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FIVE-TOWN PARADE INCLUDES SUPERHEROES, GIFT BASKETS

Submitted by Gretchen M. Boger-O'Bryan

A recent Friday morning had special meaning to five Union County foster youth celebrating an end to living in foster care as adoptions into their forever families became finalized. Union County's Family Court celebrated National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 20, ahead of the national Saturday Nov. 21 festivities, as five youth ranging from two to 11 years old, along with their foster families, met on Zoom with Judges Marc R. Brown and James Hely to make official what each already felt – they were home.

Although COVID-19 required the day be different than prior years, the excitement was as palpable as ever. A car parade included judiciary staff, CASA of Union County staff and interns, fire trucks, police cars and a band of superheroes from Heroes 4 Heroes, a volunteer organization of corrections officers that don superhero costumes and visit children facing adversities. The parade included stops at each adoptive home – Cranford, Elizabeth, Linden, Newark and Union – with sirens blaring, horns honking and rounds of applause.

Each family received a gift basket from CASA of Union County, with collaboration from David Brearley Middle and High School, Live or Tie Dye, Two Park Princesses, Kappa Alpha Theta of Westfield, Division of Child Protection and Permanency and Catholic Charities, Girl Scout Troop 40042 of Cranford, and Scotch Plains Girl Scout Lauren Cunningham, Union County Bar Association, and many generous community members who heeded the call for donations. Each family fun-themed basket contained board and card games, puzzles, fleece blankets, teddy bear for each adoptee, themed picture frame for the first official family photo, jars of popping corn, movie candy, Delice Macarons, ShopRite and WalMart gift cards and a welcome mat declaring, "There's No Place Like Home." Adoptees and siblings received tie-dye sweatshirts from Live or Tie Dye and books handpicked by Kappa Alpha Theta's Westfield chapter. At each parade stop, Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan, Development and Communications Manager at CASA of Union County, took photographs of each family as they emerged from their homes and were greeted by superheroes, the symphony of honking horns and applause, and received balloon bouquets from A Birthday Wish. A hot breakfast – sponsored by Union County Surrogate James LaCorte – was delivered to each family by DCPD staff and Cranford resident Robin Johnstone.

Adoption Day began 20 years ago when a coalition of The



(above) The Rodriguez family of Linden

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Alliance for Children's Rights and Children's Action Network encouraged nine cities to open courts the Saturday before Thanksgiving to allow adoptions to be finalized and celebrated. Today, more than 120,000 nationwide need a permanent home, with an average wait in foster care of four years. Each year, 23,000 youth age out of the system without a family or safety net in place.

ABOUT CASA OF UNION COUNTY

Since 2005, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Union County has been recruiting, training, supervising and supporting community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned children placed in foster homes or residential facilities. CASA volunteers ensure children's best interests remain the priority while working toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home for each child served.

For details on CASA of Union County and becoming an advocate for a foster youth, contact Walia at wworrill@casaoofunioncounty.org or log on to www.casaoofunioncounty.org.

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LIFE in LINDEN

Life in Linden is published by Renna Media in cooperation with the Linden Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

17,400 newspapers are printed monthly. and are mailed to every postal patron in Linden.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Linden Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

Tina & Joe Renna, Publishers
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016
(908) 418-5586
Fax: (908) 709-9209
E-mail: editor@rennamedia.com

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Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send Life In Linden your news!

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SCHEDULE YOUR COVID VACCINATION

The County of Union opened an online registration system at ucnjvaccine.org for those eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

Please note the registration system will only log those who are eligible to receive the vaccination. Those who are ineligible to receive vaccinations will not be allowed to pre-register, and must wait until they are eligible.

Those who are eligible to receive the vaccine include paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and long-term care residents and staff, and also sworn law enforcement personnel and

fire professionals. Residents 65 and older are also eligible to receive the vaccinations, as are those between the ages of 16-64 with medical conditions, as defined by the CDC, that increase the risk of severe illness from the virus.

The county is offering the Moderna vaccine. The vaccination clinic is located at Downs Hall at Kean University in Union, and is currently open five days a week from 3-7 p.m. Once more vaccines are available, the county is planning to offer the COVID-19 vaccine in different areas of the county.

To secure an appointment for the COVID vaccination visit ucnjvaccine.org.

NAMI UNION COUNTY "CIRCLE OF FRIENDS"

The Union County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) invites area residents to join its Zoom "Circle of Friends" for a free informal evening of discussion on Feb. 23, from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

The format will be a panel discussion with Joyce Benz, LCSW, Director of Intensive Family Support Services of the Mental Health Assoc. in NJ as moderator along with other NAMI members. The panel will explore various topics affecting persons with mental

illness and offer insight from their own experiences in dealing with these problems. Join us and bring your questions and concerns. This is an opportunity for information sharing with others who have a common interest.

Please register for this evening at naminj.org/support/affiliates/union/UpcomingEvent. Click on the "Register Here" link which will not be available until a few days before the event.

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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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LINDEN POLICE DONATE \$5,000 TO THE ROMANS WARRIOR FOUNDATION

On Veterans Day Linden PBA Local 42 and LPSOA, along with Chief Hart and Mayor Armstead had the pleasure of making a \$5,000 donation to the Romans Warrior Foundation. Dominick Rotondo, a representative of the foundation, was presented with the donation in front of City Hall.

LPD Ofc. Isidoro was recently deployed overseas along with the 102nd Calvary of the New Jersey Army National Guard. To show support, a t-shirt fundraiser was held and the proceeds were donated to the Romans Warrior Foundation. This foundation helps veterans, law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS workers with

mental health awareness by providing direction, healing, brotherhood, and purpose at no cost to participants.

For more information about The Romans Warrior Foundation, or to make a donation visit romanswarriorfoundation.org.

Photo by City of Linden



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AMY MALONEY EARNS DISTINCTION OF EXEMPLARY EDUCATOR

Submitted by Gary Miller

Amy Maloney, a fifth-grade teacher at School No. 1 in Linden, has been chosen as an Exemplary Educator by the New Jersey Department of Education.

She is one of just 93 teachers across the state who are being honored for 2020.

“Congratulations to Ms. Maloney on this amazing honor,” said Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton. “The Exemplary Educator program recognizes the best of the best from around New Jersey, and we couldn’t be prouder to have one of our teachers recognized. Ms. Maloney’s love and dedication to her students exemplifies the wonderful educators we have in Linden working hard for all of our students, especially during these difficult times.”

Each year, the New Jersey Department of Education invites public school districts to participate in the Exemplary Educator Recognition Program. The goal of this program is to identify outstanding educators for special recognition. Exemplary Educators exhibit strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a positive impact on students, colleagues and the school community.

“Amy is the embodiment of each of those characteristics,” said School No. 1 Principal Dona Preston. “She is an integral part of the Instructional Leadership Team, School Improvement Panel, and Data Team, to name just a few.

“Whether it is in her classroom instructing her students, or presenting professional development to her colleagues, Amy demonstrates high expectations. She is a lifelong learner and is greatly admired by the School No. 1 community, her students, and their parents.”

Maloney said teaching is her passion.

“My work has always been about helping the students understand how important education and learning are in this fast-moving world,” she said. “Teaching is something that I take great pride in, so to be the recipient of this recognition as an Exemplary Educator is an honor.

“But it is not just my efforts; School 1 has an amazing team that supports and motivates each other.”

Preston and the entire School No. 1 faculty and staff surprised Maloney with the news during a

video conference on Thursday, December 17.

“Ms. Preston had called an afternoon meeting,” Maloney recalled. “Everyone had their cameras off. I hear ‘Cameras on,’ and that is when everyone turned their cameras on and I saw all the posters that my colleagues had made. I didn’t realize at first and I was so confused. Once I grasped what was happening, I was in complete shock! I never expected it!”

“I am genuinely grateful, and I want to thank Ms. Preston and my colleagues for seeing me as deserving of this recognition.”



(above) Amy Maloney, a fifth-grade teacher at School No. 1 in Linden, was surprised by her principal and colleagues during a video conference with the news that she had been chosen as an Exemplary Educator by the New Jersey Department of Education.



(above) Amy Maloney, a fifth-grade teacher at School No. 1 in Linden, has been chosen as one of just 93 Exemplary Educators statewide for 2020 by the NJ Department of Education.

Photos by Linden Public Schools

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If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain. Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

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Scot Paris MD, FACS



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- Patricia G.

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- Perry O.

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LFD DEPUTY CHIEF RETIRES

By Fire Chief William Hasko

Deputy Chief Larry Kolesa officially retired on January 1, 2021. Deputy Chief Kolesa served proudly on the City of Linden Fire Department for 28 years. He most recently was the Administrative Deputy Chief overseeing the Fire Prevention and Training Division. DC Kolesa was also the Fire Official for the City of Linden. The year 2020 was my first full year serving as Chief of the Department and Deputy Chief Kolesa was an instrumental in helping me run the Fire Department on a day to day basis. His knowledge, experience and hard work will be missed. Enjoy your well-deserved and earned pension.

NEWLY PROMOTED FIREFIGHTERS

By Fire Chief William Hasko

Congratulations to our newly promoted Officers. Deputy Chief Christopher Rooney, Captain Grzegorz Wronski and Lieutenant

Michael Brattole. All three are up and coming stars and leaders in the Linden Fire Department. The future is bright for the LFD.

Photo by City of Linden



VFW DONATION TO L.I.N.C.S.



(above) Deputy Chief Larry Kolesa with Fire Chief William Hasko

Photo by City of Linden



(above) Linden VFW Post #1397 made a contribution to L.I.N.C.S Food Pantry for all that they do for the community.. Jay Dertinger, Carolynne Baykowski, Dennis Costello, Joseph LaPlaca,



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ASSISTANCE WITH PPP2 APPLICATIONS

Submitted by Janet Miller, President Linden Chamber of Commerce

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on payroll. First Draw PPP Loans can be used to help fund payroll costs, including benefits, and may also be used to pay for mortgage interest, rent, utilities, worker protection costs related to COVID-19, uninsured property damage costs caused by looting or vandalism during 2020, and certain supplier costs and expenses for operations:

PPP loans have an interest rate of 1%.

Loans issued prior to June 5, 2020 have a maturity of two years. Loans issued after June 5, 2020 have a maturity of five years.

Loan payments will be deferred for borrowers who apply for loan forgiveness until SBA remits the borrower's loan forgiveness amount to the lender. If a borrower does not apply for loan forgiveness, payments are deferred 10 months after the end of the covered period for the borrower's loan forgiveness (either 8 weeks or 24

weeks).

No collateral or personal guarantees are required.

Neither the government nor lenders will charge small businesses any fees.

If you are a small business in Linden that needs PPP2 assistance we recommend you speak with your bank for guidance. If the Linden Chamber of Commerce could be of additional assistance contact Janet Miller jmiller@coxprinters.com.

The Linden Chamber is actively involved in the community. In the spring the Linden Chamber gives out scholarships to graduating seniors at its Annual Awards Dinner. Meetings take place at 8:30 a.m., on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Representatives from the Linden government are always in attendance at meetings, which allows for an open and communicative relationship between business owners and the municipality. For more information call (908) 352-0900.

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COMMUNITY HOPE CONNECTS VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH HOUSING, SERVICES

CALL THE REFERRAL HOTLINE FOR ELIGIBILITY

Veterans and their families who are experiencing a housing crisis may be eligible for emergency assistance such as motel/hotel stays, security deposits, rent, rental arrears, groceries and utilities through Community Hope.

Community Hope's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is currently providing assistance remotely. Urgent community-based services such as critical supplies and veteran wellness-checks are provided in person.

The increase in support services to veterans and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic is possible thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

To make a referral, please call the referral hotline at 1-855-483-8466 or email ssvf@communityhope-nj.org, or email Gema Diaz at gdiaz@communityhope-nj.org.

Community Hope is a nonprofit that helps individuals, including veterans, and their families, overcome mental illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty. Learn more at communityhope-nj.org.



ROGER, FOR NEW JERSEY VETERAN COMMUNITY TO FIND SUPPORT

ROGER, a search platform for New Jersey veterans, launched on November 9th, just ahead of Veterans Day 2020. The platform was created by Backpacks For Life founders Brett D'Alessandro and Alexa Modero. After serving the Veteran community for 6 years, they found many inefficiencies and convoluted systems that prevented veterans from getting the care they need in a quick and efficient way. From lengthy intake processes to outdated information on organizations' websites, the Backpacks For Life team knew there was a better way to get veterans the care they needed.

ROGER allows veterans and their family members to search for programs, resources and care by a variety of factors such as zip code, branch of service, discharge status and income. With these customizable search features, veterans will see only the programs that they qualify for. This helps mitigate time wasted for not only veterans searching for programs that fit their needs, but also the service providers to ensure the

veteran is a good fit for them.

"Navigating through resources is hard...we get it. As a veteran myself, I was often running around in circles trying to find programs that I was eligible for and that fit my needs. When we're working with veterans, every minute matters and with ROGER we can work more quickly to get veterans what they need. We're excited to bring ROGER to the NJ veteran community." - Sgt. Brett D'Alessandro, Retired US Marine & President of Backpacks For Life

To explore ROGER, visit www.rogervet.org or contact the ROGER team at rogervet@backpacksforlife.org

Backpacks For Life is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that serves the homeless and at-risk veteran community. By regularly distributing backpacks filled with essentials to veterans on the streets and providing mentorship to at-risk veterans and their families, Backpacks For Life aims to bridge the gap between veterans and the resources available to them.

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SEA SCOUT SHIP 228 VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Are you interested in boating, sailing, or mechanics? Come check out Sea Scouting and let the adventure at sea begin! The crew of Ship 228 will be hosting a virtual open house, taking place over Zoom on Saturday, March 13 at 4:00 p.m. and featuring various activities that are bound to pique a young adult's interest in scouting.

Sea Scouting is open to both male and females ages 14-21 who have graduated the 8th grade; we also have a new Maritime Explorer Club for younger youth in 6th to 8th grade. Adult volunteers with maritime experience or captain's licenses are needed too. Join us for a day on the water and bring a friend! Visit our website for more information ship228.com.



(above) Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their base located in Linden, NJ.

Ship 228 is proud to host the virtual open house. The event will include a tour of the ship's main vessel (the 65' Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast), an introduction to the Sea Scout program, appearances from current Sea Scouts, a lively Q&A, and more.

To register, please provide your name, email address, and phone number (which is optional) in an email to Ship228.SeaDart@gmail.com.

Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their picturesque base located in Linden, New Jersey. Sea Scouting (which is part of the Venturing Program of the Boy Scouts of America) offers young adults the opportunity to travel and learn skills that could be useful in future careers.



(above) Adult volunteers with maritime experience or captain's licenses are needed too. Visit our website for more information ship228.com, or email Ship228.SeaDart@gmail.com.

Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair, or visiting a new location on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting. So, try something different, check us out, and prepare yourself to set sail for a real adventure.



(above) Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair, or visiting a new location on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting.

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ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR BLACK HISTORY POSTER CONTEST

Linden Recreation Department

Students, here is your chance to enter in a Black History Poster Contest. This is your opportunity to feel free artistically through art. Submit an entry and make this contest an awesome experience! There will be prizes for 1st place winners of each school only.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Must be a student in grades 6 through 12.

All entries must have full name, school, teacher, grade, and parent/guardian cell phone number printed on a blank index card taped to the back.

All posters must be 9"x12". Posters exceeding this size will be disqualified.

The poster can be made from any drawing paper material, i.e., construction paper, sketchbook paper, poster board paper, etc.

Any drawing material can be used on the poster: chalk, color pencils, crayons, pencils, markers, paint, etc.

THEME: BLACK AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS

All posters must be submitted to the JTG Center, 330 Helen Street, on or before February 19th, 2021. The JTG Center hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please call (908) 474-8627 so your poster can be received outside near the front entrance. Masks must be worn!

Posters will be judged on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

First place winners from each school will be contacted. First place prizes will be delivered to your home along with a photo taken by Mrs. Martin-Ortiz from Linden Recreation on Friday, February 26, 2021.

LINDEN RECREATION - FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

email lindenrec@linden-nj.org.

The Parks & Recreation office is located on the second floor at 605 South Wood Avenue.

To view full class descriptions, visit linden-nj.org and click on Community Pass.

Pre-registration is required by calling 908-474-8600

or by visitin online at linden-nj.org and clicking on Community Pass.

First time registrants are required to call during business hours to have an account set up.

ADULT ZOOM CLASSES

Introduction To the Great Backyard Bird Count: Participants will set up their accounts, learn to do an accurate count and run through submitting your list online. The class will be held Thursday, February 11, from 7:00 -8:00 p.m. The program is free.

Mending and Alterations: Participants learn the basics of mending and simple alterations. Sewing machines are not necessary. Students are encouraged to bring their own items for personalized instruction suitable for the entire group learning experience. The class will be held Friday, February 19 through March 19, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The fee is \$35.

SENIOR CITIZEN CLASSES

Linden Recreation announces a variety of senior citizens classes starting in February to be shown on TV 36/42.

Steps to a Healthy Heart: Participants focus on preventative ways of promoting and maintaining a healthy heart. An outline of heart healthy foods will also be discussed to ensure good heart health. The class will be held Monday, February 22, starting at 12:45 p.m. The class is free.

The Legacy of New Jersey's Woodrow Wilson: The class will be held Monday, February 1, starting at 1:00 p.m. The class is free.

Yoga: The class will be held Mondays, February 1 through March 8, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. The class is free.

Amending the US Constitution: The class will be held Monday, February 8, starting at 1:00 p.m. The class is free.

The Historic US Presidential Election of 1864: The class will be held Monday, February 22, starting at 1:00 p.m. The class is free.

YOUTH ZOOM CLASSES

Mini-Robotics: Sphero, Ozobot & Bristlebot: Participants ages 8-14 explore coding, robotics and computer science. The class will be held Saturday, February 20 and February 27, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The fee is \$60.

Fashion Design: Participants ages 8-12 learn to sketch fashion illustration using Fashion Croakies/Fashion Figures, illustration techniques, silhouette and Fashion details. Price includes supplies. The class will be held Saturdays, February 20 through March 20, from 10:00 -11:30 a.m. The fee is \$40.

Money Time-Dollar Sense & More Cents: Participants ages 7-13 are taught the knowledge of creating a budget. The class will be held Saturday, February 13 and February 20, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The fee is \$45.

A Trip Around the World: Participants ages 7-13 experience traveling to different countries, with exposure to their food, music, dress, sports and many other cultural differences. The class will be held Saturday, February 6 - France, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and February 27 - Puerto Rico, from 9:30 -11:30 p.m. The fee is \$20 each trip.

Treats for Tweets & Backyard Bird Count: Family members, ages 5 & up learn about bird beaks and what different birds eat. We will also make a special bird feeder together for you to put out at home. The class will be held Sunday, February 14, from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. - free.

Q AND A GAME SHOW TRIVIA:

Family members of all ages test their knowledge. MC host will give players a session key to allow them to play on their smartphone and/or computer. Must register all family members participating. The program will be held Friday, February 26, from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. The program is free.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS STUDY POLLS TO MAKE PRESIDENTIAL PREDICTIONS

Submitted by Gary Miller

Seventh-graders at Soehl Middle School in Linden worked hard leading up to Election Day to answer the question on everyone's mind: "How is America going to vote?"

Students in Michael D'Amato's social studies classes studied the latest polls and analyzed past election results to track voter trends. They presented their final "2020 Presidential Projection Maps" on Thursday, October 29.

Over all of D'Amato's classes, 34 students correctly predicted former Vice President Joe Biden would win, 15 predicted President Donald Trump would win, and one student predicted an electoral tie. All students correctly forecasted that New Jersey would support Biden.

Knowing how complicated the concept of why some states are considered blue or red, while others switch colors quite frequently, D'Amato decided to spice the project up by offering any student who formulated a perfect projection map a doubling of their grade.

"When the students first heard that they could earn a 200 as a grade on this project, those ears that weren't exactly tuned in suddenly were leaning in a lot more," he said.

One student came very close to a perfect map. Jazlyn Graves had 49 of 50 states correct, missing only Georgia, which Biden won by only 14,000 votes and which wasn't called for more than a week after the election.

"I enjoyed predicting who would win and why," Jazlyn said. "It made me think more about how the election system works. The state I spent the longest time on was Pennsylvania. It was a tough decision to make because polls showed more red than blue, which was confusing. I can most definitely say using past election results helped me decide."

Because Jazlyn came so close, D'Amato decided to reward her.

"I decided that predicting 49 out of 50 states correctly, which was better than my own projection map to be honest, and Jazlyn having the best map out of all four of my classes, was deserving of the double grade bonus."

Although his students aren't of voting age, D'Amato believes this project will create a solid foundation for them to understand and appreciate what it takes to become president.

"What I have been most impressed by is how many students turned this challenge into a family project," he said. "Students tell me on a regular basis that they are polling family members on their views regarding battleground states."

D'Amato, a teacher of 21 years, considers the "Path to the Presidency" project he created to be his No. 1 class project of all time.

"As a social studies teacher, my top priority is to foster within my students the desire for active citizenship," he said. "I truly feel that this project has the potential to echo over a lifetime."



(above) Michael D'Amato, a social studies teacher at Soehl Middle School in Linden, works with his students remotely on their "Path to the Presidency" project, trying to predict how each state would vote on Election Day.

Photos by Linden Public Schools



(above) One seventh-grader in Michael D'Amato's social studies classes at Soehl Middle School in Linden predicted a nearly perfect electoral map. Jazlyn Graves had 49 of 50 states correct, missing only Georgia.

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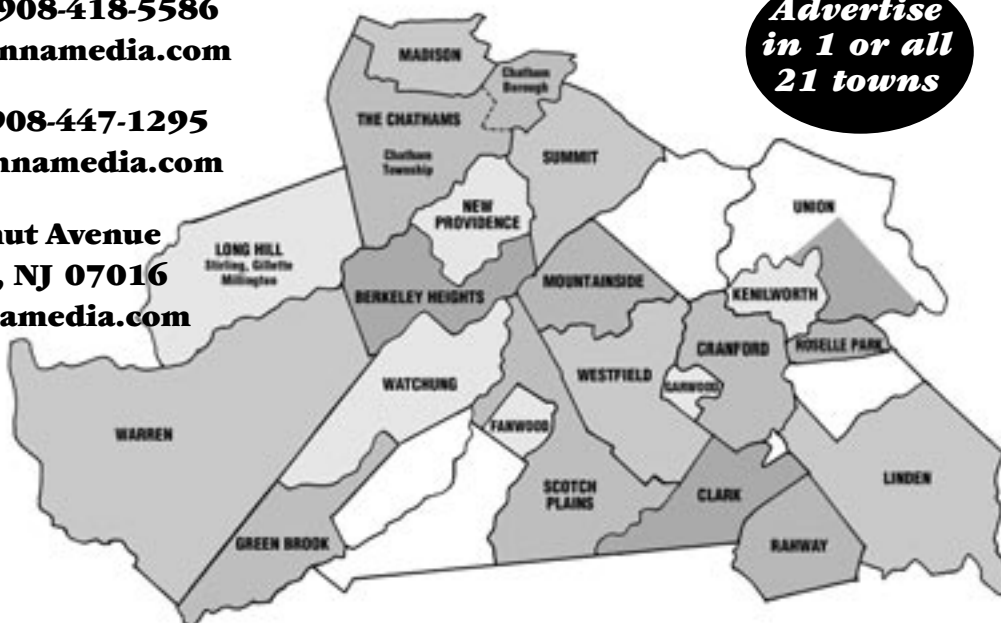
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Tito's Vodka	1.75L	\$30.99

RUM

Bacardi Light & Gold	750ml	\$12.99
Bacardi Light & Gold	1.75L	\$19.19
Captain Morgan Spice	1.75L	\$25.99
Malibu	750ml	\$17.99
Malibu	1.75L	\$25.09

TEQUILA

Deleon Blanco Tequila	750ml	\$29.99
Deleon Blanco Tequila	1.75L	\$59.99
Patron Silver	750ml	\$43.99
Patron Silver	1.75L	\$86.99
Patron XO Café	1.75L	\$34.99

BEER

Becks (12oz) 24pk	24pk	\$24.99
Bud and Bud Lite cans	30pk	\$22.99
Bud and Bud Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$19.99
Coors Lite (24oz) cans	12pk	\$15.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$19.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite	30pk	\$22.99
Corona/Corona Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$28.99
Dab (16oz) cans	24pk	\$21.99
Dogfish Head 60 min.	24pk	\$35.99
Heineken/Heineken Lite bottles	24pk	\$28.99
Land Shark	24pk	\$26.99
Lech (500ml)	20pk	\$28.99
Modelo Especial cans	12pk	\$14.99
New Belgium Fat Tire	24pk	\$33.99
Pabst Blue Ribbon cans	30pk	\$19.99
Pilsner Urquell	24pk	\$30.99
Sagres	24pk	\$24.99
Sam Adams Boston Lager	24pk	\$32.99
Stella Artois loose bottles	24pk	\$28.99
Yuengling Lager bottles	24pk	\$19.99
Zywiec (11.2oz)	24pk	\$21.99

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ABC prices prevail other prices, limited to store inventory.

Not responsible for typographical errors.

Prices valid till February 28, 2021.