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WOODRUFF SCHOOL'S FESTIVE AND GIVING HOLIDAY SEASON

Submitted by Thomas Long

The month of December at William Woodruff School (WWS) always conveys the themes of giving, joy, and excitement! The month began with the WWS Student Council collecting gifts for the children at St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth. The students donated five large containers of gifts to ensure that these children will have a Merry Christmas.

In addition to the Holiday Gift Drive, the Student Council provided another way of giving by buying a ticket on the Polar Express. The students had an opportunity to buy the special holiday ticket which allowed them the comfort of wearing their pajamas to school and viewing the movie, The Polar Express. The proceeds were donated to help children with medical needs by supporting the "Make a Wish" Foundation.

During the month of December, there were three main holidays celebrated: Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Most students at WWS celebrate one of these holidays. In order to build a better understanding of various cultural histories of each holiday, the Woodruff students teach each other as part of the Holiday Learning Assembly. Each grade level presents through historical information, music, and poetry the significance of the holiday. Additionally, Grade 5 students who play an instrument which is not represented in the band or orchestra are invited to share their musical talents with the student body. This year, a total of six Fifth Graders performed classical and holiday favorites during this assembly: Anay Munje, Eduardo Roxo, Jayden Man, Lucia Montoya-Leyva, Jenna Brown, and Tyler Brown.

Giving one's time and care was in the hearts of the Woodruff Fourth Graders as they shared holiday cheer by baking 44 cakes for the Starfish Food Pantry and making over 100 sandwiches to feed the needy through the St. Ann's Soup Kitchen. The students enjoyed learning how to bake and frost cakes and were thrilled to add some mustard and mayo to make the sandwiches enjoyable for all.

The Woodruff PTO knows how to shop, and shop they did in preparation for the "best ever"



(above, l-r) Fifth Graders Anay Munje, Eduardo Roxo, Jayden Man, Lucia Montoya-Leyva, Jenna Brown, and Tyler Brown played holiday music during the Holiday Learning Assembly.



(above, l-r) Pictured here wearing their offbeat holiday sweaters are Meredith Fettes, Michael DaSilva, Sophie Minassian, and Aaheli Mukkerjee.

Holiday Boutique. The students were invited to shop for family members and of course, their pets, during the two-day boutique. Over 20 tables were stocked with an array of practical, fun, and holiday-themed items to help make everyone on the students' holiday list happy.

When one thinks of the holidays, one usually thinks about family, friends, joyous times, and holiday decorations. Most of us don't think about "ugly" things. But at Woodruff School, that has changed because showing your school spirit requires finding the "ugliest" holiday sweater to wear and to parade around the school for all to see.

The holiday feeling was definitely in the air later throughout the month thanks to the wonderful performance of the William Woodruff School Band, Orchestra, and Chorus. The students put forth their very best effort while playing and singing an array of familiar holiday and winter-themed songs. A few days after the concert, all WWS students joined voices as part of the grade-level "Sing-Along." These events were delightful and they provided a feeling of extra joy and happiness for the entire Woodruff School community!

Photos by Berkeley Heights Public Schools

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KAYLEE NAEDLER WINS ACCESSORIES COUNCIL COMPETITION AND SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Melissa Krantz

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LIM College student Kaylee Naedler, who is from Berkeley Heights, New Jersey won an Accessories Council competition and a scholarship.

Competing in teams for Saga Furs and Accessories Council Sustainability Scholarship in Professor Andrea Kennedy's Sustainability and the Future of Fashion class, Kaylee's team won \$2,000 for their SAGA SIMPLE product line, which focuses on smaller, more affordable genuine fur accessories for Saga Furs. Working with her colleagues, the students created sustainable products, initiatives, and action plans for Saga Furs.

Throughout the Fall semester, groups of LIM College students in the Sustainability and the Future of Fashion and Product Development and Merchandising classes worked on new outstanding sustainable fashion ideas and forward-looking product concepts for fashion accessories for a specific brand. These ideas were then presented to one representative from the Accessories Council and one from the company for which the students were developing the products.

Kaylee is a sophomore majoring in Fashion Merchandising at LIM College, which is located in New York City and focuses exclusively on the study of business and fashion. A 2018 graduate of Governor Livingston High School, she is the daughter of Lisa Naedler. As a student at LIM, Kaylee has been a Social Media Intern at M & J Trimming and a Sales Professional at Bloomingdale's.

In announcing the winners, Karen Giberson, President of the Accessories Council, said, "Every year, the LIM team raised the bar on the quality of their Next Gen presentations. We were blown away by the creative and thoughtful presentations. Congratulations to all the students for a job well done!"

Said LIM College President Elizabeth S. Marcuse, "We are very pleased that LIM College and the Accessories Council could once again

come together to teach students about the serious business behind making fashion accessories a reality, while also providing scholarship funds. Consistent with LIM College's longstanding emphasis on 'learning by doing,' our students got the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of everything from product development and sustainability practices to marketing and social media."

ABOUT THE ACCESSORIES COUNCIL

Founded in 1994, the Accessories Council is a not-for-profit, international trade organization established to stimulate consumer awareness and demand for fashion accessory products. Over the past 20 years, membership has grown internationally to include over 280 companies and organizations, representing the world's leading brand names, designers, publications, retailers and associated providers for the accessories, eyewear and footwear industries.

The Accessories Council sponsors educational seminars, networking events, seasonal trend reports, marketing and advertising co-op initiatives, design and marketing awards for area fashion students, an exciting annual silent auction, social media events, and the esteemed black-tie ACE Award Gala, an annual tribute to the leaders of the accessory industry.

ABOUT LIM COLLEGE

Founded in 1939, LIM College educates students for success in the global business of fashion and its many related industries. As a pioneer in experiential education, LIM College fosters a unique connection between real-world experience and academic study in business principles, offering master's, bachelor's and associate degree programs. LIM College is located in four buildings in Manhattan — the nation's fashion and business capital — giving students vast opportunities for hands-on experience and professional development. Alumni have gone on to excel at top companies, including Refinery 29, Harper's Bazaar, Tiffany's, Chanel, and Neiman Marcus.

Anthony Paterno

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THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE IS COMING TO CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD

Running from February 14th through the 22nd and winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn (Falsettos, A New Brain), this bee is one unforgettable experience.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Part of the fun of the show is that no two performances are ever the same. Audience volunteers are selected at each

show to participate onstage in scenes, songs and choreography.

The cast features some familiar faces at CDC Theatre and some new ones: Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Chip Tolentino, E. Rachel Valovcin as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenier, Zach Mazouat as Leaf Coneybear, Zach Love as William Barfee, Mallory Ann Wu as Marcy Parks, Patrina Caruana as Olive Ostrovsky, Alexa Teebo as Rona Lisa Peretti, Ian Federgreen as Vice Principle Panch and Brendan Lynch-Littlejohn as Mitch Mahoney. The show is directed by Nevil Schwartz with choreography by Michelle Massa and musical direction by John Brzozowski.

Six spellers enter: one speller leaves! They learn that winning or losing isn't everything and at least the losers get a juice box.

Links to tickets and additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.

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GET ACTIVE WITH THE BERKELEY HEIGHTS SENIOR CLUB

About 70 seniors were in attendance when the Bridgewater senior dance troupe 'The Roxies' performed for the Berkeley Heights Senior Club on Tues., December 12, 2019 at Mount Carmel Hall.

The show featured, ten performers who danced Jazz, Tap, and Soft-shoe thru 7 numbers, and an MC who entertained the crowd while the dancers made costume changes – for each number!

The Roxies are a senior citizen dance troupe made up of members of the Bridgewater Township Senior Center. Since forming in 2002 as an exercise program, the group has performed over 175 times for senior citizen clubs, church groups, and assisted living facilities throughout

the area. Members include people who are interested in dancing, or exercising, and even boasts a retired professional ballerina who danced with a troupe in Rome.

The Berkeley Heights Senior Club hosts weekly meetings held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Mount Carmel Hall, 56 River Road. All are welcome, working or retired. Everyone 55 and over is invited and encouraged to attend meetings, 2019 trips and loads of parties, programs and resources. For information on senior activities, trips or clubs, please contact Joan Luciano at 908.665.9604 or email grandmaluciano@gmail.com.

Also open to all seniors, every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m., free of charge, is an exercise club located at Mt Carmel Hall.

Berkeley Heights has a 22-passenger senior bus equipped with a wheelchair lift. Three days a week it picks up seniors who want to run

errands along Springfield Avenue or attend Senior Club meetings and other social events run by the Senior Club each month.

Reservations for the Senior Bus can be made by phone a day in advance by calling the BH Recreation Department (908) 464-0550. Please leave name, phone number, address and which trip(s) you want to take. The bus normally does pick-ups between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m. Please be ready by 9:15 a.m.

Casino trips are offered every third Monday. The next will be a trip to Resorts Casino on Monday, February 17, 2020. The bus leaves the parking lot at the Church of the Little Flower/library at 8:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 which includes bus transportation, a \$25 voucher for slot play, and a \$10 coupon for food. For further information or reservations, call Ramona at 908-647-3295.





Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Berkeley Heights Community News page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/BerkeleyHeightsCommunityNews) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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BH PASSES THE 10,000 POUND MILESTONE FOR PLASTICS COLLECTION

Submitted by The Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

Just before December 31, 2019, the Berkeley Heights community passed the 10,000 pounds mark for the amount of thin film plastics contributed to Trex bins around town.

The Trex bin program, an award-winning effort that the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission (BHEC) launched back in June 2016, has gained momentum over the year-and-a-half period it has been in place and shows no sign of slowing down. Generally, this program currently entails siting a Trex bin at a particular location, having people drop off their thin film plastics in these bins, and having a group or

business responsible for weighing on a regular basis all of the thin film plastics in a particular Trex bin and shuttling these plastics to ACME in New Providence. From there, the thin film plastics then embark on the next step in the recycling process before they ultimately are sent to Trex's Virginia-based facility for recycling and repurposing into the outdoor furniture Trex produces.

Now, with a total of 10,472.1 pounds collected as of January 8, 2020, the BHEC is asking residents to consider this achievement and its implications.

"We've collected over five tons of thin film plastics. That's approximately the weight of two African elephants," said Kim Diamond, BHEC member and Chair of the Berkeley Heights Trex bin program. "The amount of plastics we've gathered as a community is incredible, yet it's only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the total amount of thin film plastics waste that everyone in town generates. Now that the BHEC has taken the first step of heightening residents' awareness of our plastics consumption, we need to take the next step in the process by having residents reduce their plastics use."

Indeed, the Trex bin collection program has been a true community effort. During the first year of the program, in addition to the BHEC, members of the following groups assisted with collecting the plastics from all Trex bins in town: Berkeley Heights Historical Society, Berkeley Heights Recreation Department, Berkeley Heights Rotary Club, Girl Scouts Tiger Unit (Girl Scouts from different troops and of all ages in Berkeley Heights), Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center, Mountain Park Elementary School, Sandy Hook Promise, and Scout Pack 268.

As the Trex program entered its second year, the following businesses and groups each graciously "adopted" one of the Trex bins around town (as specified after their names below), so that they possess permanent collection responsibility for that bin: Church of the Little

Flower (two bins at Little Flower), Laurianne Tussel-Holsten and Vincent Cincione of RE/MAX Achievers (Library bin), Master Gardeners (Pet Supplies Plus bin), Smith Chiropractic (Taylor Rental bin), Township of Berkeley Heights Administration (Police Station bin), Berkeley Heights Township Council (Police Station bin), and Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (Wharton Arts bin).

To incentivize groups, Trex sends one of its high-end outdoor benches to those groups who collect 500 or more pounds of thin film plastics within a six-month window. This means that one group can "earn" a total of two Trex benches during two consecutive six-month periods. This also means that numerous Trex benches will be installed in Berkeley Heights soon.

The BHEC encourages all Berkeley Heights residents to use the Trex bins at the locations above to recycle their thin film plastics. The BHEC also asks residents to participate in the "Reduce Your Use" campaign it launched last year. According to Diamond, "Behavior modification and breaking life-long habits can be challenging. Nevertheless, people can embark on this journey by foregoing their use of just one plastic bag each week. If everyone makes a small behavioral change in their thin film plastics consumption, over time, this will be a great collective step forward for our community."

The BHEC suggests two easy ways people can start reducing their thin film plastics use. First, bring at least one reusable bag with handles when going food shopping. This will reduce the number of plastic bags they need at their point of purchase. Second, when shopping for fruits and vegetables, bring re-usable fruits and vegetable bags that can be used in place of the single-use plastic bags traditionally used to gather these items and bring them to the point of purchase.

For additional information about the BHEC's Trex thin film plastics program, including a list of acceptable items for recycling and other news articles, please visit berkeleyheights.gov/379/Recycling-Thin-Film-Plastics.



(above) The Trex bin at the Berkeley Heights Library, one of the more popular bins in town.

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VFW SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

All Veterans of Foreign Wars have had similar experiences during wars....and after.

The Berkeley Heights VFW is comprised of mostly Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan vets, along with a couple from WW2, but all veterans who have served in a combat zone, and have been honorably discharged, are welcome to join.

This friendly post, located at 15 Locust Ave. in Berkeley Heights, NJ, is looking for veterans who would like to become members.

You can get involved in yearly activities, stop in to watch a game, enjoy a beverage, or just chat with new friends who share similar past experiences.

The lodge features a pool table, shuffleboard, darts, and a full-service bar.

VFW members host dinners, holiday parties, a summer pig roast, cooking contests and other fun activities!

Most importantly, visits to other vets at Lyons VA Hospital and one of the local rehabilitation centers.

The facility has an upstairs hall for party rentals, which accommodates up to 70 people and is very reasonably priced. Use of the kitchen is also available for your party.

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HUGHES STUDENTS BUILD "SNOWMEN"

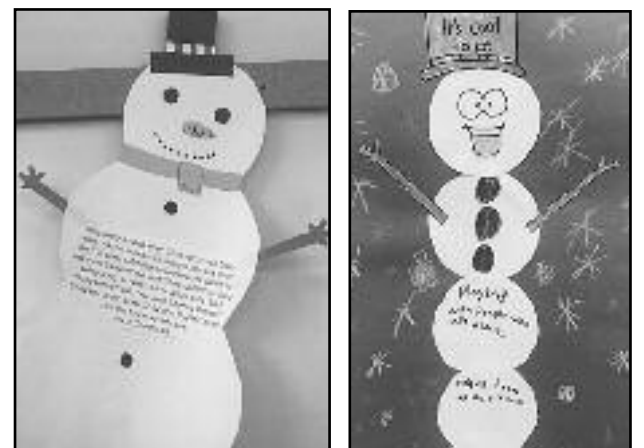
Submitted by Thomas Long

There may not be much snow outside, but the hallways of Thomas P. Hughes School are full of smiling snowmen!

Teachers are making the most of the cold winter days by bringing snowmen-themed activities into their daily lessons.

In Grade 4, the snowmen are having a festive factor snowball fight in Math; while in Fifth Grade, the snowmen are busy showcasing their knowledge of alliteration. In Grade 3 classes, those sweet snowmen are proudly displaying their acts of kindness.

Make sure to take a peek if you happen to be at Hughes...and we are looking forward to seeing all of our families at our Winter Sing-Along!



(above) Students at Thomas P. Hughes School decorate the classrooms with their snowmen-themed activities.

Photo by Berkeley Heights Public Schools



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(above) Phil Sapienza, our oldest lodge member at 103, and his daughter, Linda

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THE STIRLING ELKS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Submitted by Patricia MocarSKI

On Sunday, December 8, the Stirling Elks Lodge 2392 hosted its annual Holiday party for special needs children and lodge members, children, friends and family. There were about 95 in attendance and fun was had by all. There was music by DJ Mike, a show by Andy the Clown, lots of great food, gifts and a visit from Santa Claus and his Elf. Santa brought many smiles to all at the party. Our oldest lodge member, Phil Sapienza (103) and his daughter, Linda, were also in attendance along with lodge members and their families.

The Stirling Elks Lodge is made up of men and women from Long Hill Township, Berkeley Heights, Basking Ridge and other surrounding towns who are citizens of the United States, at least 21 years old and who believe in God. The

Special Children's Committee sponsors several functions a year for special needs children and adults, and there are many Elks programs that benefit special needs children. There are special needs and regular scholarships. In addition to hosting annual events for special needs children each year, the Elks sends special needs children to Elks Camp Moore in the summertime at no cost to the parents. The Elks are involved with scouting, athletic teams and youth activities. There are many veterans events and patriotic programs. Recently Stirling Elks hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for Veterans and a Christmas dinner for Veterans.

For further information on the Stirling Elks, the Special Children's Committee, or Elks Camp Moore, call Pat MocarSKI at 908-647-1437.



(above) Elks Helpers and holiday party attendees.



(above) Andy the Clown and some of the children at the party.

ELKS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTOS



(above, left to right) (1) Alexa Nacamuli poses with Santa; (2) Eric and Lisa Miller at the Elks' holiday party; (3) Johnathan Miller; (4) Santa, his elf helper and the twin sisters Elizabeth and Leah Rusinskaia at the holiday party.

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CHILDREN'S STORY TIMES AND PROGRAMS:

Read with Sara the Dog

Monday, February 3, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

For ages 3 and up

Good Tyme String Band

Tuesday, February 11, 10:30 a.m.

Sing-along songs for ages 0 and up

Paper Plate Story Time

Tuesdays, February 4, 18, 25, 10:30 a.m.

Story & paper plate craft for ages 3 - 5

Mother Goose Play Time

Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27

9:30 a.m.

Books, music, rhymes & play

For ages 0 - 24 months

Groundhog Day Drop-in Craft

January 27 - February 2

Hearts and Crafts: Valentine drop-in craft

February 8 - 14

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Tech Help

Sunday, February 2, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Tech help for all ages provided by teens

Morning Book Group

Friday, February 7, 10:30 a.m.

Will discuss Becoming by Michelle Obama

Evening Book Group

Tuesday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.

Will discuss Warlight by Michael Ondaatje

New members are welcome; to join, please stop

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Italian Conversation Group

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Registration is \$15 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.

Limited to 40 players who must know how to play chess, age 11 and older.

For More Information: Email Jim Parlapiano at jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com

Or Will Adams at will.adams@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x234

Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link

to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2583007

Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

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THE SUMMIT OLD GUARD FEBRUARY EVENTS

If you are a retired male and have an interest in living an interesting life with like-minded men... new members are always welcomed. Put on your business casual attire or jacket & tie (or something more casual from May to September) and attend a meeting.

Meetings are held each Tuesday in the council meeting room of the New Providence NJ Municipal Center at 360 Elkwood Ave, New Providence NJ, starting at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and conversation, followed by programs consisting of stimulating talks by people such as past governors, mayors, politicians, Nobel Prize winners, physicians, judges, professors, scientists, economists, authors, journalists, etc.

After the meetings, many members join together to have lunch at various local restaurants.

In addition to the weekly meetings, there are activity groups for golf, bridge, hiking, trips, computer help, tennis and more.

For more information, contact James Hewitt, Chairman, Membership Committee, (908) 233-5507, info@SummitOldGuard.org. You can also visit summitoldguard.org.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 4TH -

Kevin Dillon, certified financial planner, with Mercer Advisors, will define the use of factors which comprise a set of investment characteristics. Kevin will define and explain the notion of factors and show how they can help the average investor outperform the market.

FEBRUARY 11 -

Sri Srikantan, a consultant in information technology and an Old Guard member, will discuss the history, geography, culture, economics and religion of India.

FEBRUARY 18 -

Vincent Macri, a certified elder law attorney, will speak about elder law and the need for seniors to coordinate all aspects of retirement tax exposure, and long-term care and disability issues.

FEBRUARY 25 -

There will be a discussion on the popular interest in political paranoia, an impulse gripping political leaders and public alike. Bruce Peabody, professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson, will review how conspiratorial anxiety has moved to the center of public affairs and the electoral process.

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KIDS FISHING SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 3

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was founded in 1907 and remains one of the oldest fishing clubs in the nation. We are listed on Amazon Smile and are a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit. We provide outings to support veterans, adults and children as well as people with disabilities which focus on environmental education, fishing knowledge and practice. A complete list of our upcoming events can be found at www.nbfcc.org.

We are always looking for new members, donations, and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st St., Kenilworth, NJ, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July and August).

Our Annual Kids Seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, V.F.W. 33 South 21st street Kenilworth, NJ. A Guest speaker to be announced and topics of discussion will be safety while fishing, fish identification, and practice casting. Prizes will be awarded and snacks will be served.

For more information visit www.nbfcc.org, or contact Bob Jones, BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com, 908-272-3545

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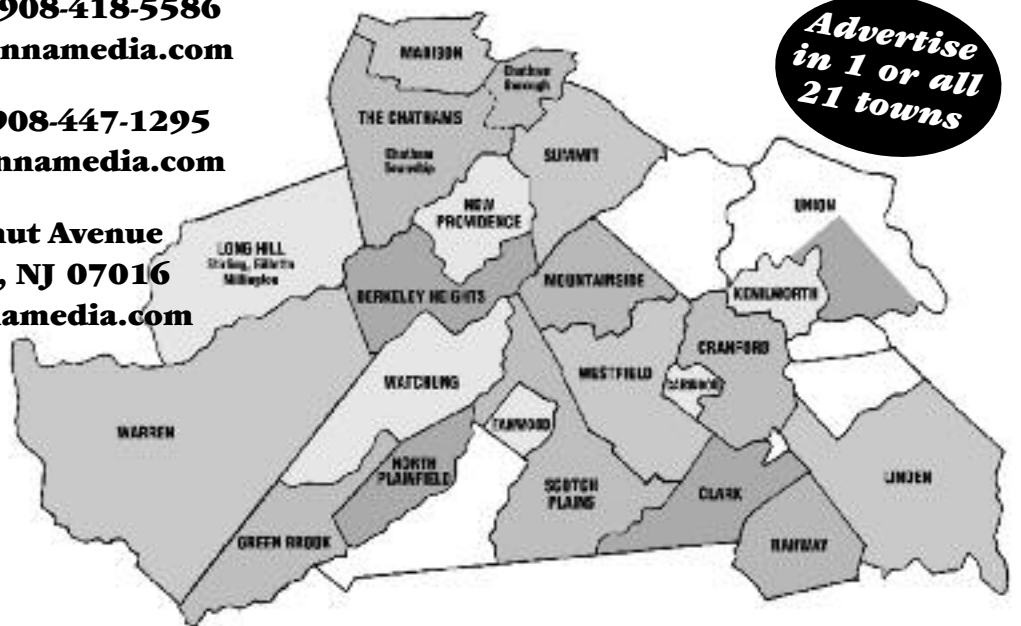
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JUNIOR LEAGUE CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Submitted by Dana Felmet

Junior League of Summit is celebrating its 90th Anniversary of service to the community this year. The success of the League can be attributed to hundreds of dedicated volunteers, supportive community partners and the trust of the community throughout its nine decade tenure.

The primary source of income for the League is the Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop located at 37 DeForest Avenue in Summit. The Thrift Shop was established in 1933, making it the oldest retail business in downtown Summit. All profits generated by the shop are used to support and develop local interests in the form of grants, scholarships, projects and programs. Earlier this year, the Junior League awarded over \$65,000 in grants and scholarships, which is in addition to the funds provided to support the League's signature outreach initiative, GRACE (Giving and Receiving Assistance for our

Community Essentials).

The Thrift Shop manager, Marie Avigliano, has been at the forefront of the shop's success since she joined the team in July 2010. Marie has brought the shop into the 21st century by creating various events and sales incentives throughout the year, increasing revenue by \$120,000 over her 9-year tenure.

A major renovation in 2015-2016 allowed the staff to sort and process merchandise more efficiently, which increased sales. The shop recently underwent a basement underpinning which created additional storage space for donations. Marie relied on her previous retail experience to design the shop to be organized and aesthetically pleasing to the shop's dedicated customers, many of which are on a first name basis with the shop staff.

In addition to the shop's incredible sales history, the shop has donated items such as books

to start libraries in communities in Africa and South America through local ministries, clothing to natural disaster victims, and baby items for mothers that are not able to otherwise provide for their children.

"It's super rewarding and heartwarming to have such a great experience at work," says Ms. Avigliano. "I am just grateful to have the opportunity to be connected with the community in the way the shop connects. We have shared so many experiences with our customers from the birth of a baby to even the loss of some of our elderly patrons. It's all very meaningful to me and I feel blessed to be a part of it."

The Junior League is incredibly lucky to have Marie at the helm of such an important part of the Junior League's legacy in the community and looks forward to what the future holds.

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.

Those interested in donating to the League, please visit jlsummit.org/?nd=donate_summary.



(above) The Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop, located at 37 DeForest Avenue in Summit, is the oldest retail business in downtown Summit, having been established in 1933. The Thrift Shop is the primary source of income for the Junior League of Summit.

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