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### **THE RAPTOR TRUST'S THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY 2018**

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta The Raptor Trust, of Millington, New Jersey, recently held their Third Annual Community Day at Stirling Hotel, Stirling, New Jersey. The day was filled with fun and festivities, including live music from Ross Griswold and the Second Line, with special guests the Raccoon Ridge Ramblers. Booths from community partners and local environmental organizations were featured. There was also family games and activities, a tricky tray, a silent auction, and a 50/50 raffle. Food and drinks were provided by The Stirling Hotel. Proceeds from the event benefit The Raptor Trust.

Community partners included: Somerset County Parks Environmental Education Center; Friends of the Great Swamp, Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Morris County Parks Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, Delaware Valley Eagle Alliance, and Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ.



(above) Christopher Soucy, Executive Director of The Raptor Trust.

(above, l-r) Alyssa Frediani, ER Staff and Rehab Staff at The Raptor Trust; and Kristi Ward, Senior Rehab Tech at The Raptor Trust. Photos by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

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(above, l-r) Blake Putnam, Director of Development at The Raptor Trust; and Leslie Peterson, Financial Administrator of The Raptor Trust.

Christopher Soucy, executive director of The Raptor Trust, said, "People come from all over," adding that The Raptor Trust is celebrating 35 years.

Educator Kate Matta was showing birds like Penny, a 9-year-old blind Eastern Screech Owl and Zizi, a female American Kestrel. Zizi was found in New York City as a baby. The people who found her fed her baby food, which was a mistake.

"They eat mice and insects," said Matta. "So, she was not getting proper nutrition. Her growth is stunted." However, since Zizi was raised around humans, she is totally unafraid of people according to Matta. She added, "Zizi doesn't know how to hunt. She's a 'people bird.' She's done this event before. She had no problem with people looking at her and taking pictures."

Melissa Anahory, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator at Woodlands Wildlife, was teaching children about Tan, an Eastern Box Turtle. "He likes people," she said. "He doesn't hide. He's used to people." She continued to explain to the kids that a turtle has the shell to hide in.

The Raptor Trust was named and established as a non-profit corporation in the state of New Jersey in 1982.

The next event presented by The Raptor Trust will be a Guided Tour of The Raptor Trust on Saturday, June 30, 2018, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Registration is required. For more information, visit: theraptortrust.org, call 908-647-2353, or email: info@theraptortrust.org



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### PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012

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### **RAPTOR TRUST COMMUNITY DAY PHOTO ALBUM**

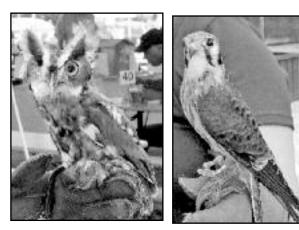
Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Long Hill Leader page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share"











(above, left) . Penny, a 9-year-old blind Eastern Screech Owl. (above, right) Zizi, a female American Kestrel





#### COME SEE US AND ENCOUNTER A RAPTOR! SNEAK BY A SNOWY OWL! OBSERVE AN OWL! RAVE ABOUT RAVENS!

The Raptor Trust is located at **1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ.** Approximately 50 resident birds are on exhibit in large outdoor aviaries viewed by walking along the trails. Living on the campus of the Trust throughout the year is variety of raptors and birds of prey. Currently, the Trust is home to two Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, Ravens, Screech Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks, a Snowy Owl and many more! The aviaries are open to the public seven days of week. Our visiting hours during the fall, winter

and spring are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. During the summer we are open to visitors from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. There is no cost to come by for a self-guided tour, however, we ask you to consider a

small donation of \$2 per person.

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization which provides free medical care to thousands of orphaned or injured birds each year. Our infirmary staff is available seven days a week during daylight hours to admit injured birds, but we must rely on the people who find them to bring them to us for care. If you find a bird that needs help, please visit our website theraptortrust.org for instructions. We cannot do what we do without the kindness of many – including our visitors!

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### **MAIJA GOLDEN POETRY REBEL AWARDS AT LONG HILL LIBRARY**

#### By Lena Golden

The Maija Golden Creative Writing Foundation hosted their second annual awards ceremony for the Maija Golden Poetry Rebel Awards at the Long Hill Library on May 18, 2018. The event that presented awards to students in grades K-12 had an audience of approximately 150 people that enjoyed listening to poetry recitals and the launch of the foundation's first publication From Angels to Rebels available at Amazon worldwide. The journal that was selfpublished by Millington resident Tara Cibelli and Lena Golden of Gillette includes original artwork by former Millington resident Whitney (Combs) van Praagh, Bedminster resident Whitney Ehnert, Millington resident and Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) student Giulia Banfi, Emma Sleightholme of Summit as well as a selection of short stories and poems from the foundation's first year from students that have participated in classes, workshop and that have submitted scholarship applications.

The 2018 poetry contest had 103 students submit poems from Long Hill and surrounding towns Warren, Watchung and Green Brook thus expanding the contest to all of the WHRHS sending district this year. Students were judged by a jury in three different groups, elementary, middle school, and high school. The prizes were presented by Long Hill Township Library director Mrs. Lyn Begraft and Mrs. Lena Golden. The elementary school winner was Daniel Raimer, a fourth grade student at Millington Elementary with his poem A Tribute To Gila'ad Ya'acobi, z"l (Sgt. Gilad Yaakobi), a genuinely touching poem that honors a fallen soldier in the Israeli defense force. Honorable mentions were given to elementary students Ella DiNorscio, Cole Lesser, Isla Fairstein, Harrison Graves, Sienna Simo, Brigid Belfield, Timothy Denis Kezerashivili, and Savannah Neri all of Millington Elementary School and Brandon Bellish of Warren. Brandon who is in first grade was also the youngest contestant.

Warren resident and eight grader Inica Kotasthane, with her poem these rays in my palm, was the winner of the sixth to eight grade level which also included five honorable mentions to Alessandra Abeijon, Harrison Quinn, Hannah Han, Stephanie Sopla and Björn Golden. The honorable mention recipients are all students of Central Middle School in Stirling. The eight graders at CMS have been inspired and encouraged by English teacher Mrs Isabella DeBiasse to find their poet within and the whole 8th grade class wrote poems and as many as 40 students in their grade submitted poems to the contest. Parents were astounded of the quality of the writing their own children had produced.

The overall contest winner as well as this year's high school Maija Golden Poetry Rebel was Jenny Li, a junior at WHRHS. Jenny's poem Unhinged was professionally delivered by herself as she like all other winners present read her poem to a very impressed and excited audience. Honorable mentions for the high school level were given to Connor Cirroti, a Delbarton student and WHRHS students Sabrina Lane and Sam Hoffmann.

The foundation was founded in April 2017 by the Golden family of Gillette in honor of their daughter Maija who passed away in February the same year. A talented creative writer, Maija, was a freshman at WHRHS and an inspiration to many. The foundation has with the help of teachers and staff at Long Hill township schools been able to offer free classes and workshops in creative writing and debate to students taught by CMS teachers Maura Aimette and Isabella DeBiasse as well as CMS librarian Patricia Paugh. Poetry classes for the elementary school level has been taught by Mrs Noelle Milito who is a teacher at Millington Elementary School. Ms. Aimette, who had been Maija's sixth grade English teacher approached the Goldens early on and offered to teach classes in Maija's name and as the Goldens had contemplated starting a

foundation to honor their daughter's memory that became the incentive to form the foundation.

The foundation also gives out an annual scholarship to a graduating high school senior at WHRHS and the first recipient was Brooke Stanicki of Green Brook and class of 2017. Ms Stanicki is just finishing her freshman year at Johns Hopkins University.

More information about the foundation can be found at their website themaijafund.org as well as on their Facebook and Instagram pages. The foundation graciously accepts donations to fund future activites and scholarships but also creative writing submissions from K-12 students to their annual journal as well as suggestions for future programs and collaborations. The Maija Golden Creative Writing Foundation is currently working with a boy school out of the WHRHS sending district as well as with a private library in New York City.



(above, back row, l-r) Jenny Li, Maddie Scammell, Lena Golden, Lyn Begraft, Dan Raimer (front row, l-r) Brandon Bellish, Cole Lesser, Isla Fairstein, Ella DiNorscio, Sienna Simo, Timothy Denis Kezerashivili, Harrison Graves and Brigid Belfield. Photo by Mike Lesser



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(above): Deterioration in deck under the Valley Road bridge.

### WATCHUNG BOROUGH **SUMMER CAMP**

Watchung Borough will be having summer camp at Brook Hill Swim & Tennis Club. It's an eight-week program from July 2 to August 17, 2018; full days, rain or shine. The program is open to residents of Warren, Green Brook, and Long Hill. Space is limited, visit watchungnj.org to register.



### **BRIDGE PROJECT PRESENTATION JUNE 7**

Morris County, in coordination with the North May 10 date. Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and New Jersey Department of Transportation, is conducting studies to determine improvements needed for the Columbia Turnpike Bridge in Florham Park and the Valley Road Bridge in Long Hill and Bernards Township, at the Morris and Somerset counties' border.

The goals of each project are to address structural deficiencies of the 90-year-old bridges and increase safety for motorists.

A public information session is set for Thursday, June 7, 2018, for the Valley Road Bridge project at Bernards Township Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 1 Collyer Lane, Bernards Township, New Jersey, from 5 to 8 p.m., with a 6 p.m. presentation. Note: The date for this briefing has changed from its original

The purpose of the Public Information Centers for both projects is to inform the public about the study objectives, status, and schedule. In addition, the Public Information Centers also will provide an opportunity to identify concerns and obtain input on the study's draft purpose and need statement.

Keep up with this project at

valleyroadbridgenj.com/

Written comments will be accepted through July 7, 2018. Comments may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to:

Brian W. Maurer, P.E., Principal Bridge Engineer, Somerset County Division of Engineering, Bridge Section, P.O. Box 3000, Somerville, N.J. 08876. Fax No.: 908-231-7170. Email: maurer@co.somerset.nj.us

### **INFORMATION ON NJ TRANSIT SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS BEGINNING JUNE 4, 2018**

NJ Transit schedule adjustments during the installation of federally-mandated, positive train control safety equipment on all NJ Transit passenger trains.

Beginning on Monday, June 4 and continuing through December 31, 2018, NJ Transit will adjust weekday service schedules on four Morris & Essex trains.

"I am very pleased that NJ Transit has spread service disruptions throughout its entire system and is not only impacting the Morris & Essex line, as was done during the Amtrak repairs last summer," explains Summit Mayor Nora Radest. "Not only is the installation of positive train control equipment federally mandated, it is a matter of safety. Avoiding another tragedy like the Hoboken train crash is a priority for us all."

Service on inbound train #608 departing at 5:45 a.m. from Dover will be eliminated from Dover to Chatham. The train will not originate in

The City of Summit is sharing information on Summit. Service on inbound train #626 departing at 8:28 a.m. from Dover will be eliminated from Dover to Morris Plains. The train will now originate in Morristown.

Service on outbound train #608 departing at 6:42 a.m. from Hoboken to Dover is temporarily discontinued. Service on outbound train #645 departing at 5:08 p.m. from Hoboken to Dover is temporarily discontinued as well.

Radest continues, "Along with other mayors on the Morris & Essex line, I have met with NJ Transit to express how critical it is for Summit and other towns near transit hubs to be able to rely on consistent, timely and safe train and bus transportation. I am encouraged by the improved flow of communication and NJ Transit's response to our concerns."

Commuters can subscribe to NJ Transit alerts, follow NJ Transit on Twitter (@NJ Transit) and visit njtransit.com for information and updates or call 973-275-5555.







#### JUNE 2018.EVENTS

**Craft: Make a Paper Wreath** 

Tuesday, June 19 at 7 p.m. Make a star wreath with Lori. Your choice of patriotic colors for July 4th or any colors you choose.

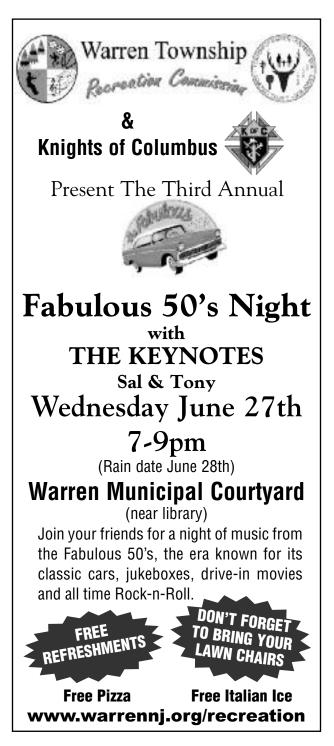
#### **Event: Crossword Puzzles DeMystified!**

Tuesday, June 26 at 7 p.m. Meet Deb Amlen-columnist & editor of Wordplay, the crossword column of The New York Times. Anyone can learn to solve crosswords and enjoy them! Would you like to improve your mental flexibility, learn a few interesting things every day and establish bragging rights among your friends? Solving crossword puzzles is like mental yoga, both challenging and relaxing at the same time. Plus, it's fun, especially if you appreciate words and wordplay. With patience and practice anyone can learn to solve crosswords. Once you master a few basic strategies, you'll find that puzzlesolving is not only possible, but highly

addictive. So, let's get solving!

#### **Event: Summer of Learning Kickoff Party!** Saturday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join us as we kick off our summer festivities with a party! Sign up for our Summer of Learning programs and enjoy crafts, snacks, and more. No registration required.



### LONG HILL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Long Hill Township Public Library is located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, New Jersey. For more information, or to register for a program call 908-647-2088 ext. 416.

Visit the library at: longhilllibrary.org.

#### FRIENDS OF LIBRARY HOST BOOK SALE JUNE 8 AND 9, 2018

The Friends of the Long Hill Township Library are holding a book sale for children's and young adult's literature at the library along with a vendor marketplace featuring jewelry, women's scarves, Mary Kay, and children's clothing from Dolly and Me. The book sale will be held at the library located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, New Jersey, on Friday June 8, from 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturday June 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly fund children's summer programs at the library.

### **KARATE CLINIC FOR LONG HILL BROWNIE TROOP**

Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette recently held a karate clinic for Long Hill Brownie Troop #6291. The clinic was led by Program Director Michelle Cavett, a third degree blackbelt and Certified Instructor in the traditional martial art of Soo Bahk Do. The girls, all local Long Hill, New Jersey residents and third graders at Millington School, worked on their "My Best Self" badge which encompasses: get to know your body, eat and play in a healthy way, find out how your body works, and know what to do if something bugs you. "We love doing these community service events," said Cavett. "The

Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette recently held kids have a blast, and the troop leaders even get in on the fun."

The studio offers clinics to all non-profit community groups free of charge and they have been doing them for more than five years now. "We've primarily done Girl Scouts, but we have done a few Boy Scout troops as well," Cavett said. "We tie the class into whatever badge they are working on, so it really reinforces the lesson."

To schedule a free clinic for your group or for more information, contact Cavett at 908-647-4194 or visit them on the web at karate4peace.com.

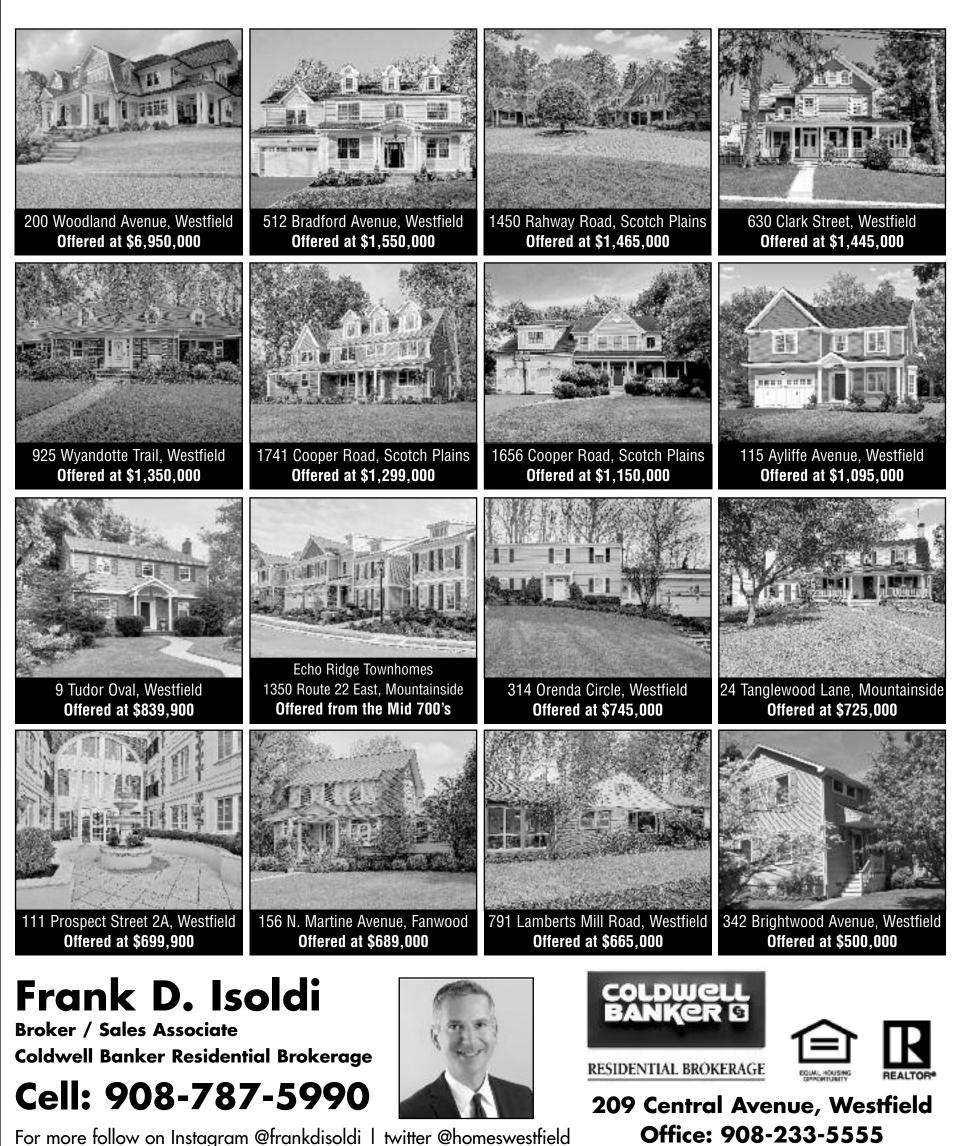


(above) Members of Brownie Troop #6291 after their karate clinic at Soo Bahk Do Karate





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### **SEA SCOUTING OPEN HOUSE JUNE 9**

Sea Scouting is a high-adventure branch of the Boy Scouts of America. We provide young adults with the opportunity to learn, develop new skills, and have fun while traveling aboard our 65' training vessel, the Sea Dart II. The Sea Dart II is also one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the East Coast, which provides or program a valuable resource. The program is also an excellent path for career development, as we have had several of our members pursue successful careers in the maritime industry, US Navy, and US Coast

Guard.

The Linden Sea Scouts will be hosting an open house for all prospective new members June 9, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Linden Sea Scout Base, 4400 Tremely Point Road, Linden, New Jersey. The Sea Scout program is open to male and female youth from 14- to 21-years-old. There will be free food and free boat rides for all.

Please contact Skipper James Zatwarnicki at jimmyzat@gmail.com or 551-580-0008 for more information.





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