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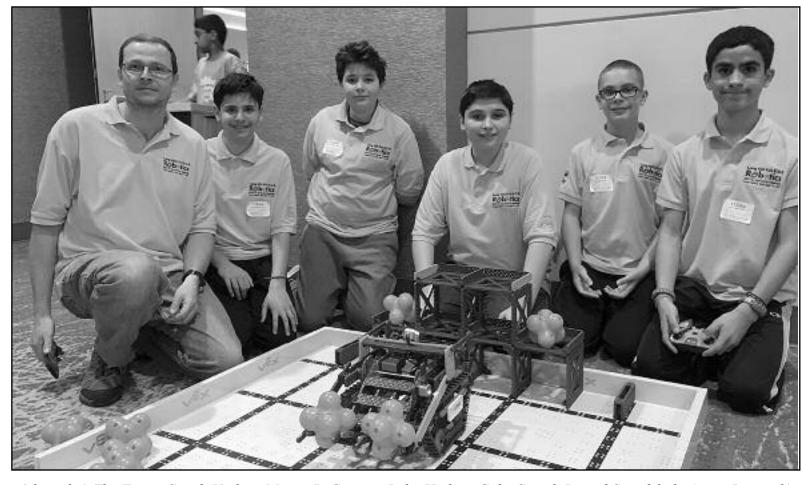
**ISSUE 45 • MAY 2017** 

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#### **LONG HILL FORCE ROBOTICS TEAM TAKES 4TH PLACE** IN US OPEN VEXIQ ROBOTICS COMPETITION



(above l-r) The Team: Coach Hadzic, Mason DiGiorgio, Luka Hadzic, Gabe Snead, Daniel Senedzhuk, Aaron Binstock)

On April 5, 2017, the Long Hill FORCE Robotics team attended the CREATE US Open VexIQ Robotics Championship in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The championship drew 35 Middle school and 38 Elementary school teams from across the United States as well as international competitors from China, Hong Kong, and Canada. The Long Hill team is part of FORCE (Focusing Our Resources for Children's Enrichment), a Long Hill Township academic enrichment program, and is coached and mentored by Mr. Ilija Hadzic who volunteers his time to run the program. Additional support is provided by the parents, all volunteering their time to support the program.

The team qualified for the US Open as a result of their strong performance in multiple regional tournaments and the NJ State Robotics competition. This is the team's second year participating in the competitive league and the first year to qualify for the US Open. The team designed, built, and programmed their robot without any adult assistance, guided only the by the teaching and mentoring of their coach, Mr. Hadzic. "The technical skills and applied STEM principles that these kids developed in such a short time are impressive, but what is even more notable are the lifelong skills in collaboration, problem-solving, teamwork communication, and leadership that these kids are cultivating", said Mrs. Raban-Binstock, a Long Hill BOE member and parent in the program.

All program participants recognize and appreciate the hard work, passion, and incredible dedication of coach Hadzic. "We are very fortunate to have Mr. Hadzic. He challenges our kids on a whole different level and inspires them to go beyond their typical, age-appropriate ability", said Mr. DiGiorgio, also a Long Hill BOE member and parent in the program. For Mr. Hadzic, this is a way to give back and do his part to contribute to the development of our youth as other influential mentors had done for him when he was growing up.



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Renna Media, LLC 202 Walnut Ave. Cranford, NJ 07016 Phone: 908-447-1295, Fax: 908-709-9209 Email: joerenna@rennamedia.com

#### **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** who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPRING NETWORKING

9th form 5:30pm-7pm at Gluten Free Gloriously be sure to bring plenty of business cards." at 267 Main Avenue in Stirling.

great", said Chamber President Michelle Cavett Cavett. of Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette. "We are all in contacts, but we'll also be able to sample some like to host an event.

The Long HIII Chamber of Commerce Spring really delicious baked goods", she said, and added Networking Event will be held on Tuesday, May "A raffle and 'speed marketing' is also planned, so

Gluten Free Gloriously is the 2nd business this The event is free and open to all area business year to host a Long Hill Chamber of Commerce owners/operators. Refreshments will be served, Networking Event. The Winter Event was hosted including some of the signature items produced by Angie's Gourmet Deli of 606 Valley Road in by the bakery such as tiramisu, cupcakes, and Gillette in January. "We like to have our events at cannolis. "As a second generation baker, Nick local businesses who are chamber members, it (the owner) really takes pride in producing quality allows an opportunity for us to get to know the products that not only look amazing, but taste business better and learn how they operate", said

Please contact Cavett at (908)647-4194 or for a real treat at this networking event-not only mcavett@karate4peace.com if you are interested will we be able to make some great business in becoming a chamber member and/or would











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One of our newest members, Gary Gianakis – WEICHERT REALTOR, handed out bags of chips with a promotional bag clip to everyone who passed his table!

#### **EGG HUNT PRIZE WINNERS -2017**

VGI Promotions - Sarah Connelly, Millington
Angie's Deli - David Santos, Gillette
Millington Station Café - Melissa Alansky, Gillette
Gluten Free Gloriously - Sabastian Elizagaray, Stirling
Biagio's - Margaret Keegan, Stirling
Long Hill Auto - Jen Shatz, Millingotn
Soo Bahk Do - Denise D'Urso, Millington
Milk Money - Karen Rossi, Millington
CKO Kickboxing of Gillette - Ann Butler, Millington
Mary's YNH - Christina Berquist, Millington
Hidden Warrior Yoga - Lisa Butler, Millington
Stirling Hotel - (egg not turned in)
European Wax Center Berkeley Heights - (egg not turned in)



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(above) Denise Murphy with Chamber of Commerce prize baskets.

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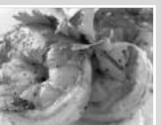
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Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99
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#### **ARGYLE FISH & CHIPS DINNNER JUNE 3**

holding its annual Argyle Fish & Chips Dinner event on Saturday, June 3, from 5-7 pm. This is the fourth year of this fundraising event, held annually on the first Saturday in June. Plans are to hold it outside on the front lawn as has been the custom each year; some indoor seating will also be available. As in previous years, our bagpiper (and some of his cohorts) are scheduled to make an appearance.

The dinner is catered by Argyle Restaurant in Kearny, NJ. Their Fish & Chips dinner is legendary, and loved by many in the community. Dinner includes fish, chips, cole slaw, beverage

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling is and dessert. This year will also include a "chicken option" for those prefer it.

> Funds raised at this annual event support the church and its mission activities. The church's mission of "Feeding Those Who Hunger" is met in a literal sense here: in the past 4 years of this event, over 100 free dinner tickets have been given to community members in need.

> The church is located 158 Central Avenue in Stirling. Tickets are \$20 each (\$15 for seniors, and \$10 for children under 10) and are available from the church office or from any church member. For more info, contact the church at 908-647-1033 or online at www.fpcstirling.org.

#### **QUARTET BRINGS PHILADELPHIA JAZZ SOUND**



(above) Sam Bishoff will perform at a free concert on May 14.

On May 14, 2017, good tunes. at 2:00 p.m., the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling will present jazz saxophone player Sam Bishoff and his quartet who bringing Philadelphia jazz sound to Stirling. This will be the group's second appearance in Stirling.

The Sam Bishoff Quartet is comprised

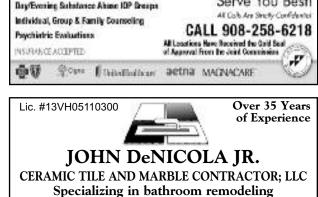
of some of the top upcoming musicians from Philadelphia. The group plays arrangements of American Songbook standards as well as the the original compositions of Sam Bishoff. Bishoff combines his unique humor and nuance with swing sensibilities to create intellectual yet feel-

For information, www.fpcstirling.org or call the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling at (908) 647 - 1033.

This will be the ninth concert in the Church's concert series for the 2016 - 2017 season. Admission, as always, is free. A short reception will follow the concert at which attendees may meet the performers. Refreshments will be served.







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#### FIREFIGHTERS SIMULATE WORST CONDITIONS

major training exercise that involved a simulated vehicle fire near a small waterway that was carrying hazardous material and its occupants were trapped in the wreckage. To further complicate the circumstances it was assumed to take place during a weekday afternoon when only 10 - 12 firefighters are available. The simulation banned fire company officers from participating, they were only observers. This left the entire incident in the hands of regular firefighters, all of whom have hazmat, extrication, and other training several times each year.

The firefighters were on the first fire truck to arrive immediately recognized the hazmat situation when they saw a hazmat placard on the wrecked vehicle. The fire truck driver stopped a safe distance away and up wind of the white smoke emanating from the wrecked vehicle and immediately radioed the other fire trucks and the County Dispatcher that they had a hazmat situation.

The hazardous material was quickly identified using the Hazmat ID and Response Book, it would not react badly to water, and gave parameters for a safe evacuation zone. Firefighters with their self-contained breathing apparatus took up positions and began extinguishing the fire. As that was being done another crew located and carefully removed the hazardous material and while that was taking place Stirling's heavy rescue truck crew deployed the Jaws of Life and other extrication equipment to rescue the trapped occupants. Additionally, material to confine vehicle liquids from running into a nearby small waterway was deployed and an adequate supply of water to fight the fire was

In April Stirling firefighters participated in a quickly established. Everything was done in unison.

> It looked like a well rehearsed exercise, but in fact it was the first time the firefighters had undertaken such a multi-emergency response in some time. Fire Chief Kevin Phillips and the other officers said their brother firefighters did a superb job and they were very proud of them. As a treat they had pizza and soda during the critique of the exercise.

> The Stirling firefighters frequently train in fighting structure, vehicle, or other fires as well as in heavy rescue exercises to extricate occupants trapped in vehicles. They also train in specialty areas such as Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Cold Water Rescue. All Stirling firefighters are unpaid volunteers and membership is open to residents of Long Hill Township age 16 and over, male or female. Information at: www.stirlingfd.com.



#### **MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION COME AND JOIN US MAY 29TH PARADE STARTS AT 9:30AM**

Line of March will begin corner of Mercer St. and Main Ave. and proceed North up Main Ave. concluding at Central School for a brief ceremony

All are cordially invited back to

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ALL Long Hill Residents are invited to join us at Stirling Lake for an afternoon of picnicking and swimming.

Any Community Groups wishing to march in the parade, please contact the Parks & Recreation Dept.

for more information at 908.647.8000 x219



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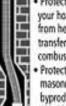


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#### **MUSICAL PROVIDED AN 'INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING' OPPORTUNITY**

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



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

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.

An example of this evolution this year was a new special event, "Breakfast with Belle," from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 1, in the school's media center. The event was held in anticipation of the Saturday Matinee performance of the musical. The event was sold out, as were earlier-in-March similar special events at the Warren Township and Long Hill Township. 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, such as face painting, craft-making and imagination building.

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 appeared, including: "Beast," characters

dancers on the stage and hearing more than 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 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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#### **WINE TASTING EVENT TO BENEFIT BOY SCOUTS**

The Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council will be holding a Riedel Wine Tasting Event Wednesday, May 24th Alfies Ristorante in Warren at 6:30bm.

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, Registration required www.ppcbsa.org/give/special-events.



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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 piece reported by Leslie Stahl.

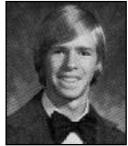
James J. Kanach: From 1980 to 2014, James Kanach was an esteemed teacher of English at WHRHS. He was named International Reading teacher of the year in 1986 as well as Watchung Hills Teacher of the Year in 1986. He was also a highly decorated, record-setting coach. He coached in 1,365 contests in multiple 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











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

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.



#### **MATHEMATICS AND ORIGAMI**

Jacqueline Lee (pictured, standing), hosted a Watchung Library branch on Monday, April 17.

Watchung Hills Regional High School student Mathematics and Origami program at SCLSNJ's



(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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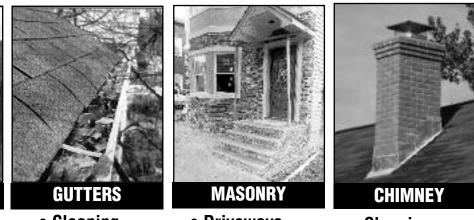
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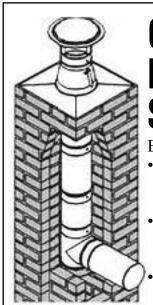
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