

Memorial Day Parade Set For Monday In Westfield

WESTFIELD — The annual Westfield Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Monday, May 27. Opening ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m. at the World War I Monument Circle.

All participants marching in the parade should assemble in the Lord & Taylor West parking lot between 8 and 8:20 a.m., where a position in the line of march will be designated. All participants should be dropped off in the parking lot across from Lord & Taylor. Police will safely cross them to the main lot.

Opening ceremonies will feature remarks by Allan Betau, past commander of the Westfield American Legion Martin Wallberg Post No. 3. Mr. Betau will reflect on this year's 100th anniversary of the post. Mayor Shelley Brindle also will express her thoughts on Memorial Day.

Bob D'Areca, chaplain for Post No. 3, will offer the opening prayer and benediction. Kerry Stubbs will sing an a cappella rendition of "God Bless America." Bob Wade will play bagpipes during the ceremony.

The Westfield High School Chorale Group, conducted by John Brzozowski, will sing the "The Star-Spangled Banner." The Westfield High School Marching Band, led by Chris Vitali, and the Westfield Community Band will perform along the parade route.

Ted Schlosberg, Ed.D., executive director of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will direct the "Echo Taps Ensemble" with trumpeters Glen Parisi, Dan Sugarman, Duncan Cook and Stas Staszakarenko.

Wreaths will be sponsored by the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. Larry Sheldon, a Westfield resident, is sponsoring a wreath from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which will be presented by members of the Girl Scouts. The Westfield PAL and the Westfield Boosters will present wreaths honoring veterans.

Mr. Schlosberg will present a wreath on behalf of the Schlosberg family, in memory of his uncle, George Cohen, a tank commander in World War II, as well as Mr. Schlosberg's brothers, Lenny and Norman, who served in the United States Air Force. As in the past, the New Jersey Calvary and Armor Association, on behalf of the 1-102nd Calvary National Guard in Westfield, currently deployed in Jordan, will present a wreath.

During the ceremonies there will be a series of bell tolls echoing from the bell tower of the First United Methodist Church. Jack Panosh, Westfield Bell Master and town clock curator, will coordinate the ringing.

The gun volleys at the opening ceremony will be performed by members of "The Fighting 69th Regiment New York State Volunteers." The 69th was the first regiment of the famed Irish Brigade of the Union Army during the Civil War. Today, members use authentic uniforms and equip-

ment to accurately portray the soldiers as they were in 1862.

This year's grand marshal honor has been awarded posthumously to Westfield High School Principal Derrick Nelson.

A contingent of veterans will lead the parade. Mayor Brindle, the town council and members of the board of education will follow.

Participating in this year's parade will be various civic groups and other local organizations, among them the Westfield Community Center, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy and Cub Scouts and members of the PAL. Westfield's Fire, Police and Public Works departments also will participate. Antique and classic cars will be showcased in the parade.

After opening ceremonies, the parade line of march will be directed by Barbara Verdic. The line of march will be north on East Broad Street, ending at Fairview Cemetery, where a final ceremony by the American Legion at the Civil War section will take place.

The parade committee thanks the management of Lord & Taylor in Westfield for allowing use of their parking lot to assemble the parade marchers.

After the parade there will be a barbecue at the American Legion Post at the corner of Crossway Place and North Avenue. All are welcome.

In the event of poor or questionable weather on the day of the parade, call (908) 233-2767 for an outgoing message and instructions.

Hist. Society to Explore Memorial Day Origins

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will highlight "Memorial Day and Its Origins in the Civil War" at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 28, beginning at 7:30 p.m. It will take place at the Shady Rest Scotch Hills Country Club, located at 820 Jerusalem Road, at the corner of Plainfield Avenue, in Scotch Plains.

This program will cover when Memorial Day became a national holiday; who proposed May 30 as the day to celebrate or memorialize soldiers; the difference between the Northern (Union) states and the Southern (Confederate) states, and the significance of Waterloo, N.Y.

A quiz will be given to participants on these and other questions related to the Memorial Day holiday. Afterwards, audience members will be invited to share their memories of Memorial Day parades and celebrations as well as of family members who served in the military. Pictures are encouraged.

This event is free and open to all. Historical Society members are welcome to bring family members and friends. Fellowship and refreshments will follow the program. For further information, call Connie Klock at (908) 232-9489.

Fanwood Ladies Night Out To Return For Eighth Year

FANWOOD — Downtown Fanwood will stay open late on Thursday, June 6, for an evening of shopping, giveaways and community during the Eighth Annual Ladies Night Out.

The Borough of Fanwood will host Ladies Night Out that evening, from 6 to 9 p.m., during which time participants will have the opportunity to connect with local businesses.

"Ladies Night Out is an excellent opportunity to showcase our beautiful, newly-redeveloped downtown and all of the incredible stores that call Fanwood home," said Mayor Colleen Mahr. "Fanwood's downtown has been thriving since the redevelopment, and without such a strong retail center, Ladies Night Out would not be the success it is today."

Ladies Night Out hosts 250 women each year and offers late-night shopping, goody bags, a Tricky Tray event and shopper specials. Once participants have completed their shopping, they will have the opportunity to redeem their receipts for tricky tray tickets, and a large tricky tray event will then be held in the registration

area from 8 to 9 p.m.

"I am so proud to see this event return for the eighth year," said event organizer Mindy Scarlett. "Ladies Night Out has grown and evolved significantly over the years, and this year's event is set to be the best yet."

For more information, contact Ms. Scarlett at mindy@thescarlettconsultinggroup.com. Those interested in becoming vendors should contact Theresa Flood at tafbaskets@comcast.net.

Tricky tray donations are still being accepted. Interested persons are asked to contact mindy@thescarlettconsultinggroup.com.

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HISTORY ENTHUSIASTS...The Marsiglia family recently was honored with the 2019 Cranford Historic Preservation Award for their restoration of the Cranford Trust Building. Pictured, from left to right, are: John Marsiglia, Maureen Strazdon, chairwoman of the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board, and Rich Marsiglia. John and Rich share the award with their siblings, Bill Marsiglia and Paula Manto.

Marsiglia Family Receives Cranford Hist. Pres. Award

CRANFORD — The 2019 Cranford Historic Preservation Award has been presented to the Marsiglia family for their restoration of the Cranford Trust Building. The Marsiglias replaced part of the dentil cornice that had fallen off an area of one of Cranford's historic downtown buildings, making it look like it once did.

At a ceremony in March, Richard, John and Bill Marsiglia and their sister, Paula Manto, were recognized for doing what they stated was, "the right thing to do for Cranford and for the building."

During the presentation, Maureen Strazdon, chairwoman of the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board, gave a short history of the buildings that have stood at the corner of North and North Union Avenues. The Opera House Block, owned by William Sperry, was built in 1892. On February 3, 1912, a fire leveled the Block, resulting in losses over \$125,000 (more than \$3 million in today's dollars).

In April 1912, William Sperry announced that a new three-story building would replace the Opera House Block. That building still stands as a cornerstone of Cranford's downtown.

Meanwhile, the Cranford National Bank had opened in 1904 at North Union Avenue and Alden Street, and in January 1912 the Cranford National Bank became the Cranford Trust. The bank's president was William Sperry's brother, Thomas. In December Cranford Trust moved in and the entire building was named for the bank. Today, the Cranford Trust Building is home to a barbershop, an ice cream shop, the bank and other businesses.

Each year the Cranford Historical Society and the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board jointly present an award to the owner of a residence or business that has undertaken efforts to preserve the character of Cranford.

Founded in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society is a private organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history of Cranford. For more information, visit cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

The Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board is a township committee established in 1993. Its mission is to aid in the preservation of Cranford's architectural heritage. More information is available at preservcranford.com.

SP-F Memorial Day Events To Honor Fallen Heroes

SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD — The communities of Scotch Plains and Fanwood have announced their schedule of Memorial Day events paying tribute to those American military personnel of all wars who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in service to their country.

The eighth annual Memorial Day Concert is set for Sunday, May 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m. It will be held on the Alan Augustine Village Green, adjacent to the Scotch Plains Municipal Building at 430 Park Avenue.

The Westfield Community Concert Band will play patriotic tunes and traditional marches. Additionally, the program will include the reading of letters written by members of the United States military to their loved ones back home.

On Monday, May 27, Memorial Day observances will begin with a memorial service at 8 a.m. at American Legion Post 209 at 237 Park Avenue at Sunset Place in Scotch Plains.

At 9 a.m., there will be a memorial ceremony and presentation of wreaths

at the Fanwood Memorial Library at 5 Forest Road. A memorial tribute and laying of wreaths will take place at 10 a.m. at the gazebo at Park Avenue and Front Street in downtown Scotch Plains.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade will follow this ceremony. The theme for this year's parade is "All Gave Some...Some Gave All." The parade will recognize the service, commitment and sacrifices of members of the United States armed forces who have defended and continue to protect their country.

The grand marshals of the parade are two World War II veterans, Joe Murano and Joe Schott, longtime residents of Fanwood. Both United States Navy veterans, Mr. Murano, 94, served in the Pacific during the war and Mr. Schott, 97, was stationed in England.

Starting at 10:45 a.m. at the gazebo in downtown Scotch Plains, the parade will proceed along Park Avenue, move down Martine Avenue into the center of Fanwood, and end at LaGrande Park in Fanwood.

Dr. Nelson Named Honorary Grand Marshal of Parade

By FIONA GILLEN
Editor-in-Chief of Hi's Eye

Respected leader. Dedicated service member. Beloved friend. Adored father. Dr. Derrick Nelson, principal of Westfield High School, was a hero — in every sense of the word. His courage, selflessness and integrity inspired the Westfield community and his legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched along the way.

Last month, Dr. Nelson unexpectedly passed away due to complications associated with a stem cell donation in late February. He dedicated his life to his country, to his family, to his students and to those in need. In memory of his service, Dr. Nelson has been named Honorary Grand Marshal of Westfield's Memorial Day Parade.

Dr. Nelson's commitment to service began when he enlisted in the Army at 19 years old. He served as an officer in the Army Reserve for more than 20 years and was deployed with the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command to Afghanistan in the summer of 2013. His service earned him the title of Chief Warrant Officer Nelson.

"Dr. Nelson was a true American hero," said Westfield High School Counselor Paul Valenzano. "Whether it was the work he did in education or how he served his country, and even the selflessness that led up to this tragedy — all things point to the fact that he was a real American hero."

Service came in all shapes and sizes for Dr. Nelson. Service was fighting for his country and trying to save the life of a young boy he didn't know with his stem cells. Service was also asking for donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital instead of gifts for his last birthday. It was calling students into his office simply to ask how they were doing or being there for his colleagues during difficult times. Service was hosting a barbecue for the entire WHS staff at the end of the summer, running with the track team during practices and bond-

ing with students while breaking out his legendary dance moves at prom. "A selfless gesture can make all the difference in the world to a person," Dr. Nelson said in a 2014 WHS graduation speech. "Most times, being kind to someone can cost you nothing, but it can pay in dividends."

Dr. Nelson's impact is still reverberating — through the hallways where he would sing at the top of his lungs after school, through Kehler Stadium where he would ignite the crowd on game days, and through his own home, where he would make his 5-year-old daughter smile and laugh. Dr. Nelson showed the Westfield community what it means to be a true hero, inspiring others to strive to do the same.

The Westfield Memorial Day Parade is sponsored by the Town of Westfield and the American Legion. The parade is scheduled for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27. Opening ceremonies will start at 9 a.m. at the World War I Monument Circle. The parade route will be north on East Broad Street, ending with a small ceremony at Fairview Cemetery. All local organizations and businesses are welcome to participate in this tribute to veterans. Please call Stan Cuba for additional information at (908) 233-2767.



Dr. Derrick Nelson

GreekFest on Tap At Local Church

WESTFIELD — The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will host its annual GreekFest from Friday, May 31, at 5 p.m., until Sunday, June 2, at 2 p.m., at 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield. There will be Greek food, Greek dancing, a Greek Market, plus additional offerings.

This year admissions proceeds will benefit the Westfield EMTs, the Westfield PBA, and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. For more information, go to njgreekfest.com/. Admission is \$2.

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