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WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT GREEN BROOK

Submitted by Jaymie Berger

I have recently undertaken a mission, which I call What's Great About Green Brook! My husband and I have lived in Green Brook for 18 years and we have raised two children through the Green Brook elementary schools and Watchung Hills Regional High School. Both children now attend top-tier universities, which is a credit certainly to our children, but also to the high-quality education of our schools. As my husband and I now embark on our "empty nest" chapter of life, time has come to sell our home and say goodbye to our loved little community of Green Brook. It has become apparent to me by virtue of our home being on the market and feedback from potential home buyers, that there is little to no awareness, and no prevalent conversation in surrounding towns about what a wonderful community Green Brook is! This dismays me greatly. We have invested 18 wonderful years of our family's life in Green Brook, and I am therefore dedicating myself to leaving a larger legacy of What's Great About Green Brook!

Of the many things that I think are great about Green Brook, our small town feel and community of caring neighbors warms my heart deeply. The following comments from our 'Green Brook Neighbors' FaceBook group say it much better than I ever could and speak volumes about What's Great About Green Brook!

"Personally I have wonderful neighbors on all sides. I have made long lasting friends through the PTO and Girl Scouts and now at the HS level Warrior Marching Band."

"We are a community of families who care. My neighbors are friends who are willing to help at the drop of a hat for anything at all...and everything that we need is within a convenient distance."

"I grew up in this town and moved back here to raise my family. The schools are wonderful and that was the first motivation to come back here but other towns have good schools too, Green Brook is also small and neighborly. Parents have eyes and ears everywhere to help



(above, left)
Washington Rock
State Park.



(above, left) Green Brook National Night Out 2018

(above, right) Green Brook Pinewood Derby 2018



take care of their kids. Other kids I grew up with have moved their families back to GB too! Our kids will grow up together like we did. Honestly I don't understand people complaining about property taxes, mine are lower here than in North Plainfield and I have a bigger house here. Green Brook is an awesome community with great people and we are very excited to raise our family here."

"I grew up in town married raised 3 children who went to WHRHS! All three of them have great jobs and many of the same friends they had while in elementary school! I went to GBHS many of my friends are still part of this community! Positive experience living in this town!"

"My husband and I both grew up in Green Brook. My parents still live here as well. We moved to Dunellen for 13 years and sent our kids to private school even though the taxes in Dunellen were crazy for the little ranch we lived in. Moved back to Green Brook about a year and half ago, triple the house size and taxes are only a few thousand more. No more private school at \$10,000 and my children couldn't be happier at WHRHS and GBMS. Love it here; it's home and always will be!"

"I grew up in town went through all the schools, went to college, came back and teaching at IEF Elementary School. I got married and have 2 kids and recently moved back. My kids are making friends with kids

((continued on page 2))



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WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT GREENBROOK (continued)

whose parents grew up here. We love living where we do and our neighbors."

"We have only been in town for 4 years and I have to say I have the absolute best neighbors ever!! All so helpful! My child is not old enough for the public school yet but I look forward to making more lasting friendships for myself and my son!"

"We've lived in Green Brook 18 yrs! Only moving because our youngest is off to college this Sat!! Which now makes us empty nesters! So we're ready to downsize and urbanize! We've loved our time in Green Brook! What strikes me most is how our community pulls together whenever help is needed and the sharing of information and resources is fantastic! This summer I put out a call for help for my husband who had to shovel a huge load of wood chips off our driveway! A Green Brook neighbor and complete stranger offered to come help him shovel and bring his own shovels!! Thank you whoever that was - I will always remember your act of kindness! Also the offers

of hot showers and warm places to stay from kind neighbors during mid-winter power outages. I'd say what's great about Green Brook is the kindness, caring, and generosity of people in our little community and how we take care of each other."

"My husband and I have lived here for 19 years. We chose Green Brook for its location to both families (Piscataway & North Plainfield) and because of the school reputation. We have added on to our cape cod over the years and have loved every minute of our "Village" neighborhood! My 3 daughters have had wonderful experiences at IEF and GBMS and my oldest is about to experience WHRHS! I think the key to our town is the small hometown environment. It's a great town!"

"The people are amazing! I can't tell you the friends I've made that are just GOOD people. We have the great baseball program (though u don't have to live in town to use it) and the location. You can get to 287/78 but also easily to warren and Piscataway without interstate."

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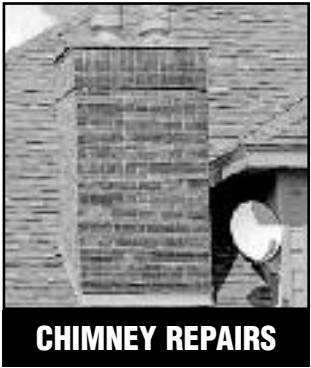




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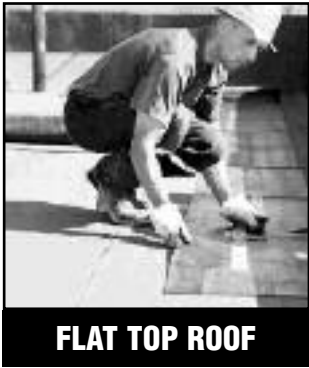
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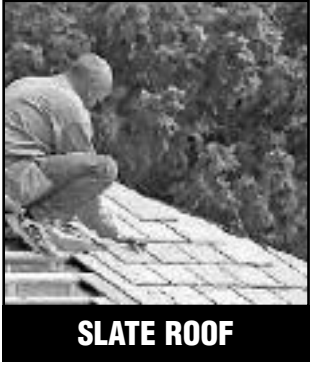
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SCOUT PROJECTS BENEFIT FISH, INC.



It sure was a hot summer, but that didn't deter the determination and drive of two Scouts working on projects to benefit Fish, Inc. Working on the rank of Eagle, Nicholas (Nick) Couch, a Life Scout with Troop #129 in Green Brook built an enclosure for the garbage dumpsters and two new outdoor benches. Over the course of two months, Nick and his crew built the garbage enclosure along the back of the parking lot allowing for the dumpsters to be moved from their location right next to the entry doors of the Food Room. This move not only made the entry way aesthetically pleasing but made it much easier for the garbage truck to access the dumpsters.

The benches are located along the sidewalk that leads into the Food Room. Food Room clients now have a sturdy and safe place to sit while waiting to be served. This is especially important to those clients who have disabilities or problems standing in line.

Nick is waiting for his final Eagle Board of Review and, if approved, hopes to have his Eagle Court of Honor in the spring. Nick is a Senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Emily Chase is an eighth grader at Von E. Mauger Middle School and a Girl Scout with Troop #60850 in Middlesex. For her Silver Award, Emily worked to provide "Safe Foods 4 All", her campaign to collect gluten and allergy free foods for the Fish Food Pantry.

Emily engaged the congregation of her

church, Our Lady of Mount Virgin in Middlesex, Curves in Green Brook and the SunButter company to donate non-perishable foods that fit this category. The SunButter Company makes a natural sunflower seed spread, similar to that of peanut butter and has donated many cases to the food pantry. Through all of her efforts, Emily collected over 700 pounds of food for this campaign. Individuals requesting help with special dietary needs such as gluten/peanut/allergen free diets have become more frequent in recent months. These foods typically are more expensive and are less likely to be donated. Emily's campaign has made a significant impact on our ability to meet the needs of those seeking help with these dietary requirements.

Emily was awarded her Silver Award this past May.

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area is an all-volunteer non-profit service organization which has served those in need, the elderly, the homeless, and those who "fall between the cracks" for public assistance. in central Middlesex County, since 1970. This includes the communities of Piscataway, Dunellen, South Plainfield, Middlesex Borough, Edison, and Highland Park. Major programs include food, clothing, blankets and bedding, provision for Holiday meals, and Christmas gifts for children under age 12.

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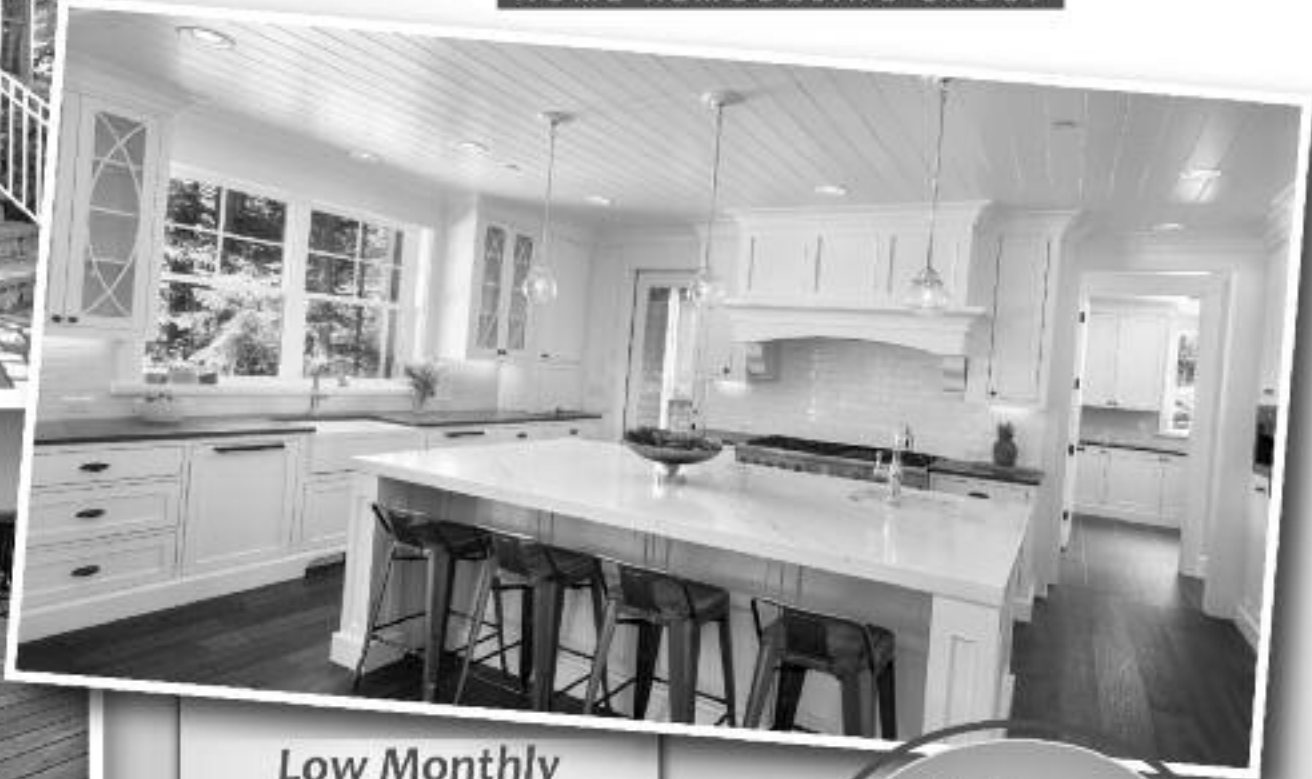


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OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS IRENE E. FELDKIRCHNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In October, students at the Irene E. Feldkirchner Elementary School in Green Brook observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On three spirit days, students wore pink and donated \$1 each to Dance for the Cure, a 501(c)(3) organization co-founded by breast cancer survivor and dancer Kathleen Cirioli.

As October is also Fire Prevention Month, Green Brook Fire Chief Rick Connolly and four volunteer firefighters visited the school to talk to students about fire safety. Students were sent home to assign their parents the homework of checking household smoke detectors, conducting home fire drills, and

specifying escape plans. Students were also treated to a presentation of firefighting equipment, including two of the Green Brook Fire Department's state-of-the-art fire trucks.

And on Friday, October 26, the Green Brook PTO held its 12th Annual Trunk or Treat. Every year parents volunteer their time, creativity, and most importantly, their car trunks. Each car's sponsor handed out candy to the students of the Green Brook Township School District. Additionally, the Green Brook Middle School Peer Leadership Club ran and organized a haunted bus. The Green Brook Fire Department, EMS, and Police Department also took part in the festivities.

Photo by Kathleen Kowalski



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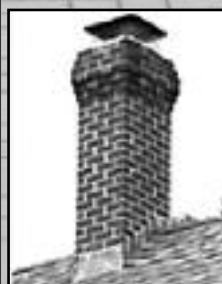
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Submitted by Denis Kelly

On the same night that the 9 members of the 2018-2019 Homecoming Court were escorted by family out onto mid-field for the annual Varsity Football Homecoming Game, the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) student body and many of the spectators in the stands wore white to show support for the annual “White Out Against Bullying” Night, sponsored by and organized by the WHRHS co-curricular activity, Diversity Club.

All this happened on Friday night, September 21, in Tozier Stadium at WHRHS. On the field, the Warrior football team never gave up, battling until the end. Nevertheless, the perennially-strong Elizabeth Minutemen prevailed 42-0.

Everyone who attended the game was invited to sign a banner bearing the Diversity Club’s slogan: “White Out To Stop Bullying: Stand Up Speak Out Stop Hate.” Last year’s banner, identical to this year’s banner, bearing the signatures from last year’s White Out Against Bullying Night, has been on display near the Social Studies classrooms since last year for anyone who want to view it.

As soon as the Homecoming Court was introduced and assembled at center field at the game, Seniors Brad Pinho of Millington and Anna Baitel of Watchung were announced as the annual Homecoming King and Queen for 2018-2019. The King and Queen and the balance of the Homecoming Court were selected by a vote of their fellow Class of 2019 classmates. The Homecoming Court are: John Kolibachuk, William Broder, Amay Mehta, Arianna Valenti, Kayla Martins, Lauren Soled and Anchal Dhir, all of Warren Township, in addition to King Pinho and Queen Baitel.

Other highlights of the Homecoming Game and White Out Against Bullying Night halftime festivities included a performance of this year’s halftime program of the WHRHS Marching Warrior Band and Color Guard. The spectators were also treated to a spirited performance of the WHRHS Cheerleaders, complete with multiple tumbling and stunt routines, and multiple lift demonstrations. The squad showed its ability to incorporate as many as seven lifts simultaneously in several of the complex cheer routines.

Some students wore their own articles of white clothing. Others wore this year’s new specialty white T-shirt that bore the silkscreened message: “White Out Bullying/WHRHS 2018.” Previous years’ T-Shirts sported the White Out slogan, “Stand Up Speak Out Stop Hate,” and many in the crowd wore those.

In the spirit of the White Out Against Bullying Night theme, the Homecoming Queen and female members of the Homecoming Court all wore white dresses. Likewise, the King and male members of the court wore white shirts. Many of the court’s family members who accompanied the students out onto the field also wore white.

The Warrior players all wore their white home field jerseys. Even the Elizabeth team’s uniforms



(above) Stella DiMizio of Millington, who is co-president of the Adversity Club along with Eshika Kaul of Green Brook Township, addressed the spectators over the Public Address system in the Tozier Stadium Press Box. She spoke about the mission and goals of the Diversity Club’s annual White Out Against Bullying Night and Initiative.

had white block numbers, which seemed more noticeable given the night’s White Out Against Bullying color theme.

The Drum Majors of the WHRHS Marching Band always wear entirely white uniforms, and the white sashes and broad white stripes in the band’s uniform sleeves appeared much more noticeable, in support of the White Out theme. As always, the cheerleaders wore white bows in their hair, and they used white pompoms to accentuate and punctuate their cheers and routines.

WHRHS has been recognized as a national leader in efforts by American high school student to encourage everyone to “Stand Up Speak Out Stop Hate,” and to personify the term “upstanders.”

In 2015, WHRHS Diversity Club students Sarah Decker and Monica Mahal attracted the attention of several New Jersey lawmakers, including powerful New Jersey State Senator Tom Kean Jr., the Senate Minority Leader. His Senate district includes WHRHS’ own Warren Township, Watchung and Long Hill Township. The students gathered hundreds of signatures online, and in June 2015, the New Jersey legislature approved a resolution that declared the state’s support for the campaign to include the word “upstander” in both the Oxford and the Merriam-Webster dictionaries.

“Upstander” is defined as: “A person who speaks or acts in support of an individual or cause, particularly someone who intervenes on behalf of a person being attacked or bullied.” An example of how it can be used in a sentence is:

“Encourage your daughter and son as well as your family, friends and classmates, to be upstanders.”

Over the years, students of the WHRHS Diversity Club have addressed the governing bodies of Warren Township, Watchung, Long Hill Township and Green Brook Township, during open public municipal meetings. The students were warmly received by lawmakers, many of whom are themselves either WHRHS alumni, and/or parents of WHRHS students or alumni.

Diversity Club students have also held workshops for students of the middle schools of each of those towns, most of whom are future WHRHS Warriors themselves, and/or children of or siblings of WHRHS students. The WHRHS students have often shared tips on how the middle school students could start or strengthen their own efforts to Stand Up Speak Out Stop Bullying and to be Upstanders. The educational outcome, according to Diversity Club faculty advisors, has often been that both the middle school students and high school students learn from the experience, and that this learning is particularly memorable because it is coming from fellow older or younger students.

WHRHS has received recognition as a model for “Facing History and Ourselves” initiatives, according to Diversity Club faculty advisors, WHRHS Social Studies teachers Jamie Lott-Jones and Mary Sok. The White Out and Diversity Club initiatives against bullying have also benefited over the years from the support of numerous WHRHS teachers, staff, parents, Board of Education members, local lawmakers, and interested members of the community, they said.

Sok and Lott-Jones have also developed a White Out Health Presentation that Diversity Club students delivered to about 20 classes of freshman as part of an annual Spirit Week in-classroom follow up to the White Out Against Bullying Night Homecoming game.

The Lesson Plan includes a power point presentation that answers the question, “Why Anti-Bullying?” It fills in the first year students on the history of the initiative at WHRHS, and shares various photos that have appeared in the local media and other publications, as well as videos that have been generated about the anti-bullying initiative.

The lesson also supplies Diversity Club students with prompts and questions that club members can use to stimulate classroom discussion with the freshman classes, and offers ancillary discussion topics that can be used by break-out smaller groups of students. Among the topics are various notable examples from the news across the country where students have experienced bullying. Students are also reminded that bullying can take place in school as well as in social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The Diversity Club students also make it clear to the first year students that they are more than welcome to become active members in the Diversity Club.



(above l-r) The 2018-2019 Homecoming King, Queen, and Court: John Kolibachuk, William Broder, Amay Mehta, and Arianna Valenti, all of Warren Township; Homecoming Queen Anna Baitel of Watchung and Homecoming King Brad Pinho of the Millington section of Long Hill Township; and Kayla Martins, Lauren Soled and Anchal Dhir, all of Warren Township Warren.



(above) Everyone who attended the game was invited to sign a banner bearing the Diversity Club’s slogan, which is, “White Out To Stop Bullying: Stand Up Speak Out Stop Hate.” Members of the Diversity Club unfurled the banner from this year’s game during their weekly meeting.



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VOLUNTEER
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no experience necessary. For a volunteer application,
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Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity has opened a Habitat
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• 2 & 7 PM
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LIONS CLUB MEETS FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Kelly G. Cupit

The Green Brook Lions, founded in 1950, strive to serve those in need. One example of that is our club's commitment to Camp Marcella, a camp located in rural Rockaway NJ that serves visually impaired children and teens. The camp has a pool, softball field, lake and cabins for sleeping, all modified to make camping possible for those with visual impairments. The Green Brook Lions Club sponsors one of those cabins. As a sponsor, the Lions are responsible for upkeep of that structure including painting, cleaning and minor carpentry work. The club schedules a few work trips throughout the year to check in on the cabin and do the annual cleaning before the camp season begins. The kids benefit by having a clean and safe place to visit and enjoy activities with other campers.

This year the Green Brook Lions Club was awarded the Walter Margetts Award by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey Camp for Blind Children, which is the organization that operates the camp. The Walter Margetts Award, named for one of our Founding Lions, is presented to a group of individuals or an organization for continued dedication and outstanding service to the camp.

The Green Brook Lions Club contributes to many community organizations such as Little League, Hockey Club, Boy and Girl Scouts, service organizations in the area, provides for scholarships to high school seniors and gives assistance to those in need.

Stop by on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Dunellen Hotel at 7:30 p.m. if you are interested in learning more about what we do!



(above, l-r) Lions St. Louis, Cupit, Cruz, Beyfuss, Parker and Murray (as well as Parker and Cupit family members)

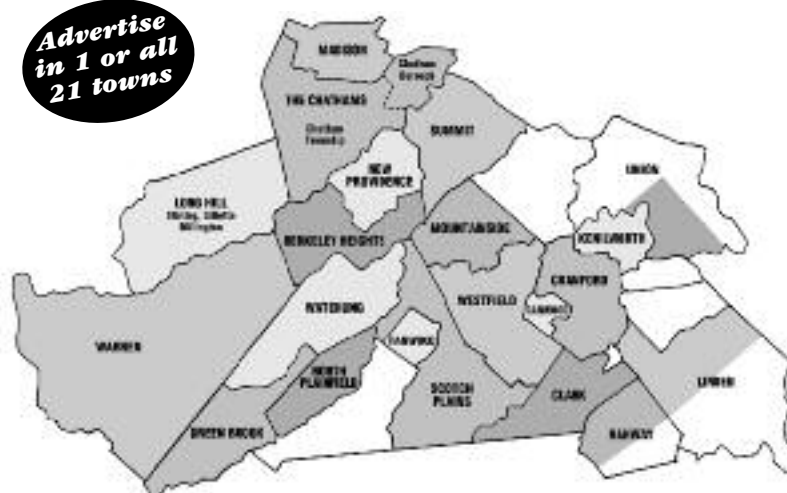
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Walter Margetts Award (above, l-r) Michael Pacala, President of NJ Camp for Blind Children, Green Brook Lions President Kelly Cupit, Paula Tarantino, Vice President of NJ Camp for Blind Children, Green Brook Lions VP Albert St. Louis, Green Brook Lion Mike Beyfuss. In addition, this year, the Club served the campers a meal in August and were treated to the campers rendition of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" as a thank you.

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Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

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