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CHATHAM GIRL SCOUTS GOLD AWARD CEREMONY

Submitted by Dian Lamb

Chatham Girls Scouts were pleased to honor the High School Senior's that have received their Gold Award during a ceremony held on Facebook Live on June 5th, 2020. Over 50 families tuned in to watch the ceremony. Gold Award recipient, Emily Lamb coordinated and MC'd event.

These Girl Scouts have truly distinguished themselves as visionary leaders. They have made an incredible impact on their community.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are girls who take "make the world a better place" to the next level. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable.

Girls who earn the Gold Award tackle issues that are dear to them and drive lasting change in their communities and beyond.

To earn the award, each girl must spend a minimum of 80 hours to complete the steps to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The ceremony began with the support of our younger Chatham Girl Scout troops. The troops met via Zoom and provided video: Cadette Troop 95667 provided the Flag Ceremony. Daisy Troop 97952, from Southern Boulevard provided the 'Girl Scout Promise.' Brownie troop 96754 from Washington Avenue provided the 'Girl Scout Law' and the flower presentation.

Many community leaders sent their congratulations and best wishes to the Gold Award recipients including: Dr. Michael LaSusa – Superintendent of the School District of the Chathams; Jill Webber – President of the Chatham Board of Education; Virginia Gryta -Chatham Girl Scout Service Unit Manager; Len Resto- Chatham Borough Council member; Carolyn Dempsey – Chatham Borough Council member; Irene Treloar - Chatham Borough Council member; Tracy Ness – Deputy Mayor Chatham Township; Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill - U.S. Representative for New Jersey's 11th congressional district.

The award was presented live to the girls by Betty Garger, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey. Each Gold Award recipient spoke live about her project. The recipients were



school mentors gave back to their community by aiding them.

Julia Raskin

Project title: August Back

Julia developed a program in Chatham to

aid elementary student musicians keep up

with their instruments over the summer. As

Julia recognized a declining music

population over the years, she decided to

create a fun, social event where younger

music students got back to their instruments

before school started, and the older high

Emily Lamb Project title:Encouraging Youth Voices in Political Activism

Emily's goal was to improve the connection between high school students and the government. She established a youth advisory position with the Board of Education and encouraged youth voter participation by distributing voter education packets to each student at Chatham High School as they turn eighteen.



Naila Ismail

Project title: Ban the Bag

Naila tacked the harmful effects of single use plastic on the environment. Through the Bags to Benches program, she was able to partake in a plastic bag recycling challenge to earn a bench made from recycled materials. She collected over 1000 pounds of plastic film and secured two benches for the community! She also advocated for the single-use plastic bag ban at both Chatham Borough and Township council meetings.



Hailey Coates, Jane DesMarais, Emily Lamb, Naila Ismail, Caroline Kiernan, Grace McCombs, Mikayla Meyler, Melina Panagakos, and Julia Raskin.

The ceremony also included a tribute to our Chatham High School seniors that have been Girl Scouts since Kindergarten including: Sofia Dorrego, Tessa Mason, Evie Mason, Livvy Macchia, Margot Hearne, Emily Brown, Katelyn Weaving, and Zoe Horowitz.

The ceremony ended with closing remarks from Girl Scout leader Amy Mason followed by a slideshow featuring photos of the girls throughout their 13 years of Girl Scouting.

(continued on page 4)





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

TRI-TOWN 55+ COALITION'S RIDES FOR SENIORS **PROGRAM HITS 5,000 RIDES MILESTONE**

Since its launch in April 2017, the Rides for such as Madison Rotary. A Gift-a-Ride program Seniors program has provided over 5,000 subsidized rides for residents 65 and older living in Madison, Chatham Borough and Chatham Township. More than 400 registered seniors have taken advantage of the on-demand car service to run errands, get to doctor's appointments, go shopping or visit loved ones. Tri-Town 55+ Coalition started the program in partnership with GoGoGrandparent, a national company based in California, which accesses Uber and Lyft using an 800 number instead of a smartphone.

While GoGoGrandparent is available nationwide, the Rides for Seniors program is the only one of its kind to offer a subsidy for Chatham and Madison residents. Eligible riders receive \$5 off each ride up to four rides per month. The subsidy is made possible through grant funding and sponsorship support, including grants from the Grotta Fund for Senior Care and sponsorships from local organizations

is also available to offset the costs for riders. For more information, to register for Rides for Seniors or donate, visit the Tri-Town 55+ Coalition website at tritown55plus.org.

Riders enjoy the program because of its convenience, safety and the independence it provides. One of our riders, Catherine Moy, lives in Chatham and has taken over 60 rides through the Rides for Seniors Program. She stated that "It's really convenient for me because I don't drive. I am very grateful that we have such a program in Chatham and the drivers so far have been very courteous. I really like the program." When asked if she recommends Rides for Seniors to her friends, she stated, "I do all the time. I recommend whenever they need a ride and no one's there to drive them I say call GoGoGrandparent."

Rides for Seniors is making a difference in the lives of older residents like Catherine throughout our community.

LET'S GET OUTSIDE CARNIVAL - JULY 22

All boys and girls are invited to a free carnival

organized by local Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops on Wednesday, July 22nd, from 5-8 pm at the Chatham Mall, 650 Shunpike Road. Activities are expected to include bouldering wall, model campsite, archery, backyard bass, balloon popping, stomp rockets, corn hole, pinewood derby cars & door prizes. We will be following all social distancing regulations that are in effect on that date. Rain date is July 23rd. For more information, contact Al. Thomas@Scouting.org; 973-765-9322 x 229.









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GIRL SCOUTS GOLD AWARDS (Continued from page 1)



Melina Panagakos

Project title: You Can Save Lives:
How to respond and handle traumatic bleeding situations Melina addressed the issue of the lack of emergency preparedness in situations where bleeding control is needed. Her project was designed to teach, empower and provide tools for an emergency situation. With the use of tourniquets, gauze, bandages, and direct pressure, bleeding is able to be lessened, if not stopped, to better the chances of survival.



Jane DesMarais

Project title: Sunny Smiles

Jane created the Sunny Smiles program at ECLC. The current club, Teens Connecting with Teens, at the high school focuses on special needs students inclusion at ECLA during the school year, while Sunny Smiles helps to bridge the gap of engagement throughout the summer. The program consisted of three events which gave the students from both schools an opportunity to play and have fun together over the summer.



Mikayla Meyler

Project title: Hear to Heart

Mikayla created an online database and corresponding map of all of the known Automated External Defibrillator (AED) locations in Chatham, NJ. While trained medical professionals and CPR certified individuals understand the importance of an AED in the event of a cardiac arrest, she felt that many citizens do not understand or are intimidated by the machines. Through this project, Mikayla spoke with community leaders, and met with officials to create a map open to the public to show citizens the locations of these devices. This helped the Chatham Emergency Squad and the John Taylor Babbitt foundation because it exposed gaps where AEDs should be. Additionally, AED locations were found that otherwise would not have known about.

Over 20

Experience



Caroline Kiernan

Project title: Music with a Message Caroline focused on making theatrical performances and educational opportunities more accessible for individuals with special needs. She created a website information featuring accessible/sensory-friendly theatres in New Jersey. She also created curriculum binders for the ECLC and Pillar Schools, providing resources for a strong foundational knowledge of theatre and music. Prior to the pandemic, she had planned on hosting a workshop with ECLC students that would culminate in a performance, but adapted the workshop to be virtual.



Hailey Coates Project title: Time to Time

Hailey worked to increase face to face intergenerational interactions between the senior and student generations within my community. She created a monthly Buddy Program in which Chatham High School Key Club Members volunteered at the Senior Center of the Chathams. Meetings consisted of group discussions, crafts, and bonding between generations.



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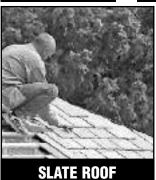




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Check out Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on YouTube. Call 908-447-1295 if you want your business featured online and in print. See sample show below.



BOB MARKEY -SAVE THE TREES OF RAHWAY

During the past 20 years, over 2000 of Rahway's street trees have died or were removed and never replaced. Resident Bob Markey is producing a three-episode video which provides viewers with a sobering look into this serious crisis affecting Rahway's trees. The video also provides a toolbox to fix the tree problems and to rebuild Rahway's urban forest. There is a plan to accomplish it, but the effort needs help and support.

Markey states, "This crisis didn't happen overnight, nor is it the fault of any individual, city department or elected official. Over the years mistakes and oversights have been made."

The Arbor Day Foundation certified Rahway as a Tree City USA Community in 1997 with two primary requirements: Form a Tree Board and Enact a Tree Ordinance.

The video is to raise awareness and solicit help in the effort to rebuild, restock and restore Rahway's urban forest.

Folks can help by sending an email to Help@SaveTheTreesofRahway.org, and by subscribing to Save The Trees of Rahway YouTube Channel, and by following the group on Facebook.

SCAN QR CODE TO OPEN OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL



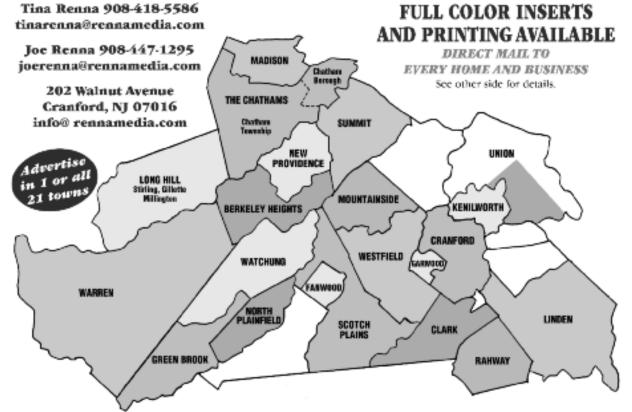
WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

As the season brings warmer weather, the Westfield Regional Health Department warns against feeding or interacting with wildlife and stray animals. Chatham Borough residents are advised to take precaution and call the police department non-emergency phone number at (973) 635-8000 when encountering wildlife that appears aggressive or distressed.

Additional information regarding Animal Control and safety recommendations is available at westfieldnj.gov/health.

The Westfield Regional Health Department is the contractual health agency serving Chatham Borough, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Summit, and Westfield.

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #43

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

Submitted by Maryann Doherty

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic many American Legion Auxiliary activities were curtailed for the past three months. The Poppy Drive, usually held at the end of May, needed to be cancelled this year. This is a major fundraiser for the Unit, where we usually receive donations that permit us to sponsor activities for veterans. Special thanks to those who have contributed to our "no contact drive through" and wrote personal letters sent to many "Friends of the Auxiliary." We hope to have a Poppy distribution in the Fall so we can continue our many activities for our veterans.

Looking to the future, when Lyons VA Hospital can bring the veterans to Post #43, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman Doris Sallie will have plans for an Off Station Party. An Off Station Party includes a home cooked meal with all the trimmings, music, and entertainment such as some games or karaoke. Gift bags are prepared which include snacks, socks or baseball caps and canteen books used at the hospital store. The Unit usually delivers something special to the Recreation Department during "Salute to Veterans Week" in February as well hosts a Bingo Party on one of the wards at the hospital. After the veterans win some prizes at Bingo, pizza and soda are served and goodie bags are given as they leave. If our budget

permits, another Off-Station Party will take place in the Spring. It should be mentioned that the Unit supports Post #43 monetarily for two Bingo Parties each month as well.

Every year Unit #43 sponsors three delegates to Jersey Girls State, usually held on a college campus; however, due to the pandemic this year, the sessions were done in a virtual format. Chairman Fran Derin and her committee interviewed Junior girl candidates from Chatham High, Madison High and Hanover Park High by phone or virtually. The following girls represented the Unit this past June: Helen Simmons of Madison; Molly Rowland of Chatham; and Victoria Perlman of Hanover Park. Having been asked by the Morris County Auxiliary to sponsor a student from Morristown Academy this year, the Unit will also be sponsoring Monica Zhang.

The Unit is optimistic that it will soon be able to return to its three fold mission which includes service to our veterans, our communities, our children and youth, and looks forward to the continued support of our communities.

The Auxiliary accepts help from community volunteers who may not be eligible for membership. For information about programs or ways you may contribute contact President Marybeth Valentino at 973-652-1812 or mbvalentino@gmail.com.

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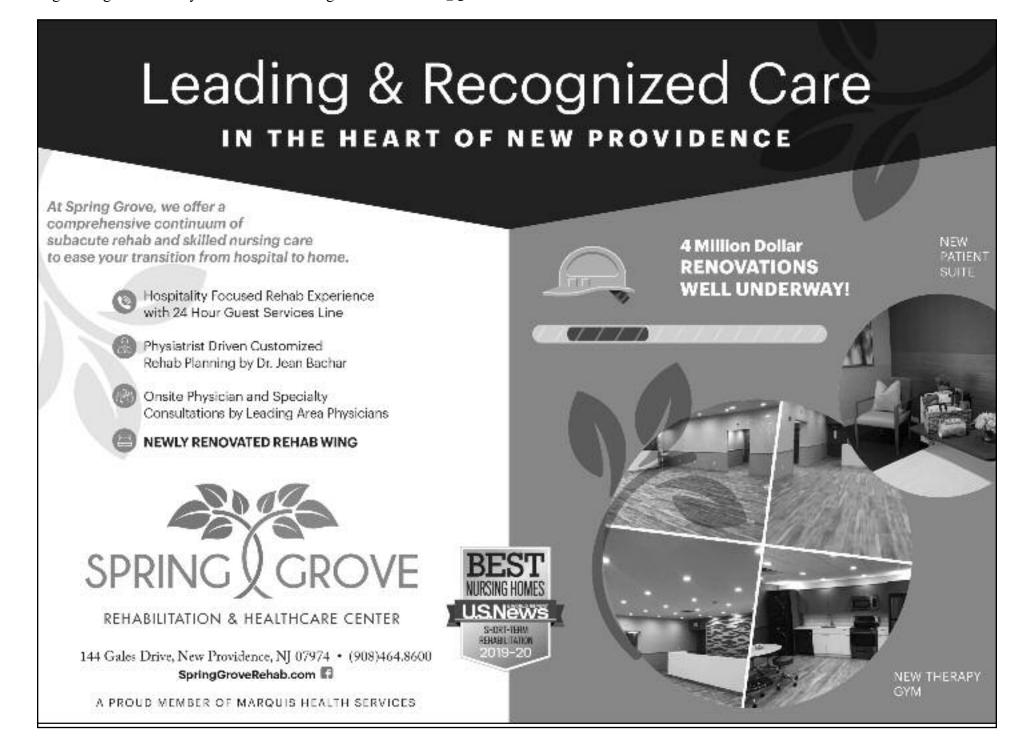
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