# Green Brook Gazette

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**ISSUE 103 • MARCH 2022** 

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## STUDENTS HIT THE SLOPES THANKS TO GBEAF

Green Brook Township Public Schools

the chance to enjoy two great ski trips. These trips were organized by the Green Brook Education and Athletic Foundation (GBEAF) to bring together students of all skiing and snowboarding proficiency levels.

The GBEAF is a local non-profit that works with the Green Brook schools and community at large. Both trips took GBMS students to Shawnee Mountain. The first trip included 23 students from GBMS, many of whom had never skied before. The success of the first trip prompted the second trip. This time 40 students participated! Again, we had a dynamic combination of students who were either skiing for the first time or had years of experience. It was an awesome evening skiing/snowboarding trip with perfect weather.

The skiing trips to Shawnee Mountain this school year are a continuation of a relatively new activity for Green Brook Middle School students. Back in September 2018 a group of

Eighth Grade students at GBMS approached the GBEAF to This winter, students at Green Brook Middle School got sponsor and organize a ski trip for the students. The idea was met with some skepticism, since it had never been done before in the history of Green Brook Middle School. However, the decision was made to plan the trips just to see what the level of interest was in this new activity. Eventually, the trips that first year in the winter of 2019 turned out to be hugely popular. More skiing/snowboarding trips took place in the winter of 2020, but no trips were planned in 2021 due to COVID-19.

> Despite the ongoing concerns with COVID, two safe and enjoyable trips to Shawnee Mountain took place this school vear to the delight of students and grownups alike.

> Of course, skiing is a fast-paced sport, so the trips in 2022 were not without their share of bumps, bruises, and falls. War stories included, the trips are fast becoming an annual tradition to which many students look forward, and, we hope, can be enjoyed for years to come.



(above) Green Brook Middle Schools students enjoy skiing and snowboarding on Shawnee Mountain on a recent trip sponsored and organized by GBEAF.

Photo by Green Brook Education & Athletic Foundation

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# Green Brook Gazette "

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202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Green Brook Gazette is published by Renna Media. 3,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Green Brook.

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#### SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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# **LEONARD J. BUCK GARDEN HOSTS FREE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**

The Leonard J. Buck Garden is hosting a free art and photography exhibit featuring naturalistic artwork by talented local artists. The exhibit includes scenic paintings, photography, and drawings that capture the seasonal beauty of the garden. Visitors and naturists will appreciate exotic depictions of lush alpines, woodlands, wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and rock formations. Afterward, visitors can stroll through the garden to revel in nature.

The exhibit will be open on weekdays through March 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and only one weekend day on Saturday, March 12, f rom noon to 4 p.m. at the Leonard. J. Buck Garden Visitor Center, located on 11 Layton Road in Far Hills. For more information, call 908-722-1200, ext. 5621.



(above) What better place to feature the naturalistic artwork of local talent than at the Leonard J. Buck Garden! The free exhibit runs through March 12.

Photo by Somerset County Park Commission

## **CLUE ON STAGE IN MARCH**

Brook Arts Center in Bound Brook on March 18 through 29, when six mysterious guests assemble for a dinner party at Boddy Manor.

Join us as we bring to life the classic board game Clue. Based on the cult 1985 Paramount movie and inspired by the classic Hasbro game, this farce-meets murder- mystery is bloody good fun.

When six guests are invited to a dinner party thrown by an anonymous host, they are given aliases--Colonel Mustard, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, Professor Plum, and Miss Scarlet.

Though discouraged from revealing personal information, it is soon discovered that all of them have fallen victim to the same blackmailer, - their concessions, bar, and free parking are available. host for the evening!

Each is presented with a weapon and an option: pay their extortionist double or kill the innocent butler. What follows is a madcap,

Murder and blackmail are on the menu at the slapstick evening full of murder, mystery, and laughs as they seek to figure out the culprit amongst criminals. Was it Mrs. Peacock in the study with the knife? Or Colonel Mustard in the library with the wrench?

> Can you solve the mystery, before it is revealed?

> Opening night Friday, March 18 at 8 p.m. Showtimes Fridays and Saturday 8 p.m. and Sundays 2 p.m.

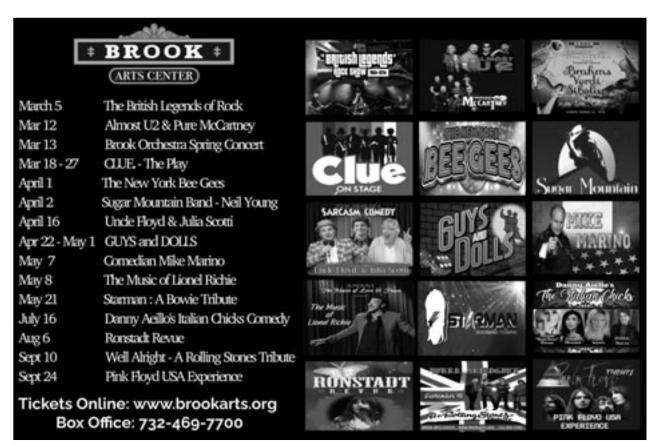
> Running through March 29. Tickets are \$30 and \$20 for Seniors (62+) and Students with IDs.

> Order early for the best seats @ brookarts.org or call 732-469-7700. Box Office Opens two hours prior to showtime for walk-up sales.

> Reserved socially distanced seating,

> The Brook Arts Center is in historic Bound Brook, NJ, one block from the Bound Brook Train station and a few short miles from Rt 22, 287, and 78.







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## **FREE TAX-AIDE**

Somerset County's Volunteer Services and AARP have once again teamed up to provide the Tax-Aide program to help residents prepare their taxes. The free, no-fuss, no-muss, tax-counseling service is available to all county residents, but specifically for older adults, residents with disabilities, and lower-income residents who need help preparing federal and New Jersey income tax returns.

"Our Tax-Aide volunteers help ease some of the stress for our residents during tax season by providing this free and valuable service," said County Commissioner Paul M. Drake. "The truth is income tax forms can be confusing for anyone, and a little help from these trusted professionals can not only ease the tax preparation process, but help residents save money."

Tax counselors will review and prepare residents' New Jersey and federal tax documents, and then file their documents electronically. To ensure they are up to date on current tax laws and forms for both the federal and state governments, volunteer counselors receive annual training and are tested and certified by the Internal Revenue Service.

This year, approximately 57 tax preparation volunteers will provide direct support to residents at six sites in Somerset County, including Montgomery, Martinsville, Manville, Bridgewater, Franklin and Green Brook.

Tax returns are filed electronically, enabling taxpayers to obtain a more rapid refund, if eligible. Volunteers can also assist with preparing Property Tax Reimbursement (PTR) forms for homeowners ages 65-years or older who meet eligibility requirements.

#### **Appointment Guidelines**

Residents must schedule an appointment to receive tax assistance. Appointments are available through April 15. Residents are required to bring the following items to their appointment:

2021 W-2 forms

Copy of 2020 tax returns

Bank, broker and social security statements Receipts for medical and other expenses

To make an appointment, call the Somerset County Office of Volunteer Services at 908-541-5710.

#### COUNTY OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteer Services recruit people of all ages to volunteer for various county departments and/or programs. The Office of Volunteers oversees the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Handyman Project, Money Management Program, Tax Filing Assistance Program, Tutoring Program, Fall Clean-Up Program, and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program.

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# CHECK TREES FOR SPOTTED LANTERNFLY EGG MASSES

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.

#### WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

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.

If you see a Spotted Lanternfly, help us Stomp it Out!

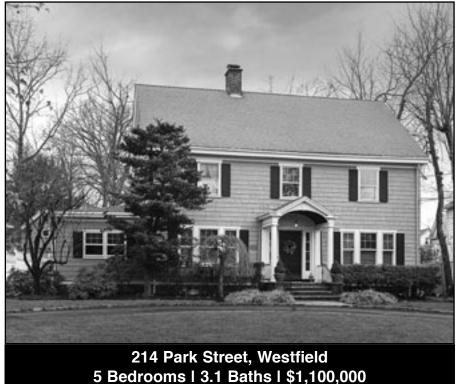


(above) The weather is warming up, check your trees for Spotted Lanternfly egg masses. When you find them crush them. Use an old bank card, small rolling pin or putty knife.

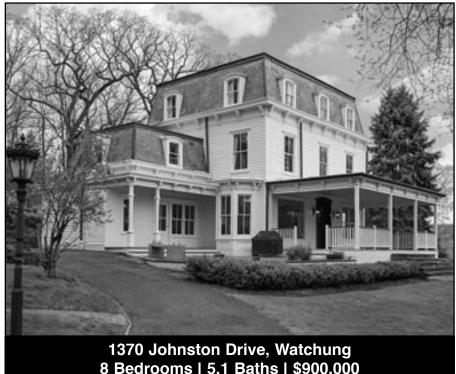


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# Thinking of moving? We Should Talk.



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## TAKE TIME TO STOP **AND SMELL THE ROSES**

Featured artist and Green Brook resident Theresa Carson encourages library customers to, "take time to stop and smell the roses," or—more specifically in this case—to view the roses and perhaps catch a small whiff of artist paint!

Carson's radiant 18-piece, mixed media set was created using acrylic paint, graphite, charcoal, pen and ink, colored pencil, and etching, and will be featured through March at SCLSNJ's Warren Township Library.

Carson, a member of the Center for Contemporary Arts in Bedminster, finds inspiration for her work simply by living life and appreciating the world around her.

The Warren Township Library is located at 42 Mountain Blvd. in Warren. The branch hosts a rotating art exhibit in order to highlight local artists and makers. For more information, contact staff member Kathy DeCristofaro kdecristofaro@sclibnj.org.

Courtesy photo



(above) Artist Theresa Carson asks us to smell the roses—the ones she painted—at her exhibit at the Warren Township Library that will be on display through March.

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## **GREEN BROOK'S NEWEST EAGLE SCOUT**

Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129 would like thereby preventing human casualties. to announce our newest Eagle Scout, Christopher Schmitz. Chris has worked hard to earn his Eagle Rank, while taking on the challenges of multiple other activities such as Track and Field and the Green Brook Hockey Club.

The Watchung Hills Regional High School student has set his sights on a career in mechanical engineering. He hopes to create robots to work on dangerous construction sites,

His leadership skills helped him successfully plan and complete his Eagle Project, which was to build a case to hold the Green Brook Hockey Club's trophies and plaques.

All of Green Brook would like to congratulate Chris on this highest achievement in Boy Scouting of America!

Boys ages 5-17 are welcome to come see what scouting is all about. Email the Green Brook Boy Scouts at Greenbrook129chair@gmail.com.



(above) Chris Schmitz shakes hands with his father, John Schmitz, Assistant Scoutmaster



(above) Christopher Schmitz eceives Eagle Scout award

Courtesy photos

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#### **MAYOR VAN ARSDALE GETS A BOY SCOUT WELCOME**

Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129 was on Mayor. hand to welcome Mayor Jim Van Arsdale during his swearing in ceremony held on Monday, January 3, 2022. This was quite an honor since Jim has been an active parent and committee member with the Troop since 2010 when his son James joined Cub Scouts.

Many are aware that Jim has been one of the most active members in our community serving on town council, then Assistant Mayor, and now

Many may not know the involvement Jim has had in our Boy Scout Troop over the years. Jim has gone on many camping and hiking trips, and you can always see Jim on his bicycle at summer camp. Jim continues to be involved even though his son is off to college. All of our scouts look up to him. The boys appreciate Jim for being a Merit Badge Counselor, and for his encouraging words and advice to all.

Next time you see Jim be sure to congratulate him on becoming our newest Mayor, but also thank him for helping shape the hundreds of boys that have been part of Green Brook Boy Scout Troop.

If you are interested in joining Green Brook Boy Scouts please email Greenbrook129chair@gmail.com. Boys ages 5-17 are welcome, come see what scouting is all about.



(above, l-r) Green Brook Mayor, Jim Van Arsdale during his swearing in ceremony held on Monday, January 3, 2022, pictured with his son James Van Arsdale, daughter Kat Van Arsdale, and wife Connie Van Arsdale.



(above) Green Brook Boy Scouts participated in the swearing in ceremony of Mayor, Jim Van Arsdale held at Green Brook Township Town Hall.

Photos by Green Brook Boy Scouts Troop 129



(above) Troop 129 on a campout in Nov 2017



(above) - Troop 129, March 2016 on a hike with leaders: Jim Van Arsdale (middle), Scoutmaster Rick Couch, Pat Boccio (right)





## **FOOD PANTRY'S SERVICES & NEEDS**

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry, located at All Saints' Episcopal Church Parish House at 5 Church Road in Millington, is now open every first and third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Twelve Baskets provides food and various non-perishables to individuals, families, seniors, and veterans in Long Hill and surrounding areas. A valid driver's license or state ID to verify local address is the only documentation needed. Anyone in need of walk-in hours for emergency appointments can call 908-647-0067 ext. 4 and arrangements will be made. All calls and visits are free and confidential. Masks are required. Please bring reusable bags for food.

The goal of the pantry is to help supplement families during these difficult times. Donations are accepted and can be placed in our donation barrels located in the side door at All Saints' Church, 15 Basking Ridge Road, Millington. We ask that food items should not contain high amounts of salt, sugar, or highly-processed grains. We ask for foods high in protein, healthy fats, and whole grains when possible. At this time, please avoid pasta and all bulk sizes.

In lieu of fresh foods, a ShopRite card donation is appreciated so items such as fruit, veggies, eggs, milk, and bread can be purchased and made available. We also accept donations of fresh produce after 9:30 a.m. on days the pantry is open.

For more information, please visit allsaintsmillington.org/outreach.html or call 908-647-0067 ext. 4.

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry is sponsored by All Saints' Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, and Meyersville Presbyterian Church.

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# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA' PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL





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Tournament play starts at 10:00 am

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Registration is \$15 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.

Scouts can register online at https://scoutingevent.com/999999

Non-scouts (under 18 only) can register by calling Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.

For questions or information, contact Victoria Moran at victoria.moran@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 ext 250.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.

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This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.



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## **JOIN THE WHRHS MARCHING WARRIOR FAMILY**

a few years off? Either way, it's a great time to start thinking about all of the many exciting reasons to join the WHRHS Marching Band!

Why on Earth would I want to join marching band?

For one, friendships that will change your life and may very well last a lifetime. For incoming Freshman, marching band can be your ticket to walking in the door that dreaded first day of high school already set with a tight knit group of friends. How? You will have just spent time in late August getting to know everyone during band camp. And when I say "getting to know everyone", I don't say that lightly. By the end of band camp, there are special bonds that have formed between members of the band...you will have become part of the "band family". Which, by the way, will include upperclassmen who will be able to "show you the ropes" and help get you up and running quickly in that new high school environment.

Did you know that marching band can also make you smarter?

As it turns out, human brains are wired for music. Multiple studies have shown that students who learn music are more adept at language and mathematics. Plus, those who are proficient in music demonstrate higher IQ

Is high school right around the corner, or still scores. Not to mention, music is also a great stress alleviator. Who can't use a little of that these days?

> Let's not forget one of the most important reasons though...marching band is a LOT OF FUN!!!! There's the thrill of watching an entire performance show come together, step by step. And the pride that comes with performing it for your parents for the very first time. Then there are fun bus rides, cheering for the football team while playing sing-along stand tunes, competitions and the thrill of victory when WHRHS takes home a first place win. The band also schedules bowling nights, pool parties, backyard movies, trampoline parties and more, which you can join! Sum it all up and it spells a ton of F-U-N!!

> Well, there are literally hundreds of reasons why you should join marching band, so over the next few months you'll get to hear from current members themselves...why they joined and what they love most about it.

> If you'd like more information, or have any questions about joining the marching band, please reach out to either Michael Banker at 908-462-4446, or Jake Bilotti 908-910- 2498 or email jakeabilotti@gmail.com. They're waiting to welcome you into the WHRHS Marching Warrior family!





Photos by WHRHS Marching Band





www.vdsnj.com facebook.com/vdsnj email: ira@vdsnj.com 908-964-4004 406 Chestnut St. • Union, NJ 07083





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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.

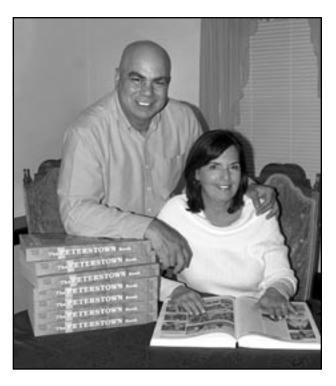
Renna Media is a Cranford, NJ based business owned and operated by husband and wife team of Joe and Tina Renna. Renna Media's family of 24 community newspapers are published in Morris, Essex, Union and Somerset counties, with a total circulation of 160,000. The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature 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.

# Thinking of Listing? Now is the time

The combination of high buyer demand and low inventory makes it a great time to sell. Call me for a confidential conversation and complimentary market analysis.

Who you choose to work with matters

# Congratulations

Roseann O'Keefe

2021 New Jersey Realtors® Circle of Excellence



# 2021 NJ REALTORS® Circle of Excellence - Platinum 2021 NextHome President's Circle Award Winner

I am humbled to be the recipient of these highest awards within the New Jersey Realtors® organization and the NextHome® brokerage company. I do not measure my personal success through awards but rather, through the satisfaction of my clients. Experiencing first-hand the joy of homeownership for my first-time homebuyers, empty nesters and multi-generational families is fulfilling... these awards are just a bonus.

Thank you to my clients who continue to refer me to their family and friends. I look forward to helping many more of my neighbors in 2022.

#### Roseann O'Keefe

Realtor-Associate®

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#### **MY FEATURED LISTINGS**



45 Ridge Rd, Green Brook 4 Bed / 4.1 Bath / 3 Car Garage / Backyard oasis with beautiful pool



34 Rock Rd West, Green Brook 4 Bed / 2 Bath / 2 Car Garage / Open floorplan w/spectacular view



3 Renda Place, Green Brook 5 Bed / 3.1 Bath / 1 Car Garage Over 3,200 square feet of living space



207 Tallwood Lane, Green Brook 2 Bed / 2.2 Bath / 2 Car Garage End-unit townhouse w/finished basement

## **★★★★** Client Testimonial

"I worked with Roseann on both the purchase of my new home and the selling of my old home. She was wonderful every step of the way. Roseann came highly recommended to me and did not disappoint! She was engaged, responsive, informative, and a pleasure to work with.

If I ever move again, I know who I'm calling!" Laura S.

