



MAN OF THE WORLD...Longtime Westfield resident Alfred Morasso, Jr., left, was recently elected as the 47th International President of the Circumnavigators Club, effective January 1, 2003. The club's membership is made up of those who have sailed, flown, driven or otherwise trekked around the world - crossing all meridians in one direction. It also has a foundation that sponsors scholarships for students to make around-the-world study tours. Mr. Morasso, whose father was club President in 1959, is pictured receiving the whale's tooth gavel from Past President Charles Blaisdell, center, and Jeffrey Kelly, outgoing President, at the club's Annual Meeting.

Melissa Colvard Receives Member Service Award

SCOTCH PLAINS - Melissa Colvard, a caregiver in the Kangaroo Classroom at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA's Grand Street Child Care Center, received the 2002 Member Service Award.

The award is given to a staff member who exemplifies outstanding member service. Colleagues nominate their peers for the award, which is given at the Y's Annual All Staff Meeting.

Melissa received the award for her care and assistance to a mother and child when the mother was unexpectedly late picking up her youngster from the YMCA's childcare center.

After half an hour, when the normally prompt mother had not yet arrived, the staff received a telephone call from a neighbor indicating the mother was lost on her way home from a meeting and would arrive shortly.

When the mother arrived, she was

visibly upset and shaken. Melissa volunteered to follow the family home to make sure everyone was alright. She also fixed dinner for the children and got them ready for bed, before driving home to Pennsylvania. She then got up the next morning to attend classes at Kean University.

Scotch Plains PBA Seeks Toys For Kids

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Policeman's Benevolent Association has kicked off its Eighth Annual "Toys For Tots" toy drive to benefit disadvantaged children.

New toys and games may be dropped off in a special barrel in the lobby of the Scotch Plains Police Department.

The deadline for donations is Friday, December 20, to enable the gifts to be distributed in time for the holidays. For further information, please call (908) 322-7100.

Westfield Foundation Lists Grants For Fourth Quarter

WESTFIELD - The Trustees of the Westfield Foundation recently approved \$44,500 in grants for the fourth quarter of 2002 to support area agencies and programs.

The Youth & Family Counseling Service received \$5,000 to support a counseling program at the Westfield Community Center addressing coping skills for adolescents.

A grant of \$4,000 has been awarded to the Cerebral Palsy League to purchase furniture and play equipment needed for expansion of the Come Play and Learn Early Childhood Center, the only dual licensed pediatric medical day care center in the state.

The Greater Plainfield Habitat For Humanity, which operates solely on a volunteer basis, received a grant of \$2,500 for construction materials and property to continue the organization's work in 2003. To date, 22 homes have been built by volunteers and partner families.

WYACT (Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre) was awarded \$5,000 to help defray the costs of its 2003 summer productions. The program enables Westfield youngsters, as well as other emerging talent from across New Jersey, to participate in youth-theatre full scale productions free of charge.

A grant of \$4,000 was awarded to NJ KidPower, an international organization which provides programs emphasizing positive prevention education. The monies will be used for personal safety skills workshops in Westfield schools.

The Westfield Cultural Arts Center is an organization whose purpose is to create and operate a community arts and history center that would offer year-round artistic, cul-

tural and history-related activities for local and area residents. The Trustees awarded \$15,000 to fund a preliminary schematic design and cost estimate for a cultural arts center in Westfield.

The Westfield Bach Festival received a grant of \$5,000 in support of a three-day Bach Festival to be held in February of 2003.

An award of \$4,000 was granted to the Westfield Chamber of Commerce to expand the Holiday Lights Program to the South Avenue and Central Avenue business districts.

For further information regarding the Westfield Foundation, please contact the Foundation office at P.O. Box 2295, Westfield, 07091, or call 908-233-9787.

NJAWBO Reveals Holiday Auction Plans

MOUNTAINSIDE - The Union County Chapter of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners (NJAWBO) will hold its Holiday Reception and Auction on Thursday, December 12, at 6 p.m. at L'Affaire, located on Route 22, East, in Mountainside.

All women business owners in Union County, both NJAWBO members and non-members, are invited to attend. All items that are donated will be auctioned at the event, with proceeds to benefit The Center for Hope Hospice in Linden, this year's selected charity.

All contributors of auction items will be recognized in the Holiday Auction Program. For more information on how to donate an item, or to attend the event, please call Doreen Iossa of the Holiday Auction Committee at (908) 527-1166.



SAVING SCOUTS...Evergreen scouts saved 28,000 pennies as a summer project. Pictured, left to right, are: Pack 34 Representative Bill Sherman, Scouts David Sherman, Brett Murray, Matt Glassett and Brian Dunn, with Commerce Bank Branch Manager Mark Charbonneau at the "Penny Arcade" coin sorter.

Evergreen Cub Scouts Raise 28,000 Pennies

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Cub Scouts of Evergreen Elementary School Pack No. 34 in Scotch Plains recently combined fun with fundraising. At their June pack meeting, each cub was given a bank and asked to save pennies over the summer. The scouts placed the banks in high traffic areas of their homes and, over the next few months, the scouts, their families and friends slowly filled the banks with their extra pocket change. The banks were collected at the October pack meeting and taken to Commerce Bank on North Avenue in Scotch Plains. There, with the help of Branch Manager and Assistant

Vice President Mark Charbonneau, an estimated 75-plus pounds of coins were loaded into the bank's automated "Penny Arcade" for sorting and counting. In the end, the scouts had raised \$280.39. The top penny saver was scout David Sherman.

Scouts Brian Dunn and Luke Vuono were also among the top savers. The entire amount will be used to help support scouting events and community projects throughout the year.

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Potomac Homes employee wins Front-line Caregiver's Recognition Award for Excellence in Long Term Care

For Immediate Release Wednesday, October 30, 2002
Contact: Andrea Stone, Marketing 800 935 9898

Ramsey: Potomac Homes' own Annie Smith was honored today at a special luncheon hosted by NeighborCare Pharmacy with the Front-line Caregiver's Recognition Award for Excellence in Long Term Care.

This award recognizes the most outstanding certified nursing assistants who demonstrate outstanding professionalism in leadership, compassion and patience; advocates quality care and resident rights, and dedicates themselves to their facility and to the field of Geriatrics. The Administrator nominated candidates and selections are reviewed by a committee of professionals.

"Annie is a remarkably gifted person whose compassion for her work and her residents is constant and unwavering. Annie can often be heard tirelessly encouraging the residents using validation therapy to complete even simple tasks that become increasingly challenging for those caught in the web of dementia. People say that Annie has a way with people, even an intuition honed by years of loving and caring for the elderly," notes her Administrator Tamara Singer. "People say that she is gifted, but to our residents and their families, Annie is the gift."

President of Potomac Homes Ben Pearce agrees, "Sometimes as our residents peer through the fog of dementia it seems that they are all just tiny drops of water in a cloud of anxiety and despair, but you know, sometimes when a ray of sunshine hits those drops just right, they sparkle...they do sparkle!" "Annie has brought the sparkle to the eyes of our residents."

Families prefer Potomac Homes because of their intimate environment. "There is a sense of familiarity with the staff here," claims Alan Maxfield whose wife Margie has been a resident of Potomac in Paramus for almost three years. "There is very little employee turnover here because the staff enjoy the family-style work environment. Long-term employees learn to recognize subtle changes in residents' condition, so that the staff gain an intimate knowledge of their residents' personal habits and characteristics, much the same as a mother would recognize a subtle change in their child. This enables them to spot problems quickly as they arise." "I think this is the best environment for Margie, and I don't have to worry about her care, Potomac's employees are the cream of the crop," concludes Mr. Maxfield. Annie has worked for Potomac Homes for five years.

For more than a decade, Potomac Homes has made it possible for those with Alzheimer's disease or dementia-related illness to enjoy the benefits of full-time, professional care in a comfortable residential setting. The Potomac Home concept is expanding into Morris, Mercer, Somerset, and Monmouth counties in the near future. For more information or to schedule a private tour contact Andrea Stone at (800) 935-9898.

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