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FOUR LINDEN BOARD OF ED MEMBERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

The Linden Board of Education swore in three new members and one returning member at its annual organization meeting held on January 8, 2018. It was also the first meeting for a member appointed in November.

Returning member Tracey Anne Birch and newcomers Ahmed Shehata and Katarzyna Kozak were sworn in to three-year terms. Sheenaider Guillaume took the oath for a two-year unexpired term.

All four were elected on November 7, 2017.

Elizabeth Welsh took her seat at the meeting after being sworn in in November. She was appointed following the resignation of board member Alexander Alvarez.

The new board chose Raymond J. Topoleski as its president and Theresa Villani as its vice president.

The board voted to set the meeting schedule for 2018, with regular meetings scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of every month, at Linden High School during the school year, and at the Board offices located at 2 E. Gibbons Street during the summer months.



(above) Tracey Anne Birch being sworn in.



(above, l-r) Katarzyna Kozak, Sheenaider Guillaume, and Ahmed Shehata being sworn in.

2018 SUMMER SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Summer Day Camp and Playground Counselors are needed for summer 2018.

Applications are being accepted now thru April 30, 2018. Applicants must have one year of college. Applications can be obtained at the following locations: 1025 John St. Linden, 605 S. Wood Ave. Linden, and 330 Helen St.

You can also download an application from the city's website at linden-nj.org (Scroll down, Click on Forms, Scroll

down to Public Property and Community Service, and Click on Seasonal Employment Application.)

For information about the Summer Day Camp program, please visit: linden-nj.org/Departments/day-camp.

Please submit your completed application to Miss Jennifer MacDonald at the Linden Multi-Purpose Center, 1025 John Street, Linden, NJ 07036.

For further questions, please call: (908) 474-8639.





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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Linden Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

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LINDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW EQUIPMENT

The City of Linden Fire Department has recently purchased and has put into service new Scott Air-Pak SCBA and support equipment. This new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus will allow city firefighters to work longer and more efficiently, as well as stay safer at a fire scene. This new state of the art equipment meets new NFPA 2013 standards for safety, the department's old obsolete SCBA equipment's life expectancy was expiring and would be no longer be able to be used.

The firehouse's SCBA filling stations and SCBA rescue equipment for the departments rescue truck. One of the new tools obtained with this purchase was for firefighter safety; it is called the PAK Tracker Firefighter Locater System. This system provides advanced technology that will transmit a radio frequency from a downed or trapped firefighter's SCBA pack to a hand held receiver that that will help in finding the location of the distressed firefighter. This tool is ideal for the use in anything from industrial complexes and large warehouses all the way through to single family homes.

The Linden Fire department is excited about implementing this new equipment, which can only assist city firefighters in providing the best and most up-to-date fire service to the citizens and businesses of the city of Linden.





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LINDEN FIREFIGHTERS TO COMPETE IN FOOD COMPETITION

On Monday, February 26, 2018 Linden firefighters will join with firefighters from around New Jersey to compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival benefiting the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and the St. Barnabas Burn Center/Foundation.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where attendees will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 30 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location. There will also be 30 tables offering all types of beverages for tasting. This event, which draws people from throughout the state, will be held at the Pines Manor located on Route 27 in Edison, New Jersey, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The "Ultimate Firefighter Cookoff" will be an integral part of the evening.

The New Brunswick, Clifton, Bayonne, South Orange, Roselle, Morristown, Trenton, Nutley and Hamilton Fire Departments competing in the Gourmet Cooking Category.

Long Branch, Cranford, Belleville, Maplewood, Montclair, Carteret, Union, Paterson, Westfield, Hillside, and Plainfield Fire Departments will compete in the "Firehouse

Cooking" category.

New this year will be the Rahway, Local 500 (retirees), Elizabeth, Linden, and Harrison Fire Departments competing in the dessert category.

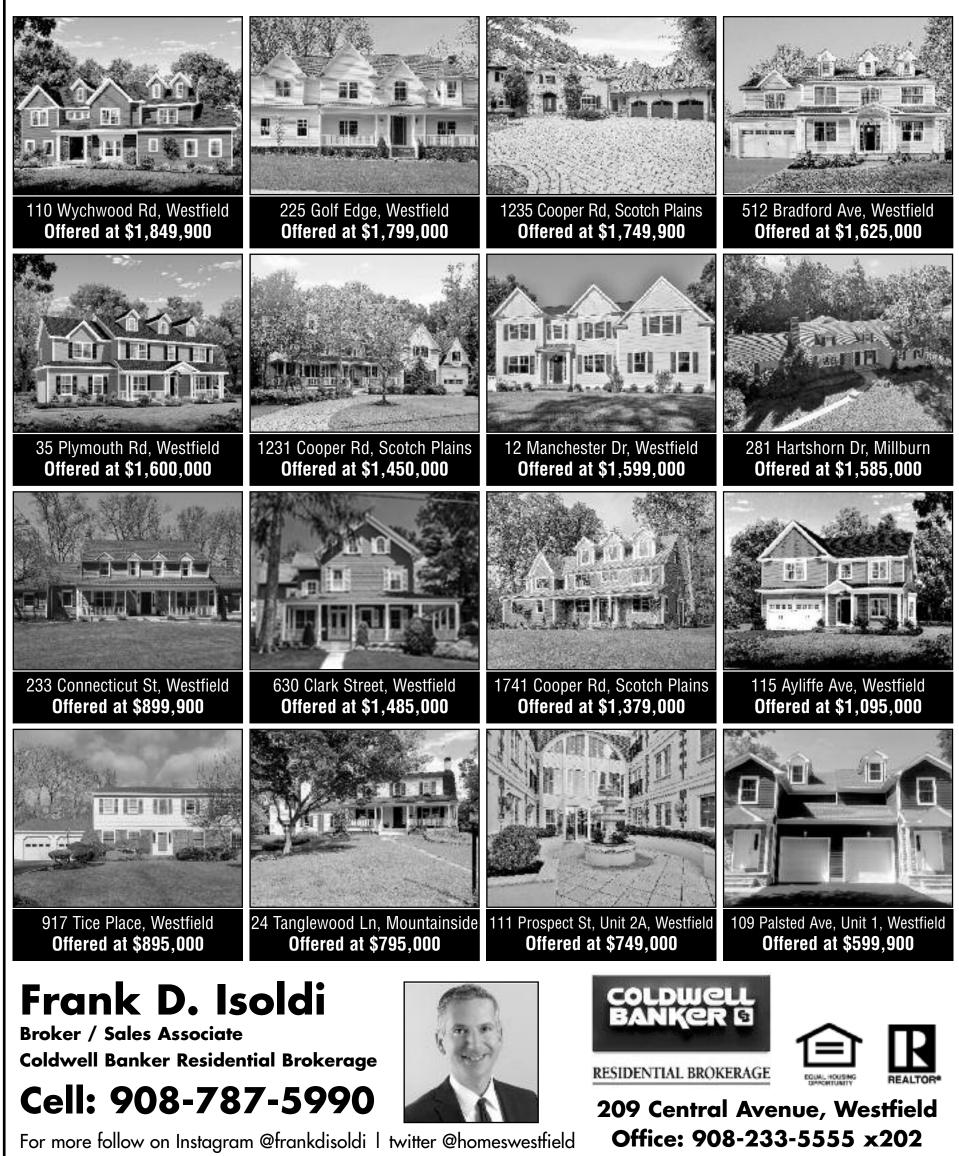
Some of the judges will be, Shelli Sonstein -104.3 radio, Tony Caputo - Channel 12, Bart Oates – NY Giants, Mike Murphy – NY Giants, David Diehl – NY Giants, Kara Decker – Head Chef 100 Steps restaurant, Joe Mastrella – Executive Chef Luciano's restaurant, Mike Christensen – Pinnacle Foods, Darius Peacock – two-time Chopped Champion, GiGi and Nicole Gallodoro – GiGI Cupcakes, AJ Fusco – Chef and Firefighter Harrison NY, Christian Coughlin – District manager for Kona Grill, Mariso Esteves – Owner of Cake on Heels, Tom Coughlin – CEO of Bayonne Community Bank, and Lou Healey, CFO of Allied Beverage. Others will be added.

If you are looking for an entertaining evening of great food and wine, don't miss this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door.

Visit cookedanduncorked.com to view participating restaurants, wine/spirits, our celebrity judges and for more information. Tickets can be obtained on the website or by calling 732-499-9250.



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(above) Linden Citizens Association President Rich Gerbounka



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MESSAGE FROM CITIZENS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Submitted by Rich Gerbounka

As the Linden Citizens Association's new President, I would like to introduce myself and our organization to any Linden resident that is not familiar with us.

The Linden Citizens Association is a 26-year old political organization that promotes good government in our City. We support Democrats, Republicans, or Independents and guide new candidates through the political process that is required to run for elected office. The sole requirement is that the candidate's interests are to make our City a better place to live and raise a family.

Belonging to our organization does not require campaigning for anyone. Many members came to our meetings just to learn what is happening in Linden and offer their concerns and suggestions. Certain members of City Council attend our meetings and report on current events or recently adopted policies by the Mayor and governing body.

Membership fees are \$10 a year. We meet every third Thursday night at 7 p.m. at the V.F.W. Hall on Pennsylvania Railroad Avenue. This street is just off Wood Avenue, perpendicular to the Linden Train Station, and parallel to the railroad tracks.

We would love to have you attend. Remember that in a democracy the people receive the government they demand.

For further information, you can reach me at 908-486-7554 or rich617lnj@gmail.com

BE INFORMED - BE INVOLVED - BE A MEMBER

Rich Gerbounka

Linden Citizens Association President





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POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

officers from across the state gathered in a packed room at the JTG Recreation Center on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 to celebrate the promotion of David Hart to the top position of

(left) City Clerk Joseph Bodek administered the oath of office to Chief David Hart who was *joined by his family.*

Families, friends, elected officials, and police Police Chief. Hart, a 30-year veteran of the force, was sworn in as the department's 11th Police Chief.

> Also promoted were Don Geisheimer and Abdul Williams to the rank of Captain; Danny Tristao, Vincenzo Wegrzynek, and Ivan Ordonez to the rank of Lieutenant; and Andrew Perrella, Ian Conk, and Nicole Melchionna to the rank of Sergeant.



(above, l-r) Mayor Derek Armstead, Linden Chief of Police David Hart, Captain Don Geisheimer, Captain Abdul Williams, Lt. Danny Tristao, Lt. Vincenzo Wegrzynek, Lt. Ivan Ordonez, Sgt. Andrew Perrella, Sgt. Ian Conk, and Sgt. Nicole Melchionna.





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3-D PRINTING GIVES SOEHL STUDENTS A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

A 3-D printer can create just about anything, including an opportunity for Linden middle school students to envision a new future.

About two dozen students recently gathered in the Soehl Middle School cafeteria, to see a 3-D printer in action, creating a small plastic rocket for a board game. The session was part of an ongoing program to allow them to learn of career pathways in advanced manufacturing.

The students were tasked with coming up with new designs for the little rocket, using simple materials including cardboard tubes, pipe cleaners and construction paper.

"Hopefully an activity like this kind of lights that spark and they can take it and run with it on their own," stated Principal Richard Molinaro. "They can find classmates they can share these ideas with, and hopefully even share these ideas with their parents and say, 'This is something I'm really interested in, I had a lot of fun doing it,' and hopefully they can pursue it beyond what we did here today."

The program was led by Joe Hudicka, who runs Fizzee Labs along with his wife, Lora, and kids Joey, 15, and Heidi, 10 - all of whom took part in the program. Joey, who explained the workings of the 3-D printer to the students and visitors, said the program is meant to help students "unlock their creative potential."

The students, as well as parents who visited for the day, worked in small groups to come up with



(above, l-r) Abigail Meima, Shekinah McIntyre, Natalie Giraldo and Darryl Velez working on a prototype for new rocket design during a program on advanced manufacturing on Dec.
20, 2017 at Soehl Middle School. The session was part of an ongoing program that allows students to learn of career pathways in engineering and technology.



(above) The students who took part in the advanced manufacturing session along with the program's presenters and Principal Richard Molinaro.

alternative designs for small plastic rockets that the 3-D printer was creating for a board game called "Launch" that the Hudickas created. Each group was given a specific material it could use to create their prototype. But they were also given Fizzee Labs "money" and were encouraged to barter or buy material from other groups.

"You'll notice when you move from table to table that you'll now see a blend," Joe Hudicka said as the students were working on their prototypes. "This table has their pipe cleaners and paper, but it also has some clay. Clearly, they were able to work out a deal with the clay table. So, you'll see a mix. When they opened up their bags, they all had different materials."

Students were given an hour to create their prototypes, which is about how long it took the 3-D printer to create one of the original plastic rocket pieces. When they were done, representatives of each group explained their design.

"It got their minds thinking, and hopefully they're going to take this knowledge and carry it into high school and beyond," Molinaro said.

Hudicka talked to the students about the practical aspects of science. He took the familiar concept of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) and changed it to ESSTEAM by adding economics and sociality.

"Those are the how's and the why's," he told them.

He also got the students' attention by asking them if they knew in what state mass manufacturing got its start. "I'll give you a hint," he stated. "You kind of go to school there."

The session was part of state Department of Education program to help students explore science, engineering, math, information technology, and advanced manufacturing. The same Soehl students also took part in a program in June at Kean University to explore those areas.

"So, we have this event to continue with the advanced manufacturing," stated Lori Howard,

communications director for the Department of Education's Division of Teaching and Learning. "That's something they really need to do handson to learn more about that and what they need to do to pursue different types of careers. It's increasing their exposure. It's nice to build on something we did, so it's not just a one-stop thing."

Also participating in the program was Joshua Miller, an engineering student at Montclair State University who helped the Hudickas in developing their board game, which is aimed at young entrepreneurs. He told the Soehl students about the academic path he followed to set his sights on 3-D printing and advanced manufacturing – after initially wanting to be a musician.

Glen Barlics, of Inman Molding and Manufacturing in Rahway, spoke to the students about what comes next in the process after a piece is designed and created by a 3-D printer. Molds must be created to mass produce an item, he told them. Hudicka pointed out that it would take years if every individual rocket had to be produced by the 3-D printer.

"What I saw today was students and parents working together on an ingenious idea," Molinaro stated. "They were learning how things get manufactured, putting their ideas together, building rocket ships from household items, learning how to barter with each other from group to group – it was an excellent activity."

The students who took part are: Michael Albuquerque, Lauren Almeida, Ekeoma Amadi, Joseph Argueta, Tatiana Burke, Eddy Charles, Gabriella Cieza, Marwin Clavijo, Kayla Delbrune, Brielle Ellis, Jorge Flechas, Claryssa Forde, Natalie Giraldo, Richard Gyan, Shekinah McIntyre, Abigail Meima, Brandon Miller, Paolo Nolasco, Victoria Pirgo, Abel Porras, Samantha Pugliese, Giselle Riera Torres, Rocio Santiago, Karla Suzarez, Victoria Tomczyk, Olga Lopez Valladares, and Omar Yanes.



(above) The students who took part in the advanced manufacturing session along with the program's presenters and Principal Richard Molinaro.

LINDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Linden Library is located at 31 E. Henry Street • 908-298-3830

LIBRARY PRESENTS AUTHOR MATTHEW HAHN

READING FROM HIS NEW BOOK 'THE ANIMATED MARX BROTHERS'

The Linden Public Library proudly presents Matthew Hahn, noted author and Marx Brothers' fan, as he will sign and read from his new book, "The Animated Marx Brothers."

The event will take place on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbia Bank Room of the library, located at 31 East Henry Street in Linden.

Hahn's book highlights the comedy team's long history in animation, dating from the early 1930s through more recent times. While the brothers' images and mannerisms are recognizable in American pop culture even to this

day, a reviewer notes that "the descriptions and still pictures make the reader want to put the book down every few entries to watch the cartoons Hahn has described." This event is a "must see" for all Marx Brothers' fans as well as fans of animation.

Published by Bear Manor Media, the book will be available for purchase at the event. All are welcome and the library has free, off-street parking. Light refreshments will be served and provided by the Friends of the Linden Library.

Founded in 1928, the Linden Public Library celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2018.

JAZZ NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

Come join us at Linden Library, on Wednesday, February 21, at 7 p.m., for Jazz Night by the MRB Jazz Project Trio comprising of Michael Pasqua on piano, Bruce Riccitelli on percussion, and Gerry Babo on acoustic bass.

Their repertoire encompasses music that virtually spans the past ninety years of American songwriting, including classic jazz compositions, along with their unique interpretations of the

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Great American Songbook, often popularized on stage and screen. From romantic ballads to uptempo swing tunes, be-bop to jazz waltzes, MRB Jazz Project always weaves a diverse tapestry of music to appeal to a wide variety of musical tastes.

There will also be some added flavor with sultry Brazilian bossa novas or other Latin inflected tunes to round their performance.

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE IN LINDEN

Monday, February 5, 2018 at Linden Public announce that it is conducting a blood drive in Library, 31 East Henry Street, Linden, New Jersey from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

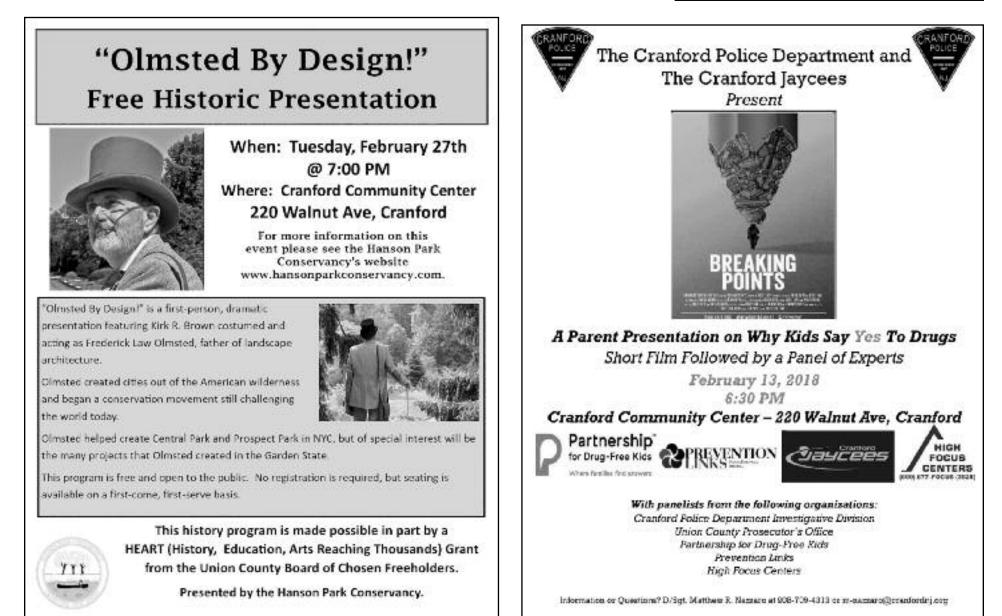


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LINDEN LIONS CLUB RAFFLE AND EVENT

The Linden Lions Club is selling money raffle tickets and the drawing will be on February 6, 2018 at the Gregorio Center, 330 Helen Street, Linden, New Jersev.

For ticket info call 732 815-3280 or 908 925-7242. Tickets are \$5 each or \$24 for a book of five.

Their annual Fish Fry Dinner will be held on Friday, April 27, 2018 at the JTG Center.

There is a Wine/Design event to be held on Sunday, May 20th, 2018. More info to be available soon. All funds collected by the Linden Lions Club go primarily to help the blind and other worthwhile charities.

7TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Linden's 7th annual celebration of African American History will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Linden Multi-Purpose Center 1025 John St, Linden. The event is free. Light refreshments will be served.

The event is hosted by Linden Councilwoman Rhashonna Cosby- Hurling in partnership with the Division of Public Property and Community Affairs. It will include a musical performance by the Linden Magriol Singers, a presentation of awards for the city-wide essay and poster contests, and the recognition a notable local African American: Mrs. Atiya Perkins. This year's honoree has made a great many valuable contributions to the Linden community as an educator and an administrator.

Cosby says, "When one thinks of people making history, we should always acknowledge individuals who are often in the background making sure things are done because they are some of the African Americans who are today, making history. I am excited that we are able to

once again recognize people in our community, and I believe we should give people their flowers when they can smell them."

In 2011, it was Cosby who organized the first ever Black History program in the 5th Ward. She also initiated the annual designation of a portion of Blancke St. (in front of City Hall) as "African American Way" for the month of February. "In 2018 Women are still besieged in a male dominated world and I am pleased that we have such a worthy woman to honor this year.", Says Cosby. She continued with, "Mrs. Perkins is an inspiration to girls everywhere especially those whose lives she has touch right here in Linden."

Linden students are encouraged to submit original poems or essays about "A black person who inspires them" to the Councilwoman no later than February 12, 2018 for a chance to win a cash prize. Submissions should be sent via email to rcosby@linden-nj.org.

COPING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effect of a loved one's mental illness?

The Union County affiliate of NAMI/National Alliance on Mental Illness offers monthly peer led group meetings to support those who care for a loved one who struggles with a mental health issue. Join the discussion and perhaps gain

insight from others facing similar challenges.

The NAMI Union County Family Support Group meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, New Jersey. In case of inclement weather please call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.

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PHILLIPS 66 BAYWAY REFINERY SUPPORTS THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery is partnering with The Gateway Family YMCA – Rahway Branch to provide funding towards the Rahway Branch parking lot expansion project. "We are grateful to the Bayway Refinery for their dedication to our community and their support of our YMCA and the families we serve," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA. "Providing this funding allows us to better serve the community of Rahway and to grow our membership and community programs and services."

Derek Chiao, Phillips 66 Bayway Process Engineer and YMCA Board Member, along with Mary Phillips, Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery Community Relations Coordinator, presented the \$5000 donation to Krystal R. Canady, Chief Executive Officer, Melynda Mileski, Executive Vice President/COO and Rodger Koerber, Rahway Branch Executive Director at The Gateway Family YMCA - Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, New Jersey.

The Rahway Branch serves the local community through programs for all including specialized arts programs, community wellness and outreach programs, swimming lessons and lifeguard training, as well as youth sports, before and after school care, and summer day camp. In addition, the Y provides free memberships for all 7th grade students in the local community and Early Learning Readiness, a community program

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery is partnering with in support of preschool children and their caregivers fostering school readiness and youth provide funding towards the Rahway Branch development.

"At our core, the Y is about helping individuals reach their full potential, and giving them opportunities to connect with the community around them, all in service of making us better," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO of The Gateway Family YMCA. "We rely on the support of our community partners. Together with our donors, members, volunteers and staff, we demonstrate the power of what we can achieve by giving back together."

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility.

The Y impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faiths or incomes.

The Y is a powerful association of men, women and children of all ages and from all walks of life joined together by a shared passion: to strengthen the foundations of community.

To learn more about the Y's cause, please contact The Gateway Family YMCA – Association Office at 908-249-4800 or visit ,tgfymca.org/donate.



For More Information, Call 201-948-0732 x 123 or e-mail Briana@RisingTideCapital.org Pictured: Juli Anne Royes Russo I Juli Anne's Tropical Kitchen I Rising Tide Entrepreneur



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(above) Children with Santa.



(above) Members Dancing.



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RETIRED MEN & WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Submitted by Steve Zielinski

On December 12, 2017, the Linden Retired Men & Women's Club held their Annual Christmas Party at the JTG Recreation Center, with 110 members and guests in attendance.

Children from School #8 led the members in the salute to the flag and entertained them with holiday songs. Santa came to visit, and the children sang and danced with him. And Mr. J's

Deli of Cranford catered a buffet.

The Club has been in existence for 58 years and is the most active senior club in the area. Meetings are at 1 p.m. every Tuesday at the JTG Recreation Center, from September through June.

Any Linden Senior Citizen looking for many good times, come on over and join the fun!



(above) School #8 children singing.



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COMPUTER-CODING LESSONS TAKE FLIGHT

Submitted by Gary Miller

As a teacher, you know you're doing something right when your students are so excited about what they're learning that they beg to stay after the bell rings.

That's the situation Howard Schulz, a technology teacher at McManus Middle School in Linden, found himself in recently when his students applied what they were learning in his computer coding class to flying drones.

The students – about 120 7th- and 8th-graders – were given what sounds like the simple task of launching the drones from one side of the cafeteria, flying them around a cone at the other end of the room, and landing them back where they started. But these were not remotecontrolled drones. All the flying had to be pre-programmed using the skills the students learned in class.

"Every class that week was very excited, very focused," Schulz said of the lesson in December. "They were like, 'We've got to do this.' And the people who didn't succeed, at the end of the class they were saying, 'Can I have five more minutes?' No, you've got to go to class."

Landing the drones in a square taped off on the cafeteria floor took a lot of trial and error. Students worked in small groups on getting the commands exactly right, and ran flight after flight, modifying their commands based on the results.

"There's a lot of variables in this," Schulz told a group of visitors that included Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi, Assistant Superintendent Denise Cleary, Business Administrator and Board Secretary Kathleen Gaylord, and Director of Technology Michael Walters. "If you have a

window open and a breeze comes in, the drone will go from going forward to going up in the air. It is challenging, and they are coding."

During their visit, Dr. Robertozzi and Mr. Walters sat with 8th-grader Isabelle Brito, who taught them the basics so they could give it a try.

"It's a lot harder than it looks," Dr. Robertozzi said. "But Mr. Schulz and these students are doing an amazing job at taking what they're learning in the classroom and applying it in a real-world setting. Technology like this is vital to their education going forward, and this lesson gives them a small glimpse at what's possible."

In the classroom, students are learning to code using Swift, an Apple language for developing apps in iPads and iPhones.

"The drones were a set of lessons to practice what we've learned so far – giving simple commands, trying to run for-loops, creating functions – basically taking what we've learned in the classroom and applying it to a real-life situation," Schulz said.

"The students get a little bit bored of coding with puzzles, so we try to bring in something that piques their interest. I was able to find refurbished drones on Amazon. It was really to get them excited again about the coding and to do something fun with them before the holidays." And the students' reaction?

"Well, we're back in the classroom now, and

everybody is saying, 'When are we going back to the cafeteria?'" Schulz said. "I say, 'We have to go back into the classroom for a little while, then we'll go back.'

"I think they really like it and they want to do more with it."

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(above) McManus Middle School 8th-grader Isabelle Brito working with Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi and Director of Technology Michael Walters on coding to make their drone fly.



(above) McManus Middle School teacher Howard Schulz working with students on creating computer code to make their drone fly.



(above, l-r) McManus Middle Schools students, Elias Vazquez, Ethan Wilms, Tyler Gobel, and Samuel Noblega preparing to run a computer code they wrote using lessons from Howard Schulz's class to fly their drone in the school cafeteria.



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