

# Summit NJ Times

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## **BOY SCOUT PROGRAM FOR GIRLS AGES 11-17 COMING TO CHATHAM, MADISON & SUMMIT**

*Submitted by Alexander Thomas, Boy Scouts of America*

In February 2019, the first Scouts BSA girl troop for Chatham, Madison and Summit will begin meeting. Scouts BSA Troop 280 will be girl-only, for young women ages 11-17 to have the same great program that Boy Scouts have had for years.

Scouts BSA Troop 280 will be chartered to Stanley Congregational Church in Chatham Borough. It will meet weekly on Wednesdays and have an outdoor activity monthly (such as camping, hiking, canoeing, shooting, climbing, etc.). As the Troop grows, the meeting day may adjust accordingly. An Open House will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 23rd at 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Stanley Church, 94 Fairmount Avenue, Chatham Borough, for all girls age 11-17 with potential interest in joining.

Incoming Scoutmaster Daniele Basralian will provide guidance to the Scouts BSA but Troop 280 will be a girl-run troop. One of the key features of the Scouts BSA program is

the interaction between older and younger Scouts BSA. The older Scouts BSA get leadership experience at weekly meetings and during activities. The younger Scouts BSA get the experience of being led by older youth who accept them as equal members in the troop and as friends.

Along with outdoor activities, Scouts BSA Troop 280 will prepare its members for life by learning skills while earning merit badges, interacting with their Scoutmaster and other adult leaders, learning about their role as citizens, public speaking experience at troop meetings, and service projects that teach them to help others.

For information about Scouts BSA Troop 280, contact Scoutmaster Daniele Basralian, troop280chatham@gmail.com.

For information about Scouts BSA in other towns, contact Patriots' Path Council, BSA, Senior District Executive Al Thomas, al.thomas@scouting.org.

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*(above) Future Scouts BSA attended a training weekend in October, 2018.*

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## WHAT ARE CATSS DOING IN THE LIBRARY?

*Submitted by Judith Knott*

Do we allow CATSS to roam in the library? If you're a teen in Summit, then chances are you already know the answer—it's yes, the more the merrier! No, we're not running an animal shelter and we don't have a resident kitty roaming the bookshelves—C.A.T.S.S. stands for Cool, Awesome Teen Students of Summit, and it's an afterschool program open to middle and high school students in Summit's public and private schools.

Since its founding in 2001 by Pat Obst, the former head of the Childrens Department at the library, and sponsored by the Summit Municipal Alliance (now known as Shaping Summit Together), C.A.T.S.S. has grown in both popularity and participation. Part of the reason behind that growth can be attributed to the woman who has been running CATSS for the last 10 months—Teen Services Librarian Jenna Ingham, or Miss Jenna as the kids call her. Jenna brings her infectious enthusiasm, creative spirit, and a youthful perspective to teen programming—something that has been put to good use since coming to the Summit Free Public Library, honing her skills working with teens in her previous role as a Youth Services Library Assistant at Caldwell Public Library. Most days, Jenna can be found in the Teen Room engaging with the students as they play games, make crafts, watch anime, and eat snacks in a relaxed and inviting environment. Jenna typically runs a 'Teen Think Tank' on Thursday nights at 7:00pm—it's an opportunity for teens to brainstorm ideas for new programs, talk about books, or just chat with Jenna and other students about, well, ANYTHING. Jenna's opinion is that the library should be a home away from home for everyone, and part of making that a reality for teens is giving them a voice and a sense of ownership in the programming. And it's paid off—as new program ideas and a sense of community have developed in the time since Jenna has taken the reins of C.A.T.S.S.

What's Jenna's secret? Ask Jenna and she'll emphasize relationship building, achieved in part through her visits to Lawton C. Johnson Middle School—hanging out in the library or having

lunch in the cafeteria with the students. Her connection with the students shows in some of the creative programming she has successfully launched at the library, including an Escape Room; an "after-hours" Open-Mic Night; some fabulous and yummy food programs, such as 'cake in a mug,' cupcake decorating, Oreo®-stuffed strawberries, and Nutella®/Nilla Wafer® sandwich cookies. Most recently, Jenna organized a "lock-in" Fort Night that allowed the teens to build blanket forts and play board and card games after hours on December 28th, during the teens Winter Break. With so many activities, it's no wonder that the Summit Free Public Library has become the purr-fect place for teens to kick back, relax, and spend time after school unwinding.

C.A.T.S.S. meets every day after school from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Teens interested in participating in C.A.T.S.S. are always welcome to drop in. For more information on C.A.T.S.S. or any of the Summit Free Public Library's programs for teens, kids, and adults, call the library at 908-273-0350 or visit them online at [www.summitlibrary.org](http://www.summitlibrary.org). You can also find them on Facebook!



(above) Jenna Ingham, Teen Services Librarian at the Summit Free Public Library, runs the popular C.A.T.S.S. Afterschool Teen Program.

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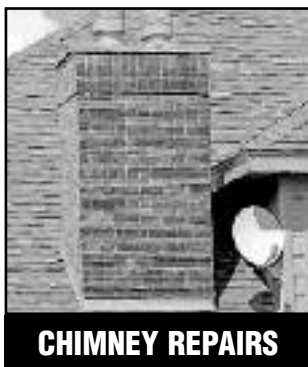




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# OBITUARY

## DORIS VERNA ATWOOD



Doris Verna Atwood, 91, of Narragansett, Rhode Island, passed away in the early morning hours of Sunday, December 2, 2018.

Verna, as she was known, was born on July 13, 1927, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, the eldest child of Owen Aldridge James and Doris Baum James, who had emigrated there from England after WWI. The family—which eventually included Verna's beloved brother Owen, known as "Odie"—then relocated to Rhode Island and later to Massachusetts, where they settled for good. Verna graduated from North Attleboro High School and married John Osmyn Atwood, an MIT graduate and U.S. Navy Ensign. The couple moved to Queens, New York, where Verna gave birth to Judith, then moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where their other two children, John and James, were born. Ultimately the family landed in Summit, New Jersey, where Verna devoted herself to raising her kids, working as a bank bookkeeper, and assisting the ministry at Calvary Episcopal Church.

Throughout, Verna and her family maintained a strong connection to New England, building a summer home on Great Island in Narragansett in the 1960s, which after their children left home became the full-time residence for Verna and her husband John (who died in 1997). There, Verna maintained a busy social life—she was active with both St. Peter's By the Sea and the Order of Julian of Norwich—but as much as anything she enjoyed the natural world, especially the flowers and birds that grew and flew in abundance around her waterfront home. And even in her declining years, her sly wit and the proper British sensibilities of her upbringing seldom failed her, making her delightful company in nearly every circumstance.

Verna leaves behind not a family in grief but one that is grateful for the long life that she was blessed to lead and the myriad ways she bestowed her love on those she cared for: Judith, her husband George, and their children Melissa and William, along with Melissa's children, Wilson, Cita, and Kai; John, his wife Audrey, and their twin sons, Dashiell and Osmyn; and James, his wife Kathy, and their children, Samuel, Ethan, and Lucy. Verna's nephews, Joseph, Scott, and Christopher, were also dear to her, and she to them.

Gratefully, the family thanks true friends Margaret Reily and Timothy Stone for their devotion to Verna through the years.

According to her wishes, Verna's ashes will be scattered off Point Judith lighthouse in a private ceremony. A service for friends and family was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, December 21, at St. Peter's By the Sea in Narragansett. In lieu of sending flowers, the family encourages Verna's many friends to plant some in her memory.

For guest book and condolences visit [averystortifuneralhome.com](http://averystortifuneralhome.com).

# CONCERT BENEFITS KEYS 2 SUCCESS

Submitted by Sujatha Shan

On December 1, 2018, The Sustainers of the Junior League of Summit presented a benefit concert for Keys 2 Success (K2S) at Christ Church in Summit. The performance of Rachmaninoff Variations on a Theme of Corelli, Op. 42 by pianist and K2S founder Jee-Hoon Krska featured The Keys 2 Success Piano Ensemble. The benefit was attended by members and sustainers of the Junior League, families whose children K2S serves, and other supporters of K2S.

Attendees echoed Tara Charvat, President Elect of the Junior League of Summit's, sentiment: "Really loved being part of tonight. The work you are doing is special!"

Keys 2 Success is a not-for-profit organization that provides music education to children in public elementary school and project housing in Newark, New Jersey. K2S is the first children's music program to target the lowest socioeconomic group in Newark, for whom the effects of generations of poverty include lack of access to cultural institutions and social networks that are readily available to children in more privileged communities. K2S seeks to close this gap.

Keys was founded in 2016 by Jee-Hoon Krska of New Providence, a Julliard-trained classical pianist, MIT-educated engineer, wife and mother of three who wanted to provide these children

with the same opportunities available to her and our children. She believes that music education is a vehicle for kids to tap into their inherent capabilities and develop the discipline, strategies and confidence to thrive not just in music but in academics, social situations and the world, enhancing their lives and the communities in which those lives are lived. Modeled on the El Sistema program, Keys provides individualized training on the piano, coupled with percussion work to strengthen rhythmic skills, and ensemble work to enhance collaborative ability and peer learning skills.

Through its faculty and volunteers, K2S teaches piano every day during school hours at a public elementary school and out of school year-round at a public housing project. Starting with Pre-K, students receive lessons multiple days a week. The diverse community of adults, young adults and teenagers drawn from the surrounding communities forms a robust network of coaches and mentors for each student.

Since its launch in 2016 with 12 students, K2S has expanded and now teaches 76 children in school and over 100 in the summer program. The program instills discipline, leadership and other life skills, providing pathways to full, productive lives.

To learn more about the program, the people, volunteering or donating visit [Keys2Success.org](http://Keys2Success.org) online at [keysnewark.com](http://keysnewark.com).



(above) Students from the Keys 2 Success music education program at the benefit concert at Christ Church in Summit.

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### FREE FILM SHOWING TO CELEBRATE 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.

Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) is excited to announce Summit resident Alicia Broughel as the Grand Prize winner of the Shop Summit Passport program! Alicia won a \$500 Summit Gift Card to spend at over 100 participating Summit businesses. She was excited to spend it doing some Christmas shopping! 10 other lucky individuals also each won \$100 Summit Gift Cards.

The Shop Summit Passport program ran from Small Business Saturday through Celebrate in Summit on Friday, Nov. 30. Entrants had to visit 8 different downtown Summit businesses to have their passports stamped. The winners were drawn during "Celebrate in Summit."

Summit Downtown, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the on-going development and promotion of the business community in downtown Summit, NJ.



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# SUMMIT EMS: STILL MAKING "HOUSE CALLS" AFTER 56 YEARS OF EMS RESPONSES

During November, members of the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad Answered 164 9-1-1 emergency calls. These included 98 medical emergencies; 19 motor vehicle accidents, including 1 with an entrapped occupant; 6 traumatic injuries; 19 falls, 1 pedestrian struck by an automobile, 5 reports of poisoning, 3 medical alarm activations; 2 expectant mothers in labor; 1 stand-by at a fire scene; and 5 lift assists of patients who did not require transport to a hospital.

Of these calls, 15 were answered by an off-duty "back-up crew" consisting of members responding from home or work when the on duty crew is busy. On 2 occasions, all 3 Summit ambulances were responding to simultaneous calls. 15 emergency calls were to provide mutual aid assistance to neighboring towns.

The Squad answers calls for help at any time of day or night and at a variety of locations. "House calls" to the patient's home are the most common. Accidents and medical

emergencies on roads or highways are also common, as are emergencies at local businesses. Other response locations included healthcare professional's offices, assisted living facilities, schools, places of worship, parking lots, sidewalks, athletic fields and public parks.

Squad members also send ambulance crews to support the Summit Fire Department at 2 live burn training sessions in addition to providing ambulance coverage at 2 varsity football games and grandparents day at a local school.

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad, responds to emergency calls 24/7, is entirely funded through private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad has 90 members, including 20 junior members and is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided.

For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site at: [summitems.org](http://summitems.org).

## JUNIOR LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP AND GIVING TUESDAY SUCCESS

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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## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: MATT KOHAUT

*Submitted by Mia Bivaletz*

Matt Kohaut is a senior at Summit High School. He is a three-season athlete who began playing soccer in his sophomore year and enjoys the competitive aspect to it. Matt's position is defense. He explained that there is a special dynamic to the team, one of camaraderie and fellowship. "Before each game we get amped-up, have fun, and prepare to get things done," said Matt. He attributes a lot of his success to the strong coaching he has gotten from Ashley Sularz, Christopher O'Brien, Matt Schachtel, and Kevin Zaleski. Additionally, Matt has been involved in Track since freshman year thanks to his sisters who drew his interest towards it. He runs the 110-400 hurdles and is a sprinter as well. He appreciates how the team is like a family. They work together and train together. Everyone at each meet cheers each other on. Matt expressed his gratitude for his coaches: Adam Fern, Alexandra Kelly, Antonio Martins, and Neal Sharma.

For the second year, Matt is part of the Peer Leadership program. He loves how it unites a lot of different people, all with varied interests, who have a common focus on honing their leadership skills. This fall, Matt and about 40 peer leaders attended a retreat. He shared one activity that stood out. "There was a 10 foot wall and we had to get everyone over it. Seeing the process, the thought, and the teamwork was amazing!" During the course of the year, peer leaders interact with students in all grade levels, as well as with the Summit community. For example, they deliver lessons to elementary school students and participate in the Toys for Tots Drive with the Summit Police Department. They also participate in freshman deliveries; during study hall they talk to freshmen, about different clubs, encourage them to get involved, and give advice on how to navigate the high school experience successfully. "These are beneficial Q&A sessions where I am glad to offer support to others," said Matt.

Academically, Matt is a student who gravitates towards math and science, with his favorite class

being Computer Science. "My coursework and classes have always been rigorous, which I know will help me in the future." Matt's number one goal for the future is the Naval Academy. He has been interested to serve in the military like members of his family. In addition to the military, others in his large family have careers in service, such as fire and law enforcement.

Along his high school journey, Matt has gotten a lot of helpful advice including the importance of getting involved in school and creating a support network. He values the friendships and connections he has made at Summit High School. Matt's advice to others would be to stay motivated, set goals, and remember that the effort will be worth it! With that attitude and his go-getter spirit, we know he will go far!



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# LOCAL ATHLETE PLAYING SOCCER AT FELICIAN

Steward Salazar was a member of the 2018 men's soccer team at Felician University.

Felician is affiliated with NCAA Division II and competes in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC). The 2018 Golden Falcons posted an overall won-lost-tied record of 5-10-1 and tied for ninth place in the CACC with a 5-7 league mark (15 points).

Salazar, a senior defender, appeared in 12 games for the Golden Falcons this season, starting 11. He is a 2015 graduate of Summit High and transferred to Felician in fall 2017 after two years at Rowan College at Burlington County. More information is available at <http://felicianathletics.com/sports/msoc/index>.

*Felician University, the Franciscan University of New Jersey, is a liberal arts, coeducational Catholic university founded in 1942 and sponsored by the Felician Sisters. True to its mission, Felician University welcomes a diverse student population and embraces its educational needs. With campuses in Lodi and Rutherford, New Jersey, Felician University currently enrolls more than 2,400 students and offers more than 55 undergraduate and graduate programs, in the classroom and online, in the arts and sciences, business and management sciences, health sciences and teacher education. Felician University also sponsors 14 varsity intercollegiate sports that compete at the NCAA Division II level.*



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**John Montanna**

# 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 spehere of influence and the rise of hyper-nationalism threaten the post-WWII international order and pose major world dangers.





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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.

"We meet everybody where they start, and we grow from there," Modero said. "I think new cast members will find this is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives, to work together with others to produce something that is so heartwarming and has such an important message."

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.

Location: 80 West Grant Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202



(above) Cast members of "Annie, Jr." during one of last year's performances.

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## SUMMIT FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN HOLIDAY VISITS WITH

The Summit Fire Department and its FMBA Local 54 members participated in two holiday events with young patients at two area medical centers.

On December 19, 2018, members of the Summit Fire Department attended an annual Christmas party at Saint Barnabas Medical Center with children from the Burn Center and pediatric floor of the hospital. Firefighter David

May (Santa Claus) and Firefighter Chris Esposito brought gifts for all participants.

For the past 30 years, Summit Fire Department and FMBA Local 54 members have escorted Santa Claus to Overlook Medical Center for an annual Christmas Eve visit with pediatric floor patients. On the morning of Christmas Eve, Summit firefighters contact the pediatric floor to determine how many presents are needed for


children that have been admitted to the hospital. Santa Claus joins the firefighters to help spread some Christmas joy and gifts to the hospitalized children.

The Summit Fire Department appreciates the doctors, nurses and medical center staff who help to make these special holiday visits possible.

For more information on the Summit Fire Department, go to [cityofsummit.org/fire](http://cityofsummit.org/fire).



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## GRIEF IS NOT SOMETHING WE "GET OVER" - IT IS SOMETHING WE LEARN TOOLS TO COPE WITH

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave, will hold their eight-week seminar "Journey to Wholeness- Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sunday evenings from January 13, 2019 to March 3, 2019.

Patti Williams, R.N. and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, Ph.D. and psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Prime Time Room at the church. This location is handicapped accessible.

Williams and Waters have offered this seminar for over 18 years, and have helped 2,800 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives and feel joy once again. "This is an experience like no other," states Williams.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, dealing with loneliness, building a support system and more.

The seminar is dedicated to Williams's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams who had a vision for this program, wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

One participant, Joan, states, "I have learned more along this heartbreaking journey than I ever thought possible. I have learned that you will never ever forget your love and that you are changed forever, but you need to give yourself permission to heal. I have learned that I can revisit the past, but I cannot live in it, because it undermines my present and all that I have is just today. I have learned that love never dies and my love is with me always because he sends me signs to tell me so. These are my greatest treasures. I have learned that by keeping his memory alive with stories, photos etc. it makes me smile and brings me a kind of peace. I believe that your loved one only wants the best for you and you

will be reunited one day."

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from the inside out. "It does not matter if the loss is divorce, death or job loss; loss is loss, it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends," states Williams. All faiths are welcome. To register for this event, call Williams at 908-709-1341. No fee is charged, though registration is required.



(above, l-r) Patti Williams, RN, certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Dr. Virginia Waters, Ph.D., psychologist, have been running the Grief Seminar for 18 years.



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## PRESCHOOL 2019 LOTTERY INFORMATION

Applications for the 2019-2020 Preschool Program are available online at [summit.k12.nj.us](http://summit.k12.nj.us) and may also be obtained in person at the Primary Centers and at the Office of Special Services during school hours. Applicants must be residents of Summit and be at least three years old and toilet trained by October 1, 2019. Students will be selected for this program by lottery.

Preschool classes may include both three and four-year-old children at both Jefferson and Wilson Primary Centers. Classes will meet five days per week, Monday through Friday, except for one Friday per month which will be determined at a later date. The morning session

is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon session is from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The tuition is \$3,875 per year. For those who qualify for reduced lunch according to U.S. government guidelines, tuition will be \$1,162.50 and for those who qualify for free lunch, tuition will be \$387.50 per year.

All applications must be returned to the Primary Centers no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 16, 2019. The lottery drawing will be held at the Board of Education offices on January 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. Special education students are included in the Preschool Program as determined by the District Child Study Team.

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# OPERATION REBOUND SEEKS VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

*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) 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!



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

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