



ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON... Jason Watson's art exhibit, titled "Character Development: New Drawings and Prints," is featured at Union County College's Tomasulo Gallery until June 29. Above are "Untitled (Newark Museum Drawing #1)" and "Untitled (Double Heads)"

## Watson's Characters Develop The Imagination at Tomasulo

By MARYLOU MORANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — For much of art, it is what is visible, what can be seen, that makes it profound.

The opposite is true of Jason Watson's art. His work is profound, not for what is readily seen, but for what is at first unseen.

Mr. Watson's show, "Character Development: New Drawings and Prints" is at Union County College's Tomasulo Gallery until June 29.

Mr. Watson's graphite drawings, etchings and mixed media works appear to consist of layers, and it is the viewer's challenge to uncover the layers, one at a time.

The drawings and prints in "Character Development" are replete with an eclectic mix of ancient Roman household objects, African ceremonial objects and 18th century portraits — many tucked unobtrusively here and there within a piece of artwork.

The layering of objects in Mr. Watson's art is but one step in his artistic process, which begins with a photograph or sketch of an object at the place he initially encounters it. Most of the time, this is at a museum or historical monument.

His drawings and sketches then become the basis for creating larger prints and drawings. As he works, his preliminary sketches and photographs

are created into figurative sculptures, which are interwoven with the Roman and African objects.

Mr. Watson sees his work as having the ability to "document and reconsider the remnants of our collective cultural past... This art process is my way of investigating the boundaries between historical fact and creative invention."

Another interesting aspect to Mr. Watson's work is his incorporation of letters of the alphabet into his art. These letters are not only taken from the English language; some of them are created by the artist himself. Strung together throughout the pieces of art, the letters present the viewer with cryptic messages, and add to the mystery of what lies beneath the layers.

In many of the pieces, Mr. Watson's letters serve as transitions between characters, and, as the artist explains, "create a balance between three-dimensional pictorial illusion and two-dimensional flat graphic space."

Alphabetic letters obtrusively protrude in the background of "Untitled (Detail, Newark Museum Drawing #1)" as well as in "Double Heads." The later, a graphite on paper, can be interpreted as a progression of time. One of the double heads is young while the other is old. Might this be the representation of the same person at two different stages of life?

"The drawings of Jason Watson are both technically brilliant and innovative," commented Tomasulo Gallery Director Valeri Larko. "There's magic in the way he takes inanimate objects, such as museum sculptures, and makes them come vividly to life through his command of the pencil, his creative use of perspective, and his unusual juxtapositions of imagery."

Mr. Watson holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Visual Arts from the State University of New York at Purchase. He is has received much recognition for his art, including a Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation fellowship to the Virginia center for the Creative Arts in 2005, and a full scholarship residency at the Lower East Side Printshop in New York City.

The Tomasulo Gallery is located in the Kenneth McKay Library on Union County College's Cranford Campus. The campus address is 1033 Springfield Avenue. Attended gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays, and on Saturdays. Evening hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays. For more information, call (908) 709-7155.

## Westfield Garden Club Tour Showcases Eight Unique Gardens

By CHRISTIE STORMS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Warm sunshine and gentle breeze provided the perfect backdrop for the Westfield Garden Club's "The Other Side of the Fence" tour of eight local properties last week. While each garden appeared to burst with colorful blooms and lush greenery, no two were alike on this unique tour.

The beauty began at curbside when visitors approached the Frawley residence, the site of the historic Charles Addams House. Stepping up the front walkway, visitors were surrounded by rows upon rows of vibrant flowerbeds. Clematis and rose covered trellises welcomed guests into the backyard gardens with a wide variety of plants from velvety "lamb's ear" to orchids and hellebore, all tended to by the homeowners, who acquire plantings from several states including Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

The Caruanas' extensive property featured three separate gardens and a charming storybook-style replica of their carriage house. Mounds of yellow day lilies surrounded the pool and patio area, and one could wander down a multitude of paths while admiring numerous varieties and sizes of hostas and greenery on the way to a stunning circular rose garden.

At the Plant residence, the owner's use of multiple colors and textures abounded even in areas that did not have flowers. Striking blooms such as blue allium, which are single ball-shaped flowers that can grow quite tall, added eye-catching interest on this property that creates its impact by primarily using only shrubs and perennials instead of annuals to provide color.

The Mullin garden in nearby Mountainside, the only one located outside of Westfield, showcased hundreds of varieties of plantings that filled almost the entire front and backyards. Narrow pathways allowed visitors to linger right in the thick of the many blooms, including irises, peonies, lilies, daisies and digitalis. The home also featured a sun-filled solarium convenient for planting year-

round. The grounds of the stately Priest residence back a golf course, which further accentuates the lovely gardens and wooded areas that envelop the home. Neatly manicured pachysandra beds frame most of the front and side yards with soft curves, and paths lead visitors through smaller



gardens. The patio is surrounded by rows of shrubs and unique plantings along with abundant urns and containers brimming with vivid blossoms.

Water lilies line a charming fish pond at the center of the Jesters' gardens situated on the property of their circa 1741 historic brownstone home in Wychwood. Petunias, hydrangea, and spirea pack a colorful punch bordering unique plantings, including a type of banana tree. The backyard houses a vegetable garden, while roses and lilacs trail over a nearly century-old split rail fence out front.

An enchanting white picket fence encircled by plantings including vi-

brant pink rose bushes welcomes visitors at the front of the Chermak home. The property features a sunshine and a shade garden as well as abundant wildflowers and herbs, all relatively new as the owners reportedly only began planting the gardens when they bought the home in 2001.

The unusual combination of cactus and cosmos attracts attention at the front of the Pascal residence, a circa 1871 Victorian home that has been restored to its original grandeur. Roses abound, cascading over fences and stonewall, climbing trellises are even seen as wrought iron features on the front gate. Lilacs are tucked around the property in keeping with Victorian tradition.

According to Jane Curtis, president of the Westfield Garden Club, the gardens are selected for the tour approximately one year in advance. Members approach property owners and then chairpersons evaluate each and make the final selections. Careful attention is paid to details, such as assuring that no two gardens are too similar in style and plantings.

Proceeds from the Garden Tour, which is only held every few years, go primarily toward community service programs in Westfield and through Rutgers as well as to support the Gene O'Neal Scholarship Fund. The club is also responsible for the beautification of the town through plantings downtown, in local parks and at the Westfield Library.

## Band Begins 94th Season Of Concerts in the Park

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Connors, begins their 94th summer of concerts performing on the gazebo in Mindowaskin Park tonight, Thursday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m., continuing on June 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Featured selections for the June 22 concert include highlights from Broadway, including the selections, *Mame*, from the music of Jerry Herman, the composer of the renowned musical, *Hello Dolly*. Highlights from *Mame* include, "Open a New Window", "We Need a Little Christmas" and of course, "Mame". The band will also perform "Broadway Show Stoppers Overture" featuring hits from *Gypsy*, *Funny Girl* and *The Fantasticks* amongst others.

A featured selection for the evening of June 22 will be "Rondo from the Bassoon Concerto, K.191" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with soloist Phillip Castillo on bassoon. Phillip is a junior music education major at Kean University. He is also an EMT, who performs in regional productions of Broadway musicals and is a member of the Kean University Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble, where he performs on bassoon and trombone.

On June 29, the band will perform their annual Independence Day Celebration, featuring a special presentation by the Westfield Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution.

In addition to the band's traditional patriotic melodies such as "Fantasy on 'Yankee Doodle'" by Mark Williams, they will also perform "Porgy and Bess Medley" by George Gershwin and "Prairie Dances" by David Holsinger amongst others.

Highlights for the evening include Sam Calello, a Scotch Plains resident, performing the classic "What A Wonderful World," originally made famous by Louis Armstrong. Mr. Calello, who has played the saxophone since 13, later refining his musical experience in the Army Band system. He later set his instrument aside for many years picking it up again as he joined the Westfield Community Band in 1995. Mr. Calello is a professional photographer who also performs with the Nostalgia Swing

Band, The Westfield Dixieland All-Stars and the Redeemer Lutheran Church ensemble.

The band will continue their concert season on July 6, 13 and 20, followed by the Westfield Community Swing Band on July 28.

Mindowaskin Park is located next to the Westfield Municipal Building at 425 East Broad Street in Westfield. The event is free to the public; audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Presbyterian Church on the corner of East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue.

The Westfield Community Band is sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department, Bruce Kaufmann, director. For further information, contact (908) 789-4080 or go to the band's website at [westfieldcommunityband.com](http://westfieldcommunityband.com).

## WCP Auditions Are Underway June 25, 26

WESTFIELD — Director Joann Scanlon of Westfield Community Players (WCP) is holding open auditions for the Ivan Menechell play *The Cemetery Club* on Sunday, June 25, and Monday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the WCP theater at 1000 North Avenue West, Westfield. The theater can be reached at (908) 232-9568.

Play rehearsals will start in early September for performances on October 7 through 28.

Calling themselves the "The Cemetery Club" for their group visits to their late husband's graves, the three widows stay friends although they are different.

Lucille, fancying herself the flamboyant swinger, looks forward to wreaking sexual revenge on her late, unfaithful mate. Doris maintains a matronly, fiercely traditional widowhood, while Esther is somewhere in between.

When a pleasant man takes an interest in one of them, the remaining two have serious doubts about how this will affect the longtime trio.

The cast requirements are as follows: four women and one man all able to play 60 plus years of age.

For additional information about the auditions, call the director at (973) 635-6043.

## DWC Announces Upcoming Summer Schedule of Events

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) has released the schedule of events slated for the summer.

The 10th Anniversary of the Westfield "Sweet Sounds Downtown" Jazz Festival will be held Tuesday night from 7 to 9 p.m. starting July 4 and ending on September 5.

To celebrate 10 years, the DWC will be hosting 10 nights of the "Sweet Sounds Downtown." Forty-four groups will be participating in the festival this year with four or five different groups performing each night on sidewalks and street corners, including four nights of performances on South Avenue.

In the event of rain, the performances will be moved to the following Wednesday at the same time.

The Fifth Annual Downtown Westfield 5K and Pizza Extravaganza will take place on Wednesday, July 26 at 7 p.m. The event will be featuring live music by Michael Craig Band, along with technical t-shirts to the first 1,500 entrants, embroidered caps to the first 600 entrants, pizza, beverages, and dessert.

Downtown Sidewalk Sale Days will take place from Thursday, July 13

through Sunday, July 16. For further information visit the DWC website at [www.WestfieldToday.com](http://www.WestfieldToday.com) or contact the DWC at (908) 789-9444.

## WHS Garners Three Rising Star Awards

WESTFIELD — The Fine Arts Department of the Westfield public schools announced that three Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards were presented to Westfield High School following its exceptional performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* this spring. The winners include: Steve Markowski, Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role (Judas); Michael Kimmel and Lisa Weinsbrott, Outstanding Lighting Design; and the chorus of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Outstanding Performance by a Chorus.

William Matthews, choral music teacher at Westfield High School, was musical director, while Joseph Nierle, who will be retiring as drama teacher this year, directed the cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and many other award-winning productions during his career at Westfield High School.

## POPCORN™

### Cars: Showroom Perfect



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By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
4 popcorns

If there were an Academy Award category for best voice performance in an animated feature, Paul Newman's rendering of a 1951 Hudson in co-directors John Lasseter and Joe Ranft's *Cars* would make him a shoe-in. The knowing lilt in his ripened tones is the legitimizing green light, granting permission for the fantasies intrinsic to both cars and cartoons to gloriously meld.

The result is a heartfelt, technologically wondrous entertainment that plays on all the desired levels and then some. Which means that grandpa can take little Rodney to the movies without compromising his tastes one iota.

Naturally, *Cars* takes a little time to warm up before it really gets rolling. There's the simple but endearing plot to set up, plus a winsome motley cast of sheet metal and fiberglass to introduce.

Leading the charge from the first row is Lightning McQueen, rookie racecar and prime example of youthful hubris. Expertly verbalized by Owen Wilson, you really want to like the kid. Heck, he's got everything going for him: speed, pluck, and a really nice red paint job.

However, after witnessing his bravado in a recent three-way tie with the similarly audacious Chick Hicks (Michael Keaton) and the legendary King (Richard Petty), we fear the impudent youngster is cruising for that proverbial bruising. Some corrective alignment may be in order.

It's here that Gramps furtively checks the side view to see if his own little hot rod is getting a tankful. If so, perhaps that'll be one less idiot passing us on the right someday.

Rarely at the Bijou are such moral lessons and opportunities for bonding so painlessly delivered. And it just gets better. Tuning up the tale for the big showdown, the Piston Cup promoters decree that a match race among the three first-place finishers is to take place in one week's time at Los Angeles International Speedway.

But when Lightning's transport truck Mack (John Ratzenberger) falls asleep at the gearshift, and his dislodged big shot spills onto the road, complications ensue. Trying to find a way out of the desert, our speeding little braggart happens upon and commits a traffic violation in Radiator Springs. The one-horse (or should it be one-car?) town sentences him to community service. City car meets country car.

Amidst the anthropomorphic personae's foremost flippers, Newman's aforementioned Doc Hudson, aside from being the town's physician and judge, is also its unofficial philosopher. It's his secret past

that proves a sparkplug to the protagonist.

And then of course there's Sally Carrera (Bonnie Hunt), a 2002 Porsche 911 who, tired of her lawyering life in L.A., has found peace and serenity operating the forsaken burg's Cozy Cone Motel. But don't think that means the attorney has lost her gumption for championing lost causes, like restoring Radiator Springs to its former glory, or perhaps even providing the inspiration for a cute racecar's road to redemption.

In short, if Aesop lived today and had a thing for cars, he might have very well written this movie. All the moral parts and accessories are there, including what it takes to be a real winner.

Only the most jaded of filmgoers will not marvel at the sumptuous artwork that propels "Cars" along its instructively merry highway. And while you don't normally associate breathtaking scenery with animation, that is hereby changed.

Sound too sentimental? Not to despair. And no need to kick the tires and slam the doors to realize it. But there's also a nuts and bolts romance under the hood for gearheads. Included as standard equipment, *Cars* is the finest celebration of our love affair with the automobile to come down the cinema pike in years.

*Cars*, rated G, is a Buena Vista Pictures release co-directed by John Lasseter and Joe Ranft and stars the voices of Owen Wilson, Bonnie Hunt and Paul Newman. Running time: 116 minutes

## WCP Playhouse Hosts TV Pilot Auditions

WESTFIELD — Hope Grown Productions and Fazio Filmworks are holding open auditions for a television pilot demo, which teaches children about making good food choices.

Actors are sought to appear on film and participate in a CD recording of the script. Filming will be done in July, followed by the CD recording. Needed are one boy who looks age nine to 10; one girl who looks age nine to 10; one athletic adult male, age 18-30 and one adult female, age 40-70. The adult female is needed for the CD recording only.

Auditions will be held at the Westfield Community Playhouse, 1000 North Avenue, Westfield, on Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. Those who audition should be prepared to move and read from the script. Those auditioning should bring headshots and résumés, if available. Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Fazio will direct. For more information, call (973) 218-0482.



Christie Storms for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
JESTER'S COURT...A mix of unique plantings highlighted the Jester Garden on the Westfield Garden Club Tour.

## Historic Preservation Commission Presents Awards

WESTFIELD- At its Fourteenth Annual Harry Devlin Historic Preservation Awards presentation on June 19 in the Westfield Council Chambers, the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (WHPC) gave 2005-2006 Awards to the following property owners:

Mr. and Mrs. David Schildge, 411 South Euclid Avenue, for period appropriate reshingling, roofing, addition, porch restoration and landscaping.

Dr. and Mrs. Peter Cordeiro, 837 Kimball Avenue, addition sensitive to original architecture, new front walk and appropriate landscaping.

Mr. and Mrs. David Gately, 825 Lawrence Avenue, period appropriate painting and landscaping.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Horowitz, 5 Kimball Circle, restoration of existing improvement, new roof, and appropriate painting.

The Robert and Virginia Bauer Family Branch of the YMCA of Westfield, 422 East Broad Street, adaptive reuse-sensitive to area.

Eileen Fisher Store, 7 Elm Street, restoration and period appropriate painting.

Kiehl's Store, 132 East Broad Street, restoration and period appropriate painting.

These awards are given annually to recognize property owners who have



HOME SWEET HOME...The home of Dr. and Mrs. Peter Cordeiro on 837 Kimball Avenue earned a 2005-2006 Historic Preservation Award.