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#### **ISSUE 70 • JUNE 2019**



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## **ELIZABETH WOOD HONORED AS UNSUNG HERO**

#### Submitted by Denis Kelly

Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Senior Elizabeth Wood of Gillette was among nine students from Somerset County high schools honored by the Somerset County School Boards Association (SCSBA) at the 2019 Unsung Heroes Student Recognition Program, Tuesday, April 3, 2019, in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at WHRHS.

Robert Morrison, who is a longtime member of the WHRHS Board of Education, hosted the recognition as president of the SCSBA.

When Elizabeth Wood was called up to the stage as the ninth student recognized, she was by no means a stranger to calls to the PAC stage during her academic and co-curricular career at WHRHS.

Earlier this school year, in October, she was one of 97 students called to the stage to be inducted into the National Honor Society. Likewise in December, Elizabeth Wood was among the more than 200 choral music students who responded on cue to the stage for the annual Winter Choral Concert. Audiences at the annual Winter and spring choral concerts are by now familiar seeing Elizabeth Wood on stage as a member of the Advanced Choir in the group's Alto section.

She was among the student singers who brought to life at this year's Winter Concert a broad array of songs in various musical genres and styles, from tender remembrances to rock-and-roll anthems and empowerment statements.

Elizabeth Wood is also no stranger from being an empowering inspiration to all who marveled at her achievement as a WHRHS Warrior. She was born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a genetic disease affecting the part of the nervous system that controls voluntary muscle movement. Nevertheless, Elizabeth Wood has shown a lifelong thirst for knowledge. She has aspirations, after crossing the graduation stage in Tozier Stadium this June, to continue her academic journey. She hopes to study pre-law.

In introducing Elizabeth, WHRHS Superintendent Elizabeth Jewett stated "I am honored to have the opportunity to speak about Elizabeth Wood, Watchung Hills' nominee for the Unsung Hero Award." "Not only has Elizabeth performed exceptionally well in some of our high school's most rigorous courses, but when the bell rings at the end of the day, Elizabeth is active in Chorus, Mock Trial, and Student Government."

The superintendent continued, "Her classroom teachers marvel at her intelligence, wit and engagement. Her calculus teacher describes her as a 'student who works extremely hard, asks appropriate questions, and cares about helping fellow students to succeed.' Her physics teacher remarked he had never



Photo by WHRHS

(above) In addition to being congratulated by WHRHS Superintendent Elizabeth Jewett and WHRHS Board of Education Member and SCSBA President Robert Morrison, Elizabeth Wood, WHRHS' own 2019 Unsung Hero, is congratulated by her sister, Emily, dad, Jeff, and mom, Lisa.

seen a rising junior as excited to get started with AP Physics questions.

"Elizabeth is not only a STEAM disciple, her humanities teachers also marvel at Elizabeth's many talents; one of her junior teachers misses having her in class because of her intellectual ability, but more importantly, this teacher recalled the 'assiduous preparation' Elizabeth completed before class. Another social studies teacher describes Elizabeth as a 'class leader, team player who is funny and kind to others.""

In co-curricular activities, Elizabeth Wood is also a stand-out, Jewett said.

As Elizabeth prepares to graduate, the Superintendent said, "Our administration, faculty and student body believe her determination, engagement and ethical code will continue to illuminate her path. No one will be surprised to hear that she makes a transition to college and post-college education seem seamless."



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### **PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT**

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

**Organizations** who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012

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## LONG HILL CHAMBER HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER

annual dinner on Thursday, May 2nd, 2019, at the Senior Center in Gillette. In attendance were Mayor Matt Dorsi, Deputy Mayor Guy Piserchia, Police Chief Ahmed Naga, as well as representatives from the Stirling and Millington Fire Departments, the First Aid Squad and CERT, and many chamber businesses. The event was catered solely by chamber members, and featured appetizers from Marcy's Kitchen and ShopRite, entrees and side dishes from The Stirling Hotel, and dessert from Angie's Gourmet Deli. Service was provided by Millington Station Cafe.

Chamber President Michelle Cavett of Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette announced the Board of Directors: Mary Mayer of Mary's Your Name Here Embroidery, Denise DeCorso of Investors Bank, Jade Palmieri of Millington Bank, Denise Murphy of Weichert Realty, Michelle Mares of ShopRite, Elizabeth Vetter of VGI Promotions and Cavett will continue their two-year term,

The Long Hill Chamber of Commerce held its and new board members Gary Gianakis of Weichert Realty and Jay Neiswinter of Individual Physical Therapy will replace outgoing board members Dawn Kougias of Millington Station Cafe and Tony Catanzaro of Regency Landscape. Cavett welcomes Neiswinter and Gianakis, and thanked Kougias for her efforts as a key catalyst and supporter of Millington Downtown Day for the past 5 years. She also thanked both Catanzaro and his wife Amber for maintaining the office of Treasurer. New officers will be announced following their upcoming board meeting.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of donations of \$250 each to both the Stirling and Millington Fire Departments, the Long Hill First Aid Squad and CERT.

To find out more about the Long Hill Chamber of Commerce, or to become a member, contact Cavett at (908)647-4194 or visit their website at longhillchamber.com.



(above, l-r) Robert English of Long Hill First Aid Squad, Jim Wolf of CERT, Long Hill Chamber of Commerce President Michelle Cavett of Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette, Al Gallo of Stirling Fire Department, and Ed Gerecht Jr. of Millington Fire Department hold up their donation checks from the Chamber. Cavett presented their checks at the Chamber's annual dinner meeting.

## CONGRATULATIONS SS OF 2019

Far Hills is honored to share with you the list of secondary schools to which the 40 members of the Class of 2019 will attend in the fail

Academy of St. Elizabeth Kent Place School Avon Old Farms School Berkshire School Blair Academy Delberior School Gill SE Bernard's School The Hotchicss School Immaculata High School

The Lawrenceville School Middlessex School Nometewa-Beerd School Newerk Academy Oax Knot School of the Holy Child Oratory Preparatory School



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#### Long Hill LEADER • Page 4 • June 2019 **ANGELA DIIORIO BIRD NAMED WHRHS TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

#### Submitted by Denis Kelly

Vocal Music Teacher Angela Dilorio Bird has been named the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Teacher of the Year for the 2018-2019 School Year.

"Please join me in congratulating Angela Dilorio Bird, our Teacher of the Year for 2018-19," WHRHS Principal George Alexis said. "Angela has played a significant role in deepening our commitment to the arts. Her passion for music and performance benefits our students and our entire school community. She is a talented teacher who knows how to differentiate instruction and help students of all abilities reach high expectations. In addition, she produces beautiful chorus concerts, serves as vocal coach for the musical, and mentors students all year long."



(above) Vocal Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird named (WHRHS) Teacher of the Year.

WHRHS, and 10th year teaching overall. During her first two years after college, she taught in the Lambertville Public Schools, a district she described as among the smallest in New Jersey.

That stood in stark contrast to the size of WHRHS. However, Dilorio Bird was already very familiar with WHRHS, having graduated from WHRHS in 2005. She had grown up in Watchung, and attended Watchung Public Schools.

When was Dilorio Bird first attracted to music?

"My grandfather gave me my first piano lesson when I was in 1st grade," Dilorio Bird said. "He was an opera singer. He came from a musical family. I fell in love with music then."

She played tenor saxophone in high school in the WHRHS band program for all four years, as well as the oboe. She qualified for All Region

Dilorio Bird is in her eighth year teaching at Band in tenor saxophone. She was in the Alto section when she sang for three years in the WHRHS Choir.

> "Piano is my primary instrument," she said. "My undergraduate degree at Ithaca College is in piano performance and music education."

> Following Ithaca College, in Ithaca, N.Y., Dilorio Bird earned her first master's degree in Education from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Ewing Township. She is currently continuing her studies, pursuing a second master's degree in Educational Leadership at the College of St. Elizabeth in the Convent Station section of Morris Township.

> She added that she has also completed training for certificates for Principal and Supervisor.

> Diorio Bird is married to fellow WHRHS faculty member, Carl Bird, a Special Services-Science Teacher. They are expecting their first child in August.



(above) Earlier this year, Dilorio Bird brought her students to Disney World, in Orlando, Fla., where they had the opportunity to meet with and learn from Disney professional singers and entertainers. They also performed in public at various Disney locations, and competed in interscholastic competitions there. Photos by WHRHS



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John Montanna



## **SEA SCOUT OPEN HOUSE - JUNE 8**

Submitted by James Zatwarnicki

Are you interested in boating, sailing, or mechanics? Come check out Sea Scouting and let the adventure at sea begin! Sea Scout Ships 228 and 243 of Patriot's Path Council will be holding an open house from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, June 8, 2019 at their sea base located at 4400 Tremley Point Rd, Linden, NJ. The open house will include demonstrations and tours at 10 a.m., a free BBQ at 11:30 a.m., and boat rides from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Sea Scouting is open to both male and female youth member' ages 14-21 who have graduated the 8th grade; we also have a new Maritime Explorer Club for younger youth in 6th to 8th grade. Adult volunteers with maritime experience or captain's licenses are needed too. Join us for a day on the water and bring a friend! Visit our website for more information www.ship228.com.







(above) Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their base located in Linden, NJ. Sea Scouting (Part of the Venturing Program of the BSA) offers young adults the opportunity to travel and learn skills that could be useful in future careers. Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair or visiting a new port on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting. So, try something different, check us out, and prepare yourself to set sail for a real adventure.

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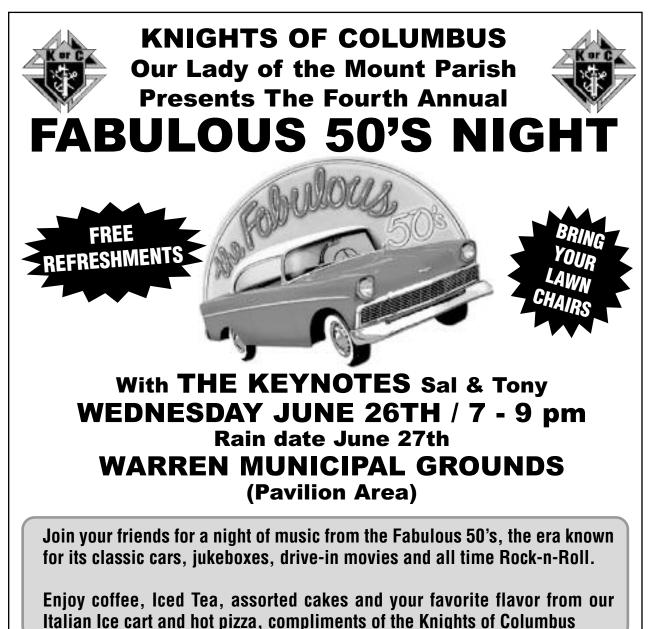
www.warrenlionsclub.org For more information & sponsor opportunities contact EXPO Chairperson Adriane Stewart 908-768-0264

## **ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION IN LONG HILL TOWNSHIP**

Submitted by Mary DeLello, Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission



(above) A Challenge Grant tree, an October Glory Maple, planted at the Schoolhouse. Pictured are Mayor Matt Dorsi; Shade Tree Commission member Paul Tamburri with his children, Brenna, 11, and Andrew, 9; Shade Tree Commission chairperson Susan Jeans with her grandson, William, 6; and Gordon Redgate, also a member of the STC.



Despite dark skies and some raindrops, Mayor Matt Dorsi read an Arbor Day Proclamation to an enthusiastic group of shade tree lovers on Friday, April 25, 2019 at the old Millington Schoolhouse on Long Hill Road. The occasion marked the completion of the Shade Tree Commission's (STC) 2019 Challenge Grant Program. This year, eighteen new trees will be planted along the sides of our roads through the participation of the home-owners and with the hard work of the Department of Public Works in Long Hill Township.



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## **ROTARY WHOLE HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR**

The Watchung-Warren Rotary Club will hold their Whole Health & Wellness Fair on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at Watchung Hills Regional High School, 108 Stirling Rd, Warren, NJ.

The event will take place from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. There will be food tasting, door prizes, children's activities, free health screenings, educational demonstrations, holistic vendors, health and wellness providers, free giveaways, 50/50, gift baskets, and a whole lot more! General admission is \$10.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ONE-DAY DROP-OFF EVENTS MORRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Periodic disposal events are conducted during a few weekends in the spring and fall at sites in Morris County. These disposal days are open to Morris County residents only. Commercial generators must use the permanent HHW facility. For a copy of the 2019 household hazardous waste event day flyers which include directions to the different locations visit mcmua.com/sw\_hhw\_events.asp.

#### SAT., JUNE 8, 2019, 9AM-2PM

\*\*\*New Program Site\*\*\* County College of Morris (Parking Lots #1) 214A Center Grove Rr, Randolph, NJ 07869

### SAT., SEPT 14, 2019, 9AM-2PM

Public Safety (Firefighters and Police) Training Academy 500 West Hanover Avenue Parsippany, NJ 07054 Note: GPS units have trouble locating this site.

### SAT, OCT 19, 2019, 9AM-2PM

Pequannock Valley Park, Marvin Road, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444





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(above) Join the fun at the 13th Annual Fairy Day at Frelinghuysen Arboretum on Sunday, June 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



(above) Participants building fairy houses.



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### 13TH ANNUAL FAIRY DAY RETURNS TO THE FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM

On Sunday, June 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., celebrate the beloved Fairy Day at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township.

For centuries, fairies have been an important part of culture and legends and are described as intelligent, mischievous, and magical figures. Mortals do not often see fairies because of the division between the two worlds, but it is believed that by creating special fairy houses, we can draw them into ours.

Welcome these wee folks into the garden by designing and creating a magical, miniature garden home made from all natural materials. After all, these tiny spirits need shelter during their stay!

Enjoy delicious treats and live music, create a fairy themed craft to take home, play fun games, and hunt for hidden fairy doors in the garden to win a prize.

At 3 p.m., join a colorful, musical procession

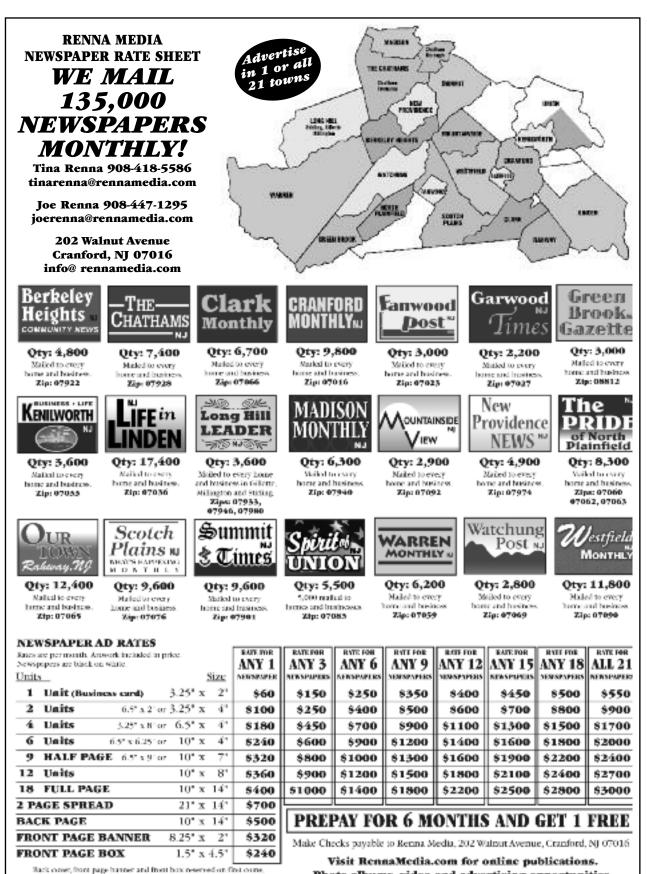
around the gardens to marvel at the finished projects. Feel free to wear your best fairy finery. All creations will be on display for the month of July for everyone to enjoy. Visit the Haggerty Education center for a map of the sites.

Preregistration is required for this event, as a limited number of fairy house sites are available. The cost is \$30 per fairy house, which includes all materials, activities, and refreshments. Feel free to bring your own building supplies if you prefer, as long as they are all natural.

For more information, fairy house inspiration, and directions to The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, visit morrisparks.net, or call 973-326-7601.

The Morris County Park Commission features one of the region's best park systems in the state of New Jersey. It currently protects and maintains 20,197 acres at 38 distinct sites plus offers a year-round calendar of events and activities for all to enjoy!

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## LONG HILL GIRL SCOUT TROOP 5050

#### Submitted by Allison Kempe

How do you feed a family of four with a healthy meal for under \$15? That's what Cadette Troop 5050 recently learned as they worked with Shoprite's Registered Dietician, Michelle Sweeney, this past April. In keeping with the girl scout tradition of using resources wisely, the girls were tasked with shopping for a healthy meal that covers all food groups and costs a total of \$15 or less.

This required time to plan the meal ensuring it had the proper nutrients, and then compare prices to guarantee they came within their budget.

"It was the best experience. We learned that canned food is cheaper but fresh food is the best food, so you have to budget wisely to make healthy meals," exclaimed a troop member.



(above, standing, l-r) Long Hill Girl Scout Troop 5050 members Kyra Langell, Jillian Gaydos, Ava Slimowicz, Shoprite Dietician Michelle Sweeney, Amaya Campos, Shaye Bundonis, Emily McCormick, Maya Kempe, Emma Goodbody. (sitting, l-r) Nikki Coleman, Sophia Squizziato and Sophia Ehlert.













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