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Issue 9 • September 2018

SCRUB CLUB HOSTS ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS DAY

The Arthur L. Johnson Scrub Club, a "PreMed" class for students interested in the medical field, in collaboration with the NJ Sharing Network held an assembly for all high school students on May 23, 2018 in recognition of their 2nd annual Organ Donation Awareness Day. Several speakers explained the importance of organ donation.

The club's advisor, Bernadette Jacobi, began the assembly by thanking the speakers and commending the club for organizing the event. The Scrub Club dedicated this event in memory of Caitlin Nelson, a 2014 ALJ graduate whose life was cut short last April in an accident. Other speakers included ALJ student Kayla Dias and Brooke Hartrum from the NJ Sharing Network.

Anne Nelson, Clark resident, also spoke about the importance of organ donation through sharing her sister Caitlin's story. Described as the "ultimate act of kindness," Caitlin donated her organs to help others. One of those people was Sonia Carlin, Cait's lung recipient, who spoke about the gratitude she felt towards Caitlin referring to her as "her angel." Caitlin's mom, Rosanne Nelson, and Cait's best friend, Jackie Stankwich, were also in attendance to show their support.

Jacobi stated, "I am still so moved by the events of our day, the words that were spoken, the deep-down strength in our guest speakers today, the attentiveness of the kids, the help of my colleagues, and the amazing job my PreMedders did in



(above) Jackie Stankwich (Cait Nelson's best friend), Bernadette Jacobi (Scrub Club Advisor), Annie Nelson (Cait's sister), Rosanne Nelson (Cait's mom), Sonia Carlen (Cait's lung recipient), and Brooke Hartrum of the Sharing Network. Photos by Clark Public Schools.

preparing for such a powerful and moving presentation."

For more information about the NJ Sharing Network, please visit this link: www.njsharingnetwork.org



(above) Jackie Stankwich (Cait Nelson's best friend), Bernadette Jacobi (Scrub Club Advisor), Annie Nelson (Cait's sister), Rosanne Nelson (Cait's mom), Sonia Carlen (Cait's lung recipient), and Brooke Hartrum of the Sharing Network, Matt Gallo (ALJ Alumni), Chris Jimenez (in the heart costume), Kayla Knorowski, Lilianne Ameral, Kaitlyn Hogan, Matt Vigliotti, Will Shaughnessy and Ryan Rutano.





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LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IS OPEN IN UNAMI PARK

The Mothers' Center of Central New Jersey is a local nonprofit. In an effort to share books, bring families together and create communities of readers, they recently placed a Little Free Library in Unami Park which is located in Cranford, Garwood, and Westfield. The public is now free to stop by and pick up or exchange a book.

Little Free Libraries are being installed all over the country. The book exchanges have grown to 36,000 around the world in 70 countries. Locally, you can find little libraries popping up on front lawns.

Group member Nicole Eng stated "One of our missions at the Mothers' Center is to pursue opportunities to make the local community a better place for moms and their children and partners. By installing a Little Free Library in our local park, it is our hope this this Little Free Library will bring the surrounding communities together through literacy."

To learn more about the Mothers' Center of Central New Jersey, please visit motherscentercnj.org.



(above) Little Free Library newly installed at Unami Park.



(above) A Story Time was held at Little Free Library Launch Party held in July in Unami Park.



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The Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter #688 of Westfield is fully immersed in the community, working to promote and support issues important to Vietnam-era veterans.

The service organization invites those who served in Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or were in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, to join them in creating a new identity for this generation of veterans and to change the public perception of Vietnam Veterans.

Some of the activities the Westfield VVA chapter takes part in include making visits to veterans hospitals, supporting veterans memorials and observances, assisting disabled and needy veterans and their families, sponsoring programs for homeless veterans, and presenting patriotic and historical projects in schools.

The VVA also offers Veteran Services, including medical and benefit claims assistance and financial management. Joining VVA allows veterans to connect with other veterans and stay up with the latest news and special events. You will also receive a free subscription to the VVA Veteran newspaper.

Whenever the VVA's Westfield chapter is seeking a helping hand with fundraising and recruiting efforts, Kings supermarket of Garwood has been there for them.

Chapter president Rick Harrison of Roselle says Kings has been a generous supporter of the organization and has regularly allowed the group to set up stations in front of their store at 300 South Ave. in the Garwood Mall.

Kings is also known to support the hunger relief efforts of a number of organizations in Union County, including St. Teresa of Avila Soup Kitchen, Westfield Food Pantry, and more.

The Westfield VVA chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary with a catered barbecue party on

Saturday, June 30, 2018 at the American Legion Post #328 in Clark.

Meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the American Legion Post #3 at 1003 North Avenue West in Westfield. The Westfield chapter can be reached by calling 908-416-5930 or emailing rickvva688@aol.com.



(above) Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter #688 of Westfield recently set up a fundraising and recruiting station at Kings supermarket in Garwood. From left to right are John Ferry of Rahway, George Stakovich of Matawan, Ed McElroy of Elizabeth, and Chapter President Rick Harrison of Roselle.



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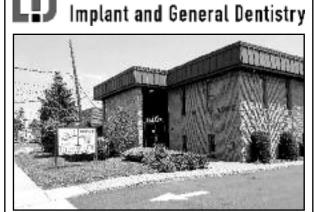


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(above) Students from Crossroads School in Westfield participating in their annual "Raingutter Regatta," where they raced handmade sailboats down a narrow channel.





Grand Opening Celebration Saturday, September 15th

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SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SCOUT REGATTA

Students at the Crossroads School in Westfield participated in their annual "Raingutter Regatta," the school's summer version of their annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. In a raingutter regatta two students race handmade sailboats down a narrow channel, whoever reaches the end of the channel first is the winner. The students can decorate and name their boats before the race.

Patriots' Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America has partnered with the Union County Educational Services Commission for over 5 years to provide Scouting programs to special needs youth in Union County at The Crossroads School (Pack 45) and The Westlake School (Troop 1571), both in Westfield. The Westfield United Fund sponsors the program and pays for the students' registration and material costs.

Pack 45 at Crossroads school is led by school

social worker Ms. Elaine Liggeri, who enjoys using Scouting to give her students enrichment activities that they may not be able to participate in outside of a school setting. The pack will have its annual Pinewood Derby next winter.

For more information about Special Needs Scouting in Munsee, Raritan Valley, or Watchung Mountain, please contact Program Executive Will Adams at will.adams@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x234;

for Black River, Fishawak, and Sussex, please contact Program Executive Michael Loughman at michael.loughman@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x 226.

For more information about Special Needs Scouting in our area, please contact Program Executive Will Adams at 973-765-9322 x234 or will.adams@scouting.org.



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CRUSADER FOOTBALL TEAM VISITS FIRST CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Members of the Arthur L. Johnson High School Crusader Football Team participated in a visit to the First Children's School, located in Fanwood, New Jersey in August.

The First Children's School in Fanwood is a stepping off point for children who need highly specialized educational services for some period of time in their lives. First Children's services extend into the home districts of students with special needs where they are invited to work with faculty and administration to assure that children with special needs get cutting-edge services in their home schools. The dedicated staffs, including teachers, aides, and therapists, are prepared to deliver their services in the schools and homes of the children they serve. First Children partners with districts and other providers like Children's Specialized Hospital and Eden Autism Services to make sure that the children receive the very best services possible.

Members of the Crusader Football Team went into various classrooms and participated in a multitude of activities relating to the school's curriculum.

"The football program was thrilled to be able to assist with the daily routines and to participate in activities held at the First Children's School," said Head Football Coach Anthony DelConte. "It was fun watching the High School Student Athletes as they interacted with the children, and I think both groups not only enjoyed the experience, but learned a lot while doing it."

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Crusader Football Team would like to thank everyone associated with the First Children's School for welcoming us and allowing us to be a part of a fabulous day.



(above) The 2018 Arthur L. Johnson Crusader Football Team visited the First Children's School





See above display and others at www.cambridgepavers.com

PRESCRIPTION DROP BOX PROGRAM

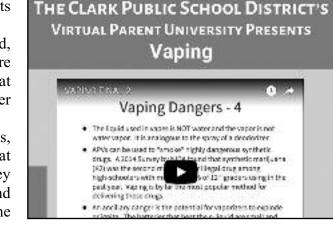
The Garwood Police Department has partnered with The Rite Aid Foundation and their Safe Medication Disposal Program ensuring that borough residents have a safe way to dispose of expired or unwanted medications. The Rite Aid Foundation has generously donated the medication drop box which has been installed in the Thomas P. Haughton Plaza directly outside of the police department entrance.

SCHOOL DISTRICT HOLDS VIRTUAL PARENT UNIVERSITY SESSION ON VAPING

The Clark Public School District recently held a virtual Parent University session, "Vaping," hosted by Steve Kaelblein, Student Assistance Coordinator. The session covers a variety of topics relevant to vaping including what it is, its dangers, and warning signs.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, "Vaping is impacting our students more and more over time and this virtual session is aimed at informing parents so that we can work together with them to try to combat this trend."

To view this session and previous sessions, please visit the district's website at clarkschools.org under Parent University. They can also be found on the district's Facebook and Twitter pages. The virtual sessions are part of the district's Parent University program, which included community education nights, parent teas, and two larger assembly-type programs.





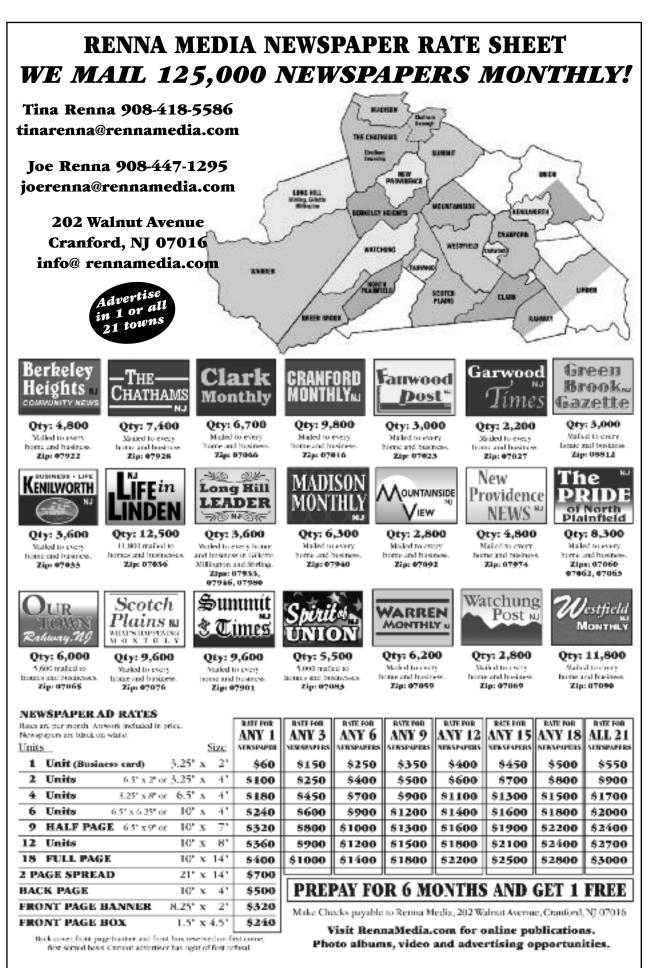
(above) Officer Ed Mironski stands by the new prescription drop box located in Officer Thomas P. Haughtan Plaza outside of the Police Department entrance.



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SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT THE GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

For more information and to register for programs, call 908-789-1670. The Library, located at 411 Third Ave, is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting September 8, 2018. Visit us online at youseemore.com/garwood.

Knitting Club

at 10:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays resuming September 17. No registration required; Learn how to knit or show others how it's done while enjoying fun conversation. Needles and yarn provided to newcomers.

Kid's Chess

resuming Monday, September 17 at 3:00 p.m. No registration required. Limit 12; Informal chess game for children of all ages. Six boards provided.

Monday Afternoon Book Club

at 1 p.m. on September 17. No registration required. Kid's Craft

Wednesday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. Registration required. For children 2nd grade and up, Limit 20.

Toddler Story Time

at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday starting September 19. No registration required. For children birth to age 4.

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Aging Services Kiosk (ASK)

Thursday, September 13, from 10 a.m. till noon. Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services, such as meal delivery, respite care, adult day care and support services for caregivers.

Lego

at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 20. Registration required for children age 4 through 12, Limit 15; be inspired by this month's theme and build whatever comes to mind. Then share your creation with others. Some will be displayed in our showcase.

Thursday Night Book Club

September 6 at 7:00 p.m., No registration required; Discussing The Great Alone, by Kristin Hannah.

Friday Morning Movie

Friday at 10 a.m. September 14, 21 and 28. See the Library website for featured movies youseemore.com/garwood.



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GARWOOD SENIOR CLUB PLANS TRIP

The Garwood Senior Club is planning a trip to Li Greci's Staaten of Staten Island on Friday, September 14, 2018, for the Fiesta De San Gennaro. Dance and sing along with the Gondolier Show Band, and enjoy music and comedy from Andre & Cirell.

The bus will leave the Garwood Fire House on South Avenue promptly at 10:00 a.m., and returns at approximately 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$55.00 per person for Garwood residents and \$65.00 for non-residents. To reserve your spot for this fantastic show, please contact Betty at 908-232-2077 or Shirley at 908-789-2062. In addition to the entertainment, dinner is also included: one hour open bar, fresh garden salad, pasta or soup, choice of Sirloin of Beef, Chicken Parm or Sole Oreganato, with dessert, coffee or tea.

The Garwood Senior Club meets at the Garwood Fire House on the first and third Thursday of each month at noon, for an afternoon of camaraderie, lunch and bingo. Pat DiFabio is President, Fred Unnold is Vice President, Rita Unnold is Secretary and Delores Cielinski is Treasurer. New members are always welcome.

Paulette Drogon, Senior Club Representative for the Borough of Garwood, presents a monthly calendar of activities for the members. For further information on activities, or to obtain a calendar, please contact her at 908-789-0710 and leave a message with your name and phone number.



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