AND BUSINESS IN WESTFIELD Reld Monthlyn,

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Issue 15 • December 2016

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY CONCERT **BAND 26TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT**

DECEMBER 15TH 7:30 pm

EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 800 Rahway Ave.

FREE

PAID PHILA PA 191 U.S. POSTAGI

CASA FETES WESTFIELD'S ALICE BRUCIA

Volunteer child advocate called a 'beacon, inspiration'

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County's 4th annual Foster the Dream Gala at Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains on Nov. 4 was sold out, as more than 280 attendees enjoyed dinner, dancing, fireworks and auctions, and feted the nonprofit's advocacy work for local children in foster care as well as several honorees, including long-time Westfield resident Alice Brucia.

Brucia, who received the Dream-Keeper Award for Outstanding Volunteerism, completed CASA's 30-hour training in 2012 and immediately began advocating for a sibling set of six foster youth, all placed in numerous foster homes throughout the county. She has built unique bonds with each of the children whose young lives have been tumultuous at best. Alice knows their unique academic, social and behavioral needs, and can recite their successes, placements, losses, talents and event their biggest fears. Her tenacious advocacy both in and out of the courtroom speaks for itself: 14 court reports, 16 court hearings, three judges, 80 recommendations formalized into judges' orders and nearly 30 others informally accepted on the record.

Although Brucia retired from full-time teaching in 2012, she's continued part-time ever since — all while serving as a child advocate. Currently working in a kindergarten wrap program, Alice's volunteer commitment to children also includes tutoring homeless children at St. Joseph's Social Center in Elizabeth, efforts with Head Start, and teaching CCD for 16 years at St. Helen's Church in Westfield.

Executive Director Marla Higginbotham notes, "Alice has been a beacon for six young children during a time when their lives have been so uncertain. It is CASA's privilege to have her in our ranks, tireless advocating for their needs and ensuring their interests remain top priority. CASA recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned Union County



(above) Alice Brucia Volunteer child advocate called a 'beacon, inspiration'.

children placed in foster homes or residential facilities — and Alice has unequivocally proven to be the epitome of what a CASA volunteer should be. She is an inspiration to us all."

CASA volunteers are empowered by court order to speak to all parties in a foster child's life and serve as eyes and ears for the judge and a voice for the child placed into the system through no fault of their own. There are nearly 600 Union County children in foster care due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, and CASA of Union County serves one-third. Its goal is to provide a CASA volunteer for every foster child that needs one.

CASA's next available advocate training session is January 2017, and it incorporates a new, flexible online component. For details, contact Rachel at 908-527-7045 or rwhite@casaofunioncounty.org. To inquire about other ways to support CASA of Union County, contact Marla at 908-527-7041 or marlah@casaofunioncounty.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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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

LOCAL GARDEN CLUBS TO MEET WITH NURSERIES

by Jeannie Geremia from the Garden Club of NJ (GCNJ) has inspired both Westfield garden clubs to participate in facilitating the organization of pollinator centers with local nurseries. Along with Geremia, the president of Rake and Hoe Garden Club worked to develop the signage and handouts this summer.

These signs will focus the public in an area of the nursery which will display special plants to create butterfly, bee and bird gardens. They specify which plants are host and nectar plants and even which time of year these animals will be seen using them so the gardener can plant for all seasons!

The creation of these pollinator centers at local

The Butterfly and BeeGAP committee chaired nurseries with the help of garden clubs is a WIN/WIN situation. They educate the public on how they can help the struggling pollinators, it helps create functional and beautiful gardens for the homeowner and it helps the nurseries in providing this plant material. New Jersey is the first state to embrace these centers to help pollinators and will be, hopefully, a successful template for all states.

> Merrilyn Crane, President of the Garden Club of Westfield and Diana Kazazis, President of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield will be collaborating on approaching nurseries to spearhead this GCNJ program locally.

> For more information, please contact Diana Kazazis at 908-654-8783.

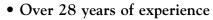


(above) Diana Kazazis, President Rake & Hoe Garden Club

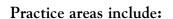
ATTORNEY SETTLES HOME EXPLOSION **LITIGATION FOR \$975,000.00**

Attorney David C. Bendush announced settlement of a lawsuit arising from a home explosion in Hunterdon County in September of 2014. The blast was caused by a contractor who was converting the home of his clients, from oil to natural gas. The clients were in the home with their infant daughter at the time of the explosion and fire. Davis Heating and Cooling was attempting without success to purge the new gas lines. Large amounts of natural gas were caused to accumulate inside the basement until the gas exploded, nearly levelling the structure and knocking the clients to the ground where they stood. Mr. Bendush litigated the liability issues aggressively, and attained the unusual result of summary judgment for plaintiff. The defense had little choice but to settle quickly and on favorable terms, in order to avoid a trial.

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"CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE CITY" CONCERT

The eighth annual "Christmas Time in the City" Holiday concert will be presented on December 17th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield. A production by the Continuo Arts Foundation this concert features over 150 singers from Union, Morris and Essex Counties, soloists, the Continuo Arts Chamber Orchestra, Santa, audience sing-a-longs and special guest artists!

The individual and combined Continuo Arts Ensembles & Chamber Orchestra will present many perennial holiday favorites including works by composers John Rutter, John Williams' selections from Home Alone, Handel's Messiah, and more. The Continuo Children's Chorus and a visit by Santa always have surprise vignettes in store for young concert-goers and children can look forward to an opportunity for picture taking after the performance!

Recently returned from a performance on the prestigious Festival Pro Musica e Arte Sacra in Rome, Continuo Artists presented John Rutter's "Mass of the Children" and shared the Festival Program with the likes of the Vienna Philharmonic, Christoph Eschenbach, Chen Reiss, The IlluminArt Orchestra and other

international artists of note. Continuo Arts offers New Jersey's most comprehensive Intergenerational Choral Program with seven ensembles for singers of all ages. At the newly opened Conservatory, Continuo offers piano, vocal and instrumental lessons for beginners through advanced in addition to audition prep, musical theater workshops and more.

Presented free of charge as a gift to the community, start your holiday season with "Christmas Time in the City"! doors will open at 7:00 P.M. Call 908-264-5324 or visit www.continuoarts.com for more information.



(above) Scheduled this year on December 17th, 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield the concert is presented free of charge by the Continuo Arts Foundation as a gift to our communities. Join us as we usher in the season! Call 908-264-5324 for more information.

END OF YEAR TAX PLANNING CONSIDERATION FOR DIVORCING COUPLES

By: James McGlew II, Esq.

As the end of the year approaches, many of us will be inundated with television, newspaper and magazine reports regarding end-of-the-year tax planning measures one can take to reduce your tax obligation. For those individuals who are in the midst of divorce proceedings, planning to be divorced before the end of the year, or are already divorced, there are often tax implications which need to be considered.

For those individuals who are planning to be divorced before the end of this calendar year, you should know that your filing status for 2016 will change as a result. It does not matter whether you get your divorce completed on January 1, 2016 or December 31, 2016, or any date in between, for the tax year 2016 you are considered to have been divorced for the entire year. If this applies to you it will generally limit your filing status for 2016 to either single or head of household (if you otherwise qualify). Your filing status can have serious financial implications.

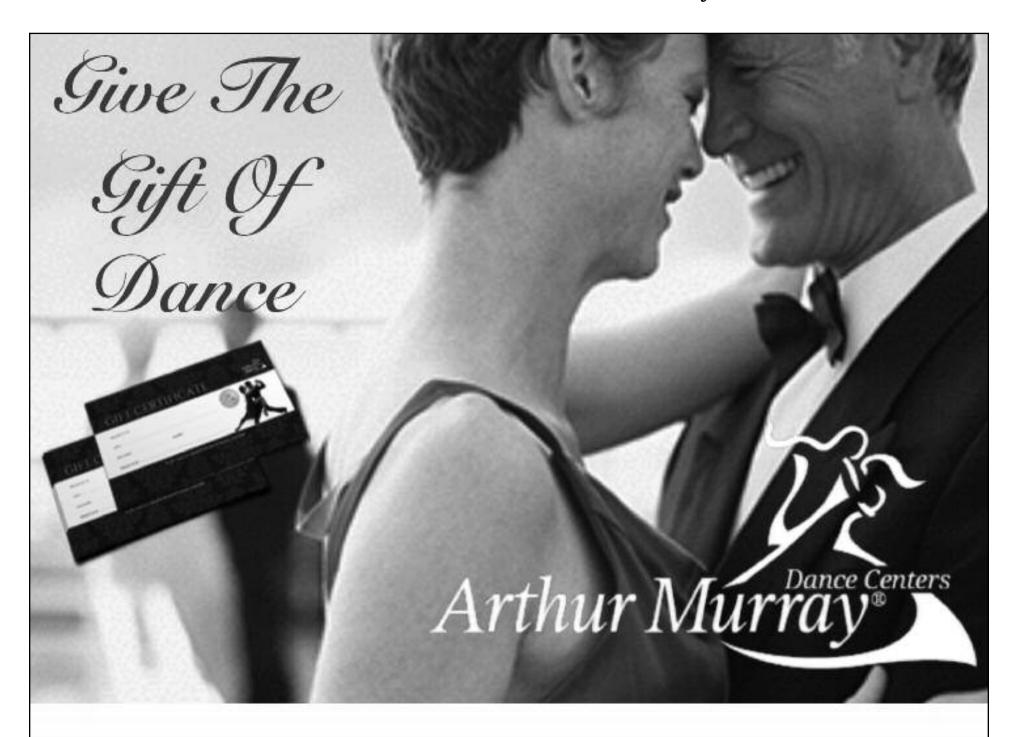
The funds a divorcing or divorced spouse receives or pays may be includable as income or deductible as support. But not all funds paid or received qualify. You are permitted to deduct alimony paid to a spouse or former spouse if it is paid under the terms of a divorce judgment or Court Order or separation Agreement, and this is true regardless of whether or not you itemize deductions on your U.S. tax return. It must also be noted that: (1) voluntary payments made which are not set forth in a divorce judgment or separation Agreement are not deductible; (2) payments which exceed the amount stated in a judgment or Agreement are not deductible; (3) the alimony received by a spouse or ex-spouse is

income in the year they receive it, and; (4) payments designated as child support are never deductible to the parent who pays the support or taxable income to the parent who receives it.

Agreements which distribute marital property at the conclusion of a divorce generally do not have income tax consequences. But sometimes there are exceptions and the specific language contained in these Agreements should provide guidance in such circumstances. Some examples are when pension or other retirement accounts are divided or when a decision needs to be made regarding who will claim property tax payments and the mortgage interest deduction on future separate tax returns.

Lastly, the issue of which parent can claim a child as a dependent on a tax return should always be set forth in a divorce Settlement Agreement. In most instances, it is the custodial parent's right to claim the child as a dependent. The custodial parent is the person with whom the child actually lived for the greater number of nights during the year. However, the right to claim the child or children can be allocated differently in a Settlement Agreement when both parents agree. Parents are even permitted to alternate the dependency exemption or divide the number of children each will claim.

Lindabury's Family Law Group has decades of experience representing clients in divorce and other serious New Jersey family law matters. We provide the full range of divorce and family law services and are easily accessible from our Westfield New Jersey office. Call today to schedule a consultation with James McGlew at (908) 233-6800.



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WESTFIELD COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT DEC 15TH

The Westfield Recreation Department will host its 26th Annual Holiday Concert featuring the Westfield Community Concert Band and the Edison Intermediate School Broadway Singers on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield. This free public concert culminates a year-long series of performances by the Westfield Community Concert Band in celebration of the band's 104th anniversary concert season. The band performed its first annual Holiday Concert at the Roosevelt Intermediate School in December 1990 with the Roosevelt "Sharps and Flats" chorus.

Highlighting a program of holiday favorites, the band will perform Newell Long's musical setting of "Twas the Night Before Christmas", the renowned 1823 poem attributed to Clement C. Moore", with special guest Elias Zareva narrating the poem to the band's accompaniment. Mr. Zareva conducted the Westfield Community Band for 25 years, between 1979 and 2004, making him the longest-serving conductor in the band's history. "I am very pleased to be performing with the band for this special selection, which was always a favorite of mine during my many years with the band," says Mr. Zareva.

The band will open the concert with the 1948 Leroy Anderson classic, "Sleigh Ride". In a press release issued December 15, 2015, "ASCAP", the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, named Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson as the most popular classic holiday song worldwide in 2015. Since its first recording by the Boston Pops in 1949, the song has



(above, l-r) Band president, Barry Rosenberg, Mr. Zareva and Dr. Connors.

remained among the top ten most popular holiday songs of all time.

The program also includes "Rhapsody For Hanukkah", a 1994 arrangement of traditional Hanukkah selections by Stephen Bulla, and "Christmas Variations" by Roland Kernen, a contemporary composition based upon a 17th century carol by German composer, Michael Praetorius.

The Broadway Singers will also perform a selection of holiday music featuring the choir's unique arrangements and choreography, including "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year", "Shalom Chaverim", "A Marshmallow World", "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and the Johnny Marks classic, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer".

The band will continue the program with

another Leroy Anderson holiday standard, "A Christmas Festival" and "Carol of the Shepherds", a contemporary arrangement by Philip Sparke based on a 14th century traditional carol.

The program will conclude with a combined performance of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" with both the band and choir, an annual tradition dating back more than twenty-five years.

The Westfield Community Concert Band is conducted by Dr. Thomas Connors, now in his eleventh season with the band. Westfield music educators Kenneth Horn and Stephen Markowski, vocal specialists in the Westfield School District, co-direct the Edison Broadway Singers.

Members of the Westfield Community Concert Band recently participated in Westfield's Holiday Tree Lighting event, performing traditional Christmas music as a festive backdrop for the lighting of the Christmas tree at the north side Westfield train station along with a special appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus for hundreds of families in attendance. As the band completes its milestone 104th concert season, the band continues to seek out area musicians to perform a wide variety of concert band literature for its many area concert events. Interested musicians should contact Dr. Connors through the band's website, info@westfieldcommunityband.com. The band rehearses each Wednesday evening from 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the community room located in the Westfield Municipal Building 425 East Broad Street.



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KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

On Saturday, December 10th at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, under the baton of David Wroe, kicks off the holiday season with a bang and plenty of bling with Home for the Holidays, a family festival of traditional and contemporary songs and music, sing-alongs and more guaranteed to make the season merry.

This year's concert features special guests The Three Holiday Tenors who are set to dazzle and captivate with a beautiful selection of renowned tenor classical fare to welcome in the holidays. Their performances of a host of traditional carols and wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

American tenor Cody Austin has been lauded as one the most promising singing actors of his age. A 2009 graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, his voice has been described as "warm and rich ... produced with an evenness that's rare." Mr Austin has already undertaken a variety of leading roles in opera houses throughout the United States including the Duke in Verdi's Rigoletto for Opera Santa Barbara, Alfredo in Verdi's La Traviata for Pittsburg opera, Virginia Opera and Utah Opera, Lensky in Eugene Onegin for Des Moines

Metro Opera and Don Jose in Carmen for Shreveport Opera. He was recently featured as tenor soloist with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops in a program entitled 'The Great American Tenor'

Rising tenor Limmie Pulliam has been praised for his captivating stage presence and his "stentorian yet beautiful" voice. A former artist-in-residence with Cleveland Opera, Opera Delaware and Opera Memphis, his recent engagements include multiple appearances Delta Symphony Orchestra, a much acclaimed performance with Vashon Opera as Canio in I Pagliacci and a lauded debut at the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice as the title character in Verdi's masterpiece Otello. He also recently presented a series of concerts featuring Negro Spirituals with The Concord Chorale.

Kevin Ray is praised by Opera News for his "commendable style" and abilities with "subtle coloristic nuance." An alumnus of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, the tenor recently starred in the company's new commission of Iain Bell's one-man opera, A Christmas Carol. Other recent engagements include the title role of Peter Grimes with Chautauqua Opera, Roderigo in Otello, Beadle Bamford in Sweeney Todd,

and Don José in Carmen with Wolf Trap Opera. Last season, he made his Los Angeles Philharmonic debut singing Beethoven's Choral Fantasy under the baton of Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla.

Tickets prices range from \$28 to \$76 for adults and there is a special discount price of only \$15 for students K-12.

Tickets are also available for NJ Festival Orchestra's New Year's Eve musical celebration. This year's performance, On The Town, promises a superb revue of American musical theater classics from stage and screen and features renowned guest vocalists direct from the Broadway stage and beyond.

Special discounts are available for children under 18, making this event (which starts at 7pm and ends at 9pm) a perfect way for the entire family to join together to welcome in the new year. Patrons are advised to purchase tickets well in advance as this concert has been a sell out for the past five years.

Tickets for both concerts are available on line at www.njfestivalorchestra.org. Tickets may also be purchased by calling (908) 232-9400 or visiting the office at 224 E. Broad Street, Westfield. Gift certificates are also available.



(above) Mrs. Margaret Chinn has been elected as President of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, located in Westfield.



MARGARET CHINN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NJWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Ted Schlosberg, New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Founder and Executive Director, has announced that Margaret Chinn has recently been elected as the President of the NJWA Board of Directors.

A resident of Westfield, Mrs. Chinn, a graduate of Boston College and St. John's University School of Law, has a personal background in the music field. A vocalist and musician on both the flute and violin, Mrs. Chinn has performed with the Westfield Community Band, the NJWA Wednesday Morning Strings and sang with the Chansonettes, a local women's choral group.

She became associated with the NJWA seven years ago when she enrolled her two daughters for lessons at the Music Studio. She commented that "My daughters were 5 and 7 years old when they first started taking violin lessons at NJWA. Seven years later, they are thriving as musicians in our local school orchestras. I owe their love of music, in great part, to NJWA."

She was extremely pleased with the procedures at the NJWA and became a Member of the Board in 2011 to help foster the organization's goals. As a Board Member, Mrs. Chinn has been involved in writing grants to help raise money for the Music Connection, a program for special needs students. She enthusiastically states that "I have a passionate, personal interest in helping to further develop this program. The Music Connection is an innovative music program for include individuals families who

developmental, neurological or physical disabilities. The goal is to form a creative educational partnership, where a parent and a special needs student learn a musical instrument together in an environment that nurtures each musician's unique talents and abilities." Mrs. Chinn continued that "I believe there is no other program like The Music Connection in New Jersey. It is an honor to assist Dr. Schlosberg in ultimately achieving his goal of one day forming an orchestra comprised solely of Music Connection students."

Mrs. Chinn is presently preparing for another fundraiser for the Music Connection. On Sunday, March 12, 2017, there will be a 45th Anniversary Family Gala Brunch at 12:00 noon at Snuffy's Pantagis in Scotch Plains. The affair will include music, children's activities and games.

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization. Among its other programs are the Majestic Winds, the Rock Performance Workshop, Wednesday Morning Strings, International American Alphorn Ensemble, the NJWA Saturday Orchestras, the Westfield Fencing Club and the NJWA Summer Workshop.

For more information about the NJWA, visit the studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield, phone 908-789-9696, email and njwa2@aol.com log njworkshopforthearts.com. You may also visit the NJWA on Facebook and Twitter.

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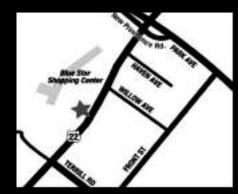
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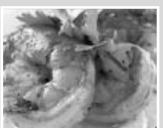
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EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PAYS TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

thanked America's veterans on November 15 in a filled gymnasium decorated in red, white and blue banners paying tribute to the country's servicemen and women.

Special guest, Brenda Sue Fulton, who in 1976 was a member of the first female class in the US Military Academy at West Point, gave three reasons why she is proud to be a US Army veteran: Leadership, respect for all, and support of the constitution. Fulton was a signal officer, served as both a platoon leader and company commander in Germany, before receiving an honorable discharge at the rank of Captain.

Several other invited veterans lined the bleachers while being entertained by the school's concert band and 8th grade chorus under the

Edison Intermediate School in Westfield direction of John Scozzaro, Kenneth Horn, and Kristine Smith-Morasso. In addition to music, a slide show, and readings by students, a salute to the flag was accompanied by the presentation of colors by the Combat Logistics Battalion 25 from Red Bank, NJ.

> Edison Principal Matthew Bolton took time to advise the 829 member study body comprised of sixth, seventh and eighth graders. "You are going through a significant time in your life," stated Dr. Bolton. "You make decisions about who you want to be. You need models for good character and values. There are no better models than the United States veterans," he concluded.

> "Our veterans protect our rights," stated Social Studies teacher and Master of Ceremony, John Stasi. "Say 'Thank You' every chance you get."



(above) Principal Matthew Bolton (far left) and Social Studies teacher John Stasi from Edison Intermediate School in Westfield welcomed guest speaker Brenda Sue Fulton to the school's Veteran's Day assembly. Fulton is a 1980 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and was a member of the Academy's first class to admit women. Eighth graders in the chorus conducted by Kristine Smith-Morasso and Kenneth Horn are seated in the foreground.

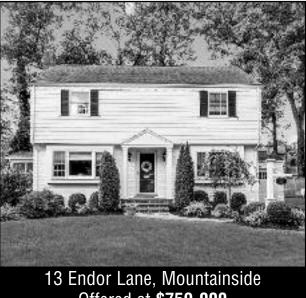


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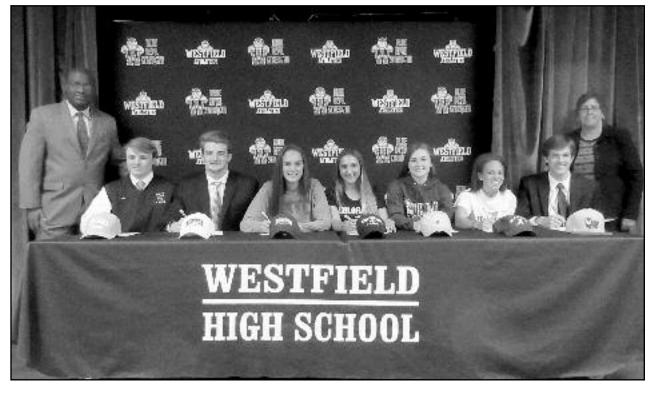
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Westfield MONTHLY • Page 12 • December 2016 WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES **SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT**



Seven Westfield High School seniors signed Letters of Intent with Division 1 colleges and universities on November 2nd, signifying recognition the student athletes' of accomplishments both academically and athletically.

Acting Principal Derrick Nelson and Athletic Director Sandy Mamary congratulated the students, "Westfield High School students continually attract college recruiters from around the country," remarked Ms. Mamary. "Our recent graduates from 2016, for example, are well represented, with 42 now participating on teams at the collegiate level," she added. The NCAA manages the daily operations of the National Letter of Intent program, while the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) provides governance oversight. The program has scheduled additional signing dates for high school athletes in 2017.



(above l-r) Seated: Owen Prybylski - Boys Lacrosse, Villanova University; Kyle Dombroski -Boys Lacrosse, University of Denver; Hannah Liddy - Girls Lacrosse, University of Denver; Haley Farella - Girls Lacrosse, University of Colorado, Boulder; Elizabeth Sottung - Volleyball, Seton Hall University; Taylor Morgan - Girls Soccer, University of Alabama; and Alex Pansini -Baseball, Marist College.







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"2016 EXEMPLARY ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR"

support teacher at McKinley School in Westfield, has been selected by the New Jersey Department of Education as a "2016 Exemplary Elementary Educator." The certificate of recognition bestowed on Mrs. Bonhote and signed by Acting Commissioner Kimberly Harrington states that it "honors the contributions of being an outstanding educator in a New Jersey public school."

In the nomination submitted by McKinley School, the 25-year veteran in the Westfield Public Schools was described as having a tireless work ethic, a positive and contagious attitude, exhibiting a collaborative team member approach combined with best teaching techniques.

On November 9, at a school-wide assembly, Principal Marc Biunno surprised Mrs. Bonhote with the announcement and presented her with the certificate from the Department of Education. explains that Mrs. Bonhote was selected after a outstanding recognitions."

Susanne Bonhote, an Achieve academic rigorous selection process. It goes on to say that the "goal of the program is to identify educators who are valued by their school and community and have exhibited strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a clear vision for quality teaching and learning."

> Following the presentation of the certificate, the entire student body sang with gusto "I Can," a song of inspiration adopted by the school. "No matter what my challenges are, I want to do my best because of you," Mrs. Bonhote told the students. "We are fortunate to have each other. Thank you, I am very honored."

Mrs. Bonhote also was the 2016 Westfield Rotary's Philhower Award winner for excellence in teaching at the elementary level. "We are fortunate to have skilled and dedicated teachers in our district," stated Superintendent of Schools, Margaret Dolan. "To Mrs. Bonhote and The accompanying letter from the NJDOE McKinley School: Congratulations on such



(above) During a school-wide assembly at McKinley School in Westfield, Principal Marc Biunno presented a certificate from the New Jersey Department of Education, naming Susanne Bonhote a 2016 Exemplary Elementary Educator.



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DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Eucharists at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Eucharists at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE December 24-Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Children's Service of Lessons and Carols 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Soloists 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Sanctuary Choir, Bells and Instrumentalists

DECEMBER 25

Nativity Eucharist and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 1, 2017

Eucharist, Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m. We share an open Communion Table at all of our liturgies.

MUSIC AT FAITH BENEFIT CONCERT

Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m. Flutist Eunsook Hong, Dr. John Girvin and Christina Girvin, soloist

Freewill offering to support ministry in Newark







At the Veterans Day commemoration held on November 14, Roosevelt Intermediate School in

WESTFIELD STUDENTS PRESENT AWARD TO AIR FORCE VETERAN



(above) Stewart Carey, Roosevelt Intermediate School Principal, thanks Air Force veteran Sgt. Richard Veith (far right) for his service to our country at the Westfield school's Veterans Day assembly on November 14. Also seated on the stage (l-r) are RIS 7th grader Taylor Addis who read a history of Veterans Day, Social Studies teachers Fran Pugliese and Brian Vieth, and his sons William and Andrew who introduced their uncle.

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The large, sunny living room is wired for sound and boasts a gas fireplace and custom mantle with new hearth. On the second level, the private master bedroom suite features a spacious, walk-in closet and its own luxurious private bath with jacuzzi tub as well as a glass stall shower. There are two additional bedrooms, an office and a beautifully renovated hallway bathroom. The third level boasts two more bedrooms, another fabulous full bath and ample storage space. The two tiered paver patio overlook the private, professionally landscaped yard, complete with outdoor speakers and underground sprinklers \ldots the perfect



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Westfield presented "The Heroes Among Us Award" to Sgt. Richard Veith. An annual presentation at the school-wide event, the award was created to honor retired members of the American military. Sgt. Vieth, brother of Roosevelt Social Studies teacher, Brian Vieth, is an Air Force veteran who was stationed in several countries, during his 10 years in service, including Saudi Arabia, where he was deployed for Operation Desert Storm, commonly referred to as the first Gulf War. The guest speaker stated that he is "most proud of having the opportunity to serve my country." He spoke of experiencing different cultures and of learning life-long skills from his role in the military, where he repaired and maintained Air Force jets. A musical tribute to all veterans was provided by the school's 8th grade band under the direction of James Doyle and by the voices of Roosevelt's Sharps and Flats, led by Sabino Losco. Principal Stewart Carey thanked Social Studies teachers Fran Pugliese and Brian Vieth for arranging the assembly which was enriched by readings from Jacob Root and Taylor Addis. Mr. Carey reminded the 750 students, entire staff, parents and guests, "Because of our veterans we enjoy many freedoms – freedoms that we often take for granted."







WINTER & SPRING PROGRAMS OFFERED AT WESTFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Programs at the Westfield Recreation Department. Sign your kids up for our Manners Workshops just in time for holiday gatherings with friends and families this season! Adults are encouraged to get out of the house beginning with our Tai Chi program on Tuesdays at 10:00am and by joining the "party" with our Zumba Fitness Class on Mondays 7:30pm! The department also offers Adult Tennis for beginners and intermediate levels on Sundays starting in in May. Adult enrichment courses offered are Adult Fashion and Guitar for beginners or those just "refresher" needing a lesson. Transportation is available for Westfield Seniors for medical and shopping rides, please call the department for details. Registration is open, please visit our website for details on each program listed.

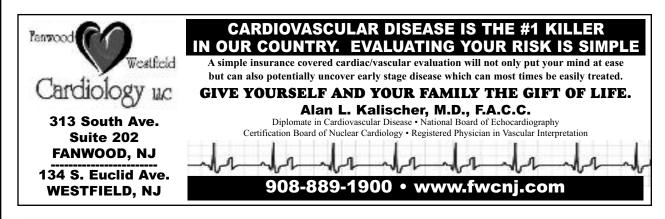
After school Enrichment programs for kids include: Fashion Design, Junior Science Lab, Creative Art Lab, Lego Tech Plus, Comic Book Creation, Dining Etiquette, Social Etiquette, Voice Lessons, Intro to Rock, and Lego-Engineering! There is a variety for everyone to choose from. Spots are still open for 2016, and registration has begun for January 2017. Our Preschool Enrichments include: PreSchool of

Registration is open for Winter and Spring Rock, Lego, Science, KinderGym, and Kids Yoga. Check out our new indoor Sport Programs for ages 2-7 offered at East Coast Conditioning this Winter 2017.

> Kids can "Be Active" this Spring with Tennis, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Golf Clinics, Spring Camps and weekly Soccer classes and weekly Multi-Sports classes. Sport classes are offered for ages 2-14! Check the "Rec Room" Brochure for details on all programs.

> The department's 26th Annual Holiday Concert with the Westfield Community Concert Band and the Edison Intermediate Broadway Singers will be Thursday, December 15 at 7:30pm at Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Ave., Westfield. Come enjoy this free concert to get you in the spirit of the holiday season.

> "Be Active" with one of the programs offered through the Recreation Department. For additional information, please visit our website:www.westfieldnj.gov/recreation for a copy of "The Rec Room" program brochure. FaceBook Also visit our www.FaceBook.com/WestfieldRecreation, or contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 908-789-4080, or by email:recreation@westfieldnj.gov.



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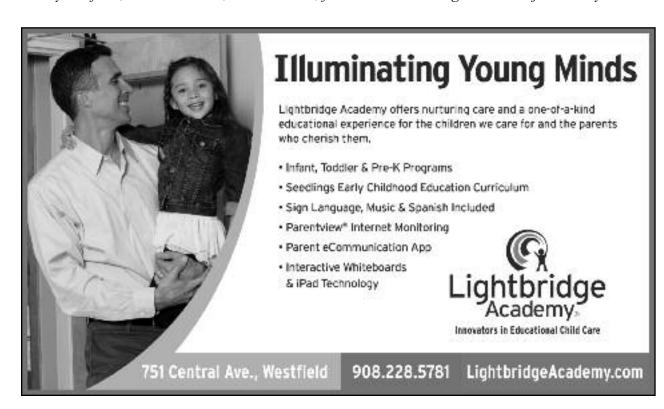
REMEMBERING OUR TROOPS AT HOLIDAY TIME

Department of the Woman's Club of Westfield have been very busy recently filling many Christmas stockings to the brim. These stockings will be sent to our military with the hope of

Nine ladies working with the Home Life bringing a smile to a soldier's face. As a way of showing their appreciation and thanks for all the work that our service men and woman do, it is a gesture of all the sacrifices that they make to defend our country.



(above l-r) Front row: Vivian O'Neil, Juie Nardone, Pat DAngelo. Back row: Diana Peterson, Nancy Hatfield, Jane Walsweer, Ruth Positan, friend to WCW Marguerite Sahaj and Sally Brown.





DECEMBER 2016 EVENTS Westfield Memorial Library

550 East Broad Street 908.789.4090 www.wmlnj.org Mon-Thurs 9:30 am - 9 pm Fri & Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm 1:00 to 5:00 pm Sunday Closed December 24-26 for Christmas Closing at 3:00 pm on December 31 for New Year's Eve and January I and 2 for New Year's

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

12/1	2:00 pm	Make an Origami Holiday Ornament				
12/2	1:30 pm	TGIF! Travel: China (video)				
12/3	2:00 pm	Planist Sandberg and violinist Brock				
12/7	7:00 pm	Re-MemberThen-DooWop Group				
12/8	6:30 pm	Simple Sewing Repairs for You				
12/9	1:30 pm	TGIF! Marvin Hamlisch (video)				
12/10	1:30 pm	Repurposing 101: Holiday Edition				
12/12	2 & 6:30 pm	Foreign Film: Dark Horse English				
12/13	10:00 am	Coloring for Adults (materials provided)				
12/13	7:00 pm	Marlene VerPlanck-Weiss Jazz Series				
12/16	1:30 pm	TGIF! Classic Movie: A Christmas Story				

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

(Check website for sign up info, dates and eligibility)

12/2	3:45 pm	Chess Club for Kids-no age limit, but players must already know how to move the pieces
12/6	10:30 am	It's Movie Time: Animated Versions of Picture Books (caregiver also attends)
12/6	1:00 pm	¡Hora de cuentos! Bilingual Storytime (3-5 years old) (caregiver also attends)
12/6	6:30 pm	Evening LEGO Club (grades 1-5) no kindergarten (Gregiver stays in Ibrary)
12/8 & 12/15	10:30 am	Sing Along w-Sister String (all ages w/caregiver/parent))
12/17	10:00 am	Paws to Read - Young readers practice reading aloud to library dogs





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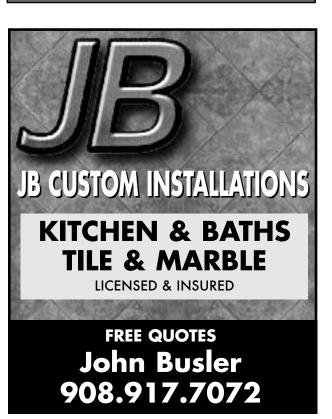
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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

The DWC sponsors family entertainment during the holidays, typically on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays in December. The fun roaming musical entertainment has been a Westfield tradition for decades.

Harmonics Quartet - Thursdays

Strolling Downtown

Dec. 10 & 17 • 6:30-8:30 pm

The Yuletide Carolers - Saturdays

Strolling Downtown Dec. 17 • 1–2 pm,

Watson Highlanders Bagpipe Band - Saturdays

Strolling Downtown Dec. 10 & 17 • 2-5 pm

NJ Workshop for the Arts Alphorns - Saturday

E. Broad St. & Elm St.

Dec. 12 1 pm; Dec. 17 2-3 pm

Saturdays • E. Broad St. & Elm St.

Dec. 10 & 17 • 2-3 pm

NJ Workshop for the Arts Brass Quartet -Sundays

Strolling Downtown

Dec. 11 & 18 • 2:30-4:30 pm

Twisted Mustache - Sundays Strolling Downtown

Strolling Downtown

Dec. 11 & 18 • 1:30–3 pm

FREE HOLIDAY PARKING DECEMBER 17-26, 2016 - Shoppers, diners and visitors may enjoy the gift of free metered parking at designated 2-hour on-street meters and 4-hour parking lot pay stations compliments of the Town of Westfield. Parking restrictions and time limits will be enforced to ensure turnover of the parking spaces. The meters and pay stations will be covered with red.

FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

The Echo Lake Church of Christ in Westfield, NJ is offering a free Bible correspondence course to the public.

The purpose of this course is to help students gain a fuller understanding of the word of God through the study of the Holy Scriptures. This course will be offered in two segments, 1. Humanity's fallen state; God's plan to save. 2. The true identity of the church described in the Bible.

For those who already are Bible versed and/or

are church affiliated, this course will serve to encourage and to aid in developing and strengthening their faith. A certificate will be awarded to students successfully completing this course.

For more information about this course, please contact Ken Brown, Telephone: (908) 233-4646, Email: office@echolakechurch.org.

The Echo Lake Church of Christ is located at 419 Springfield Ave., Westfield, New Jersey. Church Website: www.echolakechurch.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP AT BLOOD DRIVES

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center, which supplies blood products and services to 60 hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers at blood drives. The blood service volunteer is an integral member of the collection team whose task it is assist donors with registration, escorting and

canteen duties, and to watch for post donation reactions. Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules. For additional information contact, Manager of Community Relations, R. Jan Zepka at 732-616-8741 or rzepka@nybloodcenter.org.





WESTFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY TALES FROM EARLY AMERICAN JOURNALISM

The Westfield Historical Society will present its next First Wednesday Luncheon of 2016 on Dec. 7 at 12 p.m. at Echo Lake Country Club. Our speaker will be Dr. Tina Lesher who will be speaking on early American journalism.

As the only real source of information in the nation's early days, newspapers played an integral role in the lives of those new to America. In storytelling fashion, Lesher, will pinpoint some interesting anecdotes that show the importance of the newspaper in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Lesher, professor emerita of journalism at William Paterson University of New Jersey, holds a bachelor's degree in history from Wheeling Jesuit University, a master's from the University of Missouri School Of Journalism, and a doctorate in education, with a specialty in the teaching of writing, from Rutgers. As a Fulbright Scholar, she studied the lives of women in the United Arab Emirates and later penned a novel, The Abaya Chronicles, based on her research; the book won the 2011 award for the

best novel from The National Federation of Press Women. She twice served as president of The New Jersey Press Women. During her newspaper career, she worked at The Scranton Tribune, The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Hartford Courant, and was selected as a Knight Foundation Fellow to spend a summer as a faculty intern at The Columbus Dispatch. Dr. Lesher has resided in Westfield for 40 years.

Those wishing to attend the luncheon may make a reservation by calling Mary Orlando at (908) 233-2930. The luncheon fee of \$30 (WHS members) or \$35 (non-members) includes a three course meal, coffee/tea, and gratuity. The luncheon fee may be paid at the door. Westfield Historical Society memberships will also be available at the luncheon.

Echo Lake Country Club is at 515 Springfield Ave, Westfield. For Echo Lake County Club dress code information, visit: www.echolakecc.org. For more information on the Westfield Historical Society events, visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org.



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HEALING LOSS AND DEALING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., will hold their eight week seminar - "Journey to Wholeness- Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sundays evenings from Jan. 8- Feb 26, 2017.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD. Psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Thompson Youth Center of the church. Patti and Virginia have offered this seminar for 17 years now, and have helped over 2500 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, how to take care of yourself and why this is so important, the changes, challenges and choices that occur, creating cherishable memories, coping with holidays and anniversaries, and dealing with feelings of loneliness and being disconnected spiritually. A special candle light ceremony is held to remember those we have lost, which includes walking the labyrinth and a time of fellowship.

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from "the inside out". It does not matter if your loss is divorce, death or job loss; loss is loss- it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. To register for this life changing event, please call 908-709-1341. No fee is charged. A special teen group facilitator has been added to help

teens with loss as well.

The seminar is dedicated to Patti's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams who had a vision for the seminar 17 yrs ago, wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

"The bereavement group run by Patti Williams and Dr. Virginia Waters has significantly impacted my life in a positive way. I thought I would never survive the sudden death of my mother and it was by sheer chance I found this group. Not only has it provided me with invaluable resources on how to cope with grief and loss it also provided me with an outlet to be with other people who are grieving and have walked my path and understood my grief. That is an incredible gift that words cannot describe. When you're in so much emotional pain and turmoil you need to be with others who are experiencing the same and I've received nothing but compassion support and kindness from the other group members. As far as the group leaders Patti Williams and Dr. Virginia Waters they're phenomenal expertise guidance compassion and support are immeasurable and have literally changed and saved my life. Both of the group leaders have experienced grief and loss themselves that is why they are able to help us who are currently grieving sort through our difficult emotions and somehow find a way to press on. I will be eternally grateful to this group and I encourage anyone who has experienced grief or loss to attend. If my mom were here on earth I know she would also be immensely thanking the group leaders for helping her daughter." Seminar participant.



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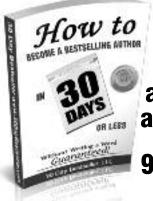
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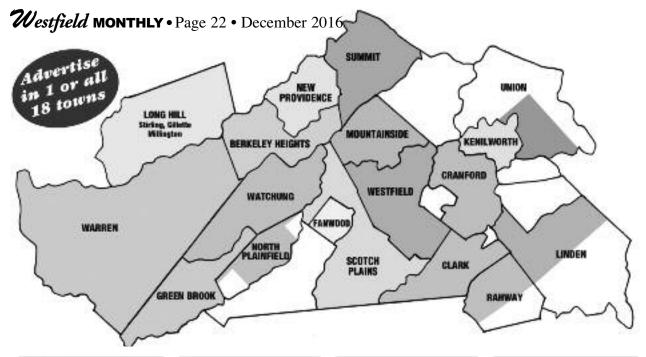
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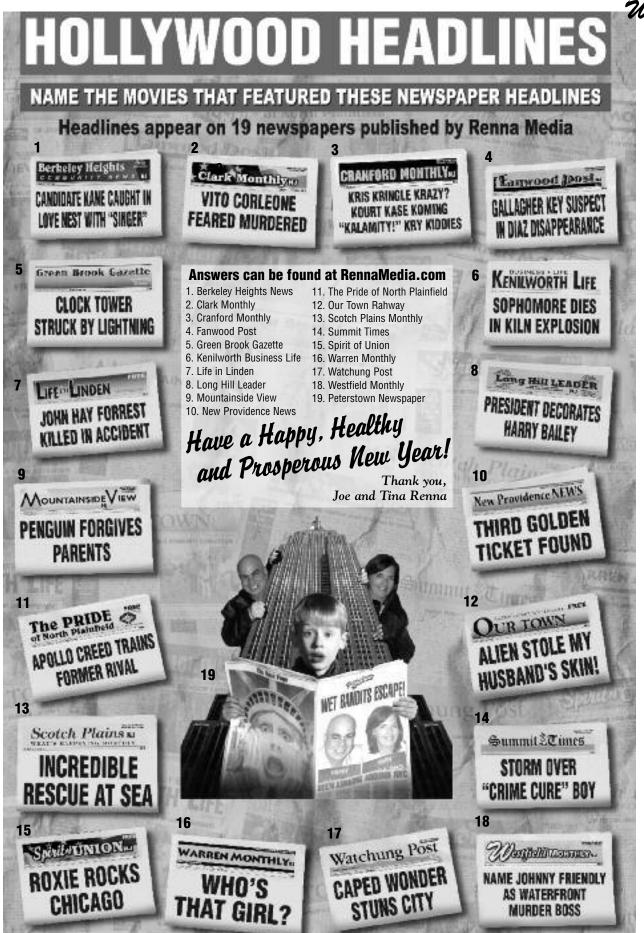


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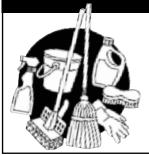
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