

FestiFall Is Set Sunday In Downtown Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) will sponsor the 26th annual FestiFall celebration this Sunday, September 27, welcoming all to downtown Westfield. Music will be featured beginning at 11 a.m. with the Pre-School of Rock and continuing throughout the afternoon, along with many other activities.

The perennial street fair, taking place between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., will showcase local businesses and guest vendors, whose booths will line the streets and offer food, games, products, services and other fare. The event will be held along Elm, Quimby, Broad and Prospect Streets.

"The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce is very pleased to bring the 26th anniversary FestiFall to Westfield," said Gene Jannotti, GWACC executive director. "Once again, we expect thousands to be in attendance and to enjoy the festive atmosphere created in downtown Westfield."

"I am so proud of our vibrant and multiple award-winning downtown area. Certainly much of its continued success is attributable to the efforts of the many businesses that are chamber members," said Westfield Mayor

Andy Skibitsky.

The roster of performers includes Little Secret at noon followed by MuDavis Performing Arts Company, The Core at 1:30 p.m., The Backbeat at 2:45 p.m., and UMOJA Dance Studio at 3:45 p.m., finishing with Nikki Briar and the SweetBriar Band.

The following streets will be closed to vehicles on Sunday starting at 6 a.m.: East Broad Street from North Avenue to Central Avenue, Quimby Street, Elm Street from North Avenue to the Texaco Station, and Prospect Street from North Avenue to Ferris Place. Street parking will be prohibited in the main exhibition area all day Sunday.

Downtown businesses are advised to have employees park in the South Avenue train station lot. Downtown residents are being asked to park in municipal lots out of the main exhibition area. Skateboarding and rollerblading are prohibited in the FestiFall area.

Attendees are encouraged to park in the South Avenue train station lot and walk to the activity area via the station underpass. More information can be obtained by calling the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce at (908) 233-3021.



SOUND OF THE SHOFAR... Rabbi George Nudell, of Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains, teaches students how to blow a shofar on opening day of the synagogue's Religious School, September 9. The students learned about this ancient instrument that is sounded during the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Pictured with Rabbi Nudell are, from left to right: Evan Katz, Joseph Entin and Jenna Goldberg.

Westfield Library to Feature Cake-Decorating Program

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library will present a program on cake decorating on Wednesday, September 30, at 7 p.m., with the goal of teaching participants how to decorate cakes like a professional. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

Chef Suzanne Zimmer Lowery will demonstrate basic cake-decorating skills. She will spin her turntable to fill and frost a cake, as well as teach how to color butter cream icing and use the proper techniques for handling a pastry bag to create various simple as well as lavish borders. Her final, edible work will be festooned with roses and leaves.

Following her training at The New School for Social Research's New York Restaurant School, Ms. Lowery began working as a pastry chef at several establishments including Keens Chophouse, one of New York City's oldest restaurants. She currently teaches culinary arts at several local cooking studios.

Adults and teenagers age 16 and older are welcome to attend the program.

This program is free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. MURAL cardholders belong to the 43 libraries that are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. To see if their library participates, interested persons should visit the Westfield Memorial Library website, wmlnj.org, and click on the "About Us" tab. To register for the program, visit wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, option 0.

Library hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Registration Open For Youth Ice Hockey

WESTFIELD — Registration is open for fall/winter Westfield Youth Ice Hockey, including the middle-school team. For more information, visit westfieldhockeyclub.com.

'Faith and the Front Page' To Headline FCC Series

WESTFIELD — The First Congregational Church (FCC) of Westfield will host a variety of learning opportunities this fall, designed to enhance spiritual and intellectual growth for all ages. All events are free and open to the public.

Visitors and prospective members are invited Sunday, October 4, to "Bagels & Beliefs," an opportunity to learn about the history and mission of the First Congregational Church in an informal setting. The informational brunch will be held following the 10 a.m. service and childcare is available. Participants are invited to share their beliefs and ask questions of the Reverend Dr. Mark Boyea, senior minister, and other FCC members and staff.

Beginning Monday, October 5, "Faith and the Front Page" returns to the adult studies program. This popular series examines current events from a moral, ethical and Biblical perspective. Participants will explore how faith informs one's opinions on difficult topics. The nuclear treaty with Iran, "Black Lives Matter," and same-sex marriage upheld by the Supreme Court are just some of the issues that will be discussed from a spiritual viewpoint. The series will continue over five consecutive Monday eve-

nings through November 2, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the church's Chapel Lounge.

Starting Tuesday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m., "Religious Fervor: The First and Second Great Awakenings" will examine the two major religious revivals in the United States that had a profound effect on established Protestant denominations and brought about the creation of new ones, including the United Church of Christ. Over five consecutive Tuesdays through November 3, the series will consider how those Great Awakenings continue to be influential today.

The FCC also offers a wide variety of Christian education and volunteer service for children and teens, including a weekly children's sermon, church school and Confirmation program. An active youth group for middle- and senior-high students combines fun, fellowship and community outreach, including Bridges runs to Newark and New York City and an annual Super Bowl party for the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless.

The FCC, a member of the United Church of Christ, is located at 125 Elmer Street. For more information, call the church office at (908) 233-2494 or visit fccofwestfield.org.

Center For Hope Auxiliary Plans Benefit Fashion Show

SCOTCH PLAINS — Tickets are on sale now for the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary's 18th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon. The event will take place on Sunday, October 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Pines Manor, located at 2085 Lincoln Highway, Edison. Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased by calling Dot Chard at (732) 521-5362.

Each year this benefit event is attended by more than 450 women, who enjoy a luncheon and show featuring fashions, accessories and jewelry, which this year will be provided by Lord & Taylor. More than 100 baskets will be raffled off, along with a gift card/apron valued at over \$1,000. A Grand Raffle will include a \$3,000 travel voucher, a \$1,000 Visa gift

card and a \$500 ShopRite gift card.

All proceeds from the fashion show go directly to support the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, located at 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains. The center is a non-profit organization that provides services for terminally ill patients and their families regardless of their financial situation. Loving end-of-life care is provided at two inpatient facilities in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth, and also in a patient's home.

For information regarding the Auxiliary, visit the Hope Chest Thrift Shop at 26 Prospect Street, Westfield, or call the store at (908) 233-9973 and speak with one of the volunteers. Information also can be found at centerforhope.com. The Auxiliary always welcomes new members.

Cranford Hist. Soc. Invites Families to 'Ox-Cart Man'

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society will present a program for children entitled "The Ox-Cart Man" this Sunday, September 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. It will take place at the Crane-Phillips House Museum, located at 124 North Union Avenue, Cranford. The program will begin at 2:15 p.m.

Visitors will hear a story about what life was like for a 19th-century farming family, including the many different historic jobs that followed the change in seasons.

Authored by Donald Hall and illustrated by Barbara Cooney, "The Ox-Cart Man" was written in 1979 and received the prestigious Caldecott Medal in 1980. Cranford Historical Society Education Chair

person Christine Glazer will read the story. In addition, each child who attends this program will be able to make leaf and apple prints. This craft is appropriate for children age 6 or older.

Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated. Space is limited so reservations are required. To reserve a seat, call the Cranford Historical Society's office at (908) 276-0082 or e-mail cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net.

Established in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society, a non-profit organization, has been dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of Cranford's history. For more information, visit cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

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MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Many homeowners have long subscribed to the notion that empty-nesters benefit greatly from "downsizing" to smaller homes that carry lower monthly costs and require less maintenance. However, this conventional wisdom has been increasingly challenged by those who argue that "trading up" gives older homeowners the opportunity to own the homes that they always wanted. It also affords them sufficient space to accommodate visiting children and grandchildren, as well as their prized possessions. In addition to trading either up or down, there is also the appealing and practical option of moving "sideways," which places empty-nesters in newer homes of roughly the same size with more age-appropriate design (single story,

etc.) and better amenities. Each has its merits. Bigger may be better for some empty-nesters when choosing a new home. A simple change of layout that includes a first floor master bedroom could be all it takes to fulfill their needs and wishes. We have a successful history of helping buyers find ideal properties. Reach us today to plan an initial meeting. The office is conveniently located. Helping you to achieve your real estate goals is our #1 priority. *HINT: Many empty-nesters are choosing to move to more age-appropriate homes in the same communities in which they raised their children instead of moving great distances that isolate them from their expanded families.*



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Catch the W.A.V.E.!

Westfield Area Volunteer Expo

Wednesday, September 30th
Open House: 10am-2pm

Municipal Building Community Room
425 East Broad Street, Westfield

Do you want to make a difference in your community and in the lives of others?

Come to this free event designed to connect people who want to donate their time and talents with local organizations who need volunteers.

Meet one-to-one with agency representatives and learn how you can help your community!

No pre-registration required.

Participating organizations include:

- Boy Scouts (Patriots Path Council)
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
- Community Access Unlimited
- CONTACT We Care
- Girl Scouts (Heart of NJ)
- Jewish Family Service of Central NJ
- Literacy NJ
- Mobile Meals of Westfield
- Westfield Area Y
- Westfield Day Care Center
- Westfield Senior Resource Center
- Youth & Family Counseling
- YWCA Union County

Sponsored by the Westfield United Fund

In partnership with:



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- The Westfield Recreation Department
- The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Questions? Contact Deirdre Gelinne at the Westfield United Fund
dgelinne@westfieldunitedfund.org
908.233.2113

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