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**ISSUE 99 • DECEMBER 2021** 

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#### SANTA CAN VISIT YOUR HOME ON A FIRE ENGINE

Santa Claus can come to your home on a fire engine and deliver a special present to your child(ren) on Saturday, December 18 making an unforgettable memory for your family. (Arrival times are flexible.)

This is an annual fund raiser for the Stirling Volunteer Fire Dept. and supports them in paying for training, equipment, etc. A \$40 per household donation is requested and you must drop off your wrapped gift at the Stirling Firehouse (321 Somerset St., Stirling) on December 16

or 17 between 6 and 9 p.m. Your \$40 donation is requested when you drop off your gift, checks payable to the Stirling Vol. Fire Dept.

Upon arrival at your home Santa will visit with your child(ren) and you may take their photos with Santa and/or get the whole family in the picture. He'll also be accompanied by elves, which will make this an event that your child(ren) and your family will cherish for years. What can be better than having Santa arrive on a real fire engine to make his visit personal?

You will be called on Saturday morning, December 18, to be advised when Santa will arrive at your home. You may request a morning or afternoon visit.

To sign-up and reserve a spot for Santa's exciting personal visit email: StirlingFireCompany@gmail.com - One of Santa's helpers will return your call with additional information.





(above) Firefighter Santa will be making home visits on December 18 with the Stirling Volunteer Fire Dept.



# Long Hill LEADER

Renna Media LLC, Publishers

202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Long Hill Leader is published by Renna Media. 3,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in the Long Hill.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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#### **SEND US YOUR NEWS**

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

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#### **FREE INTRO CLASS**

# HOLIDAY HOUSE/BUSINESS DECORATING CONTEST

The Long Hill Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest as an opportunity to promote your business this holiday season.

There are several ways you can participate:

If you have a physical location/storefront, definitely decorate your business. This will draw customers who may have never noticed you before, and since businesses are eligible to enter, you may win a prize and additional recognition.

Donate an item for the gift bags. Prizes for each category are lovely gift bags that also contain promotional items (think gift certificates, promotional items like ice scrapers, samples, etc).

Buy a gift card from a local restaurant. Purchase a gift card and add "compliments of" your business.

Provide something for the event. For example, Dunkin' Donuts offered free hot chocolate for families doing the tour.

If you want people coming to your business contact us right away with what you can offer folks that are on the tour and can stop by to see you.

All the details are on the attached flyer. Looking forward to a fun and profitable Holiday Season! Don't forget to register by visiting longhillni.gov/recreation/community-pass.html.



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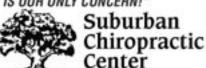
That "searing, burning pain" in your thigh and calf... that "aching, numbing" feeling in your hip and buttocks.

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#### **CUB SCOUT PACK 182 IS BACK TO CAMPING!**

October Pack 182 Scouts enjoyed their first official two-night camporee since the start of the pandemic. Thanks to the local Watchung Reservation for hosting the Warren Cub Scout Pack along with Pack 32 from Watchung and Pack 35 from Cranford. Warren Cub Scouts were eager to get back into their tents after a long wait. Overnight camping filled with adventures and activities has been a longstanding tradition in Cub Scouting, one that families look forward to year after year. After well over a year without a camping experience, Pack 182 leaders came together to plan and execute this wonderful event! The focus of this camporee was to expose K-5th grade Scouts and their families to an array of outdoor skills while having plenty of fun! Thanks to Den Leader, Mariette Dzeletovic, and Assistant Cubmaster, Ryan Valentino, for spearheading this camping extravaganza. Cubmaster, Chris Bellmann, took the reins on supporting the archery range and teaching safety and skills across all ages and ranks while Rangemaster, Tom Ventriglia, ran the BB gun range. Many leaders and parents came together to ensure a

Back into the wild before the storm! In safe and action-packed weekend! There were nature hikes, lessons in knots and survival, an epic Capture the Flag game, as well as delicious campfire meals, and of course the coveted s'mores.

> How can you join the Fun? Boys can enroll in Pack 182 Warren Cub Scouts at any time during the year, with many joining simultaneously at the start of a new school year. Scouts from surrounding towns are welcome.

> To learn more about Scouting, please contact, membership@warrenpack182.org.



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#### **GIRL SCOUTS ENJOY ANNUAL CAMPFIRE AND SING-ALONG**

#### Submitted by Margaret Keegan

Long Hill Township's Girl Scout Troops and families came together to partake in the annual campfire event on the grounds of the Stirling Elks property on Saturday, November 13th. The Cadette Troops hosted and showed their impressive fire building skills, but of course, no fire would be complete without delicious s'mores enjoyed by all! Each troop shared in the sing-along, singing traditional girl scout songs they have learned over the years, while introducing the youngest Daisy Troop members

to some catchy tunes. It was a memorable evening filled with bonding and camaraderie within our girl scout community.

In the girl scout spirit of giving back, all attendees were asked to bring non-perishable food items, diapers, and/or baby formula to support local families in need.

Thank you to Lombardo farms for graciously donating the firewood and Stirling Elks for allowing use of the property.



(above) Long Hill Girl Scouts making s'mores at the annual campfire.

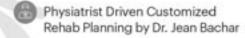


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Spring Grove is by far the best rehab center I have ever been to. The staff are kind and caring and have gone above and beyond my expectations. The building is kept extremely clean and the new renovations are very nice.

Thank you Spring Grove for a wonderful and pleasant stay.



Charles Sherrick

I have been at Spring Grove for a few weeks now, they have exceptional service and excellent staff. All the nurses have been professional and attentive to all my needs. I never thought a rehab center can have such a beautiful layout and well put together. The newly renovated room I have stayed in, is up to date and extremely clean. The therapy staff have gone above my expectations with their expertise and getting me to where I am today. Alyssa the social worker has gone above and beyond with all her assignments.

Thank you Spring Grove.



Chrissy Sloan

The nursing staff and administration is professional, patient, attentive and understanding. The facilities are very clean and well maintained. My parents room is always clean and tidy. Although it was a difficult decision to make relocating my folks from a home environment to a senior living facility, Spring Grove made my decision easy.

Thank God for them!



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# IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE FOR A KID TO LEARN HOW TO RUN FASTER?

Retired San Francisco 49ers QB Joe Montana, is arguably one of the greatest NFL players that has ever played football...when his son started playing football it would have made sense for him to help his son learn how to play Quarterback.

But that's not how it went. Joe Montana had to hire a quarterback coach to help his son be a better football player. Here's possibly the greatest NFL QB of all time, needing to hire someone else to help his son. It was not that Joe Montana was not equipped for the job...it was that his son needed a second voice to help him get to the next level.

Many parents who have much less knowledge, experience, and skills than Joe Montana are in the same boat in regards to helping their kids get stronger, faster, and more confident.

Most parents we've come across want their kids to eat healthier, be more active, and have a stronger mindset. But many have told us they need help.

Even with the constant reminders of telling their kids to eat more vegetables, get outside instead of watching TV, practice their sport more, get to bed earlier...they find that sometimes the message falls on deaf ears...and some backup would be helpful toward their vision of helping their kid be the best they can be.

Parents have told us that having us(the Grit Athlete Performance Coaches) as a second voice to help reinforce the habits they want for their kids...is changing the game.

Further...Our Grit Athlete Founder has over 20 years experience with training athletes himself...and certainly knows a LOT more about getting stronger and faster than the average parent...But has all 3 of his children(9,8 and 6) enrolled in Grit year round....because he knows the power of that second voice.

And after they come through our program, parents tell how it's turbocharging their parenting. Here are some real-life examples that have been reported...

Before, parents struggled with getting kids to eat vegetables...now their kids are asking for more.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to get enough sleep....now their kids are getting to bed earlier on their own.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to watch less TV or play video games...now they are limiting these activities because they've learned they don't really help them become better athletes.

Before, parents struggled with helping their kids have more confidence...now their kids are doing things out of their comfort zone more often which is helping them believe in themselves which further improves self-esteem.

Before, parents had no clue how to help their kid get faster...now they are faster because they've learned that speed is a skill, and a few simple tweaks can make a kid faster immediately.

Before, parents could not get their kids to make their beds...now their kid makes their bed each morning on their own because they learned that making their bed in the morning helps them have a better day.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to do even one good push-up...now they catch them in their room practicing on their own.

Before, parents wanted their kids to have more determination and grit when training new things...now they are staying calm under pressure and seeking out challenges instead of avoiding them.

Many times it's not about telling your kid to eat more vegetables or stop watching TV...but rather finding the right environment for them to be more successful.

Right in your backyard, there's a team of great coaches waiting to be second voices for your kids...so that all the things you're teaching as parents will be reinforced. But most importantly, the results you're after for your kids will actually become a reality. The Grit Athlete winter Sports Performance session starts on December 13th in Berkeley Heights NJ, visit www.gritathletes.com to fill out an application for your child.

Grit Athlete Performance is a Sports Performance Training Company located in Berkeley Heights that helps kids ages 6-18 get strong, fast, and confident so they can have a bigger and better future. They have just released the dates for their winter program that starts on December 3rd. Visit www.gritathletes.com to register for their winter session...or see below for more details...

# **SPORTS PERFORMANCE TRAINING FOR KIDS AGES 6-18**

STARTS DECEMBER 13 (17 SPACES REMAINING)

**NDDLY NOW** 

# STEP 1 Scan This QR Code





Warning: The Winter session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the winter session.

**Attention Parents of Kids Ages 6-18** 

## UPDATE: THE GRIT ATHLETE PERFORMANCE WINTER PROGRAM HAS ONLY 17 SPACES REMAINING

Give us 12 weeks with your kids and we'll have them stronger, faster, and more confident...guaranteed.

#### Here's what parents can expect to happen:

- They will get stronger which means when they show up to their sport they'll be able to perform better than ever.
- They will run faster and jump higher so they can show up to their next season and people will start asking what the heck have they been doing.
- They'll become more coordinated and improve agility which means they'll pick up new skills their coaches teach them faster.
- Your children will start to eat better because we'll be educating them daily on what's good and what they should avoid ...don't be surprised if they start asking you to buy more vegetables.
- Confidence will skyrocket. When kids get stronger, faster and more fit...their confidence will rise...so will their self-esteem which means their performance in every aspect of life will get better.
- Their mindset will improve. We're going equip your child with very specific mindset skills that'll help them learn how to transform how they think about mistakes and failures.

# HAPPY PARENTS TALKING ABOUT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR KIDS...

- "When my son started Grit he was quiet, shy, and had some difficulty with movements...Now he is confident in himself, has become more vocal, and is mastering the exercise he struggled with in the past."
  - Jen O'Brien, Grit Athlete Parent
- "My son is more disciplined and confident in himself"
  - Steve Hughes, Grit Athlete Parent
- "I have watched my children become more confident and vocal."
  - Christine Stramandinoli, Grit Athlete Parent
- "His confidence has shot up in the last few months...and has carried forward to the way he approaches other activities like sports and schoolwork. My son is now making his bed daily and exercising every day."

- Catherine Solfaro, Grit Athlete Parent

#### STARTS DECEMBER 13TH (Only 17 Spaces Remaining)







Warning: The Winter session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the winter session.



#### MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE FURRY AND BRIGHT

During this holiday season, we at Home for Good Dog Rescue, would like to express our gratitude to those who passionately believe in our mission to save dogs from horrific conditions, dangerous environments, and cruelty at the hands of heartless offenders. Your support of the rescue by generously serving through volunteering, adopting, fostering, and sharing your financial gifts is extraordinary.

Repeatedly, you have welcomed our beloved dogs into your homes, participated in our advocacy work, and shared our miraculous stories on social media. Now, as this year ends, please take a moment to reflect on what truly sets Home for Good apart from most animal welfare organizations. It is the heart of the rescue that leads us. It is what binds us together as a community, serving the most vulnerable amongst us, the voiceless. While we are approaching our 10,000th adoption, it is not about the quantity of dogs, but it is about meeting each dog's needs, regardless of age, medical condition, or expense. It is truly a miracle to see these lives being saved and families eagerly extending their love to these vulnerable, loving creatures. Meet Frankie...

This past year has been challenging and marked by many unforgettable moments. And Frankie is just one of the thousands of memorable Home for Good stories. Rescued from the brink of death at a garbage dump in Millen, Georgia, at just 1.5 years old, this sweet pup endured more than any dog should in a lifetime. Frankie was in severe covered mange, extremely malnourished, and emaciated. He had an advanced case of Heartworm disease, a lethal condition in which heartworms infest the heart, and eventually cause organ damage. All treatment was provided at the rescue's expense through "Lexi's Beating Heart Medical Fund", established by a benefactor during the pandemic to support the expensive treatment of Heartworm disease. Home for Good saves over 50 dogs from certain death from this disease each year.

Home for Good is not just who we are, it is what we do. We intend to never leave a dog behind that comes into our care and have not yet done so. Without you, our community, none of this would be possible. We are grateful that you stand beside us, carrying out the heart of our mission. And that is why we ask you to please consider a year-end gift. There are many more souls to save. Join us at homeforgooddogs.org or scan this QR Code to donate today.



#### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

a worshiping and serving community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ 07974 908-464-5177 • family.faith@verizon.net www.famfaith.org • The Rev. Jane McCready, Pastor

#### **Sunday Mornings**

Liturgies with Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

#### Midweek Advent Liturgy Followed by Organ Recital

Wednesdays at 12 noon December 1, 8, and 15

#### Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24 Family Service at 4:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist at 6:00 p.m.

#### Services of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist Saturday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Services with limited seating and regular livestream. Visit our website at www.famfaith.org or find us on Facebook at Faith Lutheran, New Providence.

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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**

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through ShowTix4U. (Be certain to select "The Learned Kindred of Currie" as the organization name.)

#### **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 Concert Facebook page: facebook.com/ThePipesofChristmas





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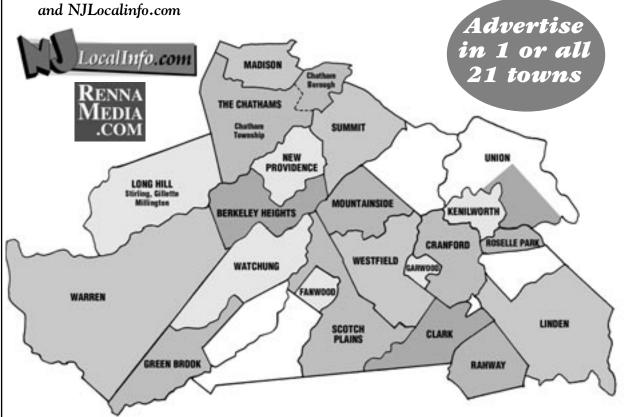
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#### ELF THE MUSICAL JR. TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Community Access Unlimited

promises holiday cheer, a lot of laughs, and possibly too much sugar.

Tickets for Elf the Musical Jr. are now A triumphant musical returning this December 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 season.

"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 cauni.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.

#### WHRHS HALL OF FAME SEEKING NOMINATIONS

Watchung Hills Regional High School

The Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting nominations for The Class of 2022 Hall of Fame. The deadline for nominations is January 15, 2022. Nomination forms may be found on the school website whrhs.org, under the Community heading. Forms may also be picked up in person at the WHRHS, 108 Stirling Road, Warren.

The Hall of Fame was set up to recognize individuals who have achieved distinction either during their high school days and/or in their professional or community life thereafter, as well as those who have served, with diligence and devotion, as Watchung Hills educators, coaches,

board of education members, volunteers, and so on. Alumni nominees must have graduated at least 10 years ago.

To date, 69 individuals have entered the Hall of Fame in a wide variety of different fields, including education, athletics, humanities, the arts, medicine and volunteerism. Those selected to the Class of 2022 will be honored at a ceremony to be held in May of 2022. Those not selected will still be considered for future classes.

For more information, please feel free to contact Ms. Laurie Grafer, Administrative Assistant to the Principal at 908-647-4800 ext. 4870 or e-mail her at lgrafer@whrhs.org.

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