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# Clark Monthly NJ


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## CLARK SENIOR'S HOLIDAY PARTY 2021

On Tuesday, December 7, 2021, Clark seniors celebrated the holiday season at The Gran Centurions banquet hall. The event included a chance to catch up with old friends, a delicious meal, and music and dancing to really get everyone into the holiday spirit! What a fun event for the seniors of Clark!

*Photos from this and other events can be found on line at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on the Clark Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com). Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."*



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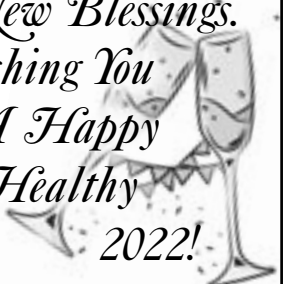
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## CLARK'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

### Clark Monthly NJ

Renna Media LLC, Publishers  
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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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Clark Monthly

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Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and the Town Council invited Santa to breakfast with the children of Clark on Sunday, November 28, 2021. A tradition for over two decades, the event is held at the Gran Centurions for residents to enjoy. "What's more fun than watching kids talk to Santa about what's on their list?" said Mayor Bonaccorso. "This is a

tradition I started when I took office and one myself and the Town Council plan to continue." The annual event required pre-registration in one of the three sessions planned. Children had a chance to chat with Santa and then enjoy some breakfast with their families.

Photo by Clark Township



## RECYCLING - PLASTIC BAGS AND/OR PIZZA BOXES

Clark DPW

Waste Management has contacted the town of Clark to say they were unable to pick-up some of the recycling put out by residents because the waste included plastic bags and/or pizza boxes.

Please be advised that used pizza boxes are not recyclable and belong in traditional trash bins. Plastic bags are not accepted in the recycling bins

or as a container to hold excess recycling either.

If pizza boxes or plastic bags are present in the recycling put to the curb for pick-up, the entire load will be left curbside. Residents should remove those items and return the bin to the street in time for their next pick-up.

If you have any questions, please call Clark DPW at 732-428-8402

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### LORI'S CLARK TRANSACTIONS FROM 1/1/20 TO PRESENT

#### **SOLD**

15 Westfield Ave.	187 Liberty St.	1 Longfellow Lane	18 Terhune Rd.
40 Ivy St.	11 Harding Ave.	8 Wendell Place	1 Jarvis Ter.
15 Tudor Dr.	40 John St.	13 Blake Dr.	39 Frances Dr.
10 Washington St., Unit 03	77 John St.	42 School St.	28 Gibson Blvd.
47 Briarwood Path	17 Hillside Ave.	29 Harvey Ct.	41 Largo Lane
39 King St.	11 Avon Rd.	18 Yorktown Dr.	5 Tudor Dr.
56 Lexington Blvd.	81 New York Ave.	45 Starlite Dr.	111 Westfield Ave.
13 Blake Dr.	42 Kenneth Pl.	1538 Franklin St.	14 Washington St.
213 East Lane	303 West Ln.	40 Conger Way	118 Jupiter St.
1168 Lake Ave., Unit 4	1 Kathryn St.	15 Ayers Lane	61 Sycamore Rd.
45 Wendell Pl.	29 Hillside Ave.	72 Dorset Dr.	18 Terhune Rd.
501 Oak Ridge Rd.	9 Shetland Dr.	5 Schmidt Lane	
309 Oak Ridge Rd.	12 Yorktown Dr.	269 Willow Way	
29 Conger Way	84 Wheatsheaf Rd.	18 Ginesi Dr.	
13 Florence Dr.	12 Ascot Way	7 Blake Dr.	
303 West Ln.	301 West Lane	43 Willow way	
1 Rose Ter.	1119 Maurice Ave.	95 Briarheath Ln.	

#### **UNDER CONTRACT**

43 Kathryn St.  
15 Briarheath Ln.  
54 Harding Ave.  
306 Parkway Dr.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 112, 86 ARE IN CLARK**



## SHADOW: AMERICA'S PUP DELIVERS HOLIDAY JOY

### New Jersey Veterans' Network

If you have ever been to a New Jersey Veterans Network event, you have probably been welcomed there by a sweet furry face and a puppy kiss. That furry face, kiss and sweet disposition come from the NJVN Mascot, Shadow, known as America's pup.

Shadow is a therapy dog in training. A therapy dog (unlike a service dog for which he is often confused) is a dog who can lend comfort and affection to people dealing with emotional issues or turmoil during events or in a rehabilitative setting. In Shadow's case he often serves to help break down barriers some veterans can put up while isolating because of depression or PTSD. Animals can act as great grounding tools, bringing Veterans into the here and now and away from traumatic memories that can often be hard to escape.

Shadow is a great example of how effective animals can be in lifting spirits! During 2021, a year that has been difficult for many, he has been part of dozens of visits to veterans', and events and has brought smiles to our military heroes throughout the state at everything from National Guard Units to Veterans shelters. Last year he was even presented a Unit Patch by the National

Guards' 143rd transportation Unit during a visit.

"Shadow seems to know when someone could use some love and he is quick to run up tail wagging and give it, he is truly a blessing," says proud Shadow Poppa and NJVN Outreach Director, Frank "Doc" Schupp. Often times during speaking engagements at veteran events Shadow will go through the crowd with his handler calming down veterans who may be anxious and turning frowns into smiles; it's very hard not to smile when he's around," he continued.

For the last two years as part of the NJVN Helping Heroes project, Shadow suited up as "Shadow the Reindeer" and assisted "Santa-Doc" and other NJVN volunteers, including fellow canine companion and NJVN Mascot "Mush" in delivering Christmas gifts and toys to Veterans' families in seven New Jersey Counties. This program brought toys and gifts to over 140

children, many of whom were very happy to see Shadow, as well as food, clothing and resource assistance to dozens of families in need.

In addition to his many veterans' visits this past year, Shadow could also be seen on a recent mini documentary Vice News did on Doc Schupp and during footage rolled while NJVN President Michael Boll was being interviewed on Fox and Friends.

### ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our entire team is truly committed and dedicated with helping veterans and their families live a better way of life. If any veteran or their family members needs any assistance, or if you'd like to contribute or join our team of volunteers, please contact us at via email [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com) or call 973-332-1556.



(above) Shadow suites up at Christmastime as "Shadow the Reindeer" and assists NJVN volunteers in delivering Christmas gifts and toys to Veterans' families in seven New Jersey Counties. This program brought toys and gifts to children, many of whom were very happy to see Shadow, as well as food, clothing and resource assistance to dozens of families in need.

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## FORMER BOY SCOUTS SUPPORT TOYS FOR TOTS

### Flintlocks BSA, Inc.

The Flintlocks enthusiastically support the Boy Scouts of America Patriot's Path Council Toys for Tots campaign every year. All of them have sons who were in the scouts, and many have grandchildren now participating. President John Koneski was the first one to donate toys this year. Further, while Dr. Michael Hart says that he likes to buy toys which he thinks he would enjoy playing with himself, Bob Pysher's wife, however, likes to purchase a spread of different age group toys, including dolls for the girls, to ensure that all children in the various age groups get toys. Because of this, it is not a

surprise that Frank is attracted to the Trouble game (just kidding). Also, since Chuck is shy, he hid behind a basketball.

The Flintlock volunteers who donated toys to the program are former scouts who also donate approximately 5,000 volunteer hours per year to the Boy Scout Council, which includes helping to do maintenance and build new structures throughout all of the scout camps. They meet at the Flintlocks building at Camp Winnebago, located at 102 Timberbrook Road, Rockaway, NJ, the first building on the right, every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

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## OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Sunday, January 30, 2022**

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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(above) The happy group of Flintlock volunteers donating toys to the Toys for Tots program.

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## ATLANTIC MEDICAL GROUP CARDIOLOGY AT CLARK WELCOMES DR. DELIA DOBRESCU

Delia J Dobrescu, MD, FACC, is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine and fellowship-trained in both cardiology and electrophysiology. And now she's brought her extensive expertise to Clark, where she dedicates herself to helping restore regular rhythms to her patients with arrhythmia.

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# RWJ RAHWAY SURGICAL WEIGHT-LOSS CENTER ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway’s surgical weight loss program has received accreditation by the national Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP®), a joint quality program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS).

The accreditation as a Comprehensive Center means that patients seeking surgical treatment for obesity have a high-quality choice at a nationally accredited program that meets the highest standards for patient safety and quality.

“We are immensely proud that the program was recognized as MBSAQIP Comprehensive Center,” said Dr. Anish Nihalani, FACS, FASMBS, medical director of the RWJUH Rahway Weight Loss program. “The American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) is the national governing body that reviews programs and has rigorous standards for surgical outcomes, pre and post nutritional support and ongoing care of the morbidly obese patient.”

MBSAQIP Standards ensure that metabolic and bariatric patients receive multidisciplinary

medical care, which improves patient outcomes and long-term success.

RWJ Rahway’s commitment to quality care begins with expertly trained staff and the leadership of an experienced bariatric surgeon. The program is tasked with continuous review of surgical data as they continue improving the structure and outcomes expertise necessary to provide safe, efficacious, and high-quality care to all metabolic and bariatric patients.

To earn MBSAQIP Accreditation, the RWJ Rahway program met essential criteria for staffing, training, facility infrastructure and patient care pathways, ensuring its ability to support patients with obesity. The center also participates in a national data registry that yields semiannual reports on the quality of its surgical outcomes and identifying opportunities for quality improvement. The MBSAQIP Standards, Optimal Resources for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, are published by the ACS and the

ASMBS.

The program underwent an extensive site visit by an experienced bariatric surgeon who reviewed the center’s structure, processes, and clinical outcomes data.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates about 93 million adults in the United States are affected by obesity, which increases the risks of morbidity and mortality because of the conditions commonly associated with it, such as type II diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and cancer, among other health risks.

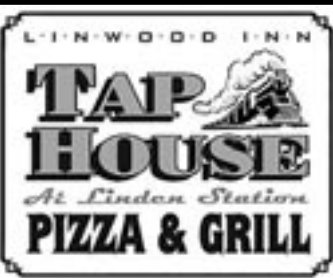
Metabolic and bariatric surgery has proven to be effective in the reduction of comorbid conditions related to obesity. Working together, the ACS and the ASMBS have developed accreditation standards for metabolic and bariatric surgery to assist patients with obesity in identifying centers that provide optimal patient care.

## SING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FREE WORKSHOPS

Love singing? Come sing with the Hickory Tree Chorus on Wednesday evenings in January from 7 to 9 p.m. The Chorus hosts singing workshops via Zoom or in-person for fully vaccinated members and guests as covid safety protocols permit. Participants will learn more about chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part harmony. Broadway, 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 women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Please register for Sing in the New Year by email [info@hickorytreechorus.org](mailto:info@hickorytreechorus.org) or call 908-377-1399. More information at [hickorytreechorus.org](http://hickorytreechorus.org). Watch the promo video on the Hickory Tree Chorus YouTube channel: [youtu.be/mcvYYvPV4rQ](https://youtu.be/mcvYYvPV4rQ).



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# RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

## DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

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



### If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

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

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. 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.

### Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

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Scot Paris MD, FACS



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- Perry O.

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- Quenton L.

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# GUS KALIKAS RECEIVES DAANJ AWARD



### Clark Public Schools

The Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey (DAANJ) recently named Clark Public Schools Athletic Director Gus Kalikas as the DAANJ Sectional Award of Merit Recipient representing the Central Section. The DAANJ cited "Mr. Kalikas's outstanding achievements, dedication to student-athletes and professionalism throughout his career as an Athletic Administrator". Mr. Kalikas will be honored at the DAANJ Annual Awards Banquet held during their Annual Workshop at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino on Thursday, March 17, 2022 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, "Mr. Kalikas could not be more well deserving of this immense honor. He is a leader in the field and continues to strongly represent ALJ and our entire school community."

Photo by Clark Public Schools



Elizabeth Bataille  
Sales Associate



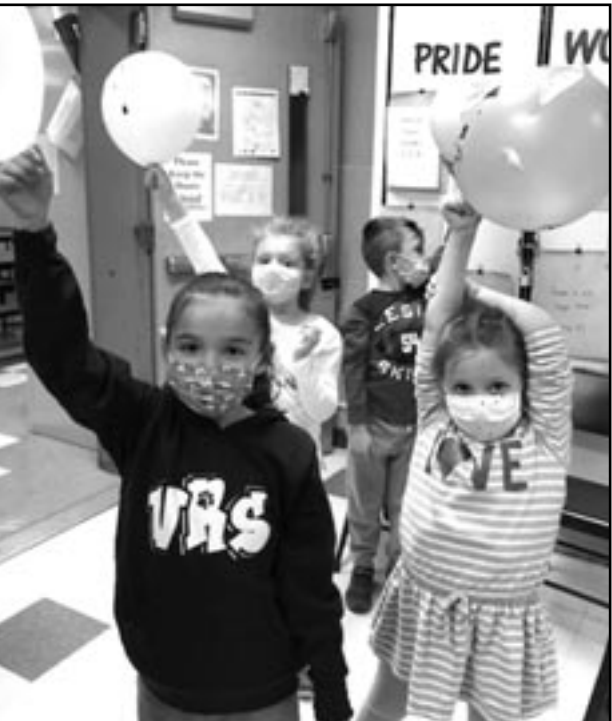
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# THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

## Clark Public Schools

Valley Road students created their own Thanksgiving Day parade in the school hallways! Fifth grade students in Ms. Kelly Worton, Ms. Nicole Reagan, and Ms. Diane Spagnoli’s classes worked in small groups to create and design their parade floats. Students used materials such as balloons, popsicle sticks, straws, construction paper, and tape to create their float. The students learned about Tony Sarg, the creator of the Thanksgiving Day balloons, from reading the story *Balloons Over Broadway*. Through this story, the students also learned about the value of trial and error and collaboration as a means to reach goals. The students were challenged with the task to create a Thanksgiving float (balloon) to showcase in the parade. The float had to be tall and sturdy so it could be held up by a “holder” not by the students’ hands.

First grade students in Ms. Ashley Cozzi’s

class also learned about the work of Tony Sarg and discussed the way he created new ideas, and most importantly never gave up! Students then planned their designs and used materials such as balloons, construction paper, feathers , cups, and other materials to create their planned balloons.

First grade students in Ms. Melissa Sakowski’s class watched videos and read books learning many interesting facts about how the floats come together for the parade. Students then created their own balloon float based on a specific character or their own self-created character. Students then created the background of NYC streets. The students worked in two groups to create a scene that showed the buildings of NYC and the audience attending the parade.

Valley Road students then paraded through the hallway having their very own Thanksgiving Day Parade!

Photos by Clark Public Schools





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# CLARK CRUSADERS CHEER TEAM PLACES 2ND AT FLORIDA NATIONALS

*Submitted by Jill Helm*

The Clark Crusaders Junior Varsity Pop Warner cheer team recently won 2nd place at the National Pop Warner Cheer Competition held in Orlando, Florida in early December. The JV

team is made up of 24 girls in 6th, 7th and 8th grade and they are led by coaches Shannon Tarentino and Danielle Fillion. In order to advance to Nationals, the team competed and placed 1st at two competitions in the fall. They

had an outstanding performance at Nationals and they were the only team for their age and size who scored in the 90s. Congratulations to the team and coaches on this wonderful achievement!

Photo by Clark Public Schools



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# 2021 FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS AT ALJ HIGH SCHOOL

### Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department recently held their 2021 Fall Athletic Awards. All the fall athletic teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while all athletes received letters and awards. Over 170 varsity athletic letters were awarded throughout the evening, as participation in athletics at ALJ High School continues to prosper.

The program culminated with the Student Athlete Award, which was presented by the Athletic Director Mr. Gus Kalikas. The Student Athlete Award is given out each athletic season to a student athlete that is not only a champion on the field, but in the classroom as well. The 2021 Fall Student Athlete award recipient was Sarah Scepkowski, with a 4.34 GPA.

In addition, the Crusader GPA Challenge was awarded to the team that finished with the highest overall GPA amongst athletic teams for the fall season. The recipients were presented with certificates and will have their team memorialized on a plaque to celebrate their

actions both in the classrooms and on the fields. The winner of the 2021 Fall Seasonal GPA Challenge was the field hockey team with a GPA of 4.14. Members of the field hockey team that received certificates were Peyton Collings, Tatum Dobbins, Angela Aromando, Julia Skultety, Maria Dante, Jenna Grandal, Julia Ranski, Jenna Reider, Georgia Sebok, Grace Warnick, Zoey Brown, Ava Wood, Veronica Parzych, Leah Scepkowski, Lacey Vill, and Lily Ficarra.

The Best Teammate Award is given out seasonally to one member from each athletic team that best fits the characteristics of a good teammate. The individuals that receive these awards exhibit upbeat attitudes and outstanding character. They helped influence the team's culture in a positive manner, while always supporting teammates and promoting team unity. The Best Teammate Award Winners were: Cross Country — Ryan Brophy,

Field Hockey — Maria Dante, Football — Nicholas Pingor, Boys' Soccer — Michael

Benevento, Girls' Soccer — Dominka Kosiek, Girls' Tennis — Olivia Marshall, Volleyball — Julianna Cistaro, and Cheerleading — Caylie Reilly.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players. The MVPs were: Cross Country — Kyle Gunsiorowski,

Field Hockey — Tatum Dobbins, Football — Jasen Hernandez, Boys' Soccer — Braden Garcia, Girls' Soccer — Sarah Scepkowski,


Girls' Tennis — Grace Cassidy, Volleyball — Sophia DiProfio, and Cheerleading — Arianna Gonzalez.

Athletic Director, Gus Kalikas, had this to say about the event: "Once again, our Fall Athletic Awards Program was successful as it allows the District, Administration, and Coaches the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful fall sports season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past fall athletic season."



(above) Sarah Scepkowski, 2021 Fall Student Athlete Award Winner.

Photos by Clark Public Schools  
(left) 2021 Fall GPA Winners - ALJ Field Hockey Program



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(above) 2021 Fall MVPs



(above) 2021 Fall BTAs



# PARENT UNIVERSITY HOSTS ART NIGHT

## Clark Public Schools

The Clark Public School District's Parent University Program hosted an Art Night on December 7, 2021 in the Arthur L. Johnson High School Cafeteria.

Students and parents created sock snowmen under the guidance of Valley Road School Art Teacher, Kerry Kennedy. Attendees used socks,

buttons, stuffing, and other materials to create their snowmen. Supervisor of Educational Initiatives, Christine Broski, stated, "Thank you to Mrs. Kennedy for sharing her talent and creativity with us. The event was an enjoyable way to bring the school community together and celebrate the season."

Photos by Clark Public Schools



(above) Students and parents created sock snowmen at art night in the Arthur L. Johnson High School Cafeteria.

## CLARK RECREATION

### INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL CLARK FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

Gather your family, friends, and neighbors for an evening of fun as the Clark Recreation Department has rented the Warinanco Skate Rink for the Township of Clark only. Please buy your tickets in advance to avoid long lines.

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When: January 15<sup>th</sup>

Where: Warinanco Skate Rink  
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Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Cost: \$5 per ticket

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# THREE COUNTY FAMILIES MADE OFFICIAL ON NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Multi-town parade includes superheroes, gift baskets and more

### CASA of Union County

The frosty morning of Nov. 19 may have been any other Friday for many, but for three Union County foster youth in Rahway, Roselle and Roselle Park, all under age three, their lives changed forever, as Union County Superior Court Judge Lara DiFabrizio granted each the consistency and stability deserved by all children, finalizing their adoptions and ending their time in the child welfare system. Each family had their own CASA volunteer working the case.

The annual event is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving and courts nationwide often celebrate National Adoption Day the business day before, or even open on Saturday, to hold adoption hearings. Here in Union County, all hearings were performed via Zoom due to Covid-19, and Judge DiFabrizio made official what each child likely already felt: they were finally home.

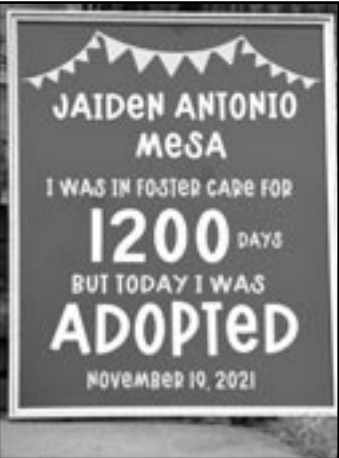
Despite the virtual component, those involved ensured the excitement was palpable. Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High School. All cheered for the family, where each took their first official photo together, and the children spent time with the superheroes and school mascot.

Families received a hot breakfast donated by Urban Griddle in Elizabeth; a flower bouquet provided by Jane Phillips who, until her recent retirement, headed the Adoption Day Committee for the judiciary; and a gift basket from CASA of Union County made possible by collections of board and card games, puzzles and movie night fixings from the Kenilworth school and Summit's Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child. The latter collection was spearheaded by Desiree Mitchell, daughter of CASA volunteer Hope Mitchell, and included fleece blankets made with classmates. In addition, each child and all siblings received their own superhero dress-up costume and books hand selected by the Phi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Each family received a WalMart gift card funded by the Union County Bar Association.

Costumes for CASA's interns were loaned by generous members of the Facebook Buy Nothing Group in Cranford and Garwood.

Today, more than 120,000 youth nationwide need a permanent home, with an average wait in foster care of four years. Each year, 23,000

youth age out of the system without a family or safety net in place. For details on CASA of Union County's mission, the need for volunteer advocates and how to become one, contact Lucia at [lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org) or log on to [casaoofunioncounty.org](http://casaoofunioncounty.org).



(above) Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High School.



# STUDENTS AND STAFF TAKE A PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

CLARK MONTHLY • Page 15 • January 2022

## Clark Public Schools

Students and staff at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark, NJ recently raised over \$4,600 by participating in the Cool School Plunge as part of its newly established Unified Program, which is sponsored by the Special Olympics. The Kumpf group came in fourth place in terms of fundraising during their plunge into the Asbury Park Ocean.

The Unified Program at the middle school began this year as a result of a grant from the Special Olympics written by Kumpf teachers, Jennifer Barbera and Dominique Smith. The grant provided \$2,500 dollars to start the sports/activity program and the goal of the program is to create inclusion in the school

through sports and other activities. The group has monthly meetings and is currently planning other activities.

Program Co-Advisor and Kumpf Teacher, Jennifer Barbera, stated, "I am so happy we were able to bring a team to the Cool School Plunge this year. It was amazing to see the support from the staff and the students. Everyone had such a fun time and truly showed what it is like to be unified."

Program Co-Advisor and Kumpf Teacher, Dominique Smith, stated, "The Cool School Plunge was a great way to kick start our Unified program. It was a meaningful way for students to begin building friendships with one another."

Photos by Clark Public Schools



(above) Kumpf students and staff at the Cool School Plunge in Asbury Park, NJ



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# JANUARY EVENTS FROM CLARK LIBRARY

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30 am - 9:00 pm • Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm • Sunday: Closed  
Closed on Saturday, January 1st for New Year, Wednesday, January 12th, 9-1 pm for Staff In-Service Training (Snow Date is January 19th).  
Monday, January 17th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

All children's events will be outdoors when weather permits, virtual, monthly basis. Please register for any programs by emailing hybrid, or indoor with masks for people over 3 years of age until further reference@clarklibrary.org and state which program you would like to notice. Mask requirements will be re-evaluated by the library board on a attend or through the online calendar on our website at clarklibrary.org.

## Annual Winter Reading Challenge

From now to January 31

The Clark Public Library will participate in Beanstack's Fifth Annual Winter Reading Challenge, "Read for a Better World," sponsored by Lerner Publishing Group. We challenge our patrons to read at least 10,000 minutes during the month and keep track of their reading on our site at [www.clarklibrary.beanstack.org](http://www.clarklibrary.beanstack.org) or on the free Beanstack Tracker app. Thousands of other libraries and schools across the nation are joining in too, for a chance at winning prizes including book collections, signed books, and virtual author visits. Happy reading, Clark!

## Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, January 4 at 1:00 pm

Join us for our next afternoon book club meeting. We'll be discussing "The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" by Marie Benedict. Please speak with a librarian if you need a copy of the book.

## [Virtual] Winter Trivia for Kids

Tuesday, January 4 at 3:30 pm

Celebrate Trivia Day with a game of Winter trivia on Kahoot! just for kids! Prizes for winner and runner-up. Prizes must be picked up, they will not be mailed.

## Totally New Tuesdays

January 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 6:30 pm

Movies are back at the library! Masks are optional and no registration is required.

## Chess Club for Adults

Thursdays, January 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 11 am-3 pm

The Chess Club meets Thursdays between 11 am-3 pm. New members welcome.

## Thursday Afternoon Movies

January 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 1:00 pm

Movies are back at the library! Masks are optional and no registration is required.

## Little Scientists

Thursday, January 6 and 20 at 4:00 pm

Learn how to build and create with our Science Experiments! Each session will be a different experiment that will touch upon a different STEM skill. Event will be outside, weather permitting for ages 5 and up. When inside adults and children over 3 will need to wear a mask during the program at this time (Mask requirements will be re-evaluated monthly)

Registration is required.

## The Five-Week Book Club

Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 pm

Welcome to our non-fiction and historical fiction book group! This evening we're sharing cookbooks! Have you got a passion for reading cookbooks, with all of their wonderful ideas and photos? Bring your favorite time-worn cookbook, or one that you found recently, and a favorite recipe or tip that you obtained from it.

## Finger Painting Friday

Friday, January 7 at 10:00 am

No childhood is complete without some good, old-fashioned, messy finger painting. We will read a story and then make some squishy, colorful creations. Wear some old clothes! Clark residents will have priority registration.

## Evening Book Club

Monday, January 10 at 7:00 pm

Join us for our next evening book club meeting. We will be discussing "The Guest List" by Lucy Foley. Please speak with a librarian if you need a copy of the book.

## Barks & Books

Tuesday, January 11 at 3:30 pm, 3:45 pm, 4:00 pm, or 4:15 pm or Saturday, January 15 at 10:00 am, 10:15, 10:30 am, or 10:45 am

If you have a young, reluctant, or struggling reader, we want you to meet our therapy dogs! Therapy dogs are non-judgmental listeners and furry friends to read to that won't laugh if a child makes a mistake or stumbles over a word. Children learn to associate reading with being with the dog and begin to view reading in a positive way. Over time, the child's reading ability and confidence can improve because they are practicing their skills. Children will each get approximately 15 minutes of reading time with Bubble, Magnolia, or Sophie. Please register for a 15-minute time slot.

## Tinker Tots

Thursday, January 13 at 10:00 am

Come join us for a morning of fun science activities perfect for little ones. For children ages pre-k and younger. Please register.

## New! Inkthoughts

Thursday, January 13 at 4:00 pm

A gathering of poets and poetry lovers, this group is open to Adults & Young Adults in high school and older. A casual group who enjoy talking about, writing, reading, and performing poetry, speeches, or essays.

## [Virtual] Pajama Time

Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 pm

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

## [Virtual] Adult Coloring Club

Friday, January 14 and 28 at 11:00 am

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

## [Adult] The Crafty Folks

Friday, January 14 @ 3:30 pm or Thursday, January 20 @ 7:00 pm

Make a cheerful wreath snowman door hanger to celebrate winter!. This is an Adult craft but Teens in High School are welcome to attend!

## Teen Tuesday: Acrylic Paint Pouring

Tuesday, January 18 at 3:00 pm

Drop by after school and create your own unique piece of paint pour canvas art. Please note: Your canvas will be wet and messy, and will need to stay overnight at the library to dry. Open to grades 5-12.

## Baby Bookworms

Tuesdays, January 18 and 25 at 10:00 am

Babies and toddlers are invited to listen to some books, and learn some songs, rhymes, lap bounces, and fingerplays! 30 minutes of open play follows.

## Stories & More

Fridays, January 21 and 28 at 10:00 am

Stories, movement, songs, and a take-home craft for active listeners ages 3 -5 years old. Registration is required. 30 minutes of open play follows.

## Tales for Tots

Mondays, January 24 and 31 at 10:00 am

Stories and songs for active listeners. Geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome!. 30 minutes of open play follows. Registration is required.

## Krafty Kids

Wednesday, January 26 at 3:30 pm

Join us as we make some fun and creative artwork. Using a few art supplies we will make a new craft each session! Don't forget to bring your imagination and creativity! Program will be held outdoors, weather permitting. If indoors, masks are required for people older than 3. Mask requirements are being re-evaluated monthly.

## Lego® Club

Friday, January 28 from 3:15 pm-4:15 pm

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

## Chinese New Year

Monday, January 31 from 3:30-4:30 pm

Join us as we celebrate the year of the Tiger! Find out your Chinese zodiac animal, make a Chinese lantern, and see if you can win the chopstick challenge! For ages 5 and up.

Registration is required.

## Boredom Buster for Kids

Available beginning January 3

Each month we have a new take-home craft for kids to pick up and make at their leisure. While supplies last, no registration.

## Boredom Buster for Adults and Teens

Available beginning January 3

Each month we have a new take-home craft for adults and teens to pick up and make at their leisure. While supplies last, no registration.



# CLARK POLICE DEPARTMENT SWEARS IN NEW OFFICERS

## Clark Township

Five new police officers were sworn into the Clark Police Department on Wednesday, December 1st, by Mayor Sal Bonaccorso at Clark's Municipal Building. These officers were selected from over 60 candidates that applied. All the officers are transfers to the department from other civil service jurisdictions within New Jersey. The officers will start their training immediately on a daytime unit of the patrol division. The new officers are:

Patrolman Michael Mazzulla is a graduate of Colonia High School. After high school, he attended the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He started his career in law enforcement as a Corrections Officer at the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility in 2015. In 2017, he was hired by the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office where he worked in the DNA Division/Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Field Training Officer.

Patrolman Teriq Ricks is a graduate of Irvington High School. He began his career in law enforcement working at the Corrections Corp. of America located in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Ricks worked in this position for over 11 years. From there, he was hired by the Irvington Police Department in 2018. He first worked in the S.A.F.E. Unit, a crime deterrence unit. Ricks was later transferred to the Patrol Division, then to the Housing Unit, which is responsible for handling all emergency calls in a high-rise building known for gang activity. In addition, Ricks was a School Resource Officer, where he

rotated through each of the thirteen schools and worked directly with the community youth, providing security and assisting with programs and safety drills.

Patrolman Patrick Delome is a graduate of Irvington High School and attended Essex County College. He began his career in law enforcement as a NJ State Corrections Officer, working in Trenton State Prison for two and a half years. He was then hired by the Irvington Police Department, where he has worked for the last 4 years. Delome worked in the Patrol Division answering calls for service and in the S.A.F.E. Unit, a crime deterrence unit aimed at improving the quality of life for residents. For the last seven months, he worked as a detective conducting various types of investigations. During his time at Irvington PD, Delome was the recipient of multiple command citations for arrests, summonses issued, and overall job performance.

Patrolman Michael Fabijanczuk is a 2009 graduate of Arthur L. Johnson High School. After high school, he earned an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education, from Union County College, and a Bachelor's Degree in accounting, from Kean University. Fabijanczuk was a member of the Clark Volunteer Fire Department from 2015 through 2021. He was hired by the Union County Sheriff's Office in 2019 and attended the John H. Stamler Police Academy. After graduation, Fabijanczuk was assigned to a court in the Criminal Division.

Patrolman Timothy Lisowski attended Union County College where he received an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. During this time, he was an Auxiliary Police Officer with the Cranford Police Department. While there, Lisowski was a recipient of the Chief's Award and the 5 Year Service Award. He also worked for the Cranford Police Department as a Dispatcher. Lisowski's first position as a sworn law enforcement officer was with the Kean University Police Department, where he has served since 2020. Further, he holds certifications in Bicycle Patrol and Basic Water Rescue.

It has been 32 years since the Clark Police Department onboarded this many officers in one day. In 1989, officers, Kevin Shackleton, John Doherty, Susan Ricci, Walter Merfert, and Don DeAquino, joined the force together. All had long careers with the department and have since retired.

Along with the new police officers, the Clark Police Department also hired a dispatcher who began his training on November 21, 2021.

Dispatcher Ryan obtained an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Union County College. He began working in Clark as a volunteer EMT with the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad in 2013, then became a paid EMT in Clark in 2015. Since then, he has also worked as a paid EMT in Woodbridge, Port Reading, and Avenel-Colonia, where he is a Captain. Wakstein is a certified instructor in Stop the Bleed and other tactical medicine.



(above, l-r) Chief Harvey Barnwell, Patrolman Michael Fabijanczuk, Patrolman Timothy Lisowski, Patrolman Michael Mazzulla, Lieutenant Acabou, Lieutenant Lott, Patrolman Teriq Ricks, Patrolman Patrick Delome, and Lieutenant Sofia Santos

Photos by Clark Township

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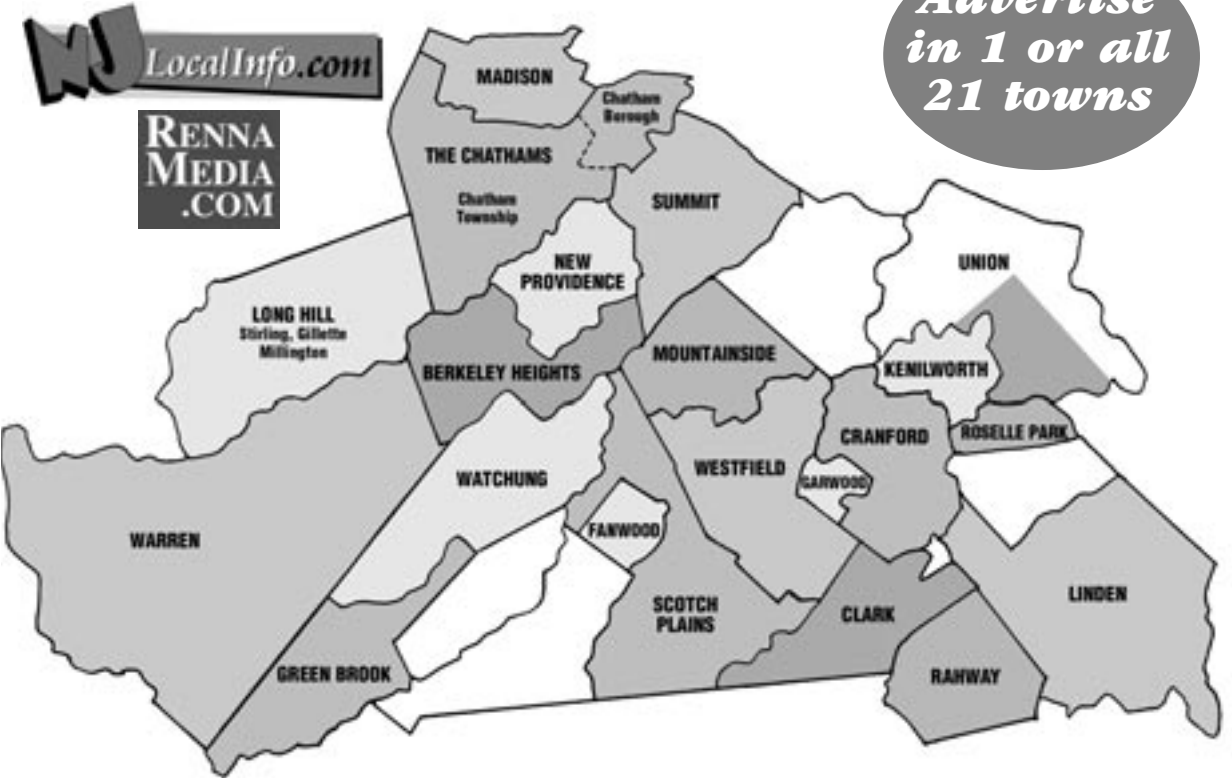
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# KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB IS BACK ON BOARD

The Kenilworth Chess Club resumed meeting on November 11, 2021, after twenty months of being closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Club President Jack McCorkell of Cranford held a “Welcome Back Tournament” to celebrate. The casual unrated tournament excited members, and even some new arrivals, who were itching to play “over the board” again. The three-week tournament ended in a tie for first place between Hanna Malko of Clark and Joe Renna of Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America spearheaded by Bobby Fischer’s march to the world championship. For 45 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including state champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It’s a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club’s website, [kenilworthchessclub.org](http://kenilworthchessclub.org), is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features.

Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center located next to Kenilworth Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, l-r) Brandon Verno of Kenilworth, John Moldovan of Garwood, Hannah Malko of Clark, Jack McCorkell of Cranford, Mark Shoengold and Louis Leiggi of Colonia analyze a critical position during the post mortem of Welcome Back Tournament game between Verno and Leiggi held at the Kenilworth Chess Club.

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