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WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

ISSUE 59 • NOVEMBER 2017

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WHRHS HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN AND THEIR COURT



(above) The 2017-2018 WHRHS Homecoming King and Queen, Matthew Canary and Caitlyn Park, center, wearing their new crowns, and their Homecoming Court, gather on the 50 yard line shortly after being named at halftime of the Homecoming Game versus Phillipsburg High School, Friday, Oct. 6, in Tozier Stadium. From left, are: Andrew Malfetti, Vamsi Desu, Emma Sonta and Ryan Santos; Canary and Park; and Nina Goliyad, Sahil Patel, Katelyn Carroll, and Jennifer Walpow.

Photo by WHRHS.

Seniors Matthew Canary and Caitlyn Park were named the 2017 King and Queen of the Homecoming Court at the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Homecoming Game, Friday, Oct. 6, at the Warriors' Tozier Football Stadium.

In addition to Homecoming King Canary and Queen Park, also named to the Homecoming Court are: Vamsi Desu, Andrew Malfetti, Sahil Patel, and Ryan Santos as well as Katelyn Carroll, Nina Goliyad, Emma Sonta, and Jen Walpow.

Kelly explained the process by which the King and Queen were selected.

"Upon returning to Watchung Hills this September," Kelly said, "the current Senior class nominated their peers to comprise our 2017 Homecoming Court. The students were told to nominate a male and female student who embodies

our Watchung Hills values and traditions.

"The top five nominees for King and Queen were tallied. Thereafter, the entire student body was able to vote on the King and Queen. We accepted and tallied votes up until the end of the first quarter of the game. Prior to the game the court and their families were welcomed with a Homecoming Reception sponsored by our WHRHS All School Council."

In the game, the Warriors battled Phillipsburg High School Stateliners, but in the end WHRHS lost to perennial state football powerhouse, 35-0.

Warrior senior quarterback Connor James finished with 9 of 21 for 149 yards passing and ran the ball another 10 times for 47 yards. Among the highlights, senior receiver Mike Asante had three catches for 61 yards. Senior running back had two receptions for 42 yards. Senior tight end Jeff Poggi had three catches for 37 yards.

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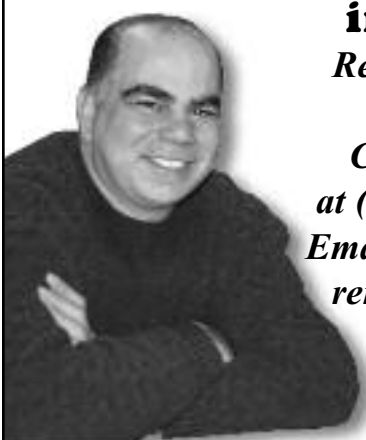
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WHITE-OUT AGAINST BULLYING

Homecoming Night was also “White-Out against Bullying” Night, sponsored by the students’ Diversity Club. Many students, parents and staff wore white in support of an ongoing initiative at the school to raise awareness and support for the anti-bullying movement at WHRHS and in the community.

State Sen. Tom Kean Jr., as well as Somerset County Sheriff Capt. Tim Pino, were special guests. They also have been present at several White Out assemblies at the school over the years.

During his remarks to attendees, Sen. Kean acknowledged that only six days earlier in Las Vegas, Nev., the week, “began with such sorrow,” and in contrast, “tonight we offer hope – hope to others that Watchung Hills stands against bullying and is ready to extend a hand to those

being bullied.”

Kean continued, “In a week that began with such chaos, tonight we all stand together on this field – together, united, firm in our mission – as a team, as a school, and as a community against bullying.”

The WHRHS White Out initiative has been credited with having coined a new word, “Upstander,” a person who stands up against bullying. Kean made reference to that in his remarks.

“Let us look around tonight,” Kean said, “and remember this image and let it remind us that our commitment to each other and to the pledge we have taken to always stand up to hate, injustice and prejudice. Do your part to make this world a better, safer, and happier place for all of us.”

In closing, Kean said, “Now, Go Warriors!”



(above) State Sen. Tom Kean, standing second left, R-Morris, Somerset and Union, who is also the N.J. Senate Minority Leader, and Somerset County Sheriff’s Department Capt. Tim Pino, were guest speakers at the White-Out Against Bullying Ceremony before the Homecoming Game versus Phillipsburg High School, Friday, Oct. 6, in Tozier Stadium. They were welcomed to the field by: WHRHS Superintendent Elizabeth Jewett; Principal George Alexis; Social Studies Teachers and White-Out against Bullying Advisors Mary Sok, and Jamie Lott-Jones; and a dozen members of the student Diversity Club, organizer of the White-Out against Bullying Initiative. Front row, from left, are: Students Melissa Hertzberg, Alanna Margulies, Helen Yang, and Emily Krouk; Felix Cotter, son of Mary Sok; and students Clara Citarella, Rachel Krouk, Jake Jones, Koa Lorimor, and Stella DeMizio; and back row, from left: Capt. Pino; Sen. Kean; Superintendent Jewett; Ronan Cotter, being held by his mom, Sok; students Kevin Sun and Enzo Ruta; Lott-Jones; Zachary Nemcek; and Principal Alexis.

Photo by WHRHS.

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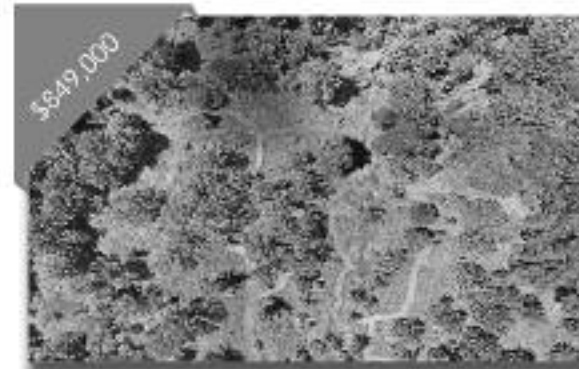
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OUTSTANDING CITIZENS HONORED AT GOOD SCOUT AWARD DINNER

Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council will be honoring local citizens at this year Good Scout Award Dinner to be held on the evening of Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at The Primavera Regency in Stirling. Gathering and reception for the event will be held at 6:30pm with dinner and the program beginning at 7:00 p.m.

This year's honorees are Nancy Beckert Finn, Ann Golden, Derek H Reedman Jr, David L. Price, and Adriane Stewart. The event recognizes all five of these outstanding citizens for their community service, as evidenced by their leadership and interests within their community, and for their embodiment of the values of the century old Scout Oath and Law in their personal and professional lives. The event chairman and this year's master of ceremonies is Wayne K Hanlon, a past Good Scout Award recipient and an active volunteer with the Patriots Path Council.

The Patriots Path Council, with the work and service of over 5,000 adult leaders deliver the values and lessons of Scouting to over 16,500 youth providing outstanding opportunities to

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For more information on Scouting, attending the event, and sponsoring the program journal,

please contact: Ryan Page, Development Executive, at 973-765-9322 ext. 263 and/or ryan.page@scouting.org. or Jennifer Volz, Sr. Development Director, at 973-765-9322 ext. 249 and jennifer.volz@scouting.org.

For ticket and ad journal information please contact: Zach Ernst at 973-765-9322 ext. 244 and/or zachary.ernst@scouting.org.

ANN GOLDEN



(above) Ann Golden is an active community volunteer in Millington.

DAVID L. PRICE



(above) David L. Price is a committee member for Patriots' Path and works with Boy Scout Troop 555.

ADRIANE STEWART



(above) Adriane Stewart is a Premier Realtor Associate with RE-MAX & President of the Warren Township Lions Club.

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NANCY BERKERT FINN



DEREK H. REEDMAN JR.



(far left) Nancy Beckert Finn is the Director of Development for St. Mary's- Stony Hill & the Principal with FINNancial Group.

(left) Derek H. Reedman Jr. is Captain for the Mount Bethel Fire Company in the Warren Fire Department.

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ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY REFILLABLE WATER STATIONS INSTALLED IN SCHOOLS

There is a small display in the upper right corner of the new water bottle filling stations installed over the summer in Warren Township Schools that acts as a simple reminder of the amount of waste eliminated by choosing to use refillable water containers over disposable plastic bottles.

The display counts the number of plastic bottles avoided each time a student or staff member chooses to refill his or her own reusable version. At last count, Warren Middle School had bypassed nearly 7,000 disposable plastic bottles at its four new water stations and close to 16,000 at an existing refillable station.

Twelve new bottle filling stations have been installed across the school district – 4 at the middle school and 2 in each of the four elementary schools.

“It was important for us to be able to provide students and staff access to cold, filtered water in a way that allows them to fill water bottles for continued use back in the classroom. Not only is this good for environmental stewardship but it helps with proper hydration to assist in supporting a healthy lifestyle,” says Superintendent Dr. Matthew Mingle.

Due to the painstaking efforts of skilled maintenance workers Calvin James and Ralph Circelli, the Elkay ezH2O stations were in place by the start of school, which was no small task.

“Old fountains had to be removed and plumbing and electric was relocated to fit the new stations. In some cases, new electrical wires were run,” says Buildings and Grounds Supervisor

Michael Pate. “Some relocation involved breaking open the block wall and reinstalling new masonry blocks before mounting the new fountain and touching up the paint around them.”

Traditional drinking fountains remain at each of the schools. The new water filling stations include such additional features as water filters, a low energy LED light that helps users see when their bottle is full and, of course, the chance to contribute to taking care of Mother Earth.



(above) Skilled maintenance worker Ralph Circelli installs environmentally-friendly water

Photo by Warren Township Schools.

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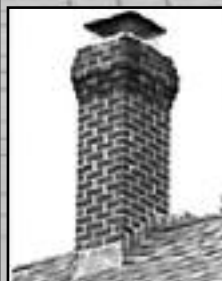
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15 WHRHS STUDENTS NAMED 2018 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS



(above) A record 15 Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students in the Class of 2018 have been named Semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. With Principal George Alexis, standing left, are Semifinalists: Emma Marszalek, Calvin Li, Kevin Tan, Helen Yang, Linda Ye, Carrie Zhang, Lindsey Shi, and Michael Raman; and sitting, from left, Craig Vergilio, Carl Peterson, Jeffrey Stickler, Kevin Huang, Rachel Lu, and Olivia Xu. Unavailable for the photo due to scheduling conflict is Cherlin Zhu.

A record 15 Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students in the Class of 2018 have been named Semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Another 53 WHRHS students have qualified for the honor "Commended," the category just before Semifinalists. These designations were made based on the scores of students who took the 2016 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT).

The total of 68 recognized students – combining Semifinalists and Commended students – ranks WHRHS 9th among all high schools in New Jersey, as well as 6th among comprehensive public high schools in the state, and 1st among all high schools in Somerset County, according to Principal George Alexis.

"The National Merit results are impressive and provide further evidence that our sustained focus on inquiry and collaboration is advancing learning in our school," Alexis said. "We are proud of our students and grateful for our teachers' hard work and commitment. The quality of teaching and learning taking place each day is making a difference for our entire school community."

This year's 15 WHRHS National Merit Semifinalists means that as many as 42 WHRHS students have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists during the most recent four years, including 10 in the Class of 2017, six in the Class of 2016, and 11 in the Class of 2015.

The Class of 2018 National Merit Semifinalists are: Kevin Huang, Calvin Li, Rachel Lu, Emma Marszalek, Carl Peterson, Michael Raman, Lindsey Shi, Jeffrey Stickler, Kevin Tan, Craig Vergilio, Olivia Xu, Helen Yang, Linda Ye, Carrie Zhang, and Cherlin Zhu.

The Class of 2018 Commended students are:


Keerthi Adusumilli, Michael Brady, Carson Brooks, Jason Chan, Demetra Chang, Rebecca Chang, Shane Checko, Sean P. Coleman, Vincent Dai, Vamsi Desu, Karen Dong, Michelle Du, Michael Duncan, Michael Erickson, Lindsay Fogel, Ian Glass, Nina Goliyad, Aaron Hao, Sierra Heuvelman, Kartik Hoover, Michael Hopwood, Jack Horan, Ashil Jhaveri, Michael Jiang, Brittany Keller, James Keller, James M. Kennelly IV, Nila Kirupaharan, Darren Lei, Alanna Margulies, Ethan Marmolejos, Katherine Morris, William Narayanan, Arthur Paganini, Brady Pilsbury, Daniel Pilsbury, Jared Pincus, Andrew Pluta, Sana Salam, Jarett Schwartz, Deebe Shokrani, Connie Situ, Michael L. Stein, Sophia Su, Sanjay Subramanian, Annika Surapaneni, Michael Tobin, Jennifer Walpow, Ella Walsh, Peter Wu, Michelle Yang, Jason Ye,

Zachary Young, and Christopher Yu.

Nationwide about 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists have been named semifinalists based on their scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) taken by 1.6 million juniors last Fall.

These students have the opportunity to continue in the PSAT/NMSQT competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered in the spring. Each scholarship is for \$2,500.

To advance to Finalist, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements. About 90 percent are expected to advance to Finalist. About half the Finalists win the National Merit Scholarships, along with earning the title, National Merit Scholar.



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WOODLAND SCHOOL EARNS PRESTIGIOUS BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Woodland School has been named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, one of only five public elementary schools in Somerset County to receive the prestigious recognition in the program's 35-year history.

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos made the announcement in Washington, D.C. on September 28, 2017.

"National Blue Ribbon Schools are active demonstrations of preparing every child for a bright future," DeVos said in the announcement, live streamed to Woodland's library media center for staff to view. "You are visionaries, innovators and leaders. You have much to teach us: some of you personalize student learning, others engage parents and communities in the work and life of your local schools and still others develop strong and forward-thinking leaders from among your teaching staff."

Woodland School received the Blue Ribbon Schools award in the category of "exemplary high performing schools."

"The prestigious Blue Ribbon award is the result of years of remarkable educators who do everything that it takes to ensure that the students of Woodland are successful," says Jeffrey Heaney, who joined the district as principal of Woodland in 2014. "While academic achievement, engaging lessons and high performance on standardized assessments are all important at Woodland, we are so much more than numbers, so much more than books, and so much more than tests and quizzes. The staff, students and parents truly deserve the highest honor bestowed upon them. I am privileged and proud to work alongside such remarkable people."

Created in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes outstanding public and non-public school achievement for overall academic excellence and/or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. To be nominated, a school has to demonstrate high or strongly improving student scores on state or national normed assessments in the last year tested, as well as meet annual measurable objectives.

Specifically, the performance of all tested students in a school in both reading and mathematics has to be in the top 15 percent of all schools in New Jersey in the most recent year tested. Additionally, for each of a school's student subgroups, the performance of all tested students in a subgroup in both reading and math must be in the top 40 percent of all schools statewide.

"This honor is well deserved for the entire Woodland School community, past and present. Without consistent expectations for excellence shared among students, staff, administration, and parents over the years, such a recognition could not occur," says Superintendent Matthew Mingle. "This is an exciting day not only for Woodland School but for all of us in the Warren Township Schools."

"We are filled with pride for Woodland School. This award recognizes the extraordinary talent of our staff, the hard work of our students, and the ongoing involvement of our parent community,"

adds Warren Township Board of Education president Tia Allocco. "The achievement affirms the high quality of education we deliver to the children of Woodland Elementary School, and all of our schools, on a daily basis. We celebrate the Blue Ribbon Award with the entire Warren community whose commitment to our schools has been vital to our success."

Principal Heaney and one other staff member will travel to the nation's capital on November 6-7, 2017 to accept the award on behalf of the school during a special Blue Ribbon ceremony.

Nine public schools across New Jersey earned the Blue Ribbon designation.

"I want to congratulate these nine New Jersey

public schools for being selected as National Blue Ribbon Schools, the highest recognition bestowed by the United States Department of Education," says New Jersey Education Commissioner Kimberley Harrington. "These schools area being honored thanks to the dedication of their teachers, administrators, students, and school communities working together to achieve educational excellence."

Woodland will hold a local celebration before the end of the year for the school community to honor all those who contributed over the years. Additionally, a districtwide event is planned for next spring to recognize the district's excellence as a whole.

Photo by Warren Township Schools



(above) Woodland School principal Jeffrey Heaney and mascot, Woody the Woodchuck, join staff and students in celebrating the news of Woodland as a 2017 Blue Ribbon School on Sept. 28.

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The Broadway drama, "Dracula," will be presented by the Watchung Hills Regional High School Drama Program, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16, 17, and 18, with an additional matinee performance at 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18. All performances are in the WHRHS Performing Arts Center (PAC). The General Public is invited to attend all performances.



(above) Several of the members of the cast of "Dracula," which will be presented at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Thursday, Nov. 16, to Saturday, Nov. 18, also participated in the Fall Cabaret, organized by the Drama Department, Tuesday, Oct. 17, on the stage of the PAC. They are, from left: Senior Justin Horowitz, sophomore Giovanna DiSanto, sophomore Jack Melillo, senior Nicole Bell, senior Ben Allgor, sophomore Kaelin Churchill, freshman Andrew Moberly, and senior Sam Sinnott. All performances are open to the public.

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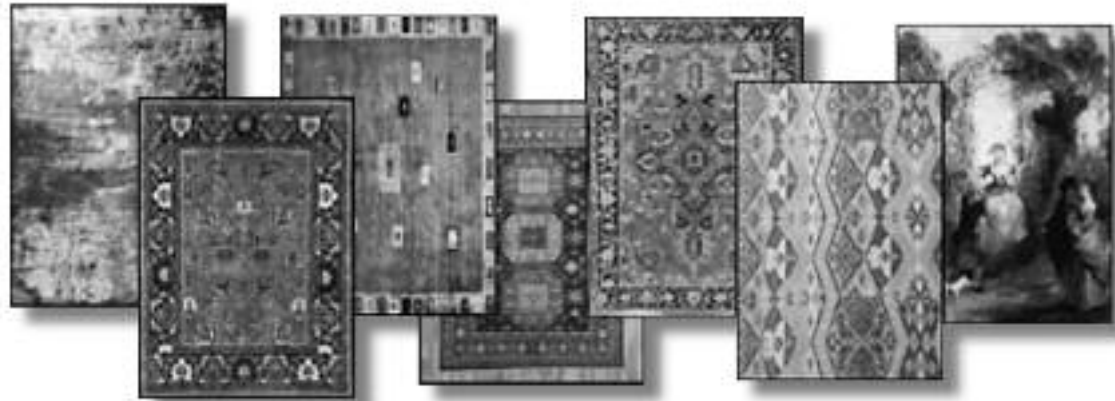
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MI LA'S MUSIC SCHOOL MOVES TO WARREN

In August, Lioudmila Kozlova relocated her music school from Green Brook to Warren.

The 15-year-old business, which incorporates part of her name combined with musical notes, is Mi La's Debut School of Music.

"I wanted to select a name for my school that emphasizes my true love of music," she said.

"Music is close to my heart." It must be. She named her daughter "Dorela".

Ms. Kozlova brings a wealth of music knowledge and experience to the school. Kozlova, a graduate in violin, piano and conducting from the Kishinev Conservatory in Russia, taught for 15 years there. She said her love of music and teaching motivated her to move to the United States with the dream of opening her own music school.

The school now occupies 3,000 square feet and offers lessons in piano, voice, violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, percussion, guitar,

mandolin and music theory. All lessons are offered on a one-on-one basis.

The advantage for a personalized lesson is that the student has the teacher's undivided attention and the teacher can work on music intonation and their progress. It's more than just playing the wonderful music," she added.

Within the school, there are 14 classrooms and a beautiful recital hall. A grand piano beckons for students to show off their talent and progress.

Mi La's Debut invites students from age 4 through adult. She said music education not only instills an appreciation of the arts and music but facilitates concentration, self-discipline and intelligence.

"I think children who play an instrument experience many advantages," Kozlova added. "They not only learn to love music, they learn that hard work pays off."

(below) Warren students



Stella Buyanovsky – 5



Malvika George – 14



Faron Martin – 12



Andy Shi – 13

AMERICARE CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

AmeriCare Physical Therapy held a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 2. The physical therapy clinic located at 125 Washington Valley Road, Warren, NJ began seeing new patients on October 2. Among the guests are Mayor Garafola and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce.

More information about the clinic can be found online by visiting AmeriCarePT.com.



(above) Mayor Garafola and Dr. Susan Rele cut ribbon during AmeriCare grand opening ceremony in Warren.

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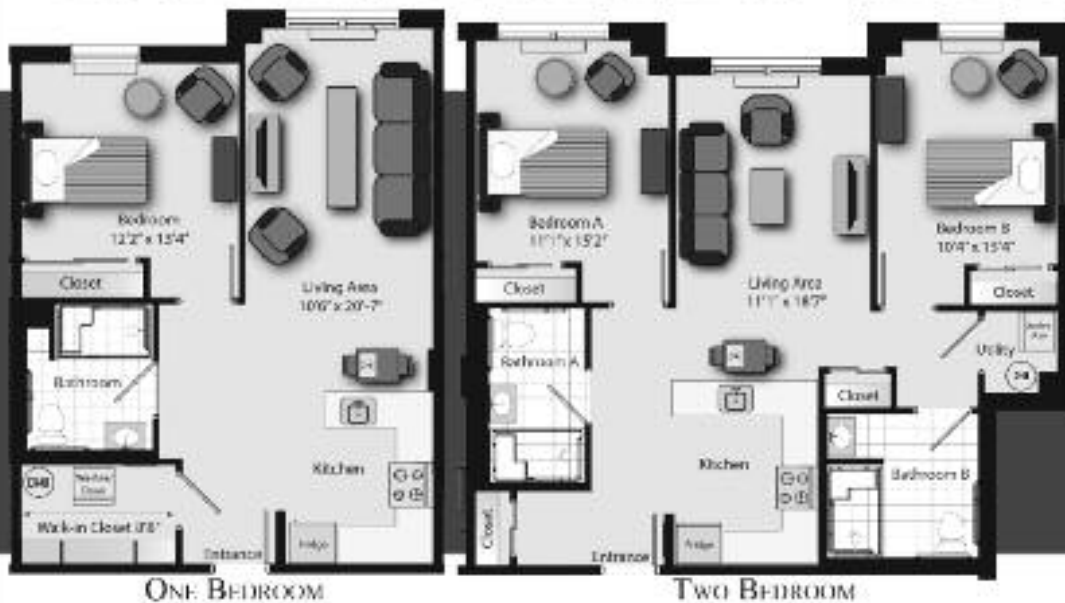
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1ST GRADERS RECEIVE LESSON ON BUTTERFLIES



(above) ALT teacher Mary Balkonis and first grader Anish Bhavanasi admire the black and orange splendor of a Monarch butterfly on Sept. 26, part of an impromptu science lesson on the lifecycle of the Monarch.



(above) ALT first grader Alessandra Purpora is all smiles as she prepares to release a Monarch butterfly on Sept. 26.

What started as a simple rescue mission turned into an impromptu science lesson on the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly for first graders at Angelo L. Tomaso School.

During a recent recess, students and teacher Mary Balkonis noticed caterpillars enjoying a meal on milkweed, among the varied plant life in the outdoor classroom. Worried that hungry birds would make a meal of the caterpillars, the group rescued 10 of the crawlers, providing them haven in a netted enclosure and plenty of fresh milkweed leaves.

It wasn't long before caterpillars became chrysalises. Not long after that, the Monarch butterflies began to emerge in all their bright orange and black splendor.

"One caterpillar got out and formed a chrysalis on the underside of a table [in the classroom,]" says Balkonis. When the Monarch showed its colors, Balkonis "used sugar water to coax the butterfly back to the enclosure."

On Sept. 26, giddy first graders in Elena Marinello's class joined Balkonis in releasing the Monarchs into the skies outside of ALT.

Photo Credit: Warren Township Schools

WATCHUNG HILLS HIGH ACHIEVES SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION

Watchung Hills Regional High School has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. This school joins a group of 91 schools that achieved the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification in 2017. A total of 679 schools and 273 school districts are participating in the program overall.

The Watchung Hills Regional High School District has earned its Bronze level certification with the help of its Green Team members who include the following: Elizabeth Jewett, Superintendent; Timothy Stys, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Beth Scheiderman, Director of Human Resources and Professional Development; Kris Byk, Acting Director of Operations; Daniel Bertelli, Supervisor of Arts Physical Education/Health, and Co-curricular Activities; Kathy Haines, Teacher of Science and Environmental Club Advisor; Angelo Foschini, Food Service Director; Angela Valerio, School Nurse; Nicholas DiNizio, Assistant Production Manager; Dina Ballaro, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Jennifer Zervopoulos, Secretary for Buildings & Grounds.

"The Sustainable NJ for Schools certification process has called for representatives from all aspects of school operation - facilities, food service, health, curriculum and instruction, finance - to collaborate to ensure that we are doing our part as a district to promote and model sustainable practices. As educators, it is not only our responsibility to prepare our students to succeed in a changing world, but also to help ensure the world's resources are still abundant for future generations to enjoy as we have," explained Elizabeth C. Jewett, Superintendent, Watchung Hills Regional High School District.

"As students and teachers head back to school this year, they will learn the good news that their hard work has paid off," said Randall Solomon, executive director of Sustainable Jersey. "Becoming certified with Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a significant achievement for schools and their school district. The number of schools participating in the program is truly remarkable."

Sustainable Jersey for Schools, a program for kindergarten through twelfth-grade public schools in New Jersey, is voluntary, but achieving certification is not easy. Each school that is certified at the bronze level must submit documentation to show it has completed a balanced portfolio of the program's sustainability actions, attaining a minimum of 150 points. Silver-level certification requires a minimum of 350 points of sustainability actions. Over 2,700 sustainability actions were completed by schools and districts participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program - from performing energy audits and boosting recycling efforts to integrating sustainability into student learning and promoting student and staff wellness.

"We are proud of the leadership provided by the boards of education and their superintendents, as well as the contributions of principals, teachers, education support professionals and parents, that made this important milestone a reality," said Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, New Jersey School Boards Association executive director. "We congratulate the schools on achieving Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification." On October 24, 2017, the certified schools and their districts will be celebrated at a reception held during NJSBA Workshop 2017 in Atlantic City. Workshop 2017 will feature Sustainable Jersey for Schools sessions along

with NJSBA sustainability support programs for schools.

About Sustainable Jersey for Schools

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for public schools in New Jersey. It was launched by Sustainable Jersey, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward municipalities and schools as they pursue sustainability programs. To date, 274 school districts and 679 schools are participating in the program. The district participation has grown to include 46 percent of all New Jersey school districts.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is underwritten by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). The 2017 Sustainable Jersey for Schools small grants program is funded by the PSEG Foundation, NJEA, the Gardiner Environmental Fund and the New Jersey Department of Health. Founding Sponsor contributors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and NJM Insurance Group. Bayer Foundation and Investors Bank are Silver Sponsors.

Program partners include: NJSBA, NJEA, New Jersey Association of School Administrators, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, New Jersey Parent Teacher Association, New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, New Jersey School Buildings and Grounds Association and The Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey. To learn more about the program, visit www.SustainableJerseySchools.com.

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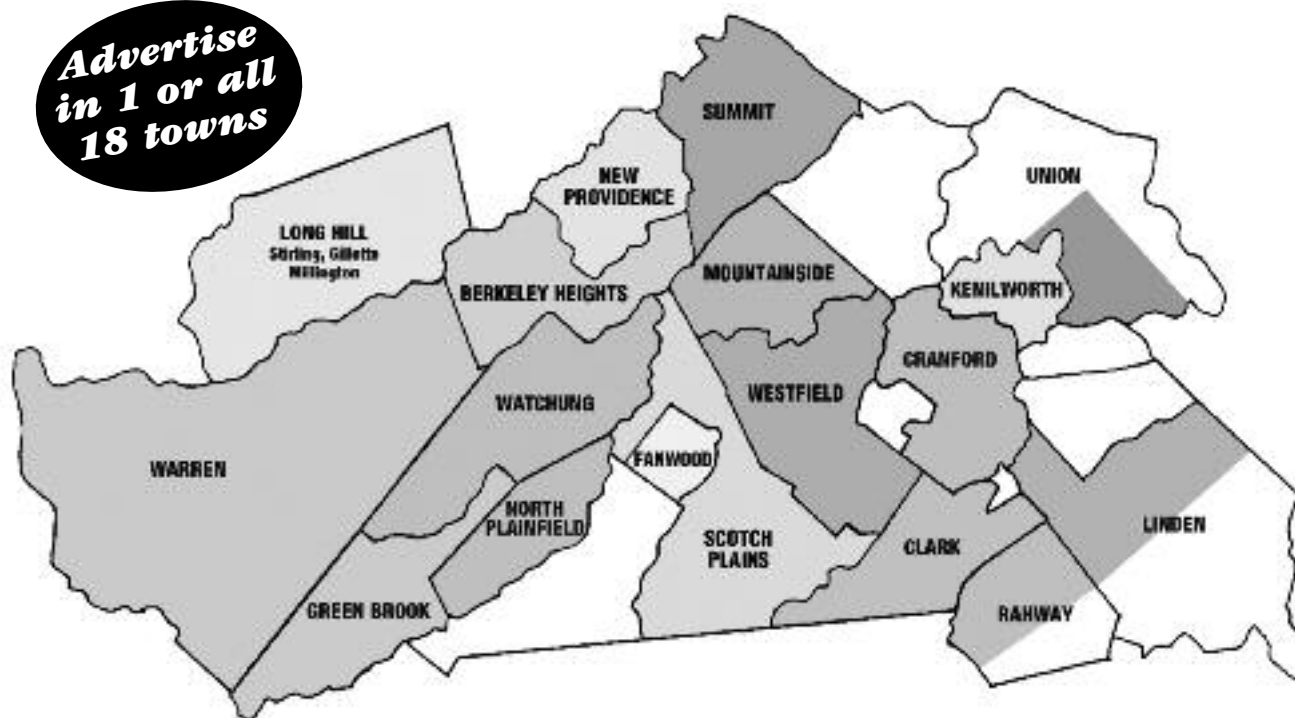


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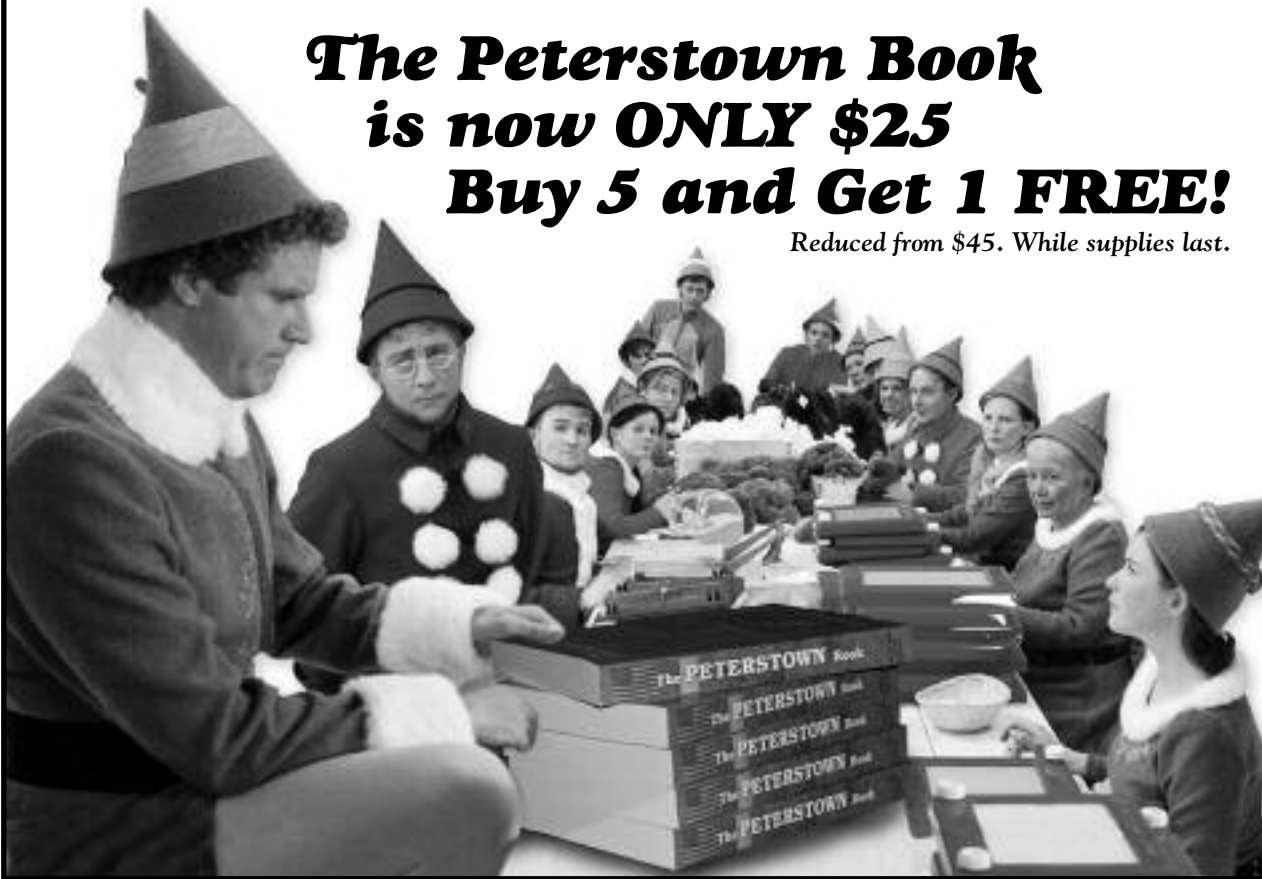
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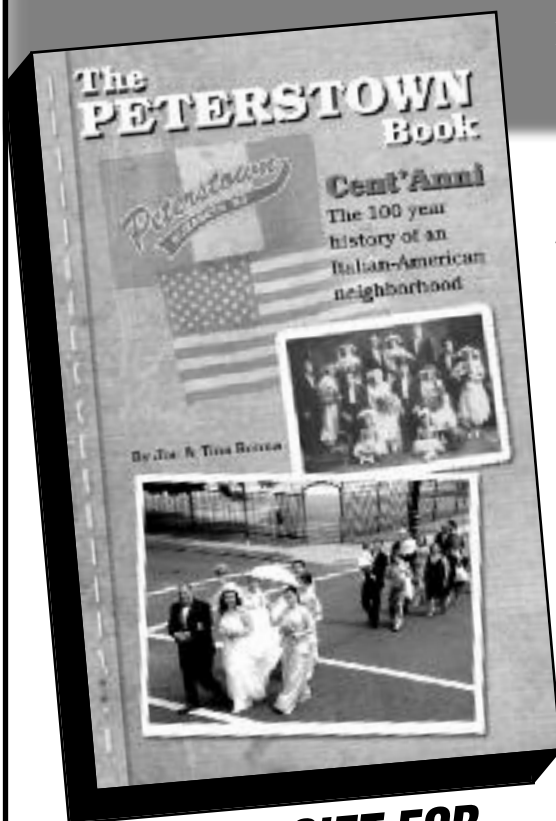
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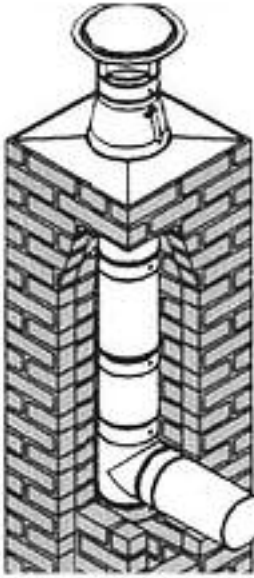
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