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NJ

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ANGELA DIORIO BIRD NAMED WHRHS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Vocal Music Teacher Angela DiIorio 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 DiIorio 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."

DiIorio Bird is in her eighth year teaching at 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, DiIorio 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 DiIorio Bird first attracted to music?

"My grandfather gave me my first piano lesson when I was in 1st grade," DiIorio 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 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., DiIorio 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



(above) Vocal Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird has been named the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Teacher of the Year for the 2018-2019 School Year. A graduate of WHRHS, Class of 2005, DiIorio Bird is in her eighth year teaching at WHRHS, and 10th year teaching overall.

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.

DiIorio 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, DiIorio 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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Watchung Post

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

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in submitting
content can
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CADETS HIGHLIGHT PROJECTS TIED TO ARMY INNOVATION

U. S. Military Academy Cadet Matt Celeste from Watchung, New Jersey showcased his project at the 20th annual Projects Day highlighting innovative designs linked to Army readiness, modernization and war-fighting capabilities May 2, 2019.

Projects Day enables cadets to engage real world problems and develop the critical thinking skills needed to solve these problems in a fast-changing operational environment.

Cadet Celeste was part of Team Raspberry Pi and Arduino Surveillance Systems that was awarded the Scott R. Clark, Class of 1985, Innovation for Soldiers Award presented for an innovative approach to solving a problem of direct application to the Army. The team constructed and deployed a field-improvised network of cameras and microphones that will assist squads and platoons with mobile perimeter security. The system is designed to help with the early detection of hostile forces to protect soldiers during building-clearing missions on deployment.

"Projects Day is an opportunity for our cadets, representing West Point's Social Sciences, Humanities, and STEM departments, to showcase their incredible array of innovative thesis projects, capstone presentations, and partnerships across the Army and Department of Defense enterprises," said Brig. Gen. Cindy Jebb, Dean of the Academic Board, U.S. Military Academy.

Since May 2000, Projects Day assembles cadets from the academy's military training and academic departments and students participating from nine colleges and two sister academies. West Point is the only service academy able to showcase talents on such a large scale allowing 800 cadets to demonstrate their academic and military knowledge and skills. Whether individually or as a team, cadets demonstrate their ability to integrate in-depth learning

experiences from West Point and through engagement with national and international partnership organizations.

About West Point

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering and continues today as the world's premier leader-development institution, consistently ranked among top colleges in the country. Its mission remains constant— to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U. S. Army. For more information, go to www.westpoint.edu.



(above) U. S. Military Academy Cadet Matt Celeste from Watchung, New Jersey

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or email rara1055@optonline.net

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Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss currently seeks volunteers to serve as peer support group facilitators for children and families coping with loss due to death. Upcoming summer trainings will be held June 27-30th and July 26-29th, 2019.

Imagine groups are facilitated by trained adult volunteers who attend a 32-hour training and quarterly continuing education, and receive ongoing supervision. Volunteers come from all walks of life and need no special background other than a willingness to listen and the ability to be with children and adults in pain without trying to fix, solve problems, or give advice. Volunteers must be 21 years or older and attend the Imagine four-day Facilitator Training. No prior experience is necessary.

"For the first time in our seven-year history we have a waiting list," said Mandi Zucker, Imagine Program Director. "As our programs continue to grow, so does our need for volunteers. We are currently serving over 380 participants every two weeks in our peer support programs and will be adding another night of support so we can serve an additional 60 people." Volunteers say the

training is "life-changing" and a wonderful opportunity for learning about themselves and how their own losses have affected the way they grieve and how they support others. People that complete the training leave feeling empowered to be a supportive person to people grieving any type of loss.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support center located in Mountainside and Newark New Jersey, serving children age 3-18 who have had a parent or sibling die, with concurrent support groups for their parents or guardians. Support for children and teens living with a parent or sibling with a life-altering physical illness is also available. Free year-round support groups are also available for young adults who have had a friend, sibling, parent or other important person in their life die, or who have a parent, sibling or friend living with an illness.

If you are interested in learning more about the upcoming trainings scheduled for June 27-30th or July 26-29th, 2019 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, please contact Mandi at Mandi@imagineinNJ.org or visit imagineinNJ.org to schedule a tour.



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Visit us at www.SCLSNJ.org

Library hours are Monday to Thursday

9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.,

Friday & Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,

Sunday, Closed

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library for more information and to register.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Tiny Tot Time
(ages 2 and up)

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

Miss June's Room

(ages 4-7)

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

Bingo with Miss June

(ages 4 and up)

June 21, 4-4:30 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mah Jong Club of Watchung

June 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25; 1-4 p.m.

Game Night

June 3, 10, 17, 24; 7-8:45 p.m.

Watchung Writers Group

June 6, 13, 20, 27; 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Canasta Group

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

American Jewelry - A Cultural Stroll Through the Decades

June 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

Book Discussion: "Mornings on Horseback,"

June 13, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Digitizing Somerset County's Common Heritage

June 15, 1-3 p.m.

ANGEL AND A FAIRY FAMILY RESIDE AT LIBRARY



(above) A reading angel and a fairy family appear to have taken up residence at the Watchung Library just outside the Community Room door on the lower level. Please welcome them to the neighborhood. They would love some company! According to Celtic lore, if you provide a home for fairies, they might thank you by bringing you good luck and happiness. Your contribution to the fledgling neighborhood of Fairy Crossing will be much appreciated. Angel and fairy home were donated by the Friends of the Watchung Library - Fostering Growth, Creating Community (friendsofwatchunglibrary.org/).

PUPPET DONATION

These adorable puppets - a firefighter, a doctor, a construction worker, and a police officer - were generously donated to the Watchung Library by an anonymous youthful donor.

The puppets are now in the children's area of the library along with the puppet theater previously donated by the Friends of the library. Bring your kids to the library and let them rehearse a puppet show while you chooses books; then let them entertain you and their friends with a performance!

The Friends of the library say "Thank you, Young Donor, whoever you are!"



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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS 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 fall:

Academy of St. Elizabeth
Aver Old Farms School
Berkshire School
Blair Academy
Delbarton School
Gil St. Bernard's School
The Hotchkiss School
Immaculate High School

Kent Place School
The Lawrenceville School
Middlesex School
Morristown-Bernd School
Newark Academy
Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child
Oratory Preparatory School

Phillips Academy Andover
Phillips Exeter Academy
Rutgers Preparatory School
St. Andrew's School
St. Paul's School
West Morris Mendham High School
West Morris Central High School



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GO FAR



HOPE MITCHELL SET TO ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH

Watchung Post • Page 7 • June 2019

Thanks to Hope Mitchell, Watchung was among 13 municipalities represented by the 15 newest court appointed special advocates tasked with serving as extra eyes and ears for family law judges on the cases of Union County youth removed from their home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in foster homes or



(above) Hope Mitchell

residential facilities. The ceremony was on April 9, 2019 at the Union County Family Courthouse.

After completion of approximately 30 hours' training with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, Mitchell and her classmates took their oath and were sworn in as advocates and judicial volunteers by Superior Court Judge Richard Wischusen. After completion of three hours' court observation to see seasoned CASA volunteers in action, the new advocates will meet their assigned foster youth or siblings.

The new advocates range from age 23 to 66, are parents and nonparents, and work in such fields as education, nonprofit, and law enforcement, as well as homemakers. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

With court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers incorporate their findings into court reports and work to ensure each youth's needs are met and best interests protected. They are a constant during chaos and work to ensure the youth's trauma is not exacerbated in care.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 are still waiting for their very own CASA volunteer in their corner.

For training opportunities, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136.

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JUNE ACTIVITIES AT THE WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER

Warrenbrook Golf Course, 500 Warrenville Rd., Warren, NJ. Tel: 908-753-9440 • Open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

All Somerset County-operated Senior Centers offer a nutritionally balanced lunch, Monday through Friday, for a suggested donation of \$2.50, for anyone 60 and above. Menu choices include a hot meat-based or meatless entrée or a cold meat-based or meatless boxed lunch. Please make reservations prior to 10:00 a.m. the previous business day.

Individual Computer Instruction – Are you intimidated by computers? Do you know how to email and/or play solitaire on the computer?

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By the end of an 8-week, one-on-one class, you will understand what your grandkids have been trying to explain to you.

Watercolor Paint Class

Monday and Thursday, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

This is a great opportunity for an experienced artist to meet new people while watercoloring.

Advanced registration required. Openings available in Monday Group.

Oil Painting

Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

This is an excellent way to connect with people who have oil painting experience. Advanced registration required.

Healthy Bones Exercise Class

Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m.

This is peer-led, 24-week exercise and education program for individuals who are at-risk or have osteoporosis. Advanced registration is required. A doctor's note is also required prior to the first class and then once every year. For a new participant, the price is \$45. This includes ankle weights, a participant manual and the class fee. If ankle weights are not needed the price is \$15. Call Caitlin Witucki at 908-704-6339 for more information.

Billiards Room – Pool table

available daily on a drop-in basis

Monday – Friday.

Computer Lab – Call for Availability.

Jigsaw Puzzle – Available Monday – Friday.

Strike up conversation, make new friends and enjoy assembling puzzles together.

Lending Library – Available Monday – Friday. Soft covered books available to take home and return when read.

“Beethoven's 9th Symphony. . . the Last 10 Minutes!

June 3 – 10:30 a.m.

George Marriner Maull, Artistic Director of the Discovery Orchestra, takes us through the blueprint of the Ode to Joy and teaches listening skills that will help the attendees notice more of its detail and enjoy it more.

Boggle with some “Folk Dancercise,” Rekha

Srinivasan, Bharat Nritya Academy

June 4 and 11 – 10:30 a.m.

Before playing Boggle, which is a challenging game that is played using a grid of letters, we will do some Folk Dancercise, the gaiety of folk dancing used as an exercise.

Chair Yoga with Jillian

June 4, 11, 18 and 25 – Tuesday – 12:45 p.m.

Open to all levels of practice and abilities.

Hatha yoga poses while seated in a chair as well as the option for standing poses to increase bone density, strength and balance.

Next session begins in July.

Bridge Group with Ronnie

June 4, 11, 18 and 25 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join Ronnie and her group as they play bridge on a weekly basis. New members and beginners welcome (lessons available).

Mah Jongg for Experienced Players Only

June 4, 11, 18 and 25 – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

If you are an experienced Mah Jongg player and are looking for another opportunity to play this game of skill, strategy and calculation, then join us on Tuesday afternoons.

Tone and Flexibility Exercise Class with Sabina

June 5, 12, 19 and 26 – 10:45 a.m.

Enjoy an energizing class suitable for beginner and intermediate levels. Exercises can be done standing up or sitting down.

Ballroom Dancing with Art & Fe

June 5, 12, 19 and 26 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Dancing is a great way for people of all ages to get and stay in shape. Join Art and Fe as they play a variety of Ballroom Dance music.

Bingo

June 6, 13, 20 and 27 – 10:30 a.m.

Bingo is more than just an exciting activity.

Researchers found that playing Bingo has multiple health benefits.

Line Dancing with Linda

June 6, 13 and 27 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

You don't need a partner and it's an easy way to stay healthy, both mentally and physically.

No class on June 20.

Brain Games and Trivia, Adrienne Graubard

June 7 and 14 – 10:30 a.m.

Did you know that solving puzzles or challenging yourself with new mind-activities like learning music can stimulate the brain and enhance your creative and critical thinking processes? Join Adrienne for some mind-tingling, brain-stumping word games.

NEW FRIDAY CLASS

Zumba Gold with Angie, Friday Morning

June 7, 21 and 28 – 11:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold takes the Latin-dance inspired workout of Zumba and makes it accessible for people age 60 plus, beginners or others needing modifications in their exercise routine. \$40 for an 8-week session. Registration required. Next session begins in August. No class on June 14.

Plaster Art Craft,

Part 1 with Lisa Brown, Art As Therapy

June 10 – 10:30 a.m.

This is a two-day craft project. Join Lisa as she provides the opportunity to create a personal object using plaster craft. The painting of your original piece will take place on Tuesday,

June 11. Advanced registration required by Tuesday, June 4.

Zumba Gold with Angie

June 10, 17 and 24 – Monday Morning, 10:45 a.m.

Zumba Gold takes the Latin- dance inspired workout of Zumba and makes it accessible for people age 60 plus, beginners or others needing modifications in their exercise routine. \$40 for an 8-week session. Registration required. Next session begins in August.

Plaster Art Craft Painting, Part 2 with Gwen

(Follow-up program to Monday craft program)

June 11 – 10:30 a.m.

Acrylic paints will be available for attendees to paint the plaster craft piece they created on Monday. Must be present for Monday's class to participate in this follow-up class.

Warrenbrook Book Club

June 11 – Second Tuesday of the Month, 1:30 p.m.

Featured book to be discussed: The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper by Phaedra Patrick.

New Members Welcome!

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July 22-August 2nd



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JUNE ACTIVITIES AT THE WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER (continued)

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Zumba Gold with Angie,

June 12, 19 and 26 – Wednesday Morning,
11:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold takes the Latin-dance inspired workout of Zumba and makes it accessible for people age 60 plus, beginners or others needing modifications in their exercise routine. \$40 for an 8-week session. Registration required. Next session begins in August.

Senior Center Patio Planter Day

June 17 – 10:30 a.m.

Somerset County Park Commission staff will join us for the planting of six large planters that will be placed on the patio outside the center's dining room. This is a hands-on experience.

Better Health Without Breaking the Bank, Laurie Roome, Community Educator, Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services

June 18 – 10:30 a.m.

Who wouldn't like to feel better? For many the thought of a healthy lifestyle means high cost specialty foods, personal trainers and concierge doctors. But did you know that you could live healthy and have money? Find out how to maximize your healthcare dollars and tap into FREE Medicare benefits. Follow-up day for application assistance on Friday, June 21.

Game Day with Gwen

June 21 – 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we have fun playing Concentration and Food J-I-N-G-O. Join us for some fun!

Follow-up Day for Medicare Application Assistance with Laurie Roome and Gabrielle Stander, Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability

June 21 – 10:30 a.m.

As a follow-up to Monday's "Better Health Without Breaking the Bank" program, Laurie and Gabrielle will be available to answer additional questions and to offer assistance filling out Medicare forms.

Go4Life Exercises with Gwen

June 24 – 10:30 a.m.

It may even time to push yourself a little harder, try a new activity, or find new ways to add exercise to your daily life. Join Gwen as we do some Go4Life exercises which are from the National Institute on Aging.

Remember When: Inventions that Changed the World Discussion with Gwen

June 25 – 10:30 a.m.

We will look at every day inventions and the not so commonly known inventions that changed our world.

Card and Dice Games with Gwen

June 28 – 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we play some card and dice games.

Quilting Bee for Experienced Quilters

June 28 – 1:00 p.m.

This group is for experienced quilters only and each participant is responsible for their own patterns, fabrics and notions. They will be meeting the last Friday of each month.

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP).

June 28

A counselor will be available to provide FREE help to New Jersey Medicare beneficiaries who have problems with, or questions about their health benefits. SHIP is a statewide program by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Services are available by advanced appointment only and will be available the last Friday of the month. To make an appointment, call 908-704-6319.

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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.

DONATE AND HELP KICK HUNGER TO THE CURB THIS JUNE

It's easy: Fill a plastic bag with your food donations and leave at the curb on your recycling pick up days from June 3 through 28, 2019.

Fill any plastic grocery bag with canned goods and place it next to your blue recycling bin at the curb on your recycling pickup days during the month of June.

Food supplies are traditionally low during the summer months when school lunch programs close and holiday food drives are not being held. That's why June is the ideal time to hold the Curbing Hunger Month food drive, which will help alleviate this annual shortage. Donations are distributed to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County and local food pantries, including the Franklin Food Bank.

The demand at local food banks and food pantries continues to be high. You can help by filling any plastic grocery bag with canned goods and placing these items at the curb on your recycling pickup days from June 3 through 28, 2019, when county recycling crews and county and municipal public works employees will pick up your food donations.

You also can purchase and donate fresh produce at curbinghunger2019.org. Join the conversation at GiveHealthy on social media by following #GiveHealthy.

Donations of non-perishable food also are accepted at the First Saturday of the Month recycling drop-offs held at the Somerset County Recycling Center at 40 Polhemus Lane in Bridgewater.



Celebrate the Decades at The Chelsea at Warren

1960's THE SPACE RACE

Lunch & Learn
Wed June 5th
12:30 PM
Presented by
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Welcome to the Warren Lions Club

Warren, NJ

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2017 - 2018 : \$53,000

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- American Legion Boys & Girls State
- Boy Scouts Eagle Projects
- Watchung Hills Pop Warner
- Warren Township Public Library
- Warren Police Unity Tour
- Primrose School Foundation
- Warren Township School
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Friends of WBSA
- Warren Recreation
- Girl Scouts Gold Project
- Junior Philanthropy Fund
- Wagner Farm
- Warren HPBA
- WBSA
- Multiple Myeloma Foundation
- Senior Luncheon
- Scholarships

The Warren Lions Expo will feature:
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Lions EXPO is the major fundraiser of the Warren Township Lions Club and enables the club to donate to local charities, organizations and events.

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

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JUNE 3, 2019

Watchung Hills Reg. High School
South Auditorium
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6:00 PM

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"My life as I knew it was changed in one tragic instant when my 17 year old son, Matthew, made the wrong decision to take a ride home with a friend who had been drinking. He had just returned from a one-week Summer Seminar at the Air Force Academy and was celebrating his happiness at the possibilities the future had in store for him. I hope that Matt's story will touch the hearts of my audiences and have a profound effect on their decision-making."
— Marianne Angelillo, Mother & Author



Matthew Angelillo



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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's 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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ELIZABETH WOOD HONORED AS 2019 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 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."



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.

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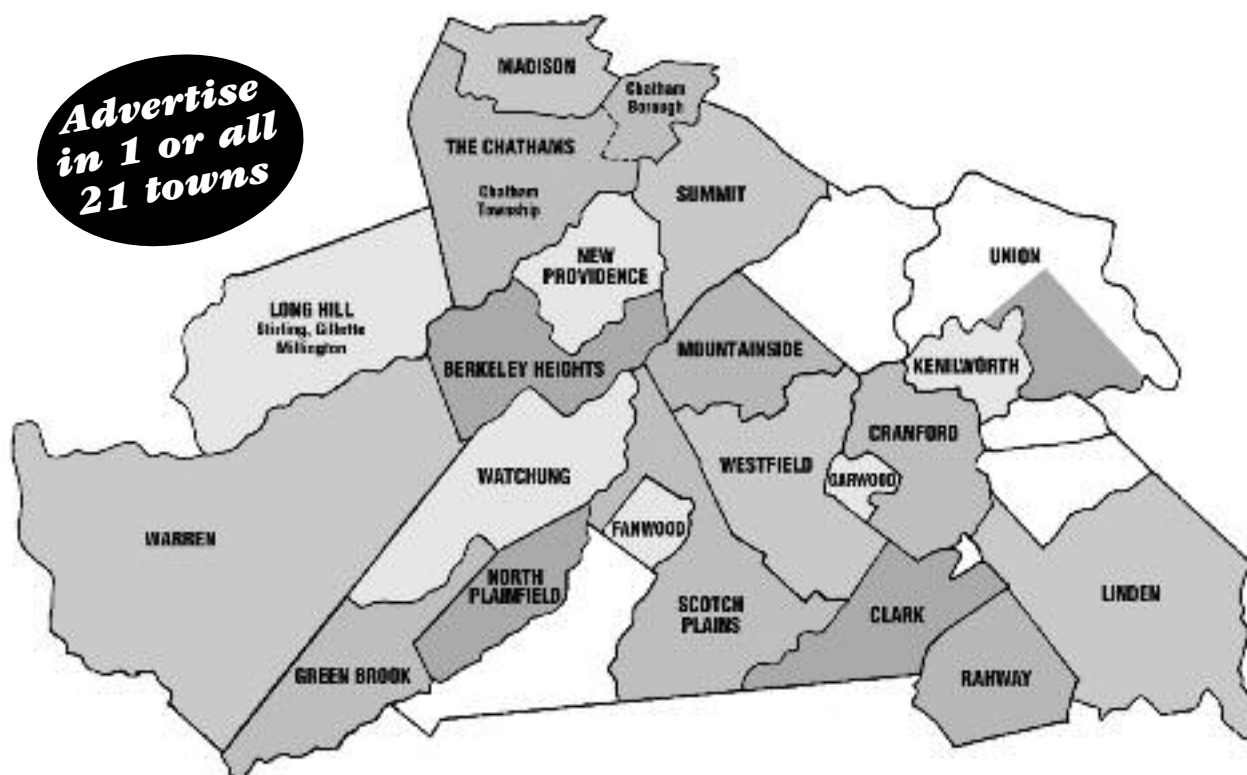
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THE SUMMIT OLD GUARD JUNE EVENTS

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.

With spring approaching summer, the Old Guard weekly outdoor programs are in full swing, golf every Thursday, weather permitting, at the Summit Muni course, bocce every Wednesday at Nokia Bell Labs, fishing on Mondays for striped bass and then changing for fluke. And as the weather warms up, our canoeing and kayaking programs start.

Of course our weekly series of speakers continue. Meetings are held each Tuesday in the council meeting room of the New Providence NJ 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.

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

June 4 - Overview of Tappan Zee Bridge Project

Rich Schrader will discuss the replacement of the old Tappan Zee Bridge covering the history of replacement discussions/actions, the procurement method

selected by state, key political and private involvement, major features, design and construction parameters, and current status. Rich, a registered professional engineer, has almost 40 years of professional experience with some 35 years in engineering and construction. He spent 11 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and taught at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

June 11 - The Gateway Rail Project

Martin Robins will discuss the necessity of completing the entire Gateway rail because the project is vital to the economic well-being to northern and central New Jersey. Martin led a team responsible for drafting legislation creating NJ Transit, directed the planning for the Hudson-Bergen light rail line and helped found the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University.

June 18 - Union County Traffic Signals

Since the early 2000's, Union County upgraded approximately 400 traffic signals on County or Local Roads in Union County. Gordon Meth was involved in the design of these traffic signals in Union County. His presentation will give an overview of some of the considerations facing the design of traffic signals and some of the future possibilities for smarter traffic signals. Gordon Meth is a professional engineer specializing in transportation planning and traffic engineering.

June 25 - Photographs from my travels

Stephan Barcan and his wife have traveled extensively over many years and photography is his hobby, particularly travel photography. He likes to take pictures of things unique to those places. He will show selections of photographs taken in his travels to the many countries that he has visited and of course America. Stephan is retired land use attorney in New Jersey for more than 50 years. He now does pro bono work such as immigration, and teaching ESL.

SUNDAY MORNING SINGLES DISCUSSION GROUP IN 40TH YEAR

The Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group meets for lively discussion every Sunday from 9 - 10 a.m. at The First Baptist Church of Westfield (lower level), 170 Elm Street, Westfield, NJ. This nondenominational group enjoy a Continental breakfast followed by engaging conversation. \$2 donation. No reservations required. For more information call 908-686-0563.



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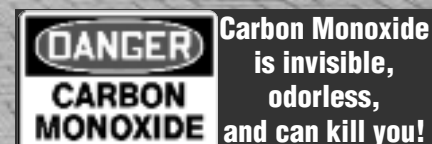
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