

Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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SCRIPT AND CUE'S ANNUAL "CABARET NIGHT" AT WHRHS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

As many as 19 student performers sang some 17 songs, including many from Broadway Musicals or from popular recording artists, at the 2018 "Cabaret Night," which was staged by the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Script and Cue Student Drama Troupe, on Thursday, October 18, 2018 in the school's Performing Arts Center (PAC).

As has become the practice during the last several years, the PAC was adapted into an intimate space for the Cabaret, with both the performers and audience filling the PAC's full stage, arranged sideways.

Included among the performers were many of the cast members from the Fall Drama, presented by Script and Cue. Arthur Miller's iconic Tony Award winning drama, "The Crucible," was staged by the student actors and crew of Script and Cue November 15-17.

The one exception to the solo and duet performers was a student band that has been tentatively named by its members "Band To Be Named Later." Band members included junior Sam Bouffard of Green Brook Township as lead singer, junior Ben Kazokowski of Green Brook on guitar, junior Thomas Dardis of Warren Township on guitar, senior Will Broder of Warren on drums, and junior Alti Kabukcu of Warren on keyboards. Sitting in with the band on bass was J.P. Bouffard, the lead singer's dad. They played two songs as the first act after intermission: "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" by John Mayer and "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," one of George Harrison's masterpieces with The Beatles.

Junior Jack Melillo of Stirling and senior Kayla Martins of

Warren acted as host and hostess for the night. They introduced the acts and also sang songs. Kayla Martins sang "When I was Your Man" by Bruno Mars. Jack Melillo sang "She Used To Be Mine" from the musical "Waitress." He also sang a duet with junior Christine Tanko of Green Brook, "Super Friend," from the musical "The Flash."

Tanko also sang solo on "My Funny Valentine" by Rodgers and Hart. That song has been performed by hundreds of artists since its debut in 1937 in the musical "Babes in Arms."

Among the other performers were: Freshman Jordan Pincus of Green Brook, who sang "Everything and More" from the musical "Twisted;" senior Claire Vickery of Millington, who sang "IDon'tWantToBeYourMan" by Billie Eilish; and senior Kaelin Churchill of Stirling who sang "Mamma Mia" by the pop group Abba and from the Broadway musical and movies, "Mama Mia."

The other singers before intermission included: Sophomore Paul Riedler of Green Brook, who sang "If You Want Love" by the artist NF; sophomore Malvika George of Warren, who sang "What Baking Can Do" from "Waitress;" and junior Kyra Anthony of Green Brook, who sang "When He Sees Me" from "Waitress."

After intermission, the singers included: Sophomore Nina DiNorscio of Gillette, who sang in French and played ukulele on the classic "Le Vie en Rose" by Edith Piaf; senior Summer Stuart of Watchung, who sang "Toxic" by Britany Spears; sophomores Olivia Kider of Warren and Maddie Johnson of Gillette, who sang "Poker Face" by Lady Gaga; and junior Giovanna DiSanto of Green Brook, who sang "Pretty Funny" from the musical "Dog Fight." *(continued on page 8)*



(above) The full cast of the 2018 "Cabaret Night," staged by the WHRHS Script and Cue Student Drama Troupe.

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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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AMANI BRINGS HOLIDAY MESSAGE OF PEACE TO THE WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER

Submitted by Shikha Sareen

The Watchung Arts Center is pleased to invite everyone to celebrate the rich and joyous sounds of the season with its 15th Annual Holiday Concert by Amani. The performance, on December 8, 2018 will begin at 8 p.m. and will be followed by a dessert reception with an opportunity to meet the musicians and enjoy some holiday cheer!

Amani was formed to share the concept of peace through music, performing for people of all ages, races, and religious affiliations. This concert features seasonal sounds that capture the joy and love of the holiday season. Amani, the word for peace in Swahili, performs hits from a variety of genres including The Great American Songbook, Gospel, R&B, Jazz, Bossa Nova, Broadway and a selection of holiday favorites.

The members of the group are veteran musicians led by Marty Eigen on woodwinds, vocalist Stephen Fuller, pianist Fred Fischer, guitarist Flip Peters, bassist Gene Perla, and Nick Scheuble on drums.

Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$22 (\$20 WAC members, \$10 students) at the door. Tickets may be purchased online at watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area.

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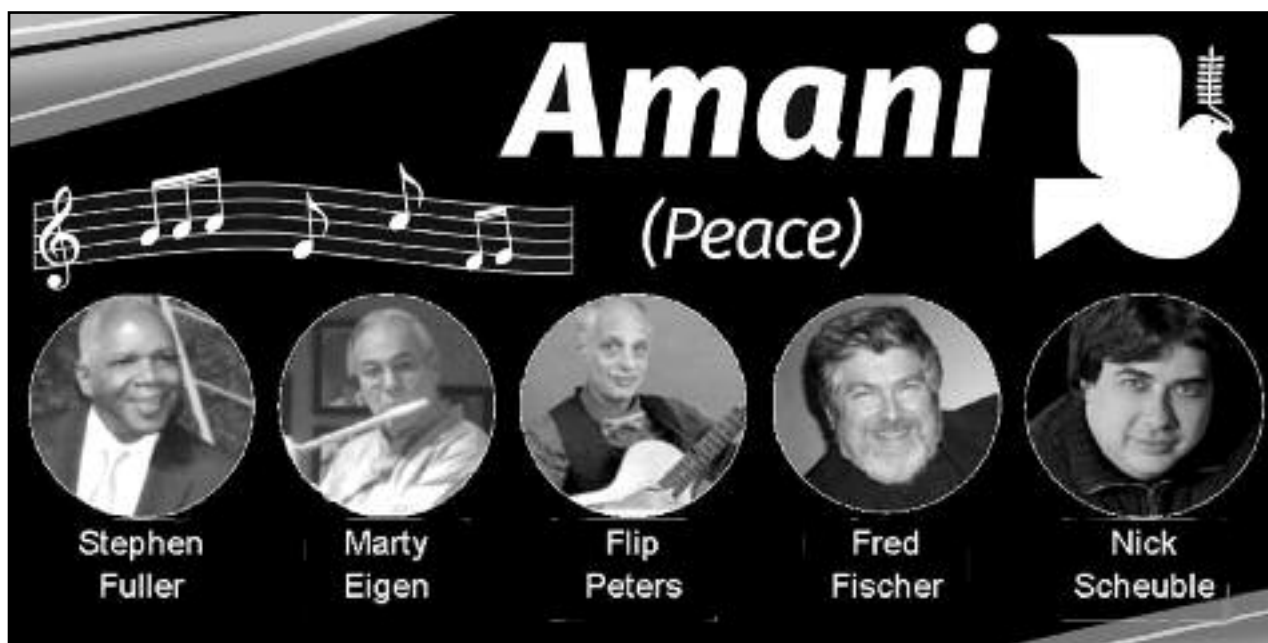
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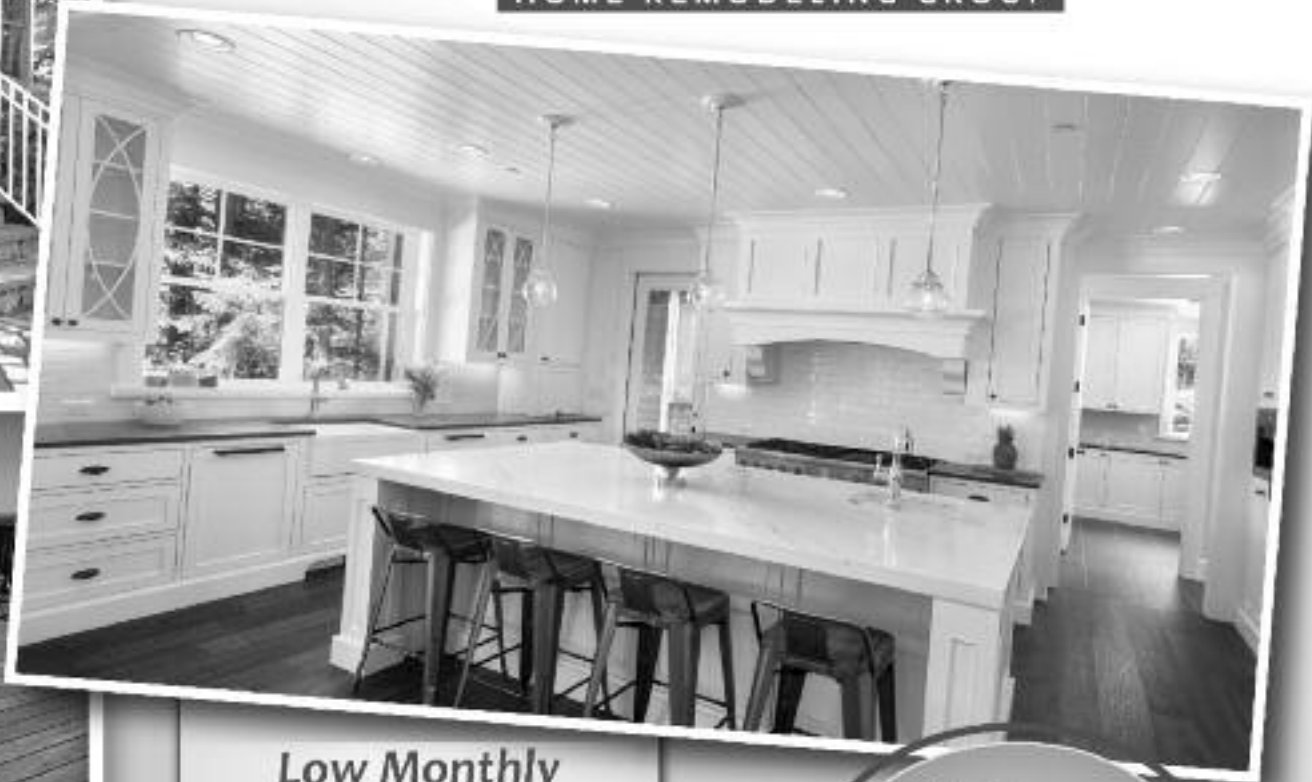


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LIBRARY SYSTEM CONTINUES TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Submitted by Tracy Carney

One of the strategic priorities resulting from the Library's ever-evolving strategic plan is to address the needs of shifting County demographics, including individuals with developmental disabilities. As a result, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) is dedicated to continuing to provide and enhance volunteer and workforce development opportunities across the System.

"Individuals with developmental disabilities are a population for whom SCLSNJ can make a real difference," said Lynn Hoffman, SCLSNJ director of operations. "The public library is for everyone, and we want to provide inclusive opportunities that allow everyone to participate in the public library community."

The Library System currently offers volunteer opportunities that allows teens and adults with developmental disabilities the transitional and

training skills necessary to join the workforce, to contribute to the community, and to learn new skills. SCLSNJ currently partners with approximately 40 developmental disabled volunteers, who have collectively donated an estimated 1,000 hours through September 2018.

"It is important that our volunteer program be welcoming and accessible," said Nicole Pascoe, SCLSNJ volunteer coordinator. "Adults and teens with developmental disabilities from throughout our community are currently making contributions and gaining experience as volunteers throughout the Library System. SCLSNJ is working to create the best possible experience for all volunteers."

Cathy DeBerry, SCLSNJ adult services supervisor at the Hillsborough branch, has worked closely with adults with developmental disabilities for over two years. In 2016, she began working with then Watchung Hills Regional High School student Brian Mahon, who volunteered at the Warren Twp. branch.

"I met Brian when he was 19-years-old and a student at Watchung Hills Regional High School," said DeBerry. "He was part of the the school's Learning and/or Language Disabilities (LLD) program, which is a program that allows students with developmental disabilities to take the mandated course requirements and participate in a variety of school-to-work transition experiences through vocational courses and off-site internship opportunities. This program helps these individuals prepare for life after high school."

As a Library volunteer, Mahon was assigned a variety of projects to work on, including: crafts for storytimes, shelving and checking in books, assisting staff in programs, and more.

"Due to the combination of the LLD program at Watchung Hills, the volunteer opportunities at the Warren Twp. branch, and the adult recreational and socialization programs at the

Library, Brian acquired the communication, organizational, and independent living skills he needed to apply and interview for a staff position at the Warren Twp. branch," said DeBerry. "I am happy to report he was hired as a SCLSNJ employee in June."

In order to help connect teens and adults with developmental disabilities to job and volunteer opportunities across the County, SCLSNJ will host a job and volunteer fair on April 6, 2019 at the Bridgewater branch. During this event, developmentally-disabled attendees will have the opportunity to apply and/or interview for volunteer and job positions throughout the Somerset County area as well as throughout the 10 branch Library System.

In April 2018, SCLSNJ hosted their first job and volunteer fair for teens and adults with developmental disabilities. Fifteen area businesses and nonprofit organizations looking for employees and volunteers participated in the event, which had an attendance of approximately 170 individuals.

To participate in the job and volunteer fair or for more information about services the Library offers to individuals with developmental disabilities contact Cathy DeBerry at cdeberry@sclibnj.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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All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library (908-458-8455) for more information and to register. The library is located at 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ.

*Please note the Library will be closed on December 24, 25, and 31.

The Library will open at noon on December 6

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(ages birth - 36 months)

December 4, 10:30-11 a.m.

Healthy Winter Snacks

(ages 7-10)

December 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Crafts for Kids

(grades K-2)

December 5, 4:30-5 p.m.

Miss June's Room

(ages 4-7)

December 6, 4-4:30 p.m.

Bingo with Miss June

(ages 4 and up)

December 7, 4-4:30 p.m.

Holiday Fairy Tale Collage

(grades Pre-K to 2)

December 11, 4-5 p.m.

Preschool Storytime - Just for You Storytime

(ages 3-5)

December 14, 10-10:30 a.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mah Jong Club of Watchung

December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18; 1-4 p.m.

The Canasta Group

December 6, 13, 20, 27; 1-3 p.m.

Watchung Writers Group

December 13, 20, 27; 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Dickens - A Christmas Carol

December 20, 6:30-8 p.m.

ALL AGE PROGRAMS

Penguin Pointers

(families)

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Gingerbread Houses

(families)

December 21, 2-3:30 p.m.



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Wednesday Eucharists at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 24-Christmas Eve

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6:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Soloists

8:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Sanctuary Choir, Bells and Instrumentalists

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John Montanna

SCRIPT AND CUE'S "CABARET NIGHT" PERFORMERS



(above) Senior Summer Stuart of Watchung sang "Toxic" by Brittany Spears at the Cabaret. The 2003 song appeared on her album "In the Zone."



(above) Senior Claire Vickery of Millington sang "IDon'tWantToBeYourMan" by Billie Eilish at the Cabaret. The 2017 song appears on the album "Don't Smile at Me."



(above) Senior Kaelin Churchill of Stirling sang "Mamma Mia" at the Cabaret. The song was a mega hit in the 1970s for the pop group, Abba, which formed in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. The 1975 song has since been used as the title song for Abba's long running Broadway musical "Mamma Mia" as well as a series of similarly named popular movies.



(above) Junior Christine Tanko of Green Brook Township sang "My Funny Valentine" by Rodgers and Hart, at the Cabaret. The song has been performed by hundreds of artists since its debut in 1937 in the musical "Babes in Arms."



(above) Freshman Jordan Pincus of Green Brook Township sang "Everything and More" from the 2013 musical "Twisted" at the Cabaret. Twisted, which opened in Chicago in 2013, is subtitled, "The Untold Story of a Royal Vizier." It is a parody of Disney's "Aladdin."



(above) Sophomores Olivia Kider, left, of Warren and Maddie Johnson of Gillette sang "Poker Face" at the Cabaret. The song is the 2008 mega hit by Lady Gaga. It appeared on the album "The Fame."



(above) Senior Kayla Martins of Warren Township and junior Jack Melillo of Stirling acted as hostess and host for the night, introducing the acts at the Cabaret.



(above) Sophomore Malvika George of Warren sang "What Baking Can Do" from the musical "Waitress," at the Cabaret.



(above) Sophomore Paul Riedler of Green Brook sang "If You Want Love" by the artist NF at the Cabaret. The 2017 Hip-Hop/Rap song was written by Nathan John Feuerstein, who is known professionally as NF. It appears on the album "Perception."



(above) Junior Kyra Anthony of Green Brook sang "When He Sees Me" from the 2015 musical "Waitress" at the Cabaret. The movie of the same title premiered in 2007.

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(above) The one performance at the Cabaret not delivered by solo and duet performers was a student band that has been tentatively named, tongue in cheek, by its members, "Band to be Named Later." The band members included, from left, junior Ben Kozakowski of Green Brook and junior Thomas Dardis of Warren on guitars; senior Will Broder of Warren on drums; Junior Sam Bouffard of Green Brook as lead singer; junior Alti Kabukcu of Warren on keyboards; and sitting in with the band on bass was J.P. Bouffard, the lead singer's dad.

SCORE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN BUSINESS

Central Jersey SCORE, a non-profit resource partner of the Small Business Administration, is looking for volunteers to assist people looking to start a business or grow an existing small business. The organization is recruiting retired or current business owners and executives who want to share their experience and knowledge with today's up-and-coming entrepreneurs. The Central Jersey Chapter of SCORE serves Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties.

Central Jersey SCORE provides in-person mentoring at a wide variety of locations and also presents seminars at local venues. In addition, the SCORE website offers tools and templates on a wide variety of topics related to organizing and managing a business and numerous online courses and webinars to assist small business

owners through every aspect of business development. Services are offered free of charge.

Anyone interested in volunteering with SCORE or seeking additional information is invited to contact SCORE at centraljersey.score.org.

SCORE- FREE BUSINESS COUNSELING

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CAJUN CRAB OPENS ON ROUTE 22

The Cajun Crab Louisiana Seafood Restaurant opened in December 2018 at 789 Route 22 West in North Plainfield. Owner Jenny Chen operated Fresh Catch Seafood Market at the location for ten years.

The restaurant features a tank with live lobsters and dungeness crabs. The menu offers both steamed and fried dishes. Diners can chose from Louisiana Cajun, Asian Garlic Sauce or Lemon Pepper flavoring and three levels of spiciness. Meals are a hands-on experience and served are with bibs and gloves.

The Cajun Crab also has take-out service and catering. Orders can be made by calling 908-822-8888 or online at CajunCrabOnline.com.



(above) Judy Chen presents a combo dish of Snow Crab Legs, Clams, Shrimp, Crawfish and Mussels, Sausage, Corn and Potatos served in a steam bag.

IMAGINE RECEIVES GRANT TO EXPAND CHILD BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

"We are so grateful to The Merck Foundation for their generous grant of \$25,000 for the expansion of our bereavement support programs at our new center in Mountainside," said Stuart Arnold, Imagine Board Chair. "With Merck's commitment to healthcare and the community it's a perfect match. The Merck Foundation has been a generous supporter of Imagine for many years and we are so grateful."

Childhood bereavement is a serious public health issue. The death of a parent or other important person in a child's life has been noted to be one of the most commonly reported and disruptive Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs.) There are currently over 109,000 NJ youth age 0-18 who are bereaved due to the death of a parent. Imagine is currently serving 285 of those children, from 55 NJ towns every two weeks at our center.

"Imagine helps make a difference in the lives

of grieving children and families in the communities around our sites," said Paula Alston, Executive Director of Merck's NA Research Facilities. "We are proud to partner with Imagine through our Merck Foundation Neighbor of Choice grant program this year, and we are pleased to be able to help Imagine grow and succeed in their mission."

Imagine offers free year-round grief support groups for children age 3-18 who have had a parent or brother or sister die, and for families coping with a family member with a terminal or chronic illness. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians, and young adults 18-30. Support groups meet on weekday nights for an hour and a half. Dinner is provided prior to the group meeting. To schedule an orientation for yourself or your family or for more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.

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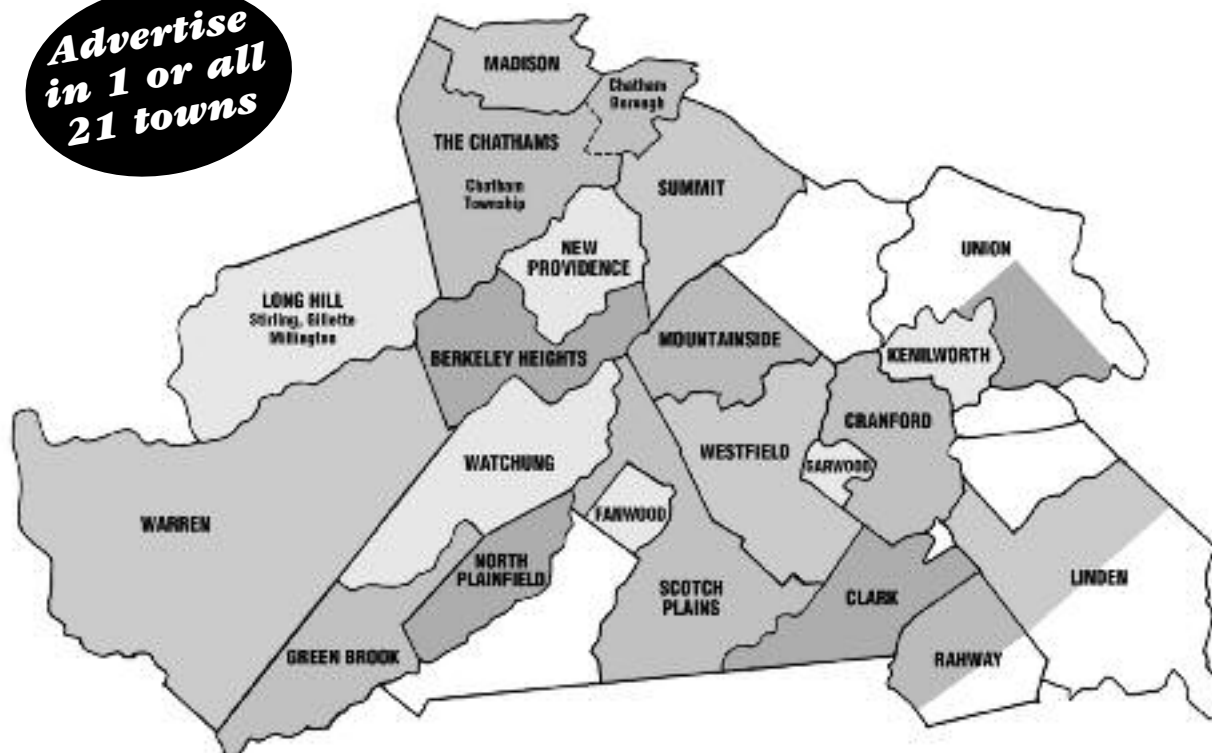
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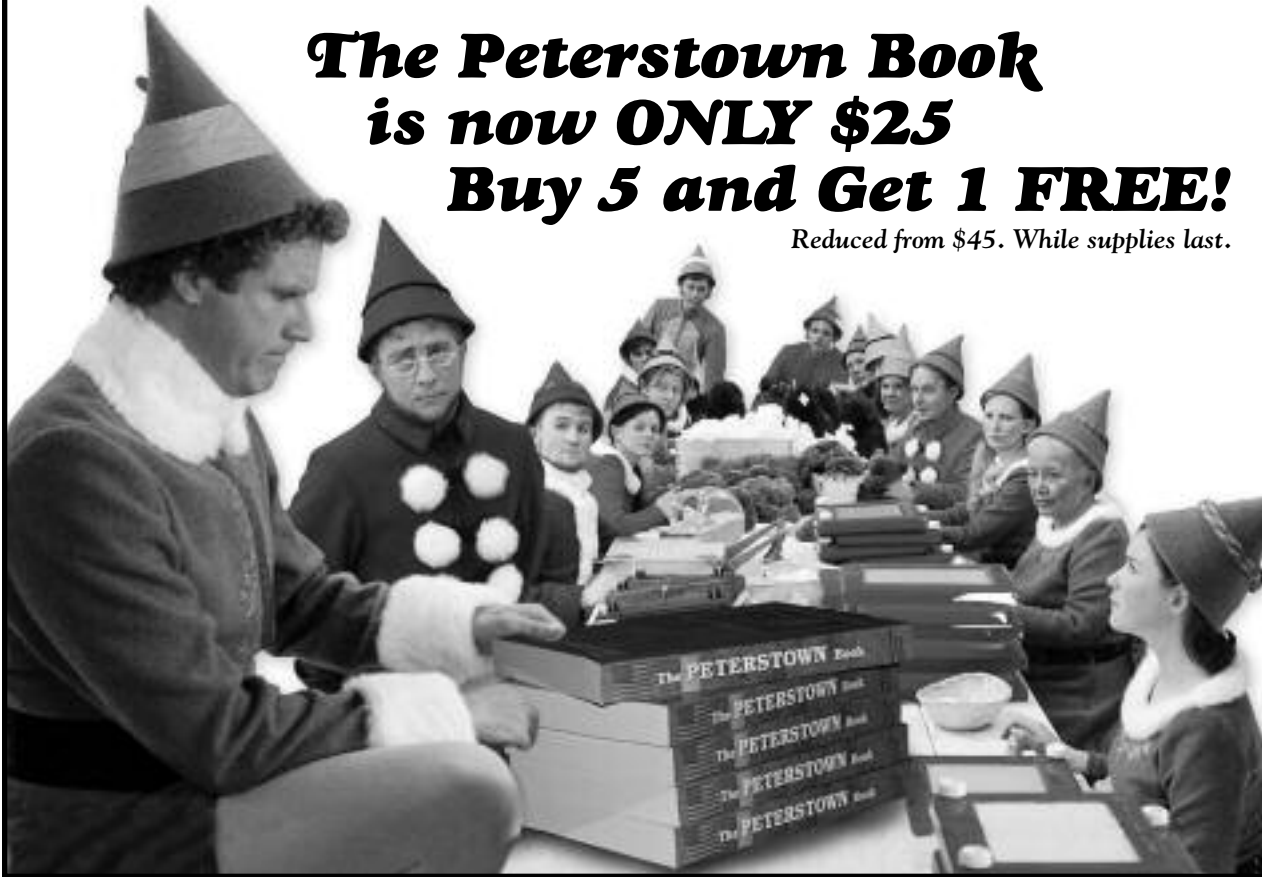
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PARK COMMISSION SEEKS 2019 JUNIOR RANGERS

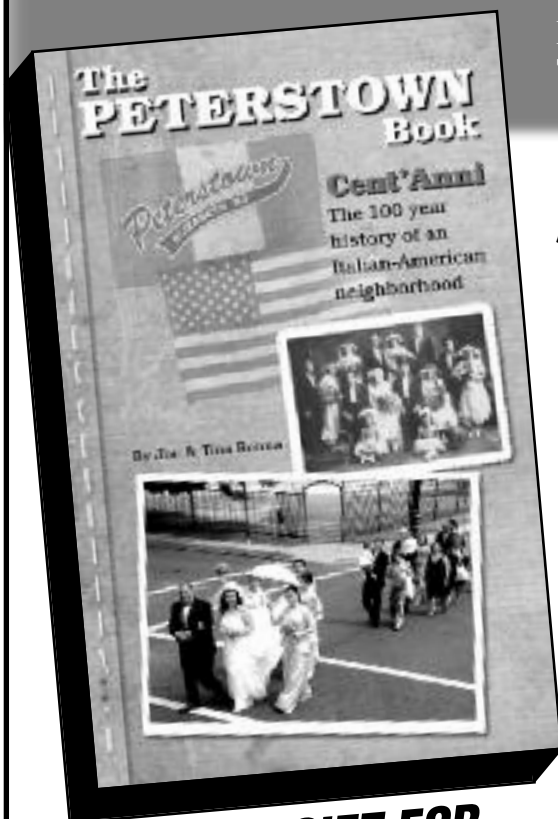
The Somerset County Parks Commission Park Rangers are seeking young people ages 6-12 to participate in the Junior Ranger Program. Children who enjoy hiking, discovering wildlife, and are interested in learning more about the environment and its inhabitants are perfect Junior Ranger candidates. Junior Ranger Plans for 2019 include a 2-part series on tree life, the lives of fireflies, bats, spiders and more. The program offers an opportunity for children to connect with Park Rangers and other young people who share their interest.

Further information will be available on the Somerset County Park Ranger Facebook page at facebook.com/SCPCRangers, or by phone at 908-722-1200 ext. 5121.

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