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Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

Published by Renna Media, On-line at [RennaMedia.com](http://RennaMedia.com)

ISSUE 54 • MAY 2017

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*Scott Formosa, Jr.*  
SENIOR AGENT



## MUSICAL IS AN 'INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING' OPPORTUNITY

When audiences packed the Performing Arts Center at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS), March 30 to April 1, to see the school's annual Spring Musical, "Beauty and the Beast," they were seeing more than performances of student actors, singers and dancers on the stage and hearing more than student musicians in the orchestra pit.

They were also seeing an "interdisciplinary learning" experience that engaged more than 150 students, teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, and community supporters. According to school officials, the annual drama productions are being seen as vehicles to learn a whole host of skills.

Student actress Hannah Melillo made personal appearances as fully costumed and in-character Belle, to the delight of young children, who had pictures taken with her, and enjoyed various other typical Saturday Morning at the Library activities.

Then, at the WHRHS Library on April 1, the cast of costumed characters who appeared at the event expanded, since the student actors were preparing to take to the stage for the show's Saturday matinee. In addition to Belle, other characters appeared, including: "Beast," portrayed by Sam Sinnott; the enchanted candlestick, "Lamiere," portrayed by Jacob Lesser; the enchanted clock, "Cogsworth," portrayed by Scott Rmankow; "Gaston," portrayed by Will Johnson; and Enchanted Objects, "Knife" portrayed by Katie Napell, "Spoon," portrayed by Amelia Stapperfenne, and "Fork," portrayed by Claire Vickery."

In addition, members of the high school's Culinary Club baked, created, prepared and assembled a smorgasbord of treats for the children and their guardians. High school students in the Art Department and student volunteers led the children in craft-making activities. Students also provided face painting, temporary tattooing and hair braiding. Space was provided for story time activities in the Media Center.

The event was organized by the business manager of the Drama Department Theater Arts organization, Script and Cue -- WHRHS Business Teacher Dianne Krutz. She also engaged her business students



(above) Portraying Beast in the WHRHS production of "Beauty and the Beast" is Senior Sam Sinnott, and portraying Belle is Senior Hannah Melillo.

in a variety of "real life" living learning business tasks required for the staging of Beauty and the Beast, or any school drama or musical. Among the items they covered were budgeting, business planning, marketing, gate receipts, ancillary merchandising, and other related applied business tasks.



(above) Cast of WHRHS production of "Beauty and the Beast"

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# Watchung Post

Watchung Post • Page 2 • May 2017

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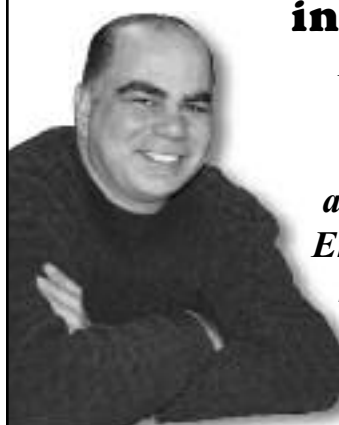
## PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

*Organizations  
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in submitting  
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or call 908-418-5586*

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## RISEING STARS NETWORKING GROUP

*Warren Township Chamber of Commerce*

Rising Stars Networking Group - Is a group designed for young, entrepreneurs, business owners, and exceptional professionals who are looking to network with other ambitious and extremely focused individuals.

Our goal is to educate and inspire a new generation of great leaders. By building a rock solid cooperative relationship between all members, where personal growth is encouraged and nurtured.

We will create a positive encouraging atmosphere where all participants can grow, support and do business with each other.

While this group is designed for an under 45 crowd, we will be sending invites to senior members of the chamber to come and share their wisdom

- This group will be a very proactive member of the community.
- All members of the group will be positive and encouraging to each other.

- A new member can not introduce themselves to the group until they have attended at least once before.

- We do things selflessly, with the right motivation at heart.

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## WATCHUNG LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY

On Saturday, April 22nd, the Watchung Little League celebrated their 2017 Opening Day with a parade from Valley View school to Philips field where an opening ceremony was held. This years' parade included all children participating in the Watchung Little League. Also participating was the Watchung Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad.



(above l-r) Singing the National Anthem are Dominic Sicola, Nicholas Benc, Colin Canellis, and John Kelly.

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF WATCHUNG PRESENTS "PLANTS AND MORE SALE!"

This year, The Garden Club of Watchung is changing it up and introducing new items to our plant sale. Browse our Nature themed collectables. Pick up annuals in a mini-tote bag. Children and adults will delight in growing sunflowers from a bag. From our gardens to yours: abundant selection of perennials from our gardens, most being critter resistant. Proceeds from this fund raiser will enable us to purchase flowers for the triangle garden on the circle, Deer Resistant Garden behind the Watchung Arts

Center, Blue Star By-Way Memorial Garden and Memorial Garden by the library. We will also be able to continue to support The Watchung Library by subsidizing children's summer programs, and donating gardening books and magazines.

We have relocated to Best Lake on Valley Road in Watchung where there is easy access with plenty of parking. This is the same area for the Watchung Farmer's Market. Please stop by between the hours of 9:00 and 12:00 noon on Saturday May 13, 2017.

## WATCHUNG SENIORS CLUB

Seniors 55 and older are invited to attend the Watchung Seniors Club meetings which are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September to June at 11:00 a.m. at the Firemen's Exempt Hall (lower level, handicap accessible), 57 Mountain Blvd., Watchung. Refreshments are served. Guest speakers, bus trips, an annual pizza party and a picnic at the end of the season.

For more information please call

Tony at 756-6954  
or Madelyn at 908-561-1932.

There will be a bus ride Wednesday, May 10, Leaving Best Lake Parking lot 10:00 a.m. sharp. Arriving at Li Greci's Staaten, Staten Island, NY. Great American Tribute-Carol King, Roy Orbison, John Denver, etc. plus hilarious comedian, dancing and lunch.

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## SIX TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE WHRHS HALL OF FAME ON MAY 12

Six alumni or staff will be inducted as the Class of 2017 members of the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Hall of Fame at 7 p.m., Friday, May 12, at the school's Performing Arts Center.

The general public is invited to attend the ceremony. Tickets are \$20, and may be purchased at the high school or at the door on the evening of the induction ceremony.

The new members to be inducted to the WHRHS Hall of Fame on May 12 are:

**Juan Carlos Cruz:** The beloved late former Spanish Teacher and JV Soccer Coach who died this past Fall, held a degree in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University, was on faculty at WHRHS for 12 years. Juan Carlos Cruz was JV Soccer Coach for that entire time. He had also been track coach for two years. In addition to teaching Spanish, he helped foreign students feel more welcomed when they visited here by showing them popular points of international interest, for instance, in Washington, D.C.

**Stephanie Wriede Morawski:** The 1988 WHRHS graduate was a highly decorated New Jersey State Champion swimmer at WHRHS, and a highly decorated Ivy League and NCAA All-American and swimmer at Harvard University. She is a 20-year swim coach at Harvard, who has guided The Crimson to numerous Ivy League achievements and honors. It was at Harvard last year, when the first transgender swimmer in NCAA Division 1 history successfully transitioned from being a female varsity swimmer to being a male varsity swimmer. Stephanie Morawski joined with other officials at Harvard in helping to facilitate that transition. This historic fete was profiled on a 60 Minutes



(above, l-r) James Kanach, Juan Carlos Cruz, Bob Beckert, Ruth Schoenborn, Stephanie Wriede

piece reported by Leslie Stahl.

**James J. Kanach:** From 1980 to 2014, James Kanach was an esteemed teacher of English at WHRHS. He was named International Reading teacher of the year in 1986 as well as Watchung Hills Teacher of the Year in 1986. He was also a highly decorated, record-setting coach. He coached in 1,365 contests in multiple sports, for both boys and girls teams, and at all levels. He won Coach of the Year six times.

**Robert (Bob) Beckert:** Bob Beckert was a 1976 WHRHS graduate, who died in 2004, and was a highly decorated runner and member of the 1974 State Champion WHRHS Cross Country Team. He also competed in Track and Wrestling at WHRHS. He, his wife, Nancy, and their four children, all graduated from WHRHS. Bob Beckert was an active community volunteer, an active church volunteer, and a Sunday School teacher. He was a successful AT&T professional, and an avid lifetime recreational runner. His family organizes the annual Bob Beckert Memorial 5K run/walk every June at WHRHS, which has to date raised more than \$70,000 to fund scholarships available to all WHRHS seniors.

**Ruth Schoenborn:** A resident of Watchung for more than 30 years, Ruth Schoenborn was employed since 1957 as a Physical Education Teacher and Girls Basketball and Softball Coach at Watchung Hills, and retired in 1995. She was also coordinator of the Watchung Hills Adult School for 18 years, and involved with Klub House Kids, an afterschool daycare program in Watchung. She was a volunteer with the Watchung Rescue Squad, and a longtime member of Wilson Memorial Union Church in Watchung. Ruth passed in 2010.

**Megan Kopecki:** The 2007 four-year varsity letter winning WHRHS graduate was first girl to score more than 1,000 career points in basketball. Megan Kopecki led her team to multiple conference championships. At Scranton, she earned numerous awards, including being named All American twice, being named conference player of the year three times, and leading her team to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament. She holds numerous basketball records. Her mark at WHRHS for most career points for a girls basketball player held until this year, when current WHRHS girls basketball player Julia Cunningham broke it.

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## TIGER SCOUT DEN OF WATCHUNG PACK 32

The Tiger Scout den of Watchung Pack 32 spent an afternoon constructing bird houses with their parents. The project is part of their Cub

Scout requirement called My Tiger Jungle where they fulfill activities that build an awareness of the rich tapestry of nature around them.



(above l-r) David L., Anthony R., Alex B., and Nate E.. Photo credit: John Regina

## A LONG STORY

by Jyotsna Thapar, DPM

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## SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Warren Township Recreation Commission is gearing up for Spring and Summer programs in Warren. Registration will open for Green Brook and Watchung residents on May 23, 9am.

Tennis lessons run from spring to fall for ages 4 to adult.

Our camps include the playground program for grades 1-5 (going into in September), Teen camp for grades 6-8, Jr Field Hockey Summer Camp for grades 5-9, Little kids Camp for ages 4-6 and

Legos (Magical Laboratory and Lego building) Camp for ages 6-12.

NOTE: The Recreation office is on the first floor, first office on the right in the new building.

To find more information and register with a credit card go to [www.warrennj.org/recreation](http://www.warrennj.org/recreation) or go to the Recreation office at 46 Mtn Blvd, Warren or if you have questions

call 908-753-8000 ext 270

or email [recreation@warrennj.org](mailto:recreation@warrennj.org)

## MATHEMATICS AND ORIGAMI

Watchung Hills Regional High School student Jacqueline Lee (pictured, standing), hosted a

Mathematics and Origami program at SCLSNJ's Watchung Library branch on Monday, April 17.



(above) with Jacqueline are (left to right) Andrew, Jaclyn, and Lynn Scopel, who learned how to trisect an angle with origami and made several skeletal octahedron.

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# LONGTIME LIBRARY LOVER PUBLISHES BOOK

*Elissa P. Matthews' book will be available at SCLSNJ libraries*



Elissa P. Matthews

Warren Township resident Elissa Matthews has a long history with Somerset County's libraries. "I've lived in Somerset County most of my life and I've haunted all of the branches of Somerset County Library System of New Jersey at one time or another," said

branch. "The interesting characters are forced to deal with long-held secrets at a devastating time in our nation's history. This may sound like many other books you've heard about, but I can sincerely say I have never read a book quite like this one. Very original."

"Where the River Bends: The History of a Tragedy" is described as the story of a mother and son fighting to save themselves -- and each other -- from the destruction that sex, money, and power can cause, set in a turbulent and decisive period of American history.

Matthews' "Where the River Bends: The History of a Tragedy" can be checked out of any of SCLSNJ's 10 library branches. Visit your local library branch or SCLSNJ.org for more information.

Get to know Elissa Matthews

SCLSNJ: What inspired "Where the River Bends"?

EM: This story had two origins. First, I had a scene in my head where a teenage son realizes that his mother is an individual, with her own past. Second, I was horrified by the James Byrd event in Texas, where three white supremacists tortured and murdered a man because of his skin color. These combined to form the core of my story. The characters themselves took it the rest of the way.

SCLSNJ: How long did it take you to write the book?

EM: I worked on this novel on and off for many years. The historical research required a good deal of effort, at least a couple years. The overall writing took an additional two years.

SCLSNJ: Can we expect more books?

EM: Yes, indeed. I love writing and I have several short stories published in literary magazines, but also reprinted on my website (EPMatthews.com). I'm starting research on a second historical novel set in Egypt during the time of the Pharaohs.

SCLSNJ: What's your favorite book?

EM: I don't have just one favorite book. I have

a favorite book when I'm in a serious mood, a favorite for a rainy day, a favorite childhood book, a favorite book to share with others...the list goes on.

SCLSNJ: Where is your favorite place to read?

EM: Anywhere in the woods, near a lake, or in a hammock under a tree. I think being outdoors makes me feel like I've truly escaped from the real world.

SCLSNJ: What's your favorite thing about the library?

EM: The very best thing of all about the library is that I can go in, pick out all the books that call out to me, and I don't have to choose between them - I can take them all!

About Elissa Matthews

Elissa Matthews was born and raised in New Jersey, close enough to visit New York City and watch the turmoil of Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and anti-war demonstrations first hand, then return to the quiet of the country to absorb and understand. She is the author of several short stories, all of them dealing, in one way or another, with our lies, our masks, and the issues we need courage to face. She has visited almost every state in the USA and more than 30 countries around the globe, but still lives 12 miles down the road from where she grew up. "Where the River Bends: The History of Tragedy" is her first novel.

About Somerset County Library System of New Jersey

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org for further information about library services offered at SCLSNJ.

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## Line Dancing with Nancy

May 8, 15 & 22

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Line dancing is so much fun, it doesn't seem like exercise! You don't need a partner and it's an easy way to stay healthy, both mentally and physically.

It is suitable for people with limited mobility and is known to improve cardiovascular and muscular strength and improve coordination and balance as you work through the different movements.

## Tone and Flexibility Exercise Class with Sabina

May 10, 17, 24 & 31

10:45 am.

Enjoy an energizing class suitable for beginner and intermediate levels. Exercising with Sabina will boost your energy level, reduce stress, and help tone your body by using resistance bands, exercise balls and dance moves. Exercises can be done standing up or sitting down.

## Ballroom Dancing with Bice

May 10, 17, 24 & 31

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Meet new people and make some friends while exercising! Dancing is a great way for people of all ages to get and stay in shape. Besides being fun, dancing has many health benefits. Dance can have an incredible impact on overall flexibility, strength, endurance and emotional well-being. Join Bice, who has won several dance competitions, as she plays a variety of Ballroom Dance music.

## "The Garden State in Bloom"

by Walter Choroszewski, Photographer

May 8

10:30 am.

This program showcases Walter's 25 favorite public gardens with colorful photography and historical information about each garden. \*\*This program is made possible, in part, by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State through the State/County History Partnership Program Grant, and administered in Somerset County by the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission\*\*

## (NEW) Ageless Grace with Kara Hodes-Wechsler,

Certified Integrative Health Coach and Certified

Ageless Grace Educator

May 11, 18 & 25

10:30 am.

Ageless Grace is a FREE fitness program based on the cutting-edge science of neuroplasticity which is the ability of the brain and central nervous system to change structurally and functionally. The program is designed to activate all five functions of the brain (i.e., strategic planning, memory and recall, analytical thinking, creativity and imagination and kinesthetic thinking). This program is intended for people of all abilities and can be performed while sitting or standing. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

\*\*Advanced registration is required prior to participation. Please allow additional time to complete the paperwork\*\*

## "New Ragtime Guitar: A Musical & Historical View of America's First Popular Musical Fad"

by Allan Jaffe, Composer & Guitarist

May 15 - 10:30 am.

Allan Jaffe will explore the musical and social origins of piano ragtime, focusing on the music of Scott Joplin, Joseph Lamb and James Scott, among others. He will next introduce the audience to the music of three great ragtime guitarists, Arthur "Blind" Blake, Mississippi John Hurt, and the Reverend Gary Davis, showing how these artists incorporated techniques from piano ragtime into their own particular form of acoustic blues. The third part of the presentation deals with his own rags, which effectively fuse the two styles of ragtime together, while incorporating elements of more contemporary forms of American music, i.e. Jazz, Funk, and Blues. The result is a new form of acoustic solo guitar music.

## "Bees and Beekeeping with a Honey Tasting"

by Adele Barree,

May 22 - 10:30 am.

There has been a lot in the news lately about the plight of pollinators, with the honey bee in the forefront of the discussion. Destruction of native habitat through land development, negative effects of pesticide use and a parasitic mite that the honey bee is host to all have contributed to the dwindling of the honey bee population and the difficulties faced by beekeepers. Adele, a beekeeping hobbyist for eight-years, will present some facts on honey bee decline, describe the workings of the honey bee colony and give a few tips on how anyone, not just beekeepers, can help the bees. This program will conclude with a varietal honey tasting.



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## LIBRARY CLOSED HOLIDAYS

Program dates and times are subject to change. All programs are free and registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Visit [SCLSNJ.org](http://SCLSNJ.org) or call the Library for more information and to register.

Note: SCLSNJ's library branches will be closed on Sunday, May 14 for Mother's Day; Tuesday, May 23 for Staff Development; Sunday, May 28 and Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day.

## COMING THIS SUMMER



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## WATCHUNG LIBRARY

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### SYSTEM-WIDE SPECIAL EVENT

**Teen Tycoons: An Entrepreneurial Competition**

May 19, 7-10 p.m.

(grades 7-12)

### KIDS

**Just for You Story Time**

May 5 & 19, 10:30-11 a.m.

(4-5 years old with caregiver)

**More Fun for Munchkins!**

May 8 & 22, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

(2.5-3 years old with caregiver)

**Learning with Leisa**

May 10, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

(5-7 years old)

**The Bees' Knees**

May 16, 4-4:45 p.m.

(ages 7-9)

**Elementary Drawing: Build a Robot Sequence**

May 17, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

(ages 7-9)

**Teen Tycoons: An Entrepreneurial Competition**

May 19, 7-10 p.m.

(grades 7-12)

**Elementary Drawing**

(ages 7-9): Tower Bridge in London on

May 24

**& Monsters!**

On May 31, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

### ADULTS

**Mah Jong Club of Watchung**

May 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, & 30, 1-4 p.m.

Contact Melanie Novello at [Novello1800@aol.com](mailto:Novello1800@aol.com).

**Watchung Writers Group**

May 11, 18, & 25, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Managing Stress**

May 9, 7-8 p.m.

**Watchung Book Discussion Group**

"News of the World" by Paulette Jiles on

May 11, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

**2 for 1 Book Club**

"1984" by George Orwell on

May 22, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## SPECIAL NEEDS SOCIAL HOUR AT THE LIBRARY

On March 27, Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's Warren Twp. Library branch hosted a Special Needs Social Hour program.

These programs are designed for adults with

special needs (21+) to meet new people and explore fun and interesting activities including music, art, yoga, gardening, crafts, and more. Monday's program explored container gardening with Laura DePrado of Final Touch Landscaping.



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# FLUFFY, FURRY, FANTASTIC FUN CAPS SPRING FOR FRIENDS OF LIBRARY

The Friends of the Watchung Library are enjoying a flurry of activity along with the beautiful weather this spring. For the month of April, the Friends held a successful membership drive with a revised membership schedule. Instead of asking for a specified amount for membership, the new schedule welcomes members who make a donation of any amount. New members joined the Friends and others renewed memberships. Most individual donations ranged from \$10 to \$100; many were matched by employer matching donations programs. Friends President Marcia Walsh noted "We're very pleased with the response to our drive, which is higher than we've seen in previous years. I'm excited to see all the new members and to know that the library has the support of so many in the community." Friends Board member Diana Churchill adds "Even though our official membership drive has ended, we welcome new members any time."

The Friends' membership drive was culminated by a special event, "Fluffy, Funny and Fantastic Creatures," offered for the enjoyment of members and nonmembers alike. Families

met, touched, and held interesting and exotic animals brought to the library by Unique Creatures NJ, where learning is disguised as entertainment. Watchung resident Jason Ng, age 12, observed that "It is a good experience to interact with different types of animals." Ten-year-old Nolan Weber added "I like animal visits, but it is WAY more fun when they let you hold and pet the animal!"



(above) Unique Creatures' iguana enjoys the warm spring weather.



(above) Unique Creatures' 15-week-old bunny hasn't grown into his ears yet.



(above) Did you know that snakes feel warm and smooth, and not slimy at all?

## WATCHUNG RECREATION'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH, 2017

(rain date May 21st)

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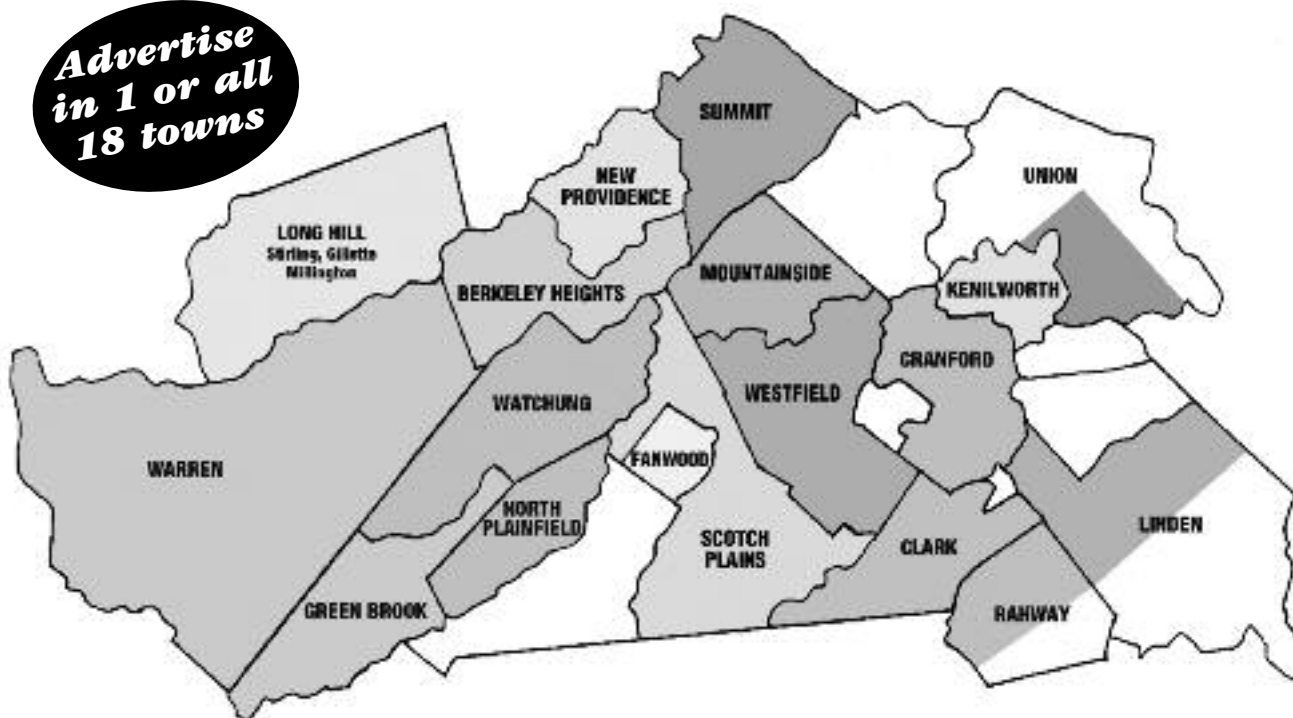
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# WINE TASTING EVENT TO BENEFIT BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council will be holding a Riedel Wine Tasting event on Wednesday, May 24th at Alfies Ristorante in Warren at 6:30pm. Guests will sample great wine using Riedel Wine glasses, learn more about the wines, how to pour them, the effect wine glasses have and how to improve the overall enjoyment of wine. The ticket price of \$150 includes hors d'oeuvres, four glasses of red and white wine rated at 90 points or better on the Wine Spectator List, four course meal, auction and a set of Riedel Wine glasses to take home. All guests must be 21 years or older to attend. The event is being co-hosted by community members and Scouting volunteers, Karen and Michael Cantone of Warren.

The proceeds of this event provide the necessary funds send underprivileged youth to four of our camps in New Jersey and New York State. Over 4,000 youth are served in this program, and a total of 16,000 youth served in traditional Scouting in our area. Most recently the BSA has enhanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) content in every facet of Scouting, from summer camp to the Pinewood Derby, by developing programs that explore the STEM principles behind familiar Scouting activities. The STEM Program is another beneficiary of this event.

The RSVP deadline is Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Registration required at [www.ppcbsa.org/give/special-events](http://www.ppcbsa.org/give/special-events).

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