



## Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS NJ

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## JIM RHATICAN IS HONOREE AT 2019 DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT

On January 1, 2019 Berkeley Heights resident Jim Rhatican served as a float rider honoree at the 2019 Donate Life Rose Parade Float held in Pasadena, CA. He joined approximately 70 honorees who have been touched by organ, eye and tissue donations, they rode or walked beside the float.

Jim is a liver recipient who flew to Pasadena on the day of his 10th transplant anniversary. The Donate Life Rose Parade Float serves as a memorial to organ and tissue donors and a platform for donor families, living donors and transplant recipients to inspire the world to save and heal those in need through the gift of life.

Jim was sponsored by the NJ Sharing Network, located in New Providence, NJ. The NJ Sharing Network annually sponsors about 2-3 families to participate on the Donate Life Rose Parade Float, and they hold send-off events to honor them. On Monday, November 26, 2018 they held an event to honor Jim at their office.

A retired teacher, Jim got involved with NJ Sharing Network's High School Program and has spoken to hundreds of students about the importance of organ and tissue donation. He has also told his story at health fairs and to doctors, nurses and other hospital staff throughout New

Jersey. His 5K Celebration of Life team, The Rhat Pack, has participated in the annual event since 2012. Jim says that he is continuously moved by students, teachers and parents who tell him their stories and thank him for his communications efforts.

About the NJ Sharing Network

NJ Sharing Network is the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for those in need of a life-saving transplant. Nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents are currently awaiting transplantation. We are also part of the national recovery system, which is in place for the 115,000 people on the national waiting list.

We operate 24/7/365 with a team of over 150 highly trained and dedicated members on staff. Our Governing and Foundation Boards are made up of a diverse group of individuals from both public and private sectors, across a variety of disciplines, and many of whom have been touched by donation including donor families and recipients. They bring great experience and insight to the important and life-saving work that we do.

For more information  
visit [njsharingnetwork.org](http://njsharingnetwork.org).



(above) Jim Rhatican send off event.

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## THE SUMMIT OLD GUARD CELEBRATES 4000TH WEEKLY MEETING

On December 4, 2018 The Summit Old Guard celebrated their 4000th weekly meeting in a room filled to capacity with over 140 in attendance including Summit Mayor Nora Radest, and New Providence Mayor Al Morgan.

The Summit Old Guard has managed to maintain their vibrancy through the years. There were 6 fraternal organizations in New Jersey including Summit, Westfield, Elizabeth, Plainfield, Ramsey, Nutley, Toms River, and ten out of state chapters. Their members consist of retired men who join together to share common bonds, information and companionship through weekly meetings and many various activities which over the years included: Chess, Bridge, Bocci Ball, Fishing, Canoeing, Mathamatics, Computer Technology, and most recently Walking. The organization has also taken many trips together to New York City Museums, Broadway Shows, and to historic sites in Philladelphia, West Point, and Trenton. They cruised to Bermuda and New England seaports and held annual events including picnics and "Ladies Day".

The Summit group draws its members regionally. It was founded in 1930 and used to meet at the Summit YMCA, however when the 3-story walk up became an issue for members meetings were moved to the council room of the New Providence Municipal Center. Members have varied professional backgrounds, however, many have engineering backgrounds drawing from the pharmaceutical, petrochemical, and telecommunications industries. Merk, Exxon, and Bell Labs are a few of the major employers in the area.

A program was presented which reviewed the history of the organization, and celebrated their many successes as a vibrant fraternal organization. Membership stands at 284, with 2 new members being inducted that day. It was noted that the Internet is a challenge to membership, as it makes it easy to stay home. However, caring about learning, and meeting people with varied backgrounds, and interests will help the club face the challenges of the

Internet and keep it vibrant into the future. Members are encouraged to invite retired friends to attend a meeting.

Joking that their 100th anniversary would be in 12 years "I don't think many of us will be around at that time." a slide show of the past 88 years was presented and members were encouraged to call out names of those remembered, lots of memories and chuckles ensued.

Twenty-year members were presented with pins, and many former Directors who were in attendance shared a few words about their experiences. Some that couldn't attend sent notes to be shared with the group. All comments and notes had a common theme, the organization had a profound effect on members' lives, and all were grateful for the experiences and friendships. Art Bauer, a former Director stated in part "Congratulations on your 4000 gifts to Summit area members. Keep it up!"

If you are a retired male and have an interest in living an interesting life with like-minded men... new members are always welcomed. Put on your business casual attire or jacket & tie (or something more casual from May to September) and attend a meeting.

Meetings are held each Tuesday in the council meeting room of the New Providence Municipal Center at 360 Elkwood Ave, New Providence, NJ, starting at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and conversation, followed by programs consisting of stimulating talks by people such as past governors, mayors, politicians, Nobel Prize winners, physicians, judges, professors, scientists, economists, authors, journalists, etc.

After the meetings, many members join together to have lunch at various local restaurants.

In addition to the weekly meetings, there are activity groups for golf, bridge, hiking, trips, computer help, tennis, and more.

For more information, contact James Hewitt, Chairman, Membership Committee, (908) 233-5507, [info@SummitOldGuard.org](mailto:info@SummitOldGuard.org). You can also visit [summitoldguard.org](http://summitoldguard.org).

### JANUARY PROGRAMS

Jan. 8 "Nice Presidents Finish Last" - Dr. Dan Cassino, Professor of Political Science, Fairleigh Dickinson University and author. Too often, the most successful presidents aren't those that we'd want to bring home to meet the family. Various presidents will be discussed to see what we really should be looking for in a president.

### JAN. 15 "SAME BED -- DIFERENT DREMS: IS THERE ANYTHING TO LEARN FROM THE CANADIAN MODEL"

Dr. Michael Hawes, CEO Fulbright Canada and professor at Queens University. He will speak about publicly funded health care, immigration experience, and publicly funded education.

### JAN. 22 "IOWA CLASS BATTLESHIPS: THEIR HISTORY AND INNER WORKINGS FROM A US NAVY VETERAN"

Keith Nitka, US Navy veteran and volunteer aboard battleship USS New Jersey, will describe the Iowa class Battleships as a whole, providing interesting facts on each of the six types.

### JAN. 29 "GREAT POWER SHIFTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES"

Dr. Doug Simon, Professor Emeritus, Drew University, will discuss major power shifts occurring in the international system. China's challenge to American Global preeminence, the rise of Eurasia, Russia's efforts to reestablish its sphere of influence and the rise of hyper-nationalism threaten the post-WWII international order and pose major world dangers.



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## PROJECT GRADUATION

Project Graduation 2018 was held at the Woodbridge Community Center in Woodbridge on June 19th, the evening of Governor Livingston's graduation. Graduates attended the all-night event, which was filled with fun, food, and entertainment.

The Project Graduation Committee of the Governor Livingston High School PTO raises 75% of the cost for the event through fundraisers and donations. The other 25% is funded through a minimal admission fee. Project Graduation would like to thank the following businesses for making the evening possible through their generous contributions.

### BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS TO PROJECT GRADUATION 2018

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In addition, the committee would like to thank the following organizations for their support: Borough of Mountainside, the Municipal Alliances of Berkeley Heights and Mountainside, the Berkeley Heights Education Association (BHEA), the Berkeley Heights Rotary Club, the Mountainside PAL, the Mountainside Rotary Club, the Mountainside VFW Post 10136, and the Mountainside Foothill Club.

Fundraising for Project Graduation 2019 will kick off in January. If you are interested in making a donation, please email Project Graduation at [glprojectgraduation@gmail.com](mailto:glprojectgraduation@gmail.com).

## BHEF AWARDS \$28,000 IN GRANTS ACROSS ALL SIX BERKELEY HEIGHTS SCHOOLS

Submitted by Kathy Matfes

The Berkeley Heights Education Foundation (Ed Foundation) announced the funding of 16 grants awarded across all six Berkeley Heights Public schools. With a focus on science, technology and mindfulness, the BHEF awarded just over \$28,000 in grants for the 2018-2019 school year. For a full list of grants awarded this year, please see "How We Help" on our website [bhedfoundation.org](http://bhedfoundation.org).

Highlights of awarded grants include: Google Expedition virtual reality headset kits and performances of "Anytown" spotlighting the opioid abuse and its impacts on teens and families at Governor Livingston and Columbia, a virtual foreign language immersion program at Columbia, numerous coding robots, a variety of science and math programs, as well as mindfulness initiatives at Mary Kay McMillin, Hughes, Woodruff, and Mountain

Park schools,

In addition, The Ed Foundation is again funding the Reptile program for all first-grade students at Mary Kay McMillin School, and the Student Education and Experience Disability Sensitivity (SEEDS) program for students in fourth grade at the three elementary schools.

The Ed Foundation is a nonprofit, volunteer fundraising organization that, for more than 20 years, has helped provide innovative hands-on educational programs and cutting edge technology to students across all six schools in Berkeley Heights. We are a complimentary organization to the individual school PTOs, working to enhance the educational experience for all of our children.

To learn more about the Ed Foundation, how you can get involved, and how to donate to our organization, please visit [bhedfoundation.org](http://bhedfoundation.org).

### Berkeley Heights PBA Local 144 Presents



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Magnet High School PSA in partnership with Union County Technical High School PSO will be hosting a Tricky Tray on Friday, February 8, 2019 at the UCTech Cafeteria located at 1776 Raritan Rd. Scotch Plains, NJ. Doors open 6:00 p.m. and raffle calling begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door and can be purchased by mailing check payment made

out to Magnet PSA PG2020 to the address above. This event will benefit the MHS and UCTech Class of 2020's Project Graduation events. PG is an overnight, supervised alcohol-free evening of events held on the night of senior graduation to prevent drinking and driving.

For additional information please email [muclassof2020@gmail.com](mailto:muclassof2020@gmail.com).

## FREE FILM CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As a kick-off to Black History Month, The League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit and the American Association of University Women- Summit College Club, will be sponsoring the film Hidden Figures on January 27, 2019.

The film will be shown at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ. The program runs from 1:30-4:00 p.m. Following the film will be a discussion led by Heddy Tukey (SCC) and Jean Crichton (LWV). Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

For more information call Sharon Davis - 908-898-0565.

Hidden Figures is a film about three brilliant African-American women at NASA -- Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), who serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn (Glen Powell) into orbit. This was a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world.

## DOROTHY DAW POWERS

Long-time resident of Berkeley Heights



(above) Dorothy on her 99th birthday.

Dorothy Daw Powers was born in Grafton, Massachusetts February 26, 1919. She grew up in Grafton, graduating from Grafton High in 1936 returning for her 50th and 55th reunions. She graduated from Pembroke College of Brown University with a Bachelor of Science and RN degree, Class of 1940. She married the late W. Robert Powers on October 17, 1942. In 1945 she moved to Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. She was active in the Stoney Hill Players where she was an early member and, along with her husband, active in its development. She worked as a school nurse in Berkeley Heights, NJ for many years before working for the State of New Jersey evaluating nursing home compliance for Medicaid. In 1987 she moved to Venice Florida and was a resident of that state until she died on November 24, 2018 in Fort Myers FL. She had three surviving sons, William (Janet), Thomas (Nancy), and John (Betzi), ten grandchildren, and twenty-one great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Gertrude Daw and Marjorie (Joseph) Morrissey, and brother, Harry Daw, and survived by her half-brother David Daw.

## SENIORS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY

The Berkeley Heights Seniors are sponsoring a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Monday, January 15, 2019. The bus leaves the parking lot of the Church of the Little Flower on Roosevelt Avenue at 8:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 which includes bus transportation, a \$25 coupon for slot play, and a \$10 food voucher. For further information and reservations, call Ramona at 908-647-3295.

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- How to pay for college in a failing economy without relying on 529 plans, expensive private student loans or raiding your retirement accounts
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*Lynn McKenna, Parent of High School Senior*

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*Barbara Eames, Parent of High School Sophomore*

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*Sara Pogue, Parent of High School Junior*

"Demystified the college funding process"

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### CHILDREN'S STORY TIMES AND PROGRAMS:

#### The Good Tymes String Band

Tuesday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m.  
for children of all ages

#### Paper Plate Story Time:

Story and craft with Katie Mazzaferro  
Tuesday, January 15 at 9:30 a.m.  
for ages 3 – 5 years

#### Children's music program

Tuesday, January 22 at 10:30 a.m.

#### Mirabel & the Magical Music Shop

Tuesday, January 29 at 10:30 a.m.  
Jennifer Stone, author of children's book  
Mirabel & the Magical Musical Shop  
will visit the library.

#### Baby Time

Thursdays, January 3, 17, 24, 31  
at 9:30 a.m.  
for ages 0 - 24 months

#### My Gym

Thursday, January 10  
from 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.  
fitness & fun for ages 0-3

### ADULT PROGRAMS:

#### Morning Book Group

Friday, January 4 at 10:30 a.m.  
will discuss The Chilbury Ladies' Choir  
by Jennifer Ryan.

#### Evening Book Group

Tuesday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m.  
will discuss possible books to read in 2019.  
New members are welcome; please stop by or  
call the Reference Desk (908-464-9333,  
extension 150) if you are interested in joining.

#### Italian Conversation Group

Wednesday, January 2 at 7:00 p.m.  
Informal Italian conversation group led by a  
fluent Italian speaker for teens and adults.  
Beginners welcome!

## OPERATION REBOUND SEEKS VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS TO JOIN THEIR TEAM

Submitted by Michael Boll

I am a recently retired Township of Union Police Department sergeant. I decided to become a police officer after serving four years in the United States Marine Corps; I felt obligated to give back to my town. A few years ago, I began competing in running, triathlons, and other endurance races. Every time, I would finish after the average racer. I was happy with my accomplishments but wanted to do something more rewarding. I found inspiration in Dick Hoyt and his son Rick, who compete in various ultra-distance triathlons.

Rick has cerebral palsy and Dick must pull him in a raft for the swim, push him via an adapted tandem bike for the ride, and they run via a specialized wheelchair. They have been role models to countless numbers of people. I decided that one way I could give back to my community was to assist disabled veterans and first responders to compete in races.

After doing some research, I was able to contact a few colleagues and connected with the Challenged Athlete's Foundation and their Operation Rebound Racing Team (ORRT). ORRT is a non-profit organization that strengthens the mental and physical well-being of veterans, military personnel, and first responders with permanent physical injuries by providing them opportunities to use sports and fitness to reintegrate into our communities and empower them through sports.

Every day approximately 22 veterans commit suicide, and over 300 first responders commit suicide each year. This team seeks out veterans and first responders in crisis, and will do whatever they can to help with this awful epidemic. I started the OR-NJ Team to empower and give purpose to our state's combat veterans and first responders who live with the challenges related to physical injury and mental health issues, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). My goal is to get them to be part of the team so that they can participate and compete in various athletic events. We are one of the only charities that aggressively seek out veterans and first responders in need and give them a mentor

for help. Our mobile outreach approach is responsible for saving lives and helping countless people cope with their situations with PTSD.

OR-NJ team was started over 3 years ago and we already have over 800 team members. All athletes who oversee the organization and participation in events are volunteers. We have created an emotional support system for every athlete and work with partners Team Red, White & Blue Central NJ ([teamrwb.org](http://teamrwb.org)) to constantly provide support for our teams. Our growing network has been able to assist our athletes with mentors, trainers, sports equipment, resume writing, jobs, housing, psychiatric care, and other things that benefit our athletes' well-being.

Our main objective is to help our athletes develop physical and mental fitness to assist them with their future achievements. Despite their challenges, several members of OR-NJ are highly competitive, elite level athletes in their sport, competing to qualify for the Paralympics, national, and world competitions. As of this writing, our OR athletes completed over 20 sanctioned races, hosted numerous training events, and social gatherings.

The racing team empowers our athletes and gives them the overwhelming support required to participate in athletic events. All of our athletes' expenses are financially covered. This is possible because of our highly dedicated support staff and the financial backing of the VFW, American Legion, NJ PBA, NJ FMBA, NJ PAPA, NJ FOP, and the IAPSNJ. We are working with the Somerset Patriots, NY Jets, NY Giants, NJ Devils, Rutgers University Wrestling, and other sports teams to help motivate our athletes to succeed and conquer their goals.

The team is always looking for members to join and attend our athletic events and hikes. Also, we are in need of athlete mentors and volunteers for our upcoming events. If you want to join or volunteer, please feel free to contact me at [Mdbollio@optonline.net](mailto:Mdbollio@optonline.net) or call 973-332-1556. Since all of our money goes to our athletes, we ask anyone willing to donate to please contact us first. This way we can have you donate directly to an athlete or an event. Frontline to finish line!



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## OPERATION REBOUND RACING TEAM



(above) The operation Rebound Racing Team road 25 miles before the Union Memorial Parade and then marched with the veterans.



(above) The Operation Rebound Racing Team completed a 22-hour suicide awareness ruck march during a VFW state convention.



(above) Racing Team's first annual hiking and camping trip at Watchung Reservation.

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## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMIT THRIFT SHOP AND GIVING TUESDAY SUCCESS

### WOMAN'S CLUB OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS TO MEET JAN 5TH

Residents of Berkeley Heights and surrounding communities are invited to attend our meeting on January 15, 2019 at the Berkeley Heights YMCA, 550 Springfield Ave., Berkeley Heights. We meet at 12:15 p.m. for light refreshments, a business meeting, and a speaker. Carol Simon Levin will present her program "Nobody Owns the Sky: Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Female Aviators". If you have any questions call Carol at 908-464-2651.

One of the organizations we help is St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth NJ which provides food and services for the working poor and the homeless. In October club members donated over 500 treat bags filled with candy for their Halloween Party for the children. In December our members donated 50 toys for the annual toy sale at St. Joseph's.

In February we will be writing thank you cards to the Veteran's at Lyons Hospital in Basking Ridge for their service to our country. We are collecting white athletic socks for men and women to give to the Veteran's.

The Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop is thrilled to announce the enormous success of its annual Holiday Boutique. This year was the best year to date, bringing in over \$41,000 in sales, which will be reinvested back into the community through the Junior League's scholarships and grants programs.

"The JLS had record breaking Holiday Boutique sales this year, and it couldn't have happened without the generous donations from not only our membership but the community as well. The record sales we generated will enable the JLS to continue to have a greater impact on the community through projects and grants," says Thrift Shop Chair Stephanie Giblin.

In addition to the Holiday Boutique, the Junior League also received over \$5,000 in donations on Giving Tuesday, another historical record-breaker! Giving Tuesday (#GivingTuesday) took

place on November 27 and is a global giving movement, which focuses on giving back within your community.

This success would not be possible without the Junior League's loyal thrift shop customers, supporters and donors within the community.

*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.*

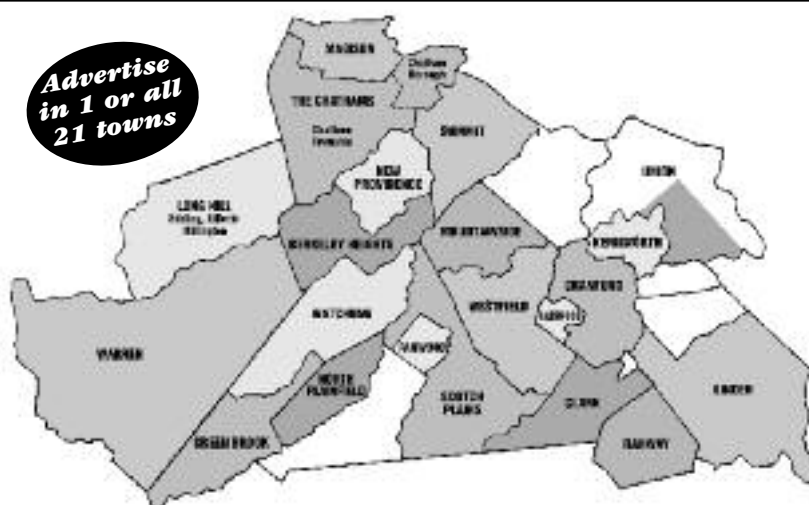
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# COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED TO HOLD OPEN AUDITIONS FOR "HAIRSPRAY, JR." IN JANUARY

Holy moly, welcome to the '60s! The CAU Community Players, an integrated theater troupe that brings together performers with and without developmental disabilities, is holding open auditions for an upcoming production of "Hairspray, Jr." Auditions will be held January 22, 24 and 26, 2019.

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), a Union County-based human services agency, created the troupe in 2012 to create a space for people of all ages and abilities to perform and demonstrate their unique talents. The productions also allow individuals from the greater community to interact with people with disabilities and further the agency's mission of community integration. CAU strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through housing, vocational and life-skills training, education, advocacy, recreation and more.

The CAU Community Players stage a three-day production that draws hundreds of attendees each year. This year, the troupe chose "Hairspray, Jr," the Tony Award-winning musical about one girl's inspiring dream to dance and change the world, for its themes of overcoming adversity to achieve integration and equality.

Spunky, plus-size teen Tracy Turnblad has one big dream – to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show." She finally gets her shot and is transformed from social outcast to sudden star. Balancing her newfound power with her desire for justice, Tracy fights to dethrone the reigning

Miss Teen Hairspray and integrate a TV network in the process. With the help of her outsized mom, Edna, and guest DJ, Motormouth Maybelle, the rhythm of Tracy's new beat proves unstoppable.

The CAU Community Players select a play that is representative of the agency's message of inclusion, acceptance and believing in oneself, as well as everyone's worth regardless of their circumstances, according to troupe director Marguerite Modero.

"The message of this play is really important to me – embracing who you are and celebrating uniqueness," Modero said. "The subplot about the racial discrimination that took place in the '60s also fits our cause. Tracy and her mom also know what it's like to be discriminated against due to their size. People with disabilities often are discriminated against, so this message resonates with our members and their families."

Auditions are open to people of all ages and abilities. No registration or acting experience is required.

For more information about the CAU Community Players visit [caunj.org](http://caunj.org) and click on Recreation/CAU Community Players.

Audition schedule:

Tuesday, Jan. 22 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 24 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., with call backs 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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