

Memorial Day

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In past years the parade started at what is known as the Mestek field on the southwest corner of North Elm and Notre Dame streets and went south through the city via Elm and Broad Streets and turned onto West Silver to Parker Memorial Park.

The Memorial Day Parade Committee of the Westfield Veterans Council invites all previous participants, and other parties interested in participating in this year's parade to contact the committee by e-mail at parades@cityof-westfield.org. The committee will no longer mail out paper invitations, and will use the e-mail registration as the primary means of registering for parade participation. As in the past, please remember that the parade is a means of recognizing the sacrifices of those who gave their lives in defense of our country, and as such, is intended as a solemn event to be so conducted by the parade participants. No floats or commercial vehicles will participate in the parade. No dancing, acrobatics, or other celebratory activities are allowed.



2016 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ROUTE



Left to right are Westfield State professor Marijoan Bull attended Thursday's City Council meeting to support seniors Caleb Alvord, Michele Brooks and Michelle Coombs as they presented their research in favor of a plastic bag ban for Westfield. (Photo by Amy Porter)

Research

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and 50 more online through social media. The students said most people they spoke with expressed their support and were excited about their efforts. The main objection they heard was that government should not be involved in the matter. At the end of their presentation, the students asked the City Council to refer their proposal to the Public Health and Safety Committee. Following the presentation, Babinski, who serves on that committee, congratulated the students on their thorough report, and made the motion to refer it to the committee for consideration. The motion passed. The idea for the project began last summer when Michele Brooks served as an intern at the Sierra Club. "Once I found out these bags are linked to fossil fuels, that's what was alarming to me," she said. Marijoan Bull, professor of geography and regional planning, then presented the idea of a team project to the students, who were all taking her environmental science and regional planning class. Brooks said having a team worked very well. "I never would have been able to do as much on my own," she said. Bull, who came to the Council meeting in support of her students, was excited about the project as well. "They are amazing - very committed, very smart, very thorough in their approach. They really show what's wonderful about this generation," she said. Babinski and the students are also sponsoring a viewing of the award-winning documentary "Bag It," in the Lang Auditorium at the Atheneum on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. The movie looks at Americans' use of 60,000 plastic bags every five minutes, disposable bags that they throw away without much thought. The movie asks where is "away?" Where do the bags and other plastics end up, and at what cost to the environment, marine life and human health?

Conversations

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concerns so that our State Legislators can plan for the future. This very special event offers Westfield's older adults a unique opportunity to participate in the legislative process without having to travel to Beacon Hill. The luncheon menu will include homemade Shepard's pie, roll, and orange Creamsicle fluff for dessert. Tickets are \$3 and must be purchased in advance at the Senior Center. Seating is limited. For more information, call the Westfield Senior Center at 562-6435.

Mann

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the years. "I love to ride and would like to continue competing," she said. As Mann once made a lasting difference in the lives of others, Rosenbeck hopes one day to also fulfill a dream - to make a difference with wildlife rehabilitation. "I don't see myself being in a lab," she said. "Research is fascinating and I enjoy it but I would prefer doing research outside." Rosenbeck also envisions working with adoption services and rescues for animals as part of her life's journey. "There's so much that needs to be done for animals," she said. "I want to be more active with helping or saving animals." As she departs in the coming days from a campus she literally called "home" for four years, she encourages others to pursue higher education. "It was so normal for me because education was stressed," she said. "I would suggest to others to push yourself and gain the knowledge you wouldn't otherwise have. You don't want to have a job that you don't enjoy going to every day." While Rosenbeck knows her career path includes interacting with animals, she also plans to give back to the university that has given her so much over the past four years. "I plan to do my part by becoming involved with the Horace Mann Legacy Society," said Rosenbeck. "It's so cool to have that connection with him."



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

Pittsfield police say gangs responsible for recent violence

PITTSFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Pittsfield's police chief is blaming gang activity for a recent spate of violence in the city. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Chief Michael Wynn told a crown of community leaders and citizens that the general public doesn't appear to be "directly" at risk in connection with the incidents. But he added that's he's worried "about someone being in the wrong place at the wrong time." Recent violent acts in the city include a pair of nonfatal shootings and a near-fatal stabbing. There also were two reports of gunfire in which no one was hit, but at least one building was struck. In the most recent shooting on Sunday, a 17-year-old boy was injured. Wynn says police are familiar with most of the people involved in the violence.

Hampden DA promises review of cases involving ex-chemist

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — The Hampden County District Attorney has promised a "thorough and objective review" of all cases involving a former chemist who was high almost every day she went to work at an Amherst drug lab for eight years. The Springfield Republican reports (<http://bit.ly/23u4vAO>) District Attorney Anthony Gulluni said Thursday that several thousand cases are potentially affected by Sonja Farak's misconduct. Farak was convicted in 2014 of stealing cocaine from the state crime lab at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Court documents released earlier this week revealed information about Farak's past drug abuse. Gulluni said his office is "committed to the integrity of its prosecutions, both current and past." A comprehensive review of all possibly affected cases is already underway.

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Westfield Class of 1964 get together planned

WESTFIELD — The reunion committee class of '64 Trade, St. Mary and Westfield High are getting together on **Friday, May 13 at 7 p.m.** at the Westwood Restaurant. Please join us and share ideas for reunions.

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