# Green Brook Gazette

**MAILED FREE TO EVERY** HOME AND BUSINESS **IN GREEN BROOK, NJ** 

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# **BOY SCOUT TROOP # 129 HELPING NEIGHBORS REBUILD**

Submitted by Laura Cheshire

Green Brook flooded like many of our local towns during Hurricane Ida on September 1. Bright Beginnings Daycare, located at 923 Washington Ave., Green Brook, was right in the heart of the flooding.

As we know many people lost the first floor of their homes to flooding, so did Lisa Riccioni's daycare. Lisa and her staff lost all the kids toys, books and all basic office supplies. They had to gut the entire building and re-sheet rock and start over.

Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129 heard of their need to rebuild and as a small business in town we were happy to help. The troop posted a flyer on social media and asked for toy donations and within a week or two we had a trailer full of toys, crayons, books and more.

On September 20, the Boy Scouts arrived, unloaded, cleaned and helped the daycare staff so they could reopen the doors 3 weeks after their flooding. A few of our high school scouts were welcomed back by Ms. Lisa and Ms. Josephine from 14-16 years ago when they attended the daycare. Lisa was extremely touched and grateful to all those who donated and the kindness of the Boy Scouts.

If anyone is interested in joining the Green Brook Cub Scouts K-5th or Green Brook Boy Scouts 6th grade to 18 yrs, please email: greenbrook129chair@gmail.com

\$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quantity.)

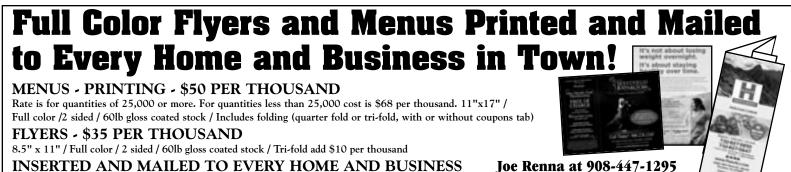


(above) Former student Greg Russo, with owner, Lisa Riccioni.



(above) Brandon Cheshire, Lisa Riccioni, Charlie Ford, Will Cheshire, Greg Russo, Dietrich Reierson, Nicholas Teutsch, Chris Moglia.

Photos by Boy Scout Troop # 129



Ioe Renna at 908-447-1295 email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

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#### **On-line at RennaMedia.com**

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Renna Media welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent via fax or email to:

Renna Media, LLC 202 Walnut Ave. Cranford, NJ 07016 Phone: 908-447-1295 - Fax: 908-709-9209 Email: joerenna@rennamedia.com

# **SEND US YOUR NEWS**

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 **Green Brook Gazette** your news!

Call: 908-858-4012 Fax: 908-709-9209 Email: editor@rennamedia.com

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## WEEKEND JOURNEY AT WASHINGTON ROCK State Park - October 10

As part of Somerset County Annual Weekend Journey 2021, The Green Brook Cultural, Heritage and Historical Preservation Committee along with the Green Brook Historical Society invites you to join us at Washington Rock State Park in Green Brook to hear a lecture by General George Washington, Sam Davis re-enactor on "The Miracles during Washington's life, including the French & Indian War and the American Revolution" on Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. rain or shine. After his lecture he will address questions, and for presentation

As part of Somerset County Annual Weekend purposes he will be in full dress attire. There are no fees or registration. All children and adults are welcome to attend.

If interested in becoming a member or volunteer of the GBCHHP or GBHS please join us every third Thursday of the month at the Green Brook Municipal Building at 111 Greenbrook Road, Green Brook. For more information please send an email to: info@gbhsnj.org.

Tina, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me either by phone 721-887-4393 or via email.



(above) A lecture by General George Washington, Sam Davis re-enactor on "The Miracles during Washington's life, including the French & Indian War and the American Revolution" will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Washington Rock State Park in Green Brook.



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# **DONATION DRIVE GETS AN A+ FOR GENEROSITY**

#### Somerset County

Recently, the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners, the Recycling Division, the county's Sheriff's Office and the Foodbank Network of Somerset County sponsored Project First Class, the annual donation drive to collect school supplies for students of county families who are in-need.

The donations were collected at the Somerset County Administration Building, and the Somerset County First Saturday Drop-off, then delivered to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County where items have been distributed directly to families and students.

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County is a charitable, not-for-profit organization, which receives funding through donations provided by individuals, families, philanthropic organizations, businesses and corporations.

Many area churches and synagogues organize weekly or monthly food drives to collect food for our program. If your faith community or office or civic group is interested in conducting a food drive, please contact the Executive Director for information on organizing one.

Your individual contribution of food or money is greatly appreciated. Monetary donations can be sent to P.O. Box 149, Bound Brook, NJ 08805.

For more info visit somersetfoodbank.org.

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County is incorporated as a charitable, not-for-profit organization. The majority of our food and

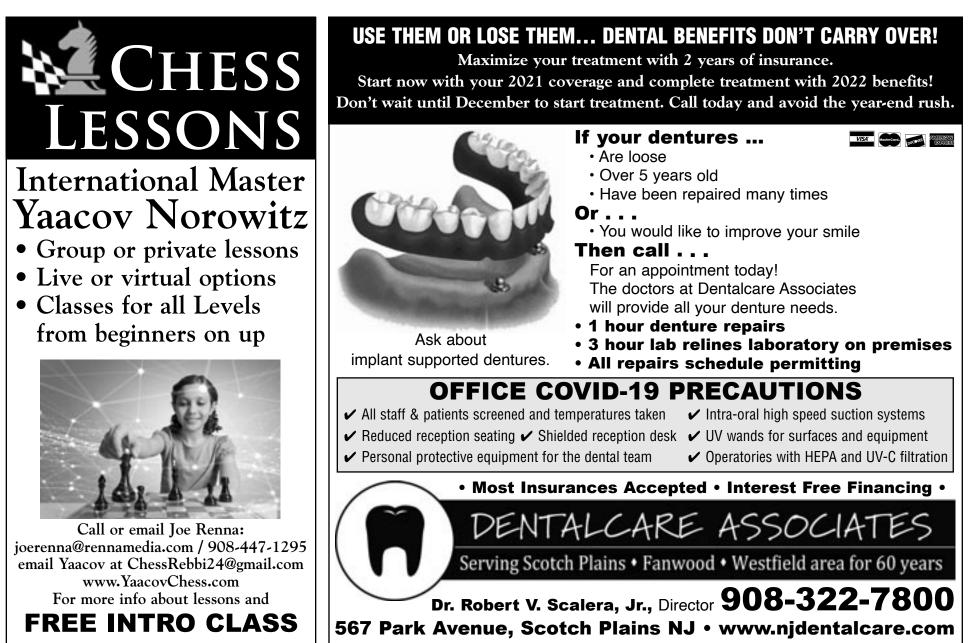
funding are donations provided by individuals, or civic group is interested in conducting a food families, philanthropic organizations, businesses and corporations of all sizes.

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### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON CARRIE BROOKNER**

#### CASA SHaW

Our Volunteer Spotlight this month highlights one of our CASA volunteers who has been an amazing CASA volunteer for some time now: Carrie Brookner!

Carrie has been married to her husband, Jeffrey, for 27 years. They have two amazing children, Dennis and Jessica. Dennis is 24 and in graduate school and Jessica is 19 and a rising college sophomore.

When Carrie is not engaging her CASA case, she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling when possible. At home, she enjoys playing mahjongg with her girlfriends and working on home improvement projects with her husband. She also recently enrolled in a graduate certificate program in Medical Device Regulatory Affairs. Her coursework is keeping her busy!

How did Carrie come to CASA SHaW? Well, she had spent many years as an active volunteer in her children's schools, serving as PTO president and chairing a variety of events. As her children became more independent and their schools needed less parental support, she was looking for a way to make a difference in the broader community. She recently said, "when I learned about CASA, I knew this was a great way to make a difference in the life of a child who was facing trauma or other challenges. I had the time and love to give and I feel strongly that every child deserves a trusted adult in their life who puts their needs first. It's heartbreaking to hear some of the children's stories, and I want to make sure each child has a dedicated advocate."

We also asked Carrie what she's gotten out of the "CASA experience" thus far. She said, "I have learned a lot by being a CASA advocate. The training program educated me in so many ways and further motivated me to stay involved. I have seen how truly important the 'little things' are to the children in our cases, just like they are to all kids. These children are in difficult situations through no fault of their own and they need unconditional love and support."

Carrie's current CASA child is 15 months old and she has been on her case since she was a

Mi La's Debut

School of Music in Warren

- (Unfortunately no wheelchair access.)
- Individual music lessons
- for ages 5 and up all instruments.Group lessons for voice and chamber music.

Ludmila Kozlova, *Director* **milasdebut.com 732-424-0101** 



zoom concert for Warrenbrook Senior Wellness Center. 513 Warrenville Road, Suite 1, Warren, NJ

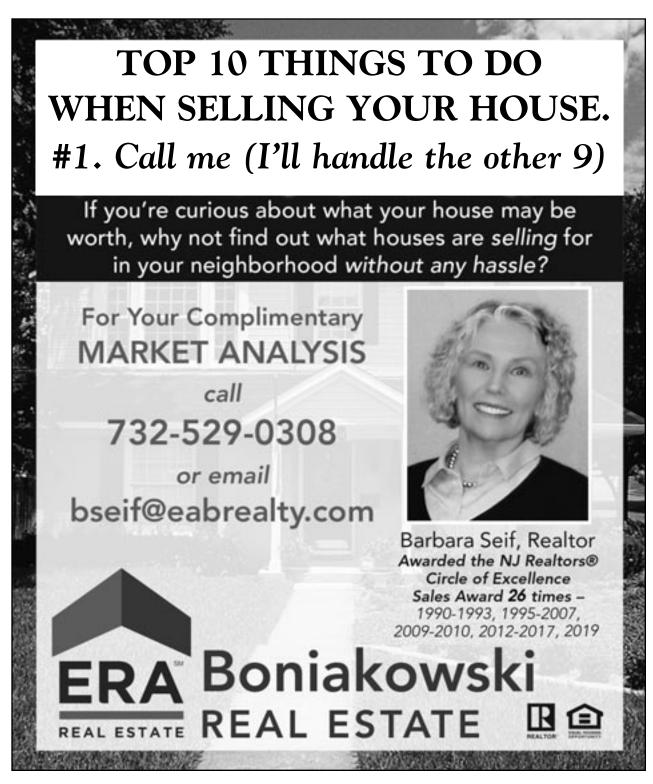


(above) Carrie Brookner

newborn. At first this case seemed very straightforward, and it was not always clear that her involvement was making a difference in the life of a baby. However, in the last few months the case has become more complicated and demonstrated how important an independent CASA voice has been. Adoption may end up being the best for her particular case. We asked Carrie what the most gratifying part of being a CASA volunteer has been. She said, "knowing that I really made a difference in a child's life and was able to make sure her home was safe before she returned. Hearing the law guardian often quote my reports in court, I knew my findings were taken seriously and had an impact. My CASA child really needed someone in her corner, and I am happy I was able to do that for her."

We are thrilled and happy that Carrie has been able to do that for her CASA child as well! As we are with all of our CASA volunteers, we truly are grateful for all that Carrie has done and will continue to do in the future for abused and neglected children in our region.

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To learn more visit casaofnj.org.



### **HICKORY TREE CHORUS HOSTS OKTOBERSINGFEST 2021**

Tree Chorus on Wednesday evenings in October from 7 to 9 p.m. OktoberSingFest singing workshops are free and will be held via Zoom or in person for fully vaccinated members and guests as covid safety protocols permit. Participants will learn more about chordBroadway, Beatles, and more!

Hickory Tree is an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are passionate about music, performance, fun and friendship. We believe every voice counts and encourage

Love singing? Come sing with the Hickory ringing, fun-filled, four-part harmony. women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

> Please register for OktoberSingFest by email info@hickorytreechorus.org call or 908-377-1399. More information can be found at hickorytreechorus.org.





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✓ Activities include: movies, game night, art live entertainment, exercise, trivia & more!





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# **CALLING ALL TWEENS AND TEENS TO EXPERIENCE TEENTOBER**

**Murder Mystery Story Progression** 

**SCLSNJ** 

Did you know that approximately 14 million middle and high school students are on their own after school? In Somerset County, where individuals aged 18 years or younger makeup almost 22 percent of the population, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) provides inclusive spaces for students to discover new experiences; form connections with their community; and explore opportunities through programs, resources, materials, and services.

In order to continue to enrich the lives of tweens and teens in the community, SCLSNJ will participate in TeenTober, a month-long commemoration organized by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) that "aims to celebrate teens and promote year-round teen services and literacies," throughout October.

During TeenTober the Library System will offer a series of virtual and in-branch programs that focus on creative expression, traditional and digital literacy, workforce development, and peer-to-peer engagement.

According to YALSA, libraries "have a strong track record of providing a variety of key services that meet the unique needs of teens." In fact, data has shown that approximately 97 percent of public libraries have a designated section for teen materials.

In addition to programming, available digital resources include Brainfuse HelpNow, which offers free one-on-one online tutoring, a writing lab, and more; and LearningExpress Library, which provides interactive tutorials, practice tests, e-books, and other tools for academic skillbuilding and test preparation.

For more information about teen offerings at your Library: SCLSNJ.org/research-learn/teens. For more information about TeenTober: ala.org/yalsa/teentober.

#### **EXPLORE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS** FROM HOME:

Virtual Mystery Challenge (grades 4 and up) October 2, 2-2:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5160475. **Comics Step-by-Step With Gale Galligan** (grades 4-12)

October 4, 4:30-5:15 p.m. Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5007878. **True or False - Interactive Digital Literacy** Game (grades 6-12)

October 5, 5-6 p.m. Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5144005.

Alvin Ailey Hip Hop Workshop (grades 9-12) October 6, 5-6 p.m. Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4981175.

**LEAD - Leadership Exploration and Development Club (grades 6-9)** October 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5151845. **Garden State Teen Book Awards Book Talk** (grades 6-12)

October 11, 5-6 p.m. Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5171713.

(grades 6-12) October 12, 5-6 p.m. Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5144009. Meet the Author - Nic Stone (grades 8-12) October 13, 5-6 p.m. Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4981176. Manga Cares - Mizu/Water (grades 6-12) October 13, 6-7 p.m. Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5002457. Persuasive Scholarship Writing (grades 9-12) October 14, 6-7 p.m. Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5111834. Library Loot Share (grades 6-12) October 15, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5059021. **Designing Discords (grades 6-12)** 

October 19, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5111890. Digital Photography Workshop (grades 6-12)

October 21, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4981181. **Teen Paint Night (grades 6-12)** 

October 21, 6-7:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5081000 Song Jeopardy (grades 6-12)

October 26, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5144018. **Meet Alex Boniello and Michael Lee Brown of** 

> "Dear Evan Hansen" (grades 6-12) October 28, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4981183 Connect with your peers and Library staff through in-branch programs:

**Teen Board Game Night (grades 7-12)** October 5, 6-7:30 p.m.

at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379 South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287670.

**Teen Leadership Committee (grades 6-12)** October 5, 6-7 p.m.

at the Watchung branch, located at 12 Stirling Road in Watchung; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5288697.

> **Teen Book Chat (grades 8-12)** October 8, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

at the Manville branch, located at 100 South 10th Avenue in Manville; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5288986.

> Teen Trivia Night (grades 7-12) October 12, 6-7 p.m.

at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379 South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287677.

> Game Time (grades 4-12) October 13, 3:30-5 p.m.

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5285402. Tween D and D Afternoon (ages 10-16)

### October 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

October 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

at the Somerville branch located at 35 West End Avenue in Somerville; Register now:

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5291501; and Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5291502.

#### **Teen Leadership Committee (grades 7-12)**

October 14, 6-7 p.m. at the Warren Township branch, located at 42 Mountain Boulevard in Warren Township; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5283610. Friday Feature Film - "Pokémon Detective

Pikachu" (grades 4-12)

October 15, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the North Plainfield branch, located at 6 Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5286425.

### Teen Leadership Committee (grades 7-12)

October 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379 South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287519.

Teen Movie Night (grades 7-12)

October 19, 6-7:45 p.m. at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379 South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287662.

#### **Game Design Workshop - Playing With Fear** (grades 6-12)

October 22, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

at the Manville branch, located at 100 South 10th Avenue in Manville; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5288980.

#### **Teen Craft Night - Halloween Origami** (grades 7-12)

October 26, 6-7 p.m. at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379 South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287673.

#### Ace of Cupcakes - Halloween Edition (grades 6-12)

October 27, 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the North Plainfield branch, located at 6 Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5286467.

#### **Teen Advisory Board (grades 7-12)**

October 28, 5-6 p.m.

at the Somerville branch, located at 35 West End Avenue in Somerville; Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5286444.

#### **ABOUT YALSA**

YALSA stands for Young Adult Library Services Association. Our mission is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens – especially those with the greatest needs – on the path to successful and fulfilling lives. For more information: ala.org/yalsa.

#### ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM **OF NEW JERSEY**

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, at the North Plainfield branch, located at 6 to explore, to share and to discover. Together we Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield; Register enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

# FOOD DRIVE – DONATE ALL YEAR

Struggling Somerset County Families. This year residents donated 17,000 pounds of food to Curbing Hunger, Inc., which will be distributed to food-insecure families in Somerset County. Here is how you can participate!

#### **DONATE ALL YEAR**

Donations of non-perishable food are accepted throughout the year and delivered to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County for distribution to county families in-need. Residents can place non-perishable items in a plastic bag and mark it "food" with a permanent marker and leave the bag at the curb with their to https://curbinghunger.org/

The Curbing Hunger Food Drive Helps Feed recyclables for collection on their regularly scheduled pickup days and/or donate canned goods at Somerset County's First Saturday Drop-Off events.

> BOBO Fridays (Buy One, Bring One Fridays) runs all year. Green Brook residents can leave cans of food any day of the week in the blue bin located in lobby of Green Brook Town Hall at 111 Greenbrook Road, Green Brook, NJ 08812.

> For more information about how to donate to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County, visit somersetfoodbank.org.

> To learn more about Curbing Hunger, Inc., go

at 110 North Main Street, Manville, NJ 08835.

The Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity

ReStore is also offering an option for shoppers

to purchase ReStore gift cards for families in

need. Gift cards will be distributed to these

families to purchase furniture, household items

and home repair items. Families and

homeowners in need may also stop by the

ReStore in person, where they will be offered donated home repair and relief items for free,

toothbrushes, paper towels, and cleaning and

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity (RVHFH) puts God's love into action and brings

people together to build homes, communities,

and hope. Our vision is a time when everyone in

Hunterdon and Somerset counties has a decent

place to live. Since 1991, RV Habitat has been

building strength, stability, and self-reliance

opportunities for hard-working, local families.

To support these projects by making a donation, please visit rvhabitat.org/give or mail a donation

to Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 6275 Bridgewater, NJ 08807. For

individuals (ages 16+) and groups who would

like to volunteer on the Montgomery Township

build site, visit rvhabitat.org/volunteer.

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### **PROGRAMS TO SERVE THOSE IMPACTED BY IDA**

such

through

as

laundry supplies.

**Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity** In response to the damage done from Hurricane Ida, Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity (RVHFH) is bringing people together to build homes, community and hope.

The pilot of the "A Brush with Kindness" program was in July of this year and involved a large group of volunteers who gardened, cleaned, and provided small repairs for low to moderate income homeowners. RVHFH is seeking volunteers who are interested in providing relief to those suffering from hurricane damage, and who are physically able to perform home cleanups and small repairs. For information on how to volunteer, please visit rvhabitat.org/individualvolunteer/.

If you or someone you know has been impacted by Hurricane Ida and would like assistance with clearing items out of the home, sanitizing, shop vacuuming, brush cleanup and other small repairs, you can find the application at rvhabitat.org/hurricane-ida-relief. To return completed applications, please:

Scan or take a photo of a completed application and email it to homeownerservices@rvhabitat.org.

Mail completed applications to P.O. Box 330, Pluckemin, NJ 07978.

Drop completed applications off in person to the Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity ReStore,

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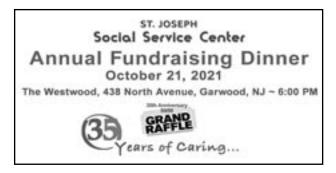
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# **35TH ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE AND DINNER**

St. Joseph Social Service Center

St. Joseph's serves the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth. The economic fallout from the pandemic has created an unanticipated increase in the demand for basic human needs such as food and medications. We are celebrating 35 years of service to our community, and raising funds to continue our work.

Now, more than ever, we could use the support and participation of the community at our annual fundraising dinner, which will be held on October 21 at 6 p.m., at the Westwood in Garwood, NJ.



#### **HERE'S HOW TO SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER:**

Online: To purchase dinner tickets, sponsorships, or to donate online, please visit Eventbrite: St. Joseph Social Service Center -35th Anniversary Raffle and Dinner

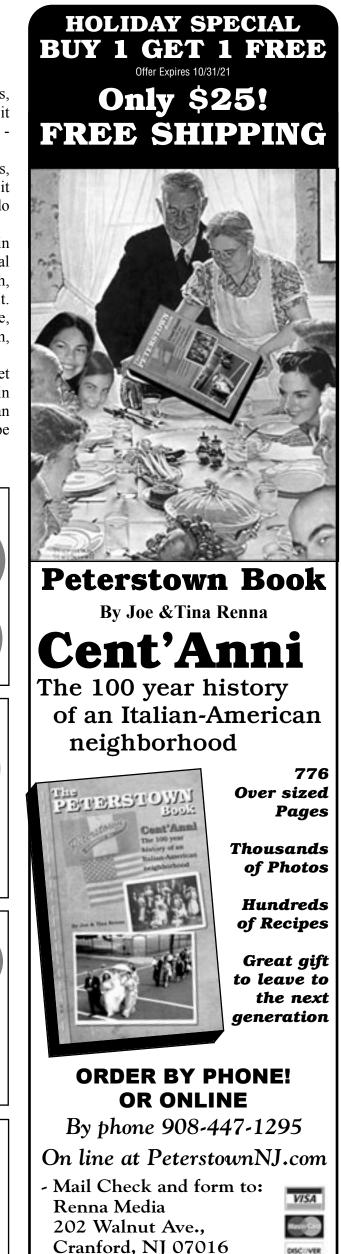
Mail: To purchase raffle tickets, dinner tickets, sponsorships, or to donate on-line, please visit www.sjeliz.org. Or call 908-354-5456 if you do not have internet access.

In Person: To purchase grand raffle tickets in person, here are the locations: St. Joseph Social Service Center, 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201 - Emy Cruz, 908-354-5456 x3; St. Helen's Parish Center, 1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090 - Marilyn Ryan, 908-232-1214 x113.

We hope you'll support us with ticket purchases, sponsorships, and donations and join us at our dinner on October 21. Together, we can satisfy hunger, improve health, and inspire hope in our community!



Green Brook Gazette • Page 11 • October 2021



ISCOVER - Email inquiries to: PayPal joerenna@rennamedia.com

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### Direct: 908.720.9205 **Office: 908.325.5000** Email: RO@RoseannOKeefe.com www.RoseannOKeefe.com

**#1** Realtor for Green Brook **Residential Sales** and Transactions in 2020





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### Top tips for preparing your home for Fall

- Inspect your roof and siding
- Clean gutters and downspouts
- Trim trees and bushes
- Replace your furnace filters
- Service HVAC system
- Repair driveway cracks

### My Features Properties and Recent Transactions in Green Brook, NJ



FOR SALE

33 Rock Road E, Green Brook 5 Bed / 4.2 Bath / 6 Car Garage

Plus Carriage house 2 Bed / 2 Bath



UNDER CONTRACT

5 Green Valley Dr, Green Brook 4 Bed / 2.1 Bath / 2 Car Garage

ted ranch home on 1 acre





UNDER CONTRACT 26 Ridge Rd, Green Brook 5 Bed / 4.1 Bath / 2 Car Garage Elegantly appointed home w/finished basement

SOLD 9/27 1 Pine St, Green Brook 3 Bed / 2 Bed / 1 Car Garage, Spacious one floor living w/in-law apartment



SOLD 9/21



**SOLD 9/8** 

 4 Hearthstone Lane, Green Brook
 12 Woodcrest Lane, Green Brook

 4 Bed / 3.1 Bath / 2 Car Garage
 12 Woodcrest Lane, Green Brook

 Sunroom overlooking park-like backyard
 Cul-de-sac location with fabulous backyard



SOLD 8/30 13 Red Bud Lane, Green Brook 4 Bed / 3.1 Bath / 2 Car Garage Park-like backyard



8 Gold St, Green Brook 3 Bed / 2 Bath / 1 Car Garage Brand new kitchen & bath



SOLD 7/20

106 Cramer Ave, Green Brook Listed by Roseann

SOLD 6/18

55 Scheurman Terrace, Green Brook Listed by Roseann



SOLD 7/14 44 King George Rd, Green Brook Listed by Roseann

SOLD 5/26

60 Ridge Rd, Green Brook Listed by Rosean



SOLD 6/28 132 Top of the World Way, Green Brook Listed by Roseann

SOLD 5/25

1038 Shadowlawn Dr, Green Brook Listed by Roseann



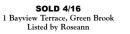


SOLD 6/22

6 Red Bud Lane, Green Brook Listed by Roseann

SOLD 5/19 6 Remrose Ledge, Green Brook Listed by Roseann







15 Blue Hill Terrace, Green Brook Listed by Roseann



SOLD 2/12 16 Warren Ave, Green Brook Listed by Roseann

If you would like tips on how to prepare your home for sale, call or email me for a confidential conversation 908.720.9205 / ro@roseannokeefe.com

\*Each office is independently owned and operated. If your home is listed with another broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. All above reported transactions are located in Green Brook, NJ

