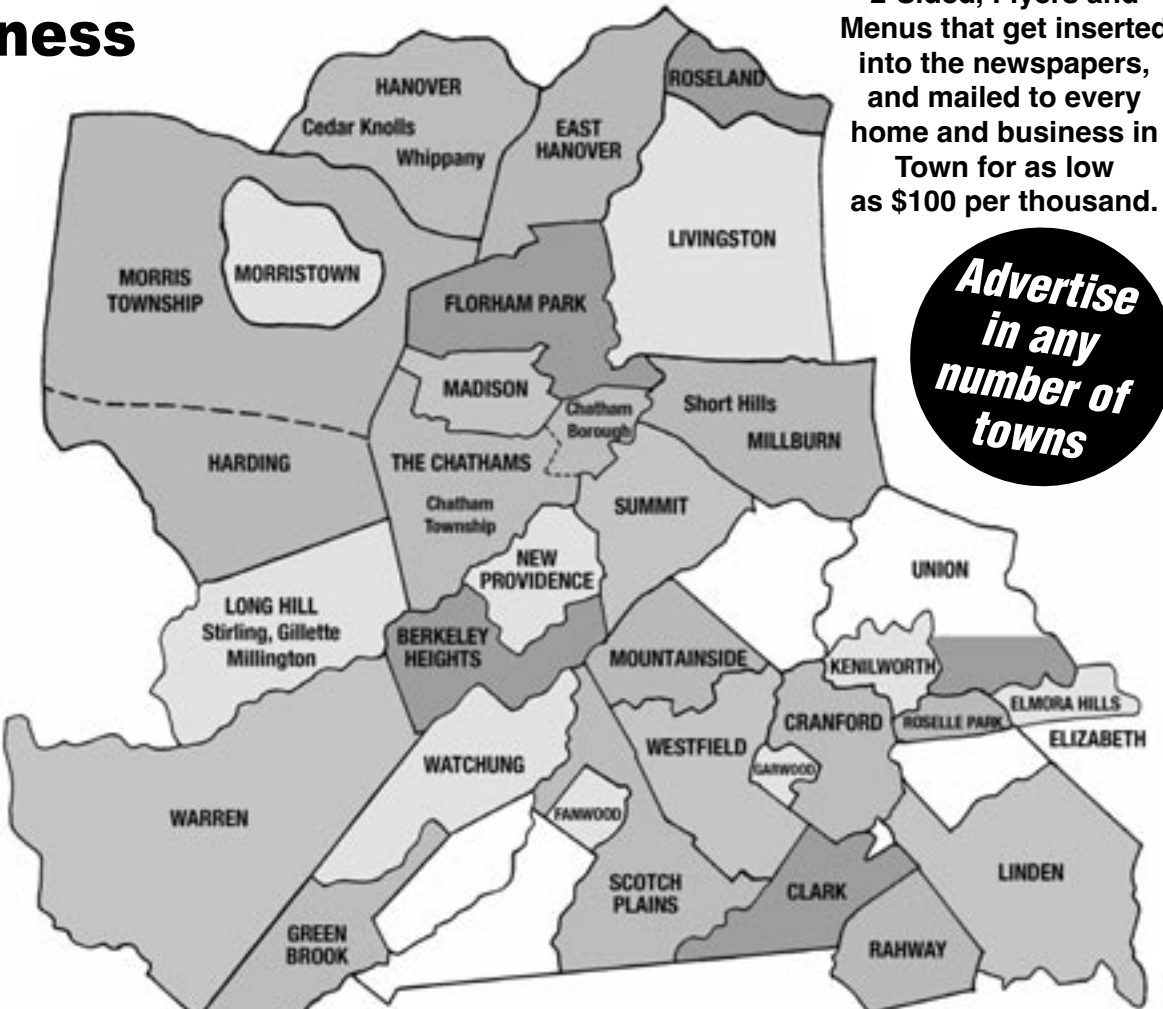
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<b>Life in Roseland NJ</b> Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07068	<b>ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY</b> Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY</b> Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076	<b>Summit NJ Times</b> Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of UNION NJ</b> Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN MONTHLY NJ</b> Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung Post NJ</b> Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield NJ MONTHLY</b> Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

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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
18 FULL PAGE 10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
2-PAGE SPREAD (2) 10"x14"	800										
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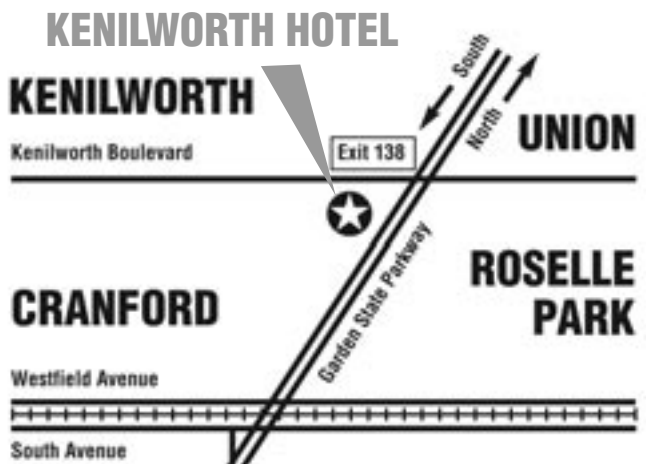
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