



Miss Amanda Jane Podlas and Benjamin J. Williams

Miss Amanda Jane Podlas To Wed Benjamin J. Williams

Mr. and Mrs. John Podlas, Jr. of Scotch Plains have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Amanda Jane Podlas, to Benjamin James Williams of Raleigh, N.C. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Keith Williams of Raleigh.

A 1997 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, the bride-to-be received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Television/Sports Production, with a minor in advertising, from Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. in May of 2001.

She is employed by the Newark Bears Professional Baseball Club in Newark.

Her fiancé, a 1998 graduate of Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C., earned his master's degree in education from Campbell University, where he is employed as the Assistant Athletic Trainer and Clinical Instructor.

The couple plans to be married in October.

Workshop Scheduled On Effective Résumés

SUMMIT - Joanne Goldbeck will lead a workshop on techniques for preparing an effective résumé on Tuesday, March 5, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at the Women's Resource Center, 31 Woodland Avenue in Summit. There will be a fee of \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Interested individuals are asked to call the Center at (908) 273-7253 to register as soon as possible, as space is limited.

To get information about similar programs, please call the Center or visit www.womensource.org and click on Career Issues.



Miss Melissa Ann Whelan and Matthew C. Robinson

Miss Melissa Ann Whelan Engaged to Matthew Robinson

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald L. Robinson of Westfield have announced the engagement of their son, Matthew Charles Robinson of Cranford to Miss Melissa Ann Whelan of Atlantic Highlands. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard J. Whelan of Leonardo.

A graduate of Middletown High School North, the bride-elect earned a degree in finance from St. Bonaventure

University in 1997. She is a financial accountant for Siemens in Iselin.

The future bridegroom graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy and is currently attending Ramapo College, where he will complete a degree in history in May. He intends to pursue a career in teaching upon graduation.

The wedding is planned for August.

Reed-Reeves Arboretum Posts Dates for Programs

SUMMIT - The Reeves-Reed Arboretum, located in Summit, has revealed the dates for two upcoming programs that will be held at the Arboretum.

On Wednesday, February 20, Nancy Wright will teach a class from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on how to force branches to blossom.

Besides offering hints for forcing the process, Ms. Wright will show attendees how to make a simple arrangement of cherry, quince and other blossoms.

Each participant will be able to take home several types of branches to try forcing for themselves. The cost is \$24 for Arboretum members and \$30 for non-members.

On Saturday, February 23, Dr. Thomas Ombrello, a Union County College Professor, will present a slide show, lecture and hike on how to increase winter texture and color in a garden.

Dr. Ombrello will begin at 10 a.m. with a slide show highlighting the distinctive barks, buds and shapes of trees in winter and will discuss how to maximize their visual and textural interest in the garden.

After a break for coffee and doughnuts, he will lead participants on a trek of the woodland paths of the Arboretum, during which he will point out real-life examples of winter interest in the garden. The activity is intended for adults.

The entire program, entitled "Winter Woodland Walk" will be from 10 a.m. to noon on February 23, beginning in the Education Center of the Arboretum, located at 165 Hobart Avenue. The fee is \$12 for Arboretum members and \$18 for non-members. To register, please call (908) 273-8787.

Knights to Sponsor Blood Drive Feb. 23

WESTFIELD - Westfield Council No. 1711 of the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a blood drive on Saturday, February 23, at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 2400 North Avenue, West, in Scotch Plains, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The drive is open to all area communities.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good general health. The entire donation process takes less than an hour and includes a free mini medical (temperature, iron count, pulse and blood pressure).

Photo or signature identification is required and donors should show their Social Security number.

Start Planning During February For Your Garden Next Summer

By JODY MELLOAN

It may be cold and dreary outside, but if your mail is anything like mine, the garden catalogs arrive almost daily, each filled with alluring, full-color photos of dahlias as big as cartwheels, roses cascading over fences and infinite varieties of the "newest, finest, longest-blooming" plants imaginable.

What a spur to your imagination as you make lists of exotic new flowers to order! But be cautious. Also in this week's mail was a brisk, plain-speaking article in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's latest newsletter that warns, "Don't expect catalog nurseries to give full details...their job is to sell plants."

The article advises readers to be wary of plant descriptions that lack the proper Latin names, which indicate that the plant has been thoroughly tested for the characteristics of its genus, species and cultivar.

The writer also tells readers to watch out for comments like "chokes out weeds...useful for soil erosion...freely self-sows."

Such fulsome phrases can mean that the plant is aggressive to the point of choking out your long-time favorites. In our area, however, there are other sources of inspiration and information to jump-start your spring garden plans.

The 2002 New Jersey Flower and Patio Show will be held at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset from Thursday, February 21, through the following Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. the first three days and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

For 36 years, this show has featured unique display gardens, demonstrations of flower arranging, gardening seminars and plants for sale. A couple of weeks later, the famous Philadelphia Flower Show will open at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

A highlight of this huge show will be 60 full-scale gardens representing countries around the world. The flyer that arrived in my mailbox says, "This year's theme - The Pleasures of the Garden - will entice your senses and caress your imagination with elegance and style." How's that for seductive phrasing? The show will be open from March 3 through March 10.

Closer to home, you can get sound advice on garden practices and problems by telephoning the Garden Helpline, (908) 654-9852, and speaking to one of the Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers, or by visiting their offices at 300 North Avenue, East, in Westfield. And, finally, there is a rich lode of garden information on the Internet, with hundreds of websites covering everything from deer-resistant plants (www.deerbusters.com) to weeds running wild (www.nps.gov/plants/alien).

Such sites have been invaluable to our niece, who has a small business planting window boxes for restaurants and shops in Chicago. She has assembled her own computerized plant reference catalog with color photos and plant care information that she has downloaded from the web.

Jody Melloan is a member of the Garden Club of Westfield.

Westfield Stamp Club Plans Annual Show

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Stamp Club will hold its annual Stamp Show on Saturday, February 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street. Admission and parking are free.

Thirty frames (480 pages) of worldwide stamps and covers will be on display, and an award-winning exhibit on Martha Washington will be featured.

Eight stamp dealers will offer for sale stamps and covers from various countries. They will also offer free appraisals on any philatelic items brought to the show.

In addition, there will be a youth table where stamps, envelopes and supplies will be free to youngsters attending the show.

The Westfield Stamp Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the same location. Individuals interested in philately are invited to attend. For information, please call (908) 232-0539 or send an e-mail to tjacks@bellatlantic.net.

TV-36 Posts Programs, Changes for February

WESTFIELD - TV-36 has announced new programming for February, as well as revised scheduling to ensure consistent time slots for the airing of Town Council and Board of Education meetings, along with the Bulletin Board.

Beginning this month, Town Council meetings will air Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and during a prime time evening time slot. Board of Education meetings will air Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. The Bulletin Board will run daily from 6 to 7 p.m.

"We wanted to make the air times of such flagship programs as the Town Council meetings and the Board of Education meetings more standard, so viewers would know exactly when they air," said Doug Black, Director of Operations.

"The same is true for the Bulletin Board, which viewers watch for all of their local information," he added.

New programming for the month includes the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ceremonies, filmed in The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and along the parade route downtown.

Additionally, the ongoing Historical Society Lecture Series focuses this month on the Civil War, with Alan Siegel, the author of "Beneath the Starry Flag."

Other shows include "Digithead," a program co-hosted by Westfield High School graduate Chip King, about ghost hunting technology, and the recent Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast, which focused on parking.

Finally, February's installment of

Home Town with Mayor Greg McDermott will have the Maestro of the Westfield Symphony, David Wroe, as a guest.

Area Temple to Host Talk on Drug Abuse; Purim Celebration

SPRINGFIELD - Temple Beth Ahm, located at 60 Temple Drive in Springfield, will host two programs later this month, both of which will be open to the public.

On Friday, February 22, a special service will be held at 8:30 p.m., featuring a speaker who will focus on the problems of drug abuse.

The temple will hold its annual Purim celebration on Monday, February 25, at 6:30 p.m.

A Costume Parade will begin at 6:40 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Every child in preschool through Kitah Bet (second grade) of the Religious School who participates will get a prize.

Afterwards, there will be a Megillah Reading in the Sanctuary, a Purim Shpeil Play and a Purim Puppet Show in the Ballroom. The puppet show is geared toward younger children, and one parent or guardian must accompany each child.

During the Megillah reading, undercover judges will circulate to pick the Best Costume winners for children (grades 3 to 7), teenagers, adults, seniors and Best Family Theme. Prizes will be awarded after the Purim Shpeil and winners must be present to receive their prizes.



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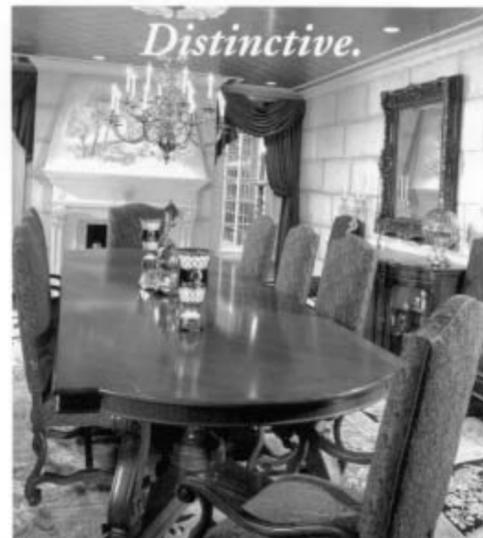


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