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Summit Elks Special Children's Committee Chair Bob Ruple and committee member Ted Scallon along with his daughter-in-law and member Theresa Scallon present a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Summit Visual Arts Center Development Director Jillian Decker.



(above) Summit Elks National Foundation Committee Chair Kathy Preacher presents a check in the amount of \$5,000 to GRACE founder Amanda Parrish Block, and GRACE Volunteer and Elks Member Liz Newell.





(above) Summit Elks member and Chief of Police Theresa Cazaway and her father, Summit Elks Past Exalted Ruler Mike Williams, present a check for \$1,000 to New Providence PBA Local #132.



(above) Summit Elks Trustee Rich Callaghan presents a check in the amount of \$5000 to the Summit Area YMCA President and CEO (and Elks member) Paul Kieltyka and VP of Advancement, Kaitlin Casey for the YMCA's SAY Program.

(left) New Providence Volunteer Fire Department Chief Vincent Wycko receives a check for \$1,000 from Summit Elks Past Exalted Ruler Mike Williams. (far left) Summit Elks Member and Meals on Wheels Volunteer Andrea Vezzosi-Cerza presents a check in the amount of \$1,000 to SAGE Eldercare Meals on Wheels Volunteer Coordinator Amy Stuart.



POSTAL PATRON SUMMIT, NJ 07901

### **ELKS CLUB SUPPORTS LOCAL NON-PROFITS** Submitted by Summit Elks Lodge 1246

The Elks is a longstanding charitable organization that lives by the values of fidelity, justice, brotherly love, and charity. Keeping within that spirit, the Summit Elks Lodge #1246 Trustees approved donations of over \$27,000 to local organizations, which brings our total cash donations for our fiscal year (April-March) to over \$130,000.

If you are interested in joining the Summit Elks Lodge to assist with our charitable work, please check us out on Instagram: @summitelks1246 or Facebook: Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Summit Lodge #1246. Visit us in person at 40 Maple Street, or email our Lodge Secretary at secretary@summitelks1246.org. Photos by Summit Elks Lodge 1246



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Email: editor@rennamedia.com Online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/ Summit Times Tina Renna: 908-418-5586 tinarenna@rennamedia.com Joe Renna: 908447-1295 joerenna@rennamedia.com

## JANET TRUNCALE JOINS UNICEF USA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Summit resident Janet Truncale, the Vice Chair and Regional Managing Partner of the EY Americas Financial Services Organization (FSO), was recently appointed to the National Board of Directors for UNICEF USA. The UNICEF USA National Board of Directors includes notable leaders such as Téa Leoni, UNICEF Ambassador and Dikembe Mutombo, NBA superstar and NBA Global Ambassador.

UNICEF USA's mission to create a better world for every child aligns to EY's purpose of Building a Better Working World. At EY, the workforce Janet leads, comprised of more than 14,000 people across 90 cities, is focused on building a stronger, fairer, and more sustainable financial services industry. She is looking forward to bringing this determination to UNICEF USA, while working alongside inspirational leaders to help advance their important work of driving change for children and young people.

In the press release announcing her appointment, Janet said, "I am passionate about furthering my focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion through UNICEF USA's noble work to create a more equitable world for each and every child. Only by coming together to harness our respective strengths and resources can we make a sustainable impact on today's children and future generations."



(above) Janet Truncale of Summit is appointed to the National Board of Directors for UNICEF USA. Courtesy photo

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# SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS FOOTLOOSE

The Summit High School Performing Arts Department will present the dynamic, rockin' musical, FOOTLOOSE, March 2-5, 2022 in the SHS Auditorium. Based on the 1984 film filled with Oscar and Tony-nominated Top Forty songs, "Footloose tells the story of out-of-towner Ren, as he moves from the big city of Chicago to small town America. Unprepared for conservative local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local pastor, Ren sets out to bring forgotten joy to the town. The heartfelt story that emerges pins a father longing for the son he lost against a young man aching for the father who walked out on him. With its youthful spirit, dazzling dance, and electrifying music, this family-friendly musical celebrates the exhilaration of youth, the wisdom of listening to one another, and the power of forgiveness" says Anne Poyner, Director.

Performances are Wednesday and Thursday, March 2 & 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, March 4 & 5, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.; and a Saturday matinee at 2:00 p.m. in the Summit High School Auditorium.

Tickets for students and seniors are \$15, \$20 for adults, and can be purchased at Showtix4U.com/events/hilltopper.

Please note: a seat will be blocked out on either side of tickets you purchase to account for social distancing; masks are required.





\*APY effective as of February 25, 2022. \$500 minimum balance to open and obtain APY. Early withdrawal subject to penalty. Rates are subject to change without notice.



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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPS FOR HS JUNIORS & SENIORS

Mayor Nora Radest and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities are offering three \$1,000 scholarships for high school juniors and seniors in Summit through the Louis Bay II Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. The theme is "What My Municipal Government Does Best" and seeks to highlight elected officials' hard work and encourage future municipal leaders. Submission deadline is March 11. For the application and more information visit: cityofsummit.org.

## SUMMIT FREE MARKET MARCH 12

#### City of Summit

If you've started spring cleaning and have found some items around the house you don't want anymore, don't throw them away! Bring them to the next Summit Free Market event on Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by the Transfer Station, located at 140 New Providence Avenue, to donate saleable items, browse other donated items, and take what you want for free. No appointment is necessary to attend. Masks are required to be worn inside city buildings at all times. To view a list of donation guidelines or to volunteer, please visit summitfreemarket.org.

# HOMETOWN HEROES PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The City of Summit announces that enrollment is now open for its 2022 Hometown Heroes program. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2022.

This is the fifth year we proudly honor our active military and veterans by decorating our city streets from mid-May through mid-August with personalized banners bearing their names, images, and dates of service.

To take part in the Hometown Heroes program applicants must be serving or have served in any one of the following branches of the United States Armed Forces: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. Members of the United States Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots in World War II are also invited to apply.

Applicants must also have lived in Summit at any time, or are currently or have been employed by the City of Summit or Summit Board of Education, or are current or former volunteers in the Summit EMS, Police Auxiliary, or Volunteer Fire Division.

The program is funded through private donations with no fee to participate. Information on application requirements and how to apply is available at cityofsummit.org/hometownheroes.

Donations by check made payable to The Summit Foundation can be mailed to

Summit Hometown Heroes,

P.O. Box 892, Summit, NJ 07902.

For more information, email

summitnjheroes@gmail.com.

## **SEEKING TALENT FOR STREET SOUNDS PROGRAM**

Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) is excited to announce that they are seeking new talent for the 2022 season of Summit Street Sounds (SSS). SSS is an outstanding program that runs in different locations throughout downtown Summit bringing joy and live music to all. This year the series runs on Thursday & Friday evenings in June & July and again on Fridays in September and October from 5 to 8 p.m. Acts range across many genres including pop, jazz, blues and rock 'n roll and include mainly single artists, duos, trios and sometimes full bands.

Think you have what it takes to perform live on the sidewalks of Summit!? SDI is accepting video and audio demos via email to amanda@summitdowntown.org. SDI accepts groups up to 4 people and welcome all kinds of instruments. Electrical power is provided but acoustic is accepted as well.

Please send all submissions by March 15th, 2022. If you're accepted into the program you will be contacted and SDI will coordinate your performance dates based on your availability for the season, a schedule is then crafted from all the musicians.

For more information on this event, please visit summitdowntown.org/events or contact Summit Downtown, Inc. at 908.277.6100.

Summit Downtown, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the on-going development and promotion of the business community of downtown Summit, NJ.



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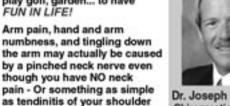
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# **GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL NON-PROFITS**

The Summit Foundation has awarded more than \$307,000 in grants to 19 local area nonprofit organizations providing vital food, shelter, education, arts, culture, and health services. The grants were approved as part of The Summit Foundation's December grant cycle, and include:

- \$25,000 to GRACE for food and supplies.
- \$26,640 to Overlook Foundation for its community health worker pilot program.
- \$8,500 to The Summit Playhouse for a computerized lighting controller and sound unit.
- \$25,000 to Summit Parkline Foundation toward the completion of rails to trails park.
- \$15,000 to YWCA of Eastern Union County for its arts therapy program for youth experiencing domestic abuse in their homes.
- \$20,000 to Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation for the expansion of long-term care facilities for children with disabilities.
- \$15,000 to Family Promise for its mental

health counseling and wellness initiative for temporarily homeless families.

• \$6,518 to Great Swamp Watershed Association for a Summit elementary school rain garden and the Test the Tap program.

Other organizations receiving grants include Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Girls on the Run NJ East Inc., Good Grief Inc., Summit Speech School, The Learning Circle YMCA, HTTV Inc. (Hometowne Television), Friends of Summit Public Art, Morris-Union Jointure Commission, Papermill Playhouse, and Senior Services Center of the Chathams, Inc.

The Summit Foundation fosters philanthropy by identifying local needs and offering donors flexible ways to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Since 2010, it has awarded nearly \$6.6 million through 476 competitive grants to tax-exempt organizations that serve our area.

Visit summitforever.org for more information.

# **PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

The Summit Free Public Library has received a collection of Portuguese Language books for children, generously donated by members of the Brazilian and Portuguese community in Summit. The items began circulating almost immediately, many having been checked out within the first two weeks of their arrival. Twenty-three books were donated. They include titles by some Brazilian and Portuguese authors, as well as translations of the most popular English children's titles, such as:

- O menino que perguntava by Ignácio De Loyola Brandão
- Ou isto ou aquilo by Cecília Meireles

- Como o Grinch Roubou o Natal (How the Grinch Stole Christmas) by Dr. Seuss
- Diário de um banana (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) by Jeff Kinney (series, 13 titles)
- O Pequeno Príncipe (The Little Prince) by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

We are deeply grateful to the families who donated these titles to us; their contribution helps us continue to expand our non-English catalogue for children. Whether native speakers or new learners of the language, more children will be able to practice reading in Portuguese and become further acquainted with Brazilian and Portuguese authors.

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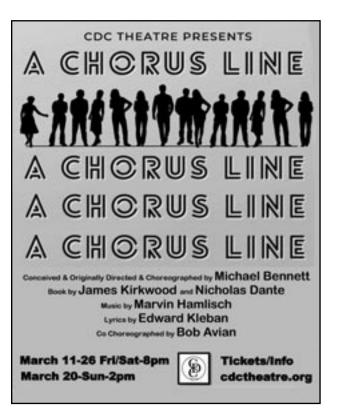
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# A CHORUS LINE COMING TO CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD

Come be part of Broadway's most legendary musical audition. After having been postponed from its 101st season, A Chorus Line will run at CDC Theatre in Cranford from March 11 through March 26, 2022. This stunning concept musical captures the spirit and tension of a Broadway chorus audition and explores the inner lives and bittersweet ambitions of professional Broadway performers. Winner of nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the show features one powerhouse number after another. Michael Kidney leads the talented cast as director and choreographer. Visit cdctheatre.org for ticketing information.



(above) Cast of A Chorus Line. Visit cdctheatre.org for ticketing information.

# AUDITIONS FOR A BRONX TALE

CDC Theatre in Cranford

Auditions for A Bronx Tale will take place at CDC Theatre, 78 Winans Ave., Cranford, NJ on March 14, at 7 p.m. for young Calogero only; and March 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. for all other roles. Callbacks will be on Tuesday, March 22 at 6 p.m. by invitation only.

Please bring a headshot and resume stapled together and provide proof of vaccination. Prepare a 32-bar cut of a contemporary Broadway song; sides will be provided.

Based on the critically acclaimed play that inspired the now classic film, this streetwise musical will take you to the stoops of the Bronx in the 1960s—where a young man is caught between the father he loves and the mob boss he'd love to be. Featuring a book by Academy Award nominee Chazz Palminteri, music by Oscar, Grammy, and Tony Award winner Alan Menken, and lyrics by Grammy Award winner and Oscar and Tony Award nominee Glenn Slater, A Bronx Tale is a story about respect, loyalty, love, and above all else: family.

Rehearsals will take place at CDC, in the evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, starting April 5th. Performances are June 10, 11,17,18,24,25 at 8pm, and June 19th at 2 p.m. Additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.



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# **LOCAL MASTERS SWIMMERS CELEBRATE 18TH ANNIVERSARY**

A group of New Jersey Masters Swimmers of major milestones. from Madison and surrounding towns have had the privilege of swimming together for many years at Drew University, the Madison YMCA, Madison Community Pool, and the Summit YMCA.

The COVID-19 pandemic limited the group's ability to swim together. Recently, however, upon the group's 18thanniversary, the Masters Yardstick Swimmers held its awards breakfast online—with a strong turnout. To celebrate the group's history, strong personal relationships, and commitment to swimming, members Bob Nissen, Joe Donohue, and Richard Clew (with help from historian Barbara Rushman) created a slide show

An entertaining review of swimmers' monthly comments from the comment box on their website followed the slide show. Swimmers highlighted the recent opening of the new Walker D. Kirby Aquatics Center in the Madison YMCA.

The online event culminated with their Annual Awards. Red Stars went to swimmers Deborah Fennelly of Morristown, Lynda Przedpelski of Summit, Jennifer Bauman of Parsippany, and Bob Franks of Chatham—all having achieved at least one 100,000-yard month during the year. Jim Sullivan of Morristown was named Bold Performer of the Year for improved performance, exceptional effort, and a special commitment to

the swimming program. The top swimmer for the last half of the year was Lynda Przedpelski, achieving 577,983 yards, or 328 miles during the six-month period. Lynda was awarded the Doug Clark Championship Yardstick, named in memory of a former Yardstick Swimmer.

All attendees enjoyed the event and were happy to connect online with swimming friends once again.

Adult swimmers of all levels from beginners to experts are welcome to the Masters programs and to learn more about our Yardstick Challenge. For additional information, please contact Bob Nissen at bobnissen@gmail.com.

Photo by Masters Yardstick Swimmers



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908-381-8160 janetleichtdpm.com 369 Springfield Avenue Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922 (above) Masters Yardstick Swimmers held their 18th anniversary celebration online.

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**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 visit or repaircafegs.org for more information.



(above) 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 Ave., Summit, NJ, at the corner of Springfield and New England Avenues.





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#### **Community Access Unlimited**

Ronald Vigliano has proven himself as a valuable employee with nearly 22 years of experience working at ShopRite. He prepares orders, delivers them to customers, and processes returns at the bustling store.

Tonya Hopson enjoys her job at Target and has worked at the store for 18 years, stocking and organizing in different departments and preparing drinks at Starbucks.

Vigliano and Hopson are two of thousands of people with developmental disabilities who have unique skills and a desire to work in the United States. Yet across all age groups, people with disabilities are much less likely to be employed than people with no disabilities.

The 2018 American Community Survey found that only 36% of people with disabilities were employed, compared to 77% of the total population. Further, according to a 2019 Census Bureau report, workers with disabilities earn only two-thirds as much as the average worker without a disability. Workers with disabilities have also been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, making this a critical time for inclusive hiring practices in American economic recovery.

"If they have the ability to do the work, they should be allowed to have a job," Vigliano said. "Why not?"

Vigliano's boss, Store Manager Frank Juba, said the store welcomes employees with different abilities and works to accommodate them.

"We're flexible, and a gentleman like Ron is fully capable," Juba said. "We find a position that suits their abilities."

Vigliano and Hopson receive job coaching support from Community Access Unlimited (CAU). Every week, Deirdre McCray visits them at work to provide supervision and assistance with any work-related tasks that they need, such as, learning how to use a register or taking a training test. People with disabilities that are seeking assistance in their job search, job readiness training, or businesses looking to hire people with disabilities in New Jersey, can contact CAU. CAU is an Elizabeth-based nonprofit that seeks to integrate individuals into the community through comprehensive ways.

"The people I work with know their jobs," McCray said. She added that she helps members stay on task and follow any business procedures and rules, as well as may pitch in physically depending on the member's needs.

The extensive benefits of hiring people with different abilities are becoming well-documented. A 2018 study by Accenture, in partnership with the American Association of People with Disabilities as well as Disability:IN, reports that businesses that actively seek to employ people with disabilities outperform businesses that do not. Their revenues were 28% higher, net income was two times more, and profit margins were 30% higher. Additionally, workers with disabilities have high employee retention rates, high reliability, and a positive

effect on employee motivation.

Vigliano and Hopson said that working is an important part of their lives. They feel productive during the day, get out of the house, and most importantly, earn an income that helps pay their bills and other expenses.

"I like to be out of the house and the activity — I like to be working," Vigliano said.

Hopson said she loves the people she works with and appreciates that the store hires people with different abilities.

"There's someone at my job who is deaf, but she works great," Hopson said. "They're equal at my job and there's no prejudice or anything."

After paying bills, Hopson said her favorite way to spend her money is to take care of her dog, Lexie. For Vigliano, it's important to have extra funds to buy his favorite foods.

"We work to find the right jobs for people with different abilities, and we want businesses to see the opportunity and benefits of hiring them," said Sandra Lynch, Managing Assistant Executive Director of Supported Employment and Vocational Programs.

#### **ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED:**

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), who is celebrating 42 years in 2021, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voices to adults and the youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization, and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making, and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 3,000 individuals and families, with the number growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org, or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202.



(above) Tonya Hopson at home with her dog Lexie



(above) Ronald Vigliano delivers an order at ShopRite





# ATTENTION: ADULTS OVER 40 THAT HAVE PUT THEIR FITNESS ON THE BACK BURNER

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Gabriele Fitness in Berkeley Heights is giving away one of their Diamond level personal training memberships...valued at over \$7,200...so you can get the ultimate transformation for your health and fitness. This experience will change your life forever...

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"I FEEL LIKE I'M IN BETTER SHAPE THAN I WAS IN MY 30S" Gianni: My biggest challenge was overcoming bad habits. After joining, I felt great. My health was great. I was incredibly active. I felt like I was in better shape than when I was in my 30s.



#### "GFP HAS GIVEN ME MY CONFIDENCE BACK. I FEEL GOOD IN MY BODY AGAIN"

Kristy: Before GFP I had never been to the gym before, but the trainers helped me learn how to work out effectively. I started working out six days a week, and I really saw results. Those results kept me motivated to continue coming back. GFP has given me my confidence back. I feel good in my body again.

# **HERE'S HOW TO APPLY**



www.gabrielefitness.com

**ABOUT GABRIELE FITNESS:** Gabriele Fitness is a personal training gym that helps people aged 404 lose weight, gain energy and live a more active life without the use of fad diets or workouts that beat up their body.They've helped thousands of men and women in Berkeley Heights Area to transform their health and life for the past 13 years. As leaders in the fitness industry, they present their methods to trainers and gyms around the globe.







# TRADING CARD PROGRAM RETURNS

program, designed to foster communication and trust between the members of the Police Department and young Summit residents, has returned for 2022.

Each sworn and civilian member of the Summit Police Department is issued a trading card with their name, position, and photograph on the front and a brief bio on the back. Children are encouraged to collect all 56 trading cards by approaching police officers and staff and asking for their card.

"Our goal for this program is for children to become comfortable with approaching an officer in town and initiating a conversation to ask for their trading card," explains Summit Police Acting Chief Steven Zagorski. "We are always working to strengthen our relationship with the residents of Summit, and this makes the process more personal. The trading card program also helps familiarize our younger residents with the

The Summit Police Department's trading card names and faces of our officers, so that perhaps in a time of need, it is easy for them to reach out to an officer for help."

> Trading cards will be available through the end of May. Each week, several featured cards will be available at the Police Department Records Bureau window at City Hall until 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

> In early June, a prize drawing lottery will be held for children in grades Pre-K through fifth grade. Children who have collected 20, 40, or all 56 trading cards will be entered into the raffle once, twice, or three times based on the number of cards they have collected.

> The trading card program is funded by the Summit Police Athletic League. For more information, including program and lottery guidelines, a list of featured cards, or a poster of all 56 cards, please visit cityofsummit.org/police or contact the Summit Police Department at 908-273-0051.

Photos by City of Summit



(above) Poster of all 56 City of Summit Police trading cards. The trading card program goes through the month of May.



# FLINTLOCKS CELEBRATE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MEMBER

#### Dr. D. Michael Hart

Not many centenarians get to celebrate their 100th birthday surrounded by friends. On Thursday, February 17, the Flintlocks celebrated Fanwood resident Joe Schott's 100th birthday. Joe has been active in this volunteer group for 33 years since retiring from Bells Labs. He recruited many of his friends to join, and even a few relatives. Joe has a wry sense of humor, so they presented him with a parking plaque which reads: "Reserved Parking Only for Flintlocks Over 100 Years Old."

The Flintlocks are a group of retired scouters who devote every Thursday all year round to helping the Scout Camps. They build cabins,

maintenance and build craft kits for the Scout shops. The Flintlocks represent a wide range of skills, including: two electricians, a millwright, carpenters, plumbers, diesel mechanics, police officers, heavy equipment operators, but also many professionals such as a dentist, two college professors, computer experts, financial advisors, salesmen, etc.

The most popular craft kits sold at the Cedar Knolls and Mountainside Scout Shops are the bird houses, bird feeders, benches and handy boxes. The men also volunteer at many of the Patriot Path Council activities for the scouts. Since they are a 501c3, they do not need to pay

make picnic tables, paint the dining hall, do sales tax, and they provide skilled labor for free. The Council has 3 camps and the volunteers are important to keep things running smoothly. Many of the scouters had children or have grandchildren in the scouts. More than half of the volunteers have been awarded the Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest National Honor offered by the Boy Scouts of America. They are an outstanding group of volunteers.

> The Flintlocks meet every Thursday from 8 am to 2 pm at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway. Guests are always welcome. For information, contact Secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart by email drmhart@vahoo.com.



(above) Joe Schott seated to the immediate right of the parking sign, behind the cake, in a flannel shirt; celebrating his 100th birthday with his 24 Flintlock friends around him.



## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS NEEDS VOLS

The New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – a network of community-based, locally organized units comprised of volunteers – is looking for reinforcements, particularly those with vaccination skills. MRC volunteers are especially vital during emergencies and disasters when paid public health and emergency response assets are overwhelmed. Healthcare professionals (including recently retired individuals) having vaccination skills are especially needed now that COVID-19 vaccines are available.

In addition to skilled vaccinators, individuals with all types of skill sets (for example, security, language translation/interpretation, education and outreach, warehouse operations, clerical, counseling, and more) are needed. If you are interested in volunteering with the MRC, visit njlmn.njlincs.net and click on "Register as an Existing or New MRC Volunteer!"

## **CHECK 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.

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.



(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.



# **BLOOD DONATIONS ARE CRITICALLY NEEDED**

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 collections, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

The American Red Cross is facing a national 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 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 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



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# SAM'S LANDSCAPING WEEKLY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE \*PAVERS & PATIOS\* SOD TOP SOIL \*DRAINAGE\* PLANTING \*CLEANUPS\* TRIMMING TREE REMOVAL \*MULC FACEBOOK\* CALL OR TEXT 908-441-7302 SAMSLANDSCAPING.COM

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# Marketing Toolbox

Renna Media offers a full range of marketing services, in print and online, hyperlocal to regional, for every budget and market size.

### **NEWSPAPER ADVERTS**

We mail 160,000 newspapers to every home and business in 24 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

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We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$35 per thousand.

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Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

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## SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CONCERT SERIES FUNDRAISER

#### **Community Access Unlimited**

Sponsorships are now available for the third annual Banding Together, a virtual concert series to benefit Community Access Unlimited from March 28 to April 2. This event brings together six talented musical performers with different styles to perform in a six-night series, which will air on Facebook at 7 p.m. each night.

Event sponsors will be featured in advertising for Banding Together and have an opportunity to support an organization that has changed lives in Union County and around New Jersey since 1979. CAU works to integrate people with disabilities and youth at risk into the general community through comprehensive supports.

Interested sponsors should contact Saranya Thana at SThana@caunj.org.

CORT, a furniture provider company, has supported CAU as a sponsor for more than three years and learned about the organization and its mission through their business with nonprofits.

#### **PERFORMERS IN BANDING TOGETHER ARE:**

March 28: Pop songwriter and autism advocate Cory Singer

March 29: Soul musician Jeiris Cook March 30: Folk pop singer Kris Angelis March 31: The soul band Alexander Simone & WhoDat Live Crew

April 1: Folk rock band Jackson Pines

April 2: Pop country singer Jessica Rose All shows air at 7 p.m. at

#### facebook.com/CommunityAccessUnlimited/ ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating 43 years, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization, and civic activities. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

## 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.

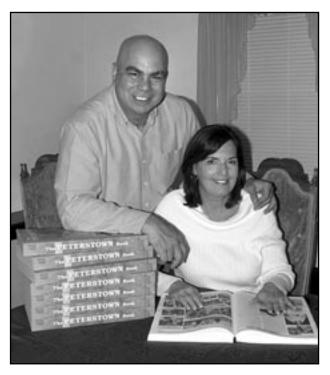
Renna Media is a Cranford, NJ based business owned and operated by husband and wife team of Joe and Tina Renna. Renna Media's family of 24 community newspapers are published in Morris, Essex, Union and Somerset counties, with a total circulation of 160,000. The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature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

Call for free a consultation if you need

help developing an online marketing plan.

# HOW TO WIN ONE YEAR OF FREE PERSONAL TRAINING IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS

