

Summit NJ Times

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SISTERS MAKE MUSIC VIDEO TO FUNDRAISE FOR SAGE



(above) Kareena Gupta (17) and her sister Esha (14) of Summit stand beside a participant of SAGE's Spend-A-Day Adult Day Medical Health Center where the sisters came to sing in 2018 and 2019. They were unable to return in 2020 due to COVID-19 but videotaped a concert of themselves performing to help fundraise for the program and to make sure Spend-A-Day participants knew they were not forgotten.

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Submitted by Cindy Potters

Kareena and Esha Gupta of Summit first encountered SAGE's Spend-A-Day Adult Day Medical Health Center in 2018 when they visited the facility to sing for the participants. The sisters said they enjoyed performing as much as the participants enjoyed listening. They visited again in 2019 for a repeat performance and had every intention of returning in 2020. But with COVID-19, the Spend-A-Day program has been temporarily closed, which means the participants, many suffering from cognitive impairments, have not been able to return to SAGE.

Rather than wait for Spend-A-Day to reopen, the sisters decided to videotape a concert from home to send out to the program's participants to let them know they are not forgotten. "Esha and I wanted to create a music video to stay connected to the clients and bring them some joy and hope," said Kareena. Esha shared the sentiment, "It's so important that we stay positive. I'm glad to have been able to spread some happiness." The sisters used a production company to help combine their

song selections with photos from SAGE. Once completed, they decided to take the project a step further and turn it into a fundraiser. The half hour video was sent to their family and friends and the money raised is being used to help reopen SAGE with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

"We are so inspired by Kareena and Esha's support of our Spend-A-Day clients," said Pam Marusic, Director of Spend-A-Day. "For such young women to come up with this idea to raise money and awareness it's just unbelievable; we are so thankful."

To view the video visit here: <https://bit.ly/37sAMop> and to learn more about the Spend-A-Day program call 908-598-5520.

Since 1954, SAGE Eldercare has been helping make the communities it serves amazing places to age. The non-profit organization provides a wide array of information, support, and services designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. For more information, please call 908-273-5550 or visit sageeldercare.org.

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Summit NJ Times

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT
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
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9,600 papers are printed monthly and mailed to every home and business in Summit.

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

2020 DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) is excited to announce the downtown holiday events and initiatives for December 2020: Celebrate in Summit, Carriages & Carolers, and new this year The HillTop Elf Scavenger Hunt. The Summit VISA Gift Cards, accepted at over 100 Summit businesses city-wide, are also available this holiday season so people can support Summit businesses by giving the gift of local. More information on holiday events and Summit VISA Gift Cards can be found on summitdowntown.org.

CELEBRATE IN SUMMIT SATURDAY, DEC. 19 1-4 P.M.

Shop, dine, and celebrate right in downtown Summit this holiday season! There will be music throughout town, hot chocolate, and Horse and Carriage rides from 1-4pm at Lyric Park (corner of Beechwood Road and Bank Street). At the Promenade at 426 Springfield Ave, an ice carver will be making holiday sculptures out of ice! Come see him in the act from 1-3 p.m.; the sculptures will be at the Promenade for as long as weather allows. All activities are free to the public.

CARRIAGES & CAROLERS NOV. 28, DEC. 5, 12 AND 19 1-4 P.M.

Take a break from your downtown shopping to enjoy holiday music, strolling carolers and brass, and free Horse and Carriage rides from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays December 5, 12 and 19. The boarding location will be Lyric Park, located at the corner of Bank Street and Beechwood Road. Use 17 Beechwood Road for GPS. Masks and social distancing will be required.

FREE Holiday Shopper Parking, courtesy of the City of Summit and Summit Downtown, Inc., will be in effect December 12-27 at 90-minute meters, in the Bank St. Lot, and on the 1st floor of the Tier Garage on Springfield Ave.

Summit VISA Gift Cards - Looking for a new way to support local Summit businesses while giving a great gift to that special someone? Accepted at over 100 Summit businesses, both in and outside the downtown, Summit VISA Gift Cards are available for purchase at summitdowntown.org. Don't know what to get? Get Summit Gift Cards!

THE HILLTOP ELF SCAVENGER HUNT NOV. 28 – DEC. 19

A great new event for everyone! The HillTop Elves are hidden within 80 different downtown Summit businesses or in the storefront window, shoppers and their families are urged to wander downtown in search of the HillTop Elf! The more elves you find, the better chance to win! No purchase is necessary. Scavenger Hunt Forms are available at all participating businesses or can be downloaded off the SDI website. The participating businesses are listed on the form where shoppers identify where they saw the elf at each business. Completed forms must be turned in by 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 19 to be entered to win \$500 Summit VISA Gift Card. 10 runners up will also each win \$100 gift cards. Summit VISA Gift Cards are accepted by over 100 Summit businesses and make great holiday gifts! The winning completed forms will be drawn on Monday, December 21; winners will be notified by email. For a list of HillTop Elf Scavenger Hunt Form Pick Up/Drop Off Locations visit summitdowntown.org.

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

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Having more than 30 years of industry experience, I joined Edward Jones in 2018 as a financial advisor. My wife, Shari and I are Summit residents since 2001. We are raising our three children here and are active in this great community.

Give me a call or send me an email and let's talk about how I can help you and your family achieve your financial goals.

Celebrate in Summit

Small
Business Saturday
NOV. 28

Kick off the holiday season with
free horse & carriage rides &
Holiday Street Sounds
1-4pm #shopsmall

Free
Parking
DEC. 12-27

HillTop Elf
Scavenger Hunt
NOV. 28 - DEC. 19

Visit downtown Summit
and find the HillTop Elf at
participating businesses.
Win Summit VISA
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Carriages
& Carolers
SATURDAYS
NOV. 28-DEC. 19

Holiday music with strolling
carolers & brass, horse &
carriage rides
1-4pm

Celebrate
in Summit
DEC. 19

Celebrate the holidays downtown:
live ice carving, horse &
carriage rides, strolling
musicians & brass
1-4pm



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f [summitdowntown.org](https://www.summitdowntown.org)



Photo by City of Summit

SUMMIT PARK LINE FOUNDATION IS AWARDED GRANT FROM BRISTOL MEYERS SQUIBB

Submitted by Amy Cairns

The Summit Park Line Foundation recently received a large grant from Bristol Myers Squibb to support its Park Line project, a 1.2 mile linear pedestrian park being created on the abandoned Rahway Valley Railroad line. The donation from Bristol Myers Squibb is the Summit Park Line Foundation's largest gift to date, and will enable Phase II of the project to begin.

"Bristol Myers Squibb is proud to support the Summit Park Line project," said Chris Baggett, Director of Community Affairs at Bristol Myers Squibb. "Trails like the Park Line provide community residents a nice space to get outdoors for a walk, run, or bike. These projects are also a great way to repurpose a former rail line."

The foundation and concept was created by Dr. Robert Rubino, former Summit councilman, who realized the potential for a park similar to the Highline Park in Manhattan that could be initiated in Summit, NJ along the now defunct rail line.

"The Summit Park Line Foundation is extremely thankful for this outstanding expression of support for the Park Line concept from Summit's largest corporate citizen," explains Dr. Rubino. "With this generous and

significant donation, Bristol Myers Squibb is making a positive impact on the quality of life in Summit for the benefit of the entire community."

The Park Line Foundation has also received support for its project through grants from Investors Bank Foundation, Overlook Foundation, the Reeves Foundation, Summit Public Art, The Junior League of Summit, The Summit Foundation, and numerous private donations from Summit residents.

In early 2016, the City of Summit acquired the rights from the State of New Jersey to build the park accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists. Once completed, the Park Line will extend from the edge of downtown Summit at Overlook Medical Center, along a 1.2 mile path through eastern Summit, and ending at Briant Park on the Springfield, New Jersey border.

Through world-class design, excellence in operations, and responsible stewardship, the mission of the Park Line Foundation is to engage with the community, raise essential funds to help complete its construction, and create an endowment for future operations.

For more information on the Park Line Foundation and the Summit Park Line project or to make a tax-deductible contribution, go to summitparkline.org.

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 December 13th

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BUMBLES DOLLS DONATED TO SAGE ELDERCARE'S OLDER ADULT CLIENTS

Submitted by Cindy Potters

SAGE Eldercare's clients got a special gift in November: handmade Bumbles Dolls. Bumbles were created in 2014 by Max Loeffler of Summit. The dolls were inspired by his sister who was in the hospital for an extended period, Loeffler explained. She always carried her favorite doll around the house and at the hospital. Like the Velveteen Rabbit, she loved it so much, she hugged the face right off. Bumbles do not have faces either.

Loeffler was 17-years-old when he started the organization. His mom, Vanessa, siblings, and various volunteers, have helped over the years to scout fabric, sew dolls and make deliveries.

Since the beginning, Bumbles has collaborated with well known brands, such as Prada, and delivered to many nonprofits including: NJ Institute of Diabetes, hurricane victims in the Bahamas, Ronald McDonald House, Fort Bragg (special camouflage fabric had been donated), Overlook Foundation and Bonds of Courage. They have delivered approximately 2,000 dolls in six years. Loeffler said he is so busy, Bumbles is his full time job.

The introduction to SAGE came from Loeffler's grandfather, who is a SAGE Meals on Wheels client. "SAGE has had such a big impact on the community," Loeffler said. "It felt good to give back, especially during COVID-19." Dozens

of dolls were distributed between Meals on Wheels and Spend-A-Day participants. Many of the recipients are alone and isolated. The dolls were greatly appreciated.

"We are so grateful that Max chose SAGE as a nonprofit to donate to," said Interim Director, Marianne Kranz. "The look on the faces of our clients when the Bumbles were delivered was priceless. We thank Max and his family for their support and commitment to helping others."

To learn more about Bumbles Dolls visit: Bumblesdolls.com

Since 1954, SAGE Eldercare has been helping make the communities it serves amazing places to age. The non-profit organization provides a wide array of information, support, and services designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. For more information, please call 908-273-5550 or visit sageeldercare.org.



(above) SAGE Meals on Wheels clients holding dolls, made and donated by Bumbles Dolls in Summit.



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NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES IN URGENT NEED OF DONORS

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center (NYBC), wants to increase blood donations for area hospitals. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a chronic shortage across the country that shows no sign of improving. This is particularly dangerous given the looming uncertainty surrounding the pandemic's trajectory over the course of the next few months.

Blood is urgently needed. The region's healthcare system requires 1,500 donations each day to treat patients ranging from trauma victims and cancer patients to newborn babies and their mothers. Prior to the pandemic, blood drives were held at businesses, high schools, colleges and community groups. Most of those groups have had to cancel their blood drives due to COVID-19. Donations are at just 65% of pre-pandemic levels - well below what is needed by hospitals and patients in our area.

"This is an incredibly challenging time for our communities. We are now relying on people seeking out a place to donate. So far, that is not happening at the level we need," said Andrea H. Cefarelli, Senior Executive Director of Recruitment & Marketing for New York Blood Center.

We are asking our community to visit our donor centers or to find a convenient community

blood drive to donate. "The Covid-19 pandemic has created blood shortages for all New Jersey and NY hospital systems, said Cefarelli. Donated blood is essential for trauma and surgery patients in need. We encourage healthy New Jersey residents, aged 16 to 75, to donate blood at NJBS blood drives and donation sites now. Visit NYBC.org or Call 1-800-933-BLOOD (2566) to make an appointment today."

HOW NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS CAN HELP:

To make an appointment to donate blood, visit donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/zip.

NYBC also needs more partners to step up and help host drives in large venues.

If you have a space available and would like to host a blood drive, please sign up at nybloodcenter.org/support-us/host-blood-drive/apply-host-drive.

For information on the extra precautions being taken to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19, visit our website.

Founded in 1964, New York Blood Center (NYBC) is a nonprofit organization that is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the world.




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After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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UNITED WAY OF GREATER UNION COUNTY

As part of its transformation to continue providing programs and services, United Way of Greater Union County (UWGUC) recently announced that it has modernized their comprehensive approach to their family strengthening model. The organization is collaborating within its community resources network and its affiliated initiatives to provide a series of virtual webinars that will provide families and individuals with continued access to services, leadership and career focused initiatives, and ways they can advocate in their communities.

Building Resiliency Empowering Parents, Families and Individuals, the themed focus, serves to provide continued support to residents who are facing educational, health and economic barriers, and ensures services are provided in both the traditional and virtual (online) setting. During the Coronavirus pandemic, UWGUC saw an increase in the number of families struggling to meet basic needs such as buying food, paying rent and utility bills, and having access to

healthcare. The unemployment rate in Union County went from 4.5% in January to 16.4% in June 2020, resulting in more than 81,000 unemployed residents, 3,100 evictions filed and 9,000 food stamp applications filed in Union County.

The organization, through donations of fresh and nonperishable food from Amazon Logistics and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, also hosts weekly food distributions, where 900 families are served on average each week, since the pandemic began. In addition, during the summer, UWGUC organized and held a virtual back-to-school drive serving more than 400 students with backpacks and school supplies.

UWGUC is also calling for volunteers who are experts in their field to host a workshop or webinar that could help those in the community.

The virtual workshops and webinars are free and open to the public. Interested persons can access them through the United Way of Greater Union County website at uwguc.org/virtualworkshops.

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Are you a Union County resident in danger of eviction because you are struggling to meet your rent payments? You may be eligible for rent assistance through Community Access Unlimited.

People who have fallen behind on their rent payments may be eligible for up to three months of back rent assistance. Applicants must already be at least one month behind on their rent

payments.

Contact Community Access Unlimited at info@caunj.org to inquire about this program. Landlords or any person who knows a renter who is struggling are encouraged to let tenants know about this program.

CAU is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that works to integrate people with disabilities and youth at risk into the general community through comprehensive supports.

Funding for this program has been provided by the City of Elizabeth and Union County.

To learn more about CAU, visit caunj.org or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Learn more about supporting the agency and become a monthly donor at caunj.org/support-us/.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating more than 40 years in 2020, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 4,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.cauj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

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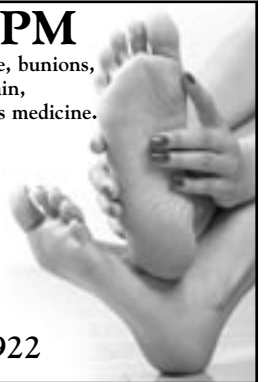
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DECEMBER VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AT THE SUMMIT LIBRARY

Summit Library Online Programs Features a Jazz Concert, Former WNYC Radio Host Leonard Lopate and Other Programs to Entertain You!

The Summit Free Public Library has a variety of programs—including a Jazz concert—that will be both entertaining and provocative—all delivered from the comfort of your home. Get in the holiday spirit, learn a new skill, or enjoy an interesting lecture - all at your public library!

Jazz of the Roaring 20s

Friday, December 4 from 7-8 pm

Celebrate the Roaring 20s with the Florian Schantz Jazz Combo. The concert will feature the music that put the “roar” in the Roaring 20s, including such hits as “Ain’t We Got Fun”, “Blue Skies” and “If You Knew Susie”.

Streaming live via Zoom, this concert is sure to put everyone in a holiday spirit mood and will have you tapping your toes—or perhaps dancing to the music!

This program is made possible by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey Council on the Arts.

Get Crafty!

Tuesday, December 8, 11 am-12 pm

Learn how to make a holiday “candle” with our Book Holiday Candle craft class. These unique creations are made from discarded books and light up with a battery-operated tea light!

Decorate them with holiday themed ribbons and embellishments or use materials to match your home décor. The secret is in learning how to fold the pages. Free craft kits to the first 20 people who register. This program will be a Facebook Premiere video on the library’s page.

An Evening with Leonard Lopate

Tuesday, December 8, 7-8:30 pm

Join us for an evening of conversation and Q & A with radio talk show personality Leonard Lopate live via Zoom. Find out what he has been doing since he left WNYC radio and what he has been up to since his departure. No questions are off-limits, although we do ask people to be respectful.

Ring for Service:

The Role of Servants in a Country House

Thursday, December 10 from 7-8 pm.

Travel back in time with the help of Liberty Hall Museum. In the 1900s, the Kean family lived in a world where their every whim was met by the simple ringing of the servant’s bell.

With the help of family ledgers, diaries, and census records, museum educators will bring the Kean servants to life and how they worked, slept, and spent their leisure time.

Make a Great Decision-by Joining our Great Decisions Discussion Group!

Wednesday, December 16 from 12-2 pm

Join us for our last Great Decisions of the year: Artificial Intelligence and Data. Policymakers in many countries are developing plans and funding research in artificial intelligence (AI). Global growth is slowing, and not surprisingly, many policymakers hope that AI will provide a magic solution. The EU, Brazil, and other Western countries have adopted regulations that grant users greater control over their data and require that firms using AI be transparent about how they use it. Will the U.S. follow suit?

Participants should read the relevant chapter in their Great Decisions 2020 book (available for purchase at a discount) or you can use a desk copy that can be read in the library—go to the library’s Information Desk for either option.

Funded through the generosity of the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library.

Holiday Shopping at the Library and Online!

Starting December 1st

The Friends of the Summit Free Public Library currently have displays at the library (in the display case near the circulation desk, and a permanent display case located in the Main Room of the library). All items in the display cases are available for purchase. Speak to someone in circulation if you are interested in any of the items on display. They will also be hosting their online jewelry sale. Visit the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library Visit the Facebook page to participate!

Interested in any of these programs?

You can sign up on the Event tab on the library’s website, www.summitlibrary.org or call the library at 908-273-0350, option 3.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



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www.famfaith.org • The Rev. Jane McCready, Pastor

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Service of the Word - Advent Sundays

Special Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

November 29, December 6, 13 and 20

Midweek Service - Advent Wednesdays

Liturgy and Music of the Season at 12 noon

December 2, 9 and 16

Online Christmas Services

Christmas Eve with Choir, Bells and Strings

Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Nativity of Our Lord

Friday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 3 at 10:00 a.m.

*All services are streamed on Facebook at
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DIAL-A-TRUCK

What is Dial-A-Truck?

- **Bulky waste collection** service of the Public Works Division of the Department of Community Services.
- Every three weeks the City can collect items **by appointment** that are too bulky or too heavy for you to take to the Transfer Station yourself.
- This is not a general clean-up service or a collection of trash or debris. We cannot pick up bags or boxes of trash.
- Dial-A-Truck operates at no charge to the resident.
- Due to its popularity, there may be a wait of as much as one month for service.
- To maintain the beauty and neat appearance of our neighborhoods, do not leave any items for pick-up at the curb until Dial-A-Truck is ready to collect them.

Call:



908.273.6404

- We can answer your questions and will assign you a collection date.
- Set the approved items out at curbside no earlier than 24 hours before the scheduled collection.
- Only put out those materials that were approved by the Department of Community Services at the time you made your appointment.
- Once you have an appointment, it is not necessary that you confirm.

What can be picked up?

- Mattresses (wrapped in plastic only)
- Large pieces of furniture
- Dishwashers
- Other heavy appliances
- If you put a refrigerator or freezer out for collection, please be safe and remove the doors first!

NO: railroad ties, propane tanks, any construction or demolition materials, car parts, furnaces or heating boilers, hazardous items, or fencing over 6 feet in length.

Click:



www.cityofsummit.org

- Fill out a service request to make a Dial-A-Truck appointment.

Additional Information

- This is not general garbage and trash or "clean-up week" pick up.
- Leaving unauthorized items at the curb is a violation of the Property Maintenance Code and may result in a summons and a fine.
- Pick-up is "rain or shine".
- If we have to cancel the collection because of an emergency, we will contact you as soon as possible to let you know the new date.

PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF SUMMIT
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY
SERVICES



City Hall Department of Community Services 2nd Floor
512 Springfield Avenue • Summit NJ 07901 • 908-273-6404
www.cityofsummit.org

POSTMASTERS TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

Last year 169 letter carriers were victimized by dogs in New Jersey, including 16 in Union County. The 15 postmasters serving the 21 municipalities in Union County are therefore raising public awareness of the importance of responsible pet ownership in helping prevent dog bites.

To prevent dog bites, Union County Postmasters recommend the following responsible pet ownership tips:

- Obedience training can teach dogs proper behavior and help owners control their dog in any situation.
- When the letter carrier comes to your home, keep your dog inside, away from the door, in another room, or on a leash.
- Dogs can be protective of their territory and may interpret the actions of letter carriers as a threat. Please take precautions when accepting mail in the presence of your pet.
- Dogs that haven't been properly socialized, receive little attention or handling, or are left tied-up for long periods of time frequently turn into biters.

The Postal Service has a short animated dog bite video available on its YouTube site.

Follow us on twitter.com/USPS and like us at facebook.com/USPS. For more information about the Postal Service, visit usps.com and usps.com/postalfacts.

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SINGLE-USE PLASTICS ORDINANCES IN EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2021

Three ordinances restricting the use of single-use plastics by businesses in Summit will go into effect on January 1, 2021.

The first ordinance prohibits the 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 City of Summit Common Council passed these ordinances on November 18, 2019, after hosting two community workshops to obtain input from the business owners and residents. The enforcement of all three ordinances was scheduled to begin on May 1, 2020, but was postponed for six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information on exceptions outlined in the ordinances, visit the City of Summit website.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Summit residents and members of the business community:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful and isolating for so many of us, and I know how much we were all looking forward to the upcoming holidays as a time to reconnect with family and friends. This holiday season, however, we must consider how to modify holiday plans to keep gatherings within your own household or as virtual celebrations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep our friends, families, and communities healthy and safe. I know the notion of not spending time with loved ones over the holidays is painful; it seems as though we are constantly pummeled by challenges. But if I have learned anything in the last several months it is how resourceful, courageous and supportive we are as a community. We cannot predict how COVID-19 will proceed, but we can model the behaviors we know make this pandemic bearable and livable.

More information is available at cdc.gov and I encourage you to check the website for tips to protect yourself and your loved ones from getting or spreading COVID-19.

There have been an increasing number of positive cases identified in local businesses, our schools and at City Hall. While custodial teams thoroughly clean and disinfect city offices each day to ensure the safest environment possible for members of the public and city staff, it is recommended that all non-essential business be conducted by telephone or online if at all possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, and through the end of 2020.

And finally, this is going to be a very important holiday shopping season for our area businesses that have faced serious challenges during closures last spring and now during a resurgence of virus cases locally. Please commit to supporting and shopping at Summit businesses this season. Our shops and restaurants are ready with innovative ways to do business, including curbside orders, package pickup and more.

We are in this together, and will get through this together.

Best wishes this holiday season,
Nora G. Radest
Mayor of Summit NJ

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TREE DECORATORS NEEDED FOR FESTIVAL OF TREES

Pull out the ornaments and untangle the garland! On December 13, Reeves-Reed Arboretum will be holding its first annual Festival of Trees, a Multicultural Celebration of the Holidays and we invite you to help make it a success!

The first step is easy - gather up your family, friends or colleagues and sign up to decorate a tree! The Arboretum will provide and set up the trees, you just need the decorations. Be creative, there will be prizes for the best decorated tree, voted on by festival attendees. Come to the Arboretum any time after 9 a.m. on December 12 and begin decorating!

Then use your 2 complimentary tickets and return to the Arboretum on Sunday, December 13

to enjoy the event. The Festival will include arts and crafts that celebrate Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas and the Solstice, musical entertainment, as well as food trucks and holiday vendors. And of course, our Festival would not be complete without Santa strolling through the gardens! After the event you are welcome to take your tree home or leave it on the Arboretum grounds.

The deadline to sign up for a tree is December 10, and with a limited number of trees, don't wait. Visit reeves-reedarboretum.org or call 908-273-8787 x 1010 for more information and to sign up. Tickets to attend the Festival of Trees, A Multicultural Celebration of the Holidays are now on sale.



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THE GIFT OF SIGHT: SAYING YES! CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE

"I am passionate about spreading the important lifesaving and enhancing message of organ and tissue donation because I know the powerful impact it can have," said Peter DeSarno, member of the New Providence Lions and double cornea transplant recipient. "It is an honor to bring together two organizations (The Lions Club and Eversight) that do so much good and have personally impacted my life".

That was the way the presentation at the November 4 New Providence Lions Club meeting began as members heard the personal story of one of its own members receiving the gift of sight and discussed the 50-year history of Eye Banking in New Jersey with Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy at Eversight.

Peter went on to share that when he was in high school, he was diagnosed with a condition called Keratoconus that affected both of his eyes and at the age of 24. He then received two cornea transplants that restored his vision and forever changed his life.

The gift of his first donor cornea in his left eye came to him with the assistance of the Lions Eye Bank of Texas. The second transplant in his right eye was procured with the assistance of the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey (now Eversight) working in conjunction with the New Providence based, NJ Sharing Network.

Peter put his experience into perspective by saying that today he looks out of the eyes of two other individuals. Peter explained that unfortunately he has not been able to make contact with and thank his donor families. He said what he does know is that they were two heroic human beings who came from two loving, caring and generous families who in their darkest hour displayed an incredible amount of love and compassion in providing him with the gift of sight. He said that he doesn't think humanity gets any more beautiful than that.

The Lions Club's work in fighting blindness goes back many years. In 1925, as an ambassador for the newly formed American Foundation for the Blind, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Club

International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio hoping that the Lions would partner with the American Foundation for the Blind and lend their support as an organization to those who had lost their sight.

It was at that convention where she appealed to the Lions and challenged them to become "knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness."

She had no idea just how far the association would take her challenge. Before the convention was over, the association dedicated itself to making Keller's dream a reality and the Lions would become Keller's Knights of the Blind.

Since 1925, millions of lives have been changed through the vision-related work of Lions around the world, and today the association is as dedicated as ever to hastening the day when no one should suffer unnecessarily from vision problems. Lions work to end preventable blindness and aid the visually impaired through eye centers and hospitals, medicines and surgeries, eye glasses and eye banks.

Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy of Eversight, shared with the New Providence Lions Club an inspiring presentation about the Eye Bank in New Jersey and the work of her organization. Specifically, the work at Eversight to restore sight and prevent blindness through the healing power of donation, transplantation and research.

From its home in Clark, NJ, Eversight proudly partners with NJ Sharing Network, Lions Clubs, surgeons, businesses and philanthropists throughout New Jersey to advance its mission.

In 2019, Eversight worked with the families of 882 New Jersey residents who gave the gift of sight for transplantation, research and education. Through outreach and programs, Eversight provided donated tissue for 8,176 sight-restoring corneal transplants in 2019 in New Jersey and around the world.

Saying "yes" to donation can change someone's life.

For details about donation visit



(above, left) Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy of Eversight, shared with the New Providence Lions Club an inspiring presentation about the Eye Banking in New Jersey and the work of her organization.

(above, right) Peter DeSarno, member of the New Providence Lions and double cornea transplant recipient, recently shared his personal story with the Lions Club.

eversightvision.org/our-work/donation.

For how to register to become a donor, visit eversightvision.org/get-involved/#join-registry.

The New Providence Lions Club is a 501(c)3 organization, giving back to the community 100% of the proceeds raised. Being a Lion empowers you to help others in a way that no one person could alone. The Lions are dedicated to helping others. Lions make a difference! For more information/membership please email info@nplions.org and visit nplions.org.

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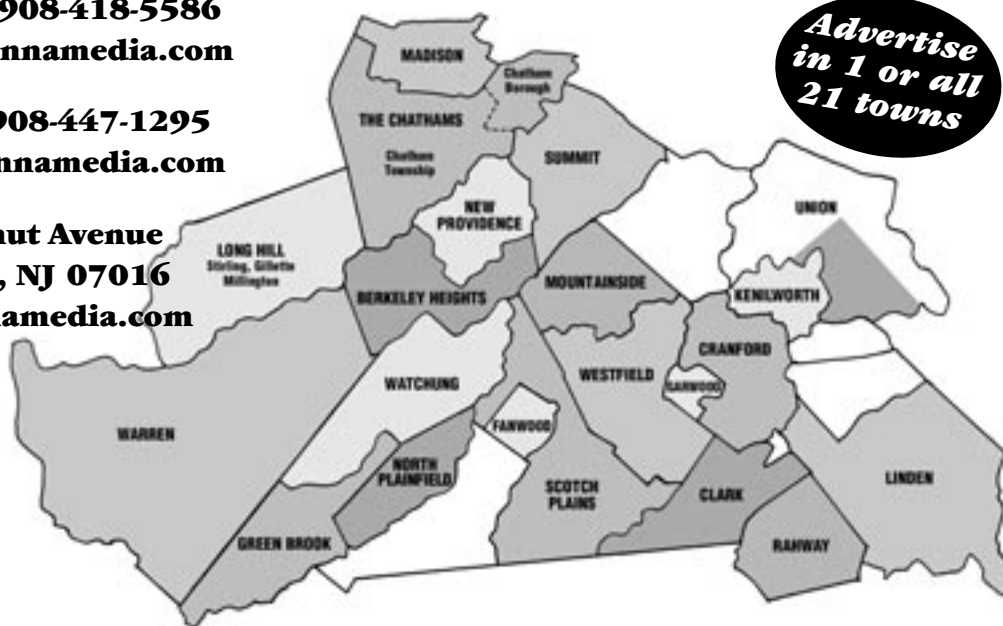
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
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