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ISSUE 82 • JULY 2020

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#### GILLETTE RESIDENT GRACE ELINE'S 'WITH GRACE' INITIATIVE

Submitted by Jane Koppelman

11-year-old brain cancer survivor, Grace Eline of Gillette, has started her own charity with the help of The American Childhood Cancer Organization. In her first initiative, Grace arranged breakfast to be donated to staff and pediatric cancer warriors by the Bagel Café, New Providence for multiple pediatric cancer hospitals in the area.

Grace posted on her Instagram page, "pediatric cancer doesn't take a break. Neither does the amazing staff helping these warriors and their families. Thanks to the generosity of the Bagel Café, New Providence, we were able to provide breakfast for The Valerie Fund crew at Morristown Hospital today. We did the same for TVF Newark Beth Israel last week. They are near and dear to our hearts! Thank YOU for your kind, generous support of our mission and our warriors. We appreciate you all."

Breakfasts have delighted not only the little cancer warriors but also been shared with committed front-line workers, and hospital staff. This initiative has not only engaged the community but helped to brighten the day of all those touched. Craig Bass, Owner of Bagel Cafe in New Providence, N.J. and Grace Eline of Morris Country spread the love through deliveries to six local hospitals: Newark Beth Israel Hospital - The Valerie Fund, Morristown Medical Center Goryeb Children's Hospital - The Valerie Fund, St. Joseph's Hospital in Patterson - The Valerie Fund, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in New Brunswick, RWJ St. Barnabas Hospital, and a special drop off for Memorial Day to the Veterans Hospital in Lyons.

"When I met little Grace, she was all smiles and filled with such energy you wouldn't know she had battled a brain tumor. She wouldn't want it any other way. Grace, and her mom, wanted to thank all the doctors and nurses who helped her during her treatments. Grace came up with the idea of providing breakfast to doctors and nurses. When she told me her favorite bagels were from Bagel Cafe, I could not wait to be a part of it! She continues to deliver positivity, hope and breakfast to all those in the fight to beat cancer. She even started a blog. I follow her and you should too!"

WITH Grace will be working on many more initiatives to help spread kindness and raise awareness for childhood cancer. The young advocate plans on engaging more community members to start a master class series and raise money for pediatric cancer research in the future.



(above) Grace Eline, a Gillette resident and brain tumor Survivor, joined forces with New Providence's Bagel Café.

#### **ABOUT WITH GRACE**

At nine years old, Grace was diagnosed with Germinoma, a germ-cell brain tumor. In May 2018, Grace traded her softball glove and gymnastics leotard for chemotherapy and proton radiation. Throughout the rest of the year, Grace stayed positive and strong, making the rounds in the hospital, cheering up other patients and always having a smile for the many caring medical professionals who treated her. Grace will tell you that maybe it wasn't the most fun thing to do, but she wouldn't trade the people she met and the friends she made for anything. As the true warrior she is, Grace has channeled her energy into helping several charities with fundraising, awareness campaigns, and visits to pediatric patients.

Grace started the WITH Grace Initiative, in collaboration with The American Childhood Cancer Organization. Grace has been able to be an advocate for pediatric cancer research funding. She has spoken to key lawmakers not only in her home state of New Jersey but repeatedly on a national level and has represented the cause at the White House and on Capitol Hill. Grace is passionate about being the voice for kids with cancer and wants to help find a cure. The WITH Grace Initiative is dedicated to pediatric cancer research funding, advocacy for the cause and direct care initiatives to those fighting the disease and their families. Please visit withgraceinitiative.org to learn more.



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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.

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### **WARRIOR DISTANCE LEARNING TECH SQUAD**

#### Submitted by Denis Kelly

If there is ever a dominant common characteristic enabling the students, faculty, administration, even parents to get the most educational value out of the experience of living during the time of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic, it is a newfound appreciation for all the essential workers, who are far too often taken for granted.

Introducing the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Distance Learning Tech Squad – The WHRHS IT Department. Since well before, but certainly doubly so since the start of the 2019-2020 School Year distance learning experience on March 16, they have been on-the-job, supporting students and teachers as the IT facilitators during the whole process.

The Warrior Distance Learning Tech Squad includes: IT Director Anthony Meluso, IT Manager Andy Bohl, Technicians Luis Nazario, Luis Kourany and Kevin Teeter, and Student Information Systems Manager Chris Beckert.

Meluso laid out the broad responsibilities for Tech Support during the distance learning experience.

"Planning started two weeks before the governor made the announcement to close school," Meluso said. "IT was tasked with assessing available hardware and software for immediate use during the health-related closure."

Meluso continued, "9th, 10th and 11th graders have 1:1 Chromebooks. For 12th grade, the students used their own devices. Surveys were conducted identifying students without a device and students without internet at home. On the Friday before closing, IT distributed over 50 loaner Chromebooks to seniors. We also have seven students without the Internet at home. We provided those students with Verizon Hotspots."

He continued, "Any technology hardware repairs or requests for staff and students are processed weekly. Drop off and pick up windows are between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. each day through the Building and Grounds offices."

Meluso said, "The role of Google Classroom during distance learning is tremendously important. Announcements, discussion,



(above) Anthony Meluso, WHRHS Director of Technology

assessments, and grading are processed here. It's the hub that is needed to make communication flow without physically being in a classroom. Both teachers and students are already very familiar with all the possibilities of Google Classroom from prior professional development and the school's focus to make it part of the daily learning stream."

When asked how the transition to online learning was, Meluso responded "The staff at Watchung Hills are professional educators and quickly handled the transition from in-class learning to distance learning. They prepared several weeks of lessons ahead of the school closure. Initially, there were some issues with recording their lessons, sharing their screens, and access to files and other resources. The IT team quickly addressed these and worked on building tutorials to share with the faculty and staff."

Photo by WHRHS







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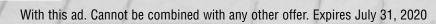
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#### **WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS LODGE #885 DONATES TO** FOODBANK NETWORK OF SOMERSET COUNTY

Submitted by Michael Ryder

The Elks National Foundation offers local lodges the opportunity to apply for grants for use in our Community Investment programs that relieve the poor, distressed or underprivileged; advance education or science; lessen the burdens of government; lessen neighborhood tensions; eliminate prejudice and discrimination and combat juvenile delinquency.

Every year, Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 ENF Committee Chair Joann Bataille applies for thousands of dollars in grants to support our charitable services for local veterans and specialneeds children.

In April and May, our grants were approved and Joann was able to donate a total of \$2,000 in ENF Beacon and Gratitude grants to the Foodbank Network of Somerset County. More specifically, in April, \$500 of ShopRite gift cards and then in May a \$1,500 check and \$500 more in ShopRite gift cards were given to the Foodbank Network of Somerset County.

Every Elk member joins because they were invited to by friends and family, or because they wanted to be part of an organization that has been consistently giving back to local communities for over 150 years.

Won't you consider joining us? Seated on over 6 acres of park-like property in Warren Township,

Lodge #885 enjoys its own lodge building, pavilion, bandstand, picnic area, private members-only swimming pool and the Hofheimer Grotto.

Learn more about us at elkslodge885.org, come down and meet us at Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885 or send us an email to get the ball rolling at membership@elkslodge885.org. We'd love to meet you, make friends and give you access to great opportunities for giving back to your community.



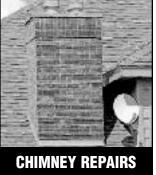
(above) Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 has been giving back to local communities for over 150 years.

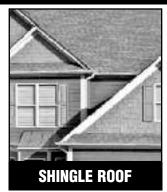




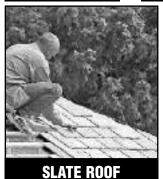
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#### **BOB MARKEY -SAVE THE TREES OF RAHWAY**

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**



#### **LONG HILL TOWNSHIP TOWNWIDE GARAGE SALE SET FOR AUG. 8**

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

You can also pay \$25 with a credit card at townwidegaragesale@gmail.com

Stirling Elks Lodge 2392 announces that the https://link.waveapps.com/ce78wc-x7jx8a. If you are using the link to pay with a credit card, please email townwidegaragesale@gmail.com with your name, address and phone number to confirm your payment.

> The deadline is Sunday, 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.

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#### **COVID-19: FATAL DRUG OVERDOSES INCREASING SHERIFF URGES REACHING OUT TO HOPE ONE**

#### PLEASE CALL FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT

Fatal overdoses in Morris County are up by 38 percent this year over the same 14-week time frame in 2019, prompting the Morris County Sheriff's Office Hope One team to re-emphasize its network of support services during the COVID-19 healthcare crisis "It's possible that individuals struggling with addiction feel increased stress during this pandemic or, because of social distancing, lack direct contact with supportive friends and family who normally would check on their welfare," said Morris County Sheriff James M. Gannon.

"Help from the Hope One team is here, just a phone call away. We don't accept that anyone agonizing over a heroin addiction or substance use disorder be alone without resources and support, especially at this very difficult time," Sheriff Gannon added.

So far in 2020, 26 individuals in Morris County have suffered suspected lethal overdoses. In the first 14 weeks of 2019, by comparison, there were 16 suspected fatal overdoses.

Statewide there have been 789 suspected fatal overdoses between Jan. 1 and March 31. In the same time frame last year, there were 657 suspected overdose deaths.

If you or someone you care about needs help, contact the following services:

CARES: Center For Addiction Recovery, Education & Success has a 24-hour support line at 973-625-1143. CARES also will deliver Narcan, upon request, in a safe, non-contact

HOPE ONE: 973-590-0300. For Narcan training via Zoom, please contact Morris County Sheriff's Office Corporal Erica Valvano at erice@co.morris.nj.us or at 973-590-0300.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ESSEX AND MORRIS: Peer support line from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.: 877-760-4987; 866-445-3902; 800-381-2059.

The Mental Health Association has added a daytime number for peer support, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please call: 877-760-4987.

Hope One is Sheriff Gannon's mobile substance abuse and mental health outreach program launched to stem the crisis of opioid addiction and overdoses. It is a partnership with Prevention Is Key, CARES, Daytop-NJ, the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, and Morris County Department of Human Services.

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