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Published by Renna Media Issue 119 • August 2021

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ALJ HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Clark Township Public Schools

On Wednesday, June 23, 2021, Arthur L Johnson High School held its sixty-fifth commencement ceremony. The event was attended by Board of Education President Steven Donkersloot, Board of Education members, Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Clark Superintendent Edward Grande, Garwood Superintendent Dr. Teresa Quigley, family members, teachers, administrators, and other community members.

Assistant Principal Joseph Cardinale welcomed the audience. Speeches were given by Salutatorian Matthew Hartzler, Senior Class President Martha Kolfenbach, Valedictorian Joseph Hovick, Board of Education President Steven Donkersloot, Superintendent Edward Grande, and Principal Jennifer Feeley. Board of Education members awarded diplomas.

Hartzler stated, "Effort is everything. It is the drive that guides you to your potential as a student, athlete, parent or anything one strives to be. Exerting a strong effort is why we are all here right now."

Kolfenbach stated, "I have no question that we are ready for whatever life throws at us as we begin to write this next chapter."

Hovick addressed the class stating, "Class of 2021, I ask you to be the best version of yourselves and do what makes you happy. The world is yours for the taking."

Donkersloot encouraged the students to always remain true to themselves. He congratulated students and parents on their accomplishments and thanked the Clark and Garwood teachers, staff, and administrators.

Grande shared some of the Class of 2021's accomplishments and thanked the Clark and Garwood communities for their support. He reminded graduates that ALJ will always be their home.

Feeley spoke about the resilience of this class and asked students to strive towards their dreams and step outside their comfort zones.

Photos by Clark Township Public Schools



(above) Giuliana Fischetti, Gianna Caldiero, Courtney Marano, Kaylee Dente, Victoria Venezia



(above, left, l-r) Robert Nugent receives his diploma from Board of Education Member Scott Bohm. (above, center, l-r) Joseph Greenbush and Daniel McCaffery. (above, right, l-r) Tyler Ashley and Joseph Hovick.



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CLARK GIRLS SOFTBALL 8U WIN SUMMER SLAM TOURNAMENT

Submitted by Ralph Bernardo

The Clark Girls Softball 8U Blue team celebrated a hard-earned Championship victory over favored Cranford 8u Cougars.

8u Clark Blue "Crushers" kicked off the Cranford Summer Slam Tournament with 3 wins during pool play and were seeded 2 in playoffs. The Clark Blue Crushers came back to defeat Metuchen, beat Westfield in Semis and finally

faced top seeded Cranford 8U in the finals winning 9-7 to take home the Championship trophy.

An incredible weekend that these girls played to be undefeated for 6 games in just two days. These girls played with all heart and pushed through despite the long hot days. Way to go 8U Clark Blue Crushers!



(above) The Clark Girls Softball 8U Blue team celebrated their victory at the Cranford Summer Slam Tournament.

Photo by Clark Recreation

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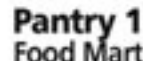
Thank you to the 500 walkers, sponsors, donors and volunteers who joined us on Saturday, June 19th at Arthur L. Johnson High School to make the Remembering Michael T. Sot HERO Walk a huge success. We greatly appreciate the Clark community spirit and dedication to Michael Sot's legacy and your help to promote the life-saving mission of the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers® to prevent drink driving tragedies.

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PARENT UNIVERSITY: FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN OUR CHILDREN

Clark Public Schools

The Clark Public School District's Parent University program recently presented "Fostering Resilience in our Children" hosted by George Scott, EdS, LMFT, Center for Counseling Services, LLC on Tuesday, April 27. Guests joined the live presentation remotely.

Scott discussed a path to resiliency and raising healthy kids through fostering an environment of kindness, safety, belonging, and opportunity.

To view the recorded presentation, parents can visit clarkschools.org. Under the "More" tab, click on "Parent University" to find the recording and slide presentation.

Supervisor of Educational Initiatives Christine Broski stated, "Mr. Scott shared honest insight into how we can continue to support our children providing them with the tools needed to become healthy adults. We thank him for sharing his knowledge with our school community."



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(above) George Scott, Center for Counseling Services

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(above) Raymond Guenther from Clark will participate in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

RAYMOND GUENTHER TO ATTEND YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

This summer, Raymond Guenther from Clark will join outstanding middle school students from across the nation to take part in a unique academic and career oriented development experience, the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

The Junior National Young Leaders Conference is one of the Envision by WorldStrides family of programs (envisionexperience.com) that enable students to explore their interests and experience learning beyond the classroom.

Raymond recently graduated from Carl H. Kumpf Middle School and will attend Arthur L. Johnson High School in the fall. He was nominated for the program by one of his teachers, who cited Raymond's exceptional communication skills and teamwork.

Raymond is also a gifted athlete; he participates in competitive gymnastics at Sargent's Elite in Roselle Park, and he has played in the Clark Youth Football program since 2019. He has a love for technology, and hopes to one day pursue a career in the technology field.

"As an alumna of Envision myself, I am excited for Raymond to meet, work, and collaborate with other high aspiring students

from across the country," said Amanda Freitag Thomas, SVP for Envision. "Hands down, my favorite part of attending an Envision program was being with motivated students in an environment designed to help us challenge our assumptions, meet new people, and grow. Creating that same learning environment is a central focus for all of our programs. At the Junior National Young Leaders Conference, students build the confidence and skills needed to excel in high school, college, and the workplace. They learn how to adapt to and communicate in new situations, to new challenges, and with new people, which, given how rapidly the world is changing due to technology and innovation, are essential skills for success."

For over 35 years, Envision by WorldStrides has empowered extraordinary students to become their best selves through programs that enable them to discover their passion, explore a career, and positively impact their world. In 2018, Envision became part of the WorldStrides family. The largest provider of educational travel and experiences in the United States, WorldStrides works with over 50,000 educators each year to help more than 550,000 students see the world—and themselves—in new ways.



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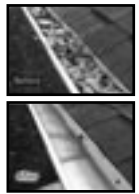
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CLARK'S NEW BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR



Photo by Clark Township

(above) Jim Ulrich has been named Clark Township's Business Administrator.

Clark Township

Jim Ulrich was recently named Clark Township's Business Administrator by Mayor Bonaccorso and the Town Council. A former Clark Councilman, Ulrich brings several decades of financial leadership, business acumen and community engagement to the position.

"Jimmy was on council in my first term. He was an outstanding member of the team, and he chaired the Finance Committee," said Bonaccorso. "Our former BA, John Laezza thought very highly of Jimmy's financial abilities. I think he will be a perfect fit for my administration and our community because he was there 20 years ago when we were building the blocks for the community we have today."

Ulrich has held senior leadership positions in Deutsche Bank, Smith Barney, and RIXML during his career. He also served as a member of the NJ Banking and Insurance Department transition subcommittee.

Locally he has served as a Special Police Force Patrolman, President of the Clark Township Honorary PBA Local #125, Hyatt Hills Golf Commissioner and Finance Chairman and a member of the Clark Township Volunteer Emergency Squad.

In reflecting on his new position, Ulrich says he plans to stay the course that has kept the town fiscally sound. "I am looking forward to working with the mayor and council, continuing on the track that the township has been on and carrying on the progress."

RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



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. Additions 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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- Quenton L.

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CLARK UNICO PEEWEE TEAM

Early spring brought shouts of 'play ball' to the softball fields of Clark. From the youngest to the oldest teams, the season has been filled with fun, learning and friendships. UNICO's peewee team

hit it hard and spent time building some basic skills. UNICO Secretary Fran Parisi and VP Ralph Bernardo treated the team to pizza in celebration of the season.



Photo by Clark Recreation



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CLARK TOWN COUNCIL SAYS NO TO CANNABIS

Clark Township

Recently the Clark Town Council unanimously passed an ordinance prohibiting the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, warehousing and retail or wholesale selling of cannabis in the township.

Mayor Bonaccorso was in favor of the vote and strongly urged the Council at a meeting earlier this year to consider the ban. The Mayor and Council expressed concern that there are too many uncertainties surrounding New Jersey’s governance of the industry at this time.

“The state of New Jersey has only just appointed a commission to oversee how this process will work in the state,” said Bonaccorso. “If we say yes to cannabis in Clark, we don’t really know what we are saying yes to, there are no rules established yet.”

Many other local towns also said no to cannabis recently. Westfield, Cranford, Garwood and Kenilworth are among Clark’s neighbors that have established similar legislation to ban cannabis. Mayor Bonaccorso sees this as a sign of how unsettled many mayors and council members are with the uncertainty of New Jersey’s direction.

“I am not arguing whether cannabis is good or bad and whether we should have legalized it as a state or not,” said Bonaccorso. “What I am clearly saying is we need to not be a guinea pig for the state while they figure out how to run this whole operation.”

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CLARK RECREATION PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Clark Recreation Pickleball Tournament was a huge success. Tournament organizers recently presented a \$2,500 donation to Clark UNICO.



(above, l-r) Ralph Bernardo, John and Susy Silvestri, and Clark UNICO President Joseph Arancio. Photo by Clark Recreation

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Yosh Burger - sautéed onion, mushrooms, and cheddar cheese	\$14.95
Jenna's Jersey Burger - Taylor ham, Bacon, American Cheese, fried onions, lettuce, and tomato	\$14.95
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Arthur L. Johnson Class of 2021



Steve Julian
Acosta

Continued on page 14



Kyle J. Adorno



Allie Rosina
Andre



Joseph E. Apisa



Tyler Ashley



Andres Barraza



John Paul
Baumgartner, Jr.



Matthew J.
Bellucci



Matthew C. Bill



Sandy S. Botros



Kayla Victoria
Bowen



Kelsey Brennan



Omar Brito



Rachel Anna
Burkhard



Devyn Claire
Calas



Gianna Marie
Caldiero



Briahna E.
Castano



Brandon James
Castro



Ashley Brooke
Cheety



Marissa
Chicarielli



Ethan David
Clee



Andrea
Coarite-Velasquez



Gia Marie
Colicchio



Casey R. Conti



Anthony Michael
Costa, Jr.



Brandon Costa



João Lucas
Salles Couto



Julián Marino
De La Cruz



Ava DeLima



Joseph Gerardo Pio
De Cristofaro



Michael Thomas
DeGregorio



Kaylee
Elizabeth Dente



Jessica Anna
Derevjanik

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ARTHUR L. JOHNSON CLASS OF 2021

Continued from page 13 - Continued on page 15



John Power
DeSantis



Kevin William
Dews



Michael Henry
Dews



Alyssa M. Diaz



Tyler T.
DiPuma



Jordan Joseph
Downey



Ryan J. Druhot



Kacper Dudzik



Connor James
Durkin



Lauren
Christine
England



Hannah
Elizabeth
Englese



Richard G.
Eubanks



Richard G.
Eubanks



Emily Rose
Evers



Erika Facchini



Joan Marie
Fagan



Miah Simone
Faustino



Anthony D.
Ferreira



Giuliana
Fischetti



Thomas
Edward
Flanagan II



Lauren Amanda
Fogle



Jaclyn
Anneliese
Franke



Christian
Alexander Fung



Olivia D. Furci



Marc Galati



Krissely Garcia



Chelsea Noel
Gentile



Ronald Edward
Gentile



Elizabeth Mary
Gondek



Rai-Mirash
Goodman



Alyssa Marie
Grandal



Amanda Brielle
Grasso



Joseph
Christopher
Greenbush



Gianna
Guevara



Erin Elizabeth
Hak



Emily Hartzler



Matthew Jacob
Hartzler,
Salutatorian



Bianca
Hernandez



Sara Elizabeth
Hilton



Joseph Philip
Hovick,
Valedictorian



Victoria Tina
Hrinda



Nicholas Stefan
Jacewicz



Julia Z.
Jaskiewicz



Miles Luke
Jean-Louis



Jake M. Jediny



Michael Jediny



Garret Jones



Griffin
Alexander
Jones

ARTHUR L. JOHNSON CLASS OF 2021

Continued from page 14 - Continued on page 16



*Michael
Karnaugh*



*Jaxx S.
Katsaros*



*Zachary Lewis
Katz*



*Chelsea Faith
Kessock*



Justin Knierim



*Haley Marie
Knorowski*



*Peter Andrew
Knutson*



*Athanasios
Kofos*



*Martha A.
Kolfenbach*



*Nathaniel John
Kolibas*



*Michelle
Angela Kukan*



*Meagan
Michelle
Lambert*



*Benjamin Peter
Laucik*



*Aidan Quinlan
Laughery*



*Gabriel Robert
Law*



Richard Ledden



*Taher
Lokhandwala*



*Gregory O.
Lordi*



James Lordi



*Eliza Marie G.
Louro*



*Francesca
Luongo*



*Craig Joseph
Manning*



*(above)
Courtney Leigh
Marano*



*Justin Nicholas
Marrugo*



*Sofia Alexandra
Martins*



*Andrew
Giovanni Matos*



*Gabriella
Matos*



*Daniel J.
McCaffery, Jr.*



*Brandon
Medina*



*Amanda Emma
Messina*



Shelby Meyers



*Veronica
Mierzejewski*



*Anthony
Matthew
Migliaro*



Caitlyn Miller



*Gabriela Cloe
Mintz*



*Nicholas
Anthony
Mitchell*



*Shane T.
Morgan*



*Anthony J.
Morreale*



*Kyrollos A.
Nakhla*



*Christopher
Joseph Niro*



*Robert John
Nugent*



Paul Michael



*Vincent Louis
Papa*



*Anthony J.
Pavese*



*Anthony J.
Pavese*



Alyssa Pedalino



*Olivia Rose
Pedicine*



Juliana Pellino

ARTHUR L. JOHNSON CLASS OF 2021

Continued from page 15



Jacqueline
Michelle
Petronella



Emmalie Pikula



Zachery Jacob
Pikula



Isabella Alexa
Pimenta



Ethan Ponce



Andrew
Matthew Popp



Augustine Rey
Puentes



Nicole
Pyszynski



Kylie Rose
Rafferty



Julia Redyk



Gabriele
Rizzuto



Hailey A.
Rodrigues



Sergio
Rodrigues



Sophia
Rodrigues



Julian M.
Rodriguez



Julianna
Romano



Richard Daniel
Sabarese



Emily E.
Sachkowsky



Joseph Eugene
Salerno



Katherine E.
Sapia



Aimée Marie
Sassé



William John
Sassé



Tyler J.
Schlauberg



Amanda Nicole
Silva



Michael
Anthony Simitz



Brandon
Carneiro
Simoes



Sandra Lee
Simonauskas



Daniel R. Sirc



Adrian D. Skiba



Michael
Domenic
Smeraglia



Ashley
Squillace



Emily Rose
Stawinski



Dakota Svec



Oliwia Szostek



Jason Szymczak



Carly Olivia
Tarentino



Ethan Thomas
Taylor



Tara Grace
Telesco



Raymond Gavin
Torres



Khadijah Tosun



Zeke Tosun



Nicholas George
Vargas



Lauren Jenna
Veltre



Victoria Rose
Venezio



Andre Jack
Warszawa



Michael Alexander
Wichur



Megan Jane
Zennario



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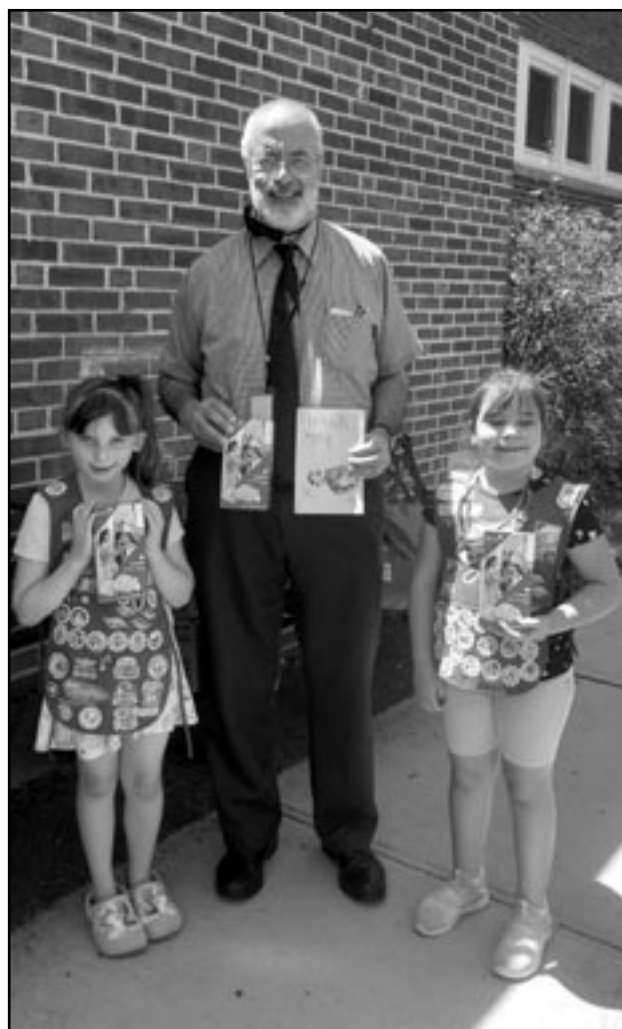
DAISY TROOP 41108 BRIDGES TO BROWNIES

Garwood Girl Scout Troop 41108 has officially bridged from Daisy's to Brownies during a ceremony held on June 19th. The girls have earned all their petals, and most, if not all, of their Daisy patches, and 3 Journey awards. "To say I am proud of these girls is an understatement, most of their Daisy patches were earned throughout 1uarantine." Troop Leader, Vanessa said.

As one final Daisy giveback, the girls donated over \$400 worth of cookies to the Garwood Police Department, Garwood Fire Department, and Garwood's favorite postal worker, Xavier Carpio, but most importantly, they donated cookies to their schools.

Girl Scout Troop 41108 is a Garwood based Troop who welcomed 5 girls from Clark when their Troop disbanded. As an end of year gift for their teachers, the Garwood girls donated cookies to Garwood Lincoln School and the Clark girls donated cookies to Valley Road Elementary School. As Troop leaders, we are proud of the choices these girls make and look forward to watching them grow.

We thank you, the community, for your continued support.



(above) Olive Lykin, Principal Joe Beltramba, and Abigail Lonseth pose with donated cookies. Valley Road first graders Abigail Lonseth and Olive Lykin of Girl Scout Troop #41108 donated girl scout cookies to the staff at Valley Road School as a way to say thank you for their hard work this year. The girls wanted to do something to honor the Valley Road staff who had worked so hard to make sure students had a successful year, and delicious Girl Scout Cookies seemed like the perfect thank you.

BACKPACKS FOR LIFE FIFTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

On September 20, 2021, Backpacks For Life will be hosting their Fifth Annual Golf Outing in Wayne, NJ. The golf outing is one of Backpacks For Life's tentpole fundraiser events that occurs annually in an effort to spread awareness about veteran homelessness and their mission to serve the veteran community. Last year's event was cancelled after a handful of rescheduling attempts due to COVID-19. The outing is presented by the founding sponsors of the event, three local New Jersey businesses, Biltmore Tuxedos, Sal Lauretta for Men and DSM.

"While it was a disappointment to cancel the event last year, we knew it was the right call. This year, we're excited to get back out there, bring the community together and have a great day in support of the veterans we serve. Our event has a lot to offer so whether someone is a golfer or not, they can participate in some capacity," said Sgt.

Brett D'Alessandro, President, Backpacks For Life.

The outing will be held at one of New Jersey's premiere golf courses, North Jersey Country Club located in Wayne, NJ. The event kicks off with the veteran owned business brunch featuring a variety of local veteran owned businesses including The Mobile Cigar Lounge, Backward Flag Brewing and Black 6 Coffee. The event continues with a round of 18 holes as well as on course activities.

"Each year we try to bring something new and exciting from within our veteran community for others to experience. With the veteran owned business brunch and our cocktail reception, we're able to highlight incredible veteran owned small businesses and help them after what was a challenging year for all. It's an honor to share the stories of successful veteran entrepreneurs," said

Alexa Modero, Executive Director, Backpacks For Life.

The evening concludes with a cocktail hour reception sponsored by Bond Street Mortgage. This portion of the event is open to the public, golfers and nongolfers alike. The reception features food and beverage, a silent auction and guest speaker, US Navy SEAL veteran, Anthony Page.

For all event details, tickets and registration, visit backpacksforlife.org/golf.

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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(above) Joe Arancio is sworn in as President by UNICO National President Dr. Frank DeFrank.

CLARK UNICO ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER

Clark UNICO held its Annual Installation dinner which included some special honors to members of the chapter and the presentation of six scholarships and the Brian Piccolo Award to graduating Clark high school seniors.

Chapter President Joe Arancio was sworn in for a new term by National President Dr. Frank DeFrank. The remainder of the Clark UNICO board was sworn in by National VP Steve Polanero.

A special honor went to UNICO member

Henry Varriano when the long-time resident was chosen to receive a lifetime achievement award.

This year’s Brian Piccolo Award winners were Joe Greenbush and Lauren Veltre. The award is for outstanding accomplishments and achievements in any sport at the high school level during any or all four (4) years of high school.

For more information about Clark Unico visit clarkunico.com. New members are always welcome.

Photos by Clark UNICO



(above, l-r) Longtime Clark UNICO member Henry Varriano receives a lifetime achievement award from President Joe Arancio, VP Ralph Bernardo and Treasurer Henry Trani.



(above, left) Lauren Veltre receives Brian Piccolo award from President Joe Arancio. (above, right) Joe Greenbush receives Brian Piccolo award.



(above) Scholarship recipients received \$1,000 each.



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(above) Clark Board is sworn in by National VP Steve Polanero.

CLARK RECREATION SUMMER CAMP

Clark Township

Clark Recreation's Summer Day Camp opened on Tuesday, July 6 welcoming 750 campers. Director, Ralph Bernardo had 150 counselors on hand to guide children through a day of fun-filled activities including arts and crafts, physical exercise, inflatable obstacles, a carousel and even a planetarium.

"We are so happy to be able to open our doors

for summer camp this year," said Bernardo. "The kids are going to have a great time, we have so many exciting things planned for them."

Camp runs Monday through Thursday until noon and is open to all Clark residents.

For more information about this program or any recreational activity contact rbernardo@ourclark.com.

Photos by Clark Township



YMCA SWIM TEAM TRYOUT DATES

The Gateway Family YMCA has announced upcoming tryouts for the 2021-2022 Fall/Winter Rapids Swim Team, scheduled for Tuesday, August 24 and Wednesday, August 25, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at The Gateway Family YMCA – Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, NJ. Swimmers, ages 6 – 18 are invited to visit the YMCA to tryout for the Rapids Swim Team, no registration is necessary.

"YMCA competitive swimming and diving teams are the natural progression from Safety Around Water and Y Swim Lessons, encouraging children and teens to continue their love of swimming while providing an ideal environment for cognitive, physical and social-emotional development," said Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "Through competitive aquatics programs, participants experience achievement, feel a sense of belonging and build supportive relationships, which is especially important at this time."

Registration for the 2021-2022 Fall/Winter Rapids Swim Team will begin on Tuesday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m. online at tgfymca.org.

"Our team is a year-round competitive swim team offering quality coaching and technique instruction. The goal of the team is to provide every member an opportunity to improve swimming skills and achieve success at their individual level of ability," added Melynda A. Mileski, EVP, Chief Operating Officer, The Gateway Family YMCA.

The competitive swim season typically runs from September through March, with dual meets starting in October and Championship meets starting in February. The Rapids swim team competes against other YMCA's in the league. Swim meets are held at The Gateway Family YMCA - Rahway Branch or at the site of the competing YMCA.

As a leading nonprofit committed to youth development, the Y has been a leader in providing swim lessons, teaching water safety and inspiring competitive swimmers. The Gateway Family YMCA continues to help youth and adults experience the joy and benefits of swimming, so they can be healthy, confident and secure in the water. There are a variety of programs to choose from, including swim lessons for all ages, starting with parent/child lessons through adult, water exercise, family swim, and competitive swimming. To ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate, financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA's Swim Team programs, please visit tgfymca.org or contact the Rahway Branch 732-388-0057.



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CLARK YOUTH LACROSSE HAD A FUN AND SUCCESSFUL SPRING SEASON

Submitted by Gus Kalikas, ALJ Athletic Dir.

Clark Youth Lacrosse (CYL) recently completed their 2021 season and it was a huge success. This Spring 2021 season Clark Youth Lacrosse had multiple levels competing in the NJJLL. Instructional Level through 7th Grade all competed and had wonderful seasons.

Since its inception, the program has grown and matured significantly and now affords the

children of Clark an opportunity to participate in youth lacrosse at all levels. Grades 3-7 all played over 20 games and each level finished with a winning record throughout the season.

All levels dedicated themselves to Clark Youth Lacrosse for the last three months giving up their evenings three to four times each week in order to make the community of Clark proud. Above all the wins and losses was the

camaraderie formed amongst teammates and the values of hard work and sportsmanship that were taught throughout the season.

For those interested in playing lacrosse, we will be opening up registration for our Muskrat Fall Lacrosse League soon. Make sure to sign up and reserve your spot so you can be a part of our next CYL season.

Photos by Clark Public Schools



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TWO TOWNS ONE GOAL: A TALE OF STREET HOCKEY

Clark Township

The Clark Recreation Department teamed up with Scotch Plains to hold a street hockey clinic on Saturday, June 19 at Clark's Hockey Rink. Boys and girls from kindergarten through the 5th grade gathered at the hockey rink behind Hehnlly School for a day of fun.

Rick Sacchetti, head coach of the Cranford Hockey Club, ran the clinic along with assistance from players of the Cranford Hockey Association. Retired Devils player Bryce Salvador joined in on the fun and gave some professional instruction to the group. To round out the day's fun, the NJ Devils mascot jumped in too.

Clark's Recreation Director, Ralph Bernardo spoke about the day. "The kids had a great time, and we are hoping to be able to repeat this program in the fall."

For more information about this program or any recreational activity contact rbernardo@ourclark.com.



(above) Clark Recreation Department teamed up with Scotch Plains to hold a street hockey clinic on Saturday, June 19 at Clark's Hockey Rink.

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2021 SENIOR ATHLETIC AWARDS

Submitted by Gus Kalikas

The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department held their 2021 Senior Athletic Awards ceremony on June 15th. The evening, sponsored by the Crusader Athletic Booster Club, was held at the Gran Centurions in Clark.

All the Senior Student Athletes, their Athletic Teams, and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while handing out plaques and awards to the student athletes. Over 100 senior athletes were handed out a “Booster Club Achievement Plaque,” which signifies all of the sports programs that the senior athlete participated in throughout his or her high school career.

The program continued with the acknowledgements of all of the student athletes that will be continuing their academic and athletic careers playing the sports they love in College. The following Arthur L. Johnson High School Seniors will continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level:

- Kyle Adorno (Baseball – Kean University)
- Rachel Burkard (Soccer – TCNJ)
- Devyn Calas (Field Hockey – Moravian College –)
- Brandon Costa (Soccer – Rutgers Newark)
- Jordan Downey (Wrestling – Ursinus College)
- Anthony Ferreira (Lacrosse – Stockton University)
- Griffin Jones (Football – Norwich University)
- Michele Kukan (Field Hockey – Ramapo College)
- Aiden Laughery (Basketball – Pennsylvania Tech)
- Vincent Papa (Football – FDU)
- Augustine Puentes (Soccer & Basketball – Drew U.)
- William Sasse (Baseball – Middlesex County)
- Carly Tarentino (Track & Field – Univ. of Virginia)

The evening culminated with the announcement of multiple awards and scholarships.

The Richard Superak Field Hockey, Basketball, & Lacrosse Scholarships are presented to senior field hockey players each year. This year the Superak family expanded the scholarship to include a basketball and a lacrosse player as well. Richard Superak became a fan of Johnson Crusader Field Hockey when his granddaughter, Morgan Atanasio, began playing in the fall of 2006. After winning both a County title and a State Sectional championship while she was in high school, Morgan went on to have an illustrious career at Hobart William Smith College. Morgan attributes much of her success in college to the discipline she acquired during her time as a student-athlete at ALJ. Many of Morgan’s teammates also had stellar college field hockey careers. Richard Superak remained a fan of Johnson Field Hockey, becoming a fixture in the JFH Family. This year, the family continues a scholarship foundation in his name that will assist in the collegiate efforts of former Crusader Field Hockey, Basketball and Lacrosse players. The 4th Annual Richard Superak Scholarships are awarded to: Gianna Caldiero (Field Hockey), Courtney Marano (Field Hockey), Brandon Castro (Basketball), and Anthony Ferreira (Lacrosse).

The Jeffrey Felter / Michael Sot Memorial Scholarship Presentation is given to one senior

baseball player each year. Its origin began a few years ago as the baseball team, led by Coach Dave Kennedy, honored our 1974 alumni with a 40th Year Anniversary of the 1974 State Sectional Championship Baseball Team. That day was highlighted by the announcement that our alumni would be donating a scholarship in honor of one of their classmates that had passed away. This has expanded this past year in order to also honor Michael Sot along with their friend. The 6th Annual Jeffrey Felter Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Daniel McCaffery.

The Louis Peragallo Memorial Scholarship was also awarded. Louis Peragallo was a beloved figure throughout the township of Clark and was an admired athletic administrator within the entire State of New Jersey. Coach Peragallo was the longest tenured Athletic Director in the history of Arthur L. Johnson High School and has both a street leading to our turf field and our lower gymnasium named after him due to the impact he had on anyone who ever crossed paths with him. His memory continues to live on through the scholarships that bear his name. The 2nd Annual Louis Peragallo Scholarship was awarded to Michelle Kukan and Greg Lordi.

Executive Director of The UCIAC and Clark School District Board of Education member, Mr. Tom Lewis, annually presents multiple U.C.I.A.C. Scholarships to deserving senior student athletes. Throughout the year, Arthur L. Johnson High School partners with the Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference to host many Union County Tournament games and Championships. This partnership allows us to showcase our wonderful facilities, but more importantly it affords us the ability to present several scholarships to deserving senior student athletes at our yearly banquet. The UCIAC Scholarship recipients are Gia Colicchio, Kayla Bowen, Jordan Downey and James Lordi.

Booster Club President, Mr. Jimmy Minniti,

next presented the ALJ Booster Club Outstanding Athlete Awards and Book Scholarships.

The recipients for the Outstanding Athlete Awards were: (Female Athlete) Carly Tarentino and (Male Athlete) Joseph Greenbush.

The recipients for the Book Scholarship were: (Female Athlete) Gia Colicchio and (Male Athlete) Matthew Zukowski.

The Thomas Santaguida Sportsmanship Scholarship was also awarded by the Booster Club. The Booster Club recognizes Tom Santaguida for all his efforts and professionalism while serving as the Athletic Director at ALJ for six years. Tom was a model of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity and an example for all of us to follow. In his memory the ALJ Booster Club annually awards scholarships to students who exhibit the qualities that Tom was so well known for. The recipients always treated teammates with respect, they won and lost with dignity, they respected the judgment of officials, and accepted seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing Arthur L. Johnson and the communities of Clark and Garwood. The recipients for the Thomas Santaguida Sportsmanship Scholarship were: (Female Athlete) Gianna Caldiero and (Male Athlete) Steven Acosta.

The Athletic Director, Gus Kalikas, had this to say about the event: “The Senior Athletic Awards are a wonderful event that allowed the administration, teachers, coaches, parents, and student athletes a chance to reflect on a wonderful four years competing as an Arthur L. Johnson High School Crusader while honoring our senior student athletes for their remarkable accomplishments. Although the contributions from this senior class were great and will be missed, we look forward to seeing what they can accomplish in college over the next four years.”



(above, l-r) Recipients of the U.C.I.A.C. Scholarships Jordan Downey, Kayla Bowen, Gia Colicchio, James Lordi, Tino Puentes, Daniel McCaffery and Executive Director of the UCIAC Mr. Tom Lewis.

Photos by Clark Public Schools

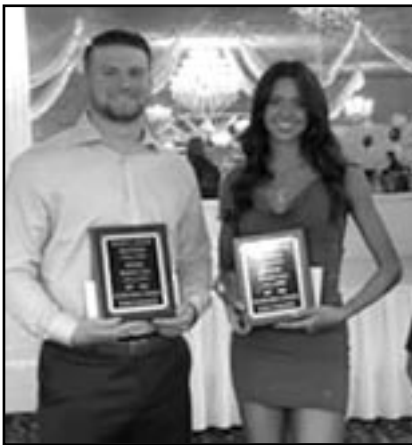
2021 SENIOR ATHLETIC AWARDS



(above, l-r) Recipients of the Richard Superak Scholarships, Brandon Castro, Anthony Ferreira, Courtney Marano and Gianna Caldiero.



(above, l-r) Recipients of the Booster Club Book Scholarship, Matthew Zukowski, Gia Colicchio, and Booster Club President Jimmy Minniti.



(above, l-r) Outstanding Athlete Award Joseph Greenbush, Carly Tarentino



(above, l-r) Recipients of the Jeffrey Felter/ Michael Sot Memorial Scholarship, George Wolansky, Daniel McCaffery (Baseball), Scott Fritz and Jimmy Minneti.



(above, l-r) Recipients of the Thomas Santaguida Sportsmanship Scholarship Gianna Caldiero (Field Hockey), Steven Acosta (Wrestling).



(above, r-r) Recipients of the Louis Peragallo Memorial Scholarship Greg Lordi with Ron Peragallo, Not pictured: Michelle Kukan.



(above) Recipient of the Outstanding Contributions to Crusader Athletic Award, Robert Smorol.

Photos by Clark Public Schools

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP – AUGUST 17

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness?

NAMI Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness.

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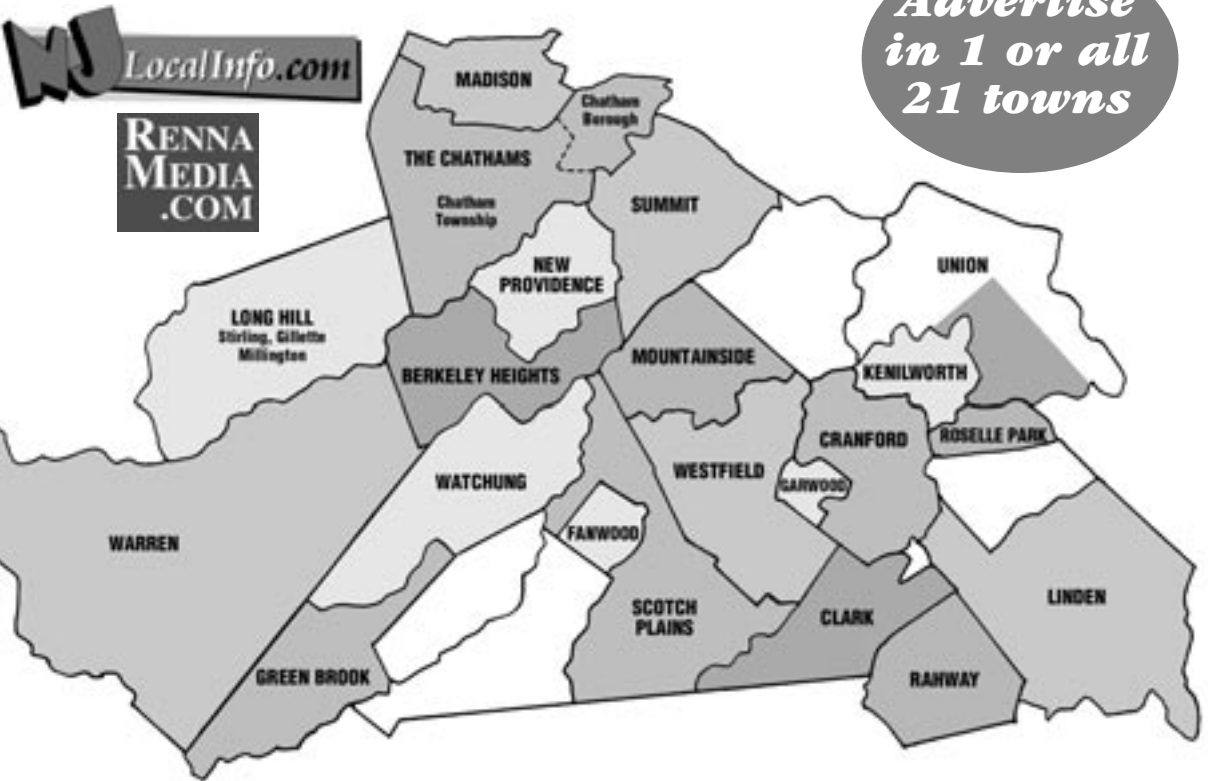
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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30 am - 9:00 pm • Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm • Sunday: Closed

Tails & Tales

until August 31

It is time for our annual Summer Reading Program! All ages are encouraged to participate! Registration is open now. Register using the free Beanstack Tracker App (available in the App Store or Google Play) or online at clarklibrary.beanstack.org. Tickets are earned in various ways in each program and then entered into drawings for a variety of prizes! All ages can keep reading and submitting tickets through Beanstack until August 31.

Babies and Preschool

Earn points for every book listened to or read and for attending programs virtually or in person. The more points you earn, the more raffle tickets you receive!

Entering Elementary

Keep track of the time you spend reading or listening to books and attend library programs virtually or in person to earn raffle tickets! Every hour reading/listening earns a ticket.

Teens

Earn 1 raffle ticket for every book or graphic novel you read, every audiobook you listen to, and every teen program you attend! Write 3 book reviews and you'll earn a 3D printed item.

Adults

Earn 1 raffle ticket for every book you read, every audiobook you listen to, and every adult/family program you attend!

We will be having some outdoor, virtual, and hybrid events this month. Please register for any programs by emailing reference@clarklibrary.org and state which program you would like to attend, or through the online calendar on our website at clarklibrary.org.

TEEN TAILS & TALES

Animal Collage

Monday, August 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us in person and get creative as we create animal collage. Priority registration for teens with a library card (any library in Union County). Open to teens in Grades 6-12.

[Hybrid] Baby Bookworms

Tuesdays, August 3 and 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Baby Bookworms is in person or via Zoom! Babies and toddlers are invited to hear some books, and learn some songs, rhymes, lap bounces, and fingerplays! Please register to get the Zoom link to attend and/or instructions on where to meet. The event will be held in the high school courtyard, weather permitting.

[Hybrid] Crafternoon

Tuesdays, August 3 and 10 at 3:30 p.m.

Each session we will have a new craft project for elementary aged children. You may attend in person or virtually. If virtual, you may pick up the materials for the craft the week before and then join us via Zoom to make it together! Please register to be contacted for the supply list and for the Zoom login information.

*Priority registration for Clark residents.

[Virtual] Pet Show for Kids

Wednesday, August 4 at 3:30 p.m.

It is time for your pet to shine! Whether your pet is real, stuffed, or one that you made at one of our other programs this summer, we would like to see it! Everyone will get a chance to tell us about their special pets and show them off!

[Virtual] Pajama Time

Wednesday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in your pjs for an evening storytime session for the family on Zoom. Please register to get the Zoom link.

Tails & Tales Animal Plaque Painting

Thursday, August 5 at 10:00 a.m.

or Tuesday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m.

or Monday, August 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Join us outdoors to share a favorite animal book and then paint your own wooden animal plaque! In the event of rain, we will meet in the Ayers Room. Please register and sign up for your animal selection on our web calendar.

Lego Club

Thursday, August 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Join us for the LEGO® Club at the Clark Public Library! Create your own LEGO® structures. LEGO® are provided by the library. Creations are displayed in the Children's Area. For children in grades K - 5.

[Virtual] Adult Coloring Club

Friday, August 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Coloring is a great way to unwind and relieve some stress! Pick up coloring sheets and crayons at the library or use your own and meet up on Zoom for some soothing music and relaxation.

[Virtual Teen Tails & Tales] 3D Printer Program: Sharks!

Monday, August 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us over Zoom as we show you the basics of our 3D printer. We will go over how we print our Flexi Shark models and how to request a 3D print item from the library. Open to teens in Grades 6-12.

[Hybrid] Shark Week for Kids

Monday, August 9 at 3 p.m.

Play shark trivia, shark Bingo, and make a shark craft to celebrate Shark Week virtually or in person! A device is needed for trivia. A limited amount of devices will be available for children attending in person. All children may play bingo, but trivia is best suited for children who can read. The faster you answer, the more points you earn. Prizes will be awarded for Bingo and trivia.

Petting Zoo

Wednesday, August 11 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Join us to celebrate Tails & Tales by visiting the library for a special Petting Zoo with live animals! Animals that we are expecting are rabbits, chickens, ducks, calf, pony, alpaca, goats, and sheep! Hand sanitizer will be available.

[Virtual] Adult Coloring Club

Friday, August 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Coloring is a great way to unwind and relieve some stress! Pick up coloring sheets and crayons at the library or use your own and meet up on Zoom for some soothing music.

[Adult Craft] Fluid Art Coasters

Wednesday, August 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we make fluid art coasters. Fluid art uses acrylic paints with a runny (fluid) consistency to create beautiful abstract designs. A library card is required to register for this program (any library in Union County) and Clark card holders will have priority.

Finger Painting Friday

Friday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m.

No childhood is complete without some good, old-fashioned, messy finger painting. We will read a story and then make some squishy, colorful creations. Wear some old clothes! To be held outside, but will be downstairs in Ayers Room in the event of rain.

Boredom Buster for Kids

Each month we have a new take home craft for kids to pick up and make at their leisure. This month is a patriotic craft. While supplies last, no registration. Available beginning July 1.

Adult DIY Craft

Beginning August 2nd

Our August Adult DIY Craft is wood wind chimes The take-out kit will include an unfinished wind chime, acrylic paint, and instructions so you can make it at home without a group Zoom class. Please reserve a kit beginning August 2 by calling 732-388-5999 or email reference@clarklibrary.org. A library card is required to register for this program (any library in Union County) and Clark card holders will have priority.

[Virtual] Read to Sophie by Appointment

Sophie the therapy dog is available to listen to your child practice reading via Zoom! She has very flexible availability. Please email ReadToSophie@gmail.com to make an appointment.

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Visit our facebook page for news of next tasting event:
facebook.com/metrolinden

“Cold or warm Beer = Same Price”
“Visit the store for more In-Store Specials!”

ABC prices prevail other prices, limited to store inventory.
Not responsible for typographical errors.
Prices valid till August 31, 2021.