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#### Issue 126 • March 2022

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# **CLARK SENIORS CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY**

Great Scott the Magician.

"These seniors represent a lot of history in the town of Valentine's Day cookies.

Clark senior citizens had the opportunity to enjoy a fun Clark," said Bernardo. "Doing these types of special things Valentine-themed monthly meeting in February. Recreation for them throughout the year brings them joy and shows our Director Ralph Bernardo provided seniors a box lunch from gratitude too." The meeting closed with a visit from Clark the Honey Baked Company. Entertainment was provided by preschoolers who gave each senior a handmade Valentine's Day card. Attendees also received a box of chocolates and







(above) Clark preschool children present seniors with handmade cards for Valentine's Day.







(above, 1-r) Great Scott the Magician





#### Renna Media LLC, Publishers

202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 Clark Monthly is published by Renna Media. 6,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Clark.

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# **VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL HOLDS PAINT NIGHT**

**Clark Public Schools** 

Valley Road School students and parents put their art skills to the test during a recent PTAsponsored Paint Night. Under the direction of art teacher, Kerry Kennedy, the students painted Valentine's themed puppy dogs. Eighty second and third graders attended this exciting event.

Mrs. Kennedy stated, "Paint night is a fun and enjoyable evening that brings the school community together. The students and parents created beautiful pieces!" The third and final paint night takes place on March 7th for fourth and fifth grade students. Families can sign up through Genesis.



(above l-r) Valley Road School students enjoy Paint Night.

Photos by Clark Public Schools

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309 Oak Ridge Rd., Clark
1 Rose Terrance, Clark
15 Tudor Dr, Clark
303 West Ln., Clark
84 Wheatsheaf Rd, Clark
1 Jarvis Ter, Clark
5 Tudor Dr., Clark
14 Washington St, Clark
14 Washington St, Clark
118 Jupitor St., Clark
61 Sycamore Rd, Clark
26 Rugby Rd., Colonia
10 Wildwood Place, Colonia
29 Roselle Ave., Cranford
31 Iroquios Rd., Cranford

345 Diamond Spring Rd., Denville
9 Boltin St., Edison
27 Morrell St, Elizabeth
247 Fulton St., Elizabeth
46 Florida St, Elizabeth
43 Fox Grape Rd., Flemington
244 3rd Ave, Garwood
109 Willow Ave, Garwood
408 Hemlock St., Garwood
304 Myrtle Ave, Garwood
299 Gemini, Hillsborough
91 Park Dr. Kenilworth
117 Woodland Dr., Keyport
829 Erudo St., Linden

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46 Edgewood Rd., Linden
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11 Clinton Ave., New Providence
701 Pine St, North Brunswick
67 Elm Ave., Rahway



#### MARIA MUNOZ Celi 908-249-3948

2010 Rutherford St. Rahway 1650 Columbus PI, Rahway 39 Frances Dr, Rahway 2124 Evans St, Rahway 1215 Kline PI., Rahway 2020 Rutherford St, Rahway 2020 Rutherford St, Rahway 404 E. 6th Ave., Roselle 217 E Clay Ave, Roselle Park 119 Warren Ave, Roselle Park 124 Briar Hills Circle, Springfield 302 Passaic Ave., Stirling 143-C Beverly Hills Ter, Woodbridge

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REALT



# **PACK 145 LION DEN TOURS CLARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### Submitted by Michelle Gargiulo

The Lion Den of Clark's Cub Scout Pack 145 took a tour of the town's new Police Department on the morning of January 17, 2022,

The boys are working towards their "Animal Kingdom" loop — which encompasses learning about what, as well as who, make up a community.

Clark's local ShopRite generously donated a \$50 gift card, which was used to purchase various snacks to fill the officers' new break room.



about the day in the life of a detective, visit the address. control room where there were large screens that (including the jail cell!), and had a lesson on the community members, to some of its youngest.

During the tour, the boys got to learn a little importance of using 911, as well as knowing your

All in all, it was a fun and informative showcased surveillance of areas in Clark experience from some of Clark's finest



(above) Pack 145 Lion Den visiting the Clark Police Department.

Photo by Pack 145

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In my many years as a top producing realtor, I have been involved in a tremendous amount of Clark transactions. I live and work here and know everything this outstanding town and school system has to offer. Using an agent with a proven track record is very important. I put an enormous effort into marketing, advertising and customer satisfaction. Since 1/1/20 to present, I have had 126 transactions, 92 in Clark, and have many homes that are currently under contract. I also made the highest level of Platinum for 2021 Circle of Excellence Award which ranks overall in the top 1% of Realtors in New Jersey. I also made Top Agent Magazine!

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# Using a top producer is not expensive. It's priceless! LORI'S CLARK TRANSACTIONS FROM 1/1/20 TO PRESENT

SOLD

15 Westfield Ave. 40 Ivy St. 15 Tudor Dr. 10 Washington St., Unit 03 47 Briarwood Path 39 King St. 56 Lexington Blvd. 13 Blake Dr. 213 East Lane 1168 Lake Ave., Unit 4 45 Wendell Pl. 501 Oak Ridge Rd. 309 Oak Ridge Rd. 29 Conger Way 13 Florence Dr. 303 West Ln. 1 Rose Ter.

187 Liberty St. 11 Harding Ave. 40 John St. 77 John St. 17 Hillside Ave. 11 Avon Rd. 81 New York Ave. 42 Kenneth PI. 303 West Ln. 1 Kathryn St. 29 Hillside Ave. 9 Shetland Dr. 12 Yorktown Dr. 84 Wheatsheaf Rd. 12 Ascot Way 301 West Lane 1119 Maurice Ave. 1 Longfellow Lane

8 Wendell Place 13 Blake Dr. 42 School St. 29 Harvey Ct. 18 Yorktown Dr. 45 Starlite Dr. 1538 Franklin St. 40 Conger Way 15 Ayers Lane 72 Dorset Dr. 5 Schmidt Lane 269 Willow Way 18 Ginesi Dr. 7 Blake Dr. 43 Willow way 95 Briarheath Ln. 18 Terhune Rd. 1 Jarvais Ter.

39 Frances Dr.
28 Gibson Blvd.
41 Largo Lane
5 Tudor Dr.
111 Westfield Ave.
14 Washington St.
14 Washington St.
14 Washingtor St.
61 Sycamore Rd.
15 Briarheath Ln.
43 Kathryn St.
54 Harding Ave.

306 Parkway Dr. 1 Plymouth Rd. 75 Union County Pkwy

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 126, 92 ARE IN CLARK

# A VIRTUAL VISIT FROM A COMMUNITY HELPER

#### Clark Public Schools

The Clark Public Library's Children's Librarian Dierdre Morley recently visited kindergarten classes at Valley Road School via Zoom as part of their Community Helpers Unit. Morley shared the important role of the Library in town and what her job as a librarian entails, specifically how she helps the community.

She then shared the story Larry Gets Lost in the Library. According to Kindergarten teacher Kimberly Nacht, "The classes really enjoyed getting to see a 'real live community helper' that they could ask questions to. It sparked an interest in going to the library and many were inspired to take a trip there with their parents! We thank Ms. Morley for visiting us and, not only sharing her important role as a community helper, but her love of reading!"

# SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

**Clark Public Schools** 

Interested in becoming a substitute teacher for the Clark Public Schools? Please visit clarkschools.org and then follow the below steps to apply online:

Select Departments > Human Resources > Employment Opportunities > Categories > Substitute. Then scroll down to Substitute Teacher 2021-2022 School Year. You will apply there.

#### YOU WILL NEED:

1. A County substitute teacher certificate OR a completed County substitute teacher application that requires an official college transcript showing: the completion of at least 30 college credits AND current college enrollment OR the completion of at least 60 college credits

2. TB/Mantoux test result

3. Criminal history background check (i.e.,

fingerprints for public school employment)

Submitting all three of the above together will

expedite the process.

The Board of Education recently increased the pay rates for our substitute teachers. These new daily rates are as follows.

Substitute Certificate: \$95.00 (first five days) and \$100.00 (on the sixth or more day)

College Degree: \$105.00 (first five days) and \$110.00 (on the sixth or more day)

Certified: \$120.00 (first five days) and \$125.00 (on the sixth or more day)

You are eligible for the "sixth or more day" rate of pay as soon as you reach your sixth day substituting in our district, not necessarily consecutive days or for the same teacher.

Please read the Applying as a Substitute Teacher in the Clark Public Schools document at tinyurl.com/ynnk9pe2. This document can also be found on the district website under that same Departments > Human Resources tab.

Questions? Contact Mrs. Bonnie Bryson by email at bbryson@clarkschools.org.



(above) Visiting Librarian Dierdre Morley gets Valley Road School kindergartners involved in her presentation.





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# 2/2/22 TIME CAPSULES WILL BE OPENED 3/3/33

**Clark Public Schools** 

First grade students at Frank K. Hehnly Elementary School in Ms. Sarah Kasko, Mrs. Samantha Johnsen, Mrs. Sharon DeAngelis, and Ms. Lisa Cepeda's classes created small time capsules to remember 2/2/22—a unique date. Their time capsules include their current likes, future occupation, and words of encouragement to their future selves. The students can open their mini time capsules 11 years from now on another unique date—3/3/33. Ms. Kasko observed, "When the letters are being opened, this bunch will be in the middle of their senior year of high school. These letters are sure to bring back the exciting memories made in first grade."

PRESENT This is what I book like in first gradel The date today is	FUTURE This is used I think I used both when I can us hope folged
When I am older I want to be	A note to my future self:
Some of my favorite things:	A good yee
Pandos Hotcoco	

(above) The time capsule of a Hehnly Elementary School student who loves pandas and hopes to be a mom. Photos by Clark Public Schools

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# **STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**Clark Public Schools** 

Sixteen Carl H. Kumpf Middle School students recently attended the NJ State Elks Association Path to Leadership Conference at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch. Teacher Suzanne Hamilton and Guidance Counselor Danielle Crincoli accompanied them. Over 450 students from around the state attended.

The conference focused on bullying, cyberbullying, social media issues, and related topics. The students learned how to best handle these situations and how to be a leader amongst their peers. Kumpf students enjoyed the conference and the opportunity to collaborate with students from other NJ schools.

Kumpf Principal Rick Delmonaco said, "I am extremely happy that we could send these student leaders to such a worthwhile program. The lessons they learned will help them in the future. These young student leaders represented our school and town in such a positive manner."

The Clark Municipal Alliance and the Clark Board of Education shared the cost to send the students to the conference.



(above) Kumpf students attended a Path to Leadership Conference.

Photo by Clark Public Schools





# Taking pediatric hospital care to the next level.

# **Hersh Children's Center**

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Bringing Inpatient Pediatric Care and Pediatric Emergency Care Together

The Hersh Children's Center at Overlook Medical Center, one of only a few of its kind in northern NJ, offers an innovative approach to pediatric care. While pediatric emergency services and inpatient hospital care are separated within the center, their close proximity allows for continuity of care and unmatched quality. With sleeping accommodations for parents, a playroom and family lounge, our team of experienced and compassionate pediatric physicians and caregivers will put your family's needs first.

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# **CARE PACKAGES FOR US TROOPS**

St. Agnes R.C. Church

create care packages for US troops stationed in the Middle East. One of our priests, Father AJ DeSilva, is an Army chaplain who was deployed

donated various items for the troops. The children in the religious education program made cards for the troops. The high school

St Agnes R.C. Church undertook a project to to the Middle East. Our generous parishioners Youth Group assembled the care packages. It was a great service project and we were happy to show love and appreciation to our US troops for their dedication and service to our country.



(above) The St. Agnes Youth Group assembled care packages for our troops in the Middle East.





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# **CLARK LIBRARY MARCH EVENTS**

303 Westfield Ave, Clark, NJ 07066 • Tel: 732-388-5999 x2 • Email: reference@clarklibrary.org • www2.youseemore.com/clarkpl/ Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30 am - 9:00 pm • Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm • Sunday: Closed

#### [Hybrid] Baby Bookworms

Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29 at 10:00 a.m. Babies and toddlers are invited to enjoy books, songs, rhymes, lap bounces, and fingerplays in person or via Zoom.

#### **Totally New Tuesdays**

March 8, 15, 22 at 6:30 p.m. Movies are back at the Library! No registration is required.

#### **Thursday Afternoon Movies**

March 10, 17, 24 at 1:00 p.m. Movies are back at the Library! No registration is required.

#### Celebrate Through Film: Women's History Month

Fridays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 1:00 p.m. Join us every Friday in March as we screen a movie featuring important women in history. Registration not required.

#### **Barks & Books**

Saturday, March 5; 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. or Tuesday, March 22; 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 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. Over time, the child's reading ability and confidence can improve from practicing their skills. Children will each get approximately 15 minutes of reading time with Bubble, Magnolia,

or Sophie. Register for a 15-minute time slot. **Tales for Tots** 

#### Mondays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Stories and songs for active listeners. Geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome. Thirty minutes of open play

#### follows. Registration required. [Virtual] Women's History Month Kahoot! for Kids

Monday, March 7 at 3:30 p.m. Celebrate Black History Month with a game of trivia on Kahoot! just for kids! The faster you answer, the more points you earn. A computer, tablet, or smartphone is needed to play Kahoot! Clark residents may borrow Chromebooks or

iPads from the Library. Prizes for the winner and runners-up. Prizes must be picked up; they will not be mailed.



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#### **Krafty Kids**

Wednesdays, March 9 & 23 at 3:30 p.m. 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!

#### [Virtual] Opera Talks with Tanisha Mitchell: Marian Anderson

Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. Join librarian and opera singer Tanisha Mitchell for this virtual opera talk. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. This program is part of our Better Together series with the Cranford Public Library.

#### Tinker Tots: Leap into Science

Thursday, March 10 at 10:00 a.m. Come join us for a morning of fun science activities perfect for little ones. This month we will Leap into Science and learn about light and shadow. Curriculum and supplies are provided by the Franklin Institute. For children ages 3

through Pre-K. Registration required.

#### Teen Thursday: St. Patricks' Day Wreath

Thursday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m. Make an adorable shamrock wreath to hang for St. Patrick's Day. Open to Grades 6-12.

#### [Virtual] Pajama Time

Thursday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. Join us in your PJs for an evening Storytime session for the family on Zoom. Register to get the Zoom link.

#### [Hybrid] Stories & More

Fridays, March 11, 18, 25 at 10:00 a.m. Stories, movement, songs, and a take-home craft for active listeners ages 3-5. In person or via Zoom. Registration is required for supplies.

#### [Virtual] Adult Coloring Club

Friday, March 11 and 25 at 11:00 a.m. Pick up coloring sheets and crayons at the Library or use your own and meet up on Zoom for some soothing music and relaxation.

#### [Virtual] Revolutionary Women: Writing About War

Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. The Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia will present this fascinating virtual talk on Revolutionary Women.

#### Little Scientist:

#### Leap into Science with Light and Shadow

Thursday, March 17 at 3:30 p.m. Children will explore the characteristics of light and shadow by listening to a story, recreating shadow shapes, and designing shadow shapes of their own. For children ages 6 and up.

Equipment provided by the Franklin Institute. [Adult; In-Person] The Five-Week Book Club

#### Thursday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Our book this month is Uncanny Valley: a Memoir, by Anna Wiener. A young millennial seeking meaningful work lands a job in the heart of Silicon Valley and gives us a first-hand glimpse into the rapidly transforming tech industry. See a librarian if you need a copy of the book.

#### [Adult] The Crafty Folks

Friday, March 18 at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. Make a no-sew fleece pillow. This is an Adult craft but Teens in High School are welcome! **Evening Book Club** 

#### Monday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

We will be discussing The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. See a librarian or email reference@clarklibrary.org for the book.

#### **LEGO® Club & Craft**

Friday, March 25 from 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Join us for the LEGO® Club at the Clark Public Library! Create your own LEGO® structures.

LEGOS are provided by the Library. For children in Grades K-5.

### Leap into Science Family Workshop

Saturday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m. Leap into Science is a nationwide program from The Franklin Institute that integrates openended science activities with children's books for children and families to learn together. This Month is all about light and shadows. Families with children ages 3 and up will be able to investigate the characteristics of light and the ways it interacts with other objects.

#### LEGO® We Do Robots

Saturday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. Join us for the 8th Annual New Jersey Makers Day! We will provide our LEGO Robots for

groups to build. New Jersey Makers Day inspires and activates libraries to showcase and highlight STEM and maker culture, enhancing life-long learning. For children in Grades K-5.

#### [Virtual] Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. Teens, let your voice be heard at the Library! The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) helps create, plan, and run teen programs and services they would like offered at the Clark Public Library. Open to teens in Grades 6-12. Members can earn volunteer hours for attending meetings and for participating in TAB activities.

#### New! Inkthoughts

Thursday, March 31 at 4:00 p.m. 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, and essays. **Female Spies of World War II**

Thursday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. Join us as speaker Alisa Dupuy from The Ladies of History portrays real-life spymaster Vera Atkins in this thrilling exposé of women that were never suspected of being spies.

#### **Boredom Buster for Kids**

Each month we have a new take-home craft for kids to pick up and make at their leisure.

#### Available now, while supplies last. **Boredom Buster for Adults and Teens**

Each month we have a new take-home craft for adults and teens to pick up and make at their leisure. Available now, while supplies last.

### 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 surpery 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.

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteo-

arthritis 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 addic-

tive medications. Northeast Spine & Wellness Center

living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms

· 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

· 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 danger-

· Loss of muscle strength - This can lead to balance

· Joint deformity - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.

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

Wellness

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iful and a sign

ous if you need to move quickly.

issues and the strong possibility of falling.

Joints - Can be pain

below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

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

Do you Suffer from any

understands the symptoms you have been

by swelling.

discomfort to come.

sound sleep.

of these Symptoms?

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 Derothy 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!

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

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis,

scopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accutate diagnostic fluoros

copy we use at Northeast Spine & Wellness Center these patients experienced a

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**FLAGS 4 FOSTER YOUTH** CAMPAIGN

CASA of Union County

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County has launched Flags4FosterYouth, and is seeking community members to help create a sea of blue to raise awareness of the devastating consequences of child abuse locally and highlight the need for community members to train as volunteer child advocates.

Throughout March, the public is encouraged to log onto the nonprofit's campaign page, casaofunioncounty.org/Flags4FosterYouth-2022, and sponsor blue flags-the color of child abuse prevention-for \$10 each. The flags will be displayed throughout April in three Union County towns. Each flag represents one local vouth involved with the child welfare system.

"Each youth in the child welfare system has experienced varying levels of abandonment, abuse, or neglect, and CASA of Union County and our advocates work every day to ensure not only that their needs are met, but that their best interests always remain at the forefront of the case," shared Executive Director Mariel S. Hufnagel. "Flags4FosterYouth provides the greater community an extraordinary opportunity to show each of these children that together we have their back. Bring on the blue!"

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 1 in 7 children have experienced abuse and/or neglect in the past year. Since 2005, the nonprofit has recruited, trained, and supervised nearly 600 community volunteers to advocate for more than 950 such youth, protecting best interests and ensuring needs are met in the courtroom, classroom, and community. As caseworkers, foster home placements and schools can change frequently, CASA volunteers often are the only consistent, caring, and informed adult in a youth's corner, helping ensure already experienced trauma is not exacerbated.

The public is encouraged to visit the flags on public display-the locations will be released in early April-take a selfie in the sea of blue, and post to social media with the hashtags #CASAofUC #Flags4FosterYouth and #SayNoToChildAbuse. Flag sponsorship not only helps raise awareness of victims of child abuse in Union County, but funds raised support the organization's recruitment and training of volunteer advocates to serve as extra eyes and ears for local judges and a voice for their assigned youth.

Last year, CASA volunteers donated more than 7,000 hours to serve 338 child-victims, and 99.7 percent of all court their recommendations were accepted by judges. For details on how you can become an advocate and Change a Child's Story, or other ways you can support the agency's efforts, contact info@casaofunioncounty.org.

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 fluoro

blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey

# A TOUCH OF SPRING DELIVERED WITH MOBILE MEALS

Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield Twelve members of the Community Projects Committee of Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield recently met at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, where Mobile Meals originates, and made 60 small floral arrangements to accompany the meals delivered that day. The club supplies the flowers and prepares the arrangements in laundry detergent caps. These cheerful multicolored floral arrangements were decorated with red and pink paper hearts. The club preforms this service in spring, fall and winter and is much appreciated by the clients who look forward to receiving these colorful arrangements. The event was coordinated by Kris Luka and Mary Foley Smith.

Mobile Meals is a voluntary, non-profit program that provides home-delivered meals to those who are unable to shop and prepare their own meals on either a temporary or permanent basis. It is available to residents of Westfield and surrounding communities including Mountainside, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark, and Cranford. For more information, call



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The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the

Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Sharon Shiraga at (908) 228 2865 or visit rakeandhoegc.org or the Club's Facebook page.



(above) Rake and Hoe Garden Club members with their floral creations for Mobile Meals clients (front row l-r): Kris Luka, Margot Partridge, Lena Peitsinovski, Jeanie Pelikan, and Betty Gulino; (back row l-r): Karen Jolley-Gates, Clare Minick, Beth Siano, Mary Foley Smith, Richard Pelikan, Maryfran Annese, and Mary Lou Nolas. Photos by Rake and Hoe Garden Club

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**CLARK MONTHLY** • Page 15 • March 2022

# **ASAL FAMILY NAMED VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR**

#### Township of Clark

Recreation Director, Ralph Bernardo, recognized the Clark Recreation Volunteers of the Year at the January town council meeting. This year's winners are a family of four that has been volunteering at the Recreation Center since 2005.

Bernardo named Fred and Jean Asal and their daughters, Lisa Dunn and Patty Palmer, as this year's winners.

"Anything these four do, it's always with a smile, calm personality, humor, and enthusiasm," Bernardo said. "They are assets to the Recreation Department and to the Township of Clark. They exemplify the meaning of hard work, dedication, and especially giving of themselves and not expecting anything in return."

After so many years, Bernardo sees the family as an extension of his own. He also said they were instrumental in bringing about the first Winter Festival, which has evolved into Clark Recreation's Annual Tree Lighting over the years. The family still volunteers many hours and makes significant personal donations to the event every year.



(above) Fred and Jean Asal with their daughters, Lisa Dunn and Patty Palmer, receive Clark Recreation Volunteers of the Year award from Ralph Bernardo and Myor Sal Bonaccorso.

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#### CLARK MONTHLY • Page 16 • March 2022



(above) Tatum Dobbins is Arthur L. Johnson High School's NAGWS recipient.





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# TATUM DOBBINS HONORED

#### **Clark Public Schools**

Recently, Tatum Dobbins, of Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, joined together with over 140 female student-athletes from New Jersey's high schools, colleges, and universities in celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NAGWS). NAGWS is one of the largest events in the state that recognizes women's athletics. Tatum was nominated by her coaches for her accomplishments as an outstanding female high school athlete in Field Hockey, Winter Track & Field, and Spring Track & Field.

Tatum has garnered recognition throughout her high school athletic career:

- GPA Challenge Winner (Fall Athletic Teams) Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
- First Team All-State Group 1 Grades 11, 12
- First Team All-North Jersey: Field Hockey - Grades 10, 11, 12
- MAX Field Hockey Regional Player to Watch Grade 12
- New Jersey's Top 100
- Senior Field Hockey Players Grade 12
- Third Team All-State Group 1 Grade 10

• Four Year Varsity Gold Letter Winner: Field Hockey - 2018-2022

- First Team All-Union County:
- Field Hockey Grades 10, 11, 12
- First Team All-Conference:
- Field Hockey Grades 10, 11, 12 • Second Team All-Union County:
- Field Hockey Grade 9 • Second Team All-Conference:
- Field Hockey Grade 9
- Varsity Field Hockey
- Most Valuable Player Grade 12 • Varsity Field Hockey Team Award:
- Best Offense Grades 10, 11
- Varsity Field Hockey Team Award: Rookie of the Year - Grade 9

Tatum's accomplishments and involvement off the field include: Homecoming Queen, Prom Princess, Heroes and Cool Kids, and Blue Cru President. The nationwide NAGWS honors the success of female athletes and recognizes the struggle for equality for women in sports. The Outstanding Athlete Awards are presented to one individual from each high school, junior college, and college throughout the country.



# **CLASS EXPERIMENT TESTS THE ARCTIC WATERS**

**Clark Public Schools** 

Kindergarten students in Kimberly Nacht's class at Valley Road Elementary School recently studied a unit on Arctic animals. The students learned how animal's blubber keeps them warm in cold weather and water. As part of the unit, the class did an experiment where the children felt icy cold water with their bare hands and then

felt the icy water with their hands immersed in blubber—a simulated version, that is—made from Crisco. Nacht stated, "We recorded our observations like true scientists on a recording sheet. The students were amazed at how much longer they could keep their hand in the water with the blubber hand."



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(above) Kimberly Nacht leads her kindergarten class in a scientific experiment that shows how *Arctic animals stay warm in frigid temperatures.* 



# **MEET FERNANDO PORRAS OF CLARK**

By Jahi McDonald, CASA of Union County

By the time this goes to press, my three-month internship will have ended. What will endure, is getting to know and work alongside my fellow intern Fernando Porras. In addition to stepping up to serve as an intern a year ago — and working some 20+ hours a week since in that capacity — he is an active CASA volunteer, well into his second case as a child advocate.

From processing donor thank yous, navigating excel spreadsheets, seeking community involvement amid a virtual fundraising campaign, to shooting videos for social media, sorting and hauling holiday wish list toys, and even donning superhero costumes for Adoption Day, Fernando has been a patient, committed role model for CASA's critical work. His mantra, "Anything for the kids," is one I've heard him say countless times but seen him put into action even more.

While being an advocate and yearlong intern is plenty for a CASA of Union County highlight, it's his personal journey, and all he's made of it, that shines even brighter. After his first CASA case - a 13-year-old boy - closed, he immediately began his current case, advocating for 5- and 10-year-old brothers. His visits, he says, often include intense Beyblades battles. "I remember playing with Beyblades at that age, so it's even more memorable to bond over something I'm familiar with. Also, superheroes! Maybe I'm still a kid at heart," he quips, adding, "As an advocate, you read about their life in stacks of paperwork, but being able to spend time with them as they enjoy the little things? It gives me such a different perspective on life." When he sees their smiles, he says, he's overcome with joy.

And joy is something — like every CASA youth — that Fernando deserves. In April 2018, a month before his college graduation, he was diagnosed with leukemia. He says, "Though I was told the diagnosis was just a matter of 'bad luck'... my life turned upside down." Sparing the details of hospitalizations, procedures and finishing the tail-end of college amid unknowns and medical crises, let's take Fernando's lead and focus on the positive: August marked three years in remission. Continued monitoring from his medical team as well as navigating other lifelong health challenges resulting from the very treatments that saved his life are now his norm.

Fernando continues, "In summer 2019, I started trying to piece my life back together. I was discussing the future with a hospital social worker and she told me CASA would be a perfect fit. I'm so glad I took her words to heart; I did my research, went to an information session, and the rest is history."

In addition to advocating for three youth, the 25-year-old cancer survivor used the yearlong intern assignment as a sabbatical of sorts, undergoing an intensive and thorough LSAT study period and he's now amid the nerve-wracking law school admissions process. I asked him how he juggles it all, when each ball carries great weight: "I've always been a 'yes' person. If something needs to be done, I'll do it. Some may not see that as a positive as I do ... but there's



(above) Fernando Porras

always time to do more."

In addition to enduring love and respect for his close-knit family, Fernando's fondness for travel also keeps him on his toes. Before he embeds himself in a law school lecture hall, there are plans to travel as much as possible, amid Covidrestraints and minding his health, of course. He recently visited family in Ecuador and soon will share his unwavering support for his beloved Atletico de Madrid soccer team with a jaunt to Spain.

When life was suddenly outside his firm grasp, Fernando reached wider and gripped harder, there's no question. Still, he's always sure to make time for the betterment of others' lives. He fondly quotes an uncle, "Never say you 'can't' do something, because what it really means is that you 'won't.' It's stuck with me and allowed me to work outside my comfort zone ... comfortably."

While experiences make you who you are —

and in Fernando's case that certainly proves true —he also reminds me that people make those experiences. For us at CASA, that's Fernando. For Fernando, that's his family, including grandparents who modeled resiliency and hard work, lessons for which he is grateful. When, during the last weeks of his internship, Fernando unexpectedly lost his beloved grandfather, colleagues at services saw firsthand his tightly woven net that is family, and that his commitment to life and bettering it comes from a deep well of connection, generations old.

Asked to look back on recent years, when bestlaid plans didn't happen and an unexpected diagnosis did, he offers: "I truly think everything happens for a reason. I'll always have an endless number of unanswered questions — but at the same time, I'll always be grateful that I found CASA of Union County."

In addition to serving as a fall marketing intern for CASA of Union County, Jahi McDonald is a 2020 graduate of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, with plans to begin a career in public relations and marketing.

#### **ABOUT CASA OF UNION COUNTY**

Volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving the county's abused, neglected or abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Advocates ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible.

It is CASA of Union County's goal that every Union County foster child have an advocate, yet half of the more than 500 such youth still await one. Could you be their voice? Contact Lucia to learn more lfield@casaofunioncounty.org or visit casaofunioncounty.org.



# TEACHER AND FAMILY HELPS THOSE AFFECTED BY TORNADO

#### **Clark Public Schools**

Arthur L. Johnson High School Spanish Teacher Jessica Lopez-Otalvaro, her husband German, and their three children Bianca, 12, Trinity, 10, and John, 8, left for Kentucky on December 24 to help those affected by the December 10th tornado which took the lives of 58 people and left devastation throughout the area.

Lopez-Otalvaro shared that the timing reminded her family of a time when the community came together to help them. Three years ago, their house flooded while the family was away. Lopez-Otalvaro is grateful to all those who helped her family and wanted to "pay it forward."

Additionally, according to Lopez-Otalvaro, "We went because we wanted to help others in need and also to teach our children the importance of serving others. We hoped that

spending Christmas putting others first and giving rather than receiving would help show them that."

Prior to leaving, Lopez-Otalvaro organized a collection at ALJ and the larger Clark community for a variety of items including food, toys, and clothing. The family actually had to get a bigger trailer given the amount of donations received. Once in Kentucky, the family distributed the items door to door. They spoke with residents and heard their stories as well as felt their gratitude. They were also able to use monetary donations received to buy other items needed.

Lopez-Otalvaro continued, "It was a lifechanging experience that brought us even closer as a family to spend Christmas helping others in their time of need. Everyone there was so incredibly grateful to the entire Clark community and beyond who helped make this possible."

Courtesy photo



(above) The Lopez-Otalvaro Family



# **REPAIR CAFE EVENT SET FOR MARCH 26**

#### Repair Café Garden State

Bring your beloved but broken items to Summit's Repair Café on Saturday, March 26 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Christ Church, located at 561 Springfield Avenue, at the corner of Springfield and New England Avenues, Summit, NJ. Please follow outdoor signage and enter the event from New England Avenue. No appointment necessary. Non-Summit residents are welcome.

Repair services available at this event include small electronics, jewelry, sewing/textiles, lamps, wooden items, and knife sharpening. This is a free event, but please note that a voluntary contribution is appreciated when an item is brought for repair. Donations help to fund future repair events. Replacement parts for lamps will be on hand for an at-cost fee. Please only bring items that you can carry unaided into our event.

Summit's Repair Café events are co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Café Garden State. Green Faith Circle's goal is to inspire, educate, organize, and mobilize people of diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds globally for environmental action. Repair Café Garden State is a network of community organizers who host monthly repair events across the state. This collective shares news and schedules of all upcoming Repair Café events in New Jersey via their website repaircafegs.org. Here you can find all the details of Summit and other local repair events.

If you would like to volunteer or help repair beloved but broken items at this event or future events reach out via email: summit@repaircafegs.org or visit repaircafegs.org for more information.





(above) Maeve Philips, winner of Do You Want to Build a Snowman? poses with her mom.

Photo by Clark Recreation Department

# **SNOWMAN CONTEST WINNERS**

**Clark Recreation Department** 

Clark Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo recently announced the winners of this year's 'Do You Want to Build a Snowman?' contest. Bernardo selected three creations from the variety of entries. Winners received their very own snowman and a gift card.

Bernardo started the tradition during the pandemic when, due to statewide restrictions, there weren't many activities available through the Recreation Department.

"I couldn't stand that there were no activities



for children during those early days of the pandemic. I felt like they were all locked in their houses for school and for everything and I just wanted to give them an opportunity to do something fun and get them outside and bring some joy," said Bernardo. "The kids had a great time with it, and I knew right away this was going to become an annual tradition."

This year's winners are: Jessica Oliveira, Maeve Philips, Michael Riley. Congratulations to Jessica, Maeve, and Michael!









(above) Jessica Oliveira, winner of Do You Want to Build a Snowman? poses with her winnings.



(above) Michael Riley, winner of Do You Want to Build a Snowman? poses with his mom.

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# CHECK FOR SPOTTED LANTERNFLY EGG MASSES CLARK MONTHLY • Page 23 • March 2022

NJ Department of Agriculture

The weather is warming up, check your trees for Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) egg masses. When you find them crush them. Use an old bank card, small rolling pin or putty knife.

Citizens are advised to destroy the Spotted Lanternfly in all its forms.

SLF is a serious invasive pest with a healthy appetite for our plants and it can be a significant nuisance, affecting the quality of life and enjoyment of the outdoors. The spotted lanternfly uses its piercing-sucking mouthpart to feed on sap from over 70 different plant species. It has a strong preference for economically important plants and the feeding damage significantly stresses the plants which can lead to decreased health and potentially death.

As SLF feeds, the insect excretes honeydew (a sugary substance) which can attract bees, wasps, and other insects. The honeydew also builds up and promotes the growth for sooty mold (fungi), which can cover the plant, forest understories, patio furniture, cars, and anything else found below SLF feeding.

Call for free a consultation if you need

help developing an online marketing plan.



(above) The weather is warming up, check your trees for Spotted Lanternfly egg masses. When you find them crush them. Use an old bank card, small rolling pin or putty knife.

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

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# RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES THREE NEW NEWSPAPERS

Beginning in March three new towns have joined Renna Media's growing family of newspapers: Florham Park Press, Millburn Short Hills Monthly, and Elmora Hills Elizabeth. Renna Media is now mailing 160,000, townspecific newspapers, to 24 towns each month.

The newspapers' goal is to be a positive influence on the economic development and overall well-being of the town. Our publications exist to share community service news and the good things that are happening in the community.

Renna Media is a Cranford, NJ based business owned and operated by husband and wife team of Joe and Tina Renna. Renna Media's family of 24 community newspapers are published in Morris, Essex, Union and Somerset counties, with a total circulation of 160,000. The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town, and are direct mailed within those towns.

The concept of being hyper-local is to give local businesses a venue to promote services. Reaching local customers gives you the highest return for your advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of an advertisement to as low as \$60. Regional businesses can take advantage of one low rate for advertising in multiple Towns.

Renna Media also prints full-color flyers that get mailed along with the newspapers. A cost effective alternative to mailing postcards.

For more information about Renna Media publications, please visit rennamedia.com.

You can contact Tina Renna regarding advertising, or to submit news, via email info@rennamedia.com; or call 908-418-5586.



(above) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, publish 24 direct-mailed community newspapers with a total circulation of 160,000. They have been publishing community newspapers since 1998. For more information, please visit rennamedia.com.



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Simi Chardonnay	750ml	\$13.09
Woodbridge (All Types)	1.5L	\$12.49

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



"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 may vary.

# GIN

Beefeater	1.75L	\$35.99	
Bombay Saphire			
Seagram's gin	1.75L	\$19.99	
Tanqueray			
Tanquerav			

#### **COGNAC & BRANDY**

Courvoisier V.S.	750ml	\$31.99
Courvoisier V.S.	1.75L	\$53.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	750ml	\$48.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	1.75L	\$99.99

#### CORDIALS

Bailey's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$47.99
Duggan's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$28.99
Kahlua	1.75L	\$39.99
Krupnik	750ml	\$17.99
Licor 43	750ml	\$25.99
Licor 43	1.75L	\$42.99

Absolut (regular).....1.75L ...... \$29.09

#### VODKA