

# Summit NJ Times

Published by Renna Media

Issue 27 • December 2017

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## OTHER FELLOW FIRST FOUNDATION TURKEY FOOD DRIVE BENEFITS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Other Fellow First Foundation, a non-profit organization, held their 10th annual Frozen Turkey Food Drive on Sunday, Nov. 19, at the Summit Diner.

All frozen turkeys, grocery bags, and monies collected during the drive were donated to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey to help ensure every New Jersey family has what they need for a special Thanksgiving meal.

The Foundation, which is headquartered at the Summit Diner, is celebrating its 17th anniversary this year. During its existence, the organization has raised and donated more than \$5,350,000 to organizations focused on its mission.

The mission of the Foundation is to lend a helping hand to New Jersey families in distress, with proceeds going to organizations like the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, the New Jersey Community Foundation, Summit Area Public Foundation, and/or Family Promise.

Current Other Fellow First Foundation Board members include: David H. Haire, Jim Greberis, Jordan Glatt, and founder Brett Haire.

For more information on Community Food Bank of New Jersey, visit: [www.cfbnj.org](http://www.cfbnj.org) or call Debby Scheinholtz, Director of Corporate Relations at 908-242-3951.

To learn more about Other Fellow First Foundation, visit [www.summitdiner.org](http://www.summitdiner.org)

Tax deductible donations can be mailed to Other Fellow First Foundation, c/o Brett Haire, 47 Summit Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.



(above l-r) Other Fellow First Foundation team members Officer Anthony Campanelli, Suzie Montero, Brett Haire, David Haire, Jordan Glatt, Bill Macadam, and Officer Ximena Jaramillo.



(above) Loading turkeys onto the food bank bus.



(above) Summit Diner, headquarters of Other Fellow First Foundation.

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Summit Times

## CITY OF SUMMIT PROVIDES HOLIDAY PARKING INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE LOCAL BUSINESS

To help promote area businesses and encourage local shopping this holiday season, the City of Summit Parking Services Agency is partnering with Summit Downtown, Inc. to implement a number of parking modifications and incentives in the Central Retail Business District through the start of the new year.

From Tuesday, November 28 to Friday, December 22 (Tuesday to Friday) from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. free valet service will be provided in the Springfield Avenue Tier Garage with the purchase of daily parking.

Employees and shoppers will be able to text or call ahead to have their vehicle waiting when business in Summit is complete.

Users of the Parkmobile app will receive push notifications to utilize valet parking when in the downtown.

From December 11 to December 23, 90-minute street meters in the center of downtown will be bagged, offering complimentary parking with a 90-minute time limit strictly enforced to encourage turnover and deter long-term parking.

Monday, January 1, 2018 is designated as a parking holiday in Summit with no fees required in lots or at meters.

“The holiday season is an excellent time to implement parking incentives to encourage people to spend time and money in downtown Summit,” explains Summit Mayor Nora Radest. “It will be a boost for local merchants and enhance the experience of visiting our downtown.”

For more information on parking in Summit, please contact the Parking Services Agency at [parking@cityofsummit.org](mailto:parking@cityofsummit.org) or 908-522-5100.

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**WHERE:** Springfield Ave. Tier Garage  
(Entrance between 458 - 488 Springfield Ave.)

**WHEN:** November 28 to December 22  
(Tuesday through Friday)

**HOURS:** 10am - 9pm

**COST:** \$4 per car - with prepaid parking, valet service is FREE  
Pay with Parkmobile or at kiosk.

**VALET:** Vehicle key must be left with valet

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Pay with **Parkmobile** Zone #18364 or at kiosk.

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When you are finished in downtown Summit,  
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Questions? [parking@cityofsummit.org](mailto:parking@cityofsummit.org)

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## HOLIDAY DOWNTOWN

### CARRIAGES & CAROLERS

December 9, 16, 23 - 1-4pm

Enjoy holiday music and free horse and carriage rides from 1-4pm Saturdays December 9, 16, and 23. Special thanks to Regal Bank for sponsoring the Horse & Carriage Rides on December 9. The boarding location will be Lyric Park, located at the corner of Bank Street and Beechwood Road.

### GIFTS TO GO THIS DECEMBER

Downtown Summit stores are making gifting easy this season! Many downtown businesses will have a special table of gifts that are ready to grab and go. Perfect for difficult to shop for people, hostesses, and more.

### HOLIDAY VALET PROGRAM

thru December 22 (Tuesdays – Fridays)  
10AM – 9PM

The City of Summit is making parking easy this holiday season! Come into town and drop off your car at the Springfield Avenue Tier Garage for free valet service with the \$4 purchase of daily parking. Employees and shoppers will be able to text or call ahead to have their vehicle waiting when their ready for their car. Users of the Parkmobile app will receive push notifications to utilize valet parking when they're downtown. For more information, visit [cityofsummit.org](http://cityofsummit.org).

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## SHARE THE FUN WITH SUMMIT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### KARATE THURSDAYS

Starting November 16, join us every Thursday for a free karate class open to all Summit children in grades 1-8 at St. John's Church as a part of the Share the Fun Club. Class will be held from 3:30-4:30 PM. These are drop in classes and no pre-registration is required

### DECEMBER 8 – HOLIDAY CUPCAKE CLASS WITH SWEET SAMANTHA FROM 3:30-4:30

Special Activity Fridays are open to Summit children in grades 1-8. Reservation is required and on a first come first serve basis, please email [dguidajr@cityofsummit.org](mailto:dguidajr@cityofsummit.org) to RSVP. Spaces are limited. Regularly scheduled Share the Fun Club activities will still take place for those not registered.

The "Share the Fun Club" is a fully supervised free drop-in afterschool program that is open to Summit residents in grades 2-8.

The program runs from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Join us for games, homework help, snack, arts and crafts, and fun, of course!

Join us Monday through Friday at St. John's Church located at 587 Springfield Ave, or Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Pilgrim Baptist Church located at 77 Morris Ave.

### NEW PROGRAMS: YOGA TUESDAYS

Starting November 14, join us every Tuesday for a free yoga class open to all Summit children in grades 1-8 at St. John's Church as a part of the Share the Fun Club. Class will be held from 3:30-4:30 PM. These are drop in classes and no pre-registration is required.

## Celebrate in Summit

### Shop and Dine in Downtown Summit this Holiday Season

Enjoy Free Music and  
Horse & Carriage Rides

1-4pm, Saturdays Dec. 9, 16 & 23



For more info, visit [summitdowntown.org](http://summitdowntown.org)



## 2018 NJ Summer Camp Fairs Connecting Great Kids With Great Camps!

Sunday, January 21, 2018  
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Sunday, January 28, 2018  
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For additional information about our other camp fairs at The Outlets at Bergen Town Center, Freehold Raceway Mall, and Quaker Bridge Mall visit our website:

[www.njcampfairs.com](http://www.njcampfairs.com)

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## ALINA SLOTWINKI TO PERFORM IN "THE NUTCRACKER"



(above) Alina Slotwinski.

Photo by Veranika Antanevich

Alina Slotwinski, 14, of Summit, the daughter of David and Jennifer Slotwinski, is a freshman at Union County Vocational Technical Schools.

Alina will join renowned professional guest artists when they perform multiple soloist roles in this year's full-length production of New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble's (NJDTE) beloved holiday classic "The Nutcracker." Alina joined NJDTE's Ensemble Company in 2016, and will perform the soloist roles of Chinese, Mouse, Angel, Russian, and Garland.

An extraordinary group of international dance artists, including Princess Grace Award recipient Lyvan Esteban Verdicia of Ballet Hispanico as Father/Russian/Arabian, and Marie-Lorène Fichaux, formerly of Paris Opera Ballet and currently with the Lyon Opera Ballet dancing the classic role of Sugar Plum Fairy, join the Ensemble for three captivating performances. Mikhail Ilyin, formerly of Miami City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, will appear as her Cavalier. Also joining the cast are celebrated dancers Christopher Bloom of Ballet Hispanico

in the role of Drosselmeyer/Mother Gigone, and as the Grandmother, former New Jersey Ballet prima ballerina Rosemary Sabovick-Bleich

Performances are at Memorial Auditorium at Montclair State University, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ on Saturday, December 9 at 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, and Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 Adult & \$25 Child/Student/Senior, and are available at njdte.tix.com.

### ABOUT NJDTE:

New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble's forward-thinking programming empowers dancers with contemporary technologies as well as traditional dance forms. NJDTE, located in Summit, NJ, provides the highest quality, pre-professional training to aspiring dancers through professional experiences with world-renowned dancers, teachers, choreographers, and musicians. Founded in 1969 under the direction of internationally acclaimed ballet master Alfredo Corvino, and led by award-winning Artistic Director Nancy Turano since 1994, NJDTE has maintained a successful dance curriculum with an unparalleled outcome of artistic excellence. NJDTE has been acknowledged for creating innovative training and mentoring programs for dancers and choreographers in the New York City metro area, including a site-specific dance installation series at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit, NJ. NJDTE mentors dancers toward higher education and professionalism in dance and provides its alumni with employment opportunities as NJDTE guest artists, faculty, choreographers and staff. [www.njdte.org](http://www.njdte.org)

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## 'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING ONE'S TIME

Moms Helping Moms Foundation, the community-based not-for-profit organization that distributes diapers to babies living in low-wage families in the New Jersey area, has "Volunteer Saturdays" on the second Saturday of every month.

On Saturday, November 11th volunteers came from Madison, New Providence, Springfield and Summit to help sort baby clothing and organize the warehouse located in North Plainfield. The opportunity to serve their community especially during the holiday season inspired all of them help out on Saturday. They even had a few little helpers from Troop 41253 in Summit, Brownies Nadia Moghal and Chloe Freeden were very excited to sort baby items in the appropriate sized bins. The young helpers were so surprised to see how tiny the premie baby clothing was.

Moms Helping Moms Foundation has volunteer opportunities at their warehouse throughout each month located at 22 Howard Street, North Plainfield.

You can get more information on how to volunteer or donate from their website

[www.momshelpingmomsfoundation.org](http://www.momshelpingmomsfoundation.org).

Also coming up on January 27th, 2018 is the Fourth Annual, Moms Helping Moms Snow Ball at The Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains beginning at 7p.m. The Snow Ball is one of the largest fundraisers Moms Helping Moms

does to continue to service local New Jersey families in need.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or purchasing tickets at please go to [www.momshelpingmomsfoundation.org](http://www.momshelpingmomsfoundation.org) and click on "Events".



(pictured l-r) Back row: Ali Moghal, Arum Moghal (Brownie Troop Leader 41253), Carly Koehler, Martha Roth, Jim Freeden and Diane Freeden (Brownie Troop Leader 41253). Front row: Nadia Moghal, Chloe Freeden, and Haris Moghal.

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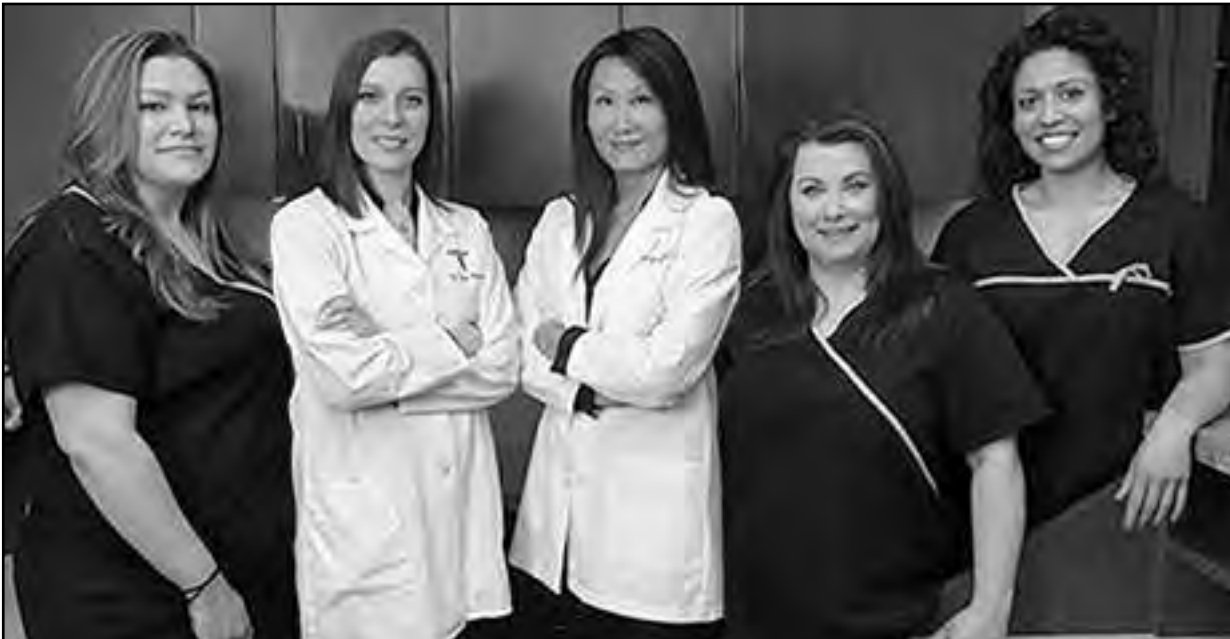




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## SUMMIT PBA AND FMBA ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

The Summit Policemen's Benevolent Association #55 (PBA) and the Summit Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association #54 (FMBA) are partnering with the United States Marine Corps Reserve for its annual "Toys for Tots" toy drive.

The campaign is on-going through December 15. A number of donation boxes are located at several spots throughout Summit. The PBA and FMBA will drop off the toys to the Marine Corps Reserve on December 15.

To participate, bring new and unwrapped toys to the donation boxes at the following Summit locations:

- Summit Police Department headquarters (512 Springfield Avenue)
- Summit Fire Department headquarters (396 Broad Street)
- Summit Post Office (61 Maple Street)
- Starbucks (2 Beechwood Road)
- Lakeland Bank (510 Morris Avenue)
- Peapack-Gladstone Bank (48 Deforest Avenue)
- Wells Fargo Bank (1 Maple Street)

The toys collected through this program will be distributed to less fortunate children throughout Union County and the surrounding area. In 2016, the Toys for Tots program collected and distributed 18 million toys to 7 million children in the U.S., the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

For more information about the Toys for Tots Foundation, visit [toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org) or contact Lieutenant Rick Proctor at 908-522-3603.



(above l-r) Summit Police Department Officer Jeff Deets and Officer Christian Eriksen.



Summit Fire Department

(above l-r) Firefighter Chris Esposito, Battalion Chief David Guida, Firefighter Dwight Nicols, Firefighter Matt Lemons, Lieutenant Jim Pignatello, Firefighter Lonn Mullen.



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# SUMMIT PUBLIC LIBRARY FOOD DRIVE

Help check out hunger this holiday season with donations to a Food Drive being sponsored by the Libraries of Union County Consortium (LUCC). From November 27 - December 18, your local public library will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the New Jersey Community Food Bank and other local food pantries. Collection bins will be conveniently located at the public libraries and library staff will then route 100% of the donations to designated food banks.

Even though experts say our economy is in recovery, many people in New Jersey have been left behind: low income families, struggling single parents, the elderly on a fixed income, and the unemployed. The New Jersey Community

Food Bank assists by distributing food to more than 1,500 non-profit charities in 19 counties, including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, local food banks, after school programs, and senior centers. Local food pantries such as SHIP in Summit serve food to the homeless and low-income individuals on a daily basis. These donations will help to fill shopping carts and bellies.

To make this holiday season hunger free, simply visit your local library with a donation of non-perishable items. Groceries most urgently needed are canned meat and fish, canned soups and stews, peanut butter (in plastic jars), boxed pasta and rice, powdered milk, infant formula, and canned vegetables and fruits.

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## SUMMIT POLICE CHIEF ROBERT WECK ISSUES TRAFFIC & RESIDENTIAL SAFETY REPORT

Summit Police Chief Robert Weck presented a traffic and residential safety report, Keeping Summit Safe, on the Roadways and in Your Homes, at the November 1 Common Council meeting focusing on the success of the expanded Summit Police Department traffic safety, community policing and patrol units.

"It is important for the community to be educated about the number of pedestrian and vehicle accidents in Summit," explains Police Chief Robert Weck. "There is often a significant difference between perceptions and reality, and how effective the SPD is in modifying behavior and making the streets even safer for travel."

Chief Weck reviewed statistics for accidents among pedestrians and motorists from 2012 to the present, showing a progressive overall decrease in the number of serious accidents.

Weck continues: "While our goal for the number of accidents is always zero, we are encouraged by the effectiveness of our initiatives and ability to use a combination of

education, engineering and enforcement to address traffic-related concerns within the community."

In the presentation, Chief Weck also addressed the inaccurate perception among some members of the community that the number of residential burglaries is on the rise.

"In almost every instance, an unlocked door of a car is how the perpetrator gets access to the vehicle," reports Chief Weck. "If you see something, say something and please lock your doors and remove keys from cars."

Chief Weck further reinforced that the Summit Police Department wants citizens to reach out to them with issues and concerns: "We are here for you, and want to hear from you."

Members of the residential and business communities can contact Chief Weck at [rweck@spdnj.org](mailto:rweck@spdnj.org) or the Traffic Safety Unit at [traffic@spdnj.org](mailto:traffic@spdnj.org) or call 908-273-0051.

The complete presentation is available at [cityofsummit.org/police](http://cityofsummit.org/police).

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Photo by Vicki Lederman, Summit Public Art.

## SUMMIT PUBLIC ART COLLABORATES WITH THE ARC OF UNION COUNTY AND THE SUMMIT YMCA

There is a new installation draped high up on the corner of the Summit YMCA in downtown Summit, a beautiful array of strings of beads hung around the building.

The colorful artwork, titled "Big Sister," is the work of sculptor Ellie Murphy, whose works explore the relationship between personal and cultural nostalgia in both materials and method, while at the same time questioning the fine art/traditional craft form border. Ms. Murphy, who holds an MFA from Yale, has exhibited across the country and is in many collections.

The thousands of beads used in "Big Sister" were strung with the help of the individuals in the adult day habilitation program with Sights and Sounds at The Arc of Union County. The Arc members worked with the artist, Ellie Murphy, stringing hundreds of beads. Board members from Summit Public Art joined in for an afternoon of volunteer outreach.

Summit Public Art, which contracted with the sculptor on this piece, also wants to thank Frank's

Tree Service for providing the bucket truck and workers to actually hang the huge piece, and Paul Kieltyka, President and CEO of the Summit YMCA, and the YMCA Board, for allowing the piece to adorn their building.

"Big Sister" joins other new works recently installed in Summit: "Hector's Return" and "Andromache," by Emil Alzamora; "Crystal Starfish Bloom," by Paul Santoleri; and Gints Grinberg's "Super Moon" globe in the Promenade and his "The Earth Laughs in Flowers" on the Village Green. All the art on display is temporary and will be exchanged for new pieces in six months to a year.

Summit Public Art receives no City funding; all money is raised through grants and private and corporate donations. For more information, visit [www.summitpublicart.com](http://www.summitpublicart.com) (under construction but you can still learn more about us!), or email us at [summitpublicarts@gmail.com](mailto:summitpublicarts@gmail.com), or by following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, @SummitPublicArt and #SPA.



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## CASA GALA LAUDS SUMMIT VOLUNTEER STILL 'URGENT NEED' FOR MORE LOCAL ADVOCATES



(above) Marité Robinson, left, receives this year's Honorable Jo-Anne B. Spatola Dream-Maker Award Dream-Keeper Award for Outstanding Volunteerism from CASA of Union County Executive Director Marla Higginbotham.

More than 300 community members, movers and shakers, advocate volunteers and other supporters of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County gathered recently for its fifth annual Foster the Dream gala to celebrate the volunteer-based nonprofit's success in protecting the best interests of local youth placed in foster care due to abuse, neglect or abandonment — and highlight in particular the exemplary work of two, including long-time Summit resident Marité Robinson.

Previously a CASA volunteer out-of-county who then volunteered 10 years as a board member for CASA of Union County, Robinson received the Honorable Jo-Anne B. Spatola Dream-Maker Award for her passion to bettering the lives of local foster youth and commitment to the organization's growth. In addition, Long-time Westfield resident Barbara Bagger received the Dream-Keeper Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. An adoptive and biological mother, and wife to former state Sen. Richard Bagger, Barbara advocates for four foster youth with histories of substance abuse, homelessness, medical and educational needs, sexual and physical abuse, and neglect. Through 15 court appearances, the judge has accepted 60 of her 76 recommendations.

As dinner guests celebrated with cocktails, dancing, auctions, raffles, wine pulls, ice cream bar, fresh popcorn takeaways, and a gif-photo booth that stole the social-media show, there was another more serious message of the

evening: there continues to be a dire need for additional community volunteers to serve as advocates.

Said Executive Director Marla Higginbotham, "Barbara and Marité are shining examples of the power of passionately preserving the welfare of others. Each have busy lives and other responsibilities yet they choose to serve and change the course for children without a safety net. They are that safety net. It's CASA of Union County's privilege to have them. Despite these great strides and all the work of our dedicated advocates, nearly half the local youth in foster care still need their own Barbara or Marité, their voice in the system. As the only organization in the county providing this service to the judiciary, it's our duty to trumpet the urgent need for more volunteers to step up, speak up and lift up a fragile child. The power to change the trajectory of a life is there for the taking."

CASA volunteers are court-empowered to speak to all parties in the child's life and serve as eyes and ears for the judge. Nearly half of the more than 500 Union County youth in care still need a CASA volunteer to protect their best interests. Two advocate training sessions are forming now that incorporate six in-person classes with online coursework: Saturday mornings starting Feb. 24 and Tuesday evenings starting April 3.

For details, contact Lisa Poris at 908-293-8135.

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# PIPES OF CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

*Commemorating John Curry and the 1879 Vision at Knock, Ireland*

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its nineteenth season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 16 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for a 2PM performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 17 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2 and 7PM.

The 2017 production will mark the world premiere of “Beautiful Things,” an original composition by acclaimed Celtic harper Cormac De Barra of Dublin, Ireland. The piece commemorates the vision of the Virgin Mary at Knock Cathedral in Ireland in 1879.

Earlier this year, the remains of the last remaining witness to the vision were reinterred at Old St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City from the pauper’s grave where he was laid to rest in 1934. His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, supervised the service.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Featured performers include James Robinson from the film “Braveheart,” New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, “Riverdance” Irish uilleann piper and flutist Christopher Layer, Gaelic Mod champion harpist Jennifer Port of Golspie, Scotland, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA.



*(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to the East Coast this December to join the company of the 19th annual “Pipes of Christmas” concerts.*

*Photo by Warren Westura.*



*(above) Cormac de Barra. The acclaimed Irish composer and performer will debut his new composition on the 1879 miracle at Knock Cathedral, Ireland.*

## PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit High School in Summit, NJ as well as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas.

Proceeds also support the Society’s sponsorship of the US National Celtic Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland’s Royal National Mod and an annual academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the acclaimed Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Named one of New York City’s “Top Ten” holiday events, the concert is made possible by a generous gift from the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit, NJ.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience. The 2016 production was the recipient of the prestigious Telly Award for broadcast excellence.

## TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through SmartTix at [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com) or by phone at (212) 868-4444. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.

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(above, l-r) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998.

The publications are "hyper-local" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns.

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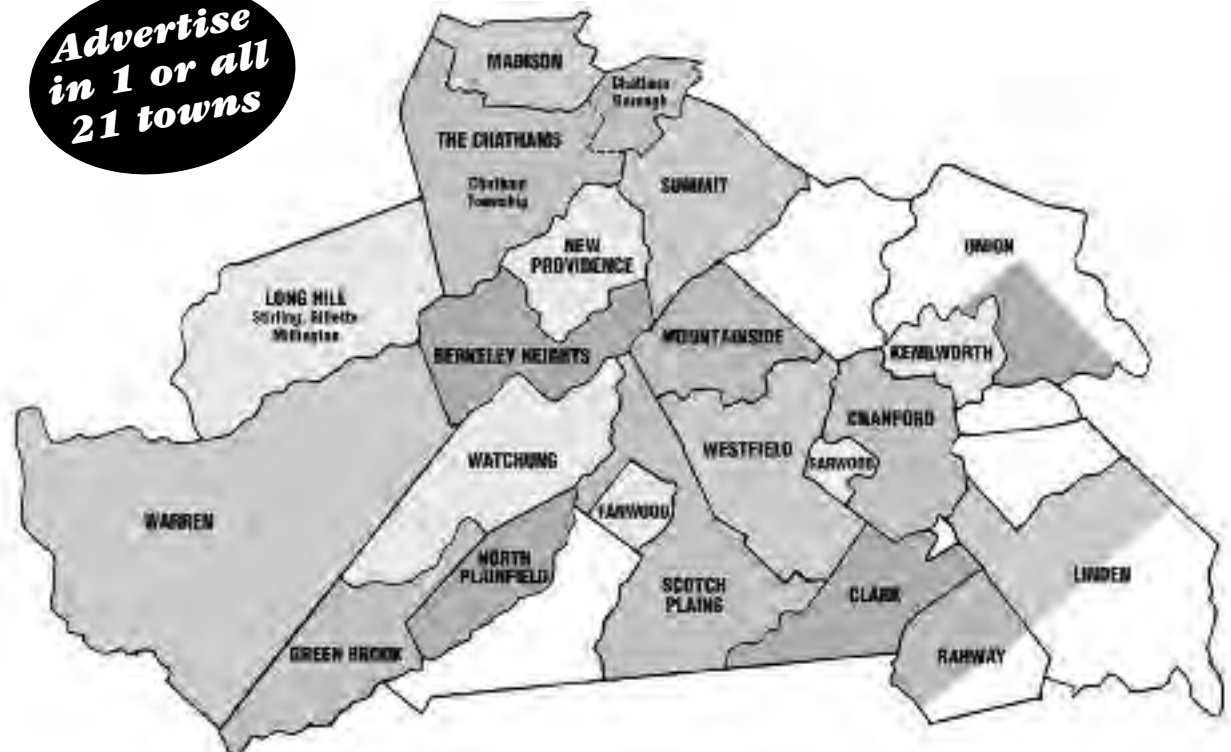
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