

Lois Walstead, Served as Volunteer; Active With Compassionate Friends

In the peaceful presence of her loving family, Lois Walstead, age 69, was joyfully reunited with her son, Jim, on Friday, September 21, 2007, at her home in Baytown, Tex. following a brief but insistent battle with cancer.

A native of Montclair, N.J., she was born October 2, 1937 to Harry and Dorothea (Knipshield) Lenskold and graduated from Mountainside School of Nursing before marrying William J. Walstead, Jr. in 1954.

Following the death of their son in 1996, they became active in The Compassionate Friends, with Lois later serving as leader of the Baytown chapter. She also served as a volunteer at San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in Baytown and was an active member of the Lakewood community in Baytown, as well as a sustaining member of the Baytown Junior Forum.

Her loving family includes her husband of 49 years, Bill Walstead of Baytown; three daughters, Faye Blackshear and her husband, Murray, of Brentwood, Tenn.; Jennifer Crowe and her husband, Jackie, of Ramona, Calif. and Laura Muscat and her husband, Tony, of Seabrook, Tex.; her brother, Bob Lenskold and his wife, Betsey, of Vermont, and 12 grandchildren who were the light of her life.

Services were held Wednesday, September 26, at the Second Baptist Church in Baytown. Interment followed at White Cemetery in Highlands, Tex. next to her beloved son. Pallbearers were Brian Connealy, Ted Johnson, Steven Fenton, Dean House, Blake Blackshear, Beau Blackshear, Travis Crowe, Derrick Crowe and Connor Muscat. Honorary pallbearers were Bentley

Blackshear, Weston Crowe, Marshall Crowe, Carson Muscat and Chandler Muscat.

Remembrances in Lois' memory may be made to the Baytown Chapter of The Compassionate Friends at www.compassionatefriends.org, or CureSearch for childhood cancer research at www.curesearch.org, or the Lois Walstead Nursing Scholarship to be established at Lee College (www.lee.edu).

Arrangements were entrusted to Crespo and Jirrels Funeral and Cremation Services of Baytown, Tex. To view the obituary or to post a tribute to the family, visit www.crespoandjirrels.com.

September 27, 2007

WE Care to Have Booth at Festfall

WESTFIELD - WeCare (Westfielders Concerned About Responsible Development) invites all Westfield residents to visit its booth at the FestiFall street fair on Sunday, September 30.

WeCare will have information available about downtown and Westfield High School parking, alternatives to teardowns, quality-of-life issues and the town's land-use task force.

Visitors are encouraged to stop by the WeCare booth with their suggestions regarding these issues.

WeCare will have a drawing for a free membership to the Westfield Historical Society and a historical print of the Town of Westfield. Candidates running for town council will also be at the booth.

For more information, visit www.wecarewestfield.com.

Obituaries

Virginia Anderson, 84, Was Volunteer; Past President of Local Garden Club

Virginia C. Anderson (nee Heeb), 84, of Westfield died on Monday, September 24, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Newark, she had lived in Westfield and Mountainside before moving back to Westfield in 1995.

Mrs. Anderson had a lifelong interest in hospital volunteering. She was past president of the Auxiliary of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, formerly Middlesex Hospital, in New Brunswick. Additionally, she was a board member and past vice-president of the New Jersey Association of Hospital Auxiliaries.

Mrs. Anderson was a founder and the first president in 1952 of the East Brunswick Woman's Club. She also was past president of the Garden Club of Westfield. She loved her family and her friends; they were her life.

Surviving are her son, Wayne C.

Anderson and his wife, Mary, of Randolph; her daughter, Susan A. Johnson and her husband, Theodore, of Eastham, Mass.; five grandchildren, Brian Johnson and his wife, Kendra, David Johnson, Lauren, Kristin and Brent Anderson, and a great-grandson, Tucker Johnson.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral service on Saturday, September 29, at 10 a.m. in the Chapel at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue in Westfield. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105, (800) 822-6344.

Arrangements are by the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, 582 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

September 27, 2007



Virginia C. Anderson

Community/Area News

DWC Announces Multiple Town Program Updates

WESTFIELD - The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) has announced multiple program updates.

The DWC and Comcast have completed a new fashion commercial for the HGTV, Style, Food Network and Bravo channels. Multiple individuals and businesses provided clothing and venues for the shoot.

In November, the DWC will compile and print its annual "Welcome Home to Westfield" brochure for upcoming holiday events. Said Beth Brenner, executive assistant, "Whether the DWC runs the event or not, we are asking Westfield businesses and organizations to let us know about their events for possible inclusion. The events calendar is very popular and is provided as a community service for the busy holiday shopping and dining season." Those interested can send events to b.brenner@westfieldtoday.com.

The DWC completed the Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival on August 28, the ninth Tuesday night of the event in its 11th anniversary year.

Sherry Cronin, executive director, said some downtown businesses "have requested that we extend [the festival] longer next year. The events cost the DWC over \$30K for the season

but have exceeded all promotional objectives in bringing people to downtown Westfield on an otherwise less busy summer evening."

The DWC's promotions committee last year introduced an "hour-free" parking program in which downtown businesses could participate. The DWC has sold more than 18,000 discounted one-hour parking tokens to 39 downtown businesses to give customers.

These parking tokens, along with refillable parking cards up to \$200, may be purchased directly at the Office of Parking Services at 425 East Broad Street.

The DWC, the management entity of the Special Improvement District, seeks volunteers to serve on its various committees. Ms. Cronin said, "With all the activities being planned, particularly during the holidays this year, and the growth we have experienced in providing valuable service to our businesses and the community, we welcome additional help. We have a very experienced and knowledgeable team of volunteers who work very hard to make downtown Westfield a great place to be."

More information is available at (908) 789-9444 or westfieldtoday.com.

Matthew Baranski, 90, Was Engineer; Worked on Radar During World War II

Matthew M. Baranski, 90, of Fanwood died on Saturday, September 22, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Maspeth, Long Island, N.Y., he had lived in Jersey City before moving to Fanwood in 1957.

A graduate of Newark College of Engineering, Mr. Baranski had worked as an electrical engineer with Western Electric in Kearny prior to retiring.

He was an amateur ham radio operator and had worked on radar for the United States government during World War II. Mr. Baranski also was

a member of the Telephone Pioneers. He was predeceased by his wife, Estelle, in 1988 and his daughter, Cynthia Baranski, in 1995.

Surviving is his son, Kenneth M. Baranski of Piscataway.

The funeral will be held at 9 a.m. today, Thursday, September 27, from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. A Funeral Mass will follow at 9:30 a.m. at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Entombment will take place at Saint Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

September 27, 2007

Mildred Vivers, 87, Retired Secretary; Was Employed By Winfield Township

Mildred Vivers, 87, of Bridgewater died on Sunday, September 23, at the Bridgewater Care Center in Bridgewater.

Born in Fall River, Mass., she had lived in Winfield Park, then in Toms River for 25 years, before moving to Bridgewater in 2005.

Mrs. Vivers had been employed as a secretary with Winfield Municipal Township prior to retiring 25 years ago.

She was predeceased by her husband, Richard Vivers, in 1990 and by her son, Robert Richard Vivers, in 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Beverly Nichols DelliSanti of

Branchburg and Barbara Goydic of Fanwood; her sister, Grace Black of Fall River, Mass.; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held yesterday, Wednesday, September 26, at the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. Interment followed at Rosedale Memorial Park in Linden.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Fanwood Rescue Squad, 218 Forest Road, Fanwood, N.J. 07023 or to Care Alternatives, 70 Jackson Drive, Suite 200, Cranford, N.J. 07016.

September 27, 2007

Raymond Yarusi, 78, Navy Veteran; Longtime Area Dry Wall Contractor

Raymond Yarusi, 78, of Garwood died on Tuesday, September 25, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway.

Born and raised in Westfield, Mr. Yarusi moved to Garwood in 1967.

He was a self-employed dry wall contractor in the area for many years, retiring in 2006.

Mr. Yarusi also was a United States Navy veteran of World War II, having served in China.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 52 years, Gail Yarusi; his three de-

voted children, Raymond, Jr., Brett and Abigail Checchio; two brothers, Ernie and Leon Yarusi, and two sisters, Alice Caruso and Elizabeth Alimonti. He also will be deeply missed by his five grandchildren, Madison, Jordan, Parker, Brett and Brandon.

Visitation will take place from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. today, Thursday, September 27, at the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, September 28, at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

September 27, 2007

Fitness Dept. Requests Gently Used Clothes

SCOTCH PLAINS - On Wednesday and Thursday, October 10 and 11, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey's Fitness Department will collect gently used clothes, household linens, stuffed animals, purses and shoes.

Proceeds raised from the collection will benefit the fitness department. Donated items will go to needy families in South America and Eastern Europe.

Donations should be in plastic bags and will be accepted in the JCC gymnasium from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on both days. Volunteers will be on hand to help people unload their cars from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Tax receipts will be available.

The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. It is a constituent agency of the United Way and the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey. Financial assistance is available for membership and various programs. For more details, please contact Karen Rosen at krosen@jccnj.org or (908) 889-8800, extension no. 224.

See it all on the Web! www.goleader.com

Literacy Volunteers Offer Free Training

AREA - Literacy Volunteers-Union County Tutor Training Workshops will be held on Saturdays, October 13, 20 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Plainfield Public Library, located at 800 Park Avenue in Plainfield.

Volunteers are needed to tutor adults one hour a week in reading, writing or English as a Second Language. No experience is necessary and training and certification are free. Ongoing tutor support is provided. Interested persons are asked to call (908) 755-7998 or e-mail dawn@lvaunion.org.

Bethel Baptist Plans Pizza Day October 6

WESTFIELD - The Bethel Baptist Church, located at 537 Trinity Place in Westfield, will hold Pizza Day on Saturday, October 6, at noon to sign up new members for its youth ministry.

All youth are welcome to attend and also to register for the church's after-school Stamp Program, which offers free tutoring to students in grades 1 to 12 during the school year on Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. For more information, please call (908) 232-9625.

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