



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 14, 2010**

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## **SQUAD MEMBER TURNS FAMILY TRAGEDY INTO POSITIVE FORCE FOR VOLUNTEER EMTs**

(Fanwood, NJ) – When Fanwood EMT Ian Lewis’ wife Melissa died suddenly on March 15, his world came to a halt.

“I felt like someone ripped my heart and lungs out,” Lewis wrote shortly after her death. “I have never in my life been so unable to function.”

Ian and Melissa Lewis, both volunteer EMTs for a number of years in Edison, moved to Fanwood in 2007. Ian, soon after settling into the neighborhood, joined the Rescue Squad while Melissa stayed home with their two young children, Wesley, 4, and Elana, 2. But, her EMT roots ran deep, remaining a life member of Edison First Aid and Rescue Squad #1, and being supportive of her husband’s continued volunteerism in Fanwood. She also kept her hand in the EMS community as a part time safety instructor.



So her death, on the first day of her new job as health and safety manager for a company in Rahway, was a cruel irony. At age 33, she had no history of health issues, apparently suffering a pulmonary embolism that shut down her breathing and heart within minutes.

In response to questions about how to best honor Melissa's memory, Ian and the family asked mourners to make donations to the Fanwood Rescue Squad. And donate they did, a total of \$2,760 as of early April. Lewis suggested it would be fitting legacy that the money be used to help train EMTs at a time when state funding for volunteer EMT training has been cut because of the state’s budget crisis. Thus, the Melissa Lewis Training Fund was born at the Fanwood Rescue Squad.

“I can’t think of a better way to remember Melissa than by using money donated in her name to help our EMTs earn the continuing education credits they need to remain certified,” said Tom Kranz, EMT and President of the Fanwood Rescue Squad. “This certainly will help close the funding gap.”

As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the state stopped funding elective courses that account for half of the credits EMTs need to recertify every three years. The courses now have to be paid for either by volunteer squads or by the volunteers themselves.

“This new fund will help us provide training for our volunteers,” said Kranz. “We are counting on the continued generosity of our community to keep the fund going through the coming months.”

Those interested in donating to the Melissa Lewis Training Fund of the Fanwood Rescue Squad may do so either at the squad’s website, [www.fanwoodrescue.com](http://www.fanwoodrescue.com), or by sending a check to:

Fanwood Rescue Squad  
Treasurer  
123 Watson Road  
Fanwood, NJ 07023

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## Westfield Rotary Reveals Program Topics For May

WESTFIELD - The Rotary Club of Westfield has announced its calendar of upcoming programs for May. Westfield Rotarians meet 50 weeks per year on Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. for lunch and a program in the second-floor Kellogg Room at the Westfield Area "Y," located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield. Guests are always welcome.

The Philhower Award will be featured on May 4, with the club's announcement of its 18th annual Charles Philhower Teaching Fellowship recipient. Named for a former Rotarian and noted educator, the fellowship is awarded to an outstanding elementary school teacher. The recipient will be honored at this luncheon and will receive a grant to further professional growth or to enhance classroom activities for students.

The Community Service Grants Awards Luncheon will be held on May 11. In accordance with one of its goals of community service, the club will award grants to local non-profit agencies for programs and projects that directly serve people in the community. Recipients will be recognized and receive their grants at this luncheon. More information is available on the club's website.

Irayna Court: Ending Homelessness will be the focus on May 18. Irayna Court is a housing program with support services for young women, ages 18 to 21, who have aged out of the state's foster care system; young men being released from juvenile detention; homeless veterans and homeless single women and children. Speaker Reverend Seth Kaper-Dale, pastor of the Reformed Church of Highland Park, along with his wife and co-pastor, Stephanie Kaper-Dale, are the

funders of the program. "Food and Mood - You Feel What You Eat" will be offered on May 25. Karen Enslie of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County will discuss how individuals can maximize physical and emotional health through their food choices.

Part of Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Westfield is a non-denominational service organization of professional women and men who live or work in the Westfield area. In addition to providing scholarships to Westfield students, the club is a major contributor to community grants as well as multiple international projects.

Anyone interested in attending a program or learning more about Rotary in Westfield may call Mark Swingle, president, at (908) 379-2705, visit westfieldrotary.com or e-mail westfieldrotary@gmail.com.

### Program to Address College Preparation

MOUNTAINSIDE - The American Education Foundation will hold a presentation for high school students and their parents entitled "Everything You Need to Know to Better Prepare for College."

It will take place on Thursday, April 29, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mountain Side Public Library, located on Constitution Plaza.

This program will provide a comprehensive overview of the entire college preparation process, including financial strategies that may save thousands of dollars even for those pursuing the most expensive colleges. Registration is free. To register, call the American Education Foundation directly at 1-(877) 702-6333, extension no. 102.

## BootCampWF Starts May 3, Offering Evening and Weekend Sessions

WESTFIELD - BootCampWF is the premiere, healthy-living outdoor fitness training program right here in Westfield! Regardless of age, size, gender or fitness level, if you're in or around Westfield and looking to get in shape, drop those pounds, build that muscle, and have fun while doing it, it's time to enlist in BootCampWF!

The next session will run from May 3 to June 14. BootCampWF is a specially designed fitness program held for one hour three days a week for six weeks. Certified Personal Trainers, Kathy Robb, Christine Taglieri and Nanette Loftus develop and lead all workouts, which are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 5:45 and 9:15 a.m., Monday, Wednes-

day and Thursday at 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 8 a.m., in Tamaques Park.

Ms. Taglieri has introduced a beginner program, BootCampWF Lite, which will meet twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday, at 9:15 a.m. BootCampWF starts off with an assessment of all recruits. On the first (and last!) day, we see how many sit-ups and pushups you can do, and how long it takes for you to walk/run a half mile. These measurements allow participants and instructors to measure progress over the course of the session.

To enlist in BootCampWF or for more information, please visit our website @ www.BootCampWF.com.

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REMEMBERING MELISSA...Melissa Lewis is pictured with her husband, Ian, and children, Wesley and Elana.

## Training Fund For EMTs Is Melissa Lewis' Legacy

FANWOOD - When Fanwood EMT Ian Lewis' wife, Melissa, died suddenly on March 15, his world came to a halt.

"I felt like someone ripped my heart and lungs out," Mr. Lewis wrote shortly after her death. "I have never in my life been so unable to function."

The couple, both volunteer EMTs for a number of years in Edison, moved to Fanwood in 2007. Soon after settling into their new neighborhood, Mr. Lewis joined the rescue squad, while Mrs. Lewis stayed home with their two young children, Wesley, 4, and Elana, 2.

But her EMT roots ran deep, as she remained a life member of Edison First Aid and Rescue Squad 1, and was supportive of her husband's continued volunteerism in Fanwood. She also kept her hand in the EMS community as a part-time safety instructor. So her death, on the first day of her new job as health and safety manager for a company in Rahway, was a cruel irony. At age 33, she had no history of health issues, apparently suffering a pulmonary embolism that shut down her breathing and heart within minutes.

In response to questions about how to best honor his wife's memory, Mr. Lewis and the family asked mourners to make donations to the Fanwood Rescue Squad. And donate they did - a total of \$2,760 as of early April.

Mr. Lewis suggested it would be a fitting legacy that the money be used to help train EMTs at a time when state funding for volunteer EMT training has been cut because of the state's budget crisis. Thus, the Melissa Lewis Training Fund was born at the Fanwood Rescue Squad.

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"This certainly will help close the funding gap."

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"This new fund will help us provide training for our volunteers," said Mr. Kranz. "We are counting on the continued generosity of our community to keep the fund going through the coming months."

Those interested in donating to the Melissa Lewis Training Fund may do so either at the Fanwood squad's website, fanwoodrescue.com, or by sending a check to: Fanwood Rescue Squad, Treasurer, 123 Watson Road, Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

### Legion Post to Sponsor Boys State Students

WESTFIELD - The American Legion Department of New Jersey will sponsor the Boys State Leadership Conference from June 20 to June 25 at Rider University.

Martin Wallberg American Legion Post No. 3 in Westfield will sponsor eight young men to attend this conference. They are Timothy Connell, Vincent LaRocca and Sean Sarra from Union Catholic High School and Brandon Deger, Joseph Koomar, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Christopher Kraft and Tobias Kraft from Oratory Prep School.

Chairmen Jack Ford and Pete Hogaboom, along with their committee, did an extensive interview with each candidate and selected these students to attend the Leadership Conference. Post No. 3 extended special thanks to guidance counselors Ann Geissler and Joanne Jakubik of Oratory Prep and Union Catholic High School, respectively, for their assistance in selecting these candidates for Boys State.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Sunday, April 11, Aleshia Wiseman, 31, of Elizabeth was arrested on an outstanding Elizabeth warrant in the amount of \$71 following a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Crossway Place. Wiseman was released after posting bail.

Monday, April 12, after being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Aaron Toboul, 22, of Springfield was arrested on Mountain Avenue on an outstanding South Plainfield criminal warrant in the amount of \$5,000. He was processed and turned over to South Plainfield authorities.

Monday, April 12, Christopher McFadzean, 26, of Linden was arrested on the 100 block of Livingston Street on two Newark warrants totaling \$475. The Newark Municipal Court released him on his own recognizance with a court date to be determined.

Tuesday, April 13, a resident of North Cottage Place reported the theft of a bicycle from the Kehler Fieldhouse on Rahway Avenue sometime between 3 and 7 p.m. The bicycle was described as a Haro brand BMX chrome frame, with chrome pegs on the rear wheel.

Wednesday, April 14, Nicholas Melchionne, 29, of Hoboken was arrested at North Avenue and Chestnut Street and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, identified by police as less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana. He was released on his own recognizance.

Wednesday, April 14, a burglary to a residence was reported on the 700 block of Girard Avenue. One or more unknown suspects removed a laptop computer, valued at \$1,000, from the premises.

Friday, April 16, Darris Martin, 18, of Elizabeth was arrested at Windsor police headquarters on a Westfield warrant in the amount of \$163. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, April 16, Richard Coulson, 39, of Westfield was arrested at Coulson Avenue and Summit Court and charged with driving while intoxicated.

Friday, April 16, Kyle D. Smith, 39, of Westfield was arrested during a traffic stop in the area of West Grove Street and Central Avenue. Smith was wanted on an outstanding Fanwood traffic warrant in the amount of \$165. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

### Scotch Plains

Monday, April 12, a resident of Nicholl Avenue reported that someone used his credit card without his authorization to purchase airline tickets.

Wednesday, April 14, the owner of a Park Avenue business reported that someone damaged the sign in front of his store, which was valued at approximately \$200.

Wednesday, April 14, William James, 48, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle stop, at which time the officer smelled the strong odor of alcohol. According to police, James failed multiple sobriety tests at the scene, after which he was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Wednesday, April 14, Aaron Jackson, 18, of Marlboro and Dustin Jenkins, 20, of Plainfield were arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana. According to police, an officer stopped the motor vehicle in which the men were traveling for a motor vehicle violation, at which time he smelled the strong odor of marijuana. After further investigation, the suspected marijuana was discovered in the vehicle, police said. The suspects were transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Thursday, April 15, Linda McNamara, 58, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop, at which time the officer smelled the strong odor of alcohol. According to police, after failing multiple sobriety tests at the scene, she was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Friday, April 16, an owner of a Forest Road business reported that someone slashed three tires on his truck, valued at \$150 each, while the vehicle was parked on his property.

Saturday, April 17, a resident of Morse Avenue reported that someone threw two logs through the front window of his motor vehicle while it was parked in his driveway, causing \$300 worth of damage.

Sunday, April 18, Nicole Hills-Sylvester, 20, of Berkeley Heights was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana after a motor vehicle stop, at which time the officer smelled the strong odor of marijuana. According to police, during further investigation, the suspected marijuana was found in the vehicle. Hills-Sylvester was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, April 18, a patron of a Route 22 restaurant reported that an individual she had met at a New York City concert assaulted her. According to police, the victim had asked the suspect to drop her off at the restaurant, and he assaulted her in the parking lot as she was attempting to get out of the vehicle. The suspect fled the scene before police arrived, authorities reported.

Sunday, April 18, Kenneth Jackson, 47, of Plainfield was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

### Fanwood

Tuesday, April 6, Cara Felton, 19, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with tampering with evidence, disorderly conduct and public drunkenness, and was also issued a summons for littering, after police responded to a motor vehicle accident at the corner of Midway Avenue and

Russell Road. According to police, a motor vehicle traveling northbound on Russell Road collided with three parked vehicles before crossing Midway Avenue and striking a tree.

While officers were attending to the driver and passenger who were injured in the crash, Felton, who was not involved in the accident, appeared at the scene and was seen allegedly removing two bottles from the back of the vehicle and throwing them behind a tree on the 100 block of Midway Avenue, police said.

When an officer questioned Felton, she was uncooperative and subsequently was arrested, authorities reported. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released. The two individuals injured in the accident were transported to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, where they were issued a summons for underage possession of alcohol, police said.

Tuesday, April 6, a resident reported her locked bicycle, described as a women's white, Raleigh Passage valued at \$375, was removed from the south side train station sometime between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 11, Amelia Bell, 39, of Jersey City was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Newark in the amount of \$445 after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Tuesday, April 13, Lakesha Cole, 28, of East Orange was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on an outstanding warrant out of Scotch Plains in the amount of \$89. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Tuesday, April 13, Correa Pickering, 31, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on an outstanding Garwood warrant. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Thursday, April 15, Ebony Nevins, 33, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on a no-bail Union County Sheriff's Department warrant. She was transported to police headquarters, where she was processed and turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Department.

Thursday, April 15, Devilis Eamon, 41, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on an outstanding warrant out of Paterson. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, April 16, Richard Kenyon, 61, of Westfield was arrested following a field investigation on South Avenue on a no-bail Union County Sheriff's Department warrant. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and turned over to the Union County Sheriff's Department.

Friday, April 16, Saleem White, 24, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on the 200 block of South Avenue and charged with providing false information to a law enforcement officer and hindering apprehension. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, April 18, Koreen McLaughlin, 39, of Elizabeth was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS), possession of prescription drugs without a prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia and multiple outstanding warrants out of Scotch Plains, Plainfield and Bridgewater.

The arrest occurred after police responded to a report of a suspicious person on the 60 block of Martine Avenue. According to police, when an officer responded to the scene, McLaughlin was seen wandering around, and a subsequent investigation determined she was suspected to be under the influence of a CDS. McLaughlin was transported to police headquarters, where she was processed and turned over to the Union County jail for failure to post bail, which was set at \$6,500.

### Mountainside

Tuesday, April 13, an employee at a Route 22 eldercare facility reported that someone removed \$40 from her purse, which was under her desk.

Tuesday, April 13, a resident of Upland Road reported that she received a threatening voice mail from an unidentified caller from California. According to police, an officer listened to the message, stating it was inaudible whispers, but he did hear the word "shotgun" in the message. The victim was told to call police headquarters if she received another message, authorities said.

Wednesday, April 14, Marcos E. Leon, 26, of Union was arrested for allegedly driving without a license following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Thursday, April 15, a patron of a Route 22 restaurant reported that while he was inside the establishment, someone broke the passenger side front window of his motor vehicle and removed a laptop computer containing sensitive information for approximately 14,000 clients, as well as a bag of clothes, a biking backpack containing biking tools and a prescription bottle of a CDS. The approximate value of the damage and missing items is \$1,150.

Thursday, April 15, Terry Bellingier, III, 52, of Plainfield was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license. He was processed and released.

Thursday, April 15, Darrick A. Brown, 25, of Newark was held in the Essex County jail for contempt of court in Mountainside for a warrant in the amount of \$600.

Friday, April 16, Kenah I. Kennedy, 18, of Newark was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.

## Township Man Charged With Assault on Officers

SCOTCH PLAINS - Scotch Plains police arrested Adrian Hall, 20, of Scotch Plains on April 15 on two counts of aggravated assault on a police officer, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, resisting arrest and hindering apprehension, according to Detective Lieutenant Brian Donnelly.

At approximately 7:30 a.m., police were called to Kramer Manor Park on a report of two people arguing.

Upon arrival, Officer Joseph Citarella observed Hall sitting on a curb with one hand behind his back. When the officer began speaking with Hall, the suspect stated he was sorry for what he was about to do before pulling a large, survival-type knife from behind his back, which he began to raise towards Officer Citarella.

Lieutenant Donnelly said Officer Citarella was able to tackle Hall, and after a violent struggle, he was able to knock the knife from Hall's hand. During the struggle, Hall struck Officer Citarella multiple

times with his elbow and shoulder. Additional officers arrived, and Hall also fought with these officers until they were able to handcuff him, according to the lieutenant. Hall was transported to police headquarters, where he continued to struggle with the police. He tried to kick his way out of the patrol car and also tried to kick and spit at the officers.

Once inside the cell block area, Hall lunged at Sergeant Michael Tardi with his shoulder. Lieutenant Donnelly said, adding that Hall continued to struggle and had to be restrained in his cell. He finally calmed down and officers were able to process him.

After processing, Hall was transported to the Union County jail, where he is being held on \$75,000 cash bail. Officer Citarella received minor injuries to his mouth. He was treated and released.

Lieutenant Donnelly said Hall had been arguing with a female friend who was gone prior to arrival of police, and was "not very cooperative with us when we located her," he said.

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## Legacy of young Fanwood mother's sudden death will help fund training courses for borough EMTs

By LAURIE LEVOY • STAFF WRITER • April 18, 2010

**FANWOOD** — A month ago, Melissa Lewis, a former longtime volunteer emergency medical technician with the Edison First Aid and Rescue Squad No. 1, arrived for the first day of her new job as a health and safety manager for a Rahway firm.

Before Lewis' work day was three hours old – she was on a field visit to a Merck & Co. campus in Rahway – Lewis, 33, a mother of two children under age 4, had died from a pulmonary embolism.

Within days of Lewis' sudden death on March 15, her family decided to turn a tragedy into a legacy of training for Fanwood EMTs.

“She apparently suffered a blood clot in her lungs that caused her breathing and heart to shut down within minutes,” explained Tom Kranz, an EMT and president of Fanwood Rescue Squad, where Lewis' husband, Ian, is a volunteer EMT.

Lewis' obituary requested that memorial donations be sent to Fanwood Rescue Squad.

Within a few weeks, the \$2,760 in charitable condolences the rescue squad received connected – “almost like a divine intervention,” said Ian Lewis – with fallout from the state's \$10.7 billion deficit crisis.

A state announcement, that as of April 1 all state funding would cease for the elective courses EMTs must take every three years for recertification, altered how the Lewis donations would be used, Kranz said.

Fanwood Rescue Squad's approximately 24 active EMTs, and all EMTs statewide, must complete 48 continuing education credits, 24 “core” credits, and 24 credits in elective classes every three years.

Kranz said the state funding for the 24 elective credits was terminated, leaving either the squads or the volunteers to pay the approximately \$600 to earn those credits.

When Ian Lewis heard about the loss of state funding for EMT training, he decided to earmark the memorial contributions to fund EMT elective recertification courses for Fanwood's EMTs. The Melissa Lewis Training Fund was then established.

In addition to that fund, Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr said the borough budget about to be introduced also includes a line item to cover funding for the squad's elective classes.

“Our all-volunteer rescue squad has been mostly self-sufficient in its operation, and we are fortunate that the borough does not have to go to any paid squad service. We want to support their efforts,” Mahr said.

All the funding for the elective courses also will stretch further, since the state has changed the EMT recertification period from three years to five years.

The donations, which Kranz now puts at more than \$3,000, represent the contributions of the Edison and Fanwood communities – and the arc of Melissa

and Ian Lewis' lives.

The Lewises met when they were students at Rutgers University's Cook College, and would have been married 10 years in October, Ian Lewis said.

The couple worked together as Edison EMTs and moved from that township to Fanwood in July 2007.

"I taught Melissa, all five feet, two inches of her, how to run an ambulance," Ian Lewis said. "She could even back up the ambulance on a ramp."

Melissa Lewis curtailed her EMT volunteer work when she became mother of Wesley, 4, and Elana, 2, and kept a busy schedule at home. She was a life member of the Edison First Aid and Rescue Squad No. 1.

Ian Lewis is keeping a blog to help express what he describes as "a flood of emotions," and also to keep for Wesley and Elana to read when they are older. The blog is at [melissaandianlewis.blogspot.com](http://melissaandianlewis.blogspot.com).

**Laurie Levoy; 908-243-6614;**  
**[llevoy@MyCentralJersey.com](mailto:llevoy@MyCentralJersey.com)**

WHO: Fanwood Rescue Squad.

WHAT: The Melissa Lewis Training Fund.

WHY: To fund training of volunteer emergency medical technicians.

HOW: Send check, payable to Fanwood Rescue Fund and indicating Melissa Lewis Training Fund on memo line, to Fanwood Rescue Squad, Treasurer, 123 Watson Road, Fanwood, NJ 07023; or donate at [www.fanwoodrescue.com](http://www.fanwoodrescue.com).

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