# WARREN MONTHLYNJ

#### WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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#### **ISSUE 71 • NOVEMBER 2018**

## **JAMIE LINTON EARNS GOLD AWARD FOR PUPPET PROJECT**

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POSTAL CUSTOMER WARREN, NJ 07059 The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award any Girl Scout can achieve. In order to complete this award, one must have at least 80 hours of work and the project must be everlasting. The Gold Award is meant to improve communities all around the globe.

For her Gold Award, Jamie Linton, age 17, from Troop #65304 in Warren wanted to do something to help younger children who struggle with reading. Many young kids have difficulties reading as they cannot comprehend the story or retain information read. To help out, Jamie made it her mission to build and donate a puppet stand to the Warren Township Library. Puppet shows would offer kids an alternate way to read and hopefully improve upon their comprehension and retention skills.

Jamie began her project by asking Huston Lumber in North Plainfield for a donation of wood to build her puppet stand. She also asked Home Depot in Watchung for supplies such as screws and hinges. After Jamie collected all of her supplies, she contacted her Gold Award Team Member and family friend, Paul Fitzmaurice. He assisted Jamie by making specific cuts in the wood.

After all the pieces were set, Jamie reached out to Warrenville Hardware in Warren. They graciously donated paint for Jamie's puppet stand. Once all of the paint was dry, Jamie and her father worked hard to put together the puppet stand. When the stand was finished, Jamie felt very accomplished, but she was nowhere near done with her project.

With the puppet stand ready, Jamie began to plan her programs for the library. She was to hold three programs using her puppet stand, as she wanted to test the impact of her project on the community. Jamie spent hours writing scripts for her puppet shows, in addition to planning other activities and crafts.

When it came time to purchase materials for her puppet shows, Jamie contacted the Warren Township Lions Club and asked for a grant in partnership. They agreed and provided Jamie with enough money to fund the rest of her Gold Award project. Jamie used this money to



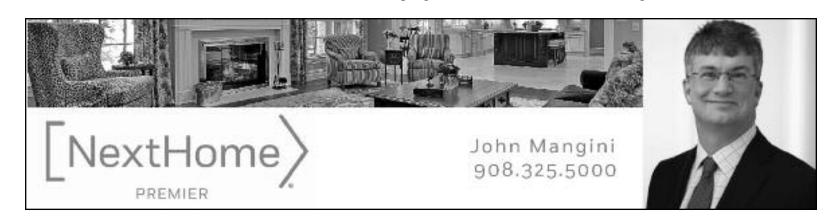
(above, l-r) Pictured with the completed puppet stand are Jamie Linton, Amanda Gaensler, Liz Askin, Megan Vetter, and Kaitlyn Linton. Not pictured: Brianna Vetter. Photo by Keriann Linton.

purchase a bountiful amount of Melissa and Doug Puppets and craft supplies. She received additional donations from her Team Member, Kristen Glanzman, as well as Fabricland in North Plainfield.

Finally, it came time for Jamie to present her puppet stand to the public. She held three story hours at the library with additional Gold Award Team Members: Amanda Gaensler, Brianna Vetter, Kaitlyn Linton, Liz Askin, and Megan Vetter. All three story hours included two puppet shows, a story, an interactive activity, and a craft. The children enjoyed all the shows, and surveys indicated that the parents were very pleased with the presentations. When Jamie's programs were completed, she donated the puppet stand, the puppets, and the craft supplies to the library.

This project proved to be a great experience for Jamie. She'd like to send out a special thank you to Antonette D'Orazio for being an amazing Project Advisor, as well as librarians Ms. Katie, Ms. Eloise, and Mr. Jonathan for assisting her throughout her project. Finally, Jamie would like to thank all team members and businesses that contributed to her project. She "couldn't have done it without them."

Jamie videotaped all of her puppet shows and posted them on youtube. In the videos, she also discussed how parents and educators can run a similar program at home and in school settings.





#### **On-line at www.WarrenMonthly.com**

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Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com. or call 908-418-5586

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### **WARREN MONTHLY** • Page 4 • November 2018 **RIBBON CUTTING AT THE EAST COUNTY RESERVE SPORTS COMPLEX**

A re-dedication was held in September for the Watchung Hills Pop Warner field at the Sports complex in the East County Reserve. The field turf which gets used by multiple sports and the schools in town was replaced after its useful life and that effort was spearheaded by Mick Marion, long time WHPW board member and Township committee member. It was well attended by Mayor Sordillo, Governor DiFrancesco, County Freeholders Township Committee members and local politicians. The field and sports complex at the East County Reserve was the idea of then President of Watchung Hills Pop Warner, Joe Passaro, who is now Director of Sports and Recreation for the town of Warren.

Joe worked closely with Ray Brown, then Parks Commissioner on this project. Vic Sordillo was instrumental as a representative of Warren Twp. to get this done. This was the first of its kind where a County Parks commission and a private organization joined forces to develop property

The field and sports complex at the East owned by the county, first in the state and punty Reserve was the idea of then President of possibly the country.

It has become the model for other programs in the county. In attendance was Jon Butler, Executive Director of Pop Warner International and other Pop warner officials.

Mr. Passaro stated, "I am very proud of how the organization and the complex has continued to develop over the years...I'd like to thank Andy Marion for his leadership and dedication to WHPW."





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(above) Warren Twp. and Watchung branches Librarian Amy Behr-Shields.



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# **DIAL-IN TO HEAR A STORY FROM A LIBRARIAN**

Librarians read and record new stories weekly, now accessible via phone

Oh, it's Miss Amy reading a story!" exclaimed a big hit. North Plainfield resident Micah Henry, 5.

Earlier this summer, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) launched a new service for children - a phone-in storytime, aptly called Dial-a-Story. Librarians system-wide have been taking turns recording weekly stories for Somerset County residents to enjoy from home, from the car, or anywhere they wish.

"Dial-a-Story is a free early literacy service that allows the librarians of SCLSNJ to extend storytime and connect with our youngest patrons - directly in their homes," said Amy Behr youth services department supervisor for SCLSNJ's Warren and Watchung library branches. "It is perfect for bedtime stories, short car trips, or simply spending quality time with your child(ren). Each week - on Friday - listen and follow along to a newly featured book specially selected by your friendly SCLSNJ librarians."

"Dial-a-Story is part of SCLSNJ's SOARING (Supportive Opportunities for Achieving Reading In the Next Generation) initiative," said Jen Fitzgerald, youth services librarian at SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch.

Continued Fitzgerald, "Decades of research confirms the importance of reading aloud to foster children's development and learning. Diala-Story is another way for Somerset County children to hear books read aloud to them in addition to our collection of Vox books, playaways, and CD books. And, of course, we encourage all parents and caregivers to use print and eBooks to read aloud to their children as well."

SCLSNJ's SOARING initiative is designed to help parents navigate early childhood programming and resources, learn the different strategies used to support early literacy through each developmental stage, and replicate those strategies at home. The newest offering within the Library's SOARING suite of services is thus far

"My 6-year-old daughter Mikayla loves Diala-Story. After I dialed and gave her the phone she was elated to hear the familiar read aloud. Excitedly she shouted 'I love this story, Mommy!' When it was finished I received more hugs and thank-you's than I knew what to do, just for dialing the number. Now she dials up on her own. Can't wait for the new story every Friday." said North Plainfield resident Kesha Carter.

Even older children are enjoying the service. "My son is 9 years old and reads at a high school level, and he found this thrilling," said North Plainfield resident Janet Costello.

Some previously recorded and heard storybooks have included "Creepy Carrots" by Aaron Reynolds, "The Book with No Pictures" by B.J. Novak, "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons" by Eric Litwin, illustrated by James Dean, "Bark George" by Jules Feiffer, "Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed" by Eileen Christelow, "The Pout-Pout Fish" by Deborah Diesen, "Thunder Boy Jr." by Sherman Alexie, "Dill & Bizzy Opposite Day" by Nora Ericson, and "Outside Over There" by Maurice Sendak.

To listen to a story read by one of your favorite SCLSNJ librarians, call 908-458-8409. To learn more, visit SCLSNJ.org.

#### ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM **OF NEW JERSEY**

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

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# **LETTERS TO SANTA**

been approved by Santa to gather mail from township children and deliver it to the North Pole. We will be accepting mail from Friday, November 16 through Friday, December 14, 2018. Letters should be dropped off at the red mailbox in front of Town Hall or mailed to: "Santa" Warren Twp. Recreation Commission, 46 Mountain Blvd., Warren, NJ 07059. Every child will receive a personalized letter from Santa, but after December 14, Santa will be busy getting

Warren Township Recreation Commission has ready for the holiday and will not be able to answer any more letters. Mom and dad, please be sure to include a return address.

То volunteer please go to www.wtrec.ivolunteer.com/santa 003.

SAVE THE DATE for Warren Township Recreation's 11th Annual Winter Festival, Bonfire and Fireworks! The event will take place on January 12 (rain date January 19) from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more exciting details about this event!

# **WARREN RECREATION'S FIRST ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST**

accepting entries until December 15. The subject matter of the photos can be of any subject that has to do with recreation in our town, such as nature, sports, events, etc. All photos must be appropriate and will be judged by local judges.

The contest is open to Warren residents of all ages. Photos must be printed and submitted to the

The first annual Warren Photo Contest will be Recreation Office located on the first floor in town hall no later than December 15, 2018.

The winners will be announced in January. Prizes to be determined for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

If you have any questions please contact the recreation office at 908-753-8000 ect 270 or email recreation@warrennj.org.



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# STOPIT TO EMPOWER AND PROTECT STUDENTS

Warren Middle School (WMS) has enrolled with STOPit, the leading technology platform for schools that deters and controls harmful or inappropriate conduct. STOPit empowers students with an easy app to safely and anonymously report anything of concern to school officials - from cyberbullying to threats of violence or self-harm. STOPit empowers students to stand up for themselves and others while giving school officials the insight they need to keep students safe.

"Schools are statistically a safe place, however no school is immune to violence, thoughts of selfharm or other internal or external threats. STOPit is another piece in our prevention and mitigation program to make our schools even safer," said Mr. Ron Berry, Warren Township Schools Security Manager.

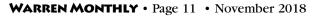
With STOPit, students can submit anonymous reports containing text, photos, or video. School officials are then able to manage incidents in a backend management system called DOCUMENTit. DOCUMENTit will provide efficient and powerful investigative tools, including the ability to message with the reporter, which will allow school officials to address issues instantly.

STOPit does more than just help schools address incidents and mitigate risk. STOPit will also help school officials and staff go beyond reacting to bullying and inappropriate behavior, and instead start deterring it. As young people continue to engage more with technology every day, Warren Township Schools are taking a proactive step to empower the middle school students to become Upstanders within their community in the way that they feel most comfortable. Warren Township School's administrative team believes the adoption of STOPit is an important step in the continued effort to provide a positive school climate and a safe learning environment for all students.

Warren Middle School's STOPit program launched on October 17, 2018.

#### **ABOUT STOPIT:**

STOPit is the leading technology company providing a comprehensive software platform that mitigates, deters and controls bullying, including cyberbullying, harassment and other harmful or inappropriate conduct. The STOPit platform is available to schools, universities, businesses and governments both in the United States and around the world. The STOPit mobile app is a simple, fast and powerful tool which empowers individuals to protect themselves and stand up for others online, on social media, in the classroom or in the office. DOCUMENTit, a robust incident management system, empowers administrators and management to get in front of issues to mitigate risk and adhere to the ever evolving compliance landscape. To learn more about STOPit, please visit stopitsolutions.com.





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