

# New Providence NEWS

Published by Renna Media

Issue 59 • August 2020

## FAITH LUTHERAN COLLECTS 170 BIKES FOR CHARITY

*Submitted by Larry Holt*

Within a month, Faith Lutheran in New Providence, led by members Casey Walsh of Bridgewater, Cliff Auchter of Berkeley Heights and Ralph Adamson of Warren collected 170 used bikes from New Providence, Berkeley Heights, other Union County towns and Succasunna. The collection was conducted on behalf of Pedals for Progress, an organization which annually recycles bikes for persons in developing countries.

The effort culminated on Saturday, June 20, when twelve members, in the parking lot of Faith, repaired and processed the 170 bikes for shipment.

During the past thirty years, Pedals for Progress has collected 172,000 bicycles and shipped this material wealth to persons of the developing countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa. In these countries, the bikes are reconditioned by partner agencies and distributed at low cost to poor working adults. The bikes provide the adults with reliable transportation for commuting to work, transporting produce to market as well as accessing health care and other services. Steady employment for adults is vital to the development and success of struggling communities.

The 170 bicycles will be shipped to Thailand. Faith has contributed \$1,700 toward the shipment.

Since 2002, Faith Lutheran has been collecting bikes for Pedals for Progress. Casey Walsh has chaired this ministry since 2016. The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready. Faith is located at 524 South Street. Visit online at famfaith.org or reach by phone at 908-464-5177.



*(above) Alana Lamberti of Faith repairs a bike for shipment.*



*(above) Repaired and processed bikes are ready for placement on the P4P truck.*



*(above) Bikes filled the P4P truck to capacity.*

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# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

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Submitted by Marlene Sincaglia

This year, 2020, is the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution which gave women the right to vote. It is also the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit has planned virtual activities in August to celebrate those events.

We will be hosting a premiere of our video which is a companion to our book Songs of the Suffragists, Lyrics of American Feminism from 1850-2020. Songs of the Suffragists provides well researched commentary regarding the songs and women's movement at the time.

On August 26, Women Equity Day, we will be co-hosting a program with NJ Women Vote, Building on our Past to Pave our Future. It will be a virtual panel featuring a dynamic line-up of women in NJ state government. The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

At 5 p.m. at the DuCret School for the Arts in Plainfield, there will be a live reading of the play "Winter Wheat" written by Catherine Bush. It's 1920 and the world is changing, and no one feels the effect of it more than the Burn family of Niota, Tennessee. Harry, a state congressman, is dealing with the controversy surrounding the ratification of the 19th Amendment that would give women the right to vote. And Jack and Harry's mother, Febb, has taken a young girl named Ruth Abbott under her wing, determined to teach her a thing or two about life. Then the perfect political storm hits the state of Tennessee. This play is based on real events.

At 7:30 that evening we will be hosting a program from the National League of Women Voters project 360.

For more information (and how to register) for these programs, please visit [lwv-bhnps.org](http://lwv-bhnps.org).

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization whose goals are to empower voters and defend democracy.

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# 300 STORIES - A NEW PROVIDENCE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BEGINS

Submitted by Patricia Jacobs, New Providence- Our Community For All

“It was a dark and stormy night....” And that’s how Bill Hoefling’s story really begins. He’s talking about managing the Hurricane Floyd emergency response team in New Providence. His story is compelling and full of fascinating detail about how the team responded when the nursing home in the center of town was

beginning to flood. During the next few months his story and hundreds more about life in New Providence will be archived at the Library of Congress.

In celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the town, New Providence- Our Community For All is organizing the audio recording of townspeople’s memories. “We truly aim to record more than 300 stories- that’s our minimum goal,” says Patricia Swan, Executive Director. “Our high school interviewers want to listen, and really learn, from folks who have lived in New Providence a long time. There is a lot we want to understand!”

Students from New Providence High School and some recent graduates will form the core of the recording team. They will be listening not just for the obvious storylines but probing for the detail that brings history to life. As their first milestone students plan to combine some of the audio and video recordings into materials that can be enjoyed at Tricentennial Day in September. Recording work will go on for quite a few months to capture all the stories.

Other partners in this effort are the New Providence Library, and the New Providence Historical Society. New Providence Historical Society President, Linda Kale, put it this way:

“There is so much wonderful history in this town, we welcome people to look into it!”

Co-chairs Chris Flanagan and Jane Xu are hard at work gathering names of townspeople with great stories and scheduling interviews. A dozen students have already signed up to conduct the interviews with local Storytellers. “Lots of people are willing to share stories, and recommend others to be interviewed,” said Jane. Openings remain for more students to join the team of interviewers. Intern Kevin Montrone is the Project Coordinator.

Interviewers will use the StoryCorps online app to collect the audio recordings and compile them. This well-respected process is creating an archive of the American experience. Stories from New Providence will be part of Storycorps’ national effort to record American history. A variety of technologies can be used, even a simple phone connection will work. All levels of technology comfort can be accommodated in recording the stories.

To volunteer to tell your story, or to become an Interviewer please email [npcfa300stories@gmail.com](mailto:npcfa300stories@gmail.com) or call/text Kevin Montrone at 908-798-1904. Learn more about New Providence - Our Community For All on the website: [npcfa.org](http://npcfa.org).

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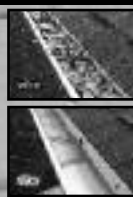
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## SUMMER READING PROGRAM CONTINUES THRU AUGUST

This year's Summer Reading program at the New Providence Memorial Library is 100% online through the READsquared platform. Patrons may register online through READsquared now to participate.

This year's program, "Imagine Your (Virtual) Story," includes reading logs, events and mission challenges, all through the READsquared (R2) online platform. Patrons can choose to use R2 via web browser or through a free app they can download to any mobile device.

For each book read, event attended, or mission completed, patrons will earn points toward their Summer Reading goal. Small prizes are awarded at various mid-points along the way, which can be delivered to NP residents' homes by teen volunteers.

At the end of the Summer Reading program in August, there will be six random drawings for

grand prizes from those who reached their 1,000 point goal. Two adult, two teen, and two children winners will be drawn to receive gift certificates to local NP restaurants and businesses.

The Library is offering additional book recommendation services this summer, as well as a new way to Browse Our Shelves by genre to

help patrons find titles they'll enjoy while they can't enter the building.

The New Providence Memorial Library is proud to bring library resources to the public in as many new innovative ways as possible, while keeping the community safe. Happy Reading, New Providence!

## LIBRARY OPENS TO EXPANDED PICKUP HOURS

*Submitted by Lisa Florio*

New Providence Memorial Library moved forward with its Phase 2 reopening plan which calls for expanded hours. On Saturday, July 18, the library foyer opened for contactless pickup of materials from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pickup hours have been extended on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., too. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday pickup hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. remain the same.

Patrons can request materials by placing holds in the catalog from My Account. They will be contacted when the material becomes available for pick up and can come into the foyer during open hours. We ask that you wear a mask and use the 6 ft. markers on the sidewalk if there is a line. Because foyer space is tight, only 1 person or group is allowed in at a time.

If you do not have access to a computer, you can call to request up to 5 items. Your request will be fulfilled at our earliest opportunity and you will be contacted to pick up.

Even though you can't browse in person, we've developed a few tools for virtual browsing. They can be found on our website under Books & More > Reading Recommendations. Browse Our Shelves displays selections for different age groups, subjects, genres and formats while Staff Picks and Teen Book Review Blog bring you a personal touch.

A new service under Reading Recommendations is called Request Your Next 3 Books. Tell us a little about books and authors you have enjoyed reading and we will select 3 books for you.

Stay tuned to our website and "like" our Facebook page for news about everything that's coming up. You can find the full Library Reopening Plan on our website under About.

New Providence Memorial Library is located at 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ, 07974. Reach by phone, 908-665-0311, or visit online at [newprovidencelibrary.org](http://newprovidencelibrary.org) or [facebook.com/NewProvLibrary](https://facebook.com/NewProvLibrary).

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New Providence local Andrew Jacobs, a current student at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), was recently announced the winner of the second annual HD/West Elm student Product Design Competition, a national competition that gives students the opportunity to have their original designs manufactured by West Elm.

This year's competition tasked students with designing a family of tables that are aesthetically neutral and able to work with a number of seating heights. Andrew's winning Volum collection included pieces minimal in form but rich in material, creating a platform in which the materials could shine and feel personable and intimate. Andrew received \$5,000 and will work with West Elm to refine and produce a selection of his designs.

SCAD is a preeminent source of knowledge in building arts around the world and has been preparing students for professional careers in this multi-billion dollar industry for more than 40 years. As a student in SCAD's internationally ranked furniture design degree program, Andrew

has access to professional-level resources and advanced software that take students' creative ideas to production-ready prototypes. SCAD's furniture design faculty and mentors make up the brightest minds in the industry; representatives from top brands in furniture design come from all over the world to recruit SCAD talent just like Andrew for post-graduate positions. In fact, in a recent survey of SCAD alumni, 99 percent were employed, pursuing further education or both within 10 months of graduation.



(above) Andrew Jacobs' collection



(above) Andrew Jacobs at work

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(above) Food distribution line at St. Joseph Social Service Center

Submitted by Bernadette Murphy

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Your assistance since the pandemic began has been incredible. People have stepped up to help in so many ways.

Your generous contributions of food and funds have had a tremendous impact. With your help, we have distributed over 5,000 bags of food to families since the end of March. We have also shared thousands of sandwiches, toiletries, and personal protective equipment.

We would like to extend a special thank you to

the many people in Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside, Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Roselle Park, Union, Elizabeth, Warren, and Edison, among other towns, for your overwhelming response to our appeal for emergency food bags. So many people have contributed that we can't possibly list them all.

We hope you will stay with us as the economic fallout from the pandemic is just beginning, and together we can help our community survive and thrive. If you would like to donate food or funds, please visit our website at [sjeliz.org](http://sjeliz.org) for details.

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# HELP FOR HOMES STRUGGLING IN TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Submitted by Thomas Montrone, CSA President

The Coronavirus has affected all of us, from social depression to lost income to tolerating home cooking for 3 months. However, for some, the impact has been devastating. In the past three months, the number of calls for help in New Providence have grown, while the Community Service Association's (CSA) plans for fundraising events in our community have been put on hold because of the virus.

The requests for assistance come from residents working in the service industries hardest hit by the pandemic. Individuals who work at restaurants, hair salons, in childcare, as house cleaners and other service industries have been unable to earn an income. Many of these families, barely able to make ends meet before

the pandemic, have seen their limited savings vanish and their households threatened. These families are struggling to make rent payments or cannot make rent payments, are in danger of having their utilities turned off and even have difficulty putting food on the table. This is why the CSA exists.

The CSA was founded in 1954 as a community volunteer organization to enable neighbors to help neighbors. Our Case Worker has received numerous requests with similar situations, families that were mostly able to make ends meet until the pandemic arrived. When the CSA receives a request for assistance, our Case Worker conducts interviews, performs some due diligence, and submits a recommendation for

assistance. All requests are kept strictly confidential. After Board approval, the CSA will provide help in whatever capacity it can including temporary critical financial assistance. When financial assistance is given, payments are made directly to the creditors, landlords, utilities, etc. More recently, the CSA has expanded its distribution of food to many families. Food is received from several of our local churches that have received donations from parishioners and by purchases made with donations by the CSA. From purchasing food, special diapers or just helping to keep the lights on, the CSA volunteers are indeed, neighbors helping neighbors.

You can help! Your donation can make a difference for those in our community who are economically vulnerable and who are the most harmed by the pandemic. You can contribute by visiting our website, [csanewprovidence.org](http://csanewprovidence.org), and donating.

The CSA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is chartered in the State of New Jersey.



(above) The CSA was established in 1954, by a group of concerned citizens. It is believed to be the first organization of its kind in the country. The primary purpose is to offer financial assistance to New Providence residents in their time of need. You can contribute by visiting our website, [csanewprovidence.org](http://csanewprovidence.org), and donating.

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