



Westfield Farmers' Market

Westfield Farmers' Market Continues Through Oct. 25

WESTFIELD — The Farmers' Market at the South Avenue train station in Westfield, presented by The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC), is in full swing for the fall. Every Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., through October 25th, the lot will be filled with farmers from around the state.

Participating farmers include Donaldson Farms, Peaceful Valley, Skeba Farms and J&L Farms. New to

the market this year is Glenmalure Farms, which provides a selection of grass-fed beef and lamb and free range chicken. From fresh vegetables, deserts, baked goods, cheeses and pickles, shoppers will find much to please them.

The Chamber reminds everyone that this year's Festival will be held in the streets of Downtown Westfield on Sunday, September 21 at 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Bills Signed to Promote State's 9,000 Farms to School Program

TRENTON — Acting Gov. Kim Guadagno has signed five bills at Terhune Orchards in Mercer County that support and streamline New Jersey's "Farm to School" program. "Children who live in the Garden State should have ready access to the more than 100 varieties of produce grown by our state's 9,000 plus farms," said Acting Governor Kim Guadagno. "By signing these bipartisan bills, we are nurturing a program that puts more of these healthy, locally-grown foods directly into the hands of our kids while supporting New Jersey's third-largest industry: agriculture."

The package of unanimously passed bills supporting the "Farm to School" program raise awareness of the program, create potential revenue streams for continued development and create a clearinghouse web portal to allow farmers to better connect with schools and food banks. The bills that were signed include:

A-156 — Requires the Department of Agriculture to post on its website certain information regarding the state's Farm to School program.

A-2641 — Provides for voluntary contributions on gross income tax returns to support Farm to School and School Gardens programs.

A-2642 — Allows contributions to the New Jersey Farm to School program.

A-2643 — Establishes "Best in New Jersey Farm to School Awards Program" to annually recognize the best Farm to School programs implemented by a school or school district.

A-2644 — Directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a clearinghouse website for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use

by school breakfast programs, school lunch programs and food banks.

More than 250 New Jersey schools participate in a "Farm to School" program, connecting school nutrition with local farms, improving the quality of school meals and strengthening relationships in the community. The program also helps children understand where their food comes from through the integration of food-related education into the curriculum and hands-on learning activities such as school gardening, farm visits and culinary classes.

Following the bill signing, the Acting Governor toured Terhune Orchards. Terhune grows more than 35 crops on 200 acres, including about 30 varieties of apples, 28 varieties of peaches and seven varieties of pears, and offers a "Pick-Your-Own" program for apples, berries, flowers and pumpkins. The farm is open to the public year-round and hosts seasonal festivals throughout the year.

In 2011, Governor Christie signed legislation to establish the last week of September as "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" in New Jersey to highlight and promote the value of New Jersey agriculture and fresh foods, as well as the value and importance of fresh farm foods for children, their health and success in school.

Agriculture is New Jersey's third largest industry. In 2012, the state's 9,000 farms on 715,057 acres generated sales of \$1.2 billion. The horticulture industry is one of New Jersey's top agriculture commodities. The industry includes nursery, greenhouse, sod and Christmas trees and generated \$445 million in sales in 2012.

Restoring Marshes to Make Coastal Communities More Storm Resilient

TRENTON — The Christie Administration, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and environmental and academic partners, has launched an \$8-million pilot project that will evaluate the effectiveness of a new process that uses clean dredge materials to restore salt marshes to make coastal communities more resilient against future storms.

The project will also study the benefits of using this approach to create a much-needed option for disposal of materials dredged from waterways to keep them navigable. It will also create habitat for endangered wildlife.

"We are very excited about this project and believe it has the potential to provide many benefits in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner," said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin. "It has the potential to make coastal communities naturally more storm resilient while helping to solve the problem of where to dispose sediment that builds up and impedes navigation in our waterways. As an added benefit, this will create places for birds to nest, in particular the state-endangered black skimmer."

The first phase of the project got under way last week on wetlands in Cape May County's Middle Township, just behind Stone Harbor. This roughly one-acre project will be followed next year by larger restoration of 45 acres in Avalon and near the Delaware Bay town of Fortescue.

The project is made possible by \$3.4 million from the U.S. Department of Interior Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience Competitive Grant Program. The Department of the Interior is providing \$103 million to help states impacted by Superstorm Sandy to develop strategies to bolster themselves against future storms.

In addition, the Army Corps is providing \$2.9 million and nearly \$2 million is coming from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The DEP, The Nature Conservancy, Green Trust Alliance, and Rutgers University will provide monitoring and analysis of both ecological and economic benefits of the process.

While wetlands have been constructed and restored in New Jersey for years, this is the first time the state is using a process known as thin layer placement, by placing several inches of dredged clean sediment to raise the level of degraded marshes enough to make them healthy again.

Coastal marshes have been degraded by a combination of subsidence—gradual sinking or caving in of land—and sea-level rise, making them more vulnerable to erosion, loss of marsh grasses and loss of nesting

habitat for birds. Areas that once were grassy are now open water.

One of the main goals of the project is to provide the Army Corps, New Jersey Department of Transportation and communities with a sustainable option for keeping navigable waterways clear.

"The re-use of silt and sand in wetlands or on beaches can be a powerful tool in the management of dredged materials," said NJDOT Acting Commissioner Joseph Bertoni. "One of the biggest challenges in advancing dredge projects is identifying sustainable, cost-effective and environmentally appropriate locations for dredged material."

"For the State of New Jersey to take this approach is very impressive," said Monica Chasten, an Army Corps of Engineers project manager, who is responsible for keeping the Intracoastal Waterway navigable. "It is a sound approach. This is the right thing to do, keeping this clean material in the system."

For decades, materials dredged from the back bays and channels have been placed in confined disposal facilities, creating unnatural island-like plateaus in coastal marshes. With thin layer placement, several inches of clean sand are pumped onto the marsh, providing a foundation for marsh grasses to take hold. These grasses help to absorb flood waters and storm surge. Higher sand bars are also constructed to provide bird-nesting habitat.

All dredge materials are thoroughly tested and must be clean before being applied to the marshes, said Laurie Pettigrew, a DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife biologist overseeing the project. "If everything goes the way we expect it to go, this will be a big benefit to communities in many ways," she said.

All of the restoration projects will take place on Wildlife Management Areas managed by the DEP. The site behind Stone Harbor is part of the Cape May Wildlife Management Area and is using sand dredged from nearby Hereford Inlet. Environmental groups will play a key role in monitoring the effectiveness of this process.

"The Nature Conservancy and its partners will study marsh health at the site before and after the restoration to ensure that the expected benefits are occurring, and that the marsh is not negatively impacted," said Patty Doerr, Director of Coastal and Marine Program with The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey. "We will monitor the effects on birds, fish, vegetation, elevation and hydrology, as well as determine the ability of the marsh to reduce flood damage to coastal communities."



YOUTHS...Acting Union County Sheriff Joseph Cryan congratulates, from left, Tamilore Fashae of Piscataway, Justyna Augustyn of Union, Tamiyah Holmes of Elizabeth and Tyson Dukes of Elizabeth on receiving the Sheriff Froehlich Memorial Perseverance Award during the graduation ceremony for the Union County Sheriff's Youth Academy held at Union County College in Cranford.

Union County Sheriff's Youth Academy Class Graduates

CRANFORD — More than 100 teens recently graduated from the Union County Sheriff's Youth Academy, a program designed to familiarize young people with the role of a police officer. Also, it operates similar to an actual police academy for teens interested in law enforcement.

Various law enforcement agencies participated in the program including the Elizabeth Police Department, the New Jersey State Police, the Union County Police Department and the Union County Corrections.

Participants in the Youth Academy received hands-on experience in a variety of emergency services and law enforcement functions and training. Youths have the opportunity to learn respect for law enforcement through positive interaction during their time in the program.

The Sheriff's Youth Academy is

not a 'boot camp' for troubled youth. In order to enroll in the program, the youngsters must have a minimum GPA of 2.70 (B- average), letters of reference and write an essay explaining why the student would like to attend the Youth Academy.

During the two-week program, the teens engaged in a physical training regime twice a day while attending lectures on subjects such as crime scene investigations, K-9 and motor vehicle stops. They also received visits from representatives from the U.S. Army, New Jersey State Police and the F.B.I., the Kenilworth Police Department and the Kean University Police Department.

The Youth Academy also involved class trips to the Union County SWAT Range, the Union County jail, the Elizabeth Police Department and the Union County Police Department.

Westfield Area Blood Drive Hosted By Westfield Rescue Squad

The Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad will be hosting a community blood drive on Sunday, September 14. The blood drive will be held at the squad's building at 335 Watterson Street. Hours to give blood will from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To give blood, donors must be in generally good health, meet weight criteria and be at least 17 years old or 16 with parental consent (signed NJBS consent form). Blood donors are asked to bring identification and have plenty to eat and drink the day of the blood drive.

For questions about donating blood or to schedule an appointment, please visit <http://nybloodcenter.org> and use group code 68156. Donors may also

call for information at (800) 933-2566. The blood drive will be run by New Jersey Blood Services, a division of the New York Blood Center.

Jonathan Delano
Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad
(908) 233-2500 squad



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SEPTEMBER 2014 EVENTS AT THE WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY
550 East Broad Street, Westfield 908.789.4090 www.wmlnj.org
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 9:00 pm Friday and Saturday 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Re-opening on Sunday from 1:00 - 5:00 pm on September 21
Closed August 30 - September 1 for Labor Day

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS (Check website for all registration information)

9/5	1:30 pm	TGIF! Travel: Carcassonne & the Pyrenees
9/6	7:00 pm	Cinema & TV: The NJ Connection
9/10	6:30 pm	How to Create a Winning LinkedIn Profile (for Westfield residents only)
9/12	1:30 pm	TGIF! The Wright Brothers
9/15	7:00 pm	Computer Class: Advanced Word: Using the Insert Tab
9/19	1:30 pm	TGIF! The Kingston Trio & Friends Reunion
9/26	1:30 pm	TGIF! Classic Movie: "The African Queen"
9/27	1:30 pm	Computer Class: PowerPoint 2007

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN (Check website for sign up information)

9/5	3:45 pm	Chess Club for Kids
9/16	6:30 pm	LEGO Club
9/19 & 26	10:00 am	Playgroup for Babies (0-23 months)
9/23 & 9/30	10:30 am	Pages for all Ages-Stories & Songs
9/23 & 9/30	1:00 pm	Afternoon Fun for 4's and 5's
9/24	10:30 am	Time for 3's Storytime
9/25	10:30 am	2's on Thursday Storytime
9/27	10:00 am	Paws to Read-New readers can practice reading to library dogs

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