Florham Park Press

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We'll help open the door CHAPTER 1 OF 2022 POLICE UNITY TOUR CLOCKS 300 MILES



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Det. Lt. Brian Ford, Florham Park, NJ Police

Beginning on May 9, 2022 several members of the Florham Park Police Department, both current and former, rode their bicycles in Chapter 1 of the Police Unity Tour nearly 300 miles from Morris County, while merging with other national chapters along the way, and ending on May 12, 2022 in the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, in Washington D.C.

This year's Florham Park PD riders were Det. Lt. Brian Ford, Det. Frank Pietropinto, former Ptlm. and former Borough Councilman Andrew O'Connor, who is also an official ride marshal, and Ptlm. Charles Greenstein, who rode the agency's Motor Unit, which provides safety and security to all riders. Our local team was comprised of members of Madison PD, Hanover PD, East Hanover PD, the Morris County Sheriff's Department, Plymouth, Mass. PD, and former San Antonio, TX PD Officer and current Director of the charity, Saving a Hero's Place in Texas.

The Police Unity Tour was started in Florham Park in 1997 with only 18 riders raising \$1,000 each. In its 26th year, it now hosts approximately 2,600 riders (with a waiting list) from all over the United States and some from outside the UnitedStates, including Israel, the United Kingdom, and Germany. In those 26 years, the Police Unity Tour has donated over \$33 million to fund the maintenance of and additions to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Sadly, more names are added to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall annually. There are three main goals of the Police Unity Tour ride; to raise awareness for Officers killed in the line of duty, to raise the funds necessary to maintain the Memorial in D.C., and most importantly, to ensure those who gave their lives in the line of duty are never forgotten.

The Police Unity Tour is a truly amazing experience. Our Officers have biked the four days through the best of weather (like this year!) and the worst, including freezing, driving rain, winds that stop you in your tracks, and dehydrating heat all on rough roads in some cities, smooth rural



Issue 4 • June 2022

(above) Florham Park Team members Det. Lt. Brian Ford, Officer Charlie Greenstein and Detective Frank Pietropinto,

highways through beautiful farmlands, and up and down some interesting hills along the way. They have rode side-by-side with survivors those who have lost loved ones in the line of duty - and continue to meet other Officers and survivors from around the country on each trip.

We are proud to not only be the founding agency of the Tour, which has generated significant national name recognition for Florham Park in the law enforcement community, but also to continue to raise the funds to keep open the living Memorial to fallen Officers..

Some pics from the recent tour ride can be found on our Facebook page, facebook.com/FlorhamParkPD.



(above) Florham Park Police Department and Office of Emergency Management



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Florham Park Press

Renna Media LLC, Publishers

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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THRIFT SHOP INVITES JUNE SHOPPERS

The Madison Independent Thrift Shop invites shoppers to stop in during the month of June when Lamps and Linens will be on sale.

The Thrift Shop, located at 39 Kings Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

This is a non-profit, operated by volunteers, with all proceeds received from sales distributed annually to charitable groups in Madison and surrounding communities. If you have questions or need further information, please call 973-377-2450 during business hours above.

FLORHAM PARK SUMMER DAY CAMP

Come Join the Fun!! Games, Sports, Trips

JUNE 27 - AUGUST 12

Registration now open register.capturepoint.com

This activity is not endorsed by the Florham Park Board of Education

HOME FOR GOOD CELEBRATES 10,000TH ADOPTION

At Home for Good Dog Rescue, we recently celebrated an incredible milestone - Saving 10,000 dogs from the brink of death in just 11 short years. Each rescued dog is unique and has its own special "tail" to tell. Meet Rexy and lean into his miraculous journey as he becomes our 10,000th adoption. This poor soul lived the entirety of his 7-year life confined to an outdoor wire pen with no human contact, love and affection, playtime, or snuggles. His human captors failed him miserably, and his forlorn eyes truly reflected a lifetime of cruelty, mistrust, and hopelessness.

Since his perilous rescue by Home for Good in 2021, we've seen his transformation from just 'existing' without proper nutrition, medical care, or being protected from the harshness of the outside elements, to knowing what it's like to be loved, sleep in a warm plush bed, enjoy tasty treats, and receive endless cuddles. Remarkably, Rexy has no remnants of the extreme cruelty that he endured, and from which he survived.

Home for Good Dog Rescue is 100% fosterbased and this is why. With the help of his canine foster siblings, he began to gain confidence and how to trust. Prior to his rescue, Rexy had never felt the gentle hand of a human. Through the patience and perseverance of his foster family, Rexy has developed into the devoted dog he is today. He is affectionate, playful, and eager to please.

For more information on how you can become a foster family for a deserving pup like Rexy, please visit homeforgooddogrescue.org/foster **ABOUT:**

Home for Good Dog Rescue is a 100% fosterbased, non-profit 501(c)(3) dog rescue established in 2010 in Summit, New Jersey with offices in Berkeley Heights. We socialize, care for, and provide them life-saving medical care at our property in Aiken, South Carolina, transport them to our rescue in New Jersey, and nurture them in our network of foster families while they await adoption into loving homes – giving them a second chance at life.



(above) Rexy (center) is pictured with his new forever family. His canine siblings are also rescues who experienced similar rescue stories. Rexy now spends his days running by the lake and nights resting on cozy couches, with the peace and trust that only a loving family can provide. While it took Rexy longer than most to find his forever family, fate had him waiting for the perfect "home for good".

Courtesy photo

51ST ANNUAL FISHAWACK FESTIVAL - JUNE 11

The Chatham Borough Community Services Department along with the MyChathamNJ Advisory Committee are proud to announce that the 2022 Fishawack Festival will be held on Saturday, June 11th, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be festivities for all ages, including footraces, live entertainment, an outdoor pub, a kids' fun zone, food and dining pavilion, and artisan craft vendors.

Fishawack was started by Chatham's Chamber of Commerce in 1971 as an event to celebrate the heritage of Chatham Borough, in addition to support local shops. According to John T. Cunningham's 1967 book, Fishawack was the Lenni Lenape word for the Passaic River, and because Chatham's section is the narrowest part, the natives would cross the river at Chatham on their seasonal migration along the Minisink Trail.

This year's festival will feature a pub sponsored by Turpin Realtors at Reasoner Park until 6 p.m. At the Gazebo, live music will be performed, generously sponsored by Atlantic Health System – Overlook Medical Center. Other sponsors of this year's festival include Novalis Roofing, in addition to Chatham Print & Design, and the Senior Center of the Chathams.

The Chatham Jaycees will also be holding their annual Fishawack Run. At 9 a.m., there will be the one mile fun run, followed by the four mile race at 9:30 a.m. Entrants are encouraged to preregister, and can do so at runsignup.com/ Race/NJ/Chatham/JayceesFishawackRun.

The Fishawack Festival is rain or shine!

Vendors can sign up at

chathamcommunityservices.regfox.com/

fishawack-festival.

Any questions about the festival can be directed to Janice Piccolo, Community Services Department Director, at

jpiccolo@chathamborough.org, or (973) 635-0674 x200.

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DR. SARA WEBB HONORED FOR DREW FOREST RESTORATION

Borough of Madison

The Drew University Forest Preserve, 53 intact acres with some of the oldest trees in Morris County, owes its great biodiversity to 14 years of volunteer work—and the dedication of Dr. Sara Webb, who was recently awarded the Morris Park Alliance's Individual Environment/Conservation Award.

Dr. Webb, Professor Emerita of Biology and Environmental Studies at Drew University, is a forest ecologist who is active in research and forest conservation across the state. For many years, she has rallied hundreds of students and community volunteers to help restore diversity,

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.

young trees, and pollinators to the Drew Forest. That has meant pulling out invasive plants like tree-choking Chinese wisteria, as well as seeking grants to fund deer fencing and plant native wildflowers and native trees.

"I am honored to receive this award," said Dr. Webb. "But truly it goes to the hundreds of students who've studied with me in the Forest and all who have volunteered to make it what it is today."

"The Borough was proud to nominate Dr. Webb for this prestigious and well deserved recognition," said Mayor Robert H. Conley. "Her continuous effort to go above and beyond to preserve the Hepburn Woods and the Zuck Arboretum within the Drew Forest, as well as laying out the environmental benefits of the forest and its Buried Valley Aquifer to Madison and



(above) Dr. Webb, Professor Emerita of Biology and Environmental Studies at Drew University, was awarded the Morris Park Alliance's

Individual Environment/Conservation Award. Courtesy Photo



surrounding communities deserved this recognition," continued Conley.

Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn presented Dr. Webb with an additional award from the New Jersey State Legislature. Dunn praised Webb and the Morris Parks Alliance, saying, "It is a privilege and honor to represent Morris County in the New Jersey Legislature. The beautiful and variegated natural resources that make up its environment and our strong tradition in ecological conservation, makes us the garden of the Garden State. Over three million people visit Morris County parks and trails, which is New Jersey's largest park system."

The Drew Forest Preserve is a regionally important element. Open to the public, it provides walking trails and a thriving, intact ecosystem. "It offers a rare glimpse of what New Jersey's forests used to be like before deer depleted all undergrowth except for invasive species," said Joe Basralian, a board member of the Morris Parks Alliance, who introduced Dr. Sara Webb at the awards ceremony.

Basralian went on to detail the Forest's significance to North Jersey. "With its glacial ponds and deep dells, the Forest is a primary aquifer recharge area for the Buried Valley Aquifer," he noted. "Thirty towns get their drinking water from this same Aquifer." Wildlife depend on the Forest as a corridor-connecting habitat in nearby public parks: Giralda Farms Preserve, Loantaka Brook Reservation and the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

The Morris Park Alliance's mission is to provide vital support to the Morris County park system ensuring residents have continued access to green open spaces, enrichment programs, and educational resources that foster personal and community wellness, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. For more information visit www.morrisparks.net.





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(above) Volunteer Mark Goldsmith of North Caldwell.

FIRE DEPARTMENT **RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS OPEN HOUSE – JUNE 12**

The Florham Park Volunteer Fire Department has been proudly serving our community for 125 years - that's 125 years of volunteer service to Florham Park. We hope to make it to 150 years as a volunteer organization but the ability to continue to provide this essential service is strained by lack of new volunteers.

Over the past two months, we hosted two open houses. Each was well attended with over 30 people at the first one and 60 at the second. We will be hosting our third open house on Sunday, June 12th between 9am and 11am. We hope to see you there!

Florham Park Volunteer Fire Department is actively recruiting new members. Interested in joining? Please call us at 973-377-3241, fill out an application at florhamparkfiredepartment.org, or stop by the firehouse located at 315 Brooklake Road on any Monday night after 7:30pm.



(above) Scan the QR code to watch a quick video and learn more about becoming a volunteer firefighter.

FURNITURE WORKSHOP BENEFITS SAGE ELDERCARE PROGRAMMING

has offered the public fine-quality furniture repair. The volunteers will consider repairing any piece of furniture that can be carried into the workshop. The Workshop has a reputation throughout Union County and beyond for it's fine reweaving of caned and rushed chairs. Our artisans are all highly trained volunteers. Proceeds from the Workshop benefit SAGE programming. Prices are reasonable and depend upon the condition of the chair or furniture item and the materials required in the restoration process.

The Workshop started out years ago as a place for older men who no longer had access to a home workbench. Since 2007, several women have joined the historically male enclave. Most of the volunteers are former professionals including investment bankers, college professors, physicians and scientists. Many have never worked with their hands and over the years, they've taught each other caning, rushing and a myriad of other techniques needed to fix the aging furniture brought to them for restoration.

Prim La Capra of Short Hills recently patronized the workshop. She had a table restored that had suffered from years of use and weathering. "I am so grateful to the volunteers who refinished my little table to its original beauty. My late husband bought this well-crafted table from Bloomingdales' NYC store decades ago and it became a special place to store important documents, memorabilia, pictures, and other things we wanted to keep in our library." Said Prim. "It got water damage on top and sun damage on the sides over the years. The

Since 1961, the SAGE Eldercare Workshop volunteers at Sage Elder Care completely restored it at a reasonable cost. I love how the piece turned out and plan to keep it for many more years. Thank you to the volunteers who contributed their skills, time, and talent to this project. It was a pleasure to work with Bob, the shop manager and visit the workshop."

The Workshop is located in the basement of the SAGE building at 290 Broad Street, Summit and is easily assessable. Shop hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For more information about the service or to schedule an appointment to bring in furniture, call 908-598-5531.

SAGE Eldercare supports the independence, well being and quality of life of older adults, their families and caregivers, through the provision of client-centered health, social and support services. Founded in 1954, SAGE is both the oldest and one of the few nonprofit eldercare agencies in the United States that offers a broad and comprehensive array of services under one roof that assist elderly, often frail, adults to remain independent in their own homes. SAGE Eldercare programs include: HomeCare; Mealson-Wheels; Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center; InfoCare free information and referral service; Fall Prevention Initiative; Chore Service; Shopping Service; Bill Paying Service; PREP caregiver support group; and SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program). SAGE Eldercare serves over 5,000 older people and their families annually in Union, Essex Morris and Somerset counties.

For more information, call 908.273.5550 or visit www.sageeldercare.org.



(above) Prim La Capra of Short Hills recently patronized the workshop. She had a table restored that had suffered from years of use and weathering. Before and after of La Capra's table.



BASEBALL DAY DRAWS FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Florham Park Little League, players, friends, families and surrounding community members. gathered for the annual "Baseball Day" held on April 23, 2022.

Baseball Day festivities were held at the Florham Park Recreation Center and included a parade with teams and coaches, a tricky tray fundraiser, games scheduled throughout the day, individual and team photos. The opening pitch ceremony included the first pitch by Mayor Taylor, National Anthem sung my Mia Cicarelli, and a welcome speech by League President Shawn Kelly.

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Florham Park Little League Board

We would like to thank everyone who came out to support our opening day festivities this past Saturday. It was great to have the kids be able to march down Briarwood in a parade onto Emmet 1. Given the circumstances of the past



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our program was able to experience in quite some time. To be able to share that with our entire community was extremely heartwarming. We would like to extend thanks to the Florham Park Police and Fire Departments for their assistance in ensuring that our players had a "first class" escort.

In keeping with the theme of "thanks", the Board would also like to thank all of our families for their continued support. The families and local businesses who donated to both our snack shack and tricky tray helped raise a Baseball Day Record of nearly \$11,000 for our program! All of this money will be put back into improving our program, purchasing new

few years, it was the first sense of "normal" that equipment and finding ways to work with the town to enhance our facilities to ensure that our players continue to have the best experience possible.

> Thanks to Gabe and Dionne Rhodes for once again handling our individual and team photos. They are both so easy to work with and are always willing to help out our program!

> Lastly, a huge thank you again to the Baseball Day Committee and to all of the parents who volunteered their time this past weekend in the snack shack or at the tricky tray. As they say, it takes a village of volunteers to make a day like Saturday possible.

> We look forward to a continued great Spring Season!



LITTLE LEAGUE

TRIPLE A



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AUDITION

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...." uncommonly complex, classically-influenced score often soars, thanks in no small part to Continuo Arts Symphonic Chorus" THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



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HONORING THE MEMORY OF A FATHER

Father's Day is a special time of year for Rajesh Karnani of Paramus, NJ. It is a time when he joins his family members to remember his father, Sham C. Karnani, who unexpectedly passed due to heart complications on March 17, 2010. Rajesh recalls how his father always spoke to family members and friends about his support for organ and tissue donation. His father's selfless decision to be an organ and tissue donor ultimately restored sight for two other people with his donated corneas.

More than a decade later, Rajesh has made it his personal mission to inspire others to register as organ and tissue donors. He actively supports NJ Sharing Network's community events, activities and fundraisers to help raise awareness for NJ Sharing Network's life-saving mission.

According to NJ Sharing Network, there are nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a life-saving transplant, and one



(above) Sham C. Karnani and his son Rajesh Karnani Courtesy photo

person in New Jersey dies every three days of his corneas to two recipients in need. waiting for a transplant. Just one organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 people. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.

The following was written by Rajesh to pay tribute to his father and help raise awareness about organ and tissue donation and transplantation in our local communities:

My father, Sham C. Karnani, was born in India and migrated to New York in the 1970s. He came to America to help ensure that his family has a better life, and he worked as an importer of garments shipped from India and sold to prospective buyers in the U.S.

I can talk about my father for hours - about the great businessman he was, how he supported and loved his family so much, or how he would put other people's happiness over his own. His passion in life was service to his fellow man/woman. What motivated him in life was to make sure that those around him were happy. He was always determined to pay it forward in some way.

He was (and still is) not only my role model, but an inspiration, to me and to everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. He taught me so much - how we are fortunate enough to live a good life, and so it is our responsibility to do our best to help others less fortunate do so too.

My father's major passion for the last two decades of his life was to spread the awareness of organ and tissue donation. His message to others was simple: Organ and tissue donation saves and enhances lives.

My father would often say, "When it comes down to it, we can't take our organs on our journey to heaven. We don't need them, so why not give others the opportunity to complete the rest of their journey in the present."

On March 17th, 2010, my father unexpectedly passed away while in a temple on a holy day (our Indian new year). He was dancing with the love of his life, my mother. I am proud to say that, upon his death, my father was able to donate both

My father kept a journal of his thoughts that we found after he passed away. His writings confirmed how much faith he had and how passionate he was about donation and transplantation. In the journal, he called it "recycling of organs for the benefit of mankind."

He noted that he believed that most people would want to make the selfless decision to donate their organs and tissue upon death. However, he believed that the biggest barrier is that most people do not let their family members know about their choice to donate. He noted that if only person just lets their family knows, about their wishes, countless number of lives can be saved.

My father was also a very spiritual person. He once was able to ask one a spiritual leader his thoughts on the subject of organ and tissue donation. We all remember the spark and happiness in my Dad's eyes, when this spiritual leader, declared that organ and tissue donation is "the best gift anyone can give to their fellow man or woman."

It has been difficult for us to move on without my father here. Each day, I still expect him to walk through the door. However, I feel comfort in knowing that the gift of sight my father gave helps justify the passion he had all those years on how organ and tissue donation really is the best service we can provide to others. That passion has now been passed down to me.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network is the federally designated non-profit organization responsible for recovering organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization is part of the national recovery system, serving the 110,000 people on the national waiting list. NJ Sharing Network was selected by NJBiz as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the third consecutive year. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.







• Patios • Curbs

COMMUNITY DAY AT TRT – JUNE 5 - A SUMMER RAPTOR FESTIVAL

The Raptor Trust's annual Community Day will take place on Sunday, June 5, 2022 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ.

We're excited to welcome friends, visitors, and supporters for a day that honors the important lives of our feathered friends. we'll have raptor demonstrations, tours, a scavenger hunt. a food truck, raffle, silent auction, and more! All proceeds will support our spring and summer efforts to help birds of New Jersey



(above) Christopher Soucy, Executive Director of The Raptor Trust.







(above, l-r) Penny, a 9-year-old blind Eastern Screech Owl and Zizi, a female American Kestrel.

130,000 birds for care. Spring and summer are the year is variety of raptors and birds of prey. our busiest time of year, and we're preparing for the adorable invasion of tiny Robins, Great Turkey Vultures, Barred Owls, Great Horned Horned Owl fluffballs, and baby Blue Jays with an attitude, among hundreds of other youngsters.

The average cost of one bird's total rehabilitation is currently \$237, and, because we admit an average of 5,000-6,000 birds per year, those costs quickly add up. All proceeds from the event provide resources for these busy months- from purchasing food and medicine for injured birds of all ages and species, to maintaining the caging and grounds that visitors can now enjoy.

TRT is committed making a long-term impact. With your help, we will continue to play a major role in conserving local wild bird populations and reducing the suffering of wildlife in the tri-state area.

The Raptor Trust is located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ. Approximately 50 resident birds are on exhibit in large outdoor aviaries viewed by walking along the trails.

In our 39+ years, TRT has admitted over Living on the campus of the Trust throughout Currently, the Trust is home to two Bald Eagles, Owls, Ravens, Screech Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks, a Snowy Owl and many more!

> The aviaries are open to the public seven days of week. Our visiting hours during the fall, winter and spring are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During the summer we are open to visitors from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is no cost to come by for a selfguided tour, however, we ask you to consider a small donation of \$2 per person.

> The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization which provides free medical care to thousands of orphaned or injured birds each year. Our infirmary staff is available seven days a week during daylight hours to admit injured birds, but we must rely on the people who find them to bring them to us for care. If you find a bird that needs help, please visit our website theraptortrust.org for instructions. We cannot do what we do without the kindness of many including our visitors!



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