New Providence NEWS

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37TH ANNUAL SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE COMES TO NEW PROVIDENCE ON NOVEMBER 17

New Providence's Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will join together once again with Faith Lutheran Church for the annual Scouting for Food drive. Now in its 37th year, this community-wide event collects nonperishable items for local food pantries as well as families and individuals served by the Community Service Association of New Providence.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will deliver grocery bags to Borough residents' homes on Saturday, November 10 and Sunday, November 11, 2018. On Saturday, November 17, they will return to pick up the filled bags and bring the food items to Faith Lutheran Church where they will be sorted, packed, and prepared for distribution to the Starfish Food Pantry. A portion of the food items are given to struggling New Providence families who receive assistance from the CSA.

Hilary McCarron, New Providence mom and volunteer organizer for the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts, said, "Last year over \$37,000 in non-perishable food was collected through the generosity of New Providence residents. As we look ahead to the holiday season, we are mindful that there are those who struggle financially to put food on their table. Our Scouts in the town of New Providence continue to exemplify the scout oath by taking part in this drive. We thank the New Providence community and our local supermarkets for their generous support."

She reminded drivers that kids will be out and about on these days, "We ask local drivers to use caution as the boys head door-to-door and cross streets for this important effort."

In addition to staples such as pasta, soup, and cereal, other items needed for the food drive include mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, pancake mix, and pancake syrup. The groups respectfully ask that residents do not send in food items past their expiration dates.

Scouting for Food would not be possible without the support of area grocery stores including Kings in Summit and Stop & Shop in Berkeley Heights (at press time). These stores generously donate more than 5,000 grocery bags to the cause.

For more information, contact: John Malinauskas at the CSA (908) 665-8254.



(above) Boy Scouts from Troop 63 in New Providence, preparing the shopping bags that get to delivered to each house.



(above) Scouts from Troop 63 assemble grocery bags at the 2017 Scouting for Food drive.



New Providence NEWS

New Providence NEWS is published by Renna Media. 4,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in New Providence.

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New Providence NEWS- Page 2 • November 2018 SANTA CLAUS SHOP PREPARES TO HELP **DELIVER A JOYOUS HOLIDAY TO LOCALS IN NEED**

The Santa Claus Shop will open its doors once again to area families, providing its 52nd consecutive year of complimentary holiday shopping. The shop serves more than 400 lowincome families and senior citizens from Summit and other local communities, including New Providence and Berkeley Heights, who are referred by local social services agents.

This year's Santa Claus Shop will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Avenue in Summit. Families will be offered shopping hours by invitation only on Wednesday, November 28, 2018. In addition, the Santa Claus Shop will be hosting a holiday gathering for senior citizens on Tuesday, November 27, 2018.

The Santa Claus Shop guests personally select a household item, new clothing for each member of their immediate family, a hat and mittens, a book, and a new toy for each child. Local volunteers are responsible for the shop setup, personal shopping services for each guest, giftwrapping, and clean up.

The Santa Claus Shop is chaired by Summit residents Liz Febo, Kourtney Matter, Franny McBride and Shelley Sherman and co-chaired by Michelle Frei, Kim McGovern, Megan Rende and Christine Semcer. The Santa Claus Shop exists solely on donations and volunteers. With the monetary donations from area residents, local organizations and businesses, the Santa Claus Shop can purchase the gifts that allow less fortunate neighbors to experience the joy of holiday giving without financial burden.

To keep the holiday spirit alive for local residents in need, the Santa Claus Shop chairwomen ask for members of the community to consider giving. Checks can be made payable to SHIP, with Santa Claus Shop noted on the check's memo line, and mailed to the Santa Claus Shop, P.O. Box 119, Summit, NJ 07901. The ability to make an online donation is also available at summitsantaclausshop.com. If you would like to find out more information or get involved please visit our website or follow us on Facebook at Santa Claus Shop - Summit, NJ.

• Online Appointments •





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LODGE LINNE'S 40TH ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN IMPORT AND GIFT SALE

Lodge Linne's 40th Annual Scandinavian Import and Gift Sale will be held on Saturday, November 17th at Salt Brook School, 40 Maple St., New Providence. The doors will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cash and Checks Accepted. Admission is free. A light lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m.

The sale is sponsored by Lodge Linne #429, Vasa Order of America, a Swedish fraternal organization. Lodge Linne meets regularly the third Friday of every month at the New Providence Senior Center, 15 E. Fourth St., New Providence. For further information call: (908) 665-1292 or (973) 479-7873.



(above) Carol Germansky and Judy Campbell of New Providence holding Norwegian sweaters that will be sold at Lodge Linne's 40th Annual Scandinavian Import and Gift Sale.

For sale luxury, decorated model, starting at \$749,000.

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New Providence NEWS • Page 6 • November 2018 **HICKORY TREE CHORUS 50TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW**

us as we celebrate with a special 50th anniversary show - Back to the Future, on Saturday, November 17, 2018. We'll take you on a musical journey through the decades from Aquarius to Weekend in New England to At the Beginning to Seasons of Love and many songs in between. Our featured guest quartet is Martini, Sweet Adelines 2012 International Champions! Also appearing will be HTC's own

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL FEATURING THE CHRISTMAS WALK

The 2018 Holiday Festival, featuring the Christmas Walk, will be held on November 23, 2018 from 5 - 7 p.m. in the downtown area.

This festival is the largest borough event, drawing well over 6,000 residents and visitors! The annual Christmas Walk, an evening gathering traditionally held on the Friday after Thanksgiving in the downtown area, is part of the even bigger and better Holiday Festival. The Friday evening festival will feature the arrival of Santa with the New Providence Marching Band; various customs and celebrations from around the world; activities and entertainment; merchant giveaways; and fantastic fireworks! The event continues the next day with Small Business Saturday. This huge event takes place in downtown New Providence and offers food, music, snow, raffles, giveaways, and more!

The New Providence Business Community hosts numerous celebrations and activities for the enjoyment of New Providence residents and visitors.

To become a sponsor of the Holiday Festival please email communications@npbpa.com or call 908-665-1400 ext. 8232.



Hickory Tree Chorus is 50 and Fabulous! Join quartet, Take Note! and student singers from West Morris Mendham H.S.

> One performance will be held at West Morris Mendham High School - 65 E Main St Mendham, NJ 07945 at 3 p.m.

> Advanced tickets are available online at hickorytreechorus.org/tickets through Nov. 14 for \$22 adults/\$17 for students. After that any remaining tickets will be available at the door for an additional \$5/ticket.

The Hickory Tree Chorus, an award-winning chapter of Sweet Adelines International, performs fun-filled popular music in four-part a cappella harmony, barbershop style. Founded in 1968 in the Hickory Tree section of Chatham Township, NJ, HTC currently rehearses in Stirling, NJ. Rehearsals are open to guests and auditions are held year 'round.

For more information visit hickorytreechorus.org.





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HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT AND PARADE

Submitted by Detective Michael Hand

with the NJ Sharing Network and the NP Lions Club, hosted their third annual Trunk or Treat on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018. There were numerous trunks decorated and plenty of children looking for candy.

The New Providence PBA Local #132, along costume and also the best decorated trunks. The PBA would like to thank the Lions Club, NJ Sharing Network and Christine Morgan for their assistance in making this an enjoyable event for families. We also appreciate Starbucks for donating some hot coffee to keep participants

A few prizes were given to kids with the best warm on this chilly day.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on New Providence News page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



















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SAME WORKSHOP -2 DIFFERENT NIGHTS!



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Please join us for a FREE Educational College Financial Planning workshop that will focus on high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. We'll discuss the FAFSA form and all the other information you need to understand in order to maximize the amount of financial aid you are eligible to receive!

Thursday, November 15, 2018 / 7:00PM - 8:00PM Pre-registration -6:45 PM VFW Post 6259 / 15 Locust Ave., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 / 7:00PM - 8:00PM Pre-registration -6:45 PM Community Center / 1289 South Maple Ave., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Due to the popularity of our free workshops, seats fill up quickly. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.





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SHINING STARS PRESENTS FIRST EVER CHRISTMAS SHOW SPECIAL NEEDS TALENT TO TAKE THE STAGE ON NOV. 30TH



By popular demand, the Shining Stars cast will take their amazing talents to the stage for their first ever holiday show. The "Shining Stars Christmas Spectacular" will feature special needs individuals and their high school "buddies" from around Union County in a fun night of singing and dancing to the greatest songs of the season.

The show is set for Friday, November 30, 2018 at the theatre at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. All tickets are \$10 for general admission in advance - \$15 at the door, and are available at ShiningStars.booktix.com.

"We are extremely excited to present our firstever Christmas show," said Shining Stars Network's Founder and the show's Co-Director Sally Curci. "We've been thinking about doing this for several years, and adding this event to our very successful "Evening of Shining Stars" talent show will give our expanding cast another chance to shine on stage. It will be a great way to start the holiday season." "We are incredibly grateful and excited that we are able to have a Christmas show this year," added Co-Director Nicole Greene. "All of the performers cannot wait to perform once again. We really are a family, and we can't wait to start the holiday season with our show."

In their 7th year, Shining Stars Network (SSN) has produced a yearly spring talent show called "An Evening of Shining Stars" which has grown into one of the area's must-see events. This past May, over 1,000 audience members watched the "stars" light up the stage at the historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. The Shining Stars are set to return to UCPAC for their 8th annual show on Friday, May 3, 2019.

"As excited as we are about our upcoming holiday show and our new relationship with Union Catholic, we are also thrilled that we will be back at the Union County Performing Arts Center for our "Evening of Shining Stars" extravaganza," noted Shining Stars Network President Mike Curci. "That was a night we will never forget and our talented cast and incredible volunteers are looking forward to creating more great memories for everyone in our next two shows."

The shows are produced and presented by Shining Stars Network, a registered 501(c)3 non profit organization that shines the light on the special needs community through the performing arts.

Also, make plans to join the Shining Stars cast members for a pancake breakfast on Saturday, November 10th at the Clark Recreation Center, 430 Westfield Ave., Clark, N.J. from 8:00 a.m. until 11 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, orange juice and hot chocolate will be served, and the cast will be performing songs throughout the morning. Get autographs and have your photo taken with the stars. Tickets are just \$8 per person and \$25 for a family of four.

For more information on the shows or to learn more about Shining Stars Network, log on to shiningstarsnetwork.org.

R. HANDYMANI

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Please RSVP to 908.516.4231 or Admissions@ABP-Academy.org







TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 20TH ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS - DEC 15

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its twentieth anniversary season with performances in New York and New Jersey this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 15 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for a 2PM performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 16 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2 and 7PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include James Robinson and Andrew Weir from the film "Braveheart," Gaelic Mod champion harpist Jennifer Port of Golspie, Scotland, guitarist Steve Gibb from Inverness, Scotland, Glenfiddich Scottish Fiddle Champion, Calum Pasqua, piper Ben Power from Broadway's "Come From Away," and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and Summit High School in New Jersey.

Proceeds also support the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at the Royal National Mod and an annual academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Named one of New York City's "Top Ten" holiday events, the concert is made possible by a generous gift from the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit, NJ.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through SmartTix at www.smarttix.com or by phone at (212) 868-4444. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.

The concert is also producing a special commemorative program book capturing this special anniversary. Information on salute ads can be found on the concert website.

For additional information, visit www.pipesofchristmas.com. Regular updates will also be posted on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePipesofChristmas and Twitter at @PipesofXmas.

ABOUT "THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS"

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."











'TIS THE SEASON! JUNIOR LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP'S HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE NOVEMBER 29TH – DECEMBER 1ST

The Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop is excited to announce its annual Holiday Boutique. The highly anticipated event features a wide selection of brand new toys, as well as new and gently used men's, women's, and children's holiday items and seasonal decorations. The event will be held at Parish Hall, Calvary Church (next to the Thrift Shop, 37 Deforest Ave., Summit) on Thursday, November 29, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, November 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Saturday, December 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Thrift Shop will also remain open during regular business hours throughout the event.

"The Holiday Boutique is a well awaited annual event within our community. This year especially, we have a large selection of toys, gifts, holiday decorations, clothing and other gift ware items. This year features a large selection of new, unused items in addition to our carefully selected gently used inventory. The boutique is a festive way to start out the holiday shopping season and a great way to help give back to the community! So mark your calendars, it's a must attend event!" says Thrift Shop Manager Marie Avagliano.

As with all Shop sales, all proceeds from the Holiday Boutique will directly fund the League's programming, community grants, and projects. "The Junior League of Summit truly enjoys this annual event as a way to connect with our community and spread some holiday spirit. We thank our customers and the community for your ongoing support," said Junior League of Summit President Erika Melchiorre.

The Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop in Summit was established in 1934 and offers new and gently used clothing and shoes for men, women and children, toys, decorative items for



the home, housewares, and furniture that is deeply discounted. It is the primary fundraiser for the Junior League of Summit and has provided the resources for the League's many grants, projects, programs, and scholarships over the years. Since its inception, the Shop has raised over \$3,000,000 to benefit Summit and surrounding communities.

The Junior League of Summit is a nonprofit,

2018 LEAF COLLECTION

RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THREE (3) OPTIONS FOR LEAF COLLECTION THIS FALL:

- 1. Put leaves in cans, open containers, or paper bags and place at curbside for Monday collection. Leaves, grass, brush, and garden debris are collected every Monday through December 4. (Must be placed at curb prior to 5 AM)
- 2. Have your landscaper collect leaves. Landscapers are responsible for disposal of leaves and are not permitted to dump at DPW. If your landscaper plans to blow leaves into the curb they must follow the pickup schedule for your street and pay for a permit to have them vacuumed. View application.
- 3. You may purchase a permit for \$55 to have your leaves vacuumed from the curb.
- 1. (Fee is waived for seniors who receive a \$250 Senior Deduction, Disabled Person Deduction, or Widow of Senior/Disabled Person Deduction. Please note the Senior Deduction is not the same as the Property Tax Reimbursement or the Homestead Credit, and qualified individuals must meet income and age requirements set by State of NJ. To verify eligibility you may contact the Borough Clerk's Office 908-665-1400 x0.)

LEAF COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Participating residents will have their leaves vacuumed at curbside in accordance with the schedule listed below.

Leaves must be placed in the roadway at curbside. Leaves cannot be put out until the

charitable and educational organization of women who are committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. For more information about the Junior League of Summit, please visit the website at jlsummit.org or contact the office at 908-273-7349.

Thursday before your scheduled pickup. They must be put out by 5 AM Monday of your collection week as outlined below.

Sticks may not be commingled into the leaf piles – they clog the vacuum.

Only leaves from your property are permitted. Residents will receive a permit that must be placed in their window and be visible from the street during their collection week.

Questions concerning the program should be directed to James Johnston, Public Works Manager at 908-665-1076.

OPTIONS FOR PURCHASING LEAF VACUUMING PERMIT:

Deadline for Purchasing Permit: Monday, November 20

- Pay Online and Print your Permit (Online payment option will begin on Wednesday, September 6 and end on Monday, November 20 – PLEASE CALL THE CLERK'S OFFICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS 908-665-1400 x0). IMPORTANT! IF YOU PAY ONLINE YOU MUST PRINT THE PERMIT BEFORE YOU EXIT THE PROGRAM. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO BACK AND PRINT IT.
- 2. Print Application– mail or bring with payment to the Municipal Center – Clerk's Office, 360 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974.
- 3. Call the Borough Clerk's Office and pay with credit card over the phone 908-665-1400 x0 (permit will be mailed to you).

2018 LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE (WEATHER PERMITTING)				
EAST	WEST			
Summit Line to South Street	South Street to Berkeley Heights Line			
WEEK OF:	WEEK OF:			
November 5, 2018	November 12, 2018			
November 26, 2018	December 3, 2018			
COUNTY ROAD LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE – RESIDENTS WHO LIVE ON COUNTY MAINTAINED ROADS WILL BE VACUUMED BY THE UNION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. THES ROADS WILL BE VACUUMED AS SCHEDULED BY UNION COUNTY:				
THES ROADS WILL BE VACUUMED	AS SCHEDULED BY UNION COUNTY:			

NEW PROVIDENCE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB/DECORSO CENTER HAPPENINGS

New Providence Senior Citizens Club November meetings include:

November 7 - Atlantic Health's "New Vitality" Program will present "Embracing Aging: Finding Your Path to Aging Well" which will help seniors learn how to find their own path to aging well, and resources available to help along the way. (No advance sign up is necessary.)

November 28 - The Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey will present a "15 Minute Child Break" program which will educate and empower seniors to effectively communicate with children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The program will cover the influence of media and pop culture, identifying risk & protective factors, strengthening grandparenting & communication skills, and utilizing teachable moments. (No advance sign up is necessary.)

Ageless Grace[®] for New Providence Seniors: The Ageless Grace® Brain Health Fitness program is back by popular demand and offered once again free of charge to New Providence Senior Citizen Club members and to all New Providence senior citizens. Sessions will continue on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. on November 1, 8 and 15. Ageless Grace is a

Speakers on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. for the cutting-edge brain health fitness program based on stimulation of neuroplasticity to support cognitive function and activate all five primary functions of the brain. Each of the brainchanging movements also focuses on a primary physical skill needed for lifelong optimal function, such as mobility, balance, flexibility, strength and coordination. Simple, natural movements are used in a playful and joyful environment. The program is designed to be practiced seated, and anyone can participate at his or own level of ability. Classes will be held at the DeCorso Community Center, 15 East Fourth Street, New Providence. Please register in advance by calling (908) 665-0046 or by sending an email to DeCorsoCenter@newprov.org.

There are many other activities for New Providence seniors — exercise and lifelong learning classes, fun and games, trips, etc. Please refer to the seniors page on the New Providence website newprov.org/seniors and its link to the monthly New Providence Senior Citizens Newsletter for the most current information, event details, class schedules, etc. All programs will be held at the DeCorso Community Center, 15 East Fourth Street, New Providence, unless otherwise noted.



LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE WILLIAM PACA **CLUB ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR**

The annual craft fair sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the William Paca Club of New Providence will take place on November 3, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Paca Club on Front Street, New Providence, NJ.

Approximately 25 artisans offering a variety of items from knits, woodcrafts, jewelry, baked goods and much more will be participating.

Space is available for a few more crafters. Please call Grace Parlapiano for registration forms at 908-464-8040.

The Auxiliary donates a portion of the proceeds of the show to a variety of causes including a scholarship for a New Providence High School Senior, an adopted family at Christmas, Care and Concern, and Community Service Association.

<u>UGLY HOMES WANTED</u> FOR TELEVISION PROGRAM **IN THIS AREA**

We need 30 Ugly Homes with Ugly Kitchens, Bathrooms, Siding, Window, etc., Inside or Outside that need fixing or Remodeling. We will Repair and Remodel them and shoot video for training film and future TV show on Home Remodeling Work.

Must Sign Release, for purpose of filming job! This must be a complete remodeling job, not just patch up work. This remodeling is to be specially priced out of work, with compensation back to the homeowner for signed release.

CALL 1-800-281-1582 Ask for TV Project Department, for job evaluation and estimate of cost and compensations! **Serious Inquiries Please!**



UAC HELPS STUDENTS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES PREP FOR EMPLOYMENT

Despite possessing work habits that make them excellent candidates, people with disabilities experience increased rates of discrimination and difficulty finding employment, according to local nonprofit Community Access Unlimited (CAU).

There are nearly 40 million Americans with disabilities, according to the Pew Research Center. In 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for this sector was 9.2 percent, more than double the 4.2 percent rate for people without disabilities.

CAU, which supports people with disabilities, has long worked to address this problem by preparing its members for employment. In October 2017, the Kessler Foundation awarded CAU its \$35,000 Community Employment Grant to assist the nonprofit in its efforts.

The grant is subsidizing a job-readiness program aimed at high school students with disabilities to empower them to transition into employment upon graduation, as well as adults with disabilities who would like to enter the workforce. Funds were used to create and implement a curriculum and develop partnerships with local high schools supporting students with disabilities, including introduction of the program at Roselle Park High School this fall.

Recently, six CAU members reaped the rewards of the Kessler Foundation's assistance when they received certificates following completion of one phase of the program, preparing them for employment. Classes focused on resume building, applying for a job, interviewing skills and professional dress and behavior. The classes also allowed for an assessment of participants' skills and interests to help CAU custom-design a plan for each member that ultimately will lead to employment.

"The program includes all the basic steps to have a successful employment search, even how to shake hands," said Onieka Grier, director of employment services at CAU. "The assessment allows us to help them focus on a career path."

Roselle residents Joshua Alves, 27, and Alphonse Cervone, 37, and 22-year-old Marcus Barnesof Elizabeth were among the six CAU members who earned certificates.

Alves is adept at computers, even helping staff with problems, according to Grier, and wants to pursue a career in information technology.

"I never had a real job before," he said. "I'm looking forward to it. I like to help people."

Cervone previously worked in a senior living center helping to prepare and serve meals and looks forward to working again in a similar environment.

"You have to know what people want," he said. "So I want to get a job cooking."

Barnes also worked in the past, including at a café, but said he thinks retail is a better fit for him.

"I want a job that will help me stay focused, maybe at Marshall's," he said. "I'd like to learn how to display the clothes."

CAU is well-positioned to implement the goals of the Kessler Foundation grant. The agency has a robust employment services department, including job skills training, adaptive equipment/assistive technology and a broad array of partnerships with businesses. More than 50 CAU members are employed at more than 30 local businesses through CAU, according to Fredia McKinnie, assistant executive director of employment and day habilitation services.

"People with disabilities are excellent employees," she said. "Research shows employees with disabilities have a retention rate more than twice as high as employees without disabilities and have a greater attention to safety. In addition, businesses employing people with disabilities also benefit from an increase in diversity appreciated by consumers and tax incentives."

Community Access Unlimited, a Union County-based statewide nonprofit that strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community, supports its members with housing, vocational skills and lifeskills training, education, advocacy and recreation.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 39th year in 2018, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society, assisting its members with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. Currently serving more than 5,000 individuals and families, CAU continues to grow each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, info@caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



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PETERSTOWN BOOK GIFTED TO NEW PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



(above) Author Joe Renna presented Linda Kale with a copy of 'The Peterstown Book' for the New Providence Historical Society, where it is available for viewing.

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Kids 7-10	\$5.99	Kids 7-10	\$7.49
Kids 3-6		Kids 3-6	\$5.99
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