

Matthew G. Farley, 49, Family Man; Avid Cyclist and Environmentalist

Matthew Griffiths Farley, age 49, a resident of Albuquerque, N.M., passed away peacefully on Thanksgiving, November 22. Matthew was hit by a methamphetamine impaired driver on June 26, 2017, and suffered severe traumatic brain injuries. His cause of death resulted from the injuries sustained in the car crash.



Matthew G. Farley

Matt was born in Summit, N.J., the third child of Terence and Audrey Farley, and grew up in Westfield, N.J. He graduated from Northeastern University in Boston and frequently volunteered at the New England Aquarium.

Matt was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, uncle, teacher, friend and mentor who will be dearly missed. Matt will always be remembered for his many wonderful qualities including his wit and humor, kindness, humility, inquisitive nature, intellectual curiosity, positive "can do" attitude and wisdom. Matthew was an avid naturalist, an avid cyclist and environmentalist who enjoyed the outdoors and dedicated many of his years to organizing and educating others, including his students, on sharing the outdoors, inspiring hope and exploration, while working with others on ways to become positive agents for restoration and change within Environmentalism and Environmental Education.

Matt was one of the original staff members involved in the opening of the Albuquerque Aquarium. Matt was an exemplary teacher at Rio Rancho High School. Along with several of his close colleagues, he was also instrumental in the development of the successful series of Advanced Placement Environmental Science and Zoology curriculum at Rio Rancho High School. He was recently awarded the 2018 New Mexico Outstanding Environmental Educator award.

Matt is survived by his wife of 17 years, Karen; their two sons, Collin and Gavin; his mother, Audrey; sister, Elizabeth Farley, and his brother, Peter. His father, Terence, predeceased him.

His legacy will live on through his boys and students. Matt's courage throughout this tragedy is a testament to his incredible strong character, will, and bravery for his family and friends.

The family of Matt is forever grateful for the tremendous outpouring of love and support from friends, colleagues, students and the community. In memory of Matt, the family requests donations be made to riversource.net or request that those interested, please do a random act of kindness for others, the environment, or for animals in honor of Matthew Farley.

December 6, 2018

Obituaries

Margaret 'Peggy' Campbell Sur, Former Westfield Councilwoman

Mrs. Margaret "Peggy" Campbell Sur of Bel Air, Md., formerly a resident of Westfield, N.J., for 38 years, died on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at her home in Bel Air, Md. She was 86. She was a graduate of Notre Dame College in New York and she taught Social Studies at Port Richmond High School, Staten Island, N.Y., before her marriage to William Sur in 1956. She served as a representative on the Westfield Town Council for six years. Appointed by former Mayor Richard Bagger, she was chairwoman of the 1994 renovation of Mindowaskin Park. Upon leaving town government, Mrs. Sur began an



Margaret "Peggy" Sur

effort to establish a Union County Animal Shelter, serving as its first president. She was a member of the Cornerstone Society of the Westfield Foundation.

Mrs. Sur is survived by her husband of 62 years, William Sur; four children, Katherine Wein (Robert) of Bel Air, Md., Nancy Sur (Abraham) of San Francisco, Calif., Kevin Sur (Carla) of Elko, Nev., and Patricia Sur (Bruce) of San Francisco, Calif.; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, alzfdn.org.

December 6, 2018

William A. Parkhurst, Jr., 86, Was Longtime Westfield Resident

William A. Parkhurst, Jr. passed away on Saturday night, November 24, 2018, at the Compassionate Care Hospice in Hamilton, N.J., after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 86.

Bill was born in Elizabeth, N.J., in 1932, and raised in Mountainside by his late parents, Helen (Tomlinson) and William A. Parkhurst, Sr. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953-1955.

Bill married Dorothea Nicolson in 1957. They lived in Westfield, N.J., for 38 years, where they raised their three sons, William, David and Brian.

He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, N.J. He worked as an auditor for MacNicol, Johnson & Co. in New York City for 12 years and as a comptroller for Kuehne Chemical Company in Kearny, N.J., for 28 years.

Bill was an active member of the Westfield Area Y's Men's Club, a service club in partnership with the YMCA, for almost 20 years.

Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife, Dorothea, in 2009. He is survived by his three sons and their wives, William III (Sandra), David (Maureen), and Brian (Maria), and five grandchildren. He is also survived by his three brothers and their wives, Philip (Karen), Rodger (Carole), and Ritner (Mary Ann), and six nieces and nephews.

Bill will be sadly missed by all who knew him but will remain in our hearts forever. His life will be celebrated by family in a private memorial service.

Arrangements are by Gray Funeral Home of Westfield.

December 6, 2018

Nellie McWilliams Jester, 90, Beloved Wife, Mother and Grandmother

Nellie McWilliams Jester, age 90, peacefully returned home to her Lord on Friday, November 30, 2018. Nellie was born on July 31, 1928 to Francis Joseph McWilliams and Nellie Austin McWilliams. She was the loving sister of Robert McWilliams. She was the beloved younger sister of Francis McWilliams, who predeceased her.

Nellie spent her childhood years in Nutley, N.J., where she met the love of her life in middle school, Harry "Bud" Jester. Upon graduating from Nutley High School, Nellie attended Beaver College, and after one year transferred to Skidmore College to be nearer to her greatest love, Bud, who attended college nearby. Nellie earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Elementary Education while at Skidmore.

Nellie and Bud held their friends from their youth close, spending decades of friendship sharing love, laughter, loss, nostalgia and Manhattan. A loyal and loving friend, Nellie was an admired hostess whose home was a warm and welcoming gathering place for friends, old and new, throughout her life.

Nellie and Bud were married in 1950, building their first home together in Robertsville, N.J. It was there that they began their family. Along with their three young and boisterous sons, David, Robert and Bruce, they moved to Westfield in 1958, where Nellie would enjoy her "greatest and most privileged job" as wife to Bud and mother to her boys. Nellie could be found at every sporting event, cheering on her sons. She logged in thousands of hours on the sidelines and lovingly washed all those uniforms, not a task for the faint of heart. She was her sons' greatest supporter and cheerleader for her entire life.

An adoring grandmother, she cherished and took great joy in spending every opportunity she had with her grandchildren, Laura, David, Tom and John. She also was blessed with two great-grandchildren, Grant and

Connor. She delighted in hearing of their adventures and was aglow in their presence.

Nellie's daughters-in-law, Sandra and Amy, enjoyed beautiful mother-daughter relationships of love and friendship that had eluded Nellie in her family full of boys.

An avid genealogist, Nellie spent many years pursuing documentation and building her family tree. She was proud of her ancestry as she was of her legacy. Nellie was a longtime member of The Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Westfield, The Magna Carta Dames and The Daughters of the American Revolution. Fluent in Spanish, Nellie enjoyed the companionship of her many Spanish-speaking friends through her membership in The Spanish Ladies Club, often hosting their monthly Tea. Always willing to lend a hand, Nellie served as a BSA Den Mother to her young Cubs and their energetic co-Cub Scouts.

In all things, Nellie was the Jester family cornerstone of love, a woman of kindness, beauty and grace. She will be deeply missed.

Nellie is survived by her adoring husband of 68 years, Harry "Bud" Jester; sons, David (Sandra), Robert and Bruce (Amy) Jester; brother, Robert McWilliams; grandchildren, Laura (Justin) Krebs, David, Thomas and John Jester; great-grandchildren, Grant Jester and Connor Krebs, and many extended family members and friends.

The Jester family will welcome friends and family to gather in remembrance of Nellie for a visitation and funeral service, both being held at Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, located at 582 Springfield Avenue, Westfield, N.J. Visitation will be held today, Thursday, December 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. The funeral service will be held on Friday, December 7, at 11 a.m., at the funeral home, followed by interment at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

December 6, 2018

Scotch Plains Cemetery To Be Wreath-Laying Site

SCOTCH PLAINS — Non-profit Wreaths Across America (WAA) has announced that the historic Scotch Plains Baptist Church Cemetery in Scotch Plains has joined in the effort to support the organization's mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, as an official location for 2018. This is the third consecutive year that this cemetery will participate in this national event. The cemetery will join numerous locations across the country on Saturday, December 15, in an effort to "Say Their Names."

WAA is a nationwide program in which wreaths are placed at veterans' graves in military and private cemeteries to honor those who served and sacrificed. Started in 1992 with the laying of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery, the program has expanded to more than 1,400 locations in all 50 United States and beyond.

Since the program's inception, WAA founder Morrill Worcester has always asked volunteers placing remembrance wreaths to take time to read the name on the headstone aloud. During the escort of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery in December 2015, WAA Executive Director Karen Worcester stated, "A person dies twice: the first time, when they stop breathing, and a

second time, when someone says their name for the last time."

Ms. Worcester also notes that, "We're not here to decorate graves. We're here not to remember their deaths, but their lives."

There are 92 veterans interred in Scotch Plains Baptist Church Cemetery, including several who served in the Revolutionary War. Through the efforts of American Legion Post 209 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10122, funds have been raised to place remembrance wreaths on their headstones and to say the names of all the local heroes laid to rest there, to ensure that the individuals who served to protect the freedoms Americans enjoy are not, and never will be, forgotten.

The cemetery is located at 333 Park Avenue at Grand Street near downtown Scotch Plains. The wreath-laying ceremony will start at noon. The public is invited to participate in this program to recognize the dedication, commitment and sacrifice of these veterans in service to America.

For more information on WAA and its mission, visit wreathscrossamerica.org. The local contact in Scotch Plains and Fanwood is Joe McCourt. He can be reached at (908) 377-9352 or via e-mail at joemccourt@comcast.net.

Mountainside Library Posts More December Activities

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Public Library has announced two additional activities for the month of December. The library will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25, in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and again on Monday and Tuesday, December 31 and January 1, in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

The Friday Operas on Film Series, presented by Mena Clemson, will be featured on December 14 at 1 p.m. *Eine Nacht in Venedig (Night in Venice)* by Johann Strauss will be shown. Anton De Ridder (Herzog) and Sylvia Geszty

(Annina) star in this 1973 recording filmed in Germany. The Munich Radio Orchestra is conducted by Kurt Eichorn.

"Guided Meditation for Inner Peace" will be offered on Thursday, December 13, at 7 p.m. Sally Youngmans will be at the library for her monthly yoga series. Participants are invited to explore and experience evidence-based meditation techniques for inner peace, overall well-being and stress reduction. A different technique is explored each month.

The Mountainside Public Library is located at 1 Constitution Plaza. Information on all programs is available online at mountainsidelibrary.org. Interested persons also may call the library at (908) 233-0115.

Hist. Soc. to Feature Victorian Christmas

KENILWORTH — The Kenilworth Historical Society will present a holiday celebration this Sunday, December 9, featuring "An Old-Fashioned Christmas." It will take place from noon to 5 p.m. at the historic Oswald J. Nitschke House, located at 49 South 21st Street, Kenilworth.

Visitors will have an opportunity to meet and take photos with Santa (from Victorian times); tour the circa 1880 home authentically decorated for Christmas in the late 19th- to early-20th-century style, and visit the site's Christkindlmarkt, where handcrafted items, homemade baked goods and other holiday treats will be available. Admission is free.

Additionally, visitors are invited to bring, for the Nitschke House Cultural Heritage Tree, an ornament, labeled with their family name and heritage, that represents their family's heritage/culture.

The Nitschke House has an elevator and is fully accessible. For further information, call (908) 709-0434.



MLK DAY PLANS...The Dr. Martin Luther King Committee of Westfield is planning their annual Martin Luther King Service set for Monday, January 21, 2019. All members of the public who would like to volunteer to help with this event are invited to attend the next meeting of the group this Saturday, December 8, at 3 p.m., at the Westfield Community Center, 558 West Broad Street, or to call (908) 654-6770 for more information. Members of the committee, pictured from left to right, are: Standing, Father Anthony Randazzo, Alice Dillon, Carol Molnar, Elizabeth Wolf and Alexis Jemal, and seated, Dr. Pam Brug, Donnell Carr and Rosa Randall.

Westfield Area Y to Begin Winter Registration

WESTFIELD — Registration for the Westfield Area YMCA Winter program session will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 6, for Full Members and at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, December 10, for Basic and non-members. The session runs January 2 to February 23. A printable version of the Winter Session Guide is available at westfielddnj.org.

Programs and classes for the entire family will be available. The Y offers an extensive swim program that accommodates varying abilities and helps foster a sense of achievement as swimmers progress. Parent/child classes are available for parents with children ages 6 months to 3 years. For youth and teens, the water safety and stroke development curriculum allows swimmers to develop at their own pace. Diving lessons also are available.

AY Lifeguard Certification Course will be held for those age 16 and above interested in gaining the knowledge, skills and certification to be a lifeguard and professional rescuer. The class will be offered on Thursday and Friday, December 27 and 28, and a physical skills test before registering for the course is required.

Indoor Soccer Leagues for ages 4 to 8 are registering now. Winter classes include basketball, speed school, tennis, soccer, GaGa, climbing, t-ball and more. The Y's extensive Tae Kwon Do program is led by a team of certified ATA instructors under the leadership of fifth degree black belt

Chief Instructor Pamela Gedman.

The Y's Dance Academy enrolls students of all abilities and skill levels, ages 3 years through adult. Classes include ballet and tap, jazz and hip hop and more. Dance Company is geared toward dancers of higher level abilities. To schedule an audition, contact dance@westfielddnj.org.

New this session for adults is "Find your Fitness Fit." These four Friday sessions will include conversational topics perfect for the new member or exerciser. The class is free for Y members.

For senior citizens, Y offerings include bridge class, Senior Exercise, Arthritis Aquatics, Delay the Disease for those with Parkinson's, and the annual "Appy Hour" to celebrate the holidays on Wednesday, December 12. A free Balance Screening and Fall Prevention seminar will be held on Wednesday, January 23. Non-members are welcome.

Monthly fifth-grade dance parties are offered and the Y hosts Friday Teen Nights. Middle- and high-school students can participate in Leaders Club and Achievers, ski and snowboard trips and Youth & Government.

For information on all the classes, programs, leagues and events offered at the Westfield Area YMCA, visit westfielddnj.org, call (908) 301-YMCA (9622) or visit the Main Y Facility Welcome Center, located at 220 Clark Street, Westfield.

Cranford Rec. Announces Home Decorating Contest

CRANFORD — The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department invites residents to take part in the township's Fourth Annual Holiday Decorating Contest.

Participants are asked to fill out the registration form letting the department know their house will be entered in the contest. Forms can be found online on the recreation department's website, Facebook, Instagram or at the Cranford Community Center, located at 220 Walnut Avenue.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Most Outra-

geous, Most Traditional and All-Around Favorite.

Prizes will consist of a gift certificate to a local establishment, as well as a lawn sign to let everyone know the house is a winner. A committee will be put together to vote. Winners will be announced on the evening of Thursday, December 20.

Registration must be entered by Friday, December 14. Registration forms can be e-mailed to: recreation@cranfordnj.org or dropped off at the Cranford Community Center. For more information, call (908) 709-7283.

Bridges Teens to Meet December 11

SUMMIT — The Bridges Teens Tackle Homelessness (TTH) Committee is a group of high-school students dedicated to learning about the causes of and solutions to homelessness. Each year the teen committee plans a conference on homelessness for high-school students across New Jersey.

The next TTH meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 11, at 7 p.m. For information, access bridgesoutreachnj.org/teens-tackle-homelessness/. To RSVP, e-mail

volunteer@bridgesoutreach.org.

In addition to the annual conference, the teen committee participates in multiple activities designed to help people in need and educate themselves on homelessness.

TTH meets throughout the school year, and often plans several summer activities. Those interested in learning more about the Bridges Teens Tackle Homelessness Committee are asked to contact the operations manager at volunteer@bridgesoutreach.org for updates and information.

Garden Historian to Speak On Empress Josephine

CRANFORD — The Hanson Park Conservancy invites the public to the Cranford Community Center on Tuesday, January 22, at 7 p.m., as the conservancy welcomes garden historian Lesley Parness for a special presentation entitled "Josephine — The Empress Gardened."

Ms. Parness will discuss how French Empress Josephine's fine taste informed 18th- and 19th-century style, from couture fashion to interior design. Likewise, she was influenced by her Caribbean heritage, her narrow escape from the guillotine, and her legendary love for flowers. When divorced from her husband, Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, this powerful style-maker and lifelong fashionista focused her energies on her estate, Malmaison. There, her passion for plants grew and bloomed. Her legendary love of roses stopped a war, cost a fortune, set explorers to sail, and started a

floral industry that endures today.

Ms. Parness is the retired superintendent of horticultural education at New Jersey's Morris County Park Commission, where she oversaw programming at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Willowood Arboretum and Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center. She is a member of the Herb Society of America, The Council on Horticultural and Botanical Literature, and Garden State Gardens, a consortium of New Jersey's public gardens of which she is a founding member.

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue. The program is free and open to the public. No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This presentation is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy. To learn more, visit the organization's website, hansonparkconservancy.com, or like the conservancy on Facebook.



SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE...Boy Scouts and Leaders from Troop 73, sponsored by the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, recently participated in the annual Scouting for Food drive. Cub and Boy Scouts across Westfield distributed shopping bags and later collected donated food for delivery to the Westfield Food Pantry. The Scouts filled more than three rooms with food from floor to ceiling. Scouts helped move bags from cars delivering the food to the pantry, sorted the food and placed it on the pantry shelves. More than 40 Scouts and adults helped at the pantry on November 10. For more information on Troop 73, contact Scoutmaster Rob Lang at cowboyflint@troop73nj.org.

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