

## Victoria Attanasio Completes Project to Earn Gold Award

WESTFIELD – Westfield Senior Girl Scout Victoria Lynn Attanasio of Troop 701 of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council recently completed her Gold Award project. The Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout age 14 to 18 can earn.

Victoria worked with the charitable organization "Samaritan's Purse" in connection with its "Operation Christmas Child" program, which seeks to bring holiday cheer to millions of needy children throughout the world. This project provides children with a holiday-wrapped shoebox filled with toys, school supplies and small articles of clothing such as socks, T-shirts and hats, plus other fun and educational tools.

Victoria was moved by how these children, in many cases, could not even attend their village schools without the school supplies they received in these boxes. She also wanted to help others experience the joy of Christmas and the knowledge that people they would never meet were thinking of and praying for them and assisting them through Operation Christmas Child.

Victoria's goal was to fill and wrap 100 boxes and to supply the \$7 postage required for each box. Through her efforts, the end result was actually 115 boxes filled to capacity and wrapped, with postage paid for each. Involved in Girl Scouting since age five, Victoria was the only member of her troop to receive the Girl Scout Silver Award in 2003. She has totaled more than 500 community service hours in the past five years.

Victoria was involved in the "Adopt a Resident" program at the

### Visitors Invited Sunday To Cannonball House

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Osborn Cannonball House, located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains, will be open to visitors this Sunday, May 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. Costumed docents will give tours of the historic home. Admission is free.

In 1742, Jonathan Osborn built the little clapboard house that today is known as the Osborn Cannonball House Museum. The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood restored the home in 1972 and furnished it with both Colonial and Victorian pieces.

Among the antique furnishings is a rocking chair that was originally owned by Colonel Recompense Stanbery, an early owner of the Stage House Inn, which is located across the street from the museum.

Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Scotch Plains, adopting a resident named Josephine who she visited weekly, bringing crafts and refreshments that she made and baked. Victoria remained with her friend until the woman passed away.

Additionally, Victoria has been active in the Youth Ministry Program at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield for the past four years. She has been a peer minister, helping to instruct Confirmation classes; visited a homeless shelter associated with St. Helen's and helped with holiday parties for the homeless, and assisted with the homeless guests who stay at St. Helen's for weeks during the year.

The one volunteer role of which Victoria is most proud is her involvement with Sister Pat's Cancer Camp, sponsored by St. Helen's, which offers inner city children an opportunity for fun and a respite from the constant condition of their illness. Victoria will return this summer for the third year as a volunteer camp counselor.

Victoria, the daughter of Victor and Linda Attanasio of Westfield, will receive her Gold Award on Tuesday, May 29, at a ceremony in Westfield. A Westfield High School senior, she plans to attend St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa. in September.

### Open Labyrinth Walk Scheduled For Sunday

CRANFORD – The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford will sponsor a series of open labyrinth walks, with the next one scheduled for Sunday, May 6. All walks will be held in Bates Hall at the church, located at 11 Springfield Avenue in Cranford. Everyone is welcome.

Participants are invited to walk the labyrinth any time between 1 and 4 p.m. but are asked to begin their walk by 3:30 p.m. Subsequent walks will be held on the first Sunday of every month unless otherwise specified.

Walking the labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice of prayer and meditation that has been revived in modern times. The 11-ringed pattern painted on canvas is modeled after the 13th-century labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. In Medieval times, walking the labyrinth symbolized the Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem for those who could not personally make the journey. For more information concerning the labyrinth program or future walks, please call the church at (908) 276-8440.



Victoria Lynn Attanasio



TRIBUTE TO ERV... As part of his Eagle Scout project, Sean Sullivan, right, presents to the family of late Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad founder Erving Arundale last Friday a photocopy of the plaque inscription that will soon adorn a bench in Mr. Arundale's honor. Afterward, the squad saluted Mr. Arundale, who died last August, by taking his ashes to Fairview Cemetery on board a squad ambulance for interment.

## Miller-Cory House Museum To Feature Handmade Dolls

WESTFIELD – The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will present "Pillowcase and Handkerchief Dolls" on Sunday, May 6, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Laurie and Chelsea Mills of Fanwood will tell how little girls during America's Colonial era played with handmade dolls created from

castoff and worn pieces of cloth.

The Millses will discuss different kinds of home-crafted dolls and how they were made. They also will display dolls made out of pillowcases and handkerchiefs. Children will be able to make their own kerchief doll to take home.

Tours of the fully furnished 1740 farmhouse will be featured, as well as open-hearth cooking in the museum's Frazee Building. Sherry Lange and Janet Murphy of the cooking committee will use authentic Colonial recipes and cooking methods of the period. Taste treats will be available for visitors to sample. Visitors also are invited to stop by the museum's gift shop, which carries a variety of Colonial toys, crafts and books.

Admission to the museum and its grounds is \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for students and free for children under age four. Upcoming Sunday programs include "The Lost Art of Penmanship" on May 20, "Who Invented Ice Cream?" on June 3 and "18th Century Herbs" on June 10. The annual "Aunt Carrie's Attic Sale" will be held on Saturday, June 30. For more information, please call the museum office weekday mornings at (908) 232-1776.

### Welcome Club to Hold Wine and Cheese Event

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Welcome Club will host a new member wine and cheese event on Wednesday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. at a member's home. Participants will have an opportunity to meet current members and learn more about the club.

The club seeks to welcome women who are new to the area or who have experienced recent life changes. It offers various social events for women, couples and children and also completes a charitable project each term.

Those interested are asked to contact Suzanne at (908) 389-0699 or sk.vedder@comcast.net for additional information. Further information on the club also is available online at westfieldnj.com/welcome.

## Rescue Squad Pays Tribute To Founder In Special Ride

By SUZETTE F. STALKER  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – More than half a century ago, the late Erving Arundale founded the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, bringing together some dozen local residents to form one of the town's most vital assets.

Last Friday morning, the squad paid special tribute to Mr. Arundale, who died last August 12 at the age of 91 in Woodstock, Ill., by enabling his ashes to be transported via a squad ambulance to Fairview Cemetery in Westfield for interment.

Squad President Reid Edles said Mr. Arundale's family had contacted the squad several months ago regarding their plans to inter his ashes at Fairview and asked if he could be given this "last ride." The squad obliged.

On the journey from squad headquarters on Watterson Street to the East Broad Street cemetery, the ambulance passed Mr. Arundale's former residences in Westfield, where he and his late wife, Phoebe, had lived for 30 years. Driven by squad Deputy Captain Bob Billson and with honorary member and former squad member Hope Muzeni also on board, the ambulance was given a Westfield police escort along its route.

A native of South Manchester, Conn., Mr. Arundale had worked for Standard Oil, now ExxonMobil Corporation, spending most of his career in chemical research. He was awarded 68 United States patents for his work in such areas as the development of synthetic rubber and unleaded gasoline.

Among his other activities, Mr. Arundale chaired and was an instructor with the local Red Cross chapter's first aid division. At the request of then-Mayor Charles P. Bailey, he formed the original squad with 10 to 12 fellow instructors and became its first captain. The volunteer squad began operation on October 1, 1951.

Prior to this, the town's ambulance service was handled by

Westfield's paid fire department. The impetus for the mayor's request, Mr. Edles told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, was a huge warehouse fire in Westfield. An ambulance request was received while firefighters were battling the blaze, requiring Westfield to contact Garwood for an ambulance. It was then determined that Westfield needed a volunteer squad of its own.

In addition to founding the original squad, Mr. Edles said Mr. Arundale was the "driving force" behind refurbishment and expansion of what had been the public works facility on Watterson Street into squad headquarters. Upon his retirement, he was named the squad's sole honorary captain and an honorary member.

A squad member for over 20 years, Mr. Edles said he first met Mr. Arundale during the squad's 50th anniversary festivities in 2001. Calling him "a dynamic individual," Mr. Edles said Mr. Arundale enjoyed meeting his successors on the squad and keeping up with the organization via telephone calls and e-mails.

"He was a gentleman, very knowledgeable with a sharp mind; the kind of person dedicated to this rescue squad and someone you could always go to for advice," Mr. Edles noted.

Prior to last week's ride to Fairview, Sean Sullivan of Westfield presented to Mr. Arundale's family a wooden bench that will soon bear a plaque dedicating it to Mr. Arundale. It will be placed outside squad headquarters.

The bench was part of Sean's Eagle Scout project, which also included cleaning out and painting one of the ambulance bays and acquiring a storage cabinet for supplies. Joe Urso, the squad's longest riding member with 37 years, said Mr. Arundale "felt you should give back to the community and he certainly did that, through both the Red Cross and the Westfield Rescue Squad."



Erving Arundale

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### Full Count



**Big Band**  
S o u n d s

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Located at 425 East Broad Street

Full Count Big Band, the professional division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will be performing with 18 pieces to deliver a variety of musical styles, from swing to Latin jazz to rock, by the top arrangers of yesterday and today.

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