

WESTFIELD Recreation Department Events

by: Traci Kastner
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(908) 789-4080

Bowling League: This 12-week program began January 10 and will continue on Monday afternoons at 3:50 p.m. at Linden Lanes for ages five to 14. The cost is \$6 per week, payable at Linden Lanes. Additional registration forms are available through the local schools.

Third Annual Children's Yoga: Children's Yoga is taught using age appropriate techniques. The early spring session will be held for preschoolers in March. Details will soon follow. Call to the Recreation Department to sign up.

Golf: Golf class is for ages eight to 14 will be held at the Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark with teaching pro, Bill McCluney. This popular course will be given on Tuesdays on the following dates: April 12, 19 and 26, and May 3. Course times are from 4 to 6 p.m. The fee is \$88 per child.

Karate: Classes are for ages five and older, and are held at Karate N' Motion in Westfield. Classes are offered at the beginning and intermediate levels and are held for 10-week sessions on Thursdays or Saturdays. Times are as follows: Thursdays, February 3 through April 7, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., for children 8 and over; Saturdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., February 5 to April 9, for children aged 5 to 7. The \$55 cost per child is in addition to the \$25 price of the required uniform. Uniforms can be purchased at Karate N' Motion.

Pre-School Dance: Geared for children ages 3 to 5 years old, classes will be held at the Westfield School of Dance on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. from February 2 through June 8. The cost of the program is \$185 per child.

Soccer Squirts: This one-hour course introduces children ages 3 to 5 years old to group experiences and basic motor skills through soccer related activities. The course will be held at Tamaques Park on Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. from April 19 to May 31. The cost of the program is \$95 per child.

Multi Sports: This one-hour course introduces children aged 3 to 5 years old to a variety of sports from around the world. The course will be held in Tamaques Park on Mondays from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. or from noon to 1 p.m. from April 18 to June 6. There will be no class on Memorial Day, May 30. The fee for the program is \$95 per child.

Night Place: The Night Place program is held throughout the school year on select Friday evenings. This program is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students of Westfield for a nominal fee. The

program is held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School. Featured activities. The cost is \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door. The dates are: January 21, February 11, April 15, and May 13.

Teen Center: The Teen Center is open on most Friday Evenings during the school year between the hours of 7 and 11 p.m. for all Westfield High School students. The center features pool tables, ping-pong tables, air hockey tables, video games, large TV and VCR with movies, complete stereo system, and vending machines.

Total Toning: Classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Community Room. Ten classes are usually offered per session, and sessions are continuous. The late winter session is being held through February 10 at a cost of \$65 per person.

Atlantic City Trip to Bally's: Saturday, February 12, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a day at the casinos, shopping, or just sight seeing. The cost is \$26 per person and the bus departs at 9 a.m.

Rent: Thursday, March 3, at 8 p.m. This Tony and Pulitzer prize-winning Broadway musical will performed at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. The cost cost is \$64 per person and the bus departs at 7 p.m.

The Temptations and the Four Tops: Sunday, March 13, at 7 p.m. Two of Motown's best-loved groups team up at the State Theatre. The cost is \$65 per person and the bus departs at 6 p.m.

Kodo Drummers: Wednesday, March 16, at 8 p.m. Exploring the limitless possibilities of the traditional Japanese drum, Kodo is forging new directions for a vibrant, living art form. This performance will be at the State Theatre. The cost is \$60 per person. The bus departs at 7 p.m.

Please register for the above programs at: The Westfield Recreation Department, 425 East Broad Street. For further information, please call the Westfield Recreation Office at (908) 789-4080 or visit www.westfieldnj.net/townhall/recreation.

County Updating Volunteer Directory

ELIZABETH — The Union County Office of Volunteer Services and United Way of Greater Union County are updating the county's volunteer directory and are seeking non-profit, cultural and social service agencies, as well as government agencies and organizations who wish to be included in the new 2005 edition.

For more information, please visit www.ucnj.org or call (908) 527-4100.

Mountainside Cops Lauded for Efforts In '04

By **KIMBERLY BROADWELL**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — Nearly a dozen borough police officers were recognized earlier this month for their efforts last year.

Mountainside Police Chief James Debbie handed out five recognition awards to officers during the Borough Council's annual reorganization meeting on January 4.

Patrolman Michael Pasquale was recognized for his perceptiveness in spotting a car parked in the Lowes Theatre on Route 22, early last spring, in what Chief Debbie described as "in a suspicious manner."

When Patrolman Pasquale checked through the computer system, he found out that the car was entered as stolen from Newark earlier in the day.

With the help of fellow officers, Sergeant Allen Attanasio and Corporal Kevin Betyeman, who received certificates of recognition for their help in this case, all three males who came to retrieve the stolen vehicle were arrested.

Commendation awards were given to Detectives, Corporal Kenneth Capobianco and Michael Jackson for their work last winter in finding that a comptroller in a local company had embezzled more than \$750,000. The owner of that company had gone to the detectives stating that he had suspicions that the comptroller may have made some incorrect transactions.

After receiving a search warrant for the suspect's home, both detectives recovered more than \$600,000 in cash, a brand new Mercedes Benz and many records showing were most of the money had gone.

These two same detectives were given another Commendation award for their work in arresting a burglar who had been stealing from many homes in the Mountainside and surrounding areas.

Chief Debbie reported that last March "a resident had observed a young male running from a home on Summit Lane as the burglary alarm began ringing." He added that the "alert resident wrote down the description of the (suspect) and the plate number of the fleeing vehicle."

Chief Debbie said that within 24 hours these two detectives were able to identify the suspect, obtain a search warrant and had recovered thousands of dollars in stolen property as well as more than one pound of marijuana.

It was further noted that after his arrest the man gave a complete confession of the burglary as well as many other burglaries in the surrounding towns.

Patrolman Jeffrey Stinner was presented a commendation award for his arrest of two suspects last September, who were wanted for criminal activities in other jurisdictions.



Photos by Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MOUNTAINSIDE'S FINEST...Mountainside Police Chief James Debbie, center, recognized four members of his police force during the Borough Council's January 4 reorganization meeting for their efforts in investigating and providing medical attention to a teenager who was found in a borough home in critical condition in November. Pictured, left to right, are: Patrolman John Phillippakos, Patrolman Michael Perrotta, Corporal Richard Latargia and Sergeant Andrew Sullivan. Pictured below, Chief Debbie congratulates Corporal Michael Jackson for his efforts in solving an embezzlement case.



The discovery came after the driver of the vehicle that they were traveling in was stopped for careless driving and driving while intoxicated.

Chief Debbie noted that after the driver of the car exhibited very suspicious behavior Officer Stinner had forcibly removed 41 bags of rock cocaine from the his right pocket. Chief Debbie stated that as a police backup arrived, Officer Stinner learned that the passenger had false identification and that both men were wanted on warrants in other towns.

Finally, a commendation award was given to Patrolman John Phillippakos for his work on a November 6 case 17-year-old Mountainside resident who had broken into a home on Route 22 near Lawrence Avenue after hysterically running along the highway.

Allegedly, the young man reportedly tried to carjack a car, assaulted a pregnant woman in another home and ran through her screen door before eventually running through a plate glass door of the house police found him.

According to Chief Debbie, when police from Mountainside and Westfield had responded to the residence they found two large picture windows shattered and a large amount

of blood "spread about the area." Chief Debbie noted that Officer Phillippakos, along with a Westfield

officer, "volunteered to enter the residence through the broken windows without regard for their own personal safety." It was noted that tragically the officers found the teenager, who was a student at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, unconscious and bleeding heavily.

He died the next morning at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark (UMDNJ), the state's regional trauma center, which helped transport him.

Certificates of recognition were also awarded for this case to Sergeant Andrew Sullivan and Corporal Richard Latargia for their work in setting up a perimeter of to secure the crime scene and attaining backup help.

Patrolman Michael Perrotta was honored with a certificate of recognition for his work in gathering and relaying information to other units and questioning witnesses from the point that the incident had originated from at a home the teenager had been visiting.

According to Chief Debbie, Officer Perrotta also found medical assistance for another juvenile that was found at that scene "to have been under the influence of an unknown substance."

Chief Debbie stated that these officers were "recognized for their professionalism and their dedication to duty on this chaotic day."

The chief concluded by stating that all of the officers on the Mountainside Police Department "do an extremely professional and efficient job."

He said, "We have had a very busy year and the officers receiving awards are an example of the excellent police force that we have in Mountainside."

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ATTEND A FREE SEMINAR

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE

The Law Firm of Dughi, Hewit & Palatucci is pleased to announce that **Mario C. Gurrieri**, head of its Family Law Department, and **April L. Katz**, will present to the public a Free Seminar entitled "Everything You Need To Know About Divorce" at The Westfield Inn in Westfield on Thursday, January 20, 2005 and Saturday, January 22, 2005. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for thirty-two years and Ms. Katz, for twelve years, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning separation, divorce, custody, visitation, alimony, division of assets and post-divorce Court review of alimony and child support as well as the new law governing Domestic Partnerships.

Information will also be provided on Divorce Mediation, an alternative to the traditional contested proceeding. Divorce Mediation offers the potential for significant savings while assuring that your rights are fully protected by avoiding the expense, stress and delay involved in Court proceedings.

If you are experiencing marital difficulties, contemplating divorce, or simply curious about your rights in a separation or divorce, this Seminar will be of value to you. If you are already divorced, the Seminar may be of value in explaining post-divorce rights and obligations of former spouses.

WHERE:
Westfield Inn
435 North Ave. West
Westfield, NJ
(908) 654-5600

WHEN:
Thursday, January 20, 2005 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 22, 2005 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Reservations Required (no names needed)
Call: (908) 272-0200

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