

Summit NJ Times

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SUMMIT COUPLE TO HOST FOURTH ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT

In 2017, Summit residents, Ryan and Dana Felmet, established an annual charity fundraising event called "February Fun Fest," at which 100 percent of the monies raised benefit select charities which have included Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, the YWCA of Union County, Cancer Research Institute, and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The couple sponsor the event with their own funds, and invite friends, family, and the local community to join a fun filled night which features guest speakers from each of the benefiting charities, light appetizers donated from local restaurants and businesses, raffle baskets donated by attendees and local businesses, and much more.

"Our community, family, and friends continue to show a remarkable sense of generosity and support to the event and its charitable causes. With their support, we have now raised over \$14,000 for charity and given back over \$5,000 in gifts to our community since 2017," said Ryan, the event Founder.

This year's event will once again take place at Summit Elks Lodge on Saturday, February 8, from 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. The 2020 event will feature food, music, gift baskets and games. Representatives from each charity will be in attendance and will make a brief presentation about their respective cause. This year, the event will benefit Cancer Research Institute, Brain & Behavior Research Foundation and Chron's and Colitis Foundation. Attendees are encouraged to make a donation to one or more of the beneficiaries.

Alfred Massidas, CFO of Cancer Research Institute, who will attend the event for the third straight year, said in response to previous events, "It means so much to all of us at the Cancer Research Institute to be named a charity beneficiary of February Fun Fest. Donations from the



(above) Ryan and Dana Felmet celebrate their first annual February Fun Fest event in 2017.

Felmet's family, friends and the community help fuel our mission to save more lives with immunotherapy research."

Ryan added, "My wife and I have close personal connections with people who are impacted by a variety of unfortunate circumstances and we feel fortunate to be in a position to help make a difference. Important issues including uncured diseases, cancer, and mental illness, are just a few examples of why we are supporting organizations who are making a difference."

We encourage local businesses and vendors participate in our fast growing event, as the majority of attendees are area residents. If you have questions, would like to donate, or are interested in sponsorship, please visit FebruaryFunFest.org or contact Ryan at FebruaryFunFest@gmail.com.



(above) Ryan and Dana Felmet and Charity Representatives celebrate the 2019 February Fun Fest charity event.

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMIT FUNDRAISES FOR NEWARK ORGANIZATION

Submitted by Sujatha Shan

On the beautiful fall evening of November 2, 2019, over seventy people attended the fundraiser hosted by Erika Melchiorre, the President of The Junior League of Summit, at her home in Summit, raising \$38,000 for Keys 2 Success. Keys 2 Success is a not-for-profit organization that provides music education to children in public elementary school and public housing in Newark, New Jersey.

Attendees, who included active members and sustainers of the Junior League as well as friends and family members from the area, were treated to an evening of music. Jee-Hoon Krska, the founder and director of Keys 2 Success, moved the audience with her solo performance of Chopin's intensely riveting Ballade 4. But it was the children of Keys 2 Success that stole the attendees' heart with their musical bravado. The children ranging in ages from six years to ten years, played an arrangement of Sibelius's Finlandia as an ensemble on keyboards, in addition to playing solos and duets. Attendees repeatedly commented on the children's skill and poise in front of an audience. Maestro Robert Butts of Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey (BONJ), spoke about the partnership between BONJ and Keys 2 Success to pilot learning

opportunities that transcend boundaries between professional and amateur musicians and suburban and urban communities, with the objective of making music accessible to and sustained by a diverse audience.

Launched in 2016 by Julliard-trained classical pianist Jee-Hoon Krska, the program began with 12 students and now teaches almost 100 kids. It is the first children's music program to target the lowest socio-economic group in Newark for whom the effects of generations of poverty include lack of access to cultural institutions and social networks readily available to children in more privileged communities. Keys 2 Success seeks to close this gap. Designed to instill discipline, leadership and life skills, and provide pathways to full, productive lives, Keys 2 Success, through its faculty and volunteers, teaches piano at a public elementary school and at a public housing project. Starting with Pre-K, students receive lessons multiple days a week, in ensemble and individual settings. Additionally, they also conducts summer camps that teach students a variety of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) topics, including coding, digital music, music theory, drumming, flute, piano, science and origami. For more information visit keysnewark.com.



(above) Children of the Keys 2 Success program performed for the guests of the fundraiser.

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HEREDIA AND MALNATI EARN EAGLE RANK FROM TROOP 67 IN SUMMIT

Sebastian Heredia, a Senior at Summit High School, and Michael Malnati, a Junior at Summit High School, have both achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle is the highest rank in Boy Scouts and only 3% of all Scouts nationwide earn this distinction. Both Scouts earned this rank with the support of the leaders of Troop 67 in Summit,



(above, l-r) Eagle Scouts Sebastian Heredia and Michael Malnati.

NJ, which is charted by St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church.

During this five year process of satisfying the requirements for the Eagle rank, Heredia and Malnati participated in many treks, performed many hours of community service, and provided leadership for their troop. They learned many outdoor skills and earned 21 merit badges. Heredia also earned the Silver Palm Award for earning 15 merit badges beyond those required to reach the rank of Eagle. Heredia and Malnati are also both Brotherhood members of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society. Heredia is also very active in the Sea Scout program of Boy Scouts of America that operates a 65 foot ship out of Linden, NJ and this year he was nominated Sea Scout of the year.

Both Scouts participated in the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and were awarded the Ad Altare Dei Emblem in 2018 and were then presented with the emblem at a ceremony held at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. This is an emblem that may be earned by Boy Scouts of the Catholic faith. "Its purpose is to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person by encouraging him to actively live out his Catholic Christian faith." Both Scouts subsequently earned the Pope Pius XII Catholic Emblem with the support of their pastor, Fr. Bob Meyer, and were recognized for this achievement in Newark in 2019.

Both Scouts completed Eagle projects to serve the Dominican Nuns at Dominican Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, NJ. Heredia's Eagle project was to build gravel walkways and to improve a Marian prayer rose garden. Michael Malnati's Eagle project consisted of building five raised garden beds for the sisters to use for plantings.

Heredia was formally presented the Eagle Scout award at a Court of Honor ceremony celebrated at the Dominican Monastery on May 25. Malnati was presented the Eagle Scout award at a Court of Honor ceremony on December 15 at St. Teresa of Avila church in Summit, NJ.

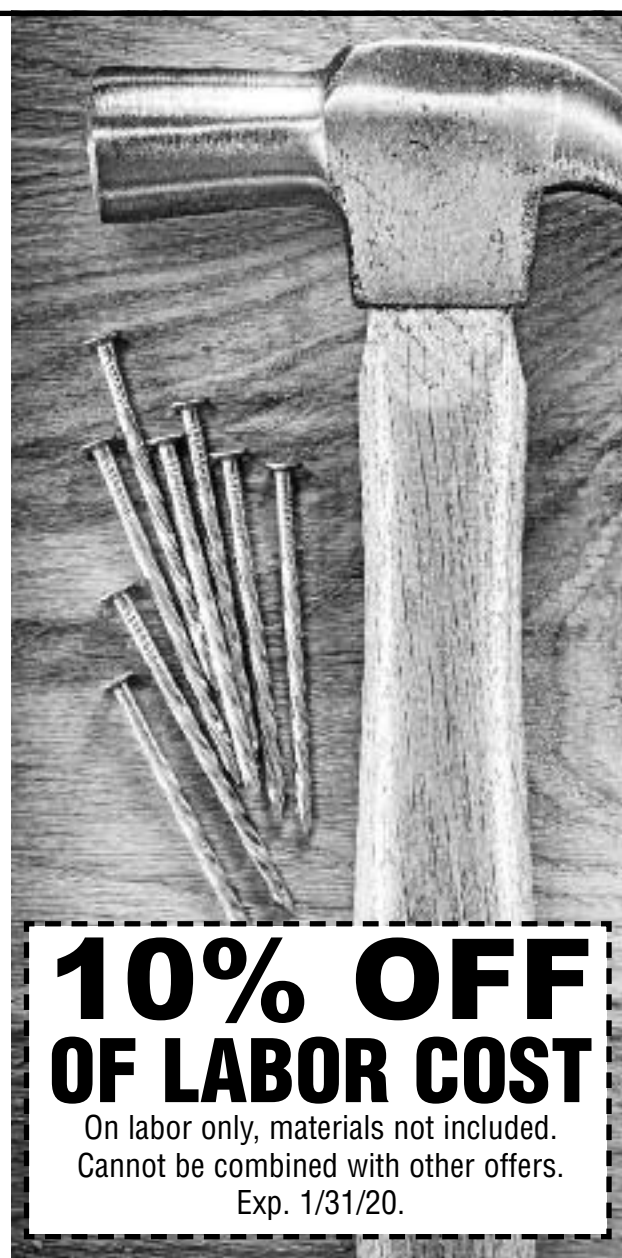
Both Eagle Scouts are very grateful to their troop leaders and also to the Dominican sisters for supporting them in their Eagle Scout Projects. Heredia and Malnati are the first Boy Scouts from Summit to serve the sisters within their monastery. The Dominican Nuns of Summit are a contemplative order where the sisters live in a cloister and practice a life of prayer. Heredia and Malnati both feel very blessed that the sisters invited them to work in their garden inside the intimate papal enclosure. This experience was a gift to the Scouts, their families, and the Troop 67 community. Troop 67 has been active at St. Teresa of Avila Roman Catholic Church in Summit since 1933. If you would like more information about the troop, please contact: sites.google.com/yahoo.com/troop67online.



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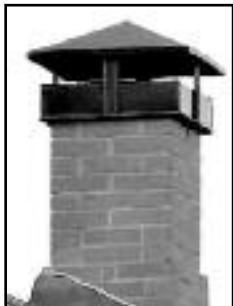


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The Green Brook Community came together on Thanksgiving morning, for the 2019 Turkey Trot. The annual Green Brook Turkey Trot 5k is hosted by Race Director Joe Patanella, starting at the Green Brook Middle School, and ending at the track. Participants of the race were escorted by local police officers, and were treated to refreshments after they finished.



(above, l-r) First, Second and Third Place finishers and times, Eduardo Cermeno of Dunellen (16:23), Sean Wang of Warren (17:15), Ethan Steier of Warren (17:41).

(right) First Place Female finisher Allison Ayers of Summit (19:30).



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Green Brook Gazette page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/greenbrookgazette). Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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FIRST AID SQUAD AWARDED \$25K GRANT

Submitted by Amy Cairns

The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad has received a \$25,000 grant from the Summit Area Public Foundation (SAPF) for the purchase of digital radios that will be compatible with other communications systems used by first responders in Summit and the surrounding area.

The First Aid Squad applied to the Summit Area Public Foundation for a grant to help offset the total cost of a necessary \$140K upgrade from analog to digital radio equipment. Digital radio equipment provides first responders with added features and functionality, improved coverage, and critical interoperability with other agencies.

“The Summit Area Public Foundation is providing essential support to the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad to allow us to better respond during emergencies,” explains First Aid Squad President Robert Flanagan. “We thank SAPF for its dedication to the squad and to the service we provide to the Summit community.

This grant generously supports our mission to provide the best possible emergency medical service.”

The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad, Inc. is an independent non-profit corporation dedicated to providing emergency medical services (EMS), non-emergency ambulance transportation, and safety training to the Summit community. All services are provided free of charge and funded entirely through private donations.

About the Summit Area Public Foundation
The Summit Area Public Foundation is a 501(c)(3) community foundation that fosters philanthropy in the Summit NJ area by identifying local needs and offering donors flexible ways to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors.

For information on the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad, membership or how to donate, please go to summitems.org.

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(above, l-r) President of the Summit Area Public Foundation Board of Directors Julie Keenan and Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad President Bob Flanagan.



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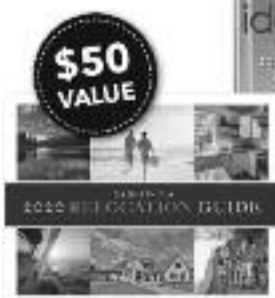
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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMIT'S ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Dana Felmet

The Junior League of Summit is thrilled to announce its fifth Annual Trivia Night. Join the Junior League of Summit on February 29, 2020 for an evening of trivia fun at Chatham Fish & Game. Tickets will go on sale at noon on Wednesday, January 29. Teams of up to ten people may register for a table for an entrance fee of \$600. All competitors must be 21 or older. For more details and ticket information, visit jlsummit.org.

"This is a night filled with good old-fashioned competitive fun! Category topics run the gamut, from music to science to sports to history, but there's so much more to it! Teams compete for best costumes, best team spirit, and they also compete in a physical challenge! So even if you aren't the strongest trivia player, you're going to have a blast!" said Rachel Zucker, the event chairwoman.

The festivities will include lively competition among the teams in various trivia categories, as well as interactive bonus rounds and extra points for best team themes and table décor. The evening will feature Adam Zucker, host of CBS Sports' College Football Today, as the competition emcee.

As with previous years, all funds raised at Trivia Night benefit the JLS's Annual Fund, supporting its community grants, scholarships and projects such as GRACE, the League's signature community outreach project. GRACE stands for Giving and Receiving Assistance for



Our Community's Essentials and its main focus is fighting food insecurity in Summit and our surrounding communities.

If you are interested in sponsoring this fantastic event, please email jlstrivianight@gmail.com.

The Junior League of Summit is a nonprofit, charitable, and educational organization of women who are committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

For more information about the Junior League of Summit or to inquire about becoming a member, please visit the website at jlsummit.org or contact the office at 908-273-7349.

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CRAFTING, COOKING, AND MORE AT THE SUMMIT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY THIS JANUARY

Come to the library for a fun 'crafternoon' on Sunday, January 12 from 2-4 p.m. as instructor Marge Barkan leads the first crafting class of 2020 with Make Your Own: Bird Nest Necklace. Attendees can try their hand at jewelry making as they create adorable bird nest necklaces. It's easy and fun and you'll leave with a unique and beautiful creation of your own design. All materials are provided—you provide your own special touch! Space is limited. Call the library to reserve a spot at 908-273-0350, option 3. This program is funded through the generosity of the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library.

On Tuesday, January 14 from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Jen Milnes from Green Summit presents the third installment of Green Summit's Sustainable Living series-On the Go! In this one hour presentation, Milnes reviews daily routines that you can change to help you save money, be healthier, and contribute to saving the environment.

Start the year off right by attending the library's Health Doesn't Have to be Hard: Proven Steps Toward a Healthy Lifestyle lecture on Thursday, January 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. Certified Health Coach and owner of Arora Wellness, Payal Arora, will discuss steps you can start taking immediately to build a healthy lifestyle. She will explore what it means to identify and change negative and limiting beliefs, focus on prioritizing self with setting up non-negotiables, and understand small healthy shifts that can lead to big change over time. Reservations recommended. Call the library at 908-273-0350, option 3.

It's the Year of the Rat and the library is celebrating with a special program on Saturday, January 18 from 4-7 p.m. This year's Chinese New Year celebration will include traditional Chinese performances in the library's Rotunda beginning at 5 p.m. With a nod to the Chinese tradition of 'temple fairs,' this year's activities will include a sampling of Chinese delicacies, and small items, such as crafts, decorations, and

snacks will be available for sale—with all proceeds will be used to fund the library's purchase of Chinese language books for children.

Something's cooking at the library's Instant Pot Basics class on Saturday, January 25 from 10-11:30. Attendees will learn the basic functions and usage as well as accessories that are handy to have. You'll learn about what the Instant Pot can and cannot do and the differences between an Instant Pot and a crock pot. Basic recipes such as rice pudding, hard-boiled eggs, macaroni and cheese, applesauce, and mashed potatoes will be demonstrated and the class can sample what's cooked. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, call the library at 908-273-0350, option 3. This class is funded through the generosity of the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library.



(above) The famed Dragon Dance will be part of Summit Library's Chinese New Year Celebration 2020.

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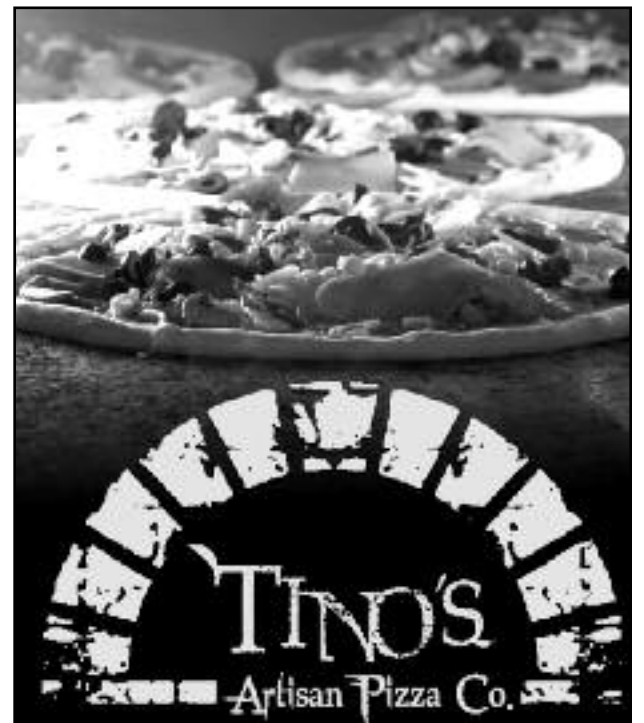
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ADOPTION DAY: AS SIX YOUTH JOIN FAMILIES, LOVE TEEMS

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. 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.



(above) Union County Assignment Judge Karen Cassidy, an adoptive mom herself, making a speech.



(above) The adoptees, each wearing superhero capes, ready to pose for a picture with their favorite superheroes.



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

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ADOPTION DAY



(above, l-r) CASA staff and their table of gifts for each adoptive family: Courtney Green, Recruiter/Advocate Supervisor; Natalie Deo, Program Director; Kim Stocco, Advocate Supervisor; Lisa Poris, Trainer/Advocate Supervisor; Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan, Development and Communications Manager and CASA's Adoption Day Committee member; and Abby Gallego, Advocate Supervisor.



(above) The Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy A Cappella Choir came to perform two songs they picked especially for the event.

MADRIGAL SINGERS TO PRESENT POST-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Madrigal Singers will present their Our Annual "Last Chance at Christmas" Concert, "A Child is Born", on Sunday, January 5, 2020 at the United Methodist Church, 17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, New Jersey at 4:00 p.m. General admission, available at the door, is \$15; admission for students and seniors is \$10.

The program will feature music by Melchior Franck, Jean Mouton, Tomas Luis de Victoria and many others, along with traditional favorites and Christmas Readings.

The Madrigal Singers are an a capella choral

group specializing in Mediaeval and Renaissance music.

The group, founded in 1948, is currently under the direction of John Sichel, and is comprised of sopranos Martha Desmond and Amy Wechsler; altos Donna Brumbaugh, Roberta Lichtenberg, Jennifer Melick, Holly Hartline and Sarah Riffel; tenors Richard DeVany, Christopher Ferro and Thom Reese; basses Greg Hartline, Scott Hobson, Kirk Robbins and Gordon Rowan. Kirk Robbins will perform the readings and flutes will be played by Eugenia Cline and Clarissa Nolde.

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SUMMIT FIREFIGHTER MOSCHELLO AWARDED FIRE OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD



(above) Lieutenant Moschello, recipient of the 2019 Authority Having Jurisdiction Fire Official of the Year Award.

Submitted by Amy Cairns

City of Summit Fire Department Lieutenant and Fire Sub-Code Official Joseph Moschello is the recipient of the 2019 Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) Fire Official of the Year Award. The award is given annually by the New Jersey Chapter of the Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFAA) to an inspector that exceeds the standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for enforcing requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

"We are extremely proud that the outstanding effort by Lieutenant Moschello as a Fire Sub-Code Official has been recognized by NJ American Fire Alarm Association," explains Summit Fire Chief Eric Evers. "His professional manner and expertise are truly an asset to the City of Summit."

Lieutenant Moschello was presented with the Fire Official of the Year Award at the NJ Chapter of the American Fire Alarm Association monthly membership meeting on November 21, 2019.



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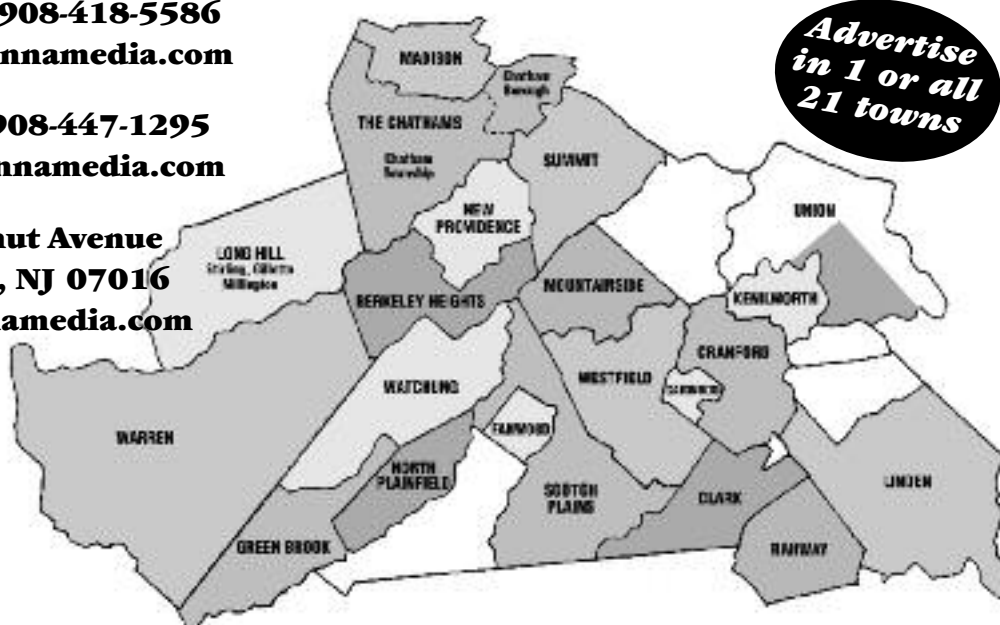
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CHESS CLUB DRAWS MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

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 Lazarus 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 McMauliffe, Web Master John Moldovan, Trustees Ed Selling, Greg Tomkovich, Pat Mazzillo, and Joe Renna.

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