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#### Issue 1 • January 2018



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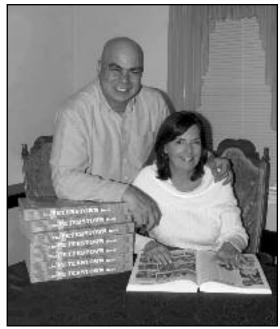
#### **WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF GARWOOD TIMES**

With this premier issue, Garwood Times has joined Renna Media's family of newspapers, bringing the number of publications to twenty-one. Garwood Times will be direct mailed to every postal patron in Garwood with a total circulation of 2,200, and will deliver important information from the departments in town hall, along with news from the schools and library. Community service organizations are encouraged to promote their events and businesses, and residents can celebrate their accomplishments free of charge. The newspaper's goal is to be a positive influence on the economic development and overall wellbeing of Garwood.

Renna Media is a Cranford based business owned and operated by husband and wife team Joe and Tina Renna. Renna Media's family of community newspapers are published in and around Union, Somerset, and Morris counties with a total circulation of 125,000 newspapers mailed monthly. The publications are "hyper-local" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns.

The hyper-local design gives businesses the highest value for their advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of an advertisement to as low as \$60 for a business card size ad. Regional businesses can take advantage of one low rate for being in multiple publications. Inserts are also available.

For more information about Renna Media publications, please contact info@rennamedia.com; or call 908-418-5586.



(above, l-r) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, in business since 1984, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998.



STAL PAT RWOOD, I

#### **JOHN MOLDOVAN DRIVES LOCAL CHESS SCENE**

Garwood resident John Moldovan will once again serve Kenilworth Community Center located next to Borough Hall as president of the Kenilworth Chess Club as the club celebrates its 35th anniversary. John is also instrumental in running the Westfield Chess Club weekly Sunday tournaments. John is an avid player as well as analyst, blogger, and tournament director. He has memorable achievements as a club and tournament player. John was one of only three non-masters to win the Kenilworth Club Championship.

The Kenilworth Chess Club has kicked off their 2018 season with the elections of new officers. Serving with president John Moldovan is vice president Greg Tomkovich, treasurer Geoff McAuliffe, secretary Dave Lazarus, and webmaster Paul Gottlieb.

The club's website, kenilworthchessclub.org, is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features. The club, which was established in 1972, has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the

on the Boulevard on the corner of 24th Street.

The Westfield Chess Club meets most Sundays, usually from 1:15 to 7:30 p.m., at the YMCA building, 220 Clark Street, Westfield, NJ. They are USCF-affiliated and run rated tournaments almost every week.



(above, l-r) Kenilworth Chess Club 2018 officers: President John Moldovan, Vice President Greg Tomkovich, Treasurer Geoff McAuliffe, Secretary Dave Lazarus, Webmaster Paul Gottlieb.



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*Garwood Times* is published by Renna Media. 2,200 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Garwood.

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#### To submit content email: editor@rennamedia.com

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Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

and about in the community.

Residing in Union County with my husband, Dennis, and our beloved cat Nicholas, my interests, besides writing and editing, include animals, music, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Writing professionally since 1995, I'm an award-winning journalist. I received my award from The NJ Society of Professional Journalists for investigative journalism. I'm also an author, public speaker, and poet (recently selected to read at the All About Eve Arts Festival at the West End Theatre in Long Branch, New Jersey).

Having a great passion for music, I've developed a unique library program called "The Learn & Listen Series" which pays homage to legendary musicians.

The two-fold presentation begins as I host, sharing a musician's biography – which I wrote – followed by actual live music from local New Jersey and New York talent. Librarians can choose from a variety of singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, Johnny Cash, Janis Joplin, and David Bowie.

I'm blessed to be able to work with performers like indie recording artist Keith Beck; jazz sensation Stephen Fuller (front man for Amani);

Hello Readers!

**MEET MARYANNE CHRISTIANO-MISTRETTA** 

**YOUR CONTACT FOR NEWSPAPER CONTENT** 

I'm ecstatic to introduce myself as the new editor for Renna Media. It's such an honor working with Joe and Tina Renna; they are awesome! Joe has asked

me to write a little bit about myself for our readership, which is probably a great idea since I'll often be out singer/performance artist, Anna Oh; and threetime Grammy winning producer, Rob Fusari.

"Learn & Listen" also includes Jayne DiGregorio and Rich Timberlake, who work behind-the-scenes filming for an upcoming documentary.

In addition to the "Learn & Listen" series, I also lecture on "History of the Newspaper Industry," "Going, Going, Gone: What the Next Generation Won't Remember" (seniors love that one!), and there's also a healthy foodies series, which includes sampling.

Now, if you've read this far, you may be asking yourself – how can this woman work so much and still have time to edit 21 newspapers? As Joe Renna himself says – "It's not work, it's a lifestyle." I somehow get everything done ... and with a big smile on my face.

When you have a grand passion for what you do, it doesn't matter what day it is. It could be a Monday, or a Friday, and you're equally as happy. Sometimes I'm home all day working in my pajamas; other times I'm having a blast taking photos at a Winter Walk. Whether I sleep in or get up super early to attend a town meeting, it's all good. In this line of work, every day is different, and every day is exciting.

In just one month of working for Renna Media, I've attended many fun affairs and met incredible people. It brings a tear to my eye when a child cheers, "I'm gonna be in the newspaper!" after I take his or her photograph. That's what it's all about – the essence of presenting a good story to the community.

So, don't hesitate to send me your community news. We call on the arts, fundraisers, nonprofits, new businesses – anything positive that should be in your local newspaper.

Reach me at 908-858-4012, or email me at: Editor@RennaMedia.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta





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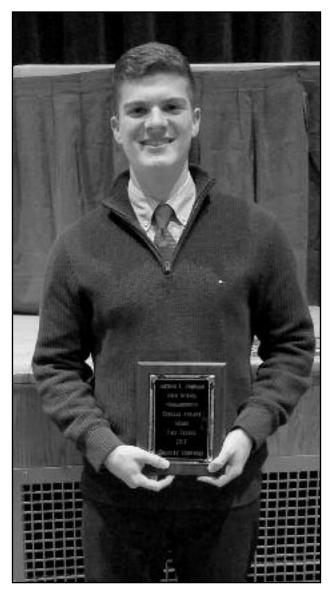
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#### Garwood Times • Page 4 • January 2018



(above) Greg Zukowski, 2017 Fall Student Athlete Award Winner

## **ALJ 2017 FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS**

The Arthur L. Johnson (ALJ) Athletic seasonally to one member from each athletic Department held their 2017 Fall Athletic Awards on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 in their auditorium. The Crusader Athletic Booster Club sponsored the event.

The Fall Athletic Teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches, while handing out letters and awards to the student athletes. Throughout the evening, over 200 varsity athletic letters were handed out.

The Student Athlete Award was presented by Mrs. Jennifer Feeley, the principal of ALJ. This award is given out each athletic season to a student athlete who is not only a champion on the field, but in the classroom as well. The 2017 Fall Student Athlete award recipient was Gregory Zukowski, with a 4.625 Grade Point Average (GPA).

The Crusader GPA Challenge was awarded to the team that finished with the highest overall GPA amongst athletic teams for the fall season. The recipients were presented with certificates, will have their team memorialized on a plaque, and will be invited for a "Breakfast with the A.D." to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the fields. The Gymnastics Team, with a GPA of 3.9678, was the Fall 2017 winner. Members of the Gymnastics Team include: Angela Pieros, Morgan Thomas, Lindsay Becker, Nicalina DelRosario, Kaitlyn King, Christina Sheafer, and Emi Budnik.

The Best Teammate Award is given out

team that best fits the characteristics of a good teammate. The individuals that receive these awards exhibit upbeat attitudes and outstanding character. They helped influence the team's culture in a positive manner, while always supporting teammates and promoting team unity. The Best Teammate Award Winners were: Cross Country (Boys/Girls) - Tyler Bohm; Field Hockey - Amy Wysocki; Football - Michale Casalino; Gymnastics - Kaitlyn King; Boys' Soccer – Ross Wildes; Girls' Soccer – Lily Gull; Girls' Tennis – Amanda Nunes; Volleyball – Tara Jacobsen; and Cheerleading – Chloe Hessler.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players (MVP). The MVPs were: Cross Country (Boys) – Tyler Moreira; Cross Country (Girls) – Lindsey Hofschneider; Field Hockey - Jessica Lopez; Football - Joe Turek; Gymnastics -Angela Pieros; Boys' Soccer – Matthew Vigliotti; Girls' Soccer - Kristina Palella; Girls' Tennis -Saga Elsekhely; Volleyball - Victoria Gulbin; and Cheerleading – Emily DeLima.

Athletic Director, Gus Kalikas, stated, "Once again, our Fall Athletic Awards Program was a successful evening as it allows the District, administration, and coaches, the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful Fall Sports Season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past fall athletic season."



(above) 2017 Fall MVPs





(above) 2017 Fall BTAs

(above) 2017 Fall GPA Winners - Gymnastics Program.

#### **CELEBRATION SINGERS ADULT AND YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS**

Through music education, skill development

and social interaction, the Choir offers its adult

and youth members opportunities for personal

growth and self-expression. The Choir lends

experience.

The Celebration Singers of Cranford adult and youth choirs are scheduling auditions for the Spring 2018 season. Auditions for the Adult, Youth, and Children's choirs will be held on Tuesday, January 9th. Auditions are by appointment only.

Please email us at

celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com to schedule your auditions.

The Celebration Singers are multigenerational ambassadors of song drawing

support through music and participates in the cultural life of the community. music from a breadth of genres and cultures. The Choir's commitment to artistic excellence and its Please also visit the Celebration Singers engaging and dynamic style provide its diverse Facebook page: singers and audiences with a compelling musical

facebook.com/Celebrationsingers.

Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

# COMING SOON: THE CONNIE DWYER BREAST CENTER AT TRINITAS

We're looking forward to the creation of the Connie Dwyer Breast Center at Trinitas, which will provide new and improved services for women in the greater Elizabeth area. A \$3.2 million investment in our Women's Imaging Center will result in a truly remarkable breast center that will care for every woman.



TrinitasRMC.org



## WE'RE GETTING BETTER, TOGETHER

#### **GREATER WESTFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MOVES HEADQUARTERS AND WILL CELEBRATE 70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Commerce (GWACC) moved its headquarters found an ideal street front location for the from the third floor of the Bank of America building on Elm Street to 212 Lenox Avenue, a space previously occupied by the Bittersweet Rialto Theater on April 27, 1948, and so it will Store. Gene Jannotti, GWACC Executive be celebrating its 70th Anniversary in 2018. The Director stated, "We are very pleased that after storefront location will give greater access to the

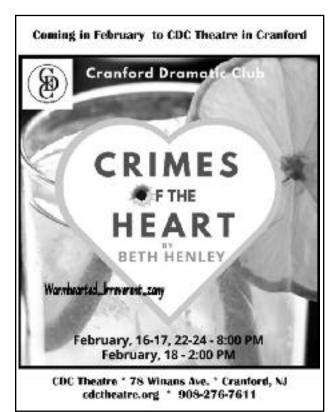
The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of almost seventy years in Westfield that we have Chamber."

The Chamber was originally formed at the

Chamber members, allowing for a quasi-retail operation, affording visitors and new arrivals in town to obtain information about the local store and services of the five towns served by the Chamber: Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. GWACC Gift Coins can now also be purchased at the new office.



(above) A Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony took place on December 2, 2017 with Westfield Mayor Elect Shelly Brindle and Garwood Mayor Charles Lombardo assisting chamber president Gene Jannotti in the ceremony along with Councilman Mark LoGrippo, members of the GWACC Board of Directors, GWACC Members and Sherry Cronin from Downton Westfield Corporation (DWC).



#### **CDC THEATRE CONTINUES WINNING SEASON** WITH CRIMES OF THE HEART

Rehearsals are underway for Beth Henley's "Crimes of the Heart" at CDC theatre in Cranford, New Jersey. Warm-hearted, irreverent, zany and brilliantly imaginative, the play teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their passions. "Crimes of the Heart" won Best Play from the NY Drama Critics Circle, was nominated for a Tony Award, and Beth Henley won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981. The 1986 film version was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

"The Pulitzer Prize is given to honor a distinguished play that deals in an original way with American life. It is no wonder Beth Henley was given this honor at the age of twenty-five for her very first professionally-produced play," stated Director Maurice Moran "The show is a tender, yet humorous, story of three sisters who help each other cope with loss and fear, those "crimes of the heart," overcoming the problems they face through the love they have for one another. We have put together a very talented cast who will touch your heart and make you smile as they enact this beautiful tale of family love."

The cast is made up of Maeve Brady, Rebecca Dolan and Katherine Brown as the three Magrath sisters, Lenny, Meg and Babe, with Danielle Mastropiero as Chick, Joe Leo as Doc, and Zach Mazout as Barnette.

The production will run from February 16 through 24 and details and tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org. CDC Theatre, New Jersev's oldest continuously producing community theatre, is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.

### **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN GARWOOD**



(above, l-r) Ingrid F. Andrade, Branch Manager of Columbia Bank; Garwood Mayor Charles Lombardo; and James R. Coyle, President of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

# **GARWOOD LANES** 346 North Ave, Garwood, NJ (908) 789-2040

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- Summer Leagues • Winter Leagues



The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) is a business organization which represents and advances the business interests of its members. There are 13 affiliated groups under its umbrella. The GRCC hosts over 180 events year-round including a monthly Government Affairs Committee meeting.

Ingrid F. Andrade, Branch Manager and Financial Services Manager of Columbia Bank hosted the Gateway Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee meeting on December 8, 2017, at Garwood Borough Hall.

Town officials and other Gateway Chamber members networked with local businesses. The agenda included a mayoral report by Garwood Mayor Charles Lombardo, a legislative update, chamber announcements, and the launch of Garwood Times was announced.

Government Affairs Committee Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at a different town. The members of these meetings give county and town reports. If you are interested in what is going on in Union County or want to establish and/or maintain a relationship with a municipality, these meetings are for you. It's a free networking meeting for GRCC members.

> The next meeting will be held, Friday, January 12, 2018, in Rahway, New Jersey. For more information, visit:www.gatewaychamber.com



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#### **NEW BUSINESS RIBBON CUTTING**

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) recently helped to celebrate the red ribbon cutting on a new business in Garwood, Escapology.

Escapology is located at 300 South Avenue, Garwood. They offer a real life game experience. The idea is to escape from a room within 60 minutes using clues found in the room.



(above) Michael and Michelle DiCharo and Jimmy and Ana Minnitti, co-owners, along with Garwood Mayor Charles Lombardo, Garwood Council members, Jen Blumenstock and Marc Lazarow with Gene Jannotti and Mitchell Beinhaker from GWACC.

#### THE HEARING SOCIETY WEEKLY CLASSES

The Hearing Society will offer weekly classes beginning on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, NJ.

Under the direction of Morgan Orlowski, speech pathologist, the informal classes provide instruction in strategies for coping with hearing loss as well as techniques for improved communication. Any person who is interested in improving his or her word recognition skills is welcome to join the society and participate in the classes.

More information about The Hearing Society and the classes may be obtained by contacting Alice Knecht at 908-688-8241 or alirobkn@aol.com.



### **GRIEF SEMINAR FOR ALL TYPES OF LOSSES**

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., will hold their six-week seminar "Journey to Wholeness Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sundays evenings from January 8 - February 11, 2018. There is no charge to attend.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD. Psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30-8:30 p.m for the first night in the Thompson Youth Center of the church, and then from 4:00-6:00 pm for the following 5 weeks. Patti and Virginia are beginning the 18th year of this ministry, and have helped approximately 2,600 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other. Teaching is interactive and the small groups are homogenously grouped with a facilitator with the same loss.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, taking good care of ourselves, dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays, anniversaries, building a support system, etc.

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and

share from "the inside out." It does not matter if your loss is divorce, death or job loss; loss is loss - it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. Teen group available. You must pre register for this life changing event and attend the first session. Registration closes as of session one. Please call Patti to register- 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

A participant shared, "Your group reflected your love not only in your church but reaching out to your community. This is a very noble action of love! Thank You! Every Sunday evening I am excited to come to the class. Every session is different, you help us to understand about grieving, tools that we need, a tremendous help to me... to us, giving us hope and enjoy life's blessings! You give your time,the most expensive gift to us. Thank you for all the special things you do! Ms.Patti and Dr. Virginia and others!"

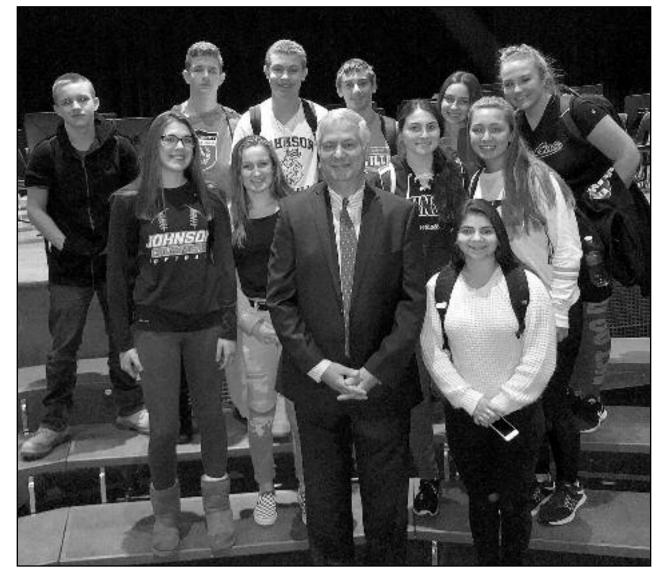
Sincerely yours, Rose

The seminar is dedicated to Patti's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams who had a vision for this program wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

### JUDGE GARY BUNDY VISITS ALJHS

class at ALJ High School in Clark met Judge Gary Bundy on December 13th. Judge Bundy is the Municipal Court Judge for Roselle Park and Garwood, NJ. He spoke about many essential topics dealing with teen driving and the law.

Students in Laura Bundy's Driver Education There are many different laws drivers have to abide by, especially new drivers. Judge Bundy spoke about provisional license, underage DUI, DUI, and illegal drug use in a vehicle. ALJ students were very engaged in each topic and asked some excellent questions.



(above l-r) Sean Hurst, Lauren Kelly, Connor Hayden, Gabby Prestinari, Matt Snedeker, Matt Simas, Alexandra Bowen, Emma Hilton, Megan Tinger, Nicole Randazza, and Lia D'Angelo.

#### JANUARY 2018 EVENTS WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY 550 East Broad Street 908.789.4090 www.wmlnj.org Mon- Thurs 9:30 am - 9 pm Fri & Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm Sunday 1:00-500 pm Closed December 31 and January 1 for the New Year Closed January 16 for Martin Luther King Day

Programs for Adults Check website for sign up information				
1/5	1:30 pm	TGIF! October Sky (video)		
1/10	2:00 pm	Make a Scarf from a T-Shirt		
1/12	1:30 pm	TGIF! Hitchcock (video)		
1/19	1:30 pm	TGIF! The Story of Pippin (video)		
1/20	2:00 pm	Afternoon of Music w/Ellen LaFurn		
1/26	1:30 pm	Classic Movie: Ladies in Lavender		
1/30	2:00 pm	Digital Downloading-Ebooks & audio		

#### **PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN** CHECK WEBSITE FOR SIGN UP INFO MID-TERM STUDY HALL NIGHTS: JANUARY 21-28 CHECK WWW.WMLNJ.ORG FOR DATES AND TIMES

		-
1/5	3:45 pm	Chess Club for Kids-No age limit, but players must know how to move the pieces
1/19, 26	10:00 am	Playgroup for Babies 0-23 months
1/13	10:00 am	Paws to Read. Beginning readers read to library dogs for ten- minute segments
1/9, 16, 23	3:45 pm	Afternoon LEGO Club 5+yrs
1/16, 23, 30	10:30 am	2's on Thursday Storytime
1/16, 23, 30	1:00 pm	Crafternoon Storytime 3½-5 yrs
1/18, 25	10:30 am	3's on Thursday Storytime
1/29	7:00 pm	Build a Bristol Bot! grades 4, 5, 6

#### **CASA VOLUNTEERS GATHER FOR MIX AND MINGLE**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County recently kicked off the holiday season for its more than 160 CASA volunteers, as staff and board members gathered for a Mix and Mingle at Rosie's Wine Bar in Garwood.

From myriad wines to tasty small plates, those who mixed and mingled had plenty to enjoy including the chance at door prizes. As the numbers were called, folks scrambled to check their tickets and cheered for those who won.

Executive Director Marla Higginbotham stated, "What a fabulous evening! So many of our volunteer advocates came to catch up with training classmates, share about their lives and their CASA cases, and simply enjoy an evening to celebrate during the holidays. And that night out is precisely what we wanted to give them, especially after all they do to ensure the foster children they advocate for have as much normalcy as possible despite the chaos and loss surrounding them."

There are nearly 600 Union County children in foster care right now and CASA of Union County serves approximately half. Its goal is to provide an advocate for every foster child that needs one. To do that, more community volunteers are needed and encouraged to attend an information session to learn more about how to step up for a child.

CASA volunteers are community members who train to become advocates for Union County's abused, neglected, and abandoned children placed in foster care and report to the court on their wellbeing. Most CASA volunteers have no prior knowledge of the foster system and varied backgrounds. For example, a recent graduating class ranged from age 21 to 81 consisting of parents and non-parents, retirees, students, business professionals, and homemakers. CASA volunteers are the eyes and ears for family court judges and have access to the child and all parties in the child's life.

For details on upcoming information sessions as well as trainings in the new year, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org or (908) 293-8136; visit www.casaofunioncounty.org for more information.





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## WELCOME TO ECHO RIDGE - MOUNTAINSIDE GRAND OPENING Open House, January 28th 1:00pm to 4:00pm



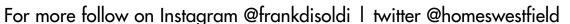
#### 23 Luxury Townhomes priced from the Mid \$700,000's Models varying from 2480 to 2660 Square Feet some with 1st floor Master Suites

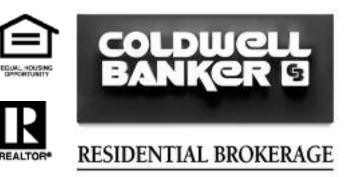
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