

IN THE WORKS: CRANFORD YMCA

In partnership with the Township of Cranford

Earlier this year, the Westfield Area YMCA formed a partnership with the Township of Cranford to renovate and facilitate the indoor space located at the Centennial Avenue Pool. The renovated facility will open in late 2023 as the Cranford YMCA and will feature fitness, aquatic and other programs.



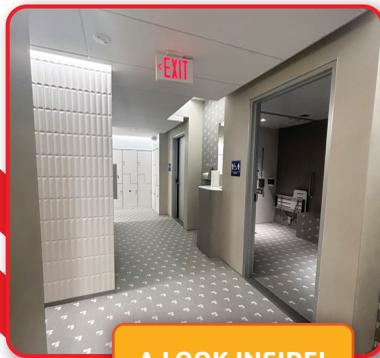
FACILITIES

- Fully renovated fitness center with over 50 pieces of Life Fitness cardio/strength equipment, free weights and a stretching area
- Indoor swimming pool with updated filtering and feed systems
- Multi-purpose space for birthday parties, future exercise classes and more
- Upgraded locker rooms

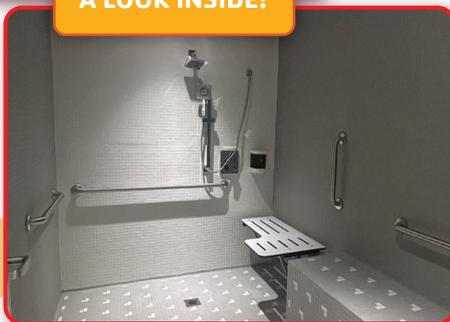
3D RENDERINGS OF FITNESS CENTER SPACE



Through the partnership, a membership exclusive to the Cranford YMCA will be required to access the facility. A Cranford YMCA membership will not grant access to other Westfield Area YMCA locations. For more details, scan or click the QR code.



A LOOK INSIDE!



NEW FAMILY LOCKER ROOM AT THE MAIN Y

The new expanded Family Locker Room opened in September. The Family Locker Room is designated for individuals who require assistance, have special/adaptive needs, or adults accompanying small children.

The Locker Room includes 12 individualized handicapped-accessible changing spaces that each contain a shower, grab bar, and bench. There are also two handicapped-accessible bathrooms in the new space.

Now in progress is the construction of a dedicated locker room for girls ages 17 and under to be completed by year's end. Subsequent renovations will take place in the following order: the Boy's Locker Room, both Silver Locker Rooms, and the Gold Locker Rooms.

For several years, the Westfield Area YMCA Capital Improvement Project has focused on ADA-compliance, safety and facility enhancements with a goal of equal accessibility for all.

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC WITH DINNER & AUCTION

We could not have asked for a better day on the green for our 18th Annual Golf Classic on June 5! Those who played, sponsored, donated or purchased an auction item enabled us to exceed our fundraising goal with proceeds benefiting families in our community by providing financial assistance for YMCA programs like child care and camp. Here's to another successful year of teeing off for a cause!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS!



APPROX. \$92,000 RAISED
Our most successful year to date!



HISTORY IN THE MAKING CAMP 2023



SUNSHINE



PIONEER



SPORTS



CIT/LIT

IT WAS A SUMMER TO REMEMBER!

COLLABORATION WITH THE DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD CORPORATION

We partnered with the Downtown Westfield Corporation this summer to host free outdoor events open to the community.

Carnival Games on Quimby Street

Y Teen Leadership campers brought smiles and fun downtown with carnival classics like bottle toss, ring toss, shooting hoops and more!



Breaking Boards, Building Confidence

Students from Gedman's Black Belt Academy of the Westfield Area YMCA put on a Taekwondo demonstration with interactive activities for spectators.



Family Yoga in Foundation Park

Families connected and achieved inner zen through family-friendly yoga poses led by one of our instructors.



DEVILFISH SWIM TEAM LONG COURSE SEASON RECAP



Devilfish swimmers at the 2023 YMCA Long Course National Championships in Greensboro, NC.

The Devilfish Swim Team concluded their long course swim season on a high note this year. Eight Devilfish swimmers earned a spot on the National Team, showcasing their skills at the YMCA Long Course National Championships from July 25-29 at the Greensboro Aquatic Center in Greensboro, NC. Five members of the team also secured qualifications for the Eastern Zone Long Course Age Group Championships in Richmond, VA.

The season also saw the smashing of six Devilfish Long Course records! Congratulations to our new record holders: Danielle Eriksson (1500 Free), Alex Giangone (200 Fly), Charlotte Ouellette (200 Fly, 400 Free), Danny Pierce (200 Back), and James Sletteland (100 Fly).

Devilfish is a developmental and competitive year-round program that provides a high level of training and professional instruction for swimmers ages 6-18.

FLYERS TRACK CLUB ATHLETES EARN ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

The Westfield Area YMCA Flyers Track Club participated in the 2023 USATF Junior Olympic National Championships July 24-30 at the University of Oregon's historic Hayward Field. Brian Guterl and Alex Kessler distinguished themselves by earning All-American honors, placing 4th in the 13-14 boys 3000m Race Walk and javelin, respectively, setting new club records in the process. Other members showcased stellar performances in various events, contributing to a remarkable track and field season. Congratulations to all Flyers for their accomplishments.

Flyers Track Club is a year-round team that offers USATF-certified coaching and specific event technique instruction for athletes ages 7-15.



Brian Guterl (left) and Alex Kessler (right)



Masters Victoria Cunningham (left) and Scott Paul (right)

GEDMAN'S BLACK BELT ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS ACHIEVE MASTER LEVEL STATUS

Gedman's Black Belt Academy of the Westfield Area YMCA celebrates the advancement of instructors Victoria Cunningham and Scott Paul to master level in taekwondo. To achieve such a remarkable status, the two have exhibited a mastery of skills through the demanding path of martial arts.

Cunningham and Paul now join the ranks of Master Pamela Gedman, further enhancing the academy's mission of fostering expertise, discipline and leadership within the taekwondo community.

Gedman's Black Belt Academy of the Westfield Area YMCA offers programs for children ages 5 through adults, beginners through 5th degree black belts.

WESTFIELD AREA YMCA WELCOMES NEW BOARD CHAIR

At the June board meeting, the Westfield Area YMCA officially thanked Dominic DiGiorgio for three years of dedicated service as Board Chair and welcomed Peter Burtness as the new Chair. Peter Burtness is a retired Executive from AMEX Global Business Travel. He has been a member of our Y for over 10 years and has served on the Board of Directors since 2019. Dominic helped steer our Y through the pandemic and back. We are grateful for his leadership.



Pictured (left to right): Board Secretary Darielle Walsh, President and CEO Mark Elsasser, Current Board Chair Peter Burtness, and former Board Chair Dominic DiGiorgio



DARIELLE WALSH REACHES 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS BOARD MEMBER

Darielle has dedicated 30 years of significant volunteer service to the Westfield Area YMCA, notably serving four years as Board Chair and leading various committees and campaigns. She has helped expand the board, drive campaign growth, and enable major renovations and expansions, such as the Bauer Branch. She currently holds the position of Board Secretary for the Westfield Area YMCA. As one of the key community service organizations in the area, we are beyond thankful for Darielle's decades of dedicated community service.



OUR PRESCHOOL IS 4-STAR QUALITY RATED!

Our preschool at the Bauer Family Branch YMCA has been recognized by Grow NJ Kids as a 4-star program. This designation demonstrates our commitment to offering high quality child care and promoting school readiness!

NEW ADAPT-ABILITY PROGRAM LAUNCHES

Adapt-Ability is here: the umbrella name for programs and classes that offer physical, recreational and social opportunities for young adults age 18+ with special/adaptive needs. Classes include Cooking and Gardening, Mindfulness Through Movement and Game Night.

Carly Kaplan, Inclusion Coordinator at the Westfield Area YMCA will oversee the Adapt-Ability program and holds a variety of social-emotional learning and special education certifications. She says, "I think that everyone deserves a chance to participate in activities that they find fun and rewarding." Carly also leads the Y's Summer Inclusion Camp Program.

She adds, "Participants in Adapt-Ability can build social skills in a group setting with their peers, gain new skills, make new friends and grow their confidence."

Interested participants should contact Carly prior to registering to ensure the Y is able to accommodate the needs of the individual.

Please email ckaplan@westfieldynj.org or call 908-301-9622 x406.

OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

With only a few months left in 2023, we're ready to look back at the wonderful year we've had celebrating and commemorating a century of community impact.

TREASURE IN THE WALLS OF THE Y

Earlier this spring, members of our facilities staff found two time capsules in the cornerstones of the Main facility. The first one discovered was from 1962, the year that the Wallace Pool and gymnasium were added on.

Finding the first one led to an even more fascinating discovery--an older time capsule from when the original cornerstone was laid and the building was constructed in 1927. The capsule had been soldered shut, leaving the 96 year old contents inside in near-pristine condition.

An original proposal for a designated Y facility, a program and invitation for the cornerstone laying ceremony, and written histories were amongst the items included inside.



Also enclosed were copies of the Y Campaigner, a daily newspaper outlining the progress of a 10-day building fund campaign in 1927. The campaign raised \$300,000, roughly \$5.2 million in today's dollars!

The time capsules will be reinserted into to the cornerstones at the end of the year, with the addition of some special items and photos from our centennial year.



100 YEAR CELEBRATION & REUNION

Board members, staff, donors and community partners gathered at Echo Lake Country Club on May 18 to celebrate the Westfield Area YMCA's incredible past, present and future. Several guests included alumni staff and board members, many of whom were reunited with friends and colleagues that they had not seen for years.



Our friends at the YMCA of the Cayman Islands celebrating our 100th with us from 1,500 miles away!



SCAN OR CLICK THE QR CODE TO VIEW OUR FINDINGS!

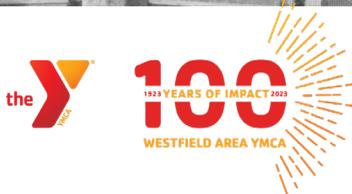
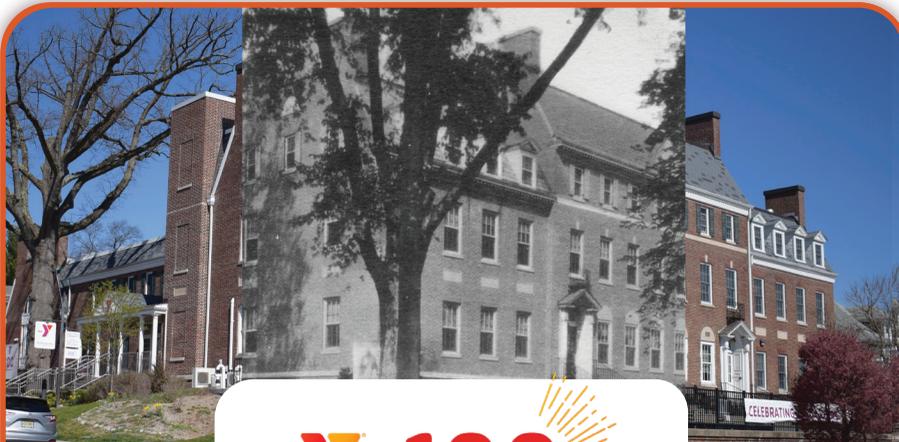


Receive a special 100 year anniversary christmas ornament when you support the Strong Kids+ Annual Support Campaign this holiday season! Available at the Welcome Center beginning 11/15.

WESTFIELD AREA YMCA

220 Clark Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-301-YMCA (9622)
westfieldynj.org  

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BE A PART OF HISTORY. BE A PART OF **TEAM CENTENNIAL**

With a gift of \$100 or more, your name will appear on the Team Centennial Display and be included in the time capsule, a testament to your support of our Y for future generations to see!

ENDS DECEMBER 1

To learn more or to donate, visit the Welcome Center
or visit westfieldynj.org/team-centennial.

MORE THAN JUST A JOB **JOIN OUR TEAM!**



SCAN FOR
CURRENT JOB
OPPORTUNITIES

westfieldynj.org/job-opportunities

HERE FOR YOU **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

We believe in serving the needs of all members of our community including those suffering a bona fide financial hardship that live or work in our service area and cannot pay the full cost of membership or programs. Applications are available online and at all Westfield Area YMCA facilities.

For more information, visit our website or contact Susan Morton at 908-301-9622 x228