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## FACULTY STEP CHALLENGE MOVES MOUNTAIN(SIDE)

Mountainside faculty and staff improved their physical fitness and health awareness by participating in a district-wide Move Mountainside Winter/Spring Challenge. This program, spearheaded by the physical education department, provided an opportunity for everyone in the Mountainside School District to become more active at work and at home.

Employees worked in teams to track their activity over a period of six weeks, while competing against their peers and providing healthy role models for their students. The teams (of no more than five) had fun creating team names. Among them were: Holey Walkamolies, Friendly Neighborhood Movers, Thunder Road, and Red Hot Chili Steppers. Each team registered and kept track of their steps weekly through a Google Drive spread sheet. PE teachers provided suggested routes in and around the schools. The faculty also received a conversion chart to add other activities to their step counts. A portable step counter was provided for each faculty member by Dr. Lubarsky, the chief school administrator.

A total of 17 teams representing 73 faculty members out of 120, or over 85%. At the end of the six week challenge, the top averages of each team and the top three individual with the most steps won gift certificates. The prizes were



(above l-r) Individual faculty winners of the Mountainside School District Step Challenge Meghan Petrillo, Peter Scholl, and Courtney Hunter.

generously donated by local restaurants, Grillstone, Echo Tap and Grill, and Mosaica.

The top individual scorers were: First place - Peter Scholl (908,476); Second place - Courtney Hunter (859,731); Third place, Meghan Petrillo (831,075). The top team averages were: First place - Christopher Walkin' (Gary Chan, Kristie Crilley, Caitlin McGarrity, and Samantha New - 623,974 steps); Second place - Summer Dreamers (Denise Barone, Sonia Branco, Michelle Cruz, Heather Goldstein, and Linda Lombardo - 513,778 steps); Third place - Dream Team (Kelly Herscheit, Courtney Hunter, Stephanie Ianniello, Michelle Jamnick, and Janelle Lauterbach - 513,651).

## MOUNTAINSIDE TEACHERS AMONG THOSE HONORED AT KEAN

Kean University hosted Union County's Teachers of the Year on Wednesday, May 24 with a breakfast and award ceremony at the New Jersey Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics. Sponsored by the Union County Superintendents' Roundtable, the Union County Teacher Recognition Program honors one outstanding teacher from each school within the county. Nearly 60 of the honored teachers are Kean University alumni.

Mountainside teachers who were honored included Barbara Hemmings and Caitlyn Murphy.

"There is no doubt that your impact will be realized beyond the scope of this state, this nation, and indeed this world," Anthony A. Pittman, Ph.D., acting dean of Kean's College of Education, told the teachers. "You educate and empower our next generation of leaders."

The featured speaker at the event, 2016-2017 New Jersey Teacher of the Year Argine Safari, recalled a high school teacher who pushed her and encouraged her to reach for more.

"Think for a moment how incredible that power is that we have in our classrooms. Think of the influence that we all have," Safari said. "Every child deserves to have a champion. I had my champion, and I'm sure that you can name teachers who influenced you. We have to continue to work and advocate for our students."

Also speaking at the event were Interim Executive County Superintendent for Union County Juan Torres, Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools Michael A. Davino, and Union County Freeholder Bruce H. Bergen. Each praised the honored teachers for their dedication to the students of the county.

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## PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

Mountainside View is online at [www.rennamedia.com](http://www.rennamedia.com) like us on [facebook.com/Mountainside View](https://www.facebook.com/MountainsideView)

## RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB ADDS CHEER TO MOBILE MEALS

Members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club recently completed 65 mini flower creations for clients of Mobile Meals of Westfield. Twice a year club members gather at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, where Mobile Meals originates. The club donates the flowers and prepares small arrangements in detergent caps to accompany that day's meal delivery to clients.

Josephine Walsh, director of Mobile Meals Operations, reports that clients welcome and look forward to receiving the home-delivered meals serving those who are unable to shop and prepare their own meals on either a temporary or permanent basis. The service is available to

residents of Westfield, Mountainside, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark and Cranford. For more information call: 908-233-6146.

The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield's membership is diverse, spanning all ages (including juniors ages 7-18), interests, and occupations.

Affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc., Rake and Hoe has approximately 80 members all of whom share one thing in common: a love of flowers, gardening and community service. Contact Pat Wilson 908-389-9342 for more information on membership or visit [rakeandhoe.org](http://rakeandhoe.org).



(above l-r) Front row: Holly Schlobohm, Margot Partridge, Betsy Chance, Jeanie Pelikan, Kay Cross, Martha Savage, Ruby Simmons, Lena Peitsinovski, Natalie Peitsinovski. Back row: Cathy Becker, Kris Luka, Sharon Shiraga, Bobbie Grecco, Richard Pelikan, Jane Christiani.



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# SUMMER FAN JAM TO ROCK LAGRANDE PARK



Live rock music, food trucks and classic cars will transform Fanwood's LaGrande Park on Sunday July 9th into the 1st Annual Fanwood Summer Fan Jam. The free festival is run by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) with contributions from local sponsors.

Fan Jam goers can rock out to a diverse lineup of live bands in the park, feast on food truck cuisine, kick back in the beer and wine garden and peruse a fleet of vintage and classic cars. "This is exactly the event Fanwood has needed," said event organizer Aimee Nuzzo. "This is going to generate a lot of new interest in our town." There will be a KidsZone with obstacle course and other attractions and Food Trucks will serve up edibles from Sicilian Rice Balls to Empanadas. The music fest, which runs from 11am - 6pm, is supported by several sponsors including School of Rock Clark, Fanwood Animal Hospital, Goddard School, Two River Bank and Lightbridge Academy.

Starting at 11 am, the Clark School of Rock House Band will perform on a large stage equipped with a pro sound system and engineer. They will be followed at 12 noon by the Bored of Ed, a hard rock group. At 1 pm, The Broadcasters will play an assortment of Classic Rock. 2:45 pm will bring the Alternative Rock band, Uber Jesus. Headlining the day will be Black Dog, the popular Led Zeppelin Tribute band. A vintage and classic car show hosted by Hot Rod Mike will begin at 10am along Marian Ave, which will be closed to other traffic from 2nd Street to Helen Street.

There is plenty of free parking in the South Side lot of the Fanwood train station. Bring your

folding chairs and blankets and spend the day! Please note that pets, skateboarding and roller blading are prohibited in the festival area. For further information, please contact the GWACC, 908-233-3021, or visit the website [www.gwaccnj.com](http://www.gwaccnj.com) and look for Street Fairs.

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce For over 65 years, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) has been connecting commerce and community. The GWACC promotes the economic prosperity of businesses primarily in Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. It is the largest association of businesses and nonprofits in our area. Members include business owners, professionals, managers and operators. Membership cultivates the opportunity to build relationships, partner, make referrals, increase business, attend lunch and learns, and support the community.

The GWACC hosts street fairs each year, two in Downtown Westfield and one in the center of Garwood. The chamber also operates the Fanwood Summer Fan Jam, the Westfield Farmers Market and runs the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) program. The GWACC monthly networking events — one in the early morning and one directly after work — serve as an opportunity for current members to network with each other regularly and for prospective members to come see what we're all about. In addition, the Professional Women's Committee organizes networking events specifically tailored to women business owners, professionals, and entrepreneurs.

For more information about the GWACC, visit [www.gwaccnj.com](http://www.gwaccnj.com). You can also call the office at 908-233-3021 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Our office is located on the 3rd floor of the Bank of America building at 173 Elm Street, Westfield, NJ 07090.



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## SUMMER READING PROGRAMS AT THE MOUNTAINSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Mountainside Public Library is located at 1 Constitution Plaza, Mountainside, NJ.  
To register for these programs, stop into the library or call 908-233-0115.

Make reading fun and interesting this summer by joining one of the library's summer reading programs! This summer's theme is "Build a Better World". Stop in at the library, register and receive your reading log. As the summer progresses, track the Story Times you have attended or the books that have been read. There will be prizes when Summer Reading ends in August. It's not too late to register and get started reading!!

### STORY TIMES

**Tuesdays, June 27 through July 25**  
0:00-10:30 AM

**Cuddle Story Time for Walkers**  
10:40 – 11:00 AM

**Cuddle Story Time for Babies in Arms**  
(Ages birth to 23 months)  
2:00 -2:45 PM,

**Preschool Stories and Crafts**  
(3, 4 and 5 year olds).

**Wednesdays, June 28**  
through July 26: 10:00-10:45 AM,

**Family Story Time for all ages.**  
**Thursdays, June 29 through July 27**  
10:00-10:30 AM

**Toddler Story Time (2 year olds)**  
2:00-2:45 PM,

**K-2 Stories and Crafts**  
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### SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS.

**Wednesday from June 28 – July 26. 3rd and 4th Graders meet at 12:30 PM; 5th and 6th Graders meet at 2:00 PM and 7th and 8th Graders meet at 3:30 PM.**

Moonshot, I am Malala and Duke are among the titles to be read this summer. There is a limit of 10 students per group. Spaces still available: call the library to register!

There will be a Wrap Up party and movie on Tuesday, August 8 at 2:00 PM. All those who have read, attended story times and/or programs are welcome to attend.

All programs are free, but registration is required for all events except for Story Times. Register in the library or call 908-233-0115.

All Mountainside and MURAL library card holders are welcome!

Contact Elizabeth Perrin, Youth Services Coordinator, at eperrin@mountainsidelibrary.org for additional details.

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## "BOOK BANDY" A SUCCESS AT HILLSIDE'S GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Last summer, when 16-year-old Katie Zimmermann, a Girl Scout with the Mountainside Ambassador Troop 40851, chose creating a reading program for the 5th Grade students at George Washington School in Hillside as her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, she set a goal of collecting 350 new or gently used books to help restock the school's library. Now, a year later, the 17-year-old Junior honor student at Governor Livingston High School is wrapping up her project and leaving behind an ongoing book program in the school.

"I chose to create a 'Book Bandy,' which meant the students could select a book and not have to return it until they finished reading it because they were not restricted by a due date. The books also came with a review sticker that had a '5 Star Rating Scale' to encourage discussion. The Book Bandy encouraged the students to try different genres of books and if they didn't like the book, they just returned it and tried another. It was aimed at encouraging students to try larger and more challenging books that they wouldn't normally try," Zimmermann explained.

In addition to stocking the shelves of the Book Bandy, the teen met monthly with the students to discuss different books and literary genres, as well as give the students a chance to review their books. The children gave oral book reviews, which were later printed in the monthly newsletter Zimmermann created. The newsletter enabled those who could not attend the meeting to still get the literary genre material, student book reviews and additional sections requested, such as upcoming movies that are based on books. With the end of the school year, the monthly meetings will end, but the Book Bandy remains and the librarian and staff will continue to encourage students to "bandy" these more challenging books without a time limit or late fine. Zimmermann chose "bandy" as it means "to pass about causally, give and receive."

"The end of year evaluations of the children and staff were that the project was an overwhelming success. The students read more and enjoyed their reading. They are now more

likely to attempt more challenging genres knowing they have an unlimited time to explore them. As a result of the oral reviews, they now are more comfortable discussing their opinions with others and can more easily express what they liked or disliked about a book. In addition to increasing their reading materials, the project proved to be a confidence builder as well," Zimmermann said.

The teen was quick to acknowledge that the success of the "Book Bandy" was a joint effort that included many people. "This project would never have been possible without so many people coming forward with books and other material donations. I have to thank the entire Mountainside community, other friends and

neighbors and my fellow scouts for their help sorting, labeling, carrying books and art work. I want to thank the Mountainside View and its readers for their support. I especially want to thank the Hillside Board of Education, George Washington School administrators, staff, parents and students for their help, participation and enthusiasm. This project was a win/win for everyone. My hope is that the biggest success of this project is that these fifth graders will take their increased love of reading and spread the message to their peers. I also hope this experience will benefit them as they continue their education. It was a pleasure working with them. I will miss interacting with the students and wish them well," Zimmermann concluded.



(above) Katie Zimmermann, a Girl Scout with the Mountainside Ambassador Troop 40851.

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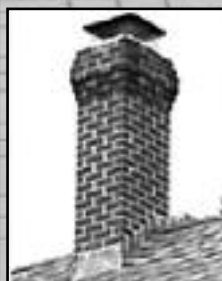
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- STEPS
- BRICK & BLOCK
- SIDEWALKS
- REPAIR

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- ROOF REPAIRS
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### GUTTERS




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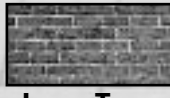
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# WATTS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Blanche M. and George L. Watt Community Foundation announced their Scholarship Winners for 2017. Colette Pluta-Ehlers and Isabella Zurla are the recipients, each being awarded a \$20,000 scholarship.

Colette Pluta-Ehlers will attend Ramapo College of New Jersey, and Isabella Zurla will attend the University of Florida in the Fall.

The Scholarship is open to any graduating senior that resides in Mountainside and is based on academic performance, community involvement, and merit.



(above) Tom Phelan, Esq.; Isabella Zurla; Tom Bradshaw, President; and Colette Pluta-Ehlers.

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# MOUNTAINSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to Mountainside's newest police officer, William Sforza, who graduated from the John H. Stamler Police Academy on June 7th. William is following in his father Dominick's footsteps who is a retired Rahway Police Sergeant.

Officer Sforza received an award from the Union County 200 Club for achieving the highest combined grade point average, 99.49, in the following areas of training: Emergency Vehicle Operations, First Responder Training, Firearms Training, Physical Training, and Range



(above l-r) Mayor Paul Mirabelli, Karen Sforza, Police Officer William Sforza, Dominick Sforza, and Police Chief Allan Attanasio. Photo by Mountainside Police Department

## SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 16TH

RAIN DATE 9/17TH

# MOUNTAINSIDE TOWN WIDE



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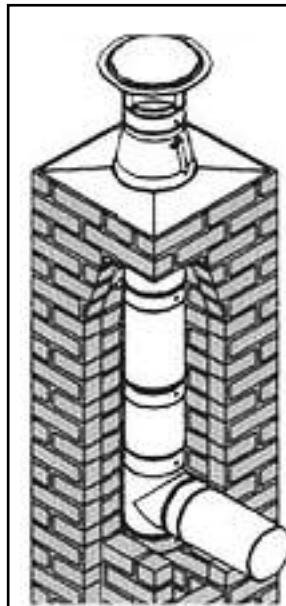
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