

Annual Westfield Stamp Club Show Presents History Through Philately

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Stamp Club will hold its annual Stamp Show on Saturday, February 23, in the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

This is the 41st year the club is presenting the show, which is held in part to attract new members.

If a visitor asks one of the members at the show why he or she collects stamps, and what they collect, they'll get a different answer from almost everyone.

Many, naturally, collect United States stamps. Collecting one of each United States stamp is easy (if you don't go back further than 1920). Interestingly, the events commemorated are snapshots of United States history.

For those willing to wade a little deeper, there are many options. Individuals can pick another country. They can go back earlier with United States stamps (where the competition for fine-looking stamps, and the cost, both rise steeply).

Enthusiasts can specialize in one series of stamps, or even just one stamp, looking at the different varieties, printings, uses, etc.

There are also collectors of "postal history" — that's collecting the whole envelope as it went through the mail, showing not only who sent it, and who received it, but with all kinds of other markings.

The markings can be ordinary ("Return: Addressee unknown"); interesting ("Via camel mail" on an Egyptian letter of 1890); ominous ("Disinfected"); dramatic (a scorched cover marked "Recovered from the Hindenburg"); or positively weird (the legendary British letter, delivered months late, with a note from the post

office: "Found adhering to a snail.")

There are envelopes with "cachets" — pictures or rubber stamps added to celebrate some event, added by someone other than the post office. An interesting local example came from the back of a 1937 letter from Westfield to Westfield — via airmail! The cachet indicates this was the first "All-New Jersey" airmail. The cancel on the front of the letter has a 9:30 a.m. Westfield postmark, and you can just make out the Newark receiving cancel upside down at the bottom of the cachet, showing it was received at 3 p.m. the same day — November 16.

It has no great value, but is fascinating as a record of the time when Eastern Air Lines flew into Westfield. (The aircraft were a bit smaller then, obviously!) This was obviously mailed just to get a record of the event — what is called a "philatelic" cover.

As for the stamp show itself, signs will lead visitors to the event. Attend-

ees will have an opportunity to buy stamps from dealers. There will also be stamp exhibits — a selection of stamps (or covers) from a collection put together to cover a particular subject or to tell a story.

A wide range of exhibits will be featured, among them an exhibit of United States stamps. "Tropical" exhibits are popular as well, and there are also collections of different stamps showing a particular topic, such as "Trains on Stamps."

Stamp Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Westfield Municipal Building. A program is held at 8 p.m., such as a slide show; a speaker describing and showing part of a personal collection, or nights in which members take five minutes each to show an interesting item from their collection.

Time is also devoted to coffee and socializing. Visitors are always welcome.

Man Charged With Trying To Lure 'Teenager' Into Sex

AREA — A 43-year-old Marlboro Township man was being held in the Union County Jail in Elizabeth last week after being charged with attempting to have sex with someone he believed was a 15-year-old Rahway girl.

Assistant Union County Prosecutor Anne K. Frawley said a six-month investigation into the activities of suspect Joseph P. Parisi began in August, when Scotch Plains Police Detective James Scannell started receiving what were described as "filthy" messages while posing as a teenager online.

After the case was taken over by Plainfield Detective Sergeant Michael Hoose, the defendant allegedly asked for photographs of the "teen" and pledged to meet her for the purpose of having sex.

Parisi was arrested last Thursday afternoon in the parking lot of a shopping mall in Clark by Detective Sergeant Hoose and Prosecutor's Detective Kenneth Leissler of the county's High Tech Task Force, Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan said.

"Sadly, the defendant not only showed up where he said he would, but brought along items he planned to use during intercourse," the prosecutor confirmed.

Parisi, a mortgage writer who works in Saddle Brook, was charged with second degree attempted sexual assault and three counts of transmitting obscene material over the Internet.

He faces an additional charge from a new statute, often referred to as the "Electronic Luring" law, that makes it a third degree offense to "attempt to lure or entice a minor into a structure or motor vehicle by electronic means."

Mr. Manahan had pressed legislators to adopt the new "Electronic Luring" law, which was signed into law on August 27, to help detectives in such cases.

Bail for Parisi was set on the five charges, including the second-degree charge that carries a potential prison penalty of up to 10 years upon conviction, at \$30,000 by Superior Court Judge John Triarsi.



1937 WESTFIELD AIRPORT... Philatelists from The Westfield Stamp Club document that there was airmail service from Westfield in 1937, based on the above letter stampings. What is not clear is why that letter, sent from Westfield, was flown from Westfield airport to Newark Airport, then flown back to Westfield Airport for postal delivery to Mountainside.

Community Access To Sponsor Fair On Housing and Jobs

AREA — Community Access Unlimited will be among the sponsors of a Free Employment and Housing Fair on Saturday, February 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kean University, University Center Building, located at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union.

The event will feature free credit counseling and special information sessions on housing and employment aspects in English and Spanish.

Many organizations and companies will have tables set up to offer individual information, assistance and employment opportunities. Experts will be on hand to help with questions regarding home buying and the job market in 2002.

For more information on booth space or how to participate in the day's events, please call the Housing Director, Ronda Broxton, at (908) 354-3040, extension no. 374.

State Pension Fund Loses \$60 Million In Enron Crash

According to Kevin J. O'Toole, from the New Jersey General Assembly, the recent financial collapse of Enron Corp. has not only caused financial harm to many of the company's employees, retirees and stockholders, it has sent financial shockwaves through New Jersey as well.

According to data provided by the

State Division of Investment, the state's pension system has lost nearly \$60 million due to Enron's financial collapse. The state pension system owned 2,645,000 shares of Enron stock at a book value of \$61.6 million. During the past several weeks, it has been sold at roughly \$1.7 million, a loss of \$59.9 million.

Letters to the Editor

Article on Artist Bronna Butler Comforts Commuters in California

I am an ex-Westfield resident (circa 1969-1985) now living in Southern California with plans to move back into the area at the end of this year.

I have The Westfield Leader delivered out here and read it on my train commute into Los Angeles, often prompting many an interesting discussion with fellow commuters about New Jersey "goings-on."

Leader Reader Thanks Pen Pal Project

Thank you (Marylou Morano) so much for the terrific story you wrote about the L.A. Spencer School/Boynton Gardens Pen Pal Project

The elderly pen pals were so excited to see the article. Many asked for copies to send to their families. The article is going to be reproduced for the students, as well as the Superintendent of Schools in Newark. The photo made this all the more special for everyone.

The Pen Pal Project is a vital part of the good work contributed to the community by the residents of Westfield Senior Citizen Housing. Publicizing this project delighted all the participants. However, what I believe is more important is letting people know our elders are busy contributing their skills, wisdom, and experience to people of all ages in local communities.

Sharon Greenbaum
Second Westfield Senior Citizens
Housing Corporation

Evan Molloy Qualifies For Fall Dean's List

WESTFIELD — Evan J. Molloy has earned high honors Dean's List recognition for the fall 2001 semester at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa.

A 2001 graduate of Westfield High School, Evan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. Molloy of Westfield.

Peeler, Spiegel, Moss Receive Dean's List Recognition at Pingry

AREA — Theodore Corvino, Assistant Headmaster of the Short Hills campus and Lower School Director of The Pingry School has announced that Westfield residents Gordon Peeler and Adrienne Spiegel and Mountainside resident Erik Moss have been named Honor Roll students.

Program to Spotlight 'Big Apple' Excursions

WESTFIELD — "Super Saturdays @ The Westfield Memorial Library" will continue with "Get to the Core of the Big Apple!" on February 23 at 1 p.m.

Participants will learn how to experience and enjoy the New York metropolitan area without going broke; get information on free and inexpensive theatrical performances, unique budget restaurants; behind-the-scenes guided tours; historical houses; places for afternoon tea and museums.

Howard Goldberg, President of Adventure on a Shoestring, will present the program and answer questions. Handout information will be provided.

Free tickets are available for patrons with a Westfield Library card at the Circulation Desk. For more information about this program, please call (908) 789-4090 or visit the library at 550 East Broad Street.

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— Michelle H. LePoidevin The Westfield Leader

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