

GWACC 23rd Spring Fling Sunday In Westfield

WESTFIELD — Westfield's 23rd annual Spring Fling, sponsored by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC), will be held on the streets of Downtown Westfield this Sunday, May 6, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., rain or shine.

The fun-filled day offers activities for all ages including a Kids Zone with rides and a multitude of fun activities. The event will have many diverse food vendors and food trucks from the surrounding area, including the "Empanada Guy." This year's primary sponsors are Atlantic Health System, operator of area hospitals including Overlook Medical Center in Summit, *The Star-Ledger* and NJ Kids. The main stage will feature non-stop entertainment starting at 10 a.m. with live performances by the Westfield High School Jazz Ensemble, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, RMC Studios, Valencia Music and the feature band, Hoi Polloi, at 3:45 p.m. There also will be a pie-eating contest sponsored by Bovella's Bakery. Many vendors have giveaways during the first few hours. Spring Fling will feature 200 local merchants, 30 food booths and, in addition, the stores of Westfield will be open for business as well. With an estimated 35,000 people filling the streets, it is sure to be a day buzzing with activity. Admission is free.

"This event continues to grow each year in attendance and this year should be no exception," said Gene Jannotti, GWACC executive director.

The following streets will be closed to vehicular traffic on Sunday morning starting at 6 a.m.: East Broad Street from North Avenue to Central Avenue, Quimby Street, Elm Street from North Avenue to the old Texaco Station, and Prospect Street from North Avenue to Ferris Place. Parking is prohibited on the streets in the Spring Fling area all day Sunday.

Downtown businesses in the area should advise employees to park in the South Avenue Train Station lot for the day. Downtown residents are reminded to park in municipal lots, out of the Spring Fling area.

Pets, skateboarding and rollerblading are prohibited in the Spring Fling area. This rule is for the safety of attendees of all ages, and also for the safety of the animals.

"Spring Fling attendees are encouraged to park in the South Avenue train station parking lot," Mr. Jannotti said. He said this will provide the closest parking to the activity area, with easy access to North Avenue through the convenient underpass at the Westfield Train Station. For further information, contact the GWACC office at (908) 233-3021 or visit springflingwestfield.com.



FANWOOD DEMOCRAT SLATE...Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr meets with Borough Councilwoman Erin McElroy-Barker and Patricia Walsh, who have been nominated by the Fanwood Democratic Committee to run for the borough council. Ms. McElroy-Barker is seeking a second term while Ms. Walsh is running for the seat of Jack Molenaar, who is not seeking re-election.

Fanwood Dems Nominate McElroy-Barker, Walsh

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Democratic Committee has nominated Borough Councilwoman Erin McElroy-Barker for a second term and resident Patricia Walsh to run for the council seat currently held by Jack Molenaar, who is not seeking re-election.

Councilwoman McElroy-Barker, currently serving her first term on the governing body, is chairwoman of the council's Recreation and Community Services Committee and a member of the council's Health and Senior Services and Public Works Committees. She has been involved in charting the course of recreation programs in Fanwood and has been an advocate for Fanwood taxpayers.

She is a 15-year resident of Fanwood and is married with two boys. A full-time social worker at Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center in New Brunswick, she specializes in helping people with chronic disease. She has worked with children and families for more than 20 years.

"Fanwood is such a great place for children to grow up," Ms. McElroy-Barker said. "I really want to maintain Fanwood as an affordable place to live while strengthening our iden-

tity as a community of people who care about one another."

Ms. Walsh is a 26-year resident of Fanwood whose four children have all gone through the local public school system. Her interest in public education is rooted in her 30-year career as a teacher in the New York City school system and her involvement in local PTAs and school-sponsored programs in the community.

Ms. Walsh has been involved in many of Fanwood's signature events including Earth Day, the 5K and the annual holiday tree lighting. She is a past member of the College Club and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, both of which award scholarships to local high school seniors. She is married to Recreation Commissioner Neil Pierce.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the mayor and council to continue the great work that has made Fanwood such a wonderful community. I feel very fortunate to have been able to raise my four children in such a fabulous town," she said.

Fanwood Council members serve the public for \$1 a year with no other benefits.

Freeholder Carter Running For Assembly Vacancy

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union County Freeholder Linda Carter of Plainfield has announced her candidacy for member of the General Assembly in the 22nd Legislative District to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Assemblyman Jerry Green (D-22nd, Plainfield).

"Like everyone else, I was incredibly saddened by Jerry's passing," stated Ms. Carter. "As my longtime friend and mentor, I saw Jerry fight for everyday people who felt their voices were never heard. If I'm fortunate enough to succeed him, I am eager to continue that fight in the General Assembly."

Ms. Carter has served as a freeholder since 2011, after being elected in 2010 and reelected in 2013 and 2016. She served as the first African-American Union County Freeholder chairwoman in 2013. Prior to that she was a Plainfield councilwoman.

She is employed by the Passaic Board of Education as a high school business education teacher. Prior to that she worked for AT&T in access management of the CFO Division, and as a portfolio asset manager for credit communication.

The communities comprising the 22nd Legislative District include Clark, Dunellen, Fanwood, Green Brook, Linden, Middlesex, North Plainfield, Plainfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains and Winfield. A convention comprised of Democratic county committee members from those communities will take place on Tuesday, May 15, in Scotch Plains to fill the vacancy.

Upon her announcement, several prominent Democratic leaders throughout the 22nd Legislative District offered their endorsement and support.

"Linda's been a tremendous public servant for over 15 years, both as a local elected official in Plainfield and as a Union County Freeholder," stated Union County Democratic Chairman and 22nd Legislative District Senator Nick Scutari (D-Linden). "She's got the perfect combination of experience and talent, and I look forward to working with her."

"Now more than ever, New Jersey taxpayers need leaders who will put the interests of working families first," stated Middlesex County Democratic Committee Chairman Kevin McCabe. "Linda has been a tenacious advocate for residents in Union County, and we are honored to offer her our support at the May 15 convention."

"Linda Carter is more than an ex-



Linda Carter

perienced public official — she's a longtime community activist and public school teacher who will do a great job representing Somerset County families in the General Assembly," said Somerset County Democratic Chairwoman Peg Schaffer. "I'm proud to offer my endorsement."

"I was honored to partner with Jerry Green in the Assembly, and I believe Linda Carter will do a terrific job in representing the 22nd District in Trenton," said State Assemblyman Jim Kennedy (D-22nd, Rahway). "I'm happy to support her."

"Linda has been one of my most important partners in Plainfield," stated Mayor Adrian Mapp. "She is an energetic and passionate public servant who has served for seven years as a Plainfield councilwoman and then for the last eight as a Freeholder. I've seen firsthand the commitment she brings to helping our residents. She will be a powerful voice for Plainfield families in the General Assembly."

Editor's Note

STATE — In regard to the vacancy in the General Assembly seat in Legislative District 22, *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* reached out to the New Jersey Department of State. The following was sent by the department's communications director, Timothy J. Carroll, communications:

"The Democratic and Republican State Committees will have conventions and file a name with the Secretary of State for placement on the General Election ballot. There will not be a Primary Election. Independent candidates will have the opportunity to file nominating petitions. Petitions are due on June 5, Primary Election Day." Democrats will hold their convention on Tuesday, May 15.

Union County Clerk Offers Gold Star Cards for Parents

COUNTY — Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi has announced that Gold Star Parent identification cards are now available from her office for mothers and fathers of military service members who died while on active duty.

A new state law authorizes counties in New Jersey to issue the card, which provides for free access to New Jersey state parks, forests and beaches and the New Jersey State Museum.

"The Gold Star Parent card recognizes that sons and daughters will always be remembered and honored by their parents and by the Union County community," said Ms. Rajoppi. "My office is proud to provide these cards as a modest token of gratitude for the sacrifice that families in our community have made in service to our country."

Gold Star is a military designation with roots in World War I, when households flew flags with a blue star for each immediate family member serv-

ing in the military. A gold star replaced the blue in case of casualty in uniform, signaling the family's sacrifice to their neighbors and their community.

Union County is the third county in New Jersey to offer the cards. Ocean County and Cape May County also offer them.

In addition to biological parents, the new law enables legal guardians, adoptive parents and other custodians to qualify for a card.

Union County residents may apply for the card in person at the County Clerk's Elizabeth or Westfield offices. Appropriate documentation is required, including a Federal DD Form 1300 report of casualty and proof of the applicant's relationship to the deceased.

For more details about applying for a Gold Star Parent card in Union County, including hours and directions for the County Clerk's Elizabeth and Westfield offices, visit online at ucnj.org/county-clerk or call (908) 527-4787.



NEWEST FREEHOLDER...Union County Freeholder Chris Hudak brought his daughter, Catie, to last Thursday's freeholder meeting as part of Bring Your Child to Work Day.

County to Resurface 18 Miles of Roads

COUNTY — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that a total of 18 new miles of county roads will be repaved this season in 14 municipalities.

The 2018 Roads Resurfacing program will begin this summer after the county completes the 2017 Roads Resurfacing program. The 2018 program will cost approximately \$7.5 million with an approximate 50-50 funding split between the county and the state Transportation Trust Fund. The work will be conducted at night when possible.

Among the roads scheduled for resurfacing in 2018 are Clark/Scotch Plains, Martine/Lake Avenue from Raritan Road to Oak Ridge Road; Fanwood/Scotch Plains, North and Midway Avenues from Terrill Road to East Broad Street; Mountainside/Springfield, and Summit Road from Route 78 to Route 22.

Also included are Berkeley Heights, Mountain Avenue from Horseshoe to Diamond Hill Road, and South Street in New Providence from Springfield Avenue to Mountain Avenue.



FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS...Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, pictured, stands next to an enlarged poster that announces the Gold Star Parent identification card that is now available from her office, for mothers and fathers of military service members who died while on active duty.

The Law Offices Of
Lisa M. Black, LLC
 223 Elmer Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
908-233-1803
lmb.blacklaw@gmail.com
 Specializing in all aspects of Family Law, Adoptions, Estate Planning, Real Estate Sales and Purchases
 Call for a free consultation

DEEGAN ROOFING COMPANY
908-322-6405
 Tear-Offs • Re-Roofs
 Repairs • Gutters
 Free Estimates • Fully Insured

LAWRENCE A. WOODRUFF ATTORNEY
 ESTATE PLANNING - WILLS & TRUSTS
 PROBATE AND ESTATE SETTLEMENT
 REAL ESTATE CLOSINGS
 FAMILY LAW
 ACCREDITED DIVORCE MEDIATOR
 201 SOUTH AVE.
 WESTFIELD
 654-8885

If things get you up a tree...
 CALL
SCHMIEDE SCHWIEDE
 TREE EXPERT CO.
908-233-TREE
 908-233-8733
www.schmiedetree.com

