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CLASS OF 2020 URGED TO BOLDLY EMBRACE THEIR FUTURE

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Submitted by Denis Kelly

Under slightly overcast skies, the 63rd Commencement at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) on Wednesday, July 8, in the WHRHS Tozier Stadium finally gave the Class of 2020 the gift they were hoping for since late March: One last opportunity to get together as a class, review their time at WHRHS, and declare their readiness to boldly embrace the start of their future.

The weather and latest decree by the state government COVID-19 Watchdog officials finally permitted outdoor graduations of up to 500 people. WHRHS, with the size of graduating seniors just under 500, took full advantage of the 100 yards of its Stadium's artificial turf to seat the Class of 2020 with the required 6 feet between each student.

Highlighting the Commencement were: Tight, thoughtful and, in the end, hopeful remarks by four student speakers; two elegant coffee-house type musical interludes, featuring singing duets and acoustic guitar accompaniment; congratulatory and encouraging remarks by the Principal, Superintendent and Board of Education President; and on the jumbo screen, a pre-recorded rendering of the "Star Spangled Banner," the National Anthem, with lyrics by Francis Scott Key (1814), featuring 11 senior Choral Music members of the Class of 2020.

The Commencement was unofficially and effectively "Graduation Part II." On the day the Class of 2020 was originally scheduled to graduate before the COVID-19 Shutdown changed everything, Friday, June 19, the Class of 2020 participated in a Graduation Car Parade. That was the day a veritable sea of cars assembled in the Stirling Road-side parking lot in front of the WHRHS building. Beginning on about 11:45 a.m., Friday, June 19, the Car Parade ferried the Guests of Honor - the WHRHS Class of 2020 - in front of scores of applauding, cheering, encouraging teachers, staff and well-wishers. It took the better part of an hour for all the cars to complete the parade's route through campus. The participating students, often accompanied in their cars by parents, siblings, other relations and even for some with family pets. Everyone appeared to genuinely enjoy the opportunity to get together as a class for the first time since March.



WHRHS, with the size of graduating seniors under 500, took full advantage of the 100 yards of its Stadium's artificial turf to seat the *Class of 2020 with the required 6 feet between each student.*





(above) Katie Tan delivers the Valedictory Speech in the school's Tozier Stadium.

(above) Mayur Sharma delivers the Salutatory Speech at the WHRHS Commencement.



(above) All School Council (ASC) President Roopa Irakam presented Opening Address.



(above) Senior Class President Deepa Irakam welcomed everyone to the 2020 Commencement.



(above, l-r) Musical interlude was performed by graduating seniors Christine Tanko, Ben Kosakowski and Jack Melillo. Photos by WHRHS



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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012

STUDENTS START WARREN BRANCH OF ALLIANCE OF YOUTH LEADERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Submitted by Stanley Liu

On June 1, 2020 four students, Wesley Liu, Stanley Liu, Nikolai Przybylski, and Kanav Desai, from Watchung Hills Regional School District in New Jersey founded the Warren branch for the Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States (AYLUS). It is the 57th branch of AYLUS.

We created our branch in response to the coronavirus pandemic. After seeing the struggle of local businesses, hospitals in need of supplies, and other terrible consequences that the pandemic has had on our society, it was our duty to help and give back to our community in this time of hardship.

Our mission is to support our community and those in need and engage students in volunteer work that teach important skills. We will create and work on projects that include fundraising, tutoring, food drives, and much more. Through these projects, we aim to improve our community and create an environment that inspires students to take initiative in volunteer events and be more generous.

As the first event, on June 17, the AYLUS Warren Branch donated its first batch of 3D printed face shields. The Warren Branch reached out to a Patient Navigator at the RWJ Steeplechase Cancer Center, who expressed a need for the face shields. The branch plans on continuing to donate face shields as needed. We also plan on contacting other local businesses to help them meet their needs.

We encourage more students to join and help out as well.

Please visit our website aylus.org/warren-nj and email ayluswarren@gmail.com if you are interested.



(above) Wesley Liu, Stanley Liu, Nikolai Przybylski, and Kanav Desai, students from WHRS, founded the Warren branch for the Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States (AYLUS).





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LONG HILL TOWNSHIP TOWNWIDE GARAGE SALE SET FOR AUG. 8

Stirling Elks Lodge 2392 announces that the Long Hill Township Townwide Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2020 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., rain or shine.

The price is \$25 to have your address on the map. The money raised from the \$25 fee you pay will go toward the Veteran's 8th Annual Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner that will be held on Thanksgiving Day at the Stirling Elks Lodge.

To register, checks made out to the Stirling Elks can be dropped off in the black mailbox anytime or mailed to: Stirling Elks c/o Kelly Mazzocchi, 1138 Valley Road, Stirling, NJ 07980.

You can also pay \$25 with a credit card by first sending an email to townwidegaragesale@gmail.com with your name, address and phone number to confirm your payment.

The deadline is Saturday, August 1 to be included on the map. Once payment by check or credit card is received, a confirmation letter will be sent to you.

When advertising this event, we will remind customers to social distance as much as possible and to wear a mask when on your property.

Any questions, please email townwidegaragesale@gmail.com

COUNTY SEEKS GUIDANCE FROM OLDER AND DISABLED RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES

TAKE THE CONFIDENTIAL ONLINE SURVEY

The Morris County Department of Human Services, Aging, Disabilities and Community Programming want to know "How are we doing?"

The agency is committed to assisting seniors and disabled individuals across all of the county's 39 municipalities. But to best serve residents, we need your guidance and feedback.

County residents are being asked to let us know about the effectiveness of current services and what we might consider adding to our roster of programs in the future by taking a brief survey on issues ranging from caregiving and nutrition programs to mental health services and transportation.

Please take the survey found at: surveymonkey.com/r/G5ZRHQP. Responses are confidential and results will be tallied and used for planning purposes for the 2021 Area Plan Contract.

For more information on the survey and/or and services provided by the Morris County Department of Human Services, visit the website: https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/



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JOYOUS ATMOSPHERE MARKS CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION CAR PARADE

Submitted by Denis Kelly

A veritable sea of cars assembled in the Stirling Road side parking lot in front of Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) on Friday, June 19, to ferry the guests of honor, the WHRHS Class of 2020, in front of scores of teachers, staff and well-wishers at the Graduation Car Parade.

After several end-of-year virtual events that marked the completion of the Class of 2020's experience at WHRHS, the nearly 500-member graduating class came together in one place for one of the first times since Distance Learning started in Mid-March for the Car Parade. The atmosphere was visibly joyous.

It required the better part of an hour for the entire fleet of cars to one-by-one crawl along the parade route. They pushed off from the Stirling Road Parking Lot. First, they rode past the cadre of teachers, administrators and board members cheering for the graduates along the internal oncampus roadway leading to the WHRHS baseball diamond.

Next up were the separate row of lawn signs for each graduate, which lined the road down to and around the road just before the baseball stadium. There the parade route and graduate signs curled up to the parking lots in back of the Old North Building.

Once again teachers, staffers, and wellwishers, congregated there, spread out in the parking lot, down as far as the access path down to Tozier Stadium where the graduates in the past have processed down on foot. The Car Parade route then proceeded back to the access road down to the baseball stadium, and again lined by more cheering teachers, staffers, and wellwishers. Throughout the parade, teachers, staffers and well-wishers were clapping, cheering for the students, and shouting words of encouragement for continued success in college and along the road ahead.

Some of the cars were driven by the graduates,

themselves, but the vast majority were passengers in convertibles, or cars with sunroof. Notable too by their prevalence were 2 or 4-door Jeep Wranglers, whose tops, and sometimes even doors, were removed. Graduates stood, like the dignitaries in a parade up the ticker-tape-parade Canyon of Heroes in lower Manhattan, waving, cheering, and often shouting thanks to teachers, staffers and well-wishers all along the parade route. Many folks took photographs. Several of the twins in the class rode together. Some cars sported more than one graduate.

Nearly all the cars also had parents and siblings, and in many cases family pets, in the cars, who themselves seemed to be basking in the festive atmosphere. Cars were decorated, some with balloons, proclaiming their pride in being part of the Class of 2020.

Many graduates wore caps and gowns informally. Some had already decorated the tops of their hats with Letter Sweater-type logo lettering from the colleges they plan to attend next year.

Several banners were hung on the fences near the Stirling Road Parking Lot. One hung from the

school's Front Entrance Canopy, proclaiming "Congratulations Class of 2020." Other banners, proclaimed: "Congratulations Class of 2020 We Miss You, We Salute You... Despite The Distance We Will Never Forget You;" also "Congratulations Class of 2020, United in Strength and Courage."

One banner outside carried the photo that was also reproduced on the front page of the school's Website, whrhs.org. On the banner is a class photo taken earlier in the school year in the stands at Tozier Stadium. All students were wearing the signature "Senior White" T-Shirts, in a stunning show of solidarity.

The photo seems to echo the resolute spirit of the participants of the Class of 2020 Car Parade. It is also reminiscent of the "Senior GLC Bulletin Board" inside the school. The board was put up in September, and all year showed the signature self-confidence, personality and collective resolute spirit of the Class of 2020. It borrows a style used by the TV show, "Friends." Up top, the bulletin board head reads still, as it read all year: "Senior GLC, Season 20: Episode 20, The One Where They Graduate."









(above) Or another way to remember the say is to use the symbol for two levels of meaning: "Victory," sure, but also "Peace!"

(above) Bright and sunny weather greeted Class of 2020 graduates for their special Car Parade Day.



(above) Class of 2020 Graduate Scott Romankow was piloted around the WHRHS Campus during the Car Parade by his parents, Stephanie and David Romankow. Photos by WHRHS

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(above) Class of 2020 graduate Lucas Mammon, a noted acoustic guitar player, appears to also show distinctive taste in the artistic expressions on his distinctive Graduation Car parade 4-wheel drive rig.



(above) So many Class of 2020 graduates were beaming from their cars as they passed wellwishers, they seemed to be saying they were ready to reach for the stars.



(above) Like his fellow Class of 2020 graduates, Chris Miller rides the back of a convertible like he is a guest of honor in a "Canyon of Heroes" ticker-tape parade.



(above) For athletes, what else is there to say, besides, "Victory!"



(above) Class of 2020 Graduate Sofie Marsillo was accompanied on her Car Parade journey by her mom, Nancy Marsillo, who just happens to be a WHRHS Cross Country coach.



(above) Siblings Ava and Jack Melillo shared the memorable experience of their Class of 2020 Graduation Car Parade together.



(above) Teachers, staffers, and well-wishers applaud Class of 2020 graduates as the Car Parade passes.

STIRLING VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. INDUCTS PAST FIRE CHIEF STEVE REMINGTON OF GILLETTE INTO LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Submitted by Frank Reilly

Steve Remington recently was inducted as a Life Member of the Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. To become a Life Member a firefighter must have served as an active member for 20 years. Steve Remington not only served all those years, but he is still a very active firefighter. For more than 12 years he has held the officer ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, and Chief as well as served on several committees, on which he is still a committee chairman and active member.

In fact, he was the Fire Chief during the Township's largest structure fire in January 14, 2010, when the combination consignment shop with two apartments above, was destroyed in a spectacular fire. Miraculously, no one died or was injured.

In 2000 he was awarded the coveted Firefighter of the Year Award for exceptional knowledge, leadership, and service in firefighting. This award may only be presented to a firefighter once in his lifetime. He has been and will continue to be a respected mentor especially to new firefighters.

Known as "Remy" to his brother firefighters, when he was elected to Life Membership he received a standing ovation and he wholeheartedly thanked the members for bestowing this honor on him saying, "I also feel honored to have worked alongside exceptional individuals who hold the same vigor and passion







forward to mentoring new members and helping residents. Thank you and God bless you all."

of serving and protecting Long Hill Township. As this Department continue to grow and flourish in my son Jack follows in my footsteps, I look its endeavors to protect the Township and



(above) Steve Remington at a firefighter training event.

MATT SORDILL IS LONG HILL'S NEWEST FIREFIGHTER

Submitted by Frank Reilly

a fire engine at a house fire.

The Stirling Vol. Fire Co. has a new fully accredited firefighter; Matt Sordill recently graduated from the Morris County Fire Academy.

At the fire company's June monthly meeting, the first in three months due to the coronavirus, he was commended by his fellow firefighters for his achievement. Fire Chief Al Gallo presented him with his new personal helmet shield that displays his official firefighter number, #140.

The Firefighter I course is more than 200 hours

and provides certified and extensive training to volunteer and paid firefighters together. The training facilitated them to become experts on firefighting equipment and techniques, handling hazardous materials situations, effective firefighting teamwork, firefighter and civilian safety, and communications.

A strict dress code was maintained for Firefighter I training, additionally if the student missed just one class, he would fail the course automatically. He also had to pass grueling physical and written tests.



(above) Observing the safe distancing guidelines, Stirling Fire Co. President Craig Tuma, Fire Chief Al Gallo, and Matt Sordill









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Too many carpetbaggers are exploiting business owners, making empty promises that don't materialize.

Too many businesses are stuck in contracts with no return on investments, no way to check if the work is getting done, and needing to invest more to make things right.

The following is a guide to Renna Media services and costs that you can compare to your present provider.

I highly recommend doing an independent audit of your website!

Contact Walter Watson at walter@www-online-enterprises.com

He does a great job analysing and making recommendations.

It is only \$250 and can save you time, money and headaches.

Thank you. - Joe Renna

Full Service Online Marketing





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to 300 to 500 news outletsBudget choice from \$300 to \$500.

Website / SEO services

- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan:\$250
- Website creation/update:.....\$2,400 (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting:\$300 per year Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- SEO Services:average cost \$1,000 \$2,000 per month Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing

Video advertising

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Your plan should work on paper before you spend dime one. Don't waste money just trying something. There is no magic bullet. **Call Joe for a free consultation.**

Call Joe Renna 908-447-1295 Email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

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



