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RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB SERVES OUR VETERANS

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is fulfilling their mission of service to the community this year by participating in Apple Fest at the Westfield Historical Society in October where they created floral designs given away for donations to the veterans. Members purchased allium bulbs as a fundraiser this Fall as well, accumulating almost \$600 in profit for the veterans. The Club appreciates all the donations from the public! This funding will be allocated to Music for All Seasons,

a non-profit organization in Scotch Plains, which serves veterans through their creative song-writing program, "Voices of Valor" (voicesofvalor.org) as well as Rake and Hoe's own established veterans projects at Lyons Veterans Hospital.

Since 1952, the Rake and Hoe Club has joyfully fulfilled their mission to provide decorating services to the Lyons Veterans Medical Center, Lyons, NJ. Four times a year the members provide floral arrangements for dining tables and individual bedside arrangements for the veterans.

In addition, for several years Rake and Hoe members have prepared gift baskets (filled with toiletries, socks, games and other necessary items) to be distributed to the veterans during the holiday season. This year 111 veteran gift bags have been delivered to Lyons Hospital. New this Fall, Rake and Hoe began writing cards to the veterans at Lyons thanking them for their service. One hundred eighty cards were hand written and sent to veterans at the Lyons Hospital. This will be done again in the Spring.

The Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System is comprised of two main campuses, which provide health care to veterans. Services include long-term care, psychiatric care and a full range of medical and surgical care. Special programs include cancer screening, diabetes education, healthy aging, home based care, post-traumatic stress disorder, war related illnesses and women's health services. Lyons is affiliated with the University of Medicine and Dentistry and the Trenton State



(above l - r) Mary Konsolaki; Diana Kazazis;
Pat Wilson; Sue Dinan

Psychiatric Hospital. On a regular basis Lyons Hospital serves approximately 390 veterans.

To read more about Lyons Veterans Medical Center and the services they provide for our military heroes, please visit <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?id=45>. To learn more about joining Rake and Hoe Garden Club, please contact Pat Wilson, 908-389-9342 or visit their website at <http://www.rakeandhoe.org/>.



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**To submit content
call Lori at 908-858-4012
Email: lori@rennamedia.com
website: rennamedia.com**

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is online at
www.rennamedia.com
like us on
[facebook.com/WestfieldMonthly](https://www.facebook.com/WestfieldMonthly)

A NIGHT OF LOVE SONGS TO BENEFIT WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

The Westfield High School Choir Department will perform A Night of Love Songs on Friday, February 5, 2016 7:00 pm (in WHS Cafeteria B) under the direction of Mr. John Brzozowski, Choir Director. While having coffee and desserts, enjoy an evening of wonderful solo and group performances by members of the WHS Choir. In addition, there will be many beautiful gift baskets to raffle as well as a 50/50 raffle. Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$5.00 per student and \$10.00 per adult. This wonderful event is being sponsored by the Westfield Choral Parents Association, Inc., and the proceeds will be applied toward choral performance opportunities for the students, such as trips, clinicians and special events.

For more information, or if you would like to make a monetary or other charitable donation, please contact Nina O'Connell at threebeautifulgirls@gmail.com or Karna Cestero at karna.gerichcestero@verizon.net

WHS Choral Department Presents

A Night of Love Songs

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CHILDRENS ENTRÉE

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ENTRÉES include (2) two side dishes.

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11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Westfield NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomeinspectiontraps.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 1003.

You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of All Towne Realty Realtor . Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2014

WESTFIELD CREW FINISHES FALL REGATTA SEASON

The Westfield Crew team wrapped up its Fall season at the Bill Braxton Memorial Regatta in Princeton, NJ. Team members competing against other high schools in the area rowed to a 2nd place finish.

Coach Tim McAuliffe said, "The rowers improved a great deal this season, if we compare times and ability we are ahead of the spring season already and it is because the team is putting in the effort."

The fall season included regattas in Pennsylvania and New Jersey at venues such as Philadelphia's Fairmount Park on the Schuylkill River.

Westfield Crew is a private, tuition-based, not-for-profit club open to all Westfield students grades 9-12. Practices are on the Raritan River launching from Rutgers' University historic boathouse. Learn more about Westfield Crew at www.westfieldcrew.com



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CLASSIC ISRAEL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

The Israel Support Committee of Central New Jersey is sponsoring a documentary film festival in January 2016. Three Academy Award documentaries will be screened at three local synagogues. This festival will be free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. To register and obtain additional information contact Conrad Nadell at conradwho@gmail.com or 908-531-8228. The documentary films will include:

SUN - JAN 10 AT 2:30 PM "THE LONG WAY HOME"

Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah

111 Valley Road in Clark

This film describes the plight of the Holocaust survivors as they worked their way through the refugee camps trying to locate family and to reach Palestine to form a Jewish Homeland.

SUN - JAN 24 AT 3 PM "IN OUR OWN HANDS"

Temple Emanu-El

756 East Broad St. Westfield

This film traces the history of the "Jewish Brigade", the only all-Jewish fighting unit in WWII. After the war they helped smuggle Holocaust survivors to Palestine, participated in Israel's War of Independence and became the nucleus of the Israeli army.

SUN - JAN 31ST AT 2:30 PM "INTO THE ARMS OF STRANGERS"

Congregation Beth Israel

18 Cliffwood Street Scotch Plains

This presents the story of the "Kindertransport", how parents sent tens of thousands of children away from German-held land to strangers in Great Britain.

The Israel Support Committee of Central New Jersey consists of representatives from Congregation Beth Israel (Scotch Plains), Temple Emanu-El (Westfield), Temple Shalom (Scotch Plains), Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah (Clark), Temple Beth El/Mekor Chayim (Cranford), Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael (Springfield), and Congregation Anshe Chesed (Linden). The mission of this committee is to disseminate information about issues affecting Israel and provide support for the State of Israel.

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John Lucich is the HTCN Academy Director and has been performing computer forensics for over 24 years. John is a retired state law enforcement officer from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, Organized Crime & Racketeering Bureau and a 14 year cyber crimes instructor at Sea Girt, NJ for the State Attorney General's Academy. John is also a technical expert for Fox News and CNN news networks and has made numerous TV appearances over the past seven years. He is currently the CEO & forensic lab director for eForensix, a computer forensic consulting company who has been engaged in notable cases throughout the United States.



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WESTFIELD KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS HOP ABOARD A POLAR EXPRESS READING JOURNEY

Kindergarten Students at Lincoln School in Westfield recently celebrated the holiday season with an imaginative ride on the 'Polar Express'. Joellen Surace's class enjoyed reading this popular book, wearing their wintery pajamas, and enjoying a hot chocolate party hosted by parent volunteers. With "train tickets" in hand to enter the festivities in Mrs. Surace's classroom is Mason Ferrigno followed by Hayden Bridge. Darren Whitehall served as the adult "conductor."



(above) Mr. Whitehall (far right) also helped with the refreshments along with Lincoln School parents (l-r) Melanie Schreiber, Danielle Ferrigno, Matthew Simms, Wendy Pickthall, and Jim Pitman.



(left) Westfield Kindergartners Melanie Johannsen (at left) and Hayden Bridge, in snowmen adorned pj's, displayed their Polar Express entry tickets and memory book at Lincoln School's festive event held on December 18.

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Marla was 15 when she and her mom came to New Jersey from El Salvador. She was promised housing with her sister and brother-in-law, food and the chance to attend school. However, when Marla arrived, she was forced to work long hours at a restaurant strip club and not allowed school. After Marla's brother-in-law sexually abused her, Marla told her mom, who kicked her out of the house. Scared and alone, the teen moved in with her boyfriend, who made her work two jobs to pay for rent and food. Dreams of school seemed impossible now. Just when Marla thought it couldn't get worse, she became pregnant and her boyfriend beat her until she lost the baby. A co-worker let Marla stay with her but called the state when she couldn't help anymore. Marla, still just 15, then began a journey in foster care.

Each year, nearly 23,000 youth age out nationally; 450 right here in New Jersey. Data shows these kids often lack the necessary skills

to live independently, resulting in 40 percent being homeless, 55 percent unemployed, 1 in 4 suffering with post-traumatic stress, 60 percent arrested and 71 percent experiencing unplanned pregnancies. These youth are twice as likely than non-foster kids to not earn a high school diploma or GED, and 25 percent earn a two- or four-year degree by the age of 24.

Will you be the voice for one of the nearly 600 Union County youth, ages 0-21, in foster care through no fault of their own? CASAs are sworn in by a judge and court-empowered to speak to all parties: foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more. CASAs incorporate their findings — as well as observations from regular visits with the youth — into reports for the judge. They participate in quarterly court hearings and work to ensure the youth's time in care is as short as possible and their best interests remain priority.

Join CASA's next training class, which kicks

off Tuesday, March 1, 2016. CASA advocates for youth age 0-21. Those interested in working with youth 14-21 also undergo specialized Fostering Futures training, designed to equip volunteers with tools to guide teens toward a successful future on their own.

Learn more at information sessions in Westfield or Elizabeth:

6 p.m. Wednesdays,
Jan. 13, Jan. 25, Feb. 9, and Feb. 22
at the County Clerk's Building,
300 North Avenue East, in Westfield;
and 10 a.m. Fridays,

Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26
at the CASA office,

1143-45 E. Jersey St., 2nd Floor, in Elizabeth.

Contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casao.unioncounty.org to RSVP for any information session, for the March 2016 training schedule, or any questions on CASA and claiming a seat in the next class!



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ALEX & ANI IN WESTFIELD 'CHARMS' UNION COUNTY FOSTER KIDS

An unexpected collaboration may just rescue throngs of spouses and significant others from what-to-give-my-love woes this Valentine's Day. Breathe easy, folks: CASA of Union County and jeweler Alex & Ani in Westfield have a way for you to woo — and help foster children in your own community at the same time. If that doesn't score bonus points with your one-and-only, what will?

CASA of Union County, a non-profit that recruits, trains, supervises and supports community members to advocate for abused, neglected or abandoned children in foster care, will receive 15 percent of sales between 6 and 8 p.m. Monday, February 1, 2016, at a "Charmed by Charity" soiree in the popular jeweler's Westfield shop at 200 East Broad Street. Shoppers enjoy light refreshments and Alex & Ani's (+) energy punch, while CASA staffers on hand can offer more about the CASA experience and the need in our own community.

Known for its made-in-the-USA, stackable bangle bracelets with meaningful charms,

customers are encouraged to bring friends and loved ones along, and each find just the right combination of sentimental arm candy to gift to loved ones, teachers and graduates in June, birthdays and anniversaries anytime or, of course, simply keep and enjoy themselves. (Shhh. We won't tell.)

There are nearly 600 Union County children in foster care through no fault of their own, and each has a case pending in family court in Elizabeth. After completion of 30 hours of training in Westfield, CASAs are sworn in by a



Union County judge and empowered by court order to speak to all parties in the child's life - foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more. CASAs meet with their foster youth regularly and participate in quarterly court hearings to ensure the youth's needs are met and their best interests remain priority.

CASA currently has volunteers to serve just approximately one-quarter of the county's foster youth; its goal is to provide one advocate for every foster child. There are myriad ways to help make that a reality, and bringing friends, family and colleagues to shop the Alex & Ani event is an easy way, as all proceeds go toward funding trainings for members of the community to become sworn advocates and the voice for a foster child.

For event information, contact Gretchen at (908) 527-7047 or gboger@casaoofunioncounty.org. For details on becoming a CASA, contact Lisa at lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org or (908) 527-7048.

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Public School Kindergarten & First Grade Registration in January The Westfield Public School District will be registering children who will become eligible for kindergarten in the 2016-2017 school year. The District also is interested in reaching children who have not attended the Westfield Public Schools for kindergarten but will enter first grade in the fall. "It is very helpful for the District to have this information so that we may effectively plan for every new child," stated Superintendent of Schools, Margaret Dolan. Kindergarten Registration for all children who are residents of Westfield reaching the age of 5 on or before October 1, 2016, will be held at Lincoln School, 728 Westfield Avenue.

Lincoln School is the centralized kindergarten location for the Westfield Public Schools. Parents may register children eligible for kindergarten on the dates and during the times indicated below by first calling 789-4455 for an appointment. Daytime appointments will be:

Monday, January 11, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, January 12, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, January 13, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, January 19, 1 - 3 p.m.
Thursday, January 21, 1 - 3 p.m.
Friday, January 22, 1 - 3 p.m.

Kindergarten evening appointments will be:

Thursday, January 14, 6 - 8 p.m.
and Wednesday, January 20, 6 - 8 p.m.

First Grade Registration for all children who are residents of Westfield reaching the age of 6

on or before October 1, 2016 and have not yet attended the Westfield Public Schools is as follows:

Daytime Registration:

Franklin School - 789-4591

Thursday, January 14, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday, January 15, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jefferson School - 789-4490

Monday, January 11, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, January 12, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

McKinley School - 789-4555

Thursday, January 21, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tamaques School - 789-4580

Thursday, January 21, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Washington School - 789-4600

Tuesday, January 12, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wilson School - 789-4605

Thursday, January 21, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Evening appointments to register first graders who are new to the Westfield Public Schools will be held Tuesday, January 19, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. (for all schools) in the Administration Building, 302 Elm Street, Room 106 (first floor).

Please call 789-4420 for an evening appointment at Elm Street. All new students will be required to have the following information for registration in the Westfield Public Schools: Birth certificate with raised seal from the Bureau of Vital Statistics; Proof of residence (utility bill, tax bill, lease, closing statement, voter registration); Personal Health History; and Proof of Immunization (most recent record), which includes: Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus vaccine (DPT Series) - 4 doses with 1 dose given on or after the fourth birthday, or any total of 5 doses. Poliomyelitis vaccine - 3 doses of oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) or enhanced inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), with 1 dose given on or after the fourth birthday, or any 4 doses spaced by a minimum of 1 month.

Rubeola (Measles) vaccine - 2 doses given on

or after the first birthday separated by at least a month, or laboratory documentation of immunity. Rubella (German Measles) vaccine - 1 dose given on or after the first birthday, or laboratory documentation of immunity. Mumps vaccine - 1 dose given on or after the first birthday, or laboratory documentation of immunity. Hepatitis B vaccine - 3 doses or laboratory documentation of immunity. Varicella vaccine - one dose of varicella vaccine on or after the first birthday or proof of disease or immunity is required for children 19 months of age or older who attend a child care center, or are entering Kindergarten or Grade 1. State law will not permit any child to be admitted to a public school unless immunizations have been completed and documented by an M.D., D.O., or Nurse Practitioner, specifically indicating a day, month and year administered.

Only one entry physical examination is necessary on admission to kindergarten or first grade (pre-K physical may be the entry physical). A 5 year physical exam is recommended. Registration, Personal Health History, Physical Exam and Medical Records forms are available on the district web site at www.westfieldnj12.org. They are located within the Parents tab under the "New Student Registration Forms" link and can be printed and completed before the scheduled registration date. These forms are also available by calling one of the schools. Should parents have any questions about the registration process, please call one of the Westfield Public Schools.

In the event of a delayed opening or school closing due to inclement weather, registration for that day will be rescheduled. Lorre Korecky Coordinator, School/Community Relations Westfield Public Schools 908-789-4463 Westfield Public Schools - A Tradition of Excellence Follow us on Facebook Twitter: @WestfieldNJK12

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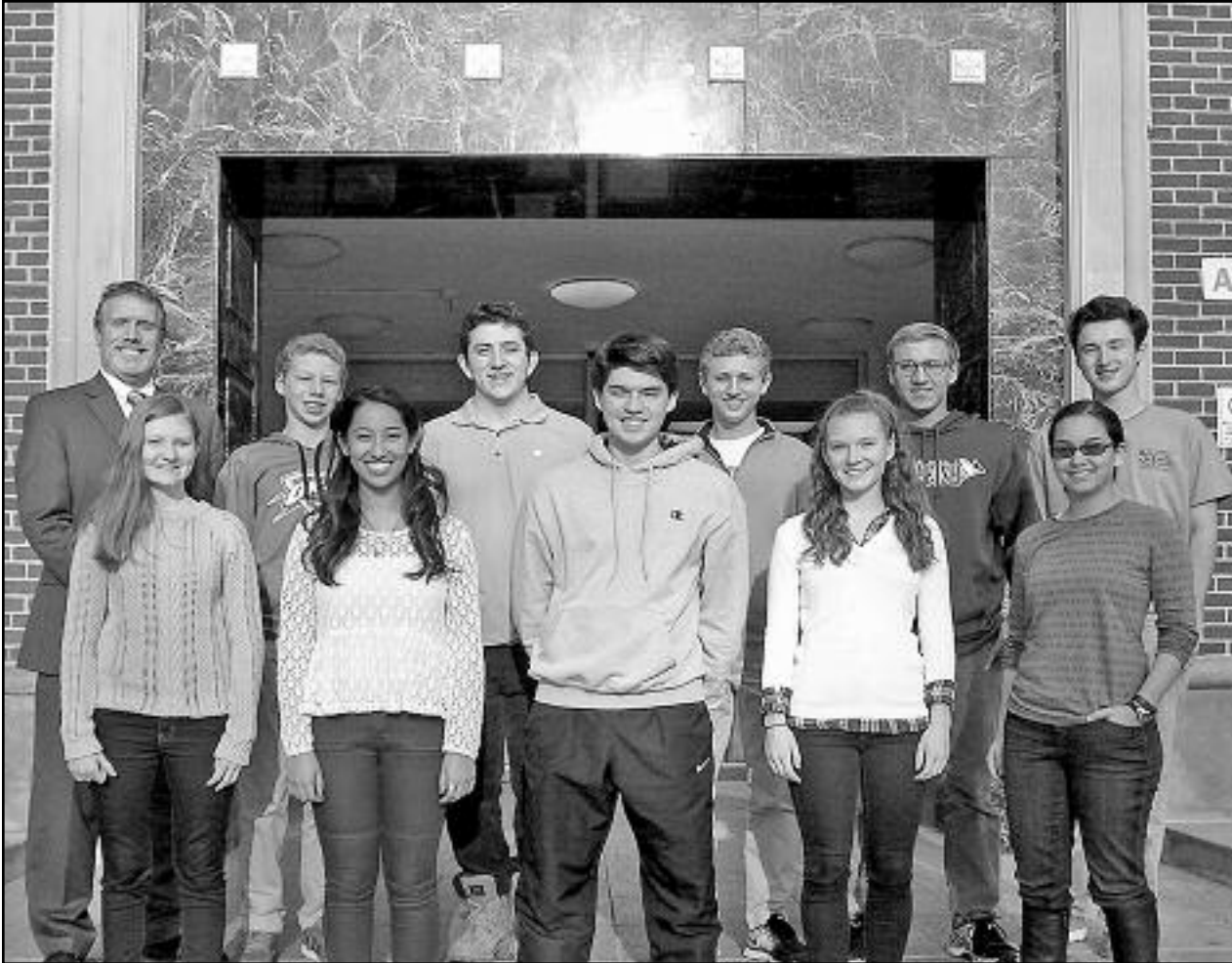
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WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES 11 PERFECT ACT SCORES



Westfield High School announced that 11 students have achieved perfect scores in October on ACT standardized tests widely used for college admission criteria.

(left, back row, l-r)

Westfield High School Principal, Peter Renwick, expressed his congratulations to these juniors and seniors for their top scores:

Owen Bartok – English;

Spencer Fishman – Mathematics;

Noah Reich – Science;

Nicholas Youssef – Reading and Science;

and William Kelly – English;

(first row, l-r)

Catherine King – English, Mathematics and Reading;

Raquel Levy – Reading;

Mackail Liederman – Mathematics;

Julia Myers – Reading;

and Naalia Zeller Maclean – English.

Ryan Munley, who achieved a perfect score in Writing, was unavailable for the photo.

NJWA MUSIC STUDIO REGISTERS FOR NEW SESSION

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Music Studio is currently enrolling students for its winter/spring semester, which begins on January 4, 2016. Students may register at any time during the semester and tuition will be pro-rated accordingly.

The Music Studio offers individual vocal and

instrumental lessons, for both children and adults, in a 30, 45 or 60 minute format. In addition to these lessons, the Music Studio also gives opportunities for area musicians to play in its bands, orchestras and symphonies. Among these are the NJWA Summer Symphony, the Rockin' Jazz Lab Band, the International American

Alphorn Ensemble, the Majestic Winds, and the Wednesday Morning Strings. Teens who play guitar, bass guitar, drums, piano, saxophone, or trumpet may choose to join the Rock Performance Workshop, or Intro to Rock Performance. Vocalists are also welcome to these groups. During the year, additional classes and programs are often added to the schedule.

The NJWA Music Store has a variety of instruments available for purchase or rental. It also sells music accessories, reeds, oils, music stands, mutes and strings.

For more information on any program of the NJWA, please phone 908-789-9696, visit the studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield, or log on to www.njworkshopforthearts.com.



(above) Members of the Wednesday Morning Strings at their recent holiday concert at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. The group also performed the seasonal repertoire at The Cerebral Palsy League in Cranford, The Chelsea at Fanwood and Sunrise Assisted Living of Westfield.

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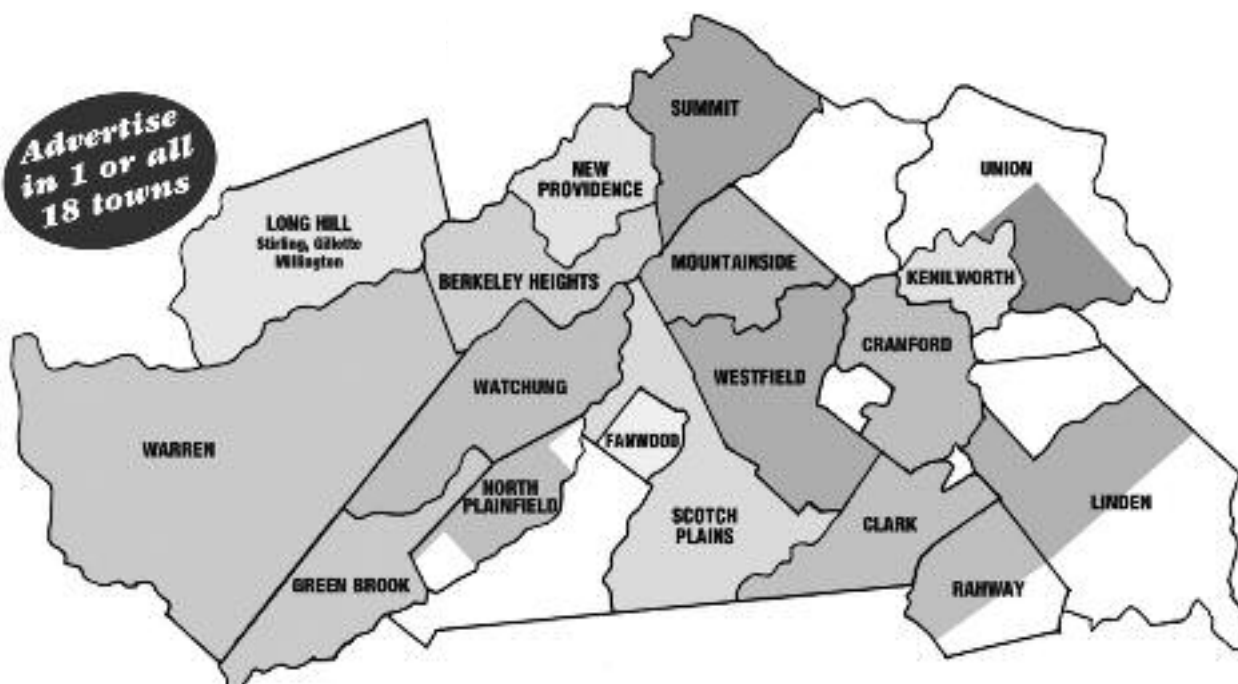


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WESTFIELD CHAMBER HOLIDAY PARTY AWARDS

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) gave anniversary award plaques to several long standing members at the GWACC annual Holiday Party held recently at Shackamaxon Country Club. In attendance that evening and receiving their awards were The Westfield Area Y (30 Years), Gersch Orthodontics (30 Years), Brunner Opticians (30 Years) and Vincentsen Associates (25 Years). Other Chamber business members were given their award plaques at their place of business. The 30 year members - Christine Cosenza Insurance Agency, Coldwell Banker West and the New Jersey Festival Orchestra; 25 year members - Westfield Animal Hospital and the Westfield Center for Counseling and Human Development; 20 year member - House of Legacies, G.M.C. Intl.; 15 year members - American Shoe Repair & Luggage Store, Evalyn Dunn Gallery, G. O. Keller, Guillotine, I to Eye, Sevell's Auto Body and the Westfield Lumber & Home Center. The GWACC was established in 1948 with 29 members and has grown now to over 420 members.

For information regarding membership in the GWACC, please call the office at 908-233-3021.



(above l-r) at the GWACC Holiday Party - Mark Elsasser - Westfield Area Y; Dr. Stanley Gersch - Gersch Orthodontics; Susan Auer - Brunner Opticians; Greg Blasi - Vincentsen Associates; Gene Jannotti, Executive Director - GWACC.

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Annual

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Email Jim Parlapiano jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com for more info.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.

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