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SILVER LIMING SPREADS KINDNESS TO GL GRADUATES

Submitted by Julie Lloyd

Silver Lining Foundation, a local non-profit with a mission to spread kindness, recently turned its attention to our Governor Livingston (GL) High School Seniors. They were having a tough time as COVID regulations limited sports, band, classes, and everything that makes for a “normal” year. With permission from the school district, Silver Lining Foundation members bestowed a unique gift upon each of these resilient seniors: Every graduate of the GL Class of 2021 received a custom-made, personalized t-shirt with their name on the back. The seniors were excited to wear their new shirts at Project Graduation.

In addition, Silver Lining again awarded its annual \$500 scholarship to a Governor Livingston High Senior who exudes kindness without seeking accolades. Athena Nguyen has received the 2021 Silver Lining Making a Difference Scholarship. She was nominated by six staff members at GL because she consistently helps others, is kind to everyone, and does it all with a smile.

When given the award, Athena said, “I promise I will keep being kind.” She inquired if she earned the award because she was deaf, and was pleased to learn that the award was solely based on her kindness.

Athena was president of two clubs, GL Deaf Highlander Club and the American Sign Language Club. Facing challenges in the classroom as a deaf student, Athena focused on her interpreters in mainstream classes. This was strenuous on her eyes, but instead of complaining, she encouraged her peers to endure the challenges of being deaf students. Athena was also involved in a concert band and played percussion for three years. She’ll attend Bergen Community College in the fall.

Silver Lining members are looking forward to awarding next year’s scholarship recipient as well as continuing to improve the lives of the people in our community through a year-round program of kind gestures. Kind gestures may be as simple as ordering coffee for a volunteer EMT, raking leaves for an elderly friend, or providing meals to a family while they are caring for a sick relative.

Learn more about Silver Lining on Facebook at Silver Lining, Instagram @thesilverliming, or silverliming.org. Make a donation through Venmo@Silver-Liming.



(right) Governor Livingston High School Seniors enjoyed t-shirts given to them by the Silver Lining Foundation at Project Graduation.

(above) Athena Nguyen was awarded the 2021 Silver Lining Making a Difference Scholarship.

Photos by Berkeley Heights Public Schools

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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: editor@rennamedia.com

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Mountainside Police Department

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of retired Sergeant Walter Betyeman. Walter proudly served his nation as a sailor aboard the USS Forestal. Upon his return to New Jersey in 1960 he became a Borough police officer where he would be involved in many successful investigations as an active detective. During his career he participated in numerous professional associations including the Union County 200 Club and eventually retired in 1986. We thank Sergeant Betyeman for his service to the nation and the Borough of Mountainside. His obituary can be found here:

burroughsfh.com/obituary/Walter-Betyeman
Follow Mountainside Police Department on Facebook

“TRANSIT TO TRAILS” APP OFFERS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS TO PARKS

NJ Transit recently launched its “Transit to Trails” initiative, an interactive and user-friendly web application that easily identifies great parks and green spaces in New Jersey that are accessible by public transportation.

The "Transit to Trails" website, found at njtransit.com/trails, has links to NJ Transit service details and park information for 62 national, state and county parks throughout New Jersey. Results will feature bus, rail and light rail options within two miles of the desired park throughout all 21 New Jersey counties.

While using NJ Transit’s “Transit to Trails” map, users will be able to search for their prospective destinations by park name or view a virtual map of the state with different park locations. Each destination has clickable access points comprised of park entranceways, parking lots or meeting areas. Service options for each of these individual areas, managing agency information and directions will be accessible from a pop up that appears at each access point.

The ease and convenience of being able to efficiently plan for leisurely visits to outdoor recreation and community destinations encourages residents and visitors to utilize available public transportation as opposed to their

personal vehicles when planning a trip. NJ Transit’s “Transit to Trails” application planning tool will help decrease road congestion, help the environment and ensure equitable access to New Jersey’s parks for those who depend on public transportation for all their travel needs.

For more information on NJ Transit to Trails please visit njtransit.com/trails.

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?

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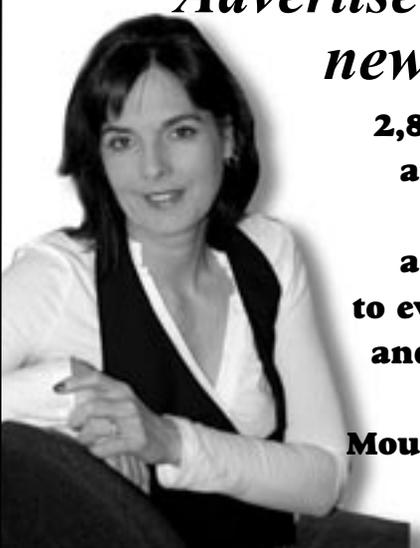
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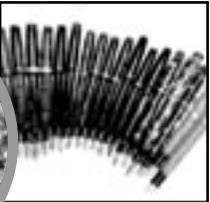
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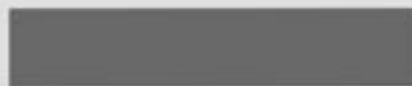
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MOUNTAINSIDE GREEN MACHINE CAPTURES 12U DISTRICT TITLE

Submitted by Andrew Adornato

The Mountainside Green Machine went a perfect 6-0 and captured the Cal Ripken District 12u title on Saturday, June 26.

The Green Machine, which consists of kids from both Mountainside and Berkeley Heights, dominated the competition as they scored 68 runs and gave up 11 in 6 games. Mountainside defeated Millburn, Westfield, Chatham and South Orange-Maplewood in pool play. They then went on to the semi-finals to defeat Summit by a score of 12 to 5. They took down the championship by beating Cranford 11 to 1 in the finals. The offense was propelled by Jackson "Drago" Crimaldi and Michael Basile as they each hit 3 home runs and drove in 25 RBI with Michael leading the team with 15 and Jackson with 9. Speedy Reid Bazydlo led the team with an impressive team high 17 stolen bases and hit .500 for the tourney. Owen Keough and Addison Adornato also stole a combined 16 bases and hit .400 for the tournament, while also playing stellar defense. As a team, the Green Machine hit and amazing .427 for the tournament.

In the semi-final game against Summit, Mountainside got off to a slow start, making a few errors and found themselves in a hole, 4-0 after 3 innings. In the bottom of the 3rd innings, Owen Keough, Tyler Kanarek and Ryan Lamera took control of the offense with 3 doubles off the fence to get the offense going. Mateo Liloia and Reid Bazydlo pitched against Summit and gave up 0 earned runs as they each threw 3 innings each. Mountainside then poured on 10 runs in the inning and never looked back. Lamera and Kanarek hit .333 for the tourney and scored 10 runs and played solid defense in the outfield. Michael Donahue, Tyce Hanratty, and Jack Samuelson all had multiple hits and provided solid defense when called upon throughout the tournament.

Along with averaging over 11 runs a game, pitching, catching, and defense were the keys to victory. Michael Basile was the anchor for this

team behind the plate, framing strikes, blocking balls when needed, and threw out 6 base runners. The pitching was led by Matthew Filiaci, Reid Bazydlo and Mateo Liloia. They pitched a combined 25 innings without giving up a run. Filiaci pitched 11 innings, including 4 in the finals, striking out 18 and giving up 0 earned runs. Filiaci added 3 key rbi in the finals against

Cranford to help his team to victory. CJ Cantagallo had a huge 2 rbi bunt for base hit in the finals to help lead the offense. Reid Bazydlo pitched 9 innings in the tournament, striking out 14 and did not give up an earned run. Reid also closed out both the semi-final and final game. Mateo Liloia pitched 5 innings, including 3 in the semis, 0 earned runs and striking out 5.



(above) The Mountainside Green Machine went a perfect 6-0 and captured the Cal Ripken District 12u title on Saturday, June 26.

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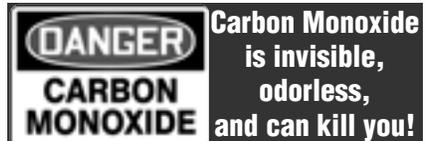
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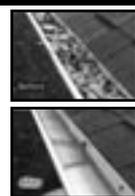
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BACKPACKS FOR LIFE FIFTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

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 Laurretta 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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Support groups are facilitated by trained adult volunteers who attend a three-day training totaling 24 hours, as well as regular continuing education. Volunteers come from all walks of life and no special background is required other than a willingness to listen, a heart inclined to serve, and the ability to be with children and adults in pain without trying to fix, solve or give advice. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers must be 21 years or older. Volunteers serve as companions and loving listeners for those who are grieving.

"In order to continue to grow our English and Spanish speaking programs, we need to constantly train new volunteer facilitators," said Veronica Ortiz, Imagine Program Manager. "Our programs are growing because of the great need in this community, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Over 220 children and adults have been participating in our virtual support groups this year. We are now preparing to launch a new program year that will offer the option of in person or virtual support for English and Spanish speaking groups. Doing these additional trainings will ensure that no child will ever have to wait to get the support they need."

Imagine is offering a training class that will take place virtually from August 27-29. For more information, please contact Imagine Training Manager, Jamie Saltamachia at jamie@imagineinj.org, 908-264-3100.

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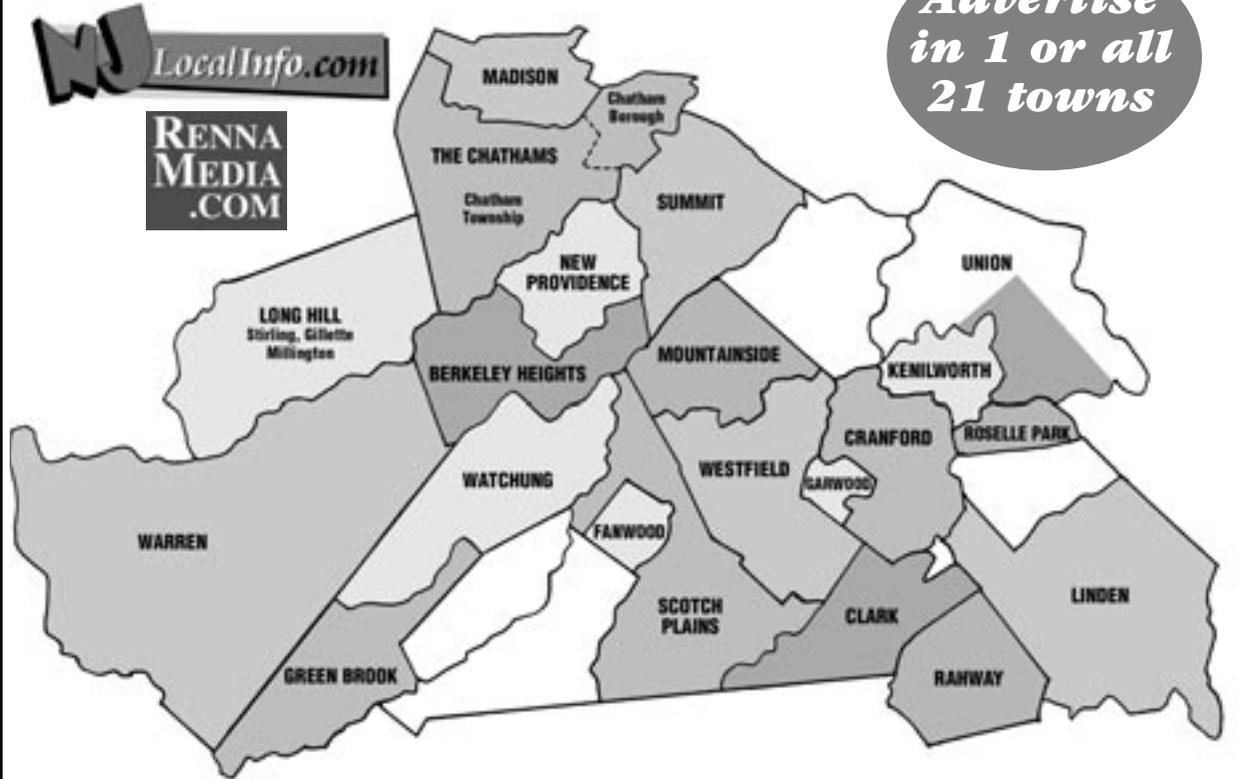
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DR. HART AWARDED SILVER BEAVER AWARD

The Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America bestowed the Silver Beaver Award to Dr. D. Michael Hart during a ceremony held on Saturday, June 19, 2021. This is the highest national award given to a volunteer. The award is "to recognize registered Scouters of exceptional character who have provided distinguished service within a council," as stated by the Boy Scouts of America.

This award is a competitive National award. Each Council is restricted to a limited number of awards per year, based on the number of scouts in the Council. The Patriot's Path Council includes Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey. There are approximately 10,000 scouts in this area including Cub Scouts, Scouts (formerly Boy Scouts), Explorers, Venture Crews, and Sea Scouts. The Council awarded 8 Silver Beaver Awards this year

Michael grew up in Mountainside, graduated from Franklin and Marshall College, then Columbia University School of Dental Medicine in New York City in 1980. Mike is married to his wife Eileen for 45 years. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Mike started his own dental practice in 1984. By the time he retired 33 years later, the dental practice had grown to 4 dentists, 5 hygienists, and 18 employees. Many of the employees stayed with him for decades, indicating that Mike was concerned about his employees' well being and was a responsible, generous, ethical employer. Dr. Hart won numerous dental awards, was published, was a leader in his professional associations, and volunteered at JFK Medical Center Dental Clinic.

As a lad, Michael went through the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and the Medical Explorer Post at Overlook Hospital, in Summit, NJ. He made Eagle Scout in 1964 at the age of 13, the youngest possible age. He became active as an adult leader in Scouts again when his son joined the Cubs. Mike earned the prestigious "Wood Badge" which is considered the Eagle Scout for adults. After his son made Eagle Scout, also at age 13, one of the other fathers died suddenly from a heart attack. Mike mentored the boy every Sunday for 8 months to earn his last 3 merit badges, and do his project, to help him achieve the fathers dying wish of becoming an Eagle Scout.

After retiring from Dentistry in 2017, Mike joined The Flintlocks BSA, Inc. The Flintlocks are a group of retired scouters who work at the Scout camps every Thursday throughout the year.

Mike restarted the Flintlocks Facebook Page, started writing the quarterly newsletter, placed newspaper articles in local papers, and obtained grants from local organizations. One grant from the Westfield Foundation was \$18,000 for the Flintlocks to build the STEM trailer at Allamuchy. Scouts can work on merit badges in STEM topics in this high-tech building - Science, Technology, Computers, Robotics, Video Game Design, Chemistry, etc. Next, Mike was elected Secretary of the Flintlocks in 2019. He has also been active at the Council level, both on committees and volunteering for many events. He was awarded the Council Trailblazer Award in February 2020.

An important part of the Silver Beaver Award is Service to the Community. Mike was president of two different local Rotary Clubs, then Rotary International District Governor in 2006-07, and has been active in service to Rotary for 40 years. Rotary Clubs may be found in almost every town. It is a service club of successful business people who wish to "give back" to the community. He is currently the secretary for the Rotary Club of Westfield, which does projects to feed the hungry, help homeless veterans, plant trees and provide scholarships. Mike is also the District Foundation Chair for the 81 Rotary Clubs in northern New Jersey. Early in the COVID pandemic, he arranged Rotary grants of \$130,000 to buy 10 ventilators and a high-tech hospital bed for 3 hospital systems: Overlook Hospital in Summit; Trinitas in Elizabeth; and Robert Wood Johnson in Somerset. In the spring of 2021, as a retired dentist, but with an active license, Mike personally volunteered to administer the COVID vaccine to many hundreds of patients.

Another aspect of the Silver Beaver Award is Service to Youth Outside of Scouting. Mike served as a mentor to many young people who were considering the profession of dentistry, volunteered as a teacher of dental residents for 35 years at JFK Medical Center Dental Clinic, started a scholarship to honor his father, started a Rotary youth service club - called the Interact Club- at Westfield High School in 1997, and encouraged his employees to improve themselves through advanced continuing education.

Dr. Hart has been a registered member of Scouting for 27 years. In the past 4 years alone, he has volunteered over 1,200 hours to helping the Scouts.

Mike appreciates the values and ethics that the BSA program instills in young people, with the emphasis of service to the community, and good citizenship.



(above) The Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America bestowed the Silver Beaver Award to Dr. D. Michael Hart. This is the highest national award given to a volunteer.



(above, l-r) Patriot's Path Council Chief Scout Executive Marc Andreo, Dr, Hart, and Council President Mark Tallmadge.



(above) Plaque, ribbon with award, and knot to be worn on the uniform

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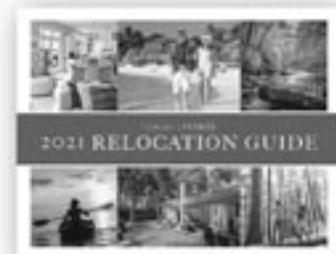
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