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DONATION FROM PHILLIPS 66 FUNDS SCIENCE KITS

The Linden Public School District has received a \$58,000 donation from Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery to support the district's science curriculum. The funds will be used to purchase science kits for all of the district's 400 second-graders.

"Phillips 66 and our colleagues at the Bayway Refinery support our local Linden school community in so many ways," said Cynthia Apalinski, the district's elementary science specialist. "Their generous donation is one in a long line of us joining together as partners to provide the strongest science learning opportunities possible to our students."

"This most recent support is representative of our partnership to develop the next generation of scientists and engineers. We are extremely grateful for their continuous support and with these funds we are able to purchase new science materials for our second-grade classrooms."

The Full Option Science System (FOSS) kits supply students with materials to study and investigate units on Insects and Plants; Solids and Liquids; and Pebbles, Sand, and Silt. In all three units, students spend significant time outdoors exploring their schoolyards and the local community to make real-life connections with the science concepts they are learning about in their classrooms.

"Thank you to our neighbors at Phillips 66 for their generous support for our science curriculum," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marnie Hazelton. "They say it takes a village to educate a child and this kind of financial backing from one of our vital community partners puts that mantra into action."

Access to high-quality instructional materials allows Linden's elementary teachers to provide students with rich and engaging experiences as they investigate phenomena in science and solve problems in engineering.

"At Phillips 66, one of our key focus areas for our philanthropic giving is Education and Literacy. We are very proud to support the purchase of required curriculum materials that will help the development of local Linden students," said Chris Gallo, general manager of



(above, l-r) Representatives of Phillips 66 visited School No. 6. (Back row, l-r) are School No. 6 Principal William Mastriano, second-grade teacher Kimberly Zagaja, Bayway Refinery Community Relations Coordinator Mary Phillips, Bayway Refinery Manager of Public Affairs Nancy Sadlon, and Linden Public Schools Elementary Science Specialist Cynthia Apalinski, with Mrs. Zagaja's class.

Photos by Linden Public Schools

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery. "We have supported this community need over the past six years, annually addressing a different grade level. With Bayway's contribution this year, Grades 2 through 8 in the Linden Public Schools will have state-required science kits."

Apalinski added: "These materials allow our student scientists to develop a love of science, learn how science and engineering can improve our world and solve its most challenging problems, and help them envision a potential trajectory into a science-related career."

The FOSS program gives students in-depth exposure to life, physical, and earth and space sciences while engaging them in the engineering design process:

Insects and Plants: Young biologists study the biodiversity of plants and animals by investigating firsthand the life cycles and behaviors of common insects and plants. They observe and care for mealworms, milkweed bugs, and painted lady butterflies live in their classrooms. They also plant their own seeds and collect and analyze data about their growth.

Solids and Liquids: Students explore solid and liquid materials by observing, describing, and sorting them according to their properties. Next, they investigate interactions between solids and water, liquids and water, and the melting and freezing of familiar liquids.

Pebbles, Sand, and Silt: Student geologists observe the properties of rocks of various sizes and study the components of soil. They study and analyze the results of weathering and erosion and work collaboratively to locate natural sources of water. They discover various earth materials' important role as natural resources and uses as building materials.

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LIFE in LINDEN

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STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY CHINESE

Linden Public Schools

Three Linden High School freshmen have been awarded a scholarship to receive additional teaching in Mandarin Chinese throughout this school year.

Abigail Armstead, Ashley Agbottah Grubbs, and Trinity Ellis will take part in virtual classes through the Huaxia Chinese School in Edison each Sunday, in which they will learn about language and culture.

"I am so proud of our student's enthusiasm in learning a different language and culture," said Lin Lin Hu, the students' Chinese teacher at LHS.

The scholarship covers all tuition and fees for the school, and was given by Bo Wang, chief executive officer of Wealthhouse

Advisers of Metuchen.

"Our students were selected because Mr. Wang was impressed by their love for learning Chinese language and culture and their involvement in the community, which Mr. Wang has always been passionate about," Hu said.

She explained that Wang funds the scholarship to give back to the community because an American millionaire gave him a chance over 30 years ago, paying his way to come to the United States.

"Mr. Wang said he wants to give back," Hu said. "He is so happy that he can provide our students this opportunity to study Chinese language and its culture. This is a beautiful story with positive messages for our students."



(above, l-r) LHS Chinese teacher Lin Lin Hu and freshmen Ashley Agbottah Grubbs, Trinity Ellis, and Abigail Armstead, students awarded scholarships to study Mandarin Chinese on weekends during the school year at the Huaxia School of Edison.

Photo by Linden Public Schools



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NATIONAL NETWORK SEEKS TO RESHAPE EDUCATION

Linden Public Schools

Linden Public Schools have joined “Learning 2025,” a collaborative nationwide network of districts aspiring to become more student-centered, equity-focused, and future-driven.

The network, administered by AASA, The School Superintendents Association, includes more than 60 “demonstration systems” that represent a collection of forward-leaning urban, suburban, and rural districts serving as national models to help guide partner districts by sharing successful practices, as well as challenges.

The program allows members to collaborate and learn with school systems that are committed to supporting the whole learner, ensuring anti-marginalization, and adopting practices that anticipate future needs in a bold effort toward a holistic redesign of America’s schools.

“Serving as a demonstration site for ‘Learning 2025’ is an honor for Linden Public Schools,” said Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton. “We look forward to working with other school districts from across the country to learn more about their strategic improvement efforts. In addition, our staff will be able to network with peers nationwide and share strategic ideas and winning solutions in our collective effort to strengthen our communities and raise student outcomes.

“Sharing ideas with colleagues within the network can only help us in making certain that every child is valued and supported.”

The initiative’s end goal is systemic redesign of the public school system by 2025. Along the way, member school districts will receive support in areas such as early learning, technology-enhanced learning, and enabling students to be co-authors in their education. Districts will receive personalized consultation on strategic direction and become part of a community of learners who help each other.

“Our goal is to galvanize and synergize thought leaders from all sectors to emerge from the pandemic in better shape than they were before,” said Daniel A. Domenech, executive director of AASA. “This initiative will ensure that educators are empowered and equipped to meet whole learners’ needs by personalizing and customizing instruction involving students in designing their own learning and coordinating resources to support all children’s overall growth and well-being.”

The initiative is grounded in the foundational work of the AASA Learning 2025 National Commission, which recommended essential principles for school system redesign, including the creation of demonstration districts.

“This report contains a blueprint to empower school districts to design their plans and meet the specific needs of their learners, educators, and communities,” said Kristi Wilson, 2020-21 president of AASA, and one of the 27 “Learning 2025” commissioners. “Every district that commits to becoming a demonstration system will receive a personalized consultation and become part of a community of learners who help each other as ‘critical friends’ focused on student

learning.”

As an AASA “Learning 2025” demonstration system, Linden Public Schools will:

Receive senior consulting services, personalized engagement, and strategic planning support.

Create a customized action plan tailored to meet the district’s needs.

Gain a customized dashboard to track the district’s progress and provide real data to community stakeholders.

Take part in professional learning opportunities, including registration to one of AASA’s Leadership Network cohorts.

Contribute to national research, practice, and policy.

Network, collaborate, and learn with school systems that are committed to supporting the

whole learner, ensuring anti-marginalization, and adopting future-driven practices.

Move the district forward with research-based recommendations to provide all learners with a bright future.

“This work will be guided by thought leaders from business and industry who are ahead of the curve in terms of implementing innovative strategies and solutions that align to key components of Learning 2025 recommendations,” said Malbert Smith III, CEO, president and co-founder, MetaMetrics; creator of the Lexile and Quantile Frameworks; and Learning 2025 Commissioner. “The team will assist in identifying assessments that could be used to inform and bolster the district’s ability to achieve its priorities and goals for maximizing student achievement.”

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PANCAKE BREAKFAST DEC. 18

VFW #1397

Come one, come all to our Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at the VFW Post #1397, located at 20 Pennsylvania Railroad Ave., Linden, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Donations: Adults \$7.00 / Seniors & Children \$6.00/ Ages 5 & Under Free.

This event is open to the public, so come out and enjoy a home cooked breakfast!

Take outs are available. Support our Veterans!

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LINDEN RECREATION DECEMBER CLASSES

Linden Recreation announces a variety of classes and programs for all ages starting in December. Linden residents only are eligible. Pre-registration is required by calling 908-474-8600 or online at linden-nj.org and click on Community Pass. First time registrants, are required to call during business hours to have an account set up.

YOUTH

Ceramics: Ages 5-12.

Wednesday, December 8,
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

at JTG Center, 330 Helen Street. The fee is \$10.

Kids Paint: Ages 5-12.

Thursday, December 9, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
at JTG Center, 330 Helen Street. The fee is \$10.

Special Needs Ceramics: Ages 16 & up.

Tuesday, December 7 and December 14,
from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

at JTG Center. Contact Union County Parks & Recreation to register.

ADULTS

Ceramics: Ages 13 & up.

Wednesday, December 15,
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

at JTG Center, 330 Helen Street. The fee is \$10.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Stroke and Alzheimer's: Ages 50 & up.

Thursday, December 2, from 1:00-2:00 p.m.
at JTG Center, 330 Helen Street.

The class is FREE.

Grab & Go Box Lunches: Ages 60 & up.

Tuesdays & Thursdays,
from 11:30am to 12:30 p.m.

at JTG Center, 330 Helen St.

Suggested donation: \$1.75.

For more information, email lindenrec@linden-nj.org. The Parks & Recreation office is located at 330 Helen Street. To view full class descriptions, visit linden-nj.org and click on Community Pass.

DECEMBER MOVIE SHOWINGS

The Linden Public Library is proud to end the year with several films which will get you into the spirit of the season with some great holiday films; and present the 2020 Oscar winners for Best Picture and Best International Film. All films are presented at the library, located at 31 East Henry Street, and shown free-of-charge courtesy of the Friends of the Linden Public Library. All movies begin at 1:00 p.m.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946; PG; 130 minutes)

Friday, December 3

This all-time holiday classic turns 75 this year.

First time shown at Linden Public Library

The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938; PG; 102 minutes)

Tuesday, December 7

Remembering multiple Oscar-winner, Olivia de Havilland, in one of her first starring roles

Unlikely Angel (1996; TV-13; 95 minutes)

Friday, December 10

Dolly Parton plays a repentant angel in this holiday film favorite

Goldfinger (1964; PG; 110 minutes)

Tuesday, December 14

Remembering Oscar winner, Sean Connery, in one of the best James Bond films

Nomadland (2020; R; 108 minutes)

Wednesday, December 15

This 2020 film won the Oscar for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actress

The Holiday (2006; PG; 136 minutes)

Friday, December 17

This trans-Atlantic romantic comedy has become a popular Christmas movie

The Last Picture Show (1971; R; 118 minutes)

Tuesday, December 21

Remembering actress, Cloris Leachman, in her Oscar-winning role

Elf (2003; PG; 97 minutes)

Wednesday, December 22

This comedy has become a 21st century Christmas classic, starring Will Ferrell

Draft Day (2014; PG-14; 110 minutes)

Tuesday, December 28

Remembering Oscar nominee, Chadwick Boseman, in this recent sports movie

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SIX OUTSTANDING CITIZENS TO BE HONORED BY BOY SCOUTS

Good Scout Awards Dinner

Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, will be honoring local citizens at the Linden Good Scout Awards Dinner, held on the evening of Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at The Grand Banquet Hall in Linden at 6:30 p.m. The honorees for the event are Dawn Beviano, Rebecca

Kerins-Tattoli, Kelly, Richard Koziol, Dr. Kevin Lukenda, Janet Miller, and Mary Phillips. The Good Scout Awards Dinner recognizes outstanding citizens for their positive contributions and service to their community.

Firstly, Dawn Beviano was a Religious Education Teacher at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, has been an advocate for the children of the city of Linden for over 12 years as a Linden Board of Education Member, and has served as the President of the Friends of the Linden Library.

Secondly, Rebecca Kerins-Tattoli is the Confidential Administrative Assistant to Mayor Derek Armstead and Secretary to the Linden Economic Development Corp. Her responsibilities are running the day-to-day operation of the Office of Mayor, community relations, working with elected officials, the Special Improvement District, Linden Industrial Association, Linden Economic Development Corp., the Linden Chamber of Commerce, and the Gateway Chamber of Commerce. She has also volunteered in many areas of Linden, including, Linden Youth Soccer Association, Linden Recreation Department, St. Elizabeth's CYO, Linden PAL, PTA, Mystic Vision Players, Linden Chamber of Commerce, Linden Industrial Association, Linden Board of Education, Linden Cultural & Heritage Committee, Linden Coalition of the Arts, and Linden Historical Society.

Further, Kelly Koziol's past and present civic involvement and volunteerism includes, PTA, Linden Second Ward and City Democratic Clubs, Linden High School Graduation BASH, Linden

Mayor's Youth Commission, Linden Cultural & Heritage Committee, Linden Band Parents Association, Volunteer, Friends of Linden Animal Shelter, President, Linden Halloween Parade Committee, and Linden Food Pantry. In addition, Rich Koziol's past and present civic involvement and volunteerism includes, Boy Scout Leader, Troop 145 of Clark, Linden P.A.L., PTA, Linden Mayor's Youth Commission, Linden High School Graduation BASH, Linden Board of Education, Linden City Council representing the 2nd Ward, Linden Second Ward and City Democratic Clubs, Linden Band Parents Association, Linden Educational Support Team, Linden Cultural & Heritage Committee, Linden Board of Adjustment, Linden Planning Board, Linden Society for Historic Preservation, Linden Halloween Parade Committee, and Linden Hometown Heroes Committee.

Another honoree, Dr. Kevin Lukenda, serves as Chairman of Trinitas Family Medicine Department. He is the school physician for Rahway High School and Metuchen High School. He further serves as Medical Director at Delaire Nursing Home, Riverton Nursing Home, Care Connection in Rahway, and Saint Joseph's Nursing Home in Woodbridge, New Jersey. Dr. Lukenda serves the residents at the Linden Housing Authority in Linden, NJ. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus as well as the Free and Accepted Masons. He is also an active member of the Colts Neck Athletic Association.

Additionally, Janet Miller is the Executive Sales Representative for Cox Printers. Janet has been Chairperson of the Linden Chamber of Commerce for over 12 years and a member of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce for 16 years. Her passion to support the local business is reflected by the many events she organizes, as well as the fact that she is the driving force behind the Scholarship Committee to ensure 4 to 5 graduating high school seniors receive scholarships every year. She was also recently appointed to the Gateway Regional Board of

Directors. In addition, Janet has been a member of the Linden Industrial Association since 2016 as well as an active member in various Union County organizations.

Finally, Mary Phillips is the Community Relations Coordinator for Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery. Her responsibilities include managing the local charitable contributions budget, coordinating donations, and planning numerous community outreach programs/events for the largest oil refineries on the East Coast. Mary is a member of the Planning/Steering Committees for Trinitas Regional Medical Center Foundation Gala, RWJU Hospital Rahway Foundation Rose Ball, Tribute to Women & Industry (TWIN), TWIN Awards benefiting the YCWA UC, Kiwanis Club of Linden, Linden Industrial Association, Linden Chamber of Commerce, and an Advisory Board Member for Josephine's Place for six years.

The Boy Scouts of America is proud to be able to honor these integral leaders in the Linden community, for embodying the very core of our values, derived from the Scout Oath and Law, in their professional and personal lives. The Chair and Master of Ceremonies for the event is June Lazaro, Financial Representative of Primerica, and a 2019 Linden Good Scout Award Recipient. The Linden Good Scout Awards Dinner will raise funds to benefit scouting in the Linden area and across the Patriots' Path Council.

Linden is located within the Munsee Scouting District. The Munsee District is a part of the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, which serves over 11,000 youth and adults in over 300 scouting units throughout the communities of Morris, Middlesex, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties.

For more information on scouting, the Good Scout Awards Dinner, and future events, contact Jennifer Volz, Sr. Development Director, at 973-765-9322, ext.249, or jennifer.volz@scouting.org, or visit ppcbsa.org/special-events.



(above, l-r) Dawn Beviano, Kelly & Richard Koziol, Janet Miller, Mary Phillips, Rebecca Kerins-Tattoli

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If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

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

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

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

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

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

How Does This New Treatment Work?

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

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

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

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

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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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- Patricia G.

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- Perry O.

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BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Township of Union Municipal Band is back and is seeking new members to join the band! "Musicians of all ages are welcome," says director Howard Toplansky. "If you are a high school musician looking for extra practice or a retired professional who wants to get back into music, the municipal band is a perfect fit." The band is looking for new members who play any instrument. Out of towners are welcome.

The Township of Union Municipal Band rehearses on Monday evenings at Hannah Caldwell School. The band performs ten concerts throughout the year, including special concerts at Ehrhart Gardens and Putnam Manor.

Mr. Toplansky believes the municipal band contributes to the culture of the township, sharing that "the municipal band is one of Union's oldest traditions and is a great way to introduce members of the community to time-honored musical styles and compositions."

Musicians who are interested in joining the band should contact the Township of Union Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

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STUDENTS GET A PERSONALIZED LOOK AT VETERANS DAY

Linden Public Schools

Linden High School students got uniquely personalized lessons for Veterans Day when two of their teachers held sessions discussing their time in the military with students around the school.

Social studies teachers Derrick Potts and Gary Mazurek talked to their classes in person while other social studies classes logged in to watch and listen through videoconference. They shared stories about their time in the Army, discussed why they joined the military, and answered student questions that ranged from “What was the food like?” to “Would you do it over again if given the chance?”

“Mr. Potts and I were incredibly humbled, and thankful, and very flattered that we were asked to talk about and answer some questions about our experiences serving in the military,” Mazurek said.

Mazurek told students he enlisted in the Army infantry in 1991, going to Fort Benning, Ga., for infantry training school. He then served three years in Berlin before he was discharged in 1994 and headed to college.

He turned the bulk of the session over to Potts, whom he said “did far more remarkable and courageous things than I did.”

Potts told students that he served in the Army National Guard while working as a teacher at LHS. He trained for years to work with field artillery.

“When 9/11 hit, that was the turning point for everything,” he said. “Then when the Iraq War started in 2003 everything started to change.”

He was sent to Iraq in 2004, where he got the chance to combine his work as a soldier with his calling as a teacher.

“I was the only teacher in my unit, and they asked if anyone was a teacher,” Potts said. “So I raised my hand and this colonel says, ‘Have I got a job for you.’ It turned out it was one of the coolest things I’ve ever done.”

Potts was put in charge of a school where they educated Iraqi civilians who had been arrested to give them skills to find work and to understand

the new Iraqi government.

“It was our job to educate these people the best that we could,” Potts said. “It was really successful.

“I had trained for 20 years to fight with guns, and I ended up fighting a war with education.”

Both Potts and Mazurek said that they entered the service looking for the direction and discipline that they needed when they were younger. When a student asked them if they would do it all over again, they gave very nuanced answers.

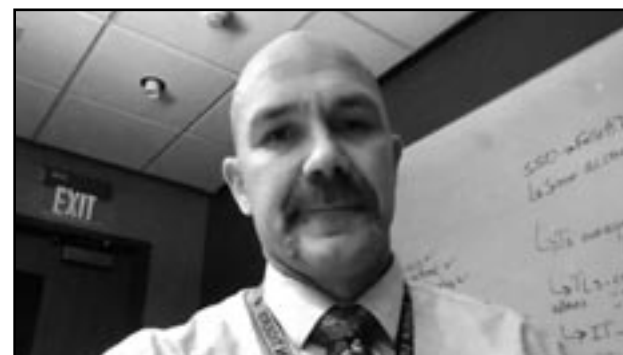
“I support the troops,” Mazurek said. “They’re all like me, working-class kids who were looking for an alternative coming out of high school. But when I think about war, I want my nation to be a nation that looks to war as the very last alternative. Just like we do in the classroom: We don’t want our students fighting in the classroom. We want our students to talk out our differences and hopefully come to some sort of resolution.”

Potts told students the military experience is

whatever you make of it.

“If you have an idea that it’s going to be awful, then it’s going to be awful,” he said. “If you want to go in and learn and see different things, it’s a great, great experience. I made a lot of friends and had great experiences. Did I see bad stuff? Absolutely.

“But I would do it over again in a heartbeat.”



(above) Social studies teacher Gary Mazurek talking about his time in the military during a videoconference session with students.



(above) Linden High School social studies teacher Derrick Potts, front left, showed photos during his Veterans Day videoconference with students at LHS. This one shows his unit with men who were featured in the HBO miniseries “Band of Brothers,” whom he met while stationed in Germany.



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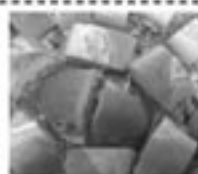
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ELF THE MUSICAL JR. TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Community Access Unlimited

A triumphant musical returning this December promises holiday cheer, a lot of laughs, and possibly too much sugar.

Tickets for Elf the Musical Jr. are now available for showings on December 10, 11, and 12th. All shows are streaming virtually at 7:00 p.m. for audiences to enjoy at home. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased on line at: www.showtix4u.com/event-details/57483

The CAU Community Players are an inclusive group of performers with and without disabilities who collaborate to stage incredible musical performances, including past productions of Hairspray and Aladdin. Community Access Unlimited (CAU) is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that works to integrate people with disabilities and youth at-risk into the community through comprehensive ways.

The cast of the show is thrilled to return to the stage after months of virtual rehearsals and preparation. Performers used clear masks to interact safely while allowing the audience to enjoy their expressions.

"The point of the show is to fill everyone with Christmas spirit," said Tyler O'Neill, who plays Buddy. "I'm discovering a side I never thought I had and a lot of joy. And like Buddy, I too enjoy a good hug every now and again."

Adam Fleissner, who plays Buddy's cantankerous father, Walter, said he is excited for everyone's hard work to pay off in the final production after a hiatus last year, due to the pandemic.

"It's the first time doing a CAU play since the shutdown and I just love seeing everyone again," said Fleissner.

Proceeds from the play support CAU's comprehensive services for people with disabilities and youth at-risk, which include housing, education, employment, support coordination, and life skills training.

This adaptation of the hilarious, hit film is sure to warm hearts as we prepare for the holiday.

"I want people to get tickets so they can laugh hard," said cast member Ernie Smalls.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED:

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), who is celebrating 42 years in 2021, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voices to adults and the youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization,

and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 3,000 individuals and families, with the number growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org, or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202.



(above, l-r) Zoe Rivera and Tyler O'Neill perform as Jovie and Buddy in Elf the Musical Jr. with other CAU Community Players.



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SCOUT EXECUTIVE SPEAKS TO ROTARY CLUB

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

Marc Andreo, the Scout Executive and CEO of the Patriot's Path Council, Boy Scouts of America spoke to the Rotary Club of Westfield on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. His topic was to update the club on the state of the local Scouting. The pandemic has decreased the scouting program somewhat, but it is still going strong, and they are planning to rebuild it to where it was before the shutdown.

Paul Harris, the man who started Rotary International in 1905, was great friends with James E. West who started the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. Paul gave advice on how to spread the program throughout the US, mirroring the way Rotary clubs were spreading. Both organizations have a lot of similarities, including an ethical code, teaching leadership skills, being community based and service oriented. Rotary clubs currently charter 1,000 scout units across the US.

The Patriot's Path Council, BSA consists of 5 counties in northern New Jersey with more than 10,000 scouts and 4,000 adult volunteers. They are in the counties of Sussex, Morris, Somerset, Union and northern Middlesex. The headquarters in Cedar Knolls has only 25 full-time staff. There are two scout shops one in Cedar Knolls, and one in Mountainside.

The Council offers three Day Camps: at Watchung Reservation; Johnson Park, New Brunswick; and Camp Wheeler at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation. The Council offers four overnight camping opportunities: Winnebago

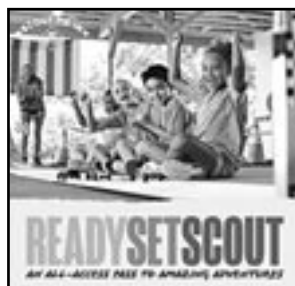
Scout Reservation in Rockaway, NJ; Mt. Allamuchy in Byram Township; Sabattis Adventure Camp in Long Lake NY, and the four national high adventure bases: The Summit in West Virginia; Northern Tier in Minnesota, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Recent changes to the Scouts include welcoming girls to the Cub Scout and the legacy Boy Scout programs three years ago. The purpose was to include entire families in the activities. To accommodate this change, the "Boy Scout" program for ages 5th grade through age 18 was renamed the "Scouts BSA". The name of the parent organization remains the Boy Scouts of America. The Cub Scout program is for children from K through 5th grade; Scouts BSA is for children 5th grade through age 18. Other programs have been coed for many decades, including Explorers - who explore career opportunities, Venture Crews - who go on high adventure trips, Sea Scouts who learn mariner skills, and a relatively new program - STEM- in which students explore science related careers. These last four programs welcome boys and girls from ages 14 to 21.

Cub Scout Dens may be all boy and all girl, or coed. Scouts BSA Troops are either all girl or all boy. This year there are 250,000 young women in the scouts, and 1,000 girls were the first graduating class of female Eagle Scouts. Only 4% of all scouts ever achieve the rank of Eagle, making it a mark of distinction.

The residents of Westfield are enthusiastic supporters of Scouting. There are 12 units: 7 Cub Scout Packs and 5 Scout Troops, with nearly 500 youth, which is double the national average. Last year the Patriots' Path Council recognized 315 Eagle Scouts and Scouts collectively earned more than 6,200 merit badges. The Rotary Club of Westfield has been a long time supporter of the Scouts. Several members are Eagle Scouts, and many of the children of Rotarians are in the Scouting program, and a number have earned the rank of Eagle. The club likes to support Eagle Service projects financially.

Scout Executive Marc Andreo asked the Rotarians to help spread the word about local Scouting. With units and camps open again, they are seeking more youth to join the local programs. Please visit beascout.org to locate a unit near you!



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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 21ST ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 23rd season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 18 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) in New York City for a 2PM performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 19 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects



concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, Highland Cathedral, Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include singer Margaret Kelly from Aberdeen, Scotland, James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

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LEARNED KINDRED'S ONLY FUNDRAISER

This annual concert is the Learned Kindred's only fundraiser, generating their operating budget for the year ahead. Losing the concert income is financially devastating to outreach

programmes which support young people in education in Scotland, Canada and the United States through scholarships and sponsorships.

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School as well as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland), Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Royal National Mòr and the Gaelic College in Nova Scotia, among others.

ABOUT THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."

The Pipes of Christmas Virtual Concert, produced by The Clan Currie Society / The Learned Kindred of Currie, has been nominated for an award in the prestigious MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards (Na Trads) 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert (Bob) Currie (United States) currierobert82@gmail.com, (908) 858-6357

Neil Gunn (Scotland) neil@ngwriting.com, 07493 509991

Clan Currie Society Facebook page: facebook.com/ClanCurrieSociety

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MEMORY OF COUNTY RESIDENT HONORED DURING CELEBRATION OF LIFE

NJ Sharing Network

On September 12, thousands of walkers, runners and volunteers participated in NJ Sharing Network's 5K Celebration of Life Walk and USATF Certified Race at the organization's headquarters in New Providence, NJ. The event, which was presented by Hackensack Meridian Health and Pfizer and supported by dozens of other generous sponsors, honored those who gave the gift of organ and tissue, paid tribute to those who have received a transplant, offered hope to those currently waiting for a transplant and remembered the lives lost while waiting for the gift of life.

Family members and friends of the late Caitlin Nelson, 20, of Clark, NJ, gathered together to form the "Caitlin Gives" 5K team to honor her

memory and show their support for NJ Sharing Network's life-saving mission. Caitlin, who tragically passed away in 2017, was an organ and tissue donor who saved and enhanced the lives of many others. Caitlin was a social work student hoping to be a pediatric oncology social worker and she was also a huge proponent of organ donation. At one time prior to her tragic accident, Caitlin told her mother to donate her organs if anything ever happened to her because she said someone could use them. Members of "Caitlin Gives" offered the following message during the 5K Celebration of Life:

Caitlin was a selfless, loving, amazing, warm-hearted girl who was one month shy of celebrating her 21st birthday when she tragically passed away. Her passion for life and devotion to

helping others was remarkable.

Caitlin's brilliant smile had this way of lighting up a room. She had an incredible, dazzling charm and a sweet, warm personality. She was a fervent supporter of organ donation and strongly encouraged her family and friends to sign up to become organ donors. Caitlin gave the gift of life by donating her heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, and liver. She also donated over 200 bone and tissue grafts. Her gifts have already helped 50 people.

Our angel baby accomplished so much and touched so many lives in her 20 years. As a daughter, sister, girlfriend, cousin, friend, and niece, Caitlin will be missed terribly but will live on in our minds and hearts.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

Dedicated to saving lives through organ and tissue donation, NJ Sharing Network is the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents waiting for a life-saving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization, selected by NJBIZ as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the fourth consecutive year, is also part of the national recovery system, serving the 110,000 people on the national waiting list.

To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.



(above) Family members and friends of the late Caitlin Nelson, 20, of Clark, NJ, gathered together to form the "Caitlin Gives" 5K team to honor her memory and show their support for NJ Sharing Network's life-saving mission




(above) Caitlin Nelson gave the gift of life by donating her heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, and liver. She also donated over 200 bone and tissue grafts. Her gifts have already helped 50 people.

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GRIEF SUPPORT FACILITATORS NEEDED

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for children's grief support programs has never been greater. Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, a non-profit organization based in Mountainside and Newark, exists to support children in New Jersey who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or close family member. Imagine offers free peer support groups for children ages 3-18, young adults 19-30, and the parents and guardians of the children in the program. Groups for Spanish-speaking bereaved adults are also available. Currently, all groups are being held virtually, however, there are plans to transition some groups to in-person as soon as it feels safe to do so.

Imagine's support groups are only possible because of our amazing team of volunteers who facilitate the groups. Imagine currently has a wait list of families looking to join our support groups. We are unable to offer them support at this time because we do not have enough volunteers to begin another Night of Support. We need your help!

Imagine's volunteer facilitators 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 grief without trying to fix, solve, or give advice. No prior experience is necessary, but volunteers must be 18 years or older. Bilingual (Spanish-speaking) volunteers are needed as well. Volunteers serve as companions and caring listeners for those who are grieving to help create a safe space where participants can share tears and embrace the joys of life.

10-12th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For information on joining Imagine's team of volunteers, please contact Imagine's Program Manager, Veronica Ortiz, by emailing veronica@imajinenj.org, or by calling 908-264-3100. Please help us address the growing need for children's grief support and ensure that no grieving child is required to wait to receive the support they need.

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The Raptor Trust is a 501(C)3 organization that provides free medical care to thousands of Injured and orphaned wild birds each year. Located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ, The Raptor Trust's outdoor aviary trail is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no charge and no reservation necessary for general admission at

this time, though donations are always appreciated.

The Raptor Trust is also offering private guided tours, virtual programs, and outdoor field trips this fall. You can email education@theraptortrust.org with any booking questions or find more information on our website at TheRaptorTrust.org.

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP — DEC. 21

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 people with mental illnesses. The group is led by NAMI-trained facilitators and is a peer support group that allows participants to gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

Free Zoom sessions are held on the 3rd

Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. To register, email Denise at: namiunioncounty@yahoo.com with your name, town, and phone number.

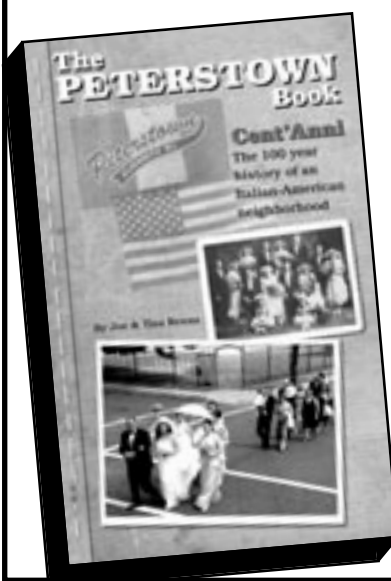


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HANUKAH: A CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

By Rabbi Paul David Kerbel Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim, Cranford

Hanukah is one of the Jewish religion's most popular holidays. No doubt, part of Hanukah's popularity derives from its proximity to Christmas and the bundling of a variety of religious, ethnic and cultural holidays that occur at this time of year creating a festive holiday season.

You might be surprised to know however, that unlike Christmas, Hanukah is not one of Judaism's major holidays. That billing goes to Rosh HaShanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Fasting and Atonement) and the Pilgrimage Festivals of Passover, Sukkot and Shavuot that are explained and discussed in The Book of Leviticus (Chapter 23).

But Hanukah is important for many reasons. In the first place, next to the Passover Seder, more Jews celebrate Hanukah than any other Jewish ritual or holiday observance. We celebrate two miracles on Hanukah: the military victory of a small, outmanned Jewish army winning out over a superior Syrian-Greek King Antiochus

Epiphanes, who forbade the Jewish people to study their scriptures, keep their calendar, observe their holidays or offer sacrifices in the Temple. The King wanted the Jews to sacrifice to the Greek Gods and study the best of Greek culture. King Antiochus was jealous of the God of Israel and sought to eradicate distinctive Jewish practices and culture.

The second miracle of Hanukah is the story in Rabbinic tradition, that when the revolt ended and the Jewish people sought to rededicate and purify the Holy Temple in Jerusalem that had been defiled by the decree of King Antiochus by lighting the Menorah, the religious candelabrum that served as a major symbol of religious Jewish life in the Temple, that there was only enough purified olive oil to last for one day, but the lamp remained burning for eight days!

But I also think the story of Hanukah teaches and shares important lessons for our friends and neighbors of other faiths about religious faith and belief. To me, Hanukah represents the first



victory in human history of religious freedom. In a certain sense, Hanukah is a universal holiday of religious freedom. If the Jewish people had lost this physical and spiritual war in 164 BCE (before the common era) and 164 years before the birth of Jesus, Judaism would have died out and since Christianity and Islam emanate out of and are connected to Judaism, there would not be today any adherents of these great faiths. Judaism, Christianity and Islam exist today because of the religious faith of these defenders of Judaism to stand up for their beliefs and rights.

Hanukah also teaches religious tolerance and the celebration of pluralism. Hanukah reinforces the rights of a minority to stand up for its beliefs while living in a larger secular or religious culture of other religious faiths. Our country was built on the idea of freedom of religion and the freedom to live by and practice the customs, rituals and commandments of our respective religions. Hanukah teaches me that sometimes miracles happen in the quiet constancy of our everyday practice of our respective customs, prayers and traditions and our interaction and bonds of friendship and community responsibility with our neighbors of all religions and ethnic groups.

The most enduring symbol of both Hanukah and Christmas is the celebration of light. We light a Menorah to symbolize the miracles of our survival and the dedication of our people - for over four-thousand years even in the midst of persecution or the attempt to suppress our faith and practice - to practice our customs and traditions with hope and confidence in the future as a monotheistic ethical religion and culture.

For our Christian friends, the lights of the Christmas season represent essential religious beliefs including joy, peace, kindness and service to our fellow human beings. Even with the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic has caused, among the most difficult in our lifetimes, may the lights of our respective traditions strengthen our commitment to our respective faiths and our obligation and opportunity to make a difference in our community and in the world at large. As one great rabbi wrote: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." Wishing all of us a meaningful holiday season!

Rabbi Paul David Kerbel is the rabbi of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim in Cranford. He is active in the Cranford Clergy Association, the Union County Board of Rabbis, the Rabbinic Roundtable of the Jewish Federation of MetroWest, NJ and on the New Jersey Advisory Board of The Anti-Defamation League.

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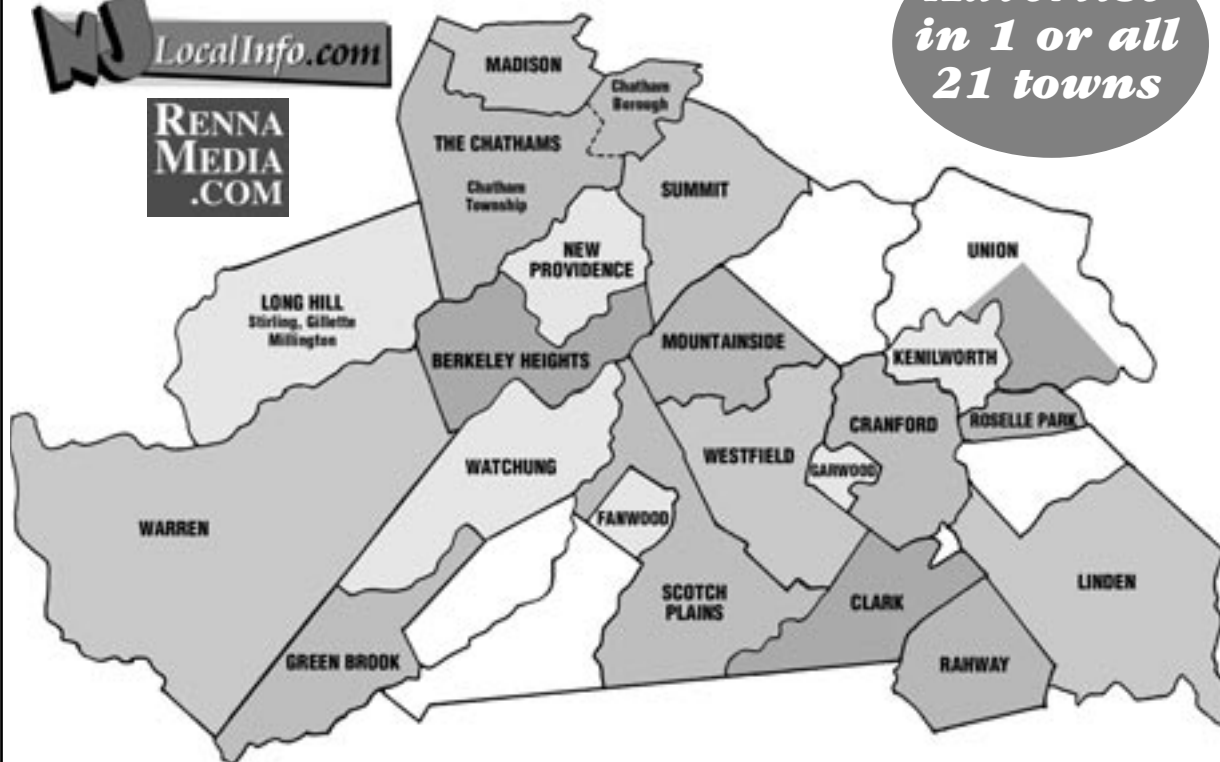
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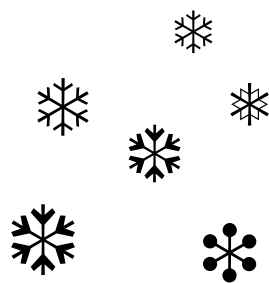
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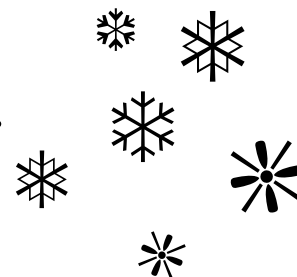
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WINE

Bartenura Moscato	750ml	\$11.99
Barone Fini Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$11.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	750ml	\$ 5.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$ 9.49
Black Box (All Types)	3L	\$19.99
Carnivor Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$10.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	1L	\$ 5.99
Cavit (All Types)	1.5L	\$14.99
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$19.99
Dom Perignon	750ml	\$189.99
Dreaming Tree (All Types)	750ml	\$12.99
Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$ 9.99
Adagio Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Freixenet Brut, Extra, Extra Dry	750ml	\$10.99
Gato Negro (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Gazela Vinho Verde	750ml	\$ 6.49
Joseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$26.99
Kendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay	750ml	\$12.09
Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc	750ml	\$13.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages	750ml	\$11.99
Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse	750ml	\$24.99
Martini & Rossi Asti	750ml	\$11.97
Menage a Trois Red	750ml	\$ 9.99
Mi Amore Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Moet Imperial Champagne	750ml	\$43.99
Noble Wine 337, 667	750ml	\$11.99
Papi (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.99
Ruffino Chianti	750ml	\$ 8.99
Ruffino Chianti	1.5 L	\$13.97
Ruffino Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$13.99
Ruffino Tan label	750ml	\$19.99
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$22.09
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet	750ml	\$76.99
Simi Chardonnay	750ml	\$13.09
Woodbridge (All Types)	1.5L	\$12.49

**We specialize in hard to find items
and custom orders, just ask!**

10% OFF	15% OFF
Any purchase of 6 bottles of wine	Any purchase of 12 bottles of wine
Restriction apply.	Restriction apply.
Coupons not valid on sale items.	Coupons not valid on sale items.
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 December 31, 2021.