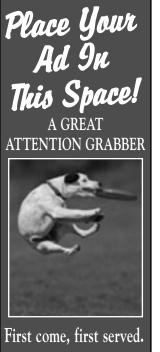
Green Brook Gazette

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

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GREEN BROOK'S SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE



(above) Green Brook's Scouting For Food Drive, which benefits the Fish, Inc. Dunellen Area's food pantry



ROOK, NJ 08812

CUSTOMER

POSTAL Green

Submitted by Lisa Couch

Green Brook Scout Troop #129, Cub Pack #129, and Dunellen Troop #29 participated in the annual Scouting For Food Drive during the week of November 15, 2021. Thanks to the generosity of Green Brook residents, the Scouts collected over 1,600 lbs. of non-perishable foods and personal care items to benefit the food pantry of Fish, Inc. Dunellen Area.

Troop #129 and Troop #29 meet at Top of the World Park each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Scouts BSA is open to youth who have completed fifth grade or are eleven years old. Cub Scouting is open to youth in kindergarten through fifth grade.

For more information about the Troop, please email Greenbrook129chair@gmail.com or for the Pack, Michael.hegedus@greenbrookpack129.org.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED AT FIRE DEPARTMENT!

Did you know that the Green Brook Fire Department is 100% volunteer? The Department is looking for new members with varying levels of availability (daytime, nighttime or any combination). Anyone interested is invited to attend a meeting on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire House (115 Greenbrook Road) or you can email Fire Chief Geno Panella at gbfirechief@optonline.net for more information. The Township pays all costs for your training to become a firefighter/EMT when you register to become a member. As a volunteer not only will you get a chance to serve your community, but you will also have unique training opportunities and you will gain the ability to operate the Township's great fleet of fire apparatus. In addition, volunteers are also eligible for the NJ Volunteer tuition reimbursement program for the volunteer, spouse and children and are allowed a credit of \$600.00 a year toward county colleges

that participate. Volunteers are also offered a clothing reimbursement stipend based on participation level as well. Come down to the fire house or contact Chief Panella to find out more!



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DEDICATED, DIGITAL LEARNING SOLUTION STATIONS FOR YOUTH

The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) has expanded their digital learning solutions for youth to include AWE's Platinum Early Literacy Stations[™] at all 10 Library locations.

"As youth services librarians, we know that many of our caregivers struggle with concerns over when and how to integrate technology into their children's learning and play," said Meredith Hoyer, Youth Services Supervisor. "This is why the Library has invested in devices that allow caregivers to introduce technology using curated learning applications in a safe, digital environment."

The preloaded terminals provide access to over 85 award-winning educational software titles for children that focus on STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, the arts, and mathematics) concepts, as well as activities that can help build social and emotional skills in English and Spanish.

"As part of our core services, the AWE Learning Stations are another invaluable resource that help community members connect, explore, share, and discover early learning at the Library," said Lauren Ryan, Manager of Branch Services, Young Minds and Family Resources. "This resource supports our SOARING (Supportive Opportunities for Achieving Reading in the Next Generation) initiative, which is designed to help navigate caregivers early childhood programming and resources, learn the different strategies used to support early literacy through each developmental stage, and replicate those strategies at home."

The learning stations incorporate educational activities that reinforce SOARING's early literacy practices, including singing along with nursery rhymes, practicing tracing letter shapes, and reading exercises.

"These stations provide youth a fun way to learn foundational skills for school readiness like letter knowledge, phonological awareness, and vocabulary," said Ryan. "Many of the activities and games feature iconic children's characters like Arthur, SpongeBob SquarePants, and Dora the Explorer, which help keep children entertained and engaged while discovering new skills and concepts."

Additionally, SCLSNJ recently expanded the SOARING initiative to include a kindergarten readiness series. For more information about SCLSNJ's SOARING and SOARING Into Kindergarten offerings, visit: SCLSNJ.org/SOARING.



(above) As part of the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) SOARING initiative, the Library System has expanded their digital learning solutions for youth to include AWE's Platinum Early Literacy Stations[™], preloaded terminals that offer access to over 85 educational software titles for children, at all 10 Library locations. Pictured is 8-year-old Julian Larsen, of Watchung, exploring the learning terminal at the branch. For more information about SOARING, visit: SCLSNJ.org/SOARING.



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FAMILY ACHIEVES DREAM ON NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Submitted by Somerset County

Ten-year-old Christian Jesse Perez-Ortiz was adopted on November 19th as part of Somerset County's National Adoption Day celebration, allowing enthusiastic parents Jose and Anthony Perez-Ortiz along with their new son to enjoy their first Thanksgiving holiday as a family. The adoption process was completed with the assistance of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families as well as Somerset County Surrogate Bernice "Tina" Jalloh's Office.

"How wonderful that Christian's adoption is taking place for National Adoption Day and in time for Thanksgiving dinner with his new parents," said Surrogate Jalloh. "Thanks to the efficiency and dedication of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and my Surrogate's staff there is one less child that needs a forever home for the holidays."

The excited new parents of Christian acknowledge that fostering and adoption is a long process with many bumps, twists, and turns. However, given their experiences, they encourage others to consider both fostering and adoption.

"We are so excited to grow our family through the foster care system and adoption process with more than 120,000 U.S. children waiting for their forever home," said Jose and Anthony Perez-Ortiz. "Being foster dads can be emotionally draining, but it has also been one of the biggest blessings of our lives. It has taught us that a family isn't made from blood, but made from love. We encourage any family who can foster or adopt to do so."

In the adoption process, the Somerset County Surrogate serves as Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, and is responsible for reviewing and processing the adoption paperwork to ensure that it meets state requirements. The Surrogate's Office also maintains records of all the required adoption paperwork.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

in the U.S. living in foster care, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Alliance for Children's Rights, and the Children's Action Network founded National Adoption Day. Currently, there are more than 75,000 foster children adopted due to National Adoption Day events.

The first National Adoption Day was inspired

To raise awareness about the 120,000 children by the innovative efforts of Michael Nash, a former presiding judge of Los Angeles County's Juvenile Court. Nash, in addition to the volunteer efforts of court personnel, opened the court on Saturdays in order to finalize adoptions, which reduced the backlog of one of the busiest courts in the nation.

More information on the Surrogate's office and how to adopt a child can be found at soconj.gov/surrogate.



(above, l-r) Surrogate, Bernice "Tina" Jalloh, joined Jose and Anthony Perez-Ortiz in welcoming their new son Christian to the family for National Adoption Day. The Honorable, Haekyoung Suh, finalized the adoption.







BLOOD DONATIONS ARE CRITICALLY NEEDED

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. Dangerously low blood supply levels are posing a concerning risk to patient care and forcing doctors to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available.

Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments, and donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to donate.

In recent weeks, the Red Cross had less than a one-day supply of critical blood types and has had to limit blood product distributions to hospitals. At times, as much as one-quarter of hospital blood needs are not being met.

The Red Cross continues to confront relentless challenges due to COVID-19, including about a 10% overall decline in the number of people donating blood as well as ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations. Additionally, the pandemic has contributed to a 62% drop in blood drives at schools and colleges.

"Winter weather across the country and the recent surge of COVID-19 cases are



compounding the already-dire situation facing the blood supply," said Dr. Baia Lasky, medical director for the Red Cross. "Please, if you are eligible, make an appointment to give blood or platelets in the days and weeks ahead to ensure no patient is forced to wait for critical care."

The Red Cross urges donors to support patient care by making an appointment to give blood or platelets now for the weeks ahead. To schedule an appointment, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule

2009-2010, 2012-2017, 2019

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REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE

an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at checkin. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In addition to blood donors, the Red Cross also needs the help of volunteers to support critical blood collections across the country. Blood drive volunteers play an important role by greeting, registering, answering questions and providing information to blood donors throughout the donation process. Blood transportation specialists – another volunteer opportunity – provide a critical link between blood donors and blood recipients by delivering blood to hospitals in communities across the country. To volunteer to support Red Cross blood collections, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

HELP! I FOUND A WILD BIRD

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 Daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no charge and no reservation necessary for general admission. Donations are always appreciated.

The Raptor Trust is also offering private guided tours, virtual school programs, and outdoor field trips and scout programs through the winter months.

You can email education@theraptortrust.org with any booking questions or find more information on our website at TheRaptorTrust.org.



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ITALIAN CHICKS' COMEDY & VARIETY SHOW 2/12

The Italian Chicks comedy and Variety Show will be performing at the Brooks Art Center in Bound Brook, NJ, February 12, 2022 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at BrooksArts.org.

The two-hour long show is a blend of comedy, music, storytelling, and a little bit of dancing. It takes you back to a time and place when life was simpler, and culture and traditions were respected and honored. You don't have to be Italian to love this show, you just have to have a dysfunctional family.

Who attends the shows? The entire family! From the matriarch down to the third cousin.

Don't make the mistake of thinking this is a "girls' night out" – you just might meet your next husband there!

The show premiered at the Laugh Factory in New York City in January 2010 to a sold out 250seat room. Now, after 11 years, The Italian Chicks are growing the family!

The Italian Chicks always offer a special promo discount code for all first responders, police, fire and healthcare workers. Email MCMEntertainmentCT@gmail.com to get your promo code. You will be asked to present your ID at the door. WANTED TO BUY COMIC BOOKS GOLD & SILVER COINS SPORTS CARDS & MEMORABILIA 1 ITEM OR AN ENTIRE ESTATE ASK FOR MIKE 908-303-3749





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