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HIP-HOP PIONEER DMC VISITS WITH STUDENTS

Linden Public Schools welcomed an exciting visitor when legendary rapper Darryl “DMC” McDaniels, a founding member of pioneering group Run-DMC, delivered uplifting messages to students about reaching their greatest potential.

McDaniels spoke at School No. 4 on March 29, to that school’s third-graders as well as visiting students from Linden High School, and McManus and Soehl middle schools. Video of his appearance at School No. 4 was shared so that everyone in the district could join in his message. He also visited Linden High School for a sit-down interview with student journalists from TNT Student News.

He highlighted the importance of education, a love for learning, and hard work as the path to success.

“This educational opportunity is your preparation for the thing that you were put here to do,” he said at School No. 4. “Because if it wasn’t meant for you to be great, you wouldn’t be here. This morning has nothing to do with what Run-DMC is. This morning is part of your purpose and destiny.

“Education is just information. But when you receive that information that is education, there is a transformation.”

McDaniels was invited to visit with students by Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton, who has worked with him since her days as a teacher on Long Island. McDaniels did not charge for his visit and spent hours at School No. 4 and LHS



(above) Staff members from School No. 4 in Linden greeted Darryl “DMC” McDaniels with a flash mob dance to the Run-DMC and Aerosmith collaboration of “Walk This Way.”



(above) Darryl “DMC” McDaniels is interviewed by Linden High School seniors Josiah Hanna and Branden Van Allen for the school’s TNT Student News.

Photos by Linden Public Schools

greeting students and staff, signing his book, and posing for pictures.

“We were so happy to be able to host Darryl so that our students could be inspired by his story of success,” Hazelton said. “He is able to engage students of all ages because he can understand some of the struggles they are going through, and show them that they can still end up on top.”

In introducing McDaniels to the crowd at School No. 4, Hazelton told the crowd a little bit about his career and the history of Run-DMC.

“I urge my younger scholars to Google Run-DMC,” she said. “They are an iconic rap group of many firsts: the first to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; the first to have their videos played on MTV, when MTV still showed videos; the first to be on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine; the first rap group to go multiplatinum.”

McDaniels was visibly delighted when the program kicked off with School No. 4 teachers and staff doing a flash mob dance to the Run-DMC and Aerosmith collaboration of “Walk This Way.”

McDaniels drove the point home to the students gathered at School No. 4 that school is the path to success and not just here to make life difficult. He asked students to repeat after him, and they responded emphatically.

“School ... isn’t put in my life ... to make me miserable. ... School ... is preparation ... to prepare me ... for whatever it is ... that I’m gonna do ... when I grow up. ... Yeah!”

He closed out with a final thought on what students should take from his visit.

“I am the living, breathing show-and-tell that dreams do come true.”

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Life in Linden

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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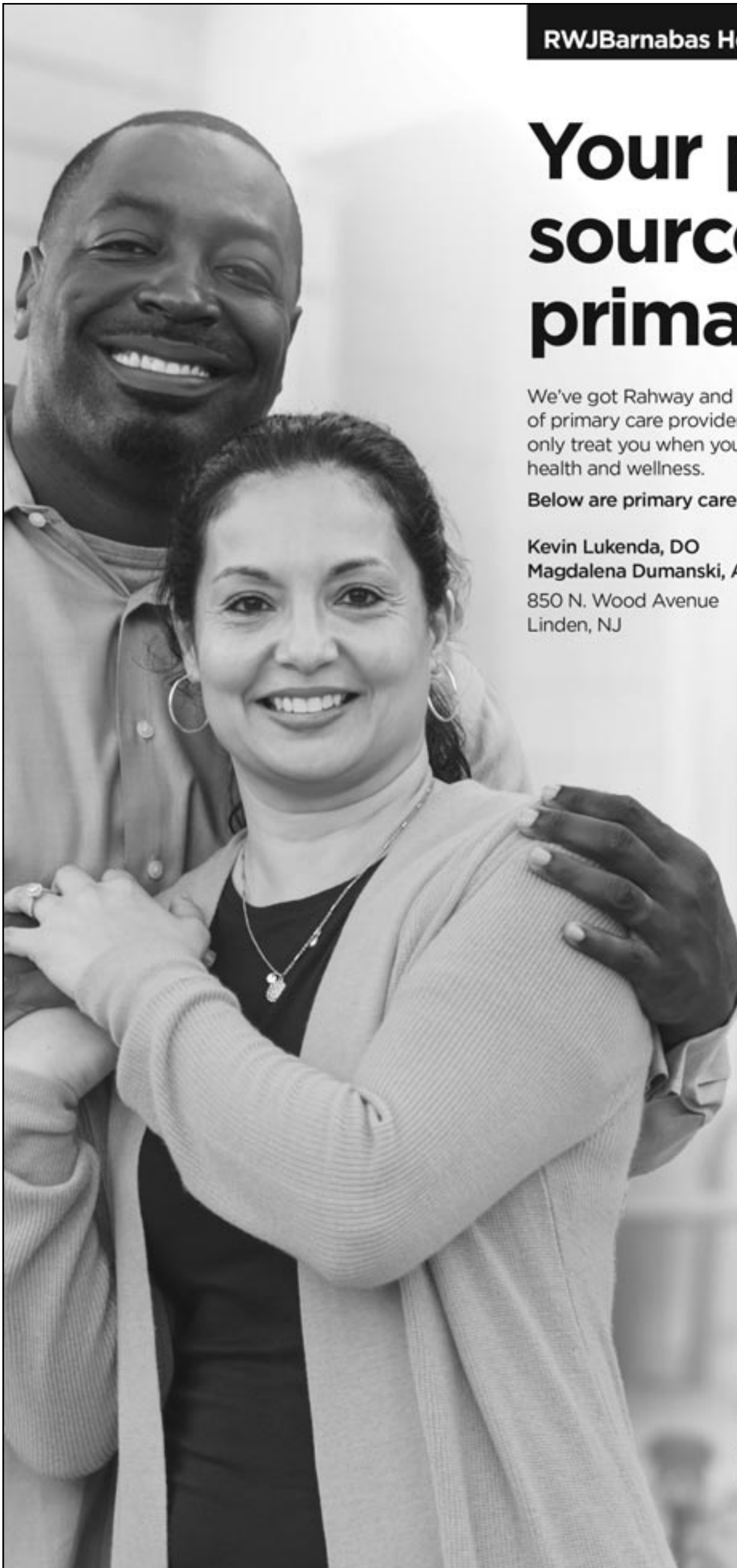
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STUDENTS TAKE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY CHALLENGE AT NJIT

Linden Public Schools

A team of young engineers from School No. 1 in Linden recently traveled to NJIT to take part in the eSTEM Challenge, a design competition in which elementary students design and build machines that use renewable energy.

The challenge date of March 14 was the culmination of seven weeks of work in which five students used the Engineering Design Process to create a wind-powered vehicle out of simple household items. On the day of the challenge at NJIT, the students demonstrated their device and gave an oral presentation on their design processes, concepts, and evidence of teamwork.

The team was made up of fifth-graders Scarlet Munoz, Eddie Oliveira, Aminah Turner, Jasen Julian Jean and Tiago Jimenez, and they were led by coaches Acting Principal Michael Walters

and technology teacher Kimberly Bachmann.

"It was an honor and pleasure helping guide them through this process," Bachmann said. "This was our first competition and they rocked it! I was so proud. The whole experience opened their eyes to what their future could look like in the area of engineering and even a glimpse at what college life is like."

The School No. 1 team placed 18 of 30 in the competition, including fifth out of traditional public schools.

"Not bad for our first competition," Walters said. "Hopefully, this experience has shown our students that they are among some of the most talented young minds in NJ. I am very proud of our eSTEM team. They represented our district and the entire School 1 community with true excellence."

He said it was a great opportunity for the

students to use their creativity and problem-solving skills. "Spending the day on the New Jersey Institute of Technology campus was a tremendous opportunity for our students to be a part of a college community," Walters said. "I think they were impressed with the facilities and the campus itself."

In addition to the demonstration and oral presentation, students were required to keep an engineering logbook of their work and to compete in a game-show-style question-and-answer challenge about wind energy in which the teams used the Kahoot app to answer questions.

"Each student played a part in the eSTEM Challenge and truly worked as a team," Walters said, "These five individuals are School 1 leaders and have very bright futures ahead of them."

Photos by Linden Public Schools



(above) Fifth-graders from School No. 1 giving an oral presentation about their wind-powered vehicle at the eSTEM Challenge at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.



(above) School No. 1 in Linden sent a team of fifth-graders to the eSTEM Challenge at the New Jersey Institute of Technology at March 14. From left are technology teacher Kimberly Bachmann, Scarlet Munoz, Eddie Oliveira, Aminah Turner, Jasen Julian Jean, Acting Principal Michael Walters and Tiago Jimenez.



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GRETA'S RUN FOR IMAGINE - MAY 22

The 9th Annual Greta's Run for Imagine will be held in-person for the first time in 2 years! Join us on Sunday May 22, 2022 for an official USATF 5K race through Westfield, NJ. This year, we are introducing a Memory Walk – a 0.6 mile route where families of the community can walk in memory of anyone who has died. Memory Walk Registrants can purchase a sign to decorate with the name of their loved one to line the walk route and memorialize their family member.

Greta's Run began 9 years ago when a group of Greta Schoenemann's friends decided they wanted to honor her memory with a 5k race. Greta had died on September 15, 2002 due to injuries sustained when a branch fell on a group of students as they were eating lunch outside of Westfield High School. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Greta's death and the 9th year the race has been run in her honor.

Sadly, many of us have experienced the loss of someone we love and this year's event is in honor of all of them. We invite everyone to join us as we run, walk or roll in honor of Greta and all those we love who have died. At Imagine, we see this run as an act of honor, as an act of mourning and of remembrance for our families and our community.

Before the 5K race, we invite everyone to join us for a Memory Walk when we will provide time and space for all to walk in honor of those who have died but are not forgotten.

Proceeds from the race support Imagine's free peer support groups for children and families coping with grief, as well as Imagine's grief education programs which are available for schools and businesses looking to better support their communities. Additionally, Imagine staff are

available to provide support in the immediate aftermath of a loss in a school community, organization or place of business.

We are so thankful for our sponsors thus far for the 9th Annual Greta's Run for Imagine. A big thank you to our Memory Walk Sponsor: Toriello Family in honor of MTT Memorial Fund and thank you to our hydration sponsor Westfield Pediatric Dental Group, and shirt sponsors Family Investors Company and Rossi Funeral Home. Your sponsorships help underwrite the event and help ensure that every dollar goes directly to providing free grief support for children and families. To become a sponsor, please contact Angela Marie Tayco at angela@imaginejnj.org or 908-228-3360.

To register for Greta's Run and/or the Memory Walk, please visit imaginejnj.org/gretasrun. We look forward to coming together as a community

to honor and remember those we love who have died.

Imagine's Executive Director, Lindsay Schambach would like to extend this invitation to you: 'We hope that you will join us and walk alongside our families, our children, and our community, and let everyone know that their loss matters, that they are not alone, and they are never forgotten.'

Imagine offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 who have had a parent, sibling, or close family member die. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians of the children in our groups, and young adults 18-30. Imagine also offers a support group for Spanish speaking adults. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginejnj.org.



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If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

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

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain. Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, 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 fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

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"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain."

- Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal."

- Perry O.

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"A BRONX TALE" IS COMING TO CDC THEATRE

The musical "A Bronx Tale", the final show in CDC Theatre's 103rd season, is in rehearsal and getting ready to open June 10.

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.

Director Sean Lough describes the show as "taking place on the streets in the 1960s, with all the pop styles of the time: Doo-wop, Frank Sinatra-style ballads, R&B and Motown.

Even though it's set in The Bronx, it's a very New Jersey show. The musical started at the Paper Mill Playhouse then moved to Broadway. We're honored to be the first NJ community theatre group to get to perform it after the smash Broadway run."

The show will run June 10-25, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on June 19th. Tickets can be purchased by visiting cdctheatre.org. Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

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VOLUNTEERS SWORN IN TO ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

CASA of Union County

The new class of community members to step up and train as advocates for Union County foster youth have taken their oath before Union County Superior Court Judge Lara K. DiFabrizio and become the newest volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County.

Since 2005, the nonprofit has recruited, trained, supported and supervised nearly 600 community volunteers to advocate for more than 900 such youth, protecting best interests and ensuring needs are met in the courtroom, classroom and community. As caseworkers, foster placements and schools can change frequently, CASA volunteers often are the only consistent, caring adult in a youth's corner, helping ensure already experienced trauma is not exacerbated as youth await permanency in a safe and loving home.

Judge DiFabrizio presided over the Zoom swearing-in ceremony of volunteers Lynda Sun Lee of Berkeley Heights, Katherine (Katie) Rabiecki of Cranford, Dina Gharaibeh of Kearny, Lila Monroe of Roselle, Julia Dranishnikov of Scotch Plains, and Robert Mallard of Union. In commemoration with gratitude, Judge DiFabrizio noted, "Thank you all for your commitment,

passion, hard work, and loyalty to these families that desperately need it. It takes a village and now you're a part of it." Each volunteer will now be matched to a foster youth or foster sibling set, and begin putting their 30-hour training into practice, ensuring their needs are met and best interests are protected while they await permanency.

Anyone passionate about making a difference in a child's life can apply to volunteer; there is no prior experience or background needed to serve as an advocate. Each undergoes a thorough training process and is supported by CASA staff throughout their work. Successful advocates have varied life experiences and this class is no exception, as professional backgrounds include social work, education, judicial clerkship, health

management, and business.

Upon being court-ordered to a case, the CASA volunteer has access to the youth's foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers and, through their regular child visits, identify and report to the judge any concerns and needs in order to protect the child's best interests.

As the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for Union County judges hearing cases of youth in the child welfare system, the organization regularly recruits community volunteers to serve these local child-victims from birth to age 21. To learn more about CASA of Union County, how to join a training class, and other ways to Change a Child's Story, email info@casaofunioncounty.org.



(above l-r) Community members are sworn in as advocates for foster youth. Berkeley Heights' Lynda Sun Lee, Roselle's Lila Monroe, Cranford's Katherine Rabiecki; Union's Robert Mallard, Union County Superior Court Judge Lara K. DiFabrizio, Kearny's Dina Gharaibeh; Scotch Plains' Julia Dranishnikov.

Photo by CASA of Union County



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HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IS A WIN FOR EVERYONE

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.



(above) Tonya Hopson at home with her dog Lexie



(above) Ronald Vigliano delivers an order at ShopRite

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.

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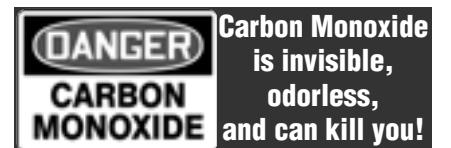
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SEA SCOUTS OPEN HOUSE – MAY 21

Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their base located in Linden, NJ. Sea Scouting (Part of the Venturing Program of the BSA – Boy Scouts of America) offers young adults the opportunity to travel and learn skills that could be useful in future careers.

Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair or visiting a new port on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting.

So, try something different, check us out, and prepare yourself to set sail for a real adventure.

Parents, give your son or daughter a valuable gift by encouraging them to join Sea Scouting today. The time you invest in him today will make a difference in the person he becomes tomorrow.

Sea Scouting is for boys and girls who are at least 14 years old (or 13 years of age and have completed eighth grade) and under 21 years of age. We have a Maritime Explorer Club for middle school aged youth as well. Potential adult volunteers are welcome too!

The crews of Patriots Path Sea Scouts will host their open house at the Carteret Marina, located in the Carteret Waterfront park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, Carteret, NJ, on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sea Scout Ship's 228 and 243 normally operate out of their base at 4400 Tremley Point Road in Linden, NJ, which is currently undergoing a construction project. As a result, the town of Carteret has graciously offered the use of their municipal marina to host our open house this year.

The open house will include tours of the council's main vessels (the 65-foot Sea Dart II and Sea Horse), an introduction to the Sea Scout program, and fun activities that are bound to pique a young adult's interest in boating and scouting. There will be free hamburgers and hot-dogs for those who tour the vessels. No reservation required. Come down to visit and bring a friend or family member!

For more information visit ship228.com.



(above) The crews of Patriots Path Sea Scouts will host their open house at the Carteret Marina, located in the Carteret Waterfront park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, Carteret, NJ, on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The open house will include tours of the council's main vessels (the 65-foot Sea Dart II and Sea Horse), an introduction to the Sea Scout program, and fun activities that are bound to pique a young adult's interest in boating and scouting.

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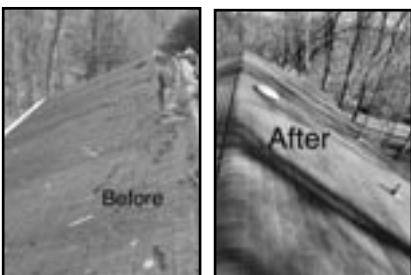
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The Linden Public Library is proud to sponsor
its annual Academy Award Film Series. All
movies in this series have been nominated for at
least one Oscar. The highlight of the series
includes the presentation of both the 1961 and
2021 versions of West Side Story. These movies
are shown free-of-charge, thanks to a generous
grant by the Friends of the Linden Public Library.
More 2021 Oscar-winning films will be
presented over the summer.

The films will be shown on Tuesdays and
Fridays in the Columbia Bank Room on the third
floor at the library. All films begin at 1:00 p.m.
The films to be shown in May include:

May 3 - **House of Gucci (2021) R**s

May 6 - **Cruella (2021) PG-13**

May 10 - **Parallel Mothers (2021) R**

May 13 - **Nightmare Alley (2021) PG-13**

May 17 - **Coming to America (1988) R**

May 20 - **Coming 2 America (2021) PG-13**

May 24 - **Four Good Days (2020) R**

May 27 - **Spiderman: No Way Home (2021) PG-13**

May 31 - **West Side Story (1961) NR**

June 3 - **West Side Story (2021) PG-13**

Located at 31 East Henry Street, the Linden
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LINDEN POLICE RAISE \$5K FOR CHARITY

Linden Police Chief David Hart joined Linden Police Benevolent Association Local #42 President Joseph Appello and Linden Police Superior Officers Association President Airan Fernandez to announce that the Department raised \$5,000 during its annual “No Shave November” event. This year, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation was selected as the beneficiary.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to honoring and supporting our nation’s military and first responders and their families. Tunnel to Towers provides mortgage-free smart homes to our nation’s catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, and mortgage payoffs to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children.

In 2021, the Foundation provided these heroes and their families with over 200 mortgage-free homes. The organization’s Chairman and CEO, Frank Siller, is an uncompensated volunteer, and an incredible 95% of monies raised goes directly

to programs and services that support of our First Responders and Military.

“Tunnel to Towers is such an incredible organization, and I am incredibly proud to be able to join Presidents Appello and Fernandez in making this donation,” said Police Chief David Hart. “I would like to personally thank Frank, and all of the Tunnel to Towers staff and volunteers, for their incredible efforts in support our first responders and military over the past twenty plus years.”

Chief Hart joined Mayor Derek Armstead, and Presidents Appello and Fernandez at the Tunnel to Towers Offices in Staten Island, NY where they met with Frank and presented him with the donation.

“We want to thank everyone who put away their razors in order to raise money through No Shave November. The money raised by Linden Police will be used to support their fellow first responders in need,” said Siller.

To learn more about the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, please visit <https://t2t.org>

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(above, l-r) OBA President Joe Appello, LPSOA President Airan Fernandez, T2T Chairman & CEO Frank Siller, Mayor Derek Armstead, Police Chief Dave Hart, and Captain Chris Guenther.

Photo by Linden Police Department



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Inroads to Opportunities

Practice Makes Possibilities is the motto of the vocational rehabilitation non-profit, Inroads to Opportunities (ITO). ITO serves adults with disabilities and the best way to assess how each individual can perform a job or task, is to try it out in a real business setting.

That is where ITO needs you—the local business owner. ITO asks employers to allow an individual with disabilities, along with an ITO staffer, to visit your business and try out a task. This helps the staff at ITO assess the individual's interests and aptitude as well as give the person experience, however brief, in a work environment.

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SHINING STARS TO PRESENT “GREATEST HITS” - MAY 14TH

The Shining Stars are back! Celebrating 10 years on the stage, the talented special needs cast will be presenting “The Greatest Hits” — covering many of the memorable performances over the past decade.

The outdoor show will take place on the campus of Woodbridge High School, located at 1 Samuel Lupo Way, Woodbridge, on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 5 p.m. There will be food trucks, a tricky tray and a 50/50 raffle.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been ten years, but it’s been an incredible journey,” noted Shining Stars Network Founder and Show Director Sally Curci. “We continue to be inspired by our performers every day. Their passion, dedication and talent is what makes our shows come to life.”

The Shining Stars have performed in front of audiences of 1,000 or more, with cast members from seven different counties performing over

the years. The Cranford-based organization still has many Cranford residents, but is open to anyone who wants to experience the performing arts.

“We’re all about inclusion and opportunity while building self-esteem and creating friendships,” said Shining Stars Network Founder and President Mike Curci. “There have been so many incredible performances over the years and we can’t wait to see our stars shine on stage once again.”

Tickets are available by going to ShiningStarsNetwork.org and clicking on the “purchase tickets” page. General admission tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the show. Please bring a folding chair or blanket. Seating boxes are first-come, first-served. Gates open at 4 p.m. Plenty of on-site parking is available. Rain date is May 21st. Any cancellation will be noted at ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

SHINING STARS NETWORK is a non-profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. founded by Sally and Mike Curci that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of building self-confidence and self-esteem while enjoying the experience of performing on stage. In addition, their Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders and organizations while building friendship and understanding. Now entering its 6th year, Camp Shine (for ages 10-20 years) and The Shining Stars Summer Workshop (21 and over performers) are two-week intensive programs open to everyone, including those with developmental disabilities, that will take place August 15-26, 2022. For more information on Shining Stars Network or any of their programs, please visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org or send your email to ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com.



(above) Shining Stars, a special needs performing arts group, takes the stage on May 14th. For more information visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org.



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LINDEN AMONG NATION’S BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Linden Public Schools

Linden Public Schools have been named among the Best Communities for Music Education in America for the eighth year in a row. Linden is one of just 738 districts across the country to be chosen for the prestigious honor for 2022.

The NAMM Foundation (National Association of Music Merchants) has recognized the district for its outstanding commitment to music education. Linden is one of just 45 districts in New Jersey and four in Union County to be selected.

“I am extremely proud of our department being recognized for this prestigious honor for an eighth consecutive year,” said Matthew Lorenzetti, supervisor of fine and performing arts. “What stands out is that despite the challenges we have faced, especially the past two years, we have been able to provide a meaningful and consistent music education for our students. This would not be possible without the support of our Board of Education, administration, staff, students, and community. This is not just recognition for our music department, but all of Linden.”



(above) Band students at School No. 2 in Linden. Linden is one of just 45 school districts in New Jersey to be included among the Best Communities for Music Education.

Now in its 23rd year, Best Communities for Music Education highlights outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who work together to ensure access to music learning for all students as part of the school curriculum.

“Linden Public Schools take great pride in our music education and our entire Fine and Performing Arts Department,” said Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton. “Education in the arts is a vital piece of a well-rounded curriculum and has been shown to help students succeed in all areas of school. Thanks to our

music teachers, students, and administrators, Linden has been able to maintain excellence year after year.”

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Linden Public School representatives answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.



(above) The orchestra at McManus Middle School in Linden. Linden Public Schools were included among the Best Communities for Music Education for the eighth year in a row.

Photos by Linden Public Schools



(above) The Linden High School marching band. Linden is one of just 45 school districts in New Jersey to be included among the Best Communities for Music Education.



(above) The chorus at School No. 8 in Linden. Linden Public Schools were included among the Best Communities for Music Education for the eighth year in a row.



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STUDENTS GET A 'CUTTING EDGE' LOOK AT BUSINESS

Linden Public Schools

The Linden High School Entrepreneurial Management Achievement Program (EMAP) recently visited a local manufacturing company to get an up-close look at business in action.

The trip to Cutting Edge Industries on West St. Georges Avenue in Linden on April 5 gave EMAP students a reality education by allow them to see all facets of their operation, from manufacturing to retails sales in their Stiffel

Lighting showroom.

EMAP has been giving LHS students a unique reality-based entrepreneurial arts education for 15 years with the support of the Linden Board of Education and City of Linden.

"All-day seminars such as the one given at Cutting Edge Industries give students hands-on experience of the real world of responsible, successful adulthood to look forward to," said Sy Mayerson, founder and chairman of EMAP.

Tom Hazel, principal and operating manager of Cutting Edge, gave students an informative tour covering all operations, and Eric Tamburro, marketing director and sales consultant, discussed the various aspects and strengths of Cutting Edge.

Engineer Patrick Chimento and draftsman Rey Vital walked students through their studio, showing them how molds are conceived and created. Production manager Jean Claude Etienne gave a hands-on workshop in which students assembled portions of the company's lighting products.

EMAP students include Nayla Brown, Taniyah Drayton, Emerald Eke, Claryssa Forde, Heather Forde, Shanell Holmes, Larissa Nascimento-Kapiche, Jan Manto, Samantha Therjuste, Anastasia Young Bey, Endy Cruz, and and Ludmila Da Silva. They were accompanied by Mayerson; EMAP President Dianne Blazier-Jiosi; and LHS advisers Lee Gaskins and Debra Heffernan.

Over the entire school year, students in the EMAP program create a fictional company and take various jobs, from president, to sales, to marketing. Those who complete the program receive a diploma at a graduation ceremony and banquet, where they present their company's final product.

The students also plan to sell Cutting Edge products to raise money to help the people of Ukraine. They will be visiting another regional business, the Stage House in Somerset, in May to continue their reality-based business education.



(above) Linden High School students in the Entrepreneurial Management Achievement Program (EMAP) visited Cutting Edge Industries in Linden for an up-close look at business in action.

Photo by Linden Public Schools

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