

Westfield Memorial Day celebration changes

WESTFIELD - Mayor Brian P. Sullivan announced that the route for the 2016 Memorial Day Parade through the city has changed.

Due to the construction on North Elm Street the 2016 parade will run from Stanley Park's Kensington Ave. entrance and will culminate at Parker Memorial Park on West Silver St. directly across from South Middle School. The route is approximately 2 miles.

Any groups marching in the Memorial Day Parade must begin assembling at 9:00 AM at Stanley Park as the parade will begin promptly at 10am.

The assembly area will be near Stanley Park Drive off of Kensington Ave. The area is best accessed by entering Stanley Park through either Gate 3 or Gate 4 on Kensington Ave.

Authorized Parade Vehicles are asked to enter at Gate 4 for pre-parade staging.

The parade route will be as follows: beginning at Stanley Park Drive, the marchers will march out of Gate 3 onto Kensington Ave, turn left towards Western Ave, and then right onto Western Ave. The parade will continue down Western Ave onto West Silver St, terminating at Parker Memorial Park, which is across from Westfield South Middle School. Memorial Day Ceremonies will take place in Parker Memorial Park.

Following the Parker Park Ceremonies, American Legion Post 124 will march from Parker Memorial Park towards East Silver St, turning Left onto Broad St toward the post home on Broad St, where additional ceremonies will be held.

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Westfield Senior Center Hosts Rep. Velis for 'Community Conversations' Legislative Luncheon

WESTFIELD - On Monday, May 16 from Noon to 2 p.m., Representative John Velis will host a 'Community Conversations' Legislative Luncheon at the Westfield Senior Center, 45 Noble Street.

The special guest speaker will be Representative Denise C. Garlick, Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs. Representative Garlick will outline resources offered by the Commonwealth to support our older adults.

In addition, she is looking for participants to share their needs and

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REP. DENISE C. GARLICK



Technical Academy carpentry students enjoyed lunch at Russell State Police Barracks, served on the table they had built for them. (Submitted photo)

Technical Academy students build table for Russell Barracks

By AMY PORTER
Correspondent

WESTFIELD - Students from the construction technology program at Westfield Technical Academy collaborated with the state police this spring to build a conference table for the Russell Barracks.

Technical Academy alumnus Trooper John Stec reached out to the carpentry program to see if they could help in this project. The experience allowed Stec to work with the sophomore carpentry students on some basic designs and measurements for the table. Stec encouraged the students to design and build the table in a fashion they thought would work best for the conference room setting.

"Building such a project for the barracks allowed students to use materials and techniques that we do not usually teach with the budget we have. It also allowed students to see the barracks and the opportunities of becoming a Massachusetts State Trooper," said teacher Wayne Bush, who worked on the project with the students.

Bush said the shop reached out to vendors to see if they could help with material for the learning process of this project. He said Gary Midura from L&R Sale of West Springfield donated laminate for the students to practice and use for the table top, and James Byrne from Prime Plywood and Panel of West

Springfield donated the particle board for the base of the top and extra material which allowed the students to practice various techniques with a router.

Bush said without the support of local businesses, the students would not be able to participate in projects like these.

On Thursday, March 31, 2016, Russell State Police Barracks' commanding officer, Lieutenant John Hackett, invited the students and staff to a luncheon to thank them for their hard work. Luncheon was served on the table they had built.

Members of the command staff from Troop B headquarters were also present, including Troop B Commanding Officer Major Barry O'Brien and his staff, Captain Michael Habel, Captain Bruce Hiorns, and Lieutenant Paul D'Auteuil. Also present was Senator Benjamin Downing's assistant, Nico Helems.

During the luncheon Lt Hackett and Troopers from the barracks presented a plaque to the students and a donation to the School that was collected from members of the barracks. Major O'Brien spoke with the students about the opportunities within the State Police and the process of becoming a State Trooper.

The new table will allow multiple troopers to work together comfortably at one convenient location, Bush said.

First-ever descendant of Mann set to graduate from Westfield State

By LORI SZEPELAK
Correspondent

WESTFIELD-Education is deeply rooted in Kayla Rosenbeck's family tree.

Rosenbeck, Class of '16 at Westfield State University, reflected on her famous relative - Horace Mann - during her last day of classes on Wednesday afternoon.

It was 178 years ago that Mann, an American politician and educational reformer, founded the first public coeducational school for teacher education in the United States. Opened in Barre, Mass., as the Normal School at Barre, the school was relocated in 1844 to Westfield. In 1932 the name changed to State Teachers College and in 1967 to Westfield State College. In 2010, the name changed again to Westfield State University.

Rosenbeck, a biology major, is the first-ever descendant of Mann to graduate from Westfield State. Her lineage stems from Benjamin Pickman Mann, one of three sons of Horace Mann. Mann's other sons were Horace Mann Jr., and George Combe Mann.

"My grandmother always talked about Horace Mann because she had done a lot of research on him," said Rosenbeck. "I always knew I would pursue higher education because I believe in lifelong learning."

Joyce Hine, Rosenbeck's grandmother, said during a phone interview that Mann was her great-great-grandfather on her mother's side.

"My mother's father, Horace, was the son of Benjamin Pickman Mann," she said, adding, "My mother was exceptionally smart and I see Kayla as a reincarnation of my mother. She's always studied and we are very proud of her."

Karen Post, Rosenbeck's mother, echoed those sentiments during a phone interview.

"Since kindergarten, Kayla has loved school and knew that higher education was part of her path," said Post.

When Rosenbeck was deciding which college to attend more than four years ago, once she visited the Westfield State campus with her mom she said "it felt like home."

Post added "we felt a peace when we came on campus. Kayla knew this is it."



Kayla Rosenbeck is a direct descendant of Westfield State University founder Horace Mann.

"I've loved my four years at Westfield State," said Rosenbeck. "It makes me sad to leave because it has been such a great environment for learning. The four years flew by."

After graduation, Rosenbeck is hoping to be accepted into the Veterinary Tech Program at Middlesex Community College.

"I have always loved animals," said Rosenbeck, adding in her family's Newington, Conn., home, they have four dogs. "I was always a tomboy, playing outside, playing with insects. I knew from an early age I wouldn't be happy any other way."

Rosenbeck also enjoys riding horses and has won 14 championships over

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Westfield State students share research on plastic bag ban with Council

By AMY PORTER
Correspondent

WESTFIELD - Three Westfield University seniors presented the research from their senior capstone project to the City Council Thursday evening at the invitation of Ward 1 Councilor Mary Ann Babinski. Michele Brooks, Michelle Coombs and Caleb Alvord each addressed the Council on their proposal for a plastic bag ban in Westfield.

The students said 26 towns in Massachusetts have a single use plastic bag ban, including Northampton, Greenfield, and one currently being proposed in Pittsfield. They said the bags are made of toxic polyethylene, and inevitably get into the water and waste stream, and into the food chain. The plastic bags also wreak havoc on the recycling stream.

The students did a survey with business owners in Northampton, which passed its ban effective in January. The majority of businesses said there were few complaints from customers, and no effect on store sales.

They also spent weekends in April outside of the Westfield Athenaeum educating residents about the hazards of plastic bags in the environment, and collecting signatures for a citizen petition in support of a ban. To draw attention, Coombs wore a Bag Monster costume. They collected 100 signatures at the library,

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WESTFIELD FIRE DEPT. PARAMEDICS

Drug related medical calls

WESTFIELD - From Friday, April 29 to Friday, May 6, the Westfield Fire Dept paramedics responded to the following drug related medical calls:

3 PATIENTS GIVEN NARCAN
3 POSSIBLE OVERDOSES
0 DEATHS

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