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## OVER 200 ATTENDEES EAGERLY CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

### Groundwork Elizabeth

On Friday, April 22nd, Groundwork Elizabeth, a local nonprofit organization, collaborated with local governments, businesses and the community at a “Boots Not Suits,” Earth Day event held in Union County’s Phil Rizzuto Park.

Since 1970, Earth Day has been observed annually around the world, in recognition of the value of a clean and healthy environment. This year was no different in Union County, as so many came together for a heavily attended day of tree plantings, inspirational messages and comradery at the park.

Lucy Crespo, who is the Groundwork Elizabeth Director of Youth Initiatives, with support from the Union County Board of County Commissioners, Federal and State Senators, the Mayors of the City of Elizabeth and the Township of Union, the Union County Parks Department and fellow nonprofits, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, organized this three-hour program at Phil Rizzuto Park, which is located at the intersection of North Avenue and Morris Avenue, where the City of Elizabeth and Union Township meet.

Groundwork Executive Director Jonathan Phillips notes that Groundwork can help lead efforts to continue to build more sustainable and equitable communities, “Taking care of the Earth on Earth Day is a personal and community obligation. It needs to continue each every day. It’s something we all need to do”.

Over sixty-six (66) trees were donated by Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery. Darren Bryden, of



(above) Mayor Bollwage and NAACP Elizabeth Branch volunteers

the City of Elizabeth, was the emcee of the program, who then introduced the Mayor of Elizabeth, J. Christian Bollwage, Rebecca Williams, Chair of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, State Senator Joe Cryan of the 20th Legislative District NJ, Diego Mazariego, who represented the Office of United States Senator Robert Menendez and Nancy P. Sadlon of Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, who has worked hand in hand with Groundwork to improve the site since 2015.

Groundwork Green Team Youth leader Kayly Hernandez administered a ‘climate safe’ pledge asking all to leave the earth in better condition than they found it. After the ceremony, attendees had a chance to really make a difference. Under the direction of Curt Collier, from the Society for Ethical Culture, youth and adults came together and planted groves of trees which will soak up rainwater, clean the air, and provide a healthier habitat for the foliage and animals which live at the park.

United Airlines, Atalanta Corporation, the local Elizabeth NAACP, the Terence C. Reilly school, Union County Recycling, the Pat Perkins Civic Association, the Port Authority of NY and NJ, Rutgers University Center of Environmental Exposure and Disease, City of Elizabeth Recycling Department and scores of volunteers were on hand to offer support for the program and to highlight their own commitment to preserving the Earth and promoting sustainability.

The “Boots not Suits” Earth Day event will continue next Earth Day. If anyone is interested in learning more about this or other events, you can reach out to Lucy Crespo at [lucy@groundworkelizabeth.org](mailto:lucy@groundworkelizabeth.org). For more information about Groundwork Elizabeth, please visit their website at [groundworkelizabeth.org](http://groundworkelizabeth.org) or on any of their social media platforms.



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## NEED GEAR FOR CAMPING?

As summer approaches, you might be thinking about having fun camping at a State park or private campground. If you need camping gear for yourself or your family, Boy Scout Troop 23 has some previously-owned equipment available for purchase.

Troop 23 will participate in Elizabeth's city-wide garage sale on Saturday, June 11. Tables will be set up in the parking lot of St. Genevieve's Church, at the corner of Livingston Road and Princeton Road, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Items for sale include sleeping bags, air mattresses, backpacks, daypacks, propane cooking stoves, other cooking gear, and tents of various sizes, from 2-man backpacking tents to family-size cabin tents.

Through the generosity of three parishioners of St. Genevieve's Church, Troop 23 has just purchased all new tents for camping. Proceeds from the sale of the previously-owned equipment will go towards the purchase of new cooking gear to be used on weekend campouts.



*(above) 4-man Eureka Timberline tents will be among the previously-owned camping gear available from Boy Scout Troop 23 during the city-wide garage sale on Saturday, June 11. The Scouts will have gear for sale in the parking lot of St. Genevieve's Church, on Livingston Road at Princeton Road, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

## SCOUTS HIKE THROUGH JOCKEY HOLLOW

*Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster*

Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Roman Catholic Church in Elizabeth, recently visited the Jockey Hollow National Historical Park in Morristown to learn about the encampment of the Colonial army there through two crucial winters during the Revolutionary War.

The Scouts camped on April 22 to 24 in Lewis Morris County Park. From their campsite, they hiked into the national park and followed the Jockey Hollow Historical Trail. Along the trail, they visited the park's Visitor Center, the Wick Farm, the reconstructed soldier's huts and the Grand Parade field. As Scouts walked the 10-mile route, they had to find the answers to questions about people and events related to the winter encampments. After writing an essay about why General George Washington chose the Morristown area for his winter encampment in 1779-80, they qualified for a medal that they can wear on their uniforms.

Troop 23's visit to Jockey Hollow coincided with the park's largest annual event. Revolutionary war reenactors were on hand at the Wick Farm to demonstrate military drill and musket and cannon fire. The Scouts also got to speak to reenactors in the Wick Farm house, where the Wick family shared their house with Major General Arthur St. Clair, commander of 2,000 soldiers from Pennsylvania.



## SCOUTS TO RETIRE AMERICAN FLAGS

Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 invite all Elmora residents to join them as they retire worn out or damaged American flags on Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14.

The ceremony, in which flags are properly retired by burning, will occur behind the St. Genevieve's Church Convent, 210 Princeton Road, Elizabeth, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair.

Prior to June 14, old flags can be left in the container next to Webby's Woodshed, located behind St. Genevieve's Rectory, near the garages that face Livingston Road.

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## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO “BUILD DIGNITY FOR ALL”

### St. Joseph Social Service Center

St. Joseph Social Service Center, one of the largest social service agencies in Union County, has launched a \$1,200,000 capital campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to improve and expand services for families and children in need in Elizabeth and to fulfill its vision to serve the homeless and poor with compassion and dignity.

Even before the pandemic, St. Joseph's witnessed a rise in demand for services. This trend stretched the capacity of the agency's facilities and created challenges for staff and volunteers. Spaces intended for one purpose needed to be used for multiple programs. Temporary storage units for food and clothing were placed on site. The increase in clients led to lines extending into the neighborhood, a particular concern during inclement weather. The parking lot and access streets became congested and overwhelmed with vehicles arriving to drop off and pick up food, clothing and supplies. And then the pandemic hit, leading to a spike in client demand, exacerbating all these problems.

“Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1983,” noted Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director. “Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where the homeless and poor are truly welcomed as brothers and sisters. In order to achieve this goal and expand and improve the services we offer, we have developed a vision for

a remodeled campus. Our vision is to construct a new building on our property where it will be possible to create a client choice food pantry with hours by appointment; to construct a second new building for the donation and distribution of clothing and home goods; to reconfigure and pave our lot to make it easier to pick up and drop off items and to reduce traffic on the surrounding streets; and to renovate space in our former church building, parish hall and house on site to improve the ability of St. Joseph's and The Elizabeth Coalition House the Homeless, our sister agency, to provide support services.”

“St. Joe's has been open six days a week throughout the pandemic” stated Harold Kessler, President of the Board of Trustees. “We have never missed a day. Our staff and volunteers have placed the needs of the community in Elizabeth ahead of their own health and well-being. It's

been extraordinary.” Six days a week a dedicated team of volunteers, numbering in the thousands, makes sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens in Westfield, Cranford, Basking Ridge and dozens of other communities, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's provides over 250,000 meals per year. In addition, the organization provides area residents with clothing, household items, prescription assistance, health screenings, mental health counseling, job training and case management.

To learn more about St. Joseph's please visit [sjeliz.org](http://sjeliz.org). Members of the community who would like to support the capital campaign are welcome to contact Executive Director Bernadette Murphy at 908-354-5456 or at [BMurphy@sjeliz.org](mailto:BMurphy@sjeliz.org).

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Denali and Wonder Lake, Denali National Park, Alaska, 1947.  
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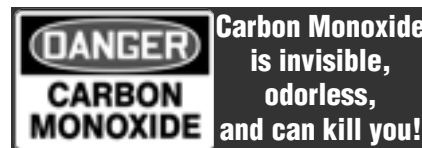
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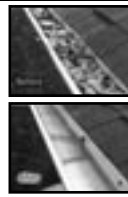
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## MARK FARAG SELECTED FOR SCHOLARSHIP



(above) Mark Farag, of Elizabeth selected as Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship recipient.

Courtesy photo

Union County College student Mark Farag, of Elizabeth, has been selected as one of 100 recipients of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This prestigious award will provide Farag with up to \$55,000 a year to complete his bachelor's degree.

Farag is majoring in Engineering and has a 3.92 GPA. During part of his time at Union College, Farag has served as the president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, is an American Honors student, and tutors students in the College's Academic Learning Center, all while working full-time to support himself.

Farag currently serves as an ambassador for NASA's Lucy mission. He has participated in two programs for NASA's L'Space Academy, where he chose and designed components for spacecrafts to study Venus. He hopes to pursue this as a career, starting with an associate's degree from Union and then a bachelor's in Aerospace


or Mechanical Engineering. With this degree, he plans to become a project manager aerospace engineer.

New Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advising to guide them through the process of transitioning to a four-year college and preparing for their careers. Along with financial support, scholars will additionally receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a thriving network of over nearly 3,000 Cooke Scholars and alumni.


This year, more than 1,200 students from 332 community colleges applied to receive the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Four semifinalists were selected from Union College.

For more information about Union, please visit [ucc.edu](http://ucc.edu) and for more information on the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship,

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## FOURTEEN VOLUNTEERS SWORN IN AS ADVOCATES FOR LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH

### CASA of Union County

The latest classes of community members to step up and train as advocates for Union County foster youth have officially taken their oath before Union County Superior Court Judge Lara 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 950 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 two swearing-in ceremonies via Zoom and, prior to asking each to repeat their oath "to protect, respect, and report," she shared appreciation and gratitude for the new advocates' desire to make a lasting positive impact on youth in the community. "I like to thank CASA volunteers who take on this very important role. You do this because you want to make a difference in a child's life and make the world a better place. The court is grateful and thankful. You have a special opportunity to seriously help a child and family live and succeed. You're part of the village now."

The 14 new CASA volunteers are Jackie

Parker and Lynda Sun Lee of Berkeley Heights; Loretta Masterson and Katherine (Katie) Rabecki of Cranford; Dina Ghazi of Kearny; Ana Gutierrez of Basking Ridge; Janae Bunn of Linden; Julia Dranishnikov and Tamiah Chester of Scotch Plains; Philip Ross of Summit; Lila Monroe and Mark Papa of Roselle; and Robert Mallard and Roya Enayati Basu of Union. Next, each advocate will be matched to a youth or sibling set, and begin putting their 30-hour training into practice.

Anyone passionate about making a difference in a child's life can apply to volunteer; there is no prior experience or special 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 these classes are no exception, as professional backgrounds include education, business, social work, law, and health management.

Upon being court-ordered to a case, CASA volunteers have access to the youth's foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers and, through regular child visits, identify and report to the judge any concerns and needs. CASA of Union County is the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for local judges hearing cases of youth from birth to age 21 in the child welfare system.

To learn more about CASA of Union County, secure a seat in an upcoming training class, and for other ways to Change a Child's Story, contact [info@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:info@casaoofunioncounty.org).

### Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO will be joining in the Procession of St. Anthony and San Vito



Procession of St. Anthony and  
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(above) The 14 new CASA volunteers with Judge Lara DiFabrizio.

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

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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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Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

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<b>Berkeley Heights</b> COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	<b>THE CHATHAMS</b> NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	<b>Clark Monthly</b> Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	<b>CRANFORD MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	<b>Elmora Hills</b> ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 Section of Elizabeth, NJ	<b>Fanwood Post</b> NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
<b>Florham Park Press</b> NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood Times</b> NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook Gazette</b> NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	<b>BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in LINDEN</b> Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	<b>Long Hill LEADER</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
<b>MADISON MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	<b>MOUNTAIN SIDE VIEW</b> NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	<b>New Providence NEWS</b> NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	<b>OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ</b> Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	<b>ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY</b> Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains NJ</b> WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
<b>Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041 07078	<b>Summit Times</b> NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of UNION</b> NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung Post</b> NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

### NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240								

Black cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first-come, first-served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

**PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE  
PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE**

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

## FUN-DRAISER FOR FOSTER YOUTH

*Submitted by Isabela Bello-Zap*

May began with good news for foster youth involved in the Union County child welfare system: they have the support of their peers. Four Girl Scouts from Cranford and Elizabeth partnered with local businesses to create a fundraising event in which all proceeds were directed to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County. Girl Scouts Natalie Kastin of troop 40222, Maddie Litterio of troop 40013, Olivia Torsone of troop 40013, and Elizabeth McMullen of troop 40013 hosted a Sunday Funday event on May 1st, 2022 as part of their Silver Award Project to make a difference for youth aging out of the child welfare system in their community.

For the older youth involved in the child welfare system, aging out can be extremely challenging as they face transitions in many areas of their lives, whether that be in their education, housing, employment, or others. Any support provided to them by friends, CASA volunteers, or their community is welcome in order to facilitate their successful transition from involvement in the child welfare system to independent living and learning. These four Girl Scouts are great examples of how taking action can directly impact one's life positively and change the course of their journey. Their Sunday Funday event, full of games, face-painting and fun activities, raised \$900 worth of gift cards that will be given to youth aging out of the system.

Looking back, all the Girl Scouts had different reasons for choosing to support CASA of Union County. Kastin notes, "I wanted to support CASA to help with some of the great things they do." Chiming in, Litterio states "I wanted to support CASA, specifically teens in foster care, so they know there are other teens and peers in Union County that are there to help them." Similarly, Torsone notes "We selected this project to help teens just like us, so they know they are not alone." McMullen states, "As a Girl Scout we



(above) Girl Scouts Natalie Kastin, Maddie Litterio, Olivia Torsone, and Elizabeth McMullen

Courtesy photo

should reach out to those in need, especially kids. It's important to support organizations like CASA to keep them viable."

We have their example to follow in lending a helping hand to improve the lives of those in our communities. CASA of Union County's role as the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for the court inside resource homes, serves to empower and support the 1,468 youth involved in the local child welfare system due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

To learn more about CASA of Union County, secure a seat in an upcoming training class, and for other ways to Change a Child's Story, contact [info@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:info@casaoofunioncounty.org).

## COOL ART IN JUNE – AND JULY

The ABSOLUTE COOLEST place to be this summer is the Elizabeth Arts Council (EAC) annual exhibit - COOL ART IN JUNE – and JULY - at the Elizabeth Public Library, 11 South Broad Street, third floor exhibit area.

COOL ART is a mixed media show and features the work of members of the Elizabeth Arts Council. Due to its popularity, this year COOL ART will be on exhibit throughout the months of June and July. For further information about COOL ART and participating artists, please call the EAC at 908-289-3584.

Please check with the library at 908.354.6060 as hours of operation are subject to change.



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Prices  
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Brown Dyed.....\$32  
Red Dyed.....\$34  
Hardwood.....\$26

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Concrete Sand.....\$60  
3/4 Clean Stone.....\$68  
Stone Dust.....\$36  
QP .....\$42

## DECORATIVE STONE

3/8 Red Stone .....\$80  
3/4 Red Stone .....\$80  
3/4 Goose Egg .....\$106  
1 1/2-3 Goose Egg .....\$110  
3/4 Arctic White.....\$125  
3/8 Riverbed / Pea Gravel.....\$70  
1 Riverbed .....\$80  
1 1/2-3 Riverbed.....\$90

Prices subject to change without notice.

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