

Trailside Nature Center Plans Winter Programs

MOUNTAINSIDE—Trailside Nature and Science Center, located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside, has announced that this winter, visitors will be able to experience more than 4,500 square feet of interactive exhibits or take part in one of the many educational environmental programs that Trailside has to offer.

Adults and children of all ages are invited to take part in "Outdoor Adventure" theme hikes and nature-related talks hosted each Saturday at the Trailside Visitor Center. Visitors are encouraged to drop by to meet live specimens from Trailside's reptile collection, find out which tree has bark like an alligator's skin and investigate the layers of the forest.

Pre-registration is not required for most Outdoor Adventure programs. Topics and times vary from week to week.

Trailside's preschool workshops, for 3 to 4 year-olds accompanied by an adult, and drop-off programs for children ages 4 to 6, will experiment with magnets, measure natural treasures, learn about clouds and use imaginations to investigate the mythical and magical world of fairies.

Grade-school children in the first and second grades will learn about dragons (real and imaginary), find out about animals such as penguins and polar bears inhabiting the Arctic regions of the world, as well as navigate around the Watchung Reservation using a map and compass.

Third through fifth-grade students will see how real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree, examine skulls and furs of bear, fox and rabbit, as well as become sky watchers as they learn the stories behind constellations like Orion the Hunter and Draco the Dragon.

Special programming entitled "February Festivities" will be held during the Presidents' holiday weekend, February 15 to 19. Topics for the festivities include maple sugaring, mammals, winter survival, print mania and more.

On Monday, February 18, at 1:30 p.m. the matinee, "The Science of Magic," will be held, a scientific circus featuring magnetism, light, air, condensation and optical illusion. Those interested should call Trailside at (908) 789-3670 or visit ucnj.org/trailside for more information.

Summer camp registration for residents of Union County will be held Saturday, March 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A lottery system will be used for the 2008 camp registration.

Union County residents are invited to stop by Trailside's Visitor Center between February 9 and 22 from noon to 5 p.m. daily or until the lottery ticket numbers run out. The lottery number will indicate the position on line for registration on March 1. Proof of residency will be required.

Trailside Nature and Science Center will be closed for the holidays on December 24, 25 and 31.



CLASS ACTS... Westfield's Franklin Elementary School held its annual Holiday Boutique, a fundraiser that offers students and their families the opportunity to shop for gifts during the holiday season. Also on sale this year is "Cooking with Class," Franklin's first hardcover compilation of recipes along with informative hints and tips submitted by Franklin's students, faculty and staff members. Pictured, from left to right, are Sheri Finver and Kathy Gold of the Franklin PTO's Cookbook Committee at their cookbook display during the boutique. Cookbooks are still available for purchase through the Franklin PTO.

Fanwood Rec. Reveals Winter 2008 Programs

FANWOOD—The Fanwood Recreation Department has announced its winter programs for seniors and children will begin the week of January 7.

For seniors, programs include Tai Chi, Water Exercise, Line Dancing and Aerobics. Registration forms may be picked up at the Fanwood Municipal Building, located at 75 Martine Avenue, North, between Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All programs will be held at the Forest Road Park recreation building, except for Water Exercise, which will be held at the JCC of Central New Jersey at the Wilf Jewish Community Campus indoor pool in Scotch Plains.

For children, programs include Mommy and Me Art (ages 3 to 5 plus adult), Art Club for Kids (ages 6 to 9), Fashion Illustration (ages 11 to 18), Weebot Game Makers Workshop

Club (grade 2), Video Game Creation Workshop Club (grades 3 to 8) and Robotics and Control Systems Workshop Club (grades 5 to 8). All programs will be held at the LaGrande Park Recreation building.

For more information about these programs, including schedule, fees and how to register, go to visitfanwood.com/recreation or call Fanwood Recreation at (908) 370-7092.

RWJUH Announces 2008 Leadership

AREA - Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway Foundation has announced its leadership for 2008. Newly elected are Joseph Gibilisco, chairman, Bernice "Bunny" Bowen, vice-chairman, and Bonnie Josephs, secretary. Richard Parker, treasurer, was re-elected.

NJSBA Recognizes Cranford Programs

CRANFORD—In its study, "Financing Special Education in New Jersey," the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) recognized Cranford public-school district's Cranford Achievement Program (CAP) and Cranford School District Academy (CSDA) as "exemplary practices."

Stephen Izzo, the district's manager of grants and special programs, as well as its CSDA Program coordinator, spearheaded the effort to have the programs recognized.

The effort included documenting each program, holding meetings between NJSBA and school representatives and providing data distinguishing the programs from others reviewed as part of the study.

While hundreds of special-education programs were considered, CAP—along with middle and elementary programs, CAMP (Cranford Achievement Middle School Program) and LEAP (Lincoln Elementary Achievement Program), respectively—was one of only three alternative programs. In addition, the CSDA was one of only three literacy programs cited by the NJSBA as "exemplary."

CAP opened its doors to students with pronounced behavioral and emotional difficulties, from Cranford and 20 other Middlesex and Union County school districts, in 1982.

Based on CAP's success, CAMP was established in 1994 and LEAP

in 2004. Each program is operated from Cranford's Lincoln School and provides academic instruction, behavioral support and therapeutic intervention focused on helping students succeed outside of a traditional school environment.

Students attending CAP, CAMP and LEAP advance through highly structured programs that help instructors monitor student progress and systematically award privileges for academic and behavioral successes.

The CSDA Program was established in 2004 based on the district's belief that academic intervention, when conducted early enough, can spur development in students with severe reading problems.

The program achieves this by intensifying and extending reading instruction beyond school hours (on 26 Saturdays, from September to June) and meeting students' needs through one-on-one tutoring, testing and multi-sensory exercises based on the Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching reading.

For additional information about the CAP, CAMP and LEAP Programs, contact Dennis McCaffery, principal of Lincoln School, at (908) 709-6223. For more information on the CSDA Program and the recent NJSBA special-education study, contact Mr. Izzo at (908) 709-6207.

Scotch Plains' Ash Brook Golf Course 'Rests' for Winter

COUNTY - The arrival of winter has brought schedule adjustments to the three public golf courses operated by Union County.

"Each year, we give one of our golf courses a chance to rest," said Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jane Kowalski. "This year, the Ash Brook Golf Course in Scotch Plains takes its turn. The closure of the Ash Brook course will begin December 23, and continue until March 1, 2008, weather permitting."

Eighteen regulation holes will con-

tinue to be available throughout the winter at the Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark and at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, weather permitting.

The determination of playability will be made by the supervising greenskeeper at each course. Winter hours of operation at both courses (through March 1) will last from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Golfers are reminded that all three of the county's golf clubhouses are open for identification-card purchases and renewals. Beginning January 1, 2008, golfers should renew their ID cards at one of the courses. Early renewal will help avoid delays in the spring.

All golf ID cards purchased in 2007 will be deactivated by the computerized photo ID system on December 31. Golfers should keep these cards and bring them when renewing for 2008.

When purchasing a new card or renewing a 2007 card, golfers must show proof of Union County residency through two forms of identification—a driver's license and either a current annual lease, tax, utility or credit card bill or bank statement. Non-residents who own property in Union County may also purchase ID cards upon providing a current tax bill showing the address, lot and block number of the property. All golf ID card renewals or purchases must be done in-person.

Even though the winter months restrict golf activities, the county announced that if enough snow falls, access to the Ash Brook and Oak Ridge golf courses will be allowed for the purpose of cross-country skiing.

For further information about the winter schedules for Union County's golf courses, cross-country skiing or identification-card purchase, contact the Department of Parks and Community Renewal at (908) 527-4900 or visit ucnj.org.

WF Fire Dept. Warns Of Downed Power Lines

WESTFIELD - Westfield fire officials urged residents to be aware of hidden hazards with downed power lines. Storms bring winds, ice and heavy snow that may damage power lines, cable lines and telephone lines. Fire officials urge residents not to touch any wires or fallen limbs on wires. Doing so may cause serious injury or death. Even a cable-TV or telephone line may be energized.

Fire Chief Daniel Kelly said, "All residents should report downed power lines and cables to the police dispatcher. Do not touch or attempt to move power lines or branches on power lines. Leave it to the professionals who have the proper training. They will secure the scene and notify the appropriate utility authority so that someone will respond and fix the situation. Most importantly, do not attempt to move wires or get branches off the lines yourself."

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boomervid.com

Celebrate Christmas

CHILDREN'S EUCHARIST & CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Monday, December 24 at 4:00 P.M.
with St. Paul's Primary & Junior Choirs

CHRISTMAS EVE CHORAL EUCHARIST

Monday, December 24 at 10:30 P.M.
Carol Sing at 10:15 P.M.
with St. Paul's Parish Choir,
St. Paul's Treble Choir,
Brass Quintet & Percussion

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 A.M.
with Homily & Carols

The Rev'd Andrew C. Hamersley, *rector*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

414 East Broad Street in Westfield
(across from Town Hall)
Information: 908-232-8506, EXT. 10

at St. Paul's

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Celebrate Christmas at First Congregational Church

Sunday, December 23
10 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Worship Service and Church School
Childcare provided for infants

Monday, December 24
5 p.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant
The Mystery in the Stable

10 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
Meredith Hoffman-Thomson, soloist

First Congregational Church

125 Elmer Street, Westfield, NJ (908) 233-2494
www.fccofwestfield.org
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Fanwood Presbyterian Church

Martine & LaGrande Avenues, Fanwood
(908) 889-8891

Senior Pastor - The Reverend David P. Jahnke
Associate Pastor - The Reverend Elizabeth Anderson-Domer

10 a.m. Public Worship on Sundays

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm - Family Service of Worship
10:45 pm - Special pre-service music
11:00 pm - Candlelight Worship and Communion

Christmas Day

10:00 am - A short, joyful service of Word and Song

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