Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

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WHRHS WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS AND STAFF



(above, l-r) The new teachers and Vice Principal at Watchung Hills Regional High School for the 2019-2020
School Year gathered in the school's Media Center for New Teacher Orientation on August 20-22.
They are: (seated) Lam Wong, Dan Lamson, Alex Albaret, Vice Principal Jim Flakker; (standing) Natalia Berardo,
Christina Longo, Pamela Phillips, Patrick Ganley, Mark Harley, Ofelia Rodriguez, Monica Rito, Douglas Radiewicz,
and Kavish Dhaibar. Not in photo: Lexiang Chiarulli.

Photo by WHRHS

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Submitted by Denis Kelly

The Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) faculty and administration includes two new interim staff, one returning staff, and 14 new staff with which to begin the 2019-2020 School Year.

The new members include five new World Languages teachers, two new Mathematics teachers, two new Science teachers, and one new Social Studies, English, and Choral Music teachers. There is also a new Guidance Counselor and a new Vice Principal.

"The new staff for the 2019-2020 School Year were welcomed to WHRHS at a three-day New Teacher Orientation program, Tuesday, August 20, to Thursday, August 22," said Beth Scheiderman, WHRHS Director of Human Resources and Professional Development. "The new staff received information about WHRHS systems, were introduced to key resource staff, were given tours of the WHRHS facilities, and had opportunities to get to know one another. All the new staff were eager to familiarize themselves with the school, and were looking forward to meeting their fellow faculty members during the full staff development program on Wednesday, August 28, and Thursday, August 29."



(above, l-r) Also joining the staff at WHRHS for the start of the 2019-2020 School Year are Interim Director of Guidance Julie Patterson; Administrative Assistant to the Principal Laurie Grafer; and Student Data Systems Manager Chris Beckert.

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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.

Organizations

who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

JAZZ DIVA SANDY SASSO PRESENTS BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER

vocalist, Sandy Sasso, will be held at the Watchung Arts Center on Saturday, October 19 at 8 p.m. Ms. Sasso will be accompanied by master musicians, Brad Mandigo on the piano, bassist Mike Carino, and vibraphonist Behn Gillece. All sales from tickets will be donated to the Arts Center to help it present additional dynamic musical and artistic programming to the community.

"The WAC is a gem of a venue for all the arts. Because all proceeds from our concert will benefit the WAC, I feel I'm doing something very worthwhile, not only for me and my band, but for all the people who work so hard at keeping the Arts Center open and thriving," said Sasso.

The performance will be followed by a dessert reception with an opportunity to meet the performers.

Sandy Sasso started her musical journey with piano studies at 6, sang in every school show, in choirs, in church and was a voice major/piano minor at the prestigious Westminster Choir College in Princeton. From there she decided to hit the clubs and audition for band gigs. As a young woman, Ms. Sasso had a chance audition and started working with a local big band. This eventually opened the doors to steady work with the Dorsey, Goodman, Riddle and Pops big bands. She currently has four CD's to her credit, with two more in the works.

Sandy sings with and for the best in the business: jazz legends, presidents, entertainment giants, and some of the best road bands traveling today. Ms. Sasso is a very popular vocalist, possessing a wonderful instrument and a delightful and fun personality for her audience. Jazz Inside said of Sasso "Her greatest gift is the manner in which she delivers a lyric - smooth and seductive."

An internationally-known artist, Sandy tours world-wide, while keeping her performance base in New York City, with everything from small jazz combos to 17 piece big bands. Sandy Sasso is one of the busiest singers in the business. In addition to performing, Ms. Sasso has been a

A Benefit Concert featuring acclaimed Jazz sought-after vocal coach and piano teacher for over three decades. She also shares the love and joy of music with her children's choir. Originally started fifteen years ago, this wonderful little choir, ages 6 to 13, continues to grow. "It is such a great feeling to see these young ones raising their voices in a spiritual setting."

> All tickets are \$25 and may be purchased online at watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com or by mailing a check to the Watchung Arts Center. Please include an email address or phone number with your ticket order.

> The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.



(above) Acclaimed Jazz vocalist, Sandy Sasso, performing at a benefit concert at the Watchung Arts Center on Saturday, October 19

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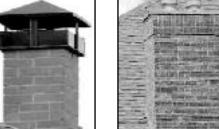
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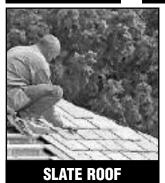






















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FIREFIGHTER PETE BRINGS FIRE SAFETY, **CPR, STORY TIMES TO LIBRARY**

October is Fire Prevention Month. That's why the Friends of the Watchung Library are pleased to bring "Firefighter Pete" (Pietro Martino), longtime Watchung resident and volunteer firefighter, to the library for a series of story times for children and Fire Safety/CPR training classes for teens and adults.

"Since 1989, I've done fire safety programs at Bayberry Elementary School, at Valley View Middle School and even at the Giving Nest Preschool," Martino says. As Firefighter Pete, Martino has volunteered to offer story times to teach fire safety to children of different ages at the Watchung Library. Firefighter Pete is eager to bring his fire safety program to the library



(above) Firefighter Pete (Pietro Martino) fascinates 9 month old Nico at the Watchung Library.

because there he will be able to raise the parents awareness level of safety while educating and entertaining the children.

In his story times, Firefighter Pete will read to children, delight the children with a demonstration of real firefighting gear, and give a free fire safety gift to each child. Story times are scheduled as follows:

Babies and Toddlers (up to 36 months) Tuesdays October 15 and October 22 at 10:30 a.m.;

Preschool (3-5 years) Thursdays October 17 and November 14 at 4:00 p.m.;

Elementary (K through 4th grade) Tuesdays October 15 and October 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Please call to register: 908-458-8455.

The Friends of the Watchung Library are also teaming with Martino to sponsor three two-hour CPR and fire safety training classes, to be taught by certified instructors. Classes for adults and teens aged 14 or older will be offered at the library: Saturday October 5 (9:30-11:30 a.m.), and Saturday October 12 (9:30-11:30 a.m.). Participants can earn the American Heart Association Friends and Family level certification. Because class size will be limited, preregistration is required.

All of the material will be covered in each session, so please sign up for just one session by 908-754-8389 emailing FirefighterPeteNJ@gmail.com.

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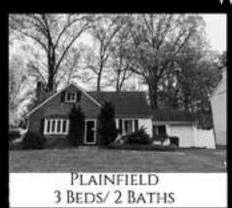






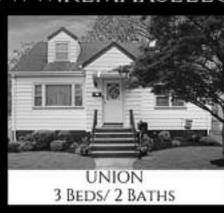


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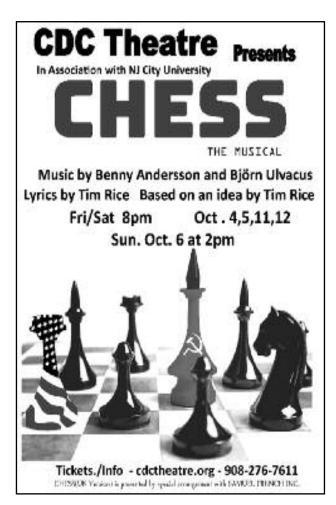
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The 2020-2021 season at CDC Theatre in Well". Cranford opened with the complex rock opera Chess, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of ABBA fame. In the musical the ancient game becomes a metaphor for romantic rivalries, competitive gamesmanship, super-power politics and international intrigues. October dates are Fri. and Sat. 4, 5, 11, 12, 8 p.m.; and Sunday Oct. 6 at 2 p.m.

The pawns in the drama form a love triangle: the loutish American chess star, the earnest Russian champion and the Hungarian American female assistant who arrives at the match with the American but falls for the Russian. From Bangkok to Budapest, the players, lovers, politicians and spies manipulate and are manipulated to the pulse of a monumental rock score that includes the international pop hits "One Night in Bangkok" and "I Know Him So

"In addition to Chess being one of the most beautiful musical scores ever written, what excites me about the show is that it is at once a historical representation of the Cold War and a very timely exploration of US/Russia political relations given present day tensions.", said director Edgar Hidalgo. "CDC Theatre is producing the original London stage version of Chess, with the addition of "Someone Else's Story" from the Broadway production. We are excited to be presenting Chess in association with the New Jersey City University (NJCU). Students and alumni of NJCU are represented on-stage and in the orchestra, and the university's musical theatre and music departments are providing support in other areas of the production."

Information on how to get tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org, with the best selections and prices available on-line.



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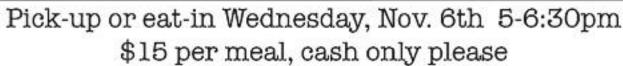
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WAGNER FARM ARBORETUM BRITE NITES 2019

If it's Fall, then it must be time for Warren's coolest pumpkin event! Returning for an 8th year, it's Wagner Farm Arboretum's spectacular Halloween-themed event "Brite Nites" which showcases an elaborate display of intricately and creatively hand-carved and lighted pumpkins. Meander through the Children's Garden path filled with breath-taking pumpkin sculptures, where the young and younger will be astounded by their complexity and originality. Returning again this year will be Dusk Productions to bring you an even bigger haunting experience with a revamped "Barn of Fear" display. Watch out for the roaming ghouls, zombies and witches. New this year will be the addition of a L'il Pumpking Patch, where the Pre-k attendees will pick a mini-pumpkin and play some games. The whole family is sure to be entertained. After all that fresh air, stop by the food pavilion where you can enjoy a quick bite from a rotating selection of food trucks including Oink and Moo, Pizza Vita, The Empanada Guy, Taxi Cab Burger, Chef J Latin/Asian Fusion, Romeo's Oriental BBQ and Eat My Balls. Hot cocoa and hot cider will be available for purchase. A visit to the WFA store should not be missed. There will be baked goods and local, hand-crafted gifts perfect for early holiday shopping. Come support a local organization while enjoying the great outdoors. With your help, we can continue to build out the vision of a world-class arboretum, right here in town.

BRITE NITES 2019 - OCTOBER 11-12, 18-19, 25-27

with rain dates on Oct 13 and 20. Entry times start at 6:45pm and end at 8:15pm. Wagner Farm Arboretum, 197 Mountain Ave., Warren, NJ. Contact: Eileen Alario at (908) 350-7383 Email BriteNites@wfafnj.org Website: www.britenites.org Tickets: sold online, in 30-minute intervals Admission: \$15 per Adult; \$10 Senior, \$10 Child ages 5-12, Children 4 and under are free

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WARREN TOWNSHIP OPENS PARK & RIDE TO WATCHUNG RESIDENTS

Warren and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung are excited to announce an agreement allowing residents of Watchung Borough to utilize the Warren Township Park & Ride located at the Warren Corporate Center.

The Warren Township Park & Ride opened on September 4, 2018, providing bus service to Warren residents with an express bus to New York Port Authority at 6:45 a.m., Monday through Friday, with four return buses at 5:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

In 2018, preliminary discussions commenced between Watchung Borough Officials and Warren Township to provide an opportunity for Watchung residents to use the Park & Ride. Watchung residents formerly had access to a Park & Ride on Route 22 at the former Sears site, which was eliminated as the site was reconstructed.

Warren Township Committeeman and Park & Ride liaison, George Lazo, stated, "It has been a pleasure working with Watchung Council President, Robert Gibbs, to offer this opportunity

The Township Committee of the Township of to Watchung residents." Lazo further commented, "Recent letters to Warren permit holders, along with press coverage, has increased ridership. With the addition of Watchung residents, the ridership will have an opportunity to continue to

> In order to utilize the Park & Ride, Watchung residents must obtain a permit from the Warren Township Clerk's office at 46 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, beginning August 19, 2019. Those requesting permits must show proof of residency in either Warren Township or Watchung Borough and complete the appropriate application.

> Bus service for the Park & Ride is provided by Lakeland Bus Company, Dover, New Jersey, through an agreement with the Township of Warren. The Township has also entered into an agreement with Warren Corporate Center to provide parking for the Park & Ride. This agreement with Warren Corporate Center is in effect through February 29, 2020.

Borough Council President Rob Gibbs, on

behalf of the Watchung Mayor and Council, thanked Committeeman Lazo and the other members of the Warren governing body for working with Watchung to find a solution to our residents' desire for a commuting option. "Having explored several options over the last several years, Watchung's past and present officials are proud that we could work with our neighbor to identify a solution that was good for not only Watchung's residents but also the Township of Warren.

Deputy Mayor Mick Marion commented that, "Over the next several months, the Township Committee will be evaluating the Park & Ride in order to determine if a permanent location will be established.

For questions regarding how to obtain a parking permit, please contact the Warren Township Clerk's office at 908-753-8000, Ext. 223 or through email at creese@warrennj.org. For general information regarding the Park & Ride, please contact Mark Krane, Township Administrator, at 908-753-8000, Ext. 250 or by emailing mkrane@warrennj.org.



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LOCAL CIVIL AIR PATROL SQUADRON ACHIEVEMENTS

Submitted by Cadet Master Sergeant Niyati Shah

On Tuesday, August 20, 2019, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Anushka Kumar, a resident of Watchung, New Jersey, accepted command as the new Cadet Commander of a local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadron, the Captain "Bud" Jackson Composite Squadron (NJ-102). This prestigious role was passed on to her by Cadet Major Veronica Vergara, a resident of Scotch Plains, NJ, who has graduated high school and has started her college life at Rutgers University.

The Change of Command ceremony was conducted by Cadet Major Veronica Vergara, as previous Cadet Commander, Capt. Sachin Adbe, as Squadron Commander, and Cadet Master Sergeant Isaac Allen, as guidon bearer. The ceremony consisted of Cadet Major Vergara relinquishing command and passing on the squadron guidon to Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Kumar. The passing on of the guidon symbolizes not only a change in command, but the passing on of responsibility and expectations.

Cadet Commander isn't just a title, with the title comes tremendous responsibility. Cadet Kumar now acts as the liaison between the cadet body and senior member staff and ensures compliance with CAP regulations and policies in all squadron activity. She would set goals and develop training plans for the squadron to improve with. Under her leadership, the squadron will work towards the shared goal of maximizing cadet participation, recruitment, and striving for excellence. Cadet Kumar will lead and command 102 cadets, and it is not a small responsibility for a teenager.

Cadet Kumar joined the CAP in 2016 and has been an active member of the squadron, consistently rising in rank ever since. She has utilized many opportunities to learn about emergency services, leadership, cyber security, and STEM based topics. She leads drills and ceremonies, teaches about positive character traits, and encourages cadets to promote. She has become a role model to her peers and has inspired them to "Aim High".

During the same ceremony night, several other cadets were commended for their notable

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achievements. Cadet Paul Koizumi, resident of Fanwood, NJ, achieved a major milestone, the Billy Mitchell Award, promoting in rank to Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. This milestone signifies a transition from the leadership to executive phase of the Cadet Program. Additionally, twenty-four cadets were awarded the Encampment ribbon after completion of the rigorous Air Force-style boot camp at the Joint Base Mcguire-Dix-Lakehurst in Trenton, NJ. These cadets, along with staffing cadets, Cadet Kumar, Bellam, and Pant were commended for their hard-work and effort. In attendance were special guests Major Jamie Currey, Captain Plunkett, and Captain Jill Milstein.

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Manali Shah was awarded an Achievement Award for her service in assisting a cadet with a medical emergency that had occurred at one of the squadron's weekly

meetings. Cadet Chief Shah, a resident of Scotch Plains, NJ, is in training as an EMT and is a volunteer with the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. She is majorly involved in some of the CAP's main missions: Emergency Services, Search and Rescue missions, and Disaster Relief.

The Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program is an afterschool program open to all Middle School and High School students from ages 12 to 18. Since CAP is part of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, the cadet program teaches and challenges cadets to excel in discipline, character, community service (emergency service), Aerospace-STEM education, and Air Force customs and courtesies. The goal is to Aim High as cadets. For more information about the CAP cadet program, please contact CAP Captain Jose Vergara at jose.vergara@njwg.cap.gov or visit the CAP webpage at gocivilairpatrol.com.



(above) The passing on of the guidon from previous Cadet Commander Cadet Major Veronica Vergara to Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Anushka Kumar symbolizes not only a change in command, but the passing on of responsibility and expectations.



SCLSNJ AND THE SOMERSET PATRIOTS CELEBRATE THE CONCLUSION OF THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Somerset County Library System of New what their Library had to offer; and more. Jersey (SCLSNJ) partnered with the Somerset on August 27, 2019, at the Ballpark to commemorate the completion of SCLSNJ's Summer Reading Challenge. Baseball fans and Library customers connected with multiple authors; shared the fun of baseball; discovered





(above, l-r) Rich Loomis, SCLSNJ digital services manager; Brian Morgan, SCLSNJ director of finance; Ken Utter, library commission vice chairman; Anthony Suriano, library commission chairman; Slider, Somerset Patriots mascot; Brian Auger, county library administrator; Catherine Heldt, library commissioner; and Nancy Stoll, library commissioner.

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SCLSNJ'S WATCHUNG LIBRARY BRANCH

Somerset County Library System New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Branch, is located at 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey. All programs listed are free.

Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library at 908-458-8455 for more information.

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**

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October 3, 4-4:30 p.m. (grades 3-5)

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October 8, 4-5 p.m. (grades K-5)

Teen Advisory Board

October 22, 7-8 p.m.

(grades 6-12)

STEAM - Flip Books

October 24, 4-4:45 p.m. (grades K-5)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mah Jong Club of Watchung

October 1, 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29; 1-4 p.m.

Watchung Writers Group

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Canasta

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; 1-4 p.m. **Game Night**

October 7, 14, 21; 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Special Needs Social Hour

October 9, 2-3 p.m.

Book Discussion:

"The Dakota Winters" by Tom Barbash

October 10, 7:30-8:45 p.m. **Meditation Series**

Concentration Using Breath

October 19, 11 a.m. - noon

Concentration Using Mantra

October 26, 11 a.m. - noon

Dream Interpretation - Nightmares

October 28, 7-8 p.m.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

WATCHUNG RECREATION'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 19th - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

(Rain Date Sunday, October 20th)

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to register or for more information go to



LIBRARY HAS CULTURAL ADVENTURE PASS NOW WITH 22 DESTINATIONS

Library books can transport you and your imagination into a world rich with experiences and adventures. But, once you close the pages on your latest read, it may be time to step into a real• world, action• packed adventure with SCLSNJ's Cultural Adventure Pass.

Discover the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Cultural Adventure Pass (an upgrade of the Library System's current museum pass program) and visit 22 exciting destinations across the Tri• state area including gardens, zoos, museums, and more.

"SCLSNJ is excited to launch our new and improved Cultural Adventure Pass," said Darryl Voorhees, manager of adult services, programming and collaborations. "This program reflects our expanding horizons in catering to lifelong learning experiences. SCLSNJ encourages you to connect with nature by visiting our New Jersey State Parks; explore the animal kingdom at the Elmwood Park Zoo; share artistic talents with children at the Children's Museum of Manhattan; discover our country's history at the Museum of the American Revolution and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia; and more. We hope Library customers will love the new Cultural Adventure Pass as much as we do."

Choose your next adventure based on your favorite items from SCLSNJ's collection:

- If you liked "Butterfly People: An American Encounter With the Beauty of the World" by William Leach or "A Butterfly Is Patient" by Dianna Hutts Aston, visit the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA.
- If you liked "USS New Jersey (BB• 62): From World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to Museum Ship" by David Doyle, visit Battleship New Jersey Museum in Camden, NJ.
- If you liked "Pruning the Dead: Garden Squad Mystery" by Julia Henry or "A Big Garden" by Gilles Clement, visit the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in Brooklyn, NY.

- Library books can transport you and your againation into a world rich with experiences d adventures. But, once you close the pages

 If you liked "If Picasso Painted a Snowman" by Amy Newbold, visit Children's Museum of the Arts in Manhattan, NY.
 - If you liked "The Genius of Design" on DVD or "Ah-Ha to Zig-Zag: 31 Objects From Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum" by Maria Kalman, visit Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in NY.
 - If you liked "Life at the Zoo: the Secret World of Your Favorite Animals" by Michael George, visit Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown, PA.
 - VIf you liked "The Gilded Age in New York, 1870• 1910" by Esther Crain, visit The Frick Collection in NY.
 - If you liked "I Am Never Bored: The Best Ever Craft and Activity Book For Kids" by Sarah Devos, visit the Garden State Discovery Museum in Cherry Hill, NJ.
 - If you liked "Flora and the Peacocks" by Molly Schaar Idle, visit Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ.
 - If you liked "The Guggenheim Mystery" by Robin Stevens or "Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict" on DVD, visit the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in NY.
 - If you liked "NASA Space Shuttle: The History, Missions, the Heroes!" on DVD or "Safely to Earth: The Men and Women Who Brought the Astronauts Home" by Jack Clemons, visit the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in NY.
 - If you liked "Zoo Scientists to the Rescue" by Patricia Newman, visit the Lehigh Valley Zoo in Schnecksville, PA.
 - If you liked "A Kids' Guide to the American Revolution" by Kathleen Krull, visit the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, PA.
 - If you liked "On Broadway: From Rent to Revolution" by Drew Hodges, visit the Museum of the City of New York in NY.
 - If you liked "Modern Art Adventures: 36 Creative, Hands-on Projects Inspired by Artists from Monet to Banksy" by Maja Pitamic or "The Artists Who Will Change the World" by

- Omar Kholeif, visit The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in NY.
- If you liked "Planning Your Model Railroad" by Tony Koester, visit the Morris Museum in Morristown, NJ.
- If you liked "Know Your Rights!: A Modern Kid's Guide to the American Constitution" by Laura Barcella, visit the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA.
- If you liked "The American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of New Jersey" by Rick Wright, visit NJ State Parks.
- If you liked "Clara and Mr. Tiffany: A Novel" by Susan Vreeland or "New York City History for Kids: From New Amsterdam to the Big Apple: With 21 Activities" by Richard Panchyk, visit New• York Historical Society in NY
- If you liked "The Female Gaze: Women Artists Making Their World" by Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts or "Get Into Art" by Susie Brooks, visit the Pennsylvania Academy Of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, PA.
- If you liked "Andy Goldsworthy: Projects" by Andy Goldsworthy, visit Storm King Art Center in New Windsor, NY.
- If you liked "Born on the Links: A Concise History of Golf" by John Williamson, visit the United States Golf Association Museum in Far Hills, NJ.

Reserve your Cultural Adventure Pass today: SCLSNJ.org/culturaladventure.

ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.





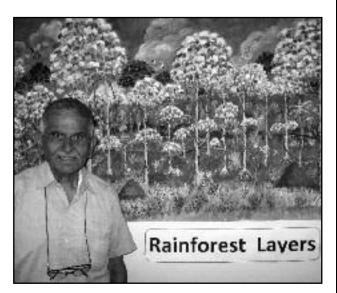


RAINFOREST SPECIAL EVENT HELD AT WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER

Submitted by Gwen Chalker

On August 26, Warrenbrook Senior Center, at 500 Warrenville Road, located on the Warrenbrook Golf Course, hosted a Rainforest Special Event. The center was decorated with palm leaves, tropical flowers and pictures of rainforest wildlife. The decorations were enhanced by a rainforest mural painted by Ghanshyam Patel, a member at the center. The prior week, center participants created rain sticks.

Attendees were particularly interested in learning how the Amazon Rainforest fire, that resulted in a major loss of trees and biodiversity, would impact the earth's oxygen. With rainforests being the Earth's oldest living ecosystems,



(above) Ghanshyam Patel in front of the completed mural.

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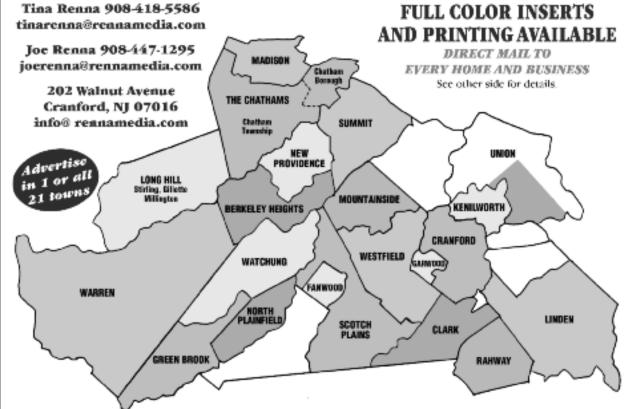
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attendees expressed their concerns about the immediate impact of the fire on climate change. Monica Juhasz, a Naturalist from the Somerset County Park Commission, Environmental Center, spoke about the fire and its long term effects, the four main rainforest layers and how rainforests play an invaluable role in sustaining life. She also highlighted the flora and fauna

found in rainforests. The event turned out to be a timely and relevant educational program that everyone enjoyed.

Warrenbrook Senior Center is a part of county government, supported with funds from the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey and the Federal Older Americans Act. Sponsored by Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

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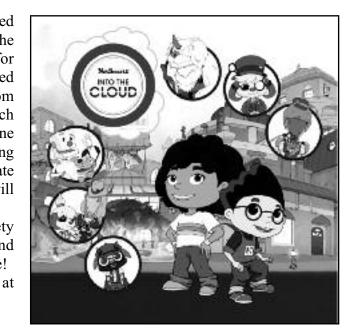
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THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & **EXPLOITED CHILDREN LAUNCHES NEW WEB SERIES TO TEACH CHILDREN INTERNET SAFETY**

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 entertaining manner! All the resources are free!

episodes available www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/videos.



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CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295

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For information about the Rotary club contact Bob Aznar

908-755-8724

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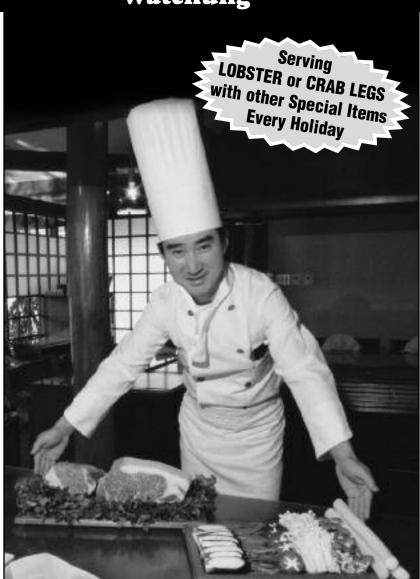
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