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MOUNTAINSIDE PACK 177 ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Submitted by Jennifer Padlo

The holiday season started on Saturday, November 23. 2019 for Mountainside Pack 177 with their annual Food Drive. This year approximately 80 scouts delivered over 2,500 food drive bags to residents of Mountainside. We were

able to collect over 1,000 bags to help needy families during

this year's holiday season. Items included cereals, pastas, canned goods (tuna, vegetables, beans, yams, etc), diapers, jello/pudding, peanut butter, soups, and juices.

Thank you to all the residents that participated in our annual food drive. We cannot do it without you! Happy Holidays from Pack 177.





(above) 80 scouts from Mountainside Pack 177 kicked off the holiday season by delivering food drive bags to homes in the area.

(above) Smiling scouts pose with some of the donated goods that were collected during the food drive.

TERRY FOPPERT AWARDED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Maureen Wakeman



(above) Terry Foppert

Ms. Terry Foppert, Superintendent of Union County Educational Services Commission, has been selected as Union County's 2019 Superintendent of the Year. "I am humbled and honored to be named Union County Superintendent of the Year. award reflects This the commitment and dedication of our administration staff, and community partners, working collaboratively to improve the lives

of students with special needs." said Superintendent Foppert.

Ms. Foppert has served as Superintendent of Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) since August 2013. Under her guidance, UCESC, a public school district for students with special needs, has expanded services and programs.

become a leader in special education. The innovative programs that have been introduced over the past six years have improved student outcomes including increased graduation and employment rates.

UCESC offers rigorous academic and therapeutic support to students with special needs ages three through twenty-one. Crossroads School, Westlake School, Lamberts Mill Academy and the Work Readiness Academy are uniquely designed to meet the needs of students who have autism spectrum disorders, multiple disabilities and emotional/behavioral disabilities.

In addition, UCESC operates two alternative high schools serving students from Elizabeth, provides supplemental instruction and related services to students who attend nonpublic schools and coordinates over 800 transportation routes for districts throughout Union County.

Please visit UCESC.org to learn more about our schools and

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email: editor@rennamedia.com

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BIANNUAL CASINO NIGHT BENEFITTING THE MOUNTAINSIDE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Submitted by Elisa Roland

The Mountainside Education Foundation is excited to announce our biannual Casino Night event on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 7-11 p.m. at Pollard Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Enjoy a fun-filled casino night with something for everyone including professional gambling tables, music, food, wine, and beer. There will also be prizes, a silent auction and a wine pull. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased on our website, mountainsideeducationfoundation.org.

All proceeds from the event will fund educational grants that benefit the students within the Mountainside School District in the areas of arts, science, technology, mathematics, writing, and community service.

The Mountainside Education Foundation would like to thank all of our Event Sponsors for helping to make this night a success. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for both businesses and individuals at a variety of levels. The MEF is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and all sponsorship donations are tax deductible.





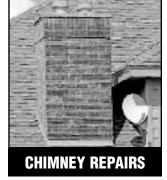


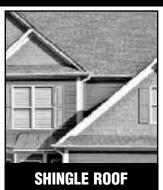




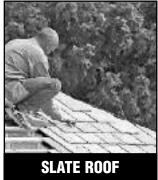
















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MOUNTAINSIDE ACTIVE RETIREES COOKIE SWAP

Submitted by Kenny i., M.A.R. - President

The Mountainside Active Retirees held their 3rd annual Cookie Swap at their December 10th meeting. Two tables were completely filled with both home baked and store bought goodies provided by the members. Entertainment was a distinctive mix of live music and behind the scenes stories provided by Pamm & Steve – Positivity Duo – at the gathering.

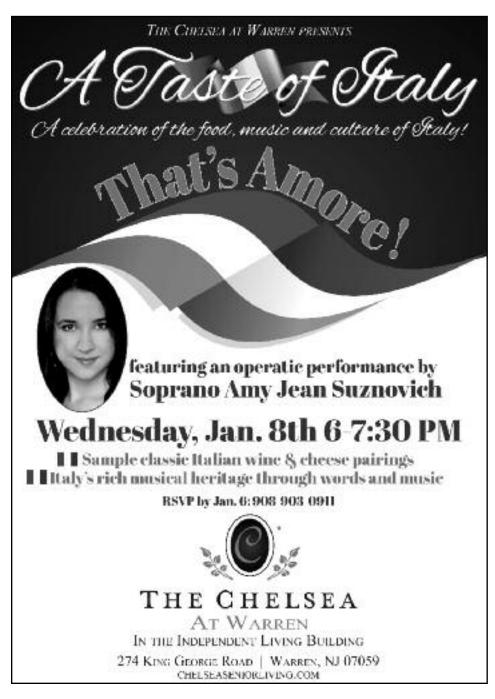
A music filled hour by the two very personable entertainers brought the members along on a foot tapping trip down memory lane ending with a rousing melody of patriotic tunes that enticed the group out of their seats to join in a sing along.

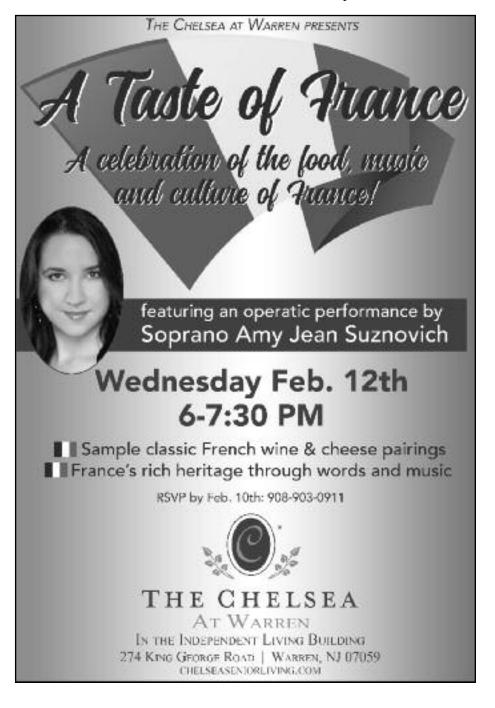
Reusable shopping bags, made from recycled plastic bottles and provided by Union County Recycle, were given out to the attending members and guests. The bags were immediately put to use by the members for their take-home cookies.

The next M.A.R. meeting will be held on January 28 in the 2nd floor Community Room at Borough Hall at 10 a.m. All Mountainside residents 55+ are welcome.



(above) Pamm & Steve, the Positivity Duo, perform at the Mountainside Active Retirees' 3rd annual Cookie Swap.





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WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL DREAM TEAM STUDENTS ACCEPT DONATION FROM MOUNTAINSIDE ELKS

Submitted by Kerri Oligino

The Mountainside Elks Lodge #1585 presented a donation to WHS Dream Team students on Sunday, November 3, 2019. The Dream Team club at Westfield High School encourages responsible decision-making, healthy choices, and a substance-free lifestyle for students. Their message is, "Confidence, Choices, Challenges, Changes".

The Westfield Municipal Alliance sponsors the WHS Dream Team activities, including annual student attendance at the NJ Elks Peer Leadership Conference in Long Branch. The 2020 conference dates are February 7-9 and it's the 12th consecutive year that Dream Team students will attend. Health educator and physical education teacher, Lauren Hauser, is the WHS Dream Team advisor. Ms. Hauser explained that membership to the WHS Dream Team club has grown exponentially in the past two years. "The Mountainside Elks' donation will assist in supporting the increased number of student registrants for the conference," said Hauser.

The Mountainside Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free. The mission of the Mountainside Elks aligns with that of the Westfield Municipal Alliance to promote positive behavior, strengthen students' leadership skills, and encourage peer-mentoring.

The parent liaison for the Westfield Alliance, Kerri Oligino, explained that the leadership conference instills confidence in young leaders and inspires participants to return to their

communities and take the next steps to transform conference in February," said Oligino. lives around them. "We appreciate the generosity of the Mountainside Elks and we are thrilled to 1193 Route 22, Mountainside, NJ. send a greater number of students to the

The Mountainside Elks #1585 are located at

For more information visit, elks.org



(above) Members of the WHS Dream Team were presented with a donation from Mountainside Elks Lodge #1585.



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ADOPTION DAY: AS SIX YOUTH JOIN FAMILIES, LOVE TEEMS

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

On the morning of Friday, November 22, 2019, more than 25 youth gathered to celebrate the long-awaited end to living in foster care with adoption into a forever family.

National Adoption Day is the Saturday before Thanksgiving every year; Union County's Family Court celebrated on Friday, November 22, as six youth ranging from one to nine years old, entered the courtrooms of Superior Court Judges Richard C. Wischusen or James Hely as foster youth — accompanied by their foster families and other loved ones — but left as official members of their new family. More than 20 other recent adoptees returned to participate in the program.

Adoption Day is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care awaiting a family. Since its inception 20 years ago, more than 75,000 children have found that permanency. Still, more than 125,000 youth in the United States need a permanent home and the average wait is four years.

The family courts see complex issues fraught with loss or discord nearly every day, yet Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by all at Union County's Family Court, as fresh starts and ample smiles fill the courthouse. Festivities included balloon headwear creations donated by nonprofit A Birthday Wish; super-human Heroes 4 Heroes, an organization of area corrections officers in costume seeking to brighten the lives of children facing medical and other adversities; photo booth with a superhero cape and mask gifted by family court personnel, pick photo

props and pose with family and their favorite superheroes. Approximately 30 students from Elizabeth's A Cappella Choir performed.

Each adoptive family received a gift basket from CASA of Union County, with collaboration from David Brearley High School's Bears that Care, The Race Matters Alliance and Peer Leadership Groups; Seton Hall Law Professor Kevin Kelly; and the Union County Bar Association. In addition, every adoptee received handpicked books by Kappa Alpha Theta's Westfield Chapter and bike certificate redeemable by the Albanese family of Plainfield's Dairy Queen.

For details on CASA of Union County and becoming an advocate for a foster youth, reach Courtney at 908-293-8136 or log on to casaofunioncounty.org to learn more.



(above) The Heroes4Heroes group, a nonprofit comprised of corrections officers who dress as superheroes and visit children.

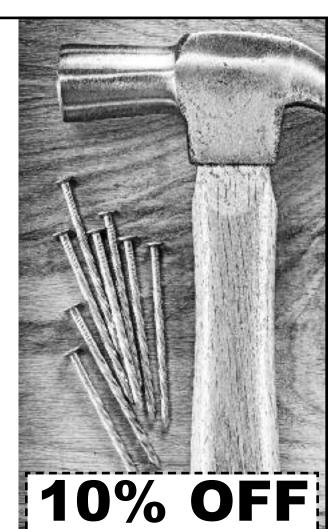


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RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB DELIVERS HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS TO VETERANS



Every year members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club prepare Holiday Gift Bags for the Veterans at Lyons Hospital in Basking Ridge, NJ. Once again, Betty Gulino coordinated the collection and delivery of 140 Holiday Gift Bags donated by club members. These gift bags are designed to bring holiday cheer to the veterans who have served our country and are now deserving of our thanks and well wishes.

To learn more about the services Lyons Veterans Medical Center provides and volunteer opportunities to support our military heroes,

please call 908-647-0189 or visit newjersey.va.gov/locations/lyons campus.asp.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns.

For more information, call Bet Siano, 908-233-4150, or visit the club's website, rakeandhoe.org, or Facebook page.



(above, l-r) Front row: Betty Gulino, Jeanie Pelikan and Joyce Mullen; back row: Marty Gulino and Richard Pelikan. Not shown: Mary Foley Smith.

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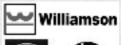
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The band rehearses on Monday evenings at Hannah Caldwell School in Union, NJ and performs ten concerts throughout the year. Musicians who are interested in joining the band should contact the Township of Union Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

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CHESS CLUB DRAWS MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

The Kenilworth Chess Club has kicked off its 2020 season with a new slate of officers. Jack McCorkell of Cranford is incoming President. Outgoing president Dave Lazaruus of Fanwood will serve as Vice President. Treasurer Geoff McMAuliffe of Dunellen and Webmaster John Moldovan of Garwood will continue in their positions. Trustees are Pat Mazzillo of Union and Greg Tomkovich and Joe Renna, both from Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America, spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 47 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including State Champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, kenilworthchessclub.org, is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features. Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center, located next to Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, r-l) Kenilworth Chess Club President Jack McCorkell, Vice President Dave Lazarus, John Moldovan, Treasurer Geoff McAuliffe, Web Master John Moldovan, Trustees Ed Selling, Greg Tomkovich, Pat Mazzillo, and Joe Renna.



COMEDY NIGHT

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SATURDAY, 10AM - 5PM & SUNDAY, 11AM - 3PM

FEBRUARY 8-9, 2020 BRIDGEWATER MARRIOTT

700 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ On Commons Way, Across from Bridgewater Commons

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