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Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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REC DEPARTMENT HOLDS ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Watchung Borough Recreation Department held the annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 19th, 2019, at Mobus Field.

The day featured activities for the whole family including pumpkin painting, inflatable attractions, hay rides, and an exciting costume contest.

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Watchung Post

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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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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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2020 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS AND COMMENDED STUDENTS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Four Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students have been named to the 2020 National Merit Semifinalist List, and another 26 WHRHS students have been named to the 2020 National Merit Commended List.

This year's WHRHS National Merit Semifinalists are: Phillip Ding, Dave Ki, Jessica Young and Vivian Zhang.

This year's WHRHS students named to the Commended List, which is the category immediately following Semifinalist, are: Laura Baeyens, Jagdeep Bhatia, Catherine Cai, Nyna Chacko, Tina Chen, Tamara Hadzic, Jenna Hansen, Nicole Harris, Roopa Irakam, Niharika Iyer, Apurva Joshi, Stephanie Ju, Abigail Kotar, Sana Mamtaney, Aaron Marmolejos, Manthan Naik, James Narayanan, Annabell Pu, Julia Rubin, Cristina Sarrico, Julia M. Schink, Mayur Sharma, Katie Tan, Sarah Young, Maya Zhang, and Kevin Zu.

The designations are based on scores by these students on the Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and Mathematics Test for the

2018 PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) last Fall.

This year's four National Merit Semifinalists means that as many as 52 WHRHS students have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists during the most recent six years.

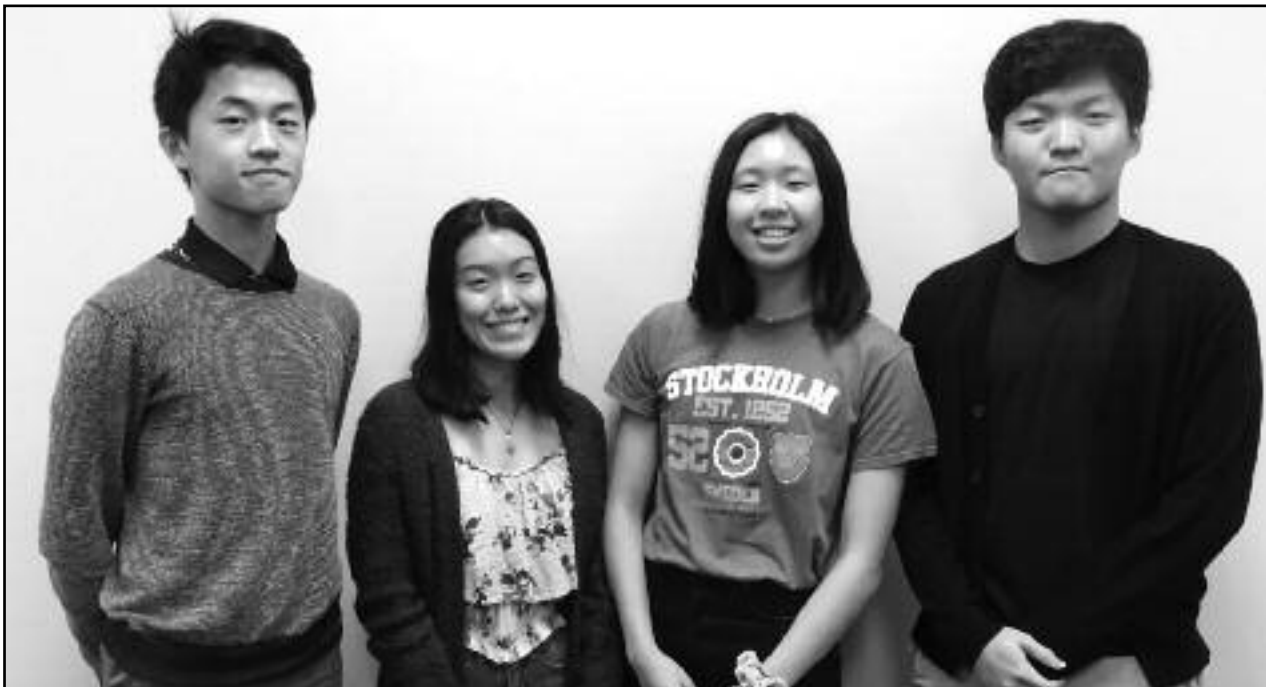
The year-to-year totals have been:

Class of 2015 – 11; Class of 2016 – 6;

Class of 2017 – 10; Class of 2018 – 15;

Class of 2019 – 6; and Class of 2020 – 4.

The National Merit Scholarship Program reports that the Finalists will be named later in the year. A percentage of Finalists are expected to compete for National Merit Scholarships, according to the scholarship program. Taken into account for those scholarship selections will be a variety of factors, including the student's subsequent SAT scores that confirm the score in the PSAT/NMSQT, an essay, as well as an endorsement and recommendation from the student's high school, demonstrations of leadership and participation in school and community activities.



(above, l-r) The 2020 National Merit Semifinalists from WHRHS are Phillip Ding of Green Brook Township, Jessica Young of Warren Township, Vivian Zhang of Green Brook Township, and Dave Ki of Warren Township.

Photo by WHRHS

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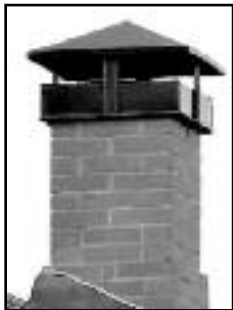
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WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS OFFERS MEETING SPACE FOR FREE FOR NON-PROFITS

Submitted by Michael Ryder

One of the most challenging aspects of running a small non-profit is having a place to meet. A good meeting room provides an atmosphere that facilitates effective and decisive meetings.

There's nothing wrong with a friend's living room or a library conference room. Starbucks and Panera Bread seem not to mind meetings. However these options aren't always reliable because of their "first-come, first-serve" nature and certainly can become challenging when the number of members grows.

The Watchung Hills Elks have 6.5 acres of property that include a lodge meeting hall, bandstand, picnic ground and pavilion. These are all available for rent by the public — birthday parties, retirement celebrations, weddings, concerts, movie-nights, etc.

But for non-profits in and near Warren Township, NJ, they can be rented at no charge. (Additionally if you're an Elk, you gain access to our bar/lounge and large, private swimming pool.)

Areas are available at no-charge, Mondays through Thursdays for non-profits and available Fridays through Sundays for a suitable donation. There is seating for about 80 at the round tables in the "banquet style" and seating for about 100 in the "theater style." 8 foot pull-down projection screen (bring your own projector) is available.

Other attributes include high-speed internet, good overhead lighting, and ample parking.

We're happy to count these non-profit organizations as satisfied customers of our facilities: American Legion of North Plainfield, Warren Township Cub Scouts, Warren Township Girl Scouts, Warren Township Honorary PBA, and Warren Township PBA Local #235.

Call the lodge to check the calendar at 908-668-9727 and please leave a message if we aren't available to pick-up the phone, or send an email to reservations@elkslodge885.org and the bar staff will get back to you as soon as possible about your request. We're located at 1 Elks Trail, Warren, NJ, 07059 (across the street from the Warren Township Rescue Squad).



(above) The Watchung Hills Elks has meeting spaces available for non-profits at no cost from Monday through Thursday.

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STUDENTS CHEER, 'WARRIORS PRIDE' AT WHRHS FALL PEP RALLY

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Seniors wearing white shirts, Juniors wearing blue, Sophomores wearing red and Freshmen wearing green gathered in the stands of Tozier Stadium on Friday afternoon, September 13, 2019, at the annual Fall Pep Rally to cheer for the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Fall athletic teams.

Later that night, under the lights at the same Tozier Stadium, the football team won its second victory of the season, defeating Plainfield High School, 35-12.

Warrior Head Football Coach Rich Seubert, who was named The Lou Rettino High School Coach of the Week for Week 2 of the 2019 season by the New York Giants and Gatorade, and who played for 10 years for the New York Giants, including in the Giants' win in the 2007 Super Bowl, came out just before the Warrior football team charged onto the field at the Pep Rally, to lead "call-and-response" cheers.

Leading up to the football team's appearance at the Fall Pep Rally, a variety of the other teams, representing the numerous athletic teams, entertained the students in the stands. Among those making appearances at the Pep Rally were: Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country teams, whose runners circled the stadium together, running a lap on the track; The Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer teams, whose players demonstrated various passing, kicking and ball control skills; Field Hockey, whose team members demonstrated their pinpoint passing and stick handling abilities; Ultimate Frisbee, whose

never-stop-running boys and girls players covered the entire field, and some of the sidelines, sometimes right up to the stands, with deft Frisbee passing and spectacular catching; Tennis, whose players seized the opportunity to execute scores of soft lobs, sending tennis balls to the four corners of the stands, and to the many outstretched hands in-between, all to the delight of the students; and Gymnastics, whose competitors demonstrated their sport's array of athletic skills like cartwheels, somersaults, spins and gravity-defying leaps.

Also represented on the field were the various elements of the Music Department's WHRHS Marching Warriors and Flag Squad. To open the Pep Rally, the Marching Band performed one of its signature pieces that audiences had heard and will hear as part of halftime performances at the 2019-2020 Warrior Football Games. The Warrior Marching Band is under the direction of Instrumental Music Teacher Paul McCullen, with assistance by Music Tech Lab Music Teacher Christopher Wyatt. Likewise, the WHRHS Cheerleaders demonstrated their various dances, formations, lifts, trust falls and cheers that are ever-present at so many WHRHS athletic and school-spirit events.

Acting as public address announcers at the Pep Rally was All School Council (ASC) Vice President Scott Romankow and ASC Parliamentarian Jed Ober in the Press Box. The annual Pep Rally was organized by the All School Council to honor all Fall Varsity Athletes.

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WHRHS FALL PEP RALLY PHOTOS



(above) The members of the Boys Soccer Team and the Girls Soccer Team gathered before each team demonstrated their skills and team spirit on the Tozier Stadium Field at the Fall Pep Rally.

Photos by WHRHS



(above) To open the Pep Rally, the Marching Band performed one of its signature pieces that audiences had heard and will hear as part of halftime performances at the 2019-2020 Warrior Football Games.



(above) The WHRHS Cheerleaders demonstrated their various dances, formations, lifts, trust falls and cheers that are ever-present at so many WHRHS athletic and school-spirit events.

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VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung will hold a Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 11, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at Valley View School 50 Valley View Road, Watchung. All are invited to attend.

WATCHUNG SENIORS CLUB HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

Holiday Spectacular Bus Ride, Tues., December 10, 2019, 10.m.

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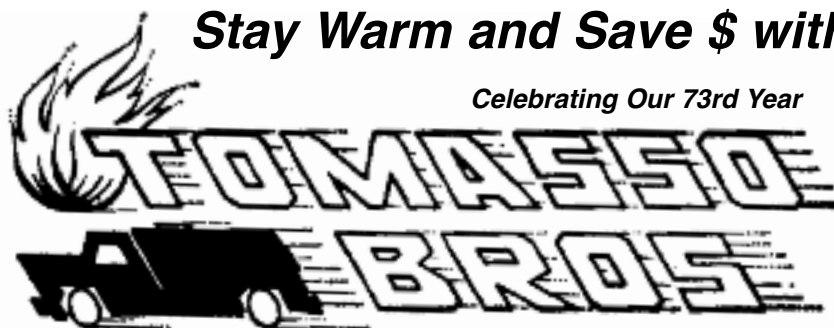
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Somerset County Library System New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Branch, is located at 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey. All programs listed are free.

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



(above) Recently families connected at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Library branch through playing Bingo. Pictured are the Cherrez family of North Plainfield: Kaylee, 6, Ethan, 4, Maved, 8, and their mom Veronica, discovering the fun of the game. For more interactive family fun at your Library explore: sclsnj.libnet.info/events

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Mini-Maker Art Space (families with children):

November 4, 18; 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Tiny Tots (ages birth - 3 years):

November 5, 10:30-11 a.m.

Family Storytime - Twilight Tales (families with children):

November 6, 7-7:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytime - Miss June's Room (ages 3-5):

November 7, 4-4:30 p.m.

Bingo With Miss June (ages 4 and up):

November 8, 4-4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Club (grades K-5):

November 12, 4-5 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board (grades 6-12):

November 19, 7-8 p.m.

STEAM - Make Your Own Board Game (grades K-5):

November 21, 4-4:45 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mah Jong Club of Watchung:

November 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26; 1-4 p.m.

Game Night:

November 4, 11, 18, 25; 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Watchung Writers Group:

November 7, 14, 21; 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Canasta:

November 7, 14, 21; 1-4 p.m.

Best Books of 2019 and What is Coming Up in 2020:

November 7, 7-8 p.m.

Special Needs Social Hour:

November 13, 2-3 p.m.

Book Discussion - "Circe" by Madeline Miller:

November 14, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

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NJ PHOTO FORUM: A 25 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT AT ARTS CENTER

The New Jersey Photography Forum (NJPF) continues the celebration of its 25th anniversary with a retrospective exhibit at the Watchung Arts Center at 18 Stirling Road on the Watchung Circle in Watchung, NJ from November 1 through November 30, 2019, with a gala opening reception on November 3 from 1-5 p.m. The Center galleries are open Tuesday through Friday from noon - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The exhibit contains two floors of outstanding photographs representing the past 25 years of fine art photography. Upstairs in the Heinz W. Otto Gallery, the NJPF will be showing almost 50 pieces by 37 artists who live throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Some have been part of the group since its inception with the balance being very active exhibitors for many years. The works range from film and alternative processes to digital imagery. The Lower Gallery will feature photographs that have won some top prizes in the Forum's annual juried photography exhibits held at the Watchung Arts Center over the past 25 years. Most works are for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to the arts center.

Nancy Ori, the founder and Director of the New Jersey Photography Forum says: "The Watchung Art Center is a wonderful showplace for this retrospective exhibit tracing the history and dramatic changes that have happened in photographic art over the past 25 years, a period which corresponds to the founding and growth of the NJ Photography Forum. It also demonstrates the commitment that the NJPF and the arts center have to each other."

The New Jersey Photography Forum is dedicated to furthering the interests of professional and serious photographers living or working in the New Jersey area. Under Ori's direction, the NJPF has become the largest and

most recognized group of fine art exhibiting photographers in the state. The monthly meetings are held at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit and encourage attendees to share expertise and advance their skills. The meetings provide access to a wide variety of current creative and technical information. Attendees have an opportunity to share their work for critique by others. Exhibition possibilities within the fine art community are constantly explored, and the group produces about a dozen group exhibits each year at various venues. These exhibit opportunities have become an invaluable resource for photographers interested in becoming fine art exhibitors.

The Watchung Arts Center (WAC) thrives in historic Watchung in Somerset County, NJ. The nonprofit, volunteer-run Arts Center excels in cultivating an eclectic mix of professional and

emerging artists in the performing and visual arts. Quality works in fine arts, exciting music, and comedy events are presented to enthusiastic audiences. Appreciation of painting, photography, and music from classical to folk to jazz to coffee house, comedy, theater, and mind/body arts is fostered through classes, workshops, and performances. All are structured to catch and expand the interest of youngsters of an early age to seniors of any age. The Watchung Art Center is located at 18 Stirling Rd, Watchung, NJ 07069.

For more information on the exhibit please contact Nancy Ori at nancyori@comcast.net, or the Watchung Arts Center at atwacenter@optonline.net. You can also visit the New Jersey Photography Forum website at njphotoforum.com and the WAC website at watchungarts.org



(above) Photo by Peter Alessandria

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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 21ST ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 21st season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 14 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for a 2 p.m. performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 15 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2 and 7 p.m.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of

Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The 2019 production will also mark the world premiere of "Mystical Nativity," an original composition inspired by the 16th century masterpiece painted by Italian Renaissance master, Sandro Botticelli.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include singer Maddy Kearns of Glasgow, Scotland making her concert debut, James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts

Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School as well as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas.

Proceeds also support the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod and an annual academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience. In cooperation with HomeTowne Television, the 2018 production was the recipient of two prestigious Telly Awards for webcast excellence.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through Brown Paper Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine) or by phone at (800) 838-3006. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.



(above) Rachel Clemente. The acclaimed composer and performer will debut the new composition, "Mystical Nativity."



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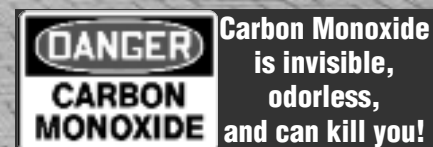
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