New Providence NEWS

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Issue 52 • January 2020

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COMMUNITY HELPS LOCAL RESIDENTS AND FOOD BANKS



(above) New Providence and Berkeley Heights Boy Scout and Cub Scout volunteers from Packs 99, 263, 363, 368 and Troops 1 and 68 came together for the 38th annual food collection.

Submitted by Mike Koubek

Members of the community participated in the 38th annual food collection and sorting event at Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence on Sat., November 23, 2019.

Every year, non-perishable food items are collected by the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of New Providence from locals in their "Scouting for Food" drive. These items are for the Starfish Food Pantry in Plainfield, as well as for struggling families and individuals who receive assistance from the Community Service Association of New Providence.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts delivered grocery bags the weekend before the drive to residents' homes and then they returned on the 23rd to pick up the filled bags and brought them to Faith Lutheran Church. From 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., volunteers from Cub Scout Packs 99, 263, 363 and 368, and Boy Scout Troops 1 and 68, from both New Providence and Berkeley Heights, unloaded bags of food from a steady flow of cars of the scouting families of New Providence. More contributed to this article.

volunteers from the community then sorted, packed and prepared the donations for delivery to food pantries and to New Providence residents in need.

This year, over 120 volunteers from the parish of Faith Lutheran, the Community Service Association of New Providence, residents of Lantern Hill, residents of New Providence and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts assisted in the event. Hundreds of bags of food were collected, valued at approximately \$53,000.

On November 30, volunteers again helped, this time to deliver the food to the Starfish Pantry and local residents in

As Cheryl Bock, organizer of the event for Faith Lutheran said: "It's a wonderful event my family has been involved with and to me it's just not Thanksgiving without it."

James Kwan and Cheryl Bock of Faith Lutheran Church (continued on page 2)



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COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS (continued from page 1)

New Providence NEWS

New Providence NEWS is published by Renna Media. 4,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in New Providence.

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> To submit content call Tina at 908-418-5586 Email: editor@rennamedia.com

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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com















(above, l-r) Some of the hundreds of bags of food donated by residents of New Providence. Scouts and volunteers unloading cars and sorting and organizing donated food items.

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COOKIE WALK RAISES \$2,250 FOR BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

New Providence American Legion Post 433 held their annual Cookie Walk on December 14, 2019. A long line eagerly awaited as doors opened at 11:00 a.m. In just a few hours the Post raised \$2,250.00 for building improvements.

The American Legion would like to thank all who baked, and all who purchased cookies. It's a wonderful community event.

Mark your calendar – next year's Cookie Walk is December 12, 2020. See you all there.













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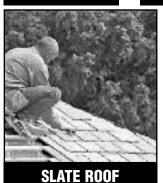
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SENIOR HAPPENINGS AT THE DECORSO COMMUNITY CENTER

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Painting Class

Tuesday, January 14, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sunrise Senior Living of Summit will sponsor a free painting class with a professional painter. No experience is necessary! Space is limited.

Sign up by January 6.

Tax Return Assistance

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Mondays 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

New Providence and other area residents can obtain free AARP Foundation tax assistance in preparing and filing their 2019 tax returns.

There are no age or income limitations for participation in this program, but taxpayers with complex returns may be advised to seek paid assistance. AARP Foundation Tax aide counselors will be available beginning Saturday, February 8, 2019 through Monday, April 13, 2020. Beginning January 27, 2020, taxpayers may call the DeCorso Center at 908-665-0046 between 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Mondays through Fridays to schedule an appointment, or they may sign up at the Center.

Senior Citizen Club Meetings and programs

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - January 8
With speakers on a variety of topics, musical performances, or "Club Days" to celebrate Club members' birthdays and socialize. Allen W.
Roberts Elementary School band - Band students will perform.

Recycling Initiative for Seniors

Union County Bureau of Recycling and Planning will give a brief presentation on "Recycling Initiative for Seniors".

Home Safety Talk - Seniors in Place

January 22

LLC will give a talk about home safety for seniors, and provide a home safety check list

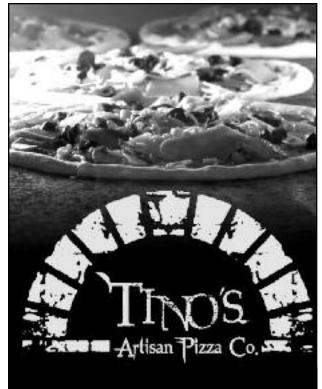
Cold Or Flu?

January 29

Overlook's New Vitality program will offer an informative presentation on how to know when it's "Cold or Flu?"

Lunar New Year Luncheon

Wednesday, January 29, 1:00 p.m. Celebrate the Year of the Rat and enjoy a luscious lunch at Szechuan Delight. Purchase tickets in advance at the Center; Cost \$15



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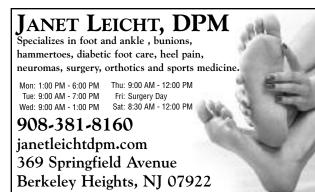
(above) New Providence Senior Citizen Club members and New Providence Middle School students teamed up to decorate the DeCorso Center for the holidays.



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Christmas Walk and fireworks, was held on the Friday after Thanksgiving, featured the arrival of Santa; a fireworks show, free treats, activities, and giveaways from merchants.

Entertainment included a petting zoo,

The Holiday Festival, featuring the strolling carolers, a performance by the New Providence High School Marching Band, Stilt Walker, Ice Carver, and much more.

> The event continued the next day with offers and activities on Small Business Saturday.









Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the New Providence News page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."











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ADOPTION DAY IN UNION COUNTY: 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. For more than 23,000 youth nationwide, that permanency doesn't happen before they age out of the system and must face life on their own.

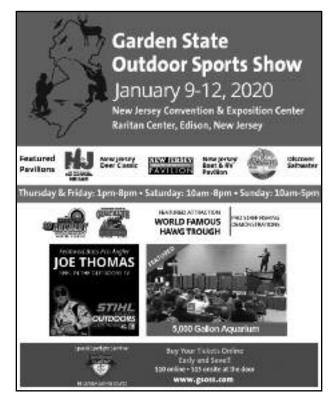
The family courts see complex issues fraught with loss or discord nearly every day, yet Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by all at Union County's Family Court, as fresh starts and ample smiles fill the courthouse. Festivities

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 area for children to select 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 Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy A Cappella Choir performed pieces they selected especially for the occasion.

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. Items included board and card games, blankets, jars of popping corn, movie candy, bowling passes and WalMart gift card. 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.







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JANUARY 2020 EVENTS AT NEW PROVIDENCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Community Read - Pirates!

All season long: January, February & March A community read event is an effort to get the whole community reading books on a related topic at the same time. This year, we're going to be reading and learning all about pirates, piracy and privateering! We've put together a list of pirate-themed books for all ages -- children, teens and adults -- both fiction and non-fiction.

Knitting & Crocheting Group (Adults)

Monday, January 6, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Drop by the Coddington room with a knitting, crocheting or other fiber art project to work on.

Read to a Dog (Kids)

Tuesday, January 7, 7 p.m.

Children in grades K-5 can practice reading aloud to Seeing Eye dogs in-training.
Registration is required via NP Community Pass.. You can bring a book of your own or choose from the library's selection.

Teen Smoothies! (Teens)

Thursday, January 9, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Help those New Year's Resolutions along by adding some nutrition to your diet. Learn how to make healthy and delicious smoothies with a variety of ingredients. *Online registration via NP Community Pass required so enough materials can be purchased.

register.communitypass.net/newprovidence Author Event: Beth Kephart "This is the Story

of You," "Wild Blues" and more (Teens)
Saturday, January 11, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Award-winning author and U Penn writing teacher, Beth Kephart, will skype in to the library for a talk on "This is the Story of You" and "Wild Blues," among other soon-to-bepublished YA titles. She will also discuss the writing process and will take questions and offer tips to aspiring young writers. *Register online via NP Community Pass. **Snow Date: Sat. January 18 at 3:00 p.m.

register.communitypass.net/newprovidence

Arts & Crafts Supply Swap (Adults)

Sunday, January 12, 2 - 4 p.m.

Attention crafters! Whether you're cleaning out your craft closet or looking for FREE craft supplies, come to the arts & crafts supply swap in the Conti room! Donated supplies must be clean, in good condition, and cannot be mixed together. Donations may be dropped off at the library beginning January 2.

Baseball Discussion Group (All Ages)

Monday, January 13, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Anyone with an interest in baseball is welcome. Come discuss your favorite team and players.

Snap Circuits Jr. Club (Kids)

Tuesday, January 14, 3:30 p.m. Calling all budding scientists and engineers! Snap circuits makes learning electronics easy and fun! Come and put together circuit boards.

Treats for Tweets (Kids)

Wednesday, January 15, 3:30 p.m.
Winter can be tough for wildlife. Make a special treat for the birds in your neighborhood.
For children in grades K-5.
*Register via Community Pass.

"Toni Morrison:The Pieces I Am"

Sunday, January 19, 1:30 -3:30 p.m. Documentary, Rated PG-13.

A free screening of the 2019 documentary "Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am," an artful and intimate meditation on the life and works of the legendary storyteller and Nobel prizewinner. This program is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Summit College Club, who will facilitate a discussion after the film. Light refreshments served.

Book Group (Adults)

Tuesday, January 21, 10:30 a.m.

Have you read "Lilac Girls" by Martha Hall
Kelly? Come join the morning book group's
discussion. The lives of three women converge
at the Ravensbruck concentration camp as
Caroline Ferriday resolves to help from her post
at the French consulate, Kasia Kuzmerick
becomes a courier in the Polish resistance, and
Herta Oberheuser takes a German government
medical position.

Mid-Term Exam Tutoring (Teens) January 21 - 23

Get ready to ace your mid-term exams! Free tutoring offered by local high school students & teachers in a variety of subjects. Sessions vary depending on subject & tutor availability. Visit the NPML website after January 2 for the SignUp Genius link for tutoring slots. New Providence Library Teen Services. Volunteer to tutor by emailing: smaisch@newprovidencelibrary.org.

Storytime with Maria (Kids)

Thursday, January 23, 10 a.m.
Join Maria from St. Andrew's Preschool and
Kindergarten for this special story time in
spanish. For Children 0-5 years.

The Wizard of Oz: a Radio Play (Adults, Teens & Kids Age 10+)

Saturday, January 25, 3 p.m.

Raconteur Radio will present "The Wizard of Oz: A Radio Play." Raconteur Radio will stage a theatrical production featuring costumes, props and sound effects as part of the drama, and will be interspersed with vintage commercials. This free program is geared for adults but suitable for children ages 10 and older with an adult. The performance was made possible by the Friends of the New Providence

Memorial Library. **Club Phoenix (Kids)**

Monday, January 27, 4 p.m.

In this program, kids will learn about science, engineering, and logical thinking through hands-on activities. This program is run by teen volunteers, who are passionate about sharing their love of science and STEM with younger children. For children in grades 2-3.

*Registration required via NP Community Pass.

LEGO Club (Kids)

Tuesday, January 28, 3:30 p.m.

Come build with us! Try the monthly challenge or build any creation you'd like!

Teen Study Space for January Midterms

January 28, 1-3 p.m. - Coddington Room
January 29, 2-4 p.m. - Conti Room
January 30, 3-5 p.m. - Coddington Room
Reserved space for students in grades 7-12 to
come during Mid-Term Exam week. Light
snacks and refreshments and reserved space in
our meeting rooms for all who need a quiet
place to prepare for exams.

Wii Gaming (Teens)

Friday, January 31, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Exams are over! Let your hair down and have fun playing some old-school Wii. Your choice of Super Smash Bros, Wii Sports, or other games. No registration required.

Children's Story Times for WINTER 2019

Tuesday, 10 a.m.- 4, 5, 6 yr olds
Wednesday, 10 a.m. - Toddlers (18 mos-3)
Wednesday, 11 a.m.- Baby Lapsit (3-18 mos)
Wednesday at 1130 a.m.- Playgroup
Thursday at 1:30 p.m.- All Ages
Thursday at 2p.m. - Drop-in Craft
- All Ages (18 mos & up)
No Story Time 1/6/20- 1/9/20

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Jan 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, Rated R

Jan 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Downton Abbey, Rated PG

Jan 28 at 1:00 p.m.

----- FOREIGN FILMS -----

After the Wedding, Rated R

Jan 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Soul Kitchen, Not Rated

Jan 27 at 7:00 p.m.

TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM

The New Providence Memorial Library, LWVBHNPS, and SCC/AAUW invite you to a Movie Matinee on January 19, 2020 at the New Providence Memorial Library beginning at 1:30 p.m. View the film Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am and engage in a lively discussion afterwards. This artful and intimate meditation on the legendary storyteller examines her life, her works and the powerful themes she confronted throughout her literary career.

This event is free and open to the public at the New Providence Memorial Library, 377 Elkwood Ave, New Providence, NJ.



