

Westfield MONTHLY NJ

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LOCAL QUILTER AND EDUCATOR FEATURED AT QUILT SHOW

“Anything Goes” the quilts of Elsa Gail Hahn will be showcased at the Harvest Quilters of Central NJ’s 34th annual quilt show on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains, NJ from 8am to 5pm.

Ms. Hahn’s whimsical one-of-a-kind creations defy what is typically thought of as a quilt. Art quilts and wall hangings dominate her work, which spans 12 years of exploration in the fiber arts. An original Orca whale study on silk, inspired by a trip to the San Juan Islands, will be a focal point of this eclectic exhibit. Other highlights will include a self-portrait and a unique spin on a children’s book.

Visitors will be treated to a traditional New York Beauty quilt made with non-traditional fabrics of black and brights. Reaching back to her childhood in Westfield where she was born and raised, Ms. Hahn will display her childhood sewing cards, rags from a baby quilt she made at age 12 and her early needlework.

“I’m color driven when I make a more traditional quilt, but I love the challenge of trying to incorporate an item not meant for quilting, such as a dish towel or scarf.”

A retired elementary music teacher, Ms. Hahn spent 34 years in the Westfield school system and directs the Children’s and Bell Choirs at Cranford Presbyterian Church. She splits her time between Edison, NJ and Brewster, MA, the inspiration for her quilt “Cabins on the Beach.” A horseback riding trip to the Triangle X Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in 2005 inspired her to make her first quilt to commemorate the experience.

A winner of multiple ribbons at Harvest Quilters shows, where she is Workshop Chair and the



(above) Elsa Gail Hahn will be showcased at the Harvest Quilters of Central NJ’s 34th annual quilt show on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains, from 8am to 5pm.

Bayberry Quilters of Cape Cod where she serves as Chairperson of the 2017 Challenge quilt, Ms. Hahn expressed that most of all “I cherish all the dear friends I’ve made through quilting.”

Reading, birdwatching, gardening, woodworking and spending time with her extended family enriches her life and fuels her quilting.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located at 1961 Raritan Rd, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. Admission is \$7/adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PRESENTS FOOTLOOSE!

It’s time to cut loose at EIS this spring for our amazing musical, Footloose! The iconic story centers around Ren McCormack, a teenage boy from Chicago, who moves to the small town of Bomont, Indiana. Upon arriving, Ren finds himself at odds with most of the town, including the town reverend, who has convinced the town to outlaw dancing. With the help of friends like Ariel and Willard, Ren tries to convince the town to let the teenagers dance. Footloose! is a fun musical with exciting songs and dances that will leave

you “kicking off you Sunday shoes”.

The show includes many of EIS’ talented cast and crew who, all together, will bring this fun movie from the 1980’s to life. Shows dates are Friday March 10 and Saturday March 11 at 7:30 with a special 5 dollar performance on Thursday March 9 at 4:00.

Tickets are 8 dollars pre sale and 10 dollars at the door. Come enjoy the fun and excitement of Footloose! The Musical.

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“JUNIORS” PREP FOR FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield “Juniors” have been busy preparing their entries for the Garden Club of New Jersey flower show where they will compete in their age groups for ribbons in Artistic Crafts, Horticulture, Design and Photography. The kindergarten through high school members have been working hard on kaleidoscope mosaics and colorful bird masks that must be made of fresh or dried plant materials. They are also challenged to care for houseplant entries for at least two months prior to the event and to make their own fresh flower arrangements the day before the show. Youth and

adult entries from across the state were on display at the New Jersey Flower and Garden Show in February at the NJ Convention & Expo Center.

The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield has a diverse membership spanning all ages, interests and occupations. Affiliated with the National Council of State Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of New Jersey, the club has between 50 and 70 members including a junior membership between first and twelfth grades. For more information, contact Pat Wilson, 908-389-9342 or check the club’s Facebook page and its website, rakeandhoe.org.



(above) Rake & Hoe Garden Club "Juniors" prepared for New Jersey Flower & Garden Show.

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WESTFIELD NATIVE JENNY MADDEN WINS NATIONAL DESIGN AWARD

Jenny (Korecky) Madden, owner and chief designer of Jenny Madden Design, has won the Best of Houzz 2017 award, a nationwide recognition by Houzz Inc., an online platform for home renovation and design with more than 40 million monthly users.

According to Houzz, Jenny Madden Design was selected as the most popular designer in the Customer Service award category, receiving top recognition based on several factors, including the number and quality of recent client reviews. Liza Hausman, vice president of Industry Marketing for Houzz, remarked, "We are so pleased to award Best of Houzz 2017 to this incredible group of talented and customer-focused professionals."

New Jersey client Ellen Hedden shared her review: "We have loved working with Jenny on three projects of very different styles and each with specific challenges (modern apartment, beach house, classic brownstone)," stated. "Her designs are always beautiful and functional. She really listens to her clients to understand their needs. Her process is very collaborative, and she provides just the right number of choices for each

room or part of the project. She is so knowledgeable about furniture, fixtures, artwork, and carpentry that she is able to help with every step of the process. She often identifies our style and needs before we do! We trust Jenny completely with the design and decor of our home."

Jack, a New York City resident, agreed: "Jenny did an amazing job helping us with the design and renovation of our apartment in NYC. It was a challenging floor plan, but Jenny did a fantastic job designing plans that made the space work best for us. Jenny did a great job walking us through our options at each step and making sure we understood the pros/cons of each design choice and ultimately finding the best outcome to fit with our preferences, lifestyle, and budget. Jenny was professional, attentive, and a pleasure to work with."

"I am honored to be selected for this award," stated Jenny Madden whose firm serves the New York /New Jersey area. "Winning this award is certainly gratifying, but even more fulfilling is taking care of every detail for my clients and knowing that when I am done, they can enjoy the space we have created together. It is truly a client/designer partnership," added Madden.

A 2001 graduate of Westfield High School, Madden earned a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Columbia University as well as a Master of Science in Interior Architecture and Design at Drexel University. She has worked on many sides of the industry including construction management. Jenny is also a LEED Accredited Professional, well-versed in the latest green design strategies.

Citing the benefit of working with a designer



(above) Jenny Madden, a 2001 Westfield High School graduate, and owner/chief designer at Jenny Madden Design, has won a Best of Houzz 2017 Award.

experienced in architecture and construction, the Klarreich family commented, "Jenny was great! We enjoyed working with her throughout the entire process. She exceeded our expectations every step of the way. She worked well with both the architect and the builder on a 1 year renovation. Her ability to provide design ideas and then source the products needed was amazing."

A "Best Of Houzz 2017" badge appears on the Jenny Madden Design profile (<http://www.houzz.com/pro/jmaddendesign>) as a sign of her commitment to excellence. This badge helps homeowners identify popular and top-rated home professionals.

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PARENT VOLUNTEERS ACTIVE IN WESTFIELD SCHOOLS

The 2016-2017 Parent-Teacher Council (PTC) of the Westfield Public Schools launched the second half of the school year at its monthly meeting sharing ideas, interests and news about each school. The PTC, led by President Monica Bergin, is an umbrella organization which includes all 10 schools' parent-teacher-student organizations. The PTC has scheduled one meeting a month during the school year, beginning with discussions among the PTO

presidents and PTC Board, and then opening up to the PTO general membership and public. Regular participants at these meetings are Superintendent Margaret Dolan and Board of Education member Amy Root. Topics such as school policies, district budget, student achievement and PTO initiated fundraising activities are discussed. "Our regular meetings with the PTO representatives and PTC board provide an excellent vehicle for two-way

communication," explained Dr. Dolan. "At the meetings we have the opportunity to hear both the good news and the concerns of our parents in our schools through their representatives. At the same time, the parents learn what decisions are being made or considered by the Board of Education.

It's a very helpful process for all concerned. We are so fortunate in this district to have so many dedicated volunteers."



(above l-r) Seated: PTC Board members Joelene Ritter, Suzanne Sherman, Monica Bergin, Amisha Mehta, and Donna Kenny. PTO presidents include (standing, first row) Chitra Singh and Wendy Rotella - Jefferson School; Jenn White - Edison Intermediate School; Alyson Twilley - Franklin School; Carolyn Miller - Westfield High School; Fran Prybylski and Lynn Pritti - Lincoln School; Josephine Stack - Roosevelt Intermediate School; and (second row) Denise Harper - Tamaques School; Jenn Czarnecki - Edison Intermediate School; Yun Won Cho - Washington School; Paola Briones-Marro - McKinley School; Alayne Morgenthal - Westfield High School; Cheryl Bishop - McKinley School; Kerry Mooney - Wilson School; and Suzann Duncan - Roosevelt Intermediate School. Unavailable for photo are: Soo Sang - Franklin School, Sharon Henderson - Tamaques School and Christine Dwan - Wilson School.

HOW DIVORCE CAN IMPACT YOUR CURRENT AND FUTURE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

By: James McGlew II, Esq.

One of the questions often asked by divorced individuals, particularly at the time of their retirement or the retirement of their former spouse, is whether or not they are entitled to receive Social Security benefits based on their prior marriage. The Social Security Administration interprets the law with the philosophy that a divorced person may deserve a personal benefit themselves if they were a long-term spouse of a member of the country's workforce.

Generally, there are two sets of rules which the Social Security Administration applies to determine whether or not an individual will qualify. The first applies if your former spouse is living; the second applies if they are deceased. The interpretation of these rules can sometimes be complicated and is often necessary to have an experienced family law attorney review not only the rules applied by Social Security but the settlement agreement signed at the time of the divorce.

In the first scenario, where the former spouse is still living, the preliminary criteria which need to be met are: (1) your prior marriage lasted for 10 years or more; (2) you are not currently married; and (3) you are 62 years of age or older. Just as important is whether you are entitled to receive Social Security benefits based on your own prior work history. If you are, the amount which you are entitled to receive for your efforts must be less than what you are entitled to receive based on your prior marriage. No individual is entitled to collect both benefits.

A second set of rules apply if an individual's former spouse has already died. Under these circumstances, you would have to be 60 years of age or older, have to have been married to your former spouse for more than 10 years, and cannot be entitled to a retirement benefit which would be higher than what could be claimed based upon your former spouses work record. Finally if you have remarried before the age of 60, you may not be able to receive this benefit. If you remarry after the age of 60, you would probably be entitled to receive it.

It is also important to note that ex-wives and ex-husbands are treated the same under the Social Security statutes, that it does not matter if your former spouse is now remarried and that any benefit you are entitled to receive as the divorced spouse will have no effect on the amount of the benefit your former spouse is entitled to receive based upon his or her work history. Lastly, bear in mind that if you should elect to receive your benefits before your full Social Security retirement age (which you can determine at www.ssa.gov) you will permanently reduce the amount you are entitled to receive.

There are other rules that may apply to divorced individuals. If you subsequently remarry, you generally are prohibited from receiving benefits based on your former spouse's work history unless your later marriage ends (whether by death, divorce or annulment). If your former spouse has not applied for retirement benefits, but has met the qualifications to receive them, you can receive benefits on his or her record if you have been divorced for at least two years. Differing rules apply for those who have been married multiple times.

There are other qualifying factors and determinations which need to be considered to confirm what benefit a former spouse is eligible to receive. It is always best to contact an experienced family law attorney who can discuss your qualifications to receive such benefits. At Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, our practice includes diverse experience in related areas including tax law and elder law which we utilize to provide comprehensive legal advice to individuals who are or have dissolved a marriage. Our New Jersey divorce lawyers represent people throughout the state in all areas of family law, including child custody and support, alimony, asset distribution, and more.

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NJSIAA FENCING QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT

Photo by Marilyn O'Connell.

Nine Westfield High School fencers competed in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) fencing qualifier tournament, in all three weapons categories:

saber, foil, and epee. This is the first time in several years that Westfield was represented at a NJSIAA fencing event. Nicco Chin, who fences saber, qualified for the March 5th Championship

Tournament. The WHS Fencing Club has over 20 members, who practice at the Advance Fencing and Fitness Academy in Garwood, with coaches Jerome Guth and Janusz Mlynek.



(above) Front: Natalia Zeller MacLean (foil, Captain), Emma Downer (foil), Emily O'Connell (saber), Cooper Metzger (saber), Nicco Chin (saber). Back: WHS Coach Ryan Daly, Sam Fritz (epee), Nick Weiner (epee), Gaspard Ronget (saber), Alex Rossen (foil).

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GARDEN CLUB OF WESTFIELD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Garden Club of Westfield meets the second Tuesday of most months at 12:00 noon at the Scotch Hills Country Club, 820 Jerusalem Rd. Scotch Plains, NJ. For more information, call club president Merrilyn Crane at 908-232-3223. All are welcome.

(right l-r) On Feb. 3, 2017, Garden Club of Westfield members Betty List, Irene Ilaria, Elaine Junguenet and Jill Crouch created floral arrangements for veterans at the VA Hospital in Lyons, NJ. This service project supports the Blue Star Program of the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club to honor living veterans.



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NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STUDENT PERFORMED IN ALL AMERICAN BOWL

Westfield High School senior, Michael Hauge, performed in the US Army All-American Marching Band as one of the top 125 high school senior marching band musicians from across the country. Hauge showcased his talent on the clarinet during the largest celebration of high school football in America, the US Army All-American Bowl, which was televised live on January 7. One of only two students from the state of New Jersey who were selected for this honor, he received an all-expense paid trip to San Antonio Texas to participate in this elite ensemble.

"My time with the US Army All-American Marching Band was the greatest week of my life," stated Michael. "Being surrounded by such outstanding musicians and great leaders was an amazing experience. We were able to work with members of the US Army Field Band, which was unforgettable. Everyone showed teamwork, dedication, and focus constantly. Being an All-American was the perfect capstone to my time in marching band, and provided me with memories I'll keep forever."

Michael's band instructor at Westfield High

School had this to add: "The whole WHS Band family is so incredibly proud of Michael. He truly earned this honor. In his four years, he has dedicated hundreds of hours to rehearsal, personal practice, and participation in nearly every band-related activity we offer. Michael is one of the most capable student leaders I've ever taught. He's like an assistant director! It's been a pleasure watching him grow, and I am so glad he had this rewarding opportunity!"

Michael plays the clarinet in the school's Symphonic Band and was chosen to perform in the New Jersey All-State Symphonic Band and the Central Jersey Music Education Association's Regional Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. He also has led the award winning Blue Devils Marching Band as the Drum Major.

Having earned straight A's during his high school career thus far, he is a regular entry on the

school's distinguished honor roll. Michael is a National Merit Semi-Finalist and has earned perfect scores on the SAT in Reading, Writing and US History. He was selected to the National Honor Society and elected as an officer. In addition, Michael received first honorable mention in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge and helped the WHS Math team receive first place at the 2016 National Math Convention. At the Convention held in St. Louis, Michael was presented with an individual trophy – earning 14th place in Mu Differential Equations. He has been a participant on both the Westfield High School Chemistry and Physics teams at the Merck State Science Day competitions. Michael also takes the time to volunteer, including as a Westfield High School Transition Leader trained to run groups that support the transition of ninth grade students into the school.



(above) Westfield High School senior, Michael Hauge (second from right), showcased his talent during the largest celebration of high school football in America, the US Army All-American Bowl. The standout musician, student and National Merit Semi-finalist was one of only two students from the state of New Jersey invited to perform in the January event.

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band schedule

Sunday, March 12

“Bloody Callan” at Bridgewater
“Round The House” at Gillette

Three Seatings Available:
3:30, 5:30 & 7:30 pm



Tuesday, March 14

“The Snakes” at Bridgewater
“Bloody Callan” at Gillette

Two Seatings Available:
5:45 & 7:15 pm

Thursday, March 16

“Round The House” at Bridgewater
“Lagans Love” at Gillette

Two Seatings Available:
5:45 & 7:15 pm



ST. PATRICK'S DAY ♣ Friday, March 17

“Hooley Shooters” at Bridgewater 12-3 pm

“Courtney Colletti” at Bridgewater 5-9 pm

“Lagans Love” at Gillette

**Performance Times:
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GO RED WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR

Go Red Women's Health Fair was held at The Chelsea at Fanwood and was co-sponsored by Little Hearts Big World CPR and First Aid Instruction. The third annual event featured women who have survived heart attacks. There

were healthy snacks, vendors, a mini-yoga class, and blood pressure screenings courtesy of the Fanwood Rescue Squad. February 3rd is National Wear Red Day to raise awareness of heart disease, the number one killer of women.



(above) Laura Madrigano, a heart attack survivor, speaks.



(above) A Mini yoga class was enjoyed.



(above) Pam Gabel and Annette Watson, the new Director of Community Relations and new Executive Director of The Chelsea at Fanwood.

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(above) Rescue Squad Captain Nancy Mustachio takes a visitor's blood pressure.

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LINCOLN SCHOOL HONORS GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL PERSONS

Lincoln School in Westfield recently held a Grandparents & Special Persons Day to honor and entertain those with a special place in the hearts of the kindergarten children. Led by music teacher Christina Toullos, the kindergartners performed several songs including Bushel and a Peck, I'm Gonna Mail Myself to You, Hot Chocolate, and A Song for Grandparents Day, which were accompanied by spirited well-rehearsed movements. "I'm so proud of how enthusiastically the students sang for their grandparents and special people. They were bursting at the seams with excitement to share their songs on stage," stated Ms. Toullos. The guests at both the morning and afternoon events were welcomed by Lincoln School Principal Audrey Zavetz, who shared poems about grandparents as well as original thoughts expressed by the children themselves in The ABC's of Grandma and Grandpa Lincoln School Kindergartners.

(right) Cayla Panaro showed her grandmother, Kay Choi, the artwork which she created in the Lincoln School classroom.



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FREE EVENING CONCERTS MARCH 8 AND MARCH 29 IN WESTFIELD

The Musical Club of Westfield invites the public to two free concerts in March. The first concert is on March 8, 2017, 7:30 pm, at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield NJ, and features a wonderful range of musicians and compositions.

Pianist Yuly Verbitsky will begin the concert with Schubert's Impromptu in A-flat major, Op. 142, No. 2. This will be followed by two compositions by Franz Liszt: Sonnet 104 by Petrarch in E major and 'Un Sospiro' (A Sigh), Étude in D-flat.

The second portion of the concert will feature tenor saxophonist Chris Dellarso accompanied by pianist Mary Beth McFall. They will perform Sonata for Tenor Saxophone and Piano, Op. 117, composed by Trygve Madsen.

Violinist Debra Biderman and pianist Carolle-Ann Mochernuk will close with program with the first and fourth movements

of the Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano by César Franck.

The second concert, presented on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 pm, also at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, is the annual Junior Musical Club's Ensemble Concert featuring talented teen-aged musicians. These young artists have chosen instrumental duets, trios and quartets, and also song selections, from the immortal music of the past 300 years.

The Musical Club of Westfield, celebrating its 101st year, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that offers monthly performances by local and guest musicians, sponsors the monthly meetings and the yearly concerts of the Junior Musical Club, and supports college music majors with scholarships.

The audience is invited to a reception following each concert to enjoy light refreshments and to meet the artists.

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POETRY AND SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNERS

The Woman's Club of Westfield has announced the winners of its 2017 Youth Poetry and Short Story Contest. The winners are from the nearby towns of Cranford, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

The winners for poetry are: Alexander Valencia, son of Deborah and Joseph Valencia for his poem, "Rem." Alexander is a fifth grade student at Washington School in Westfield; Cyril Maliakal, son Marina of Ashok Maliakal for his poem, "Snowflake Waltz." Cyril is a seventh grade student at Holy Trinity Interparochial School in Westfield; Grace Kane, daughter of Debra and Bill Kane for her poem, "A Dark Night." Grace is a ninth grade student at Union Catholic Regional High School in Scotch Plains.

The winners for Short Story are: Mahi Panjwani, daughter of Menka and Vikram for her

short story, "How the Butterfly Got Its Color." Mahi is a second grade student at Jefferson School in Westfield; Liam Rene Concha, son of Ernestina Concha for his short story, "The Golden Gate Bridge ." Liam is a fifth grade student at Washington School in Westfield; Maddie Swanson, daughter of Krista and Scott Swanson, for her short story, "The Suitcase." Maddie is a sixth grade student at Orange Avenue School in Cranford; Charles Rule, son of Pamela and Bruce Rule, for his short story, "nickel- and -dime." Charles is a twelfth grade student Westfield High School in Westfield.

The Ladies of the WCW congratulate the winning students and their families on the wonderful work they submitted to this contest and encourage the authors to continue writing.

HALE SERIES ANNOUNCES 2017 SLATE OF SPEAKERS

As it enters its 10th year, the Hale Speaker Series will continue its pattern of hosting lectures by individuals with ties to Westfield.

The 2017 schedule kicks off on Wednesday, March 15, with a talk by David Weinstein, a Westfield native who serves as the state's chief technology officer. He will discuss the policy and technologies relative to New Jersey's cybersecurity.

Hale Series attendees will learn about what goes into the production of a television show or music video in a May 19 speech by Tom Ucciferri. A Westfield High School alumnus, Ucciferri has spent more than three decades as a camera man and stage manager in the TV industry.

The research of Erin Vogel, an associate professor of anthropology at Rutgers, includes studying the lives of orangutans at her field station in Indonesia. Dr. Vogel, who grew up in Westfield and is a WHS graduate, will discuss her work with wild orangutans in a Hale Series talk on Sept. 27.

The series' final 2017 speaker will be Douglas

Yearley Jr., also a Westfield High graduate. As CEO and director of Toll Brothers, the largest luxury home builders in the country, Yearley will focus his Nov. 1 talk on the America's housing trends.

The Hale Series was founded by Lee Hale in memory of his wife, Anne, who passed away in 2007. She and Mr. Hale, who died in 2013, were active members of the Westfield community. Funding for the series comes from grants provided by the Anne and Lee Hale Fund and the Thomas Glasser Foundation.

Over the past decade, The Hale Speaker Series, hosted by the Friends of Westfield Memorial Library, has featured hour-long talks by politicians, business professionals, educators, writers, etc. Special attention has been paid to selecting speakers who grew up and/or live in Westfield.

Linnea Rhodes, a member of the Friends' board, serves as head of the Hale Speaker Series committee whose members include Barbara Hale, Mary Orlando, Sherry Cronin and Tina Leshner.

MARCH 2017 EVENTS
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 Fri & Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm 1:00 to 5:00 pm Sunday

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

3/3	1:30 pm	TGIF! Young @ Heart (video)
3/8	7:00 pm	Rhythm 'N Sound - Musical Review '40s to '80s
3/10	1:30 pm	TGIF! "Koch" (video)
3/13	2 & 6:30 pm	"Theeb" Foreign Film Arabic 100 minutes
3/14	10:00 am	Coloring for Adults-Library provides materials
3/17	1:30 pm	TGIF! "Eight Days a Week-Tearing Tears" (video)
3/18	1:30 pm	Spring Gardening with Karen Camden
3/21	6:30 pm	Indian Cooking with Charu Jhalani
3/22	7:00 pm	Sit in the Corner Encountering the Suffragists
3/25	1:00 pm	Music from China Ensemble

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
 (Check website for sign up info and dates. Most programs open to Westfield Library cardholders only)

3/2, 9, 16	10:00 am	Strong as a Mother Fitness Class (Class is for adults; babies and toddlers can accompany them)
3/3	3:45 pm	Chess Club-must know how to move pieces
3/4	10:30 am	Dinoman & His Giant Blow up Dinosaurs 4+ yrs
3/7	7:00 pm	Close Encounters with Birds of Prey 6+ yrs
3/10, 17, 24, 31	10:00 am	Playgroup for Babies 0-23 months (Parents/caregiver attends with child)
3/11	10:00 am	Paws to Read-Library Dogs & Beginning Readers
3/14	6:30 pm	Evening LEGO Club grades 1-5, no kindergartners
3/21, 28	10:30 am	7's on Thursday Storytime (Parents/caregiver attends with child)
3/21, 28	1:00 pm	Afternoon Fun for 4's and 5's Storytime
3/23, 30	10:30 am	3's on Thursday Storytime (Parents/caregiver attends with child)



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CARRIE, THE MUSICAL - PERFORMANCES MARCH 16, 17 AND 18

The Westfield High School Theatre Department will be presenting Carrie, the Musical, as their Spring Musical production on March 16, 17 & 18, 2017 at 7:30 pm. Based on Stephen King's bestselling debut novel, the story of Carrie White has seen several chilling incarnations, including the classic 1976 film, starring Academy Award nominee Sissy Spacek in the title role. This musical adaptation, which is very faithful to the original novel, follows the tragic tale of Carrie White, a high school student who has been endlessly tormented by the popular, "in" crowd, invisible to the caring, yet oblivious faculty, and unsupported by unyieldingly rigid, religious mother. Carrie, however, discovers that she is not like the myriad other teenage victims of bullying. She has been blessed with the psychic gift of telekinetic powers and, as the inner rage grows within her so, it seems, do these potentially lethal abilities, culminating in a night you'll never forget.

Carrie, the Musical hasn't returned to the stage since its legendary (infamous) 1988 Broadway

production. However, recently the show's original authors joined with MCC Theater for a newly reworked and fully re-imagined vision of this gripping tale. Updated to 2010 and set in the small town of Chamberlain, Maine, Carrie features a book by Lawrence D. Cohen (screenwriter of the classic film), music by Academy Award winner Michael Gore (Fame, Terms of Endearment), and lyrics by Academy Award winner Dean Pitchford (Fame, Footloose).

The WHSTD production, featuring over 130 student actors, technicians and musicians, once again capitalizes on the myriad talents of the WHS fine arts students and their various disciplines as well as continuing our tradition of exploring theatrical works which explore contemporary society via lesser known productions.

Tickets will be available February 25, 2017 by visiting the WHSTD.BOOKTIX.COM. For more information regarding past and present performances, you can visit the WHS Theatre Department website at teacherdjd.wix.com/whstheatredept.



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CRISIS LISTENING LINE TO OFFER VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a good listener? Do you want to make a difference in the life of someone in crisis? Crisis listening line Caring Contact will be offering Excellence in Listening training beginning March 20 at the First Baptist Church at 170 Elm Street in Westfield. Classes run for three hours one night a week, plus one full weekend, ending June 12.

This award-winning training enables graduates to become volunteer listeners on the hotline, helping people in crisis and perhaps saving a life. Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed caring and crisis hotline and listening community, providing active listening support and best-in-class training to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. More than 100 trained volunteer listeners answered nearly 9,000 calls last year from people in crisis, having suicidal thoughts or simply feeling depressed and lonely.

Through the training, volunteers receive 52 hours of comprehensive training in active listening. In addition volunteers become certified in Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Volunteers develop the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support. The cost is \$299 and includes materials and certification fees. The training also is excellent for individuals who do not want to become volunteer listeners. This training is valuable for educators and parents, first responders, social workers, counselors, clergy, business managers and community group leaders.

The suicide rate in the United States has been increasing every year since 1999, rising more than 24 percent between 1999 and 2014. Every 13.7 minutes someone in the United States dies by suicide and more than 42,000 people died by suicide in 2013, including 4,600 young people. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth aged 10-24 and four out of five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs. Suicide prevention training results in a significant increase in a trainee's readiness to intervene with a person at risk.

Anyone interested in registering for the training should visit caringcontact.org/volunteer-listener-application/.

"Caring Contact offers a flexible, rewarding volunteer opportunity," said Janet Sarkos, the hotline's interim executive director. "People who have been told they are a good listener and have a yearning to volunteer should consider becoming a Caring Contact listener." Following training, new volunteer listeners are supported by seasoned listeners during 24 hours of internship before they take calls on their own. Even once a volunteer is a certified listener, the hotline provides a range of support and training opportunities to allow them to keep honing their skills.

Colleen Mannix has been volunteering at Caring Contact for about two years. She came to the hotline with a master's degree in counseling and was impressed with the professionalism of the training and how prepared it makes volunteers to take calls. "I thought it was really comprehensive," Mannix said. "They prepare you for every scenario. It provides an understanding of mental health that is really important for volunteers who don't have a background in counseling."

Eileen Burlinson has been a part of the Caring

Contact listening community for many years. "This experience of being a listener has changed me in so many ways," she said. "Accepting people as they are at the moment, not needing to change them. I think learning to listen the way we learn at Caring Contact is a gift. We sit back and try to really hear what the person is saying. It doesn't matter what you are going to say, the caller just wants to be heard. Once this becomes a part of your life, you tend to use the skills in all aspects of your life."

Anyone interested in volunteering should visit <http://caringcontact.org/give-support/volunteer/>. There are non-listening volunteering opportunities, as well.

Caring Contact serves Central and Northern New Jersey and is a primary responder to calls to the national suicide prevention line (1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-SUICIDE) that originate in New Jersey. Callers also reach Caring Contact by dialing 908-232-2880.

Those preferring to seek supporting through texting may text "heart" to 741-741. The hotline also provides best-in-class training to the Central and Northern New Jersey Community.

If you are in crisis and need someone to listen, call us at 908-232-2880. To learn more, visit www.caringcontact.org.

GRIEF IS A JOURNEY AND A PROCESS

A free eight-week seminar - "Journey to Wholeness- Healing the Grieving Heart" will be held on Sundays evenings from April 23, 2017- June 11, 2017 at The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ.

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 about 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, deal with loneliness, building a support system, etc.

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. Teen group available. To register for this life changing event, please call 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

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

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IRS URGES PUBLIC TO STAY ALERT FOR SCAM PHONE CALLS

The IRS continues to warn consumers to guard against scam phone calls from thieves intent on stealing their money or their identity. Criminals pose as the IRS to trick victims out of their money or personal information. Here are several tips to help you avoid being a victim of these scams:

- **Scammers make unsolicited calls.** Thieves call taxpayers claiming to be IRS officials. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They may also leave "urgent" callback requests through phone "robo-calls," or via phishing email.
- **Callers try to scare their victims.** Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victim if they don't get the money.
- **Scams use caller ID spoofing.** Scammers often alter caller ID to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victim's name, address and other personal information to make the call sound official.
- **Cons try new tricks all the time.** Some schemes provide an actual IRS address where they tell the victim to mail a receipt for the payment they make. Others use emails that contain a fake IRS document with a phone number or an email address for a reply. These scams often use official IRS letterhead in

emails or regular mail that they send to their victims. They try these ploys to make the ruse look official.

- **Scams cost victims over \$23 million.** The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, or TIGTA, has received reports of about 736,000 scam contacts since October 2013. Nearly 4,550 victims have collectively paid over \$23 million as a result of the scam.

The IRS will not:

- Call you to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail.
 - Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe.
 - Require that you pay your taxes a certain way. For instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card.
 - Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
 - Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.
- If you don't owe taxes,** or have no reason to think that you do:
- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
 - Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page. You can also call 800-366-4484.
 - Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

If you know you owe, or think you may owe tax:

- Call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you.

Phone scams first tried to sting older people, new immigrants to the U.S. and those who speak English as a second language. Now the crooks try to swindle just about anyone. And they've ripped-off people in every state in the nation.

Stay alert to scams that use the IRS as a lure. Tax scams can happen any time of year, not just at tax time. For more, visit "Tax Scams and Consumer Alerts" on IRS.gov.

Each and every taxpayer has a set of fundamental rights they should be aware of when dealing with the IRS. These are your Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Explore your rights and our obligations to protect them on IRS.gov.

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Westfield Jaycees have raised over \$100,000.00 in scholarships thanks to your support. Awards go to deserving Westfield High School Seniors based upon financial need and commitment to volunteerism in the community.

For more information, on how to purchase tickets or donate, contact:
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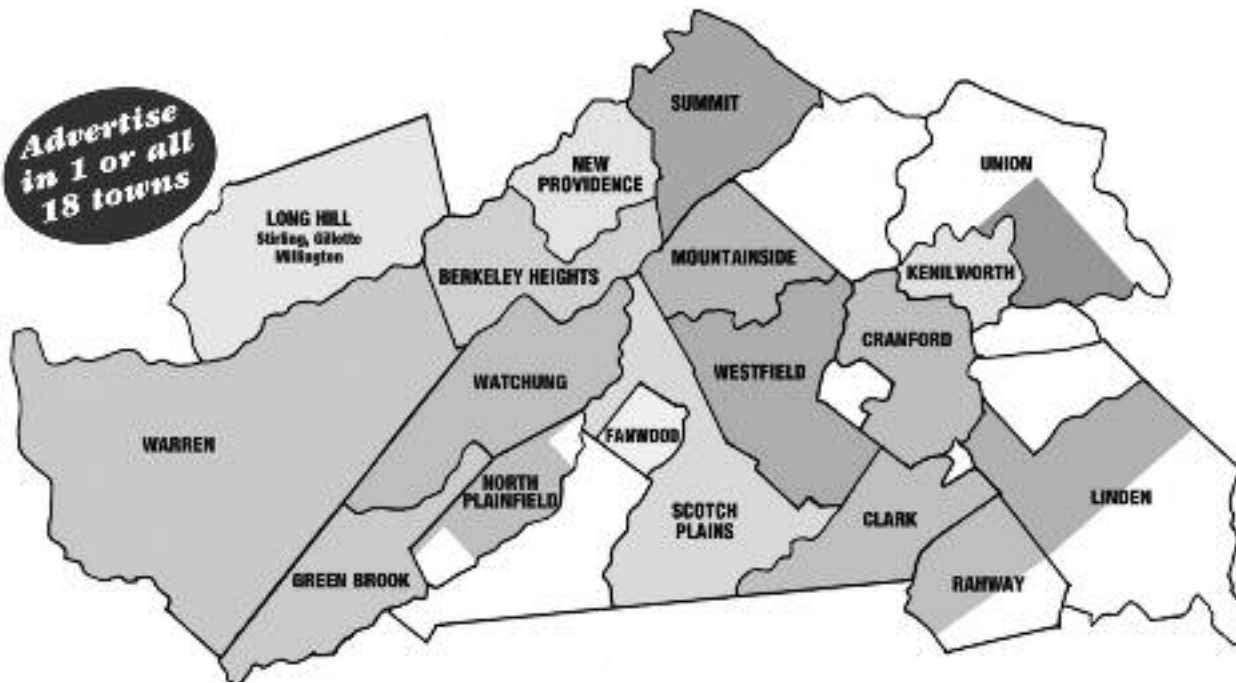
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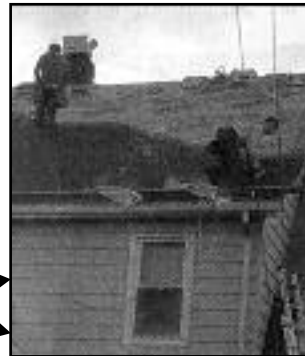
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