

Four Boy Scouts Attain Highest Level of Eagle

WESTFIELD — Boy Scout Troop No. 72 in Westfield recently honored Paul Kazasis, Matthew Leiz, Alexander Leong and Charles "Chad" Tortorello with the Eagle, the highest rank in Boy Scouting.

Each of the four scouts followed a rigorous path over several years, earning more than 21 merit badges, and planning and providing leadership for a substantive community service project.

Troop No. 72 is sponsored by the Questers Bible Study group of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Paul's Eagle project was to create in-class libraries for poor students who attend public schools in Newark. His project involved coordinating the activities of 30 volunteers for advertising, collecting, sorting and delivering 1,000 new and used books for the Newark school.

A senior at Westfield High School, Paul participates in the Code Blue Club, the Asian Club, is a member of the Red Cross Disaster Team and a volunteer with the Mountainside Rescue Squad. He is on the track team, plays alto saxophone in the Concert Band, is a member of the National Honor Society, an Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar for the State of New Jersey, and received a Character Counts Award from the Westfield Y.

He is also active in the Methodist Youth Fellowship and volunteered as a counselor in the Y summer camp program.

Matthew's project was to create a computer room for the Sunday School at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. A former storage room in the Educational Building was gutted, cleaned, repaired, and painted. Computer tables were built and installed, creating a classroom for the use of interactive media.

A Westfield High school freshman, Matthew is a member of the track team, co-founder of the WHS Phatt Tire Mountain Bike Club and plays inter-county soccer. Trained as a peer leader, he is also an active member of his church, serving on the Youth Council.

For the past two years, Matthew's commitment and participation in scouting activities has led to his selection as Troop No. 72 Scout of the Year.

For his Eagle project, Alexander coordinated work on the playground area for the Westfield Daycare Center. His work included the replacing and leveling of chips, replacing a retaining wall, filling and cleaning other areas of the playground.

His efforts made the playground a safer, cleaner, better looking place and ensured that the playground continued to meet safety standards.

As a Westfield High School freshman, Alexander is active with the Computer Club, the Investment Club, the Philosophy Club and Code Blue. He is also a violinist in the WHS Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, a member of the WHS track team and plays inter-county soccer.

Refurbishing a large meeting room at the Presbyterian Church became Chad's Eagle project. He coordinated the efforts to repair and refinish the walls and windows, paint the walls and clean and wax the floor. Many church and outside groups utilize the room.

Chad is a freshman at Westfield High School, a member of the football, field and track teams, and a member of the Marching Band. He is active in his church, serving as an acolyte, cross bearer and as a member of the Youth Council.

In all four cases, the scouts were involved in organizing many members of their scout troop and other community volunteers to assist with their respective Eagle projects.

Foothill Club Holds Annual Pool Party

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Foothill Club, which was organized in 1963 and contributes to many special community causes, recently held its annual pool party.

The club meets on the first Thursday of each month at B.G. Fields restaurant in Westfield. Anyone interested in joining can contact Ruth Goense, President, at (908) 233-5253.



RISING TO THE EAGLE LEVEL...Boy Scout Troop No. 72, sponsored by the Questers Bible Study group of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, recently honored four members who attained the rank of Eagle. Eagle is the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Pictured, from left to right, are: Charles "Chad" Tortorello, Matthew Leiz, Alexander Leong and Paul Kazasis.

Repairs Made To Building Slated for Demolition

By KIM KINTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The landlord who is also trying to get approval for a project on Central Avenue near Cacciola Place in Westfield has made repairs to one of the dwellings of a woman who has complained to the town about the upkeep of her apartment.

Ralph Rapuano, who owns the Central Avenue apartment building where Grace Pierce resides, told *The Westfield Leader* that two weekends ago he spent making repairs inside and outside of Ms. Pierce's building. He said the repairs included new steps and a railing on the back porch, installation of a new gas stove and the laying of new linoleum in the kitchen and hallway.

Ms. Pierce acknowledged that Mr. Rapuano did make the repairs. She pointed out, however, that there were other repairs not made for which he has been cited by the Town of Westfield, including a cracked set of interior stairs leading to the second floor of the building and a broken pane of glass in the backdoor.

She added that the town has contacted her and intends to do a re-inspection of the apartment. She and several other residents of

Central Avenue in the vicinity of Mr. Rapuano's planned retail and residential development had appeared at a recent Westfield Planning Board meeting to tell board members that they had trouble throughout the years getting repairs made to their apartments.

Mr. Rapuano said that he made it clear to the tenants when they moved into the apartments that the buildings were beyond repair and that he intended to raze them to make way for a new development. He also pointed out that he had not increased their rent in several years.

Ms. Pierce said that she went to the town several times to seek help in having repairs made and had even withheld rent and ended up in court in Elizabeth where the judge ordered her to pay rent and the landlord to make repairs.

Mr. Rapuano said that his project will enhance the Central Avenue area and said that it would be impossible to save the structures that already exist there.

His project will continue to be heard by the Westfield Planning Board later this month. The tentative schedule of the meeting is 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 31.

Westfield Foundation Awards Scholarships

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Foundation recently awarded two Westfield High School seniors, Daniel Moore and Lisa Villalobos, a \$2,500 renewable four-year scholarship.

The winners were selected on a basis of academic achievement, need, diligence, integrity, citizenship, character, community service and leadership.

Daniel Moore is a National Merit Commended Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society and French Honor Society. As a member

supporting roles at school and in community theater. She has won various awards for her dramatic and comedic presentations including the Paper Mill Rising Star Award. Last summer, she was Assistant Stage Manager at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland.

Lisa has been an active volunteer at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, serving as song leader, peer minister and retreat coordinator. She has given piano and vocal performances at local nursing



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS...The Westfield Foundation recently awarded two Westfield High School seniors, Daniel Moore and Lisa Villalobos, a \$2,500 renewable four-year scholarship. Pictured, left to right, are: Chairwoman of the Scholarship Committee Jill Sitzer, Lisa Villalobos and Daniel Moore.

of the Model United Nations, he has been Youth Secretariat, Country Leader and Delegate to the Conference on National Affairs. He was chairperson and named best legislator in Youth and Government.

Daniel is interested in marine biology. He has attended the Marine Science Consortium for three summers and was selected to attend the New Jersey Governor's School on the Environment. He is a volunteer trail guide, landscaper and member of the pond building team at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit.

As part of his own landscape business, he specializes in water pond design and installation. He has been a recipient of the Rake and Hoe Environmental Science Award on two occasions.

Daniel has also been active in community theatre. He has had supporting roles with the Chatham Community Players and St. Helen's Players. He is also a tutor and playground volunteer for the Westfield Community Center. He plans to attend Pennsylvania State University, where he will pursue a dual major in Marketing and Environmental Science.

Lisa Villalobos is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and the Spanish Club and the Social Action Club. In 1997, she was the winner in the Rider University Forensic Foreign Language Competition.

She has strong interests in music and theater. She has been a soloist in school and church choirs and has performed with the Westfield Choral. She has had various leading and

and retirement homes. She has been part of a team that spent a week in Appalachia repairing homes, where she received an award for her efforts and high spirits.

She will attend New York University and plans to major in communications.

Welcome Wagon Sets New Member Coffee

WESTFIELD — The Welcome Wagon Club of Westfield will be hosting a new member coffee on Tuesday, September 21, at 8 p.m. in the home of one of its members.

Women who are new to the area, just had a baby, newly married or just looking to make new friends are welcome to attend.

This club is a non-profit organization, which provides a variety of daytime and evening activities for women and their families from Westfield and the surrounding communities including Clark, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Garwood, Cranford, and Mountainside.

These activities include monthly dinners, couples' social events, children's activities and playgroups, along with community service.

To attend the upcoming coffee, or for more information about the club, please call Lori Riding at (908)301-1494 or Susan Kowalenko at (908) 518-0510. A Web site is also available for the Welcome Wagon www.westfieldnj.com/welcome.

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