

# WARREN MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## 23 WHRHS GRADUATES PLAN TO PLAY SPORTS IN COLLEGE

*Submitted by Denis Kelly*

Sixteen of the 23 Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) graduating seniors who have signed Letters of Intent to play sports at the colleges they plan to attend this Fall gathered for a group photo in the school's Media Center in June.

Nine of the 23 student-athletes plan to play at Division I schools while 14 plan to play at Division III schools.

Earlier this 2018-2019 School Year, students had gathered at one of three "Athletic Signing Days," in November, February and May.

"Congratulations to all the WHRHS student-athletes who plan to continue playing sports for their school teams in college," said WHRHS Athletic Director Daniel Root.

The Class of 2019 who plan to continue their athletic careers in college are:

### Division I

Kaylee Donnelly, soccer, at Bucknell University; Lindsay Wolf, soccer, University of Massachusetts; Madelyn Murphy, Lacrosse, Monmouth University; Kelly Fitzgerald, soccer,

University of Rhode Island; Jamie Tomassetti, Track and Field, Central Florida University; Jessica Carrieri, Soccer, Elon University; Lola Constantino, Fencing, Princeton University; Vincent Mattaliano, Wrestling, Sacred Heart University; and Kevin Badger, Football, Monmouth University.

### Division III

Andrew Martins, Baseball, Nichols College; Connor Ashnault, Cross Country/Track, Franklin and Marshall University; Shannon Twill, Lacrosse, Gettysburg College; Colleen Farrell, Field Hockey, Ramapo College; Maggie Farrell, Ramapo College; Nick Ciraulo, Wrestling, Stevens Institute of Technology; Salvatore Cianfano, Soccer, Farleigh Dickinson University; James McKenna, Baseball, The College of New Jersey; Brendan Wahlers, Lacrosse, Stockton College; Frank Medina, Wrestling, Stevens Institute of Technology; Michael Salerno, Wrestling, Scranton University; Clement Shao, Golf, Stevens Institute of Technology; Edward Williams, Wrestling, York College; and Shray Parimoo, Soccer, Rochester University.

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(above, l-r) Seated: Madelyn Murphy, Jessica Carrieri, Kaylee Donnelly, Kelly Fitzgerald, Lindsay Wolf, and Colleen Farrell; standing: Frank Medina, Connor Ashnault, Jamie Tomassetti, Maggie Farrell, Shray Parimoo, Shannon Twill, Clement Shao, James McKenna, Kevin Badger, and Andrew Martins. Not available for the photo: Lola Constantino, Vincent Mattaliano, Nick Ciraulo, Salvatore Cianfano, Brendan Wahlers, Michael Salerno, and Edward Williams.



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# WARREN MONTHLY

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## WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS LODGE 885

Candace and Adam Benzel recently led a community service project to work with the Andre Reed Foundation to renovate a reading room at the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic, NJ. Buffalo Bills NFL Hall of Fame wide receiver Andre Reed established the Andre Reed Foundation to "help underprivileged children reach their full potential and become contributors to their communities." The goal of Andre's "Read with Reed" program is "to encourage kids to exercise their minds, tackle good books, and catch the love of reading."

The project was a culmination of months of organization and collaboration. Candace and Adam are happy to share that through the book drive at Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885, they were able to collect 839 books, 10 tapes and CDs, 7 learning activity books, 23 puzzles and games, 8 craft projects, and 14 other miscellaneous donations! Overall, the project collected over 1300 books and supplies to benefit the Boys & Girls Club – 250 kids in the summer camp

program and 1100 kids that use the club throughout the year. On the day of the project, 20 volunteers spent 5 hours renovating the room and sorting the books for a total of 100 hours of work. And that doesn't include the efforts of local Elks John Pizzigoni and Pete Seavey helping Adam box and carry the books and Denise Heilman helping Candace sort and count the books.

Candace and Adam would like say "THANK YOU to the Elks and to the Warren community for donating the books and for the enthusiastic support of this great cause. This project has so clearly embodied our motto 'Elks Care, Elks Share.' THANK YOU!!!!!"

Are you interested in making new friends, providing direct service to veterans, special children or making a difference in your community? Consider joining the Elks – learn more about us at [www.elkslodge885.org](http://www.elkslodge885.org), come down and meet us at Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885 or send us an email to get the ball rolling at [membership@elkslodge885.org](mailto:membership@elkslodge885.org).



(above, l-r) Adam Benzel, Andre Reed, Candace Benzel

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# HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH BACKPACKS FOR LIFE

*Submitted by Michael Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network*

For the last few years our charity racing team, Operation Rebound, has been sponsored by Backpacks for Life (BFL). This amazing charity is responsible for providing thousands of homeless veterans backpacks full of essential toiletries and personal items. Also, the BFL will seek out veterans in need and help them with housing, food, employment and any other service that will help them live a better life.

The founder of the BFL, Brett D'Alessandro, is a United States Marine Corps veteran and started this outstanding charity shortly after he returned home from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Brett recalls living out of a backpack during the war and felt a backpack can be a life-saving tool. In just a few years, Brett and the BFL are responsible for making thousands of backpacks for our homeless veterans.

The BFL doesn't just do backpacks, they are committed to helping our disabled veterans by providing them with the necessary resources and life-saving services by participating in various health fairs and PTSD groups. The BFL estimates about 350 disabled veterans have benefited from their resources and outreach. The BFL feels it's easy for a veteran to feel lost in the system. There are amazing resources out there, but it can be overwhelming trying to navigate it alone, so the BFL is there to help and guide the veteran through this agonizing process. What makes the BFL special is they invite veterans into their home and help with filling out paperwork, draft resumes, apply for housing, or whatever else is needed to help the veteran.

The future looks bright for the BFL. They're excited to expand their backpacks distribution and reach even more homeless veterans. As they

connect with more veterans' organizations across the country, they will equip even more communities with backpacks.

Their mentorship and coaching process will soon be accessible online. In this exciting development, veterans from across the country will be able to utilize the organization despite their location. Through this growth, the BFL focus remains on bringing hope back into the lives of veterans.

The BFL is out there every day making a difference and the Operation Rebound Racing Team is lucky to be a part of this incredible charity.

If you are interested with helping the Backpacks for Life please visit their website [backpacksforlife.org](http://backpacksforlife.org).

For more information about New Jersey Veterans Network visit [njvn.org](http://njvn.org).

## ABOUT OPERATION REBOUND

Operation Rebound is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. For the last two years, our team has made huge strides with suicide prevention simply by building trust and cementing friendships with people in need. It's most important to be honest with each person in crisis and follow up with ways to help them regain purpose in life. Setting goals motivates them to stay on a positive track. If you are interested with joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at [mdbollio@optonline.net](mailto:mdbollio@optonline.net) or call 973-332-1556.



*(above) Brett D'Alessandro, Founder of Backpacks for Life*

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## SCLSNJ DONATES SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) continues their dedication to contributing to the community all year-long. On August 9, 2019, SCLSNJ staff donated 22 boxes of school supplies to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County through the Project First Class initiative. Donations included backpacks, calculators, writing instruments, and more.

“SCLSNJ is committed to continuing our philosophy of exceptional customer service by connecting with our community, demonstrating empathy for those who have less, and making their day brighter,” said Edith Lit, SCLSNJ operations supervisor. “Project First Class for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County was another huge success. We collected an abundance of school supplies for our community members. We can imagine the excited faces of the children that will be receiving new backpacks filled with school supplies.”



(above, l-r) Andrew Schuller, SCLSNJ courier; Marie Scannell, Food Bank Network executive director; Jennifer McClear, SCLSNJ library technician; Edith Lit, SCLSNJ operations supervisor; Charlene Perkins, SCLSNJ human resources and payroll associate; and Anthony LoSardo, SCLSNJ courier. For more information or to donate to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County: [www.somersetfoodbank.org](http://www.somersetfoodbank.org).

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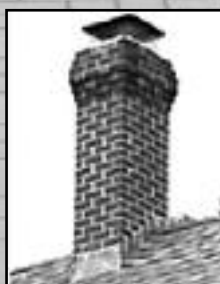
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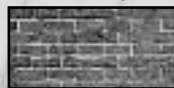
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## ELIZABETH MORRIS AWARDED THE 2019 WHREA ‘SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE EDUCATORS’

WHRHS Graduating Senior Elisabeth Morris, center, is congratulated by WHREA President and WHRHS Social Studies Teacher Ken Karnas, left, and Patricia Buzby, right, one of the two staff members in the Child Development Program at WHRHS. Morris was selected as the 2019 recipient of the annual WHREA Scholarship for Future Educators.



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We will be having live music from the amazing band Brian Kirk & The Jirks as well as food trucks, craft vendors, beer and wine, K-9 contests, prize raffles, dog and family photoshoots by the talented Jennifer Mount Photography. And of course dog adoptions!

This event is a great place to bring your Home for Good rescue pup for a reunion with other HFG rescue dogs as well as meet the fosters who care for so many dogs.

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## HISTORY COMES ALIVE FOR WARREN STUDENTS

*Submitted by Shannon Regan*

American History came alive for many Warren Township Schools students on Thursday, June 6, 2019. Each year in May for one day, the Warren Middle School (WMS) Peer Leaders act as docents and guide other Warren Township students through some of the nationally recognized historic locations within Warren Township.

This year grade 4 students from Angelo L. Tomaso School, Central School, Mt. Horeb School, and Woodland School were selected to participate in this very special field trip. The Peer Leaders were spread out between four historical locations accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Bob Hartshorn, social studies teacher, Mr. Jim Zilinski, social studies teacher, Mrs. Josephine Brasile, special education teacher, and Mrs. Lynn Degen, social studies teacher, prepared to cultivate an understanding of each location to the elementary school children.

The sites along the tour included Angelo L. Tomaso School, where it is believed that during the Revolutionary War the Continental soldiers set up the First Middlebrook encampment. Next, Kirch Ford House; experts have concluded that the house was built around 1750 and local belief is that a secret room within the house may have been a part of the Underground Railroad or even a hiding space for a Revolutionary War soldier. Third stop, Mt. Bethel Baptist Meeting House on King George Rd. This Church originally stood at a different location but was disassembled and moved to its current location in 1785. Students respectfully toured the church as well as the cemetery behind the church where known soldiers from the Revolutionary War are buried. The fourth location along the tour was Washington Rock. This location served as a

lookout point for General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. From that vantage point, General Washington was able to view the British troops as they neared Westfield and could better instruct his own troops.

Each Peer Leader played a key role in inspiring the young minds of the grade 4 visitors. "This is the first year we provided the trip to the 4th graders rather than the 8th graders. The 4th graders' excitement, curiosity, and enthusiasm were evident and we appreciate their teachers partnering with us to provide this program to these students. The Peer Leaders enjoyed creating and delivering their programs to them," stated Degen.

Mr. Rory Britt, who is a Warren resident, local historian, member of the Cultural Heritage Commission of Somerset County and chairperson of the Warren Historic Sites Committee was so impressed by the confidence, maturity, and preparedness of the Peer Leaders on June 6, he invited them to volunteer during the Somerset County Weekend Journey through the Past that will be held on Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 13 from noon to 4:00 p.m. This event will be open to the public, free of charge. A list of Somerset County's participating historical sites can be found by visiting the Somerset County website.



(above, l-r) John Williams, Vanessa Tao, Dominic Popolo, Ava Bateh, Daniel Shen and guest presenter Doug Aumack portraying a colonial physician at Gen. Washington's 1777 Middlebrook Encampment Site.

## FALL TENNIS LESSONS

Registration for Fall Tennis Lessons and Adult Cardio Tennis lessons are open to Warren, Watchung and Green Brook residents until September 9 at 10 a.m. Mike Watson will be the instructor for the session. To register please go to [warrennj.org/recreation](http://warrennj.org/recreation), click the register tab.

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(above) Julia Clemente, Carly Allgor, Jaime Lippitt, Melina Hammoud, and Alexandra Schroeder take a quick break between tours of the Mt. Bethel Baptist Meeting House.

(above) Julianna Pontoriero, Fiona Shanahan, Jessica Madura, Charlotte Holliday, and Emma Grochowski outside of Kirch Ford House just prior to starting a tour.

Photos by Warren Township Schools



(above) Gavin Martignetti explaining the history behind Washington Rock to ALT students Avangelia Micheludis, Olivia De Angelis, Alysa Unadkat, Melia Ahn, Serafina Purpora, Alyssa Hammoud, Charlotte Berez, Pranavi Raina, and Arthur Andersen.

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## THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN LAUNCHES NEW WEB SERIES TO TEACH CHILDREN INTERNET SAFETY



The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) recently launched, "Into the Cloud," a brand new online safety product for children in grades K-5. This includes an animated web series and video game. Using data from actual NCMEC CyberTipline reports, each episode focuses on a different element of online safety, from strategies for handling cyberbullying to recognizing and reporting unsafe/inappropriate interactions and content. Additional episodes will be available throughout the year.

"Into the Cloud" presents important safety information in an age-appropriate and entertaining manner! All the resources are free!

The episodes are available at [www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/videos](http://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/videos).

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All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit [SCLSNJ.org](http://SCLSNJ.org) or call the Library for more information and to register.

\*Please note the Library will be closed September 1 and 2 for Labor Day

## ALL AGE PROGRAMS

### Board Game Night

September 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

Outdoor Movie: "Zootopia" (families with children) on September 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Game Day (families with children): September 30, 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

## CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAM

### Tween Advisory Board

September 5, 4-5 p.m.  
(grades 4-6)

### A Plastic Free Planet

September 7, 11 a.m. - noon  
September 17, 19; 4-5 p.m.  
(grades K-5)

### A Walk in the Woods

September 9, 7-8 p.m.  
(grades K-5)

### Drop-in Craft - Sunflowers

September 10, 3:30-7 p.m.  
September 21, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
(ages 3 and up)

### Construction Zones

September 14, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
(ages 3 and up)

### Crafty Kids - Make a Fall Craft

September 16, 4-4:45 p.m.  
(grades 2-5)

### Baby Storytime - Story and Play

September 17, 24; 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
(ages birth - 18 months)

### Toddler Storytime - Story and Play

September 18, 19, 25, 26; 10-10:30 a.m.  
(ages 18 months - 3 years)

### Family Storytime - Pajama Storytime

September 18, 25; 7-7:30 p.m.  
(families with children)

### Preschool Storytime - Story and Craft

September 19, 26; 11-11:45 a.m.  
(ages 3-5)

### Teen Leadership Academy

September 19, 7-8 p.m.  
(grades 7-12)

### Read to a Therapy Dog

September 23, 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
(grades K-4)

### Chess Club

September 24, 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
(grades K-5)

### Teen Journaling

September 26, 7-8 p.m.  
(grades 6-12)

### LEGO® Club

September 28, 11 a.m. - noon  
(grades K-5)

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Yarns and Threads

September 9, 16, 23, 30; 10 a.m. - noon

### English Conversation Group

September 10, 17, 24; 10-11:30 a.m.

### Book Discussion:

September 11, 7:15-8:45 p.m.  
September 26, 1:30-3 p.m.

### AARP Safe Driver Course

September 14, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### September Feast - Featuring Chef Jesse Jones

September 16, 7-8 p.m.

### Writers Group

September 18, 7-8:30 p.m.

### The Endangered Customer

### Author Led Business Book Discussion

September 20, noon - 1 p.m.

### Special Needs Social Hour

### Yoga Class With Jillian Keller

September 23, 7-8 p.m.

### iPad 101 for Beginners

September 25, 11 a.m. - noon

### Discover the Incredible Richness of India

September 25, 7-8:30 p.m.

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Mayor DiNardo and the  
Warren Township Committee  
invite you to attend  
the 9/11 Memorial Service  
that will be held on  
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

The service will began at 8:30 am at the  
Warren Township Municipal Complex  
located at  
46 Mountain Boulevard  
Warren, NJ

We hope that you will be able to join us  
in remembering those who tragically  
lost their lives eighteen years ago.

## CASA SHAW ANNOUNCES INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) has announced Information Sessions in September for individuals who are interested in learning more about becoming a CASA volunteer advocate.

"Attending an information session is the first step in becoming a CASA volunteer advocate for a foster child who has been abused and neglected. This is where individuals learn about what it takes to become a volunteer," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW. Attending an Information Session is required for anyone interested in applying to become a CASA.

Below are the dates and times for the upcoming CASA SHaW information sessions scheduled for September.

All sessions will be held at the CASA SHaW

office located at 150 Boulevard, Washington, NJ 07882.

Registration is required by contacting Karen Cassano at karen@casashaw.org or 908-689-5515.

- Tuesday, September 10 - Noon
- Saturday, September 21 - 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 24 - 5:30 p.m.

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home.

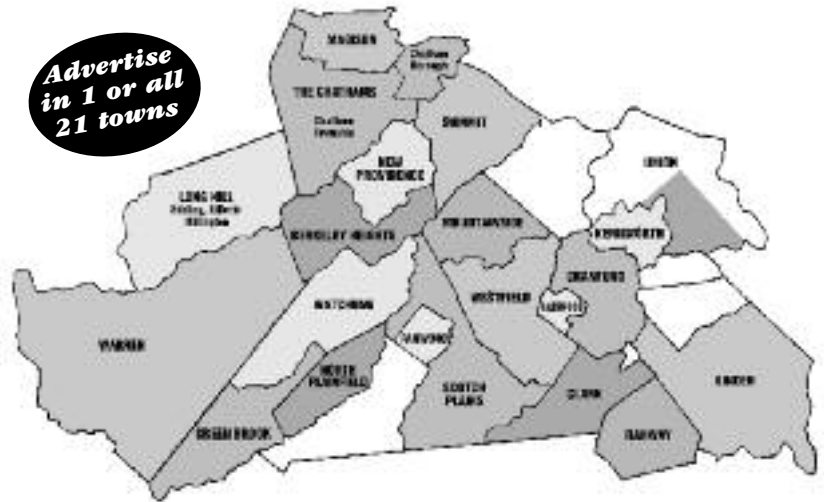
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<b>OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ</b> Qty: 12,400 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07065	<b>Scotch Plains MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 9,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07076	<b>Summit 3 Times</b> NJ Qty: 9,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of UNION</b> NJ Qty: 5,500 5,000 mailed to homes and businesses. Zip: 07085	<b>WARREN MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 6,200 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung Post</b> NJ Qty: 2,800 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 11,800 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07080

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