

# Summit NJ Times

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## FEBRUARY 25TH DECLARED SUMMIT COLLEGE CLUB DAY

Submitted by Hedy Tukey

In celebration of Summit College Club's founding 100 years ago, Mayor Nora Radest issued a Proclamation declaring February 25, 2020 as Summit College Club Day. This recognition by the mayor's office of Summit College Club's 100th anniversary will be formally presented to Summit College Club at a gala 100th anniversary celebration on Sunday, April 5, at the Grand Summit Hotel.

The Mayor's proclamation states that over the past 100 years, Summit College Club programs and policies have focused on advocacy, action, research, lifelong learning and equity for women in order to respond to community, county, state, national and international concerns.

Summit College Club has been involved in the formation of valued community service agencies such as Sage, Meals on Wheels, The Child Care Center, environmental groups, achievement awards, and WomanArt, all of which have served to provide an improved quality of life in the Summit Area.

For more than 50 years, the club has run a week-long Book Sale in the spring. The income from this sale has allowed

Summit College Club to provide more than a million dollars in scholarships to young women graduating from local high schools. This year, Summit College Club's Book Sale will run from April 28 through May 3 at the American Legion Post #433, 357 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence.

Other programs in recent years have ranged from Christie Whitman talking on the environment to a children's book giveaway on Martin Luther King Day; from showing a film about Toni Morrison to sending eight graders to a week-long summer STEM camp. Last fall, the club ran a workshop in salary negotiation for women. The club's calendar also includes meetings for small groups interested in books, films or food and social gatherings for all members.

The Summit College Club is a branch of the American Association of University Women, which promotes equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

To learn more about Summit College Club, please visit their website, [summit-nj.aauw.net](http://summit-nj.aauw.net).

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(above) Mayor Nora Radest made a Proclamation declaring February 25, 2020 Summit College Club Day, recognizing Summit College Club's 100th anniversary.

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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](mailto:Editor@rennamedia.com)



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# UNION COUNTY COLLEGE TEAM CHOSEN FOR PRESTIGIOUS NASA CHALLENGE

Submitted by Nicole Torella

Union County College is proud to announce that a team of four engineering students have been chosen to participate in NASA's Micro-G Next Challenge Artemis Program. Union's team is one of only two community colleges selected to compete in this category, which has a total of 20 teams, and includes teams from universities such as Cornell, Columbia, University of Texas, Ohio State, University of Alabama, University of Nebraska, and Arizona State.

Union's team is comprised of four students: Michael Kirkland of Westfield, Bruce Aranda of Elizabeth, Dmytro Govdan of Summit, and Antonio Mena of Cranford. Our students submitted a proposal for the Lunar Sample Coring Drill competition which if chosen, will be used on the Artemis mission to drill samples from the moon's surface.

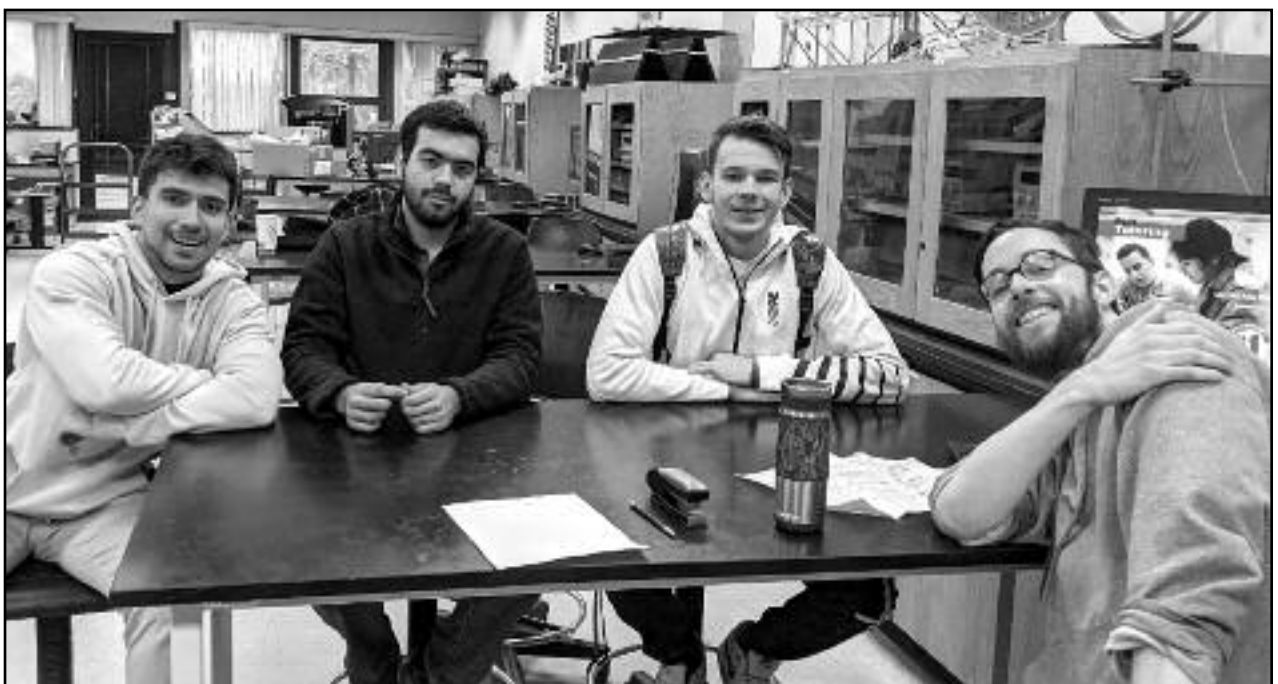
The young men on our team are now in the process of building their drill which will be tested at NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Lab (NBL) at the

Sonny Carter Training Facility near the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. The NBL is the large pool where astronauts train for future missions.

"For engineering students interested in working for NASA, this is the experience of a lifetime, and we are so proud of our students for being chosen for this competition," stated Union County College President Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin. "I thank the leadership in our engineering faculty for the guidance and instruction they've provided to assist our students with achieving their goal of building an effective coring drill."

Union County College Associate Professor of Physics/Engineering Nicholas Gilbert is serving as the Head Coach to the team. Associate Professor of Engineering Jennifer Ebert serves as the research and technical advisor to the team.

Please consider supporting the fundraising campaign to send Union County College's team to NASA this spring: [ucc.edu/ucc2nasa](http://ucc.edu/ucc2nasa).



(above, l-r) Union County College students Antonio Mena, Bruce Aranda, Dmytro Govdan, and Michael Kirkland in a lab at the College's Cranford campus.



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## CASA INVITES PUBLIC TO WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON MARCH 11

*Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan*

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County will host its second annual Women's Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, March 11 — the heart of Women's History Month — to highlight two Union County women whose contributions positively impact their community.

Among them is Tina Renna, Cranford resident and owner of Renna Media, publisher of 21 community newspapers including the Summit Times.

Renna, who coordinates content for more than 135,000-issues circulated to towns in Union, Somerset and Morris counties, uses her writing, editing and photography, she says, "to tell the stories of ordinary people who do extraordinary things, big or small, that inspire others and their communities."



*(above) Tina Renna, owner of Renna Media, publisher of 21 community newspapers including the Summit Times, will be recognized by CASA at their Women's Leadership Luncheon.*



*(above) Sue Adler, Summit resident and CEO of The Sue Adler Team of Keller Williams in Chatham, will be recognized by CASA at their Women's Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, March 11.*

Whether reporting news from town departments, schools and libraries, giving voice to local organizations raising awareness, or highlighting accomplishments of businesses, residents and all those who share a community — no matter strength or size — I strive to make a positive impact on each town's well-being and economic development."

Also being honored is Summit's Sue Adler, CEO of The Sue Adler Team of Keller Williams in Chatham. Currently ranked 10 worldwide out of 175,000 Keller Williams agents, Adler focuses on the community's train line towns and incorporates an in-house, team-treatment approach for clients.

Ilyse DiChiara, owner of Green Healthy Living and certified integrative nutrition, health and wellness coach, will provide the keynote address. Prior to switching professional course, DiChiara ran her nationwide trial consulting business, Litigation Support Solutions, for more than 20 years. Other participants include Summit Mayor Nora Radest and Westfield Councilwoman Joann Neylan.

Tickets are available now for the luncheon, which begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Summit Hotel. Seats are \$65; tables of 10 and sponsorships are available.

To purchase, log on to [casaleadershipluncheon.eventbrite.com](http://casaleadershipluncheon.eventbrite.com). For luncheon details, contact Alexis at [aslade@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:aslade@casaoofunioncounty.org).

CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned children placed in foster homes or residential facilities. There are more than 500 Union County youth, from birth to age 21, in foster care. With court-ordered access to a foster child and all parties in their life, volunteer advocates report findings to the judge so as to ensure best interests remain a priority, needs are met, and already experienced trauma is not exacerbated.

Contact Courtney at [cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org) or 908-293-8136 to learn more about CASA of Union County.

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## JLS RECEIVES DONATIONS FROM SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Submitted by Dana Felmet*

The Junior League of Summit (JLS) recently received a \$1,500 donation from the Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School (LCJSMS) Student Council for its grants and scholarships program. LCJSMS raised the funds as part of their annual “Spirit of Giving” initiative in December 2019. JLS President, Erika Melchiorre had the pleasure of accepting the donation from the LCJSMS Student Council.

“We are honored to receive this donation from the students at LCJSMS. The donated monies will go directly to support local non profit organizations through our grants. This is the true ‘Spirit of Giving’. Thank you to the students for their generosity,” said Ms. Melchiorre. In 2019, the JLS awarded over \$65,000 in grants and scholarships and the funds from LCJSMS will support the continued success of the program.

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, please visit the website at [jlsunmit.org](http://jlsunmit.org) or contact the office at 908-273-7349. Those interested in donating to the League, please visit [jlsunmit.org/?nd=donate\\_summary](http://jlsunmit.org/?nd=donate_summary).



*(above) JLS President, Erika Melchiorre and LCJSMS Student Council Representatives*

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## SHS PRESENTS SPRING MUSICAL MAMMA MIA!

Summit High School Performing Arts Department will be dazzling audiences for five performances, March 4 through 7, with the international smash hit Mamma Mia!

"Mamma Mia! is a funny, sunny international sensation which unfolds on a Greek island paradise when on the eve of her wedding, a young woman's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's

past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago," explains Summit High School Drama Director Anne Poyner. "This sensational production contains ABBA's greatest hits including Super Trouper, Lay All Your Love On Me, Dancing Queen, and Waterloo. Non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers, along with the energy and charm of ABBA's songs propel this enchanting tale of love, laughter, and

friendship."

Join the Summit High School performers on Wednesday and Thursday, March 4 and 5 at 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 7 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for a trip down the aisle you'll never forget! Purchase tickets at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com) ahead of time or at the door. Ticket prices are \$15 for students and seniors and \$20 for adults.



*(above) Cast members of Mamma Mia! rehearse one of the rousing production numbers from this fun musical!*

Photo by Allie Bamford Assistant Stage Manager & SHS student

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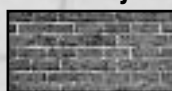
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## CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MOVES TOWARDS INCLUSION



(above) Central Presbyterian Church is opening their doors to more inclusive spaces and programs for the community.

Photo by Central Presbyterian Church

*Submitted by Jeanne Thiemann*

For some members of the community, church is hard. Older buildings can be difficult to access with a walker or wheelchair, amplification systems can be problematic for those with hearing challenges, Sunday School may not be equipped to deal with children on the autism spectrum, as well as many other issues. Central Presbyterian Church in Summit has been working on these issues to make their community of faith more inclusive.

Central began removing barriers years ago with the installation of an assisted listening system in their Sanctuary. More recently, changes to the main entrance included a ramp connecting the ground level to the Sanctuary and Auditorium to ease the way for those with mobility issues.

Programming for children and youth has been a focus in the last few years, especially with the hiring of Rev. Deborah Huggins as Associate Pastor. Deborah is a doctoral student in Special Education. Before becoming a pastor, she worked as a teacher certified in Special Education. Deborah oversees the children and family ministry at Central. The church has also recently hired a Behavior Support Aide to work in their Sunday School classrooms with children who need some extra help. Parents are free to worship and engage in small group fellowship and study, knowing that their kids are safe and welcome.

Adults with disabilities are also welcome at Central, where it is recognized that these adults also need a place to belong. Central continues to work to be a place of belonging for people across the spectrum, with opportunities for worship, service, and fellowship for people of all abilities.

The church offers a unique worship experience on first and third Sunday evenings, titled "WAVE". A contemporary worship service, WAVE is held in the accessible auditorium, where children and others are free to move around the space. Dancing and spontaneous expressions of joy are common and encouraged. Seating is flexible with small tables, couches, and plenty of room for wheelchairs and strollers.

Senior Pastor Don Steele said, "The Church should be open to everyone. The congregation of Central wants to welcome everyone by removing as many barriers as possible. We are always willing to listen to those whose needs are not yet being met, so maybe we can address their issues in the future."

For those who still cannot physically attend church (or prefer not to), Central broadcasts their Sunday 10:00 a.m. service live on Summit's Hometowne TV, and posts the video to their YouTube channel, Central Presbyterian. Services are also available through their website, centralpres.org. Central is located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ.



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# 33RD ANNUAL "TASTE OF SUMMIT" BENEFITING THE SUMMIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO BE HELD ON MARCH 29

Submitted by Cheryl Smith

On Sunday, March 29, 2020, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., all are invited to join family, friends and neighbors at the 33rd Annual Taste of Summit hosted at The Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Ave. The Taste of Summit, an annual fundraiser that benefits the all-volunteer Summit Historical Society, is a gourmet extravaganza featuring more than 25 of Summit's finest restaurants and food merchants. Each vendor will be serving "tastes" that showcase specialties spanning many cuisines, including Italian, American and Mexican. There will also be desserts from Summit's finest bakers and a cash bar.

During the Taste of Summit, historical society trustees will draw the winning raffle ticket for four prizes: an overnight stay for two with dinner

and breakfast at The Grand Summit Hotel, a necklace from Schroth & Lorensen Jewelers, an AncestryDNA Genetic & Ethnicity Test and a Summit Antiques Center gift certificate. The \$5 raffle tickets are being sold at the Carter House, 90 Butler Parkway in Summit, (Tuesdays 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays 1 to 4 p.m.), at Sweet Nothings at 26 Beechwood Road in Summit (Monday through Saturday 10 to 5:30) and will be available the night of the event.

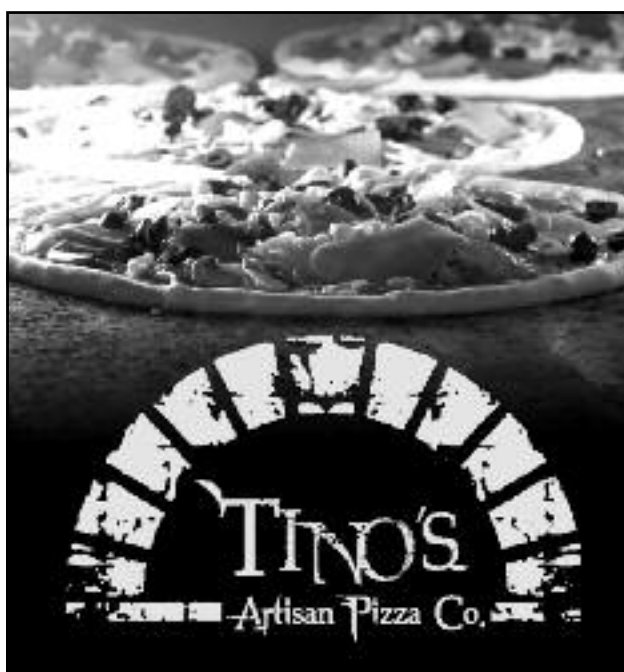
The Taste of Summit is the key fundraiser each year for the Summit Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Summit through the Carter House museum and its archives. All of the funds raised will help the society continue its mission of safeguarding records, documents, maps, books and artifacts as well as antique

furnishings and clothes connected to the history of Summit and making them available to the public at the Carter House, which is the oldest house in Summit.

Tickets for the Taste of Summit are on sale now, priced at \$50 per adult and \$20 per child (ages 6 through 12). To ensure a place, call 908-277-1747 or send a check payable to the Summit Historical Society, P. O. Box 464, Summit 07902-0464. Tickets for the event will also be sold at the door.

For more information about the Taste of Summit, the raffle or the Summit Historical Society, visit [summithistoricalsociety.org](http://summithistoricalsociety.org) or [facebook.com/summithistoricalsociety](https://facebook.com/summithistoricalsociety).

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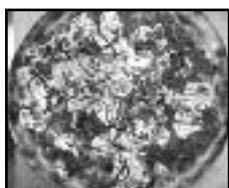
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For Information Contact:  
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(Book by Catherine Johnson)  
(Originally conceived by Judy Craymer)

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## SAGE PREPARES FOR 2020 MARCH FOR MEALS

Submitted by Cindy Potters

City officials and members of community organizations are invited to join SAGE Eldercare in March as it participates in the 18th annual March for Meals – a month-long, nationwide coming together of local community organizations, businesses, government officials and caring individuals to ensure that homebound, older adults are not forgotten. The average age of the clients SAGE delivers meals to is 83. Of those, 65% say they rarely have visitors other than their Meals on Wheels volunteer.

March for Meals participants have included NJ State Senator Thomas Kean Jr., Summit Mayor, Nora Radest, Police Chiefs from Summit, New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Springfield and Mountainside and local government officials and volunteers.

Established in 1966, SAGE's Meals on Wheels is the oldest continuously run home delivery meal program in New Jersey. In 2019, approximately 400 volunteers delivered more than 43,729 meals to 212 people in Union County (Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, New Providence, Springfield, and Summit), Essex County (Millburn and Short Hills), and Morris County (Chatham and Madison).

"The services that we provide older adults in our area are critical; it's not just a warm meal, but also a vital wellness visit," said Marianne Kranz, SAGE Director of Meals on Wheels. "Together, we can keep older adults living independently, healthier at home and feeling more connected to their community as they age."

For more information about participating in March for Meals, contact Marianne Kranz at: 908-598-5514

or email: [mkranz@sageeldercare.org](mailto:mkranz@sageeldercare.org).

### ABOUT SAGE

Since 1954, SAGE Eldercare has been helping make the communities it serves amazing places to age. The organization provides a wide array of information, support, and services designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. From helping with errands and providing Meals on Wheels, to exercise classes, community programs, care planning, an adult day health care center, and home health care, SAGE's expertise helps older adults remain independent in their own homes. SAGE is committed to being the leading provider of programs and services to meet the changing needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers throughout Union, Essex, Morris, and Somerset Counties. For more information, please call 908-273-5550 or visit [sageeldercare.org](http://sageeldercare.org).

### ABOUT MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA

Meals on Wheels America is the oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based senior nutrition programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation. This network exists in virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that enable America's seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, research, education and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time. For more information, or to find a Meals on Wheels provider near you, visit [mealsonwheelsamerica.org](http://mealsonwheelsamerica.org).



(above) PNC Wealth Management and SAGE Board of Trustee Member, Michael Foncannon of Summit (pictured center) volunteered to deliver Meals on Wheels in 2019 in support of March for Meals, a nationwide coming together of local community organizations, businesses, government officials and caring individuals to ensure that homebound and vulnerable older adults are not forgotten. If you would like to participate this year (one weekday for 1 ½ hours) please contact Marianne Kranz at: 908-598-5514 or email: [mkranz@sageeldercare.org](mailto:mkranz@sageeldercare.org).

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# SUMMIT'S REPAIR CAFÉ EVENT IN THIRD YEAR: FREE REPAIRS BY EXPERTS, WHO ARE NEIGHBORS

Summit Repair Café is back for their fourth event to help the public restore their beloved broken items to working order. Twice each year community volunteers, who are accomplished repairers, are on hand to assist in mending, glueing, screwing or a variety of techniques to get items back to working order.

The next event will be held on March 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Avenue, in Summit. Christ Church is located at the corner of Springfield and New England Avenues. Please follow outdoor signage and enter the event from New England Avenue.

The public is invited to bring a beloved but broken item to be repaired for free by experts who are also your neighbors. Repair services available at this event will include sewing/textiles, things made of wood/wood furniture, plants/gardening, bicycles, jewelry, as well as electronics and digital cameras. This is a free event, but please note that a voluntary contribution is appreciated when an item is brought in for repair. Replacement parts for lamps will be on hand for an at-cost fee. Please only bring items that you can carry into our event unaided.

Currently Summit is the only town in Union County to host a Repair Café. Summit's Repair Café has recently joined with other New Jersey Repair Café coordinators to form "Repair Café Garden State." This network of community organizers hold near-monthly repair events across the state. This organization shares news and schedules of all upcoming Repair Café events taking place in New Jersey.

Summit's Repair Café events, organized by Green Summit member Courtney Cordaro, are co-sponsored by the Summit Area GreenFaith Circle. GreenFaith Circle's goal is to inspire, educate, organize, and mobilize people of

diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds globally for environmental action.

Have questions? Interested in volunteering or repairing items for this event or any of our future Repair Café events? Reach out to Green Summit via their website, [greensummitnj.org](http://greensummitnj.org) or by email at [GreenSummitNJ@gmail.com](mailto:GreenSummitNJ@gmail.com).



*(above) Have a beloved item that is broken? Have it repaired for free by experts who are also your neighbors at the fourth Summit Repair Café will be held on March 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

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Responsible for planning and coordinating facilities-related services. Coordinates office and building related duties, equipment, vendor relationships, building security, and special projects as needed. Responsible for all maintenance and general upkeep of the building, both internally and externally.

NJ Sharing Network operates 24/7/365. This position will oversee and participate in 24-hour on call to ensure a safe and efficient operation. Responsible for individual and departmental staff compliance with all Network programs and policies.

#### Education and Experience:

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## SDI SEEKING MUSICIANS FOR DOWNTOWN EVENTS

*Submitted by Kathryn Best*

Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) is happy to announce that Summit Street Sounds will return for its third year! Downtown Summit will be alive with music every Thursday and Friday evening in June this year (pending event approval by Summit Common Council).

To that end, SDI is seeking musicians and street performers for a variety of events in 2020. All performance opportunities are outdoors, so performers must be able to play outside and provide their own sound equipment. Performance opportunities include (pending event approval by Summit Common Council): Summit Farmers Market (Sunday mornings), Summit Street Sounds (Thursday/Friday evenings, June), Family Fun Night (children's event, 4-8 p.m. on June 11), and Arts + Cars (festival on September 20), etc.

Interested musicians should email [kathryn@summitdowntown.org](mailto:kathryn@summitdowntown.org) with their:

name, email address, phone number, brief description of their act/group and what type of music they play, sample (preferably a YouTube link for a live performance), hourly/event rates.

Those interested please reach out by email only. No phone calls, please.

Summit Downtown, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the on-going development and promotion of the business community in downtown Summit, NJ.



## CRISIS HOTLINE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for a flexible, rewarding volunteer opportunity? Have you ever been told you are a good listener? This volunteer opportunity may be for you. The nonprofit organization Caring Contact is seeking new volunteers to support its crisis hotline and listening community.

Volunteers receive 54 hours of comprehensive training in active listening, mental health first aid and applied suicide intervention skills

training. New volunteers are also supported by seasoned listeners during 24 hours of internship before answering calls independently. Ongoing support and training opportunities are also provided.

The next volunteer training program will begin on March 17, 2020, at Temple Shalom in Scotch Plains, NJ. To learn more and apply, please visit [caringcontact.org/volunteer-listener-application](http://caringcontact.org/volunteer-listener-application) or call (908) 301.1899.

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## BSA TROOP 67 MLK DAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Submitted by Meghan Terry*

Scouts and parents from Summit's BSA Troop 67 were pleased to serve the community on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in Summit. At the community luncheon hosted at St. John's Church, scouts served food to the many community members who were participating in the events happening around town. Scouts also helped to set up and clean up the dining area.

Boy Scouting is for boys who are 11, or are at least 10 years old and have completed the fifth grade or have earned the Cub Scout Arrow of Light Award, through 17 years old. Boys experience a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster to achieve the BSA's objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness. Camping, fun with friends -- and more.

It's the adventure of a lifetime.

The troop meets weekly on Mondays at St. Teresa's School (Avila room at basement level) at 7:30 p.m.

If you would like to join Troop 67 please attend one of our meetings. Or visit <https://sites.google.com/yahoo.com/troop67online>, or contact Scoutmaster Richard Sirabian at [summit67bsa@gmail.com](mailto:summit67bsa@gmail.com).



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# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMIT ANNOUNCES 2020 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 2

*Submitted by Dana Felmet*

The Junior League of Summit (JLS) is pleased to continue its scholarship program in 2020. JLS will be awarding four \$3,000 Shirley Wight Keeney Voluntarism Scholarships to graduating seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to voluntarism in their community. The scholarship is open to graduating seniors who meet the following criteria: applicants must live or attend school in Berkeley Heights, Chatham, New Providence or Summit; must demonstrate academic excellence within their high school graduating class throughout his/her high school career; must be continuing their education at an accredited two-year or four-year college or business/vocational school; and must show significant volunteer work during their high school years that aligns with the Junior League of Summit's mission.

Shirley Wight Keeney was a beloved member and Past President of the Junior League of Summit and was well loved and greatly admired by generations of Junior League women. She began her volunteer work early as a preschooler in the early 1920s and carried on her tradition of service throughout her life until her passing in 2010. We feel it is a privilege for the League to be able to offer scholarships to high school seniors in her name.

For the third year, the JLS will also be offering a \$3,000 Continuing Education Scholarship award given to a member of the community who has demonstrated a commitment to voluntarism in her community and is pursuing additional education or certification. The scholarship is open to students who meet the following criteria: Applicants must live or attend school in Berkeley Heights, Chatham, New Providence or Summit; must be pursuing additional education as adults;

must be continuing their education at an accredited two- or four-year college or business/vocational school; and must show significant volunteer work in the last three years that aligns with the Junior League of Summit's mission.

For more information, and to access the applications, please visit [jlsummit.org](http://jlsummit.org). Applications are due by Monday, March 2, 2020. Winners will be notified in April, 2020.

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 [www.jlsummit.org](http://www.jlsummit.org) or contact the office at 908-273-7349.

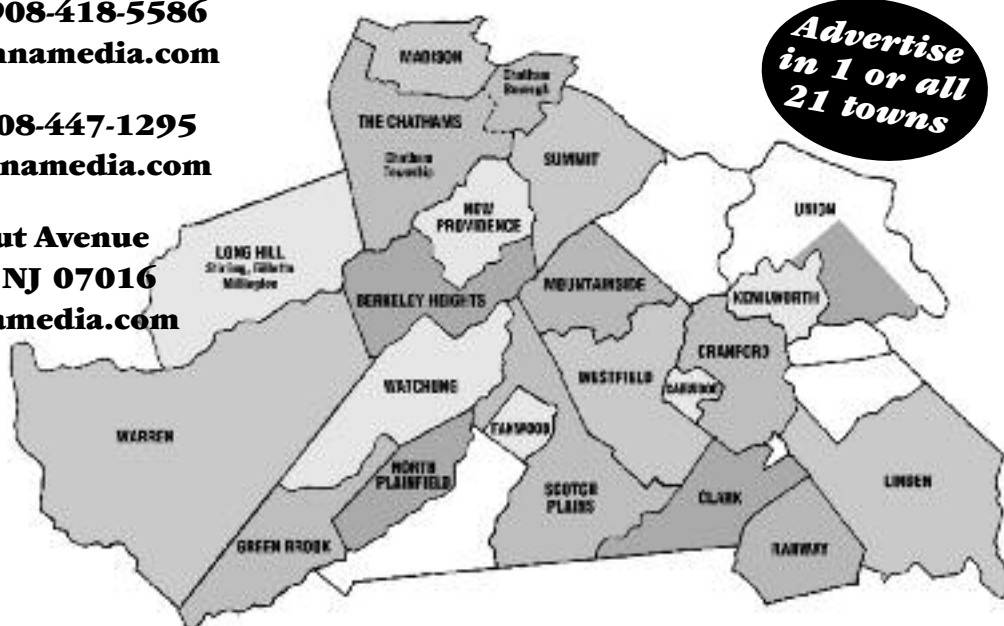
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## ORDINANCES RESTRICTING USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

*Submitted by Amy Cairns*

The City of Summit Common Council has passed three ordinances restricting use of single-use plastics. The first ordinance prohibits use of single-use plastic bags by businesses at the point of purchase. The second ordinance is a ban on polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam) food containers. The third ordinance limits businesses to provide plastic straws by customer request only. The ordinances will go into effect on May 1, 2020.

“Restrictions on single-use plastics like other initiatives undertaken by the city were an inclusive process,” explains Summit Mayor Nora Radest. “Before ordinances were considered by Common Council, community workshops were held to gather feedback to pass ordinances that positively impact environmental sustainability

without negative outcomes for local businesses.”

In October of 2019, city and elected officials held two community workshops to answer questions and obtain input from the business and residential communities on the development of the ordinances. The ordinances were passed by Common Council on November 18, 2019.

Summit joins neighbor towns of Chatham, Madison and Maplewood in passing single-use plastics restrictions. The New Jersey state legislature is expected to introduce legislation restricting single-use plastics during its next session. If the state passes stricter regulations on plastics use, it will supersede any local Summit ordinances.

For more information on restrictions of single-use plastics and exceptions outlined in the ordinances, visit the City of Summit website.

**Information on Summit's Single-use Plastics Ordinances**

Summit, NJ will enforce a city-wide ban on carry-out plastic bags, polystyrene (Styrofoam) containers and restrictions on use of plastic straws starting May 1, 2020.

**What bags are allowed?**

Restrictions do not apply to garbage and pet waste bags, newspaper sleeves, laundry/dry cleaning bags or bags used to wrap baked goods, frozen food, meat, vegetables and bulk items.

**What is banned and what is restricted?**

- A ban applies to all single-use plastic carry-out bags. Customers should bring their own bag or use an alternative provided by the retailer (for a cost or for free).
- Businesses offering take-out food service will be required to find an alternative to polystyrene containers.
- Plastic straws will be given by request only.

**Why are single-use plastics a problem?**

Americans use 100 billion plastic bags each year, only 1% are recycled. They end up in landfills, waterways and neighborhoods.

Plastic straws are not recyclable. Millions are used in the US every day.

Carry-out plastic bags and Styrofoam containers can take up to 1000 years to decompose.

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