

Torah Center Announces Family Purim Celebrations

WESTFIELD – The Union County Torah Center, located at 509 Central Avenue in Westfield, will present the following Family Purim celebrations this coming Holiday of Purim.

On Wednesday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a Megillah reading, followed by Hamantashen and refreshments. This event will be open to the public free of charge.

On Thursday, March 8, at 7:30 a.m., the Torah Center will have another Megillah reading, as it is a mitzvah to hear it being read on Purim day as well. The Torah Center also will host a Family Purim Celebration later that day. There will be a Megillah reading at 4:45 p.m., with a simultaneous slide show for children that will take them through the entire story of Purim as it is written in the Megillah.

Children additionally are invited to participate in a masquerade contest. All children dressed in costume will receive a prize, and one special grand prize will be awarded for the best costume. The theme of the celebration will be "Purim in Outerspace," so everyone is encouraged to come dressed in "space" costumes. The upcoming event will feature a renowned "Mad Scientist," who together with the children will do his famous fire and ice experiments.

There also will be a full Purim Buffet, as it is a mitzvah to celebrate Purim with a special festive meal on

Purim day. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person.

All the programs are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Reservations are preferred but not required. For more information, call the Torah Center at (908) 789-5252 or e-mail info@torahcenter.org.

AARP Chapter Slates Meeting For Monday

WESTFIELD – Westfield Area A.A.R.P. Chapter No. 4137 will meet on Monday, March 5, at 1 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club, located at the intersection of Jerusalem Road and Plainfield Avenue in Scotch Plains. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome to attend the meeting.

Julie Reich, director of special programs and a social worker at SAGE Eldercare, will be the guest speaker. This program will concentrate on preventing falls in the home and how to modify one's lifestyle and home environment in order to achieve this goal. Ms. Reich also will talk about the various programs SAGE offers to help senior citizens stay in their own homes as comfortably as possible.

The chapter business meeting will follow the program and the meeting will conclude with refreshments and socializing. Members are asked to continue to bring non-perishable food items for the Westfield Food Pantry, which services much of Union County.



GLAMOUR GIRLS... "Hollywood Glam" was the theme as about 200 second- and third-grade Brownie Girl Scouts in Fanwood-Scotch Plains and their favorite male adults enjoyed the annual "Me and My Guy" dance February 10 at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. Cadette Girl Scouts Annemarie Kearns and Kaavya Krishna-Kumar organized the event as a requirement for their Girl Scout Silver Award. They arranged for a DJ, decorations, food and a portrait photographer, and enlisted other girls from their eighth-grade troop and some Girl Scout adults to serve and help during the dance. Fanwood-Scotch Plains Daisy Girl Scouts enjoyed a similar event in January, and older Girl Scouts will have their dance in March.

Library to Welcome Speaker On Healthy Foods March 5

GARWOOD – The Garwood Public Library will host a presentation entitled "The Natural Foodbasket" on Monday, March 5, at 7 p.m., featuring Lorraine Harwelik of Natural Therapeutics for Health.

Ms. Harwelik will discuss good diet planning that leads to good health and wellbeing. She will explain how to fill one's shopping basket with healthful foods that are commonly found in local supermarkets, health food stores and outdoor markets. Her presentation also will include suggestions for diet improvement.

Ms. Harwelik is a dual certified clinical herbalist, licensed New Jersey educator and registered yoga

teacher. For more than 25 years, she has been helping people of all ages get well and stay well, through the use of natural foods, herbs and exercise. She is the founder of Natural Therapeutics for Health, located in Cranford.

Registration for this event may be done in person at the Garwood Public Library, by calling (908) 789-1670 or via the library's interactive calendar page found on its website, yousemore.com/garwood. The library is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street, at the back of the Lincoln School complex. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Two Westfield Men Charged In Traffic Fatality Probe

WESTFIELD – The Union County Prosecutor's Office and Westfield Police Department are continuing to investigate a fatal accident that occurred five weeks ago that left a woman dead and a man seriously injured, said Union County Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow.

According to police, around 6:05 p.m. on January 25, a car driven by Patricia Currie, 68, of Scotch Plains was passing through the intersection of North Avenue at Tuttle Parkway when it appears she grazed a pedestrian as he crossed the street, said Mr. Romankow. Ms. Currie immediately stopped and offered assistance to the man, attempting to lead him across the street.

Witnesses reported that as the two walked across the road, a Chevy Cavalier, driven by Charles Casiere, 84, of Westfield, struck the pair, causing injuries and prop-

elling them several yards down North Avenue. Casiere, who stopped at the scene, was charged with driving while intoxicated, failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, and reckless driving.

Almost immediately after, a second vehicle, a GMC pickup, driven by John Diaz, 73, of Westfield, struck Ms. Currie, who was now in the roadway, causing further injury, said Mr. Romankow. Diaz was charged with driving while intoxicated, failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, failure to report an accident and reckless driving.

Ms. Currie was taken to a local hospital and pronounced dead a short time later. The male pedestrian was transported to University Hospital in Newark for treatment. At this point, the case remains an active investigation and additional charges may be filed.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield
Friday, February 24, a resident of the 600 block of South Chestnut Street reported that someone unknown smashed out a window on his motor vehicle.

Friday, February 24, a resident of the 200 block of Roger Avenue reported that someone unknown smashed out a window on his motor vehicle.

Friday, February 24, a resident of the 100 block of Lawrence Avenue reported that someone unknown stole \$3,600 worth of material from the residence.

Friday, February 24, Angel Lopez, 40, of Newark was arrested on an outstanding North Warren warrant for \$935 pursuant to a motor vehicle stop. He was released after posting bail.

Friday, February 24, Dashan L. Green, 20, of Plainfield was arrested after responding to police headquarters to satisfy an active Westfield traffic warrant. He was released after posting \$114 cash bail.

Friday, February 24, William Bean, 47, of Linden was arrested on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. He was released after posting bail.

Friday, February 24, Max Edelsack, 18, of Westfield was arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana during a motor vehicle stop in Brightwood Park. Edelsack was transported to police headquarters and issued summonses on the marijuana possession charge and for being in the park after permitted hours and for possessing a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) in a motor vehicle.

Friday, February 24, a resident of the 700 block of Garfield Avenue reported the theft of a bicycle while it was parked unsecured on the 100 block of East Broad Street. The Haro BMX-style bicycle, valued at \$200, has blue foot pedals, a purple sprocket chain, black seat, black handlebars and purple rubber grips.

Saturday, February 25, a Willow Grove Parkway resident reported that someone unknown attempted to gain entry into the victim's home through an unsecured window. Entry was not gained and no theft occurred.

Saturday, February 25, Darlene Romeo, 46, of Westfield was arrested on an outstanding Garwood warrant for \$89. She was released on her own recognizance after posting bail.

Saturday, February 25, Mark Adams, 29, of Westfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on an outstanding Garwood traffic warrant for \$89. He was released after posting the full cash bail.

Saturday, February 25, a Barchester Way resident reported a home burglary after someone unknown forcibly gained entry to the residence. It was unknown if any items were taken.

Saturday, February 25, a resident of the 200 block of Canterbury Road reported that his motor vehicle was damaged while parked on the street in front of his house. An unknown individual dented the driver's-side panel, causing an undetermined amount of damage to the vehicle. The victim also reported that eggs were thrown at his residence.

Sunday, February 26, a resident of the 1100 block of Grandview Avenue reported that someone unknown stole the victim's cell phone, valued at \$300.

Monday, February 27, Matthew Adkisson, 26, of Wimberley, Tex. was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated pursuant to a motor vehicle stop on the 300 block of East South Avenue. He was transported to police headquarters and released to a responsible adult.

Garwood
Wednesday, February 15, Jamar Turner, 28, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on the 100 block of South Avenue and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS), possession of a CDS in a motor vehicle, obstructed view and disregard of a traffic signal. He was released with a court date.

Wednesday, February 15, Marcus Williams, 26, of Hillside was arrested and charged with possession of CDS and possession of CDS in a motor vehicle after a motor vehicle stop on the 100 block of North Avenue. He was released with a court date.

Thursday, February 16, the manager of a South Avenue supermarket reported that a white male between the ages of 30 and 40 put two fillet mignon roasts, valued at \$270, in bags and left the store without paying. According to police, the incident was recorded on video surveillance.

Monday, February 20, someone smashed the side window of a motor vehicle parked in a parking lot on Chestnut Court and removed a Garmin GPS unit and a cell phone.

Tuesday, February 21, a resident of Winslow Avenue reported that someone removed a bicycle from the garage at the rear of his residence.

Wednesday, February 22, three men were arrested after a motor vehicle stop on the 400 block of South Avenue. Clervoyant Mchenhley, 19, and Brian Perez, 21, both of Elizabeth, were each charged with possession of CDS. Floyd Cheyenne, 19, of Scotch Plains was charged with possession of CDS, improper display of plates, obstructed view, improper mirrors and possession of CDS in a motor vehicle. All the suspects were released with a court date.

Fanwood
Monday, February 20, a resident of the 10 block of North Avenue reported that someone forced open the side door of his residence and that numerous items were stolen. According to police, the value of the items stolen is approximately \$800.

Monday, February 20, a resident of the 10 block of North Avenue reported that someone entered her unlocked garage and removed items valued at \$300.

Wednesday, February 22, Eddie Cajas-Bravo, 44, of North Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Sheelens Crossing on an active North Plainfield warrant. He posted bail and was released.

Thursday, February 23, Kandace

Francis, 23, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at South and Martine Avenues on an active Green Brook warrant. She posted bail and was released.

Thursday, February 23, Norshawn Dorsey, 31, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop at Midway Avenue and East Third Street on an active Plainfield warrant. He was turned over to the Plainfield Police Department.

Saturday, February 25, a resident of the 200 block of Pleasant Avenue reported that someone entered his locked motor vehicle and stole numerous items, valued at \$913.

Wednesday, February 1, a resident of the 20 block of LaGrande Avenue reported that between December 14, 2011 and February 1, several delivered packages, valued at \$170, were stolen from her front porch.

Sunday, February 26, a resident of the 100 block of Russell Road reported that sometime between February 18 and February 26, his bicycle, valued at \$405, was stolen from his detached garage.

Scotch Plains
Monday, February 20, a business owner on Jerusalem Road reported that sometime overnight, someone spray painted the wall behind his business.

Monday, February 20, Tristen Byrd, 24, of Allentown, Pa. was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana after a motor vehicle stop on Front Street. He was transported to headquarters and subsequently released.

Tuesday, February 21, Derek Grier, 21, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after a motor vehicle stop on Laurie Court. He was transported to police headquarters and subsequently released.

Wednesday, February 22, Daniel Dillard, 58, of Newark was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Sky Top Drive on a no-bail warrant issued by the Newark Court. He was transported to police headquarters and released to the Essex County Sheriff's Department.

Wednesday, February 22, James Heeneey, 32, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with fraudulent use of a credit card after an investigation regarding an individual making purchases without the owner's authorization. After police obtained additional evidence, Heeneey was arrested, transported to police headquarters and released after posting bail.

Thursday, February 23, a Dogwood Drive resident reported that sometime during the day, someone removed his iPod from inside his backpack.

Thursday, February 23, a Newark Avenue resident reported that someone made approximately \$200 in purchases without his authorization.

Friday, February 24, a resident of Donamy Glen reported that someone withdrew approximately \$500 in cash from his bank account.

Friday, February 24, Shaquanna Dicks, 25, of Irvington was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 on an outstanding \$400 warrant issued by the Woodbury Heights Court. She was transported to police headquarters and released.

Friday, February 24, Kamall Moore, 19, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on East Second Street on an outstanding \$200 warrant issued by the South Plainfield Court. He was transported to police headquarters and released.

Sunday, February 26, the manager of a Route 22 gas station reported that someone entered the store on the premises and removed several hundred dollars worth of cigarettes. According to police, entry was gained by smashing the front glass door.

Mountainside
Tuesday, February 21, police responded to an alarm going off at a residence on Orchard Road. According to police, when officers arrived, the front door had been forced open and two alarm panels had been ripped from the walls and the master bedroom had been ransacked. The homeowner told police that when she was returning home she observed four males sprinting past her home and into a four-door beige sedan that drove off towards Route 22.

Police responded to a second alarm on Orchard Road and upon arrival at the home found entry was gained through a back door and the house was ransacked. It is unknown at this time what was removed, police said. Police then responded to a third burglar alarm at a residence on Orchard Road to find the front door had been forced open and the house ransacked. Proceeds of the burglary are unknown at this time, police reported.

Wednesday, February 22, Jose M. Chanquin, 22, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for allegedly driving with a suspended license.

Wednesday, February 22, Jasmine Rosario, 26, of Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for allegedly driving with a suspended license.

Wednesday, February 22, Regina N. Khezri, 19, of Lindenhurst, N.Y. was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 for allegedly driving with a suspended license.

Wednesday, February 22, Manuel F. Vasquez, 46, of Summit was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Birch Hill Road for allegedly driving with a suspended license.

Thursday, February 23, a Ridge Drive resident reported that someone attempted to gain entry to his residence but that he scared him away by screaming. According to police, the suspect was seen wearing an orange baseball cap and fled in a medium sized SUV.

Thursday, February 23, a resident of Old Tote Road reported that she observed a white male, approximately 5 feet, 9 inches tall, in his early 20s, looking through her front picture window. According to authorities, she went to call police and when she returned, the suspect was gone. A search of the area by the Union County K-9 Unit was unsuccessful, police said.

Historical Society to Hear More on History of Sicily

WESTFIELD – Bruce Long will present the second part of his slide/lecture program on the history of Sicily at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society. The luncheon will take place at noon on March 7 at the Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

In his previous lecture, Mr. Long covered the influence on Sicily by the early settlers and invaders from the Phoenicians through the Greeks, Romans and Muslims. In this lecture, he will continue with the history of Sicily as he talks about other nations and historically significant figures that had an influence on the direction of the island nation. His talk will bring Sicily's early history up to the modern era and the unification of Sicily into the Italian nation under the leadership of Giuseppe Garibaldi.

Mr. Long is a retired engineer who spent the last 23 years of his career with Prudential as vice-president of

engineering in its real estate investment department. In this role, he and his nationwide staff of engineers were in charge of all engineering aspects of Prudential's multi-billion-dollar real estate portfolio.

Since his retirement from Prudential, Mr. Long, a member of the Westfield Historical Society, has done volunteer work with the Prudential Retirees Association and Habitat for Humanity in Plainfield, as well as some work for both the Downtown Westfield Corporation and the Westfield Historical Society. Recently, his volunteer work was extended when he was elected to the board of trustees of the Westfield Senior Citizen Housing Corporation and the board of the Friends of Mindowaskin Park.

All those wishing to attend the luncheon are asked to make a reservation by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon on Monday, March 5. The cost of the luncheon is \$21 for members and \$26 for non-members, including gratuity.



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