

# Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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## ROBOWARRIORS RETURN HOME TRIUMPHANT

Submitted by Leanna Wellerding

Team 41-RoboWarriors, representing Watchung Hills Regional High School, arrived home on Sunday, April 24th, bringing home the title of FIRST Robotics World Championship Roebbling Division Semi-Finalists.

More than 3,300 teams from across the globe participated in the FIRST Robotics 2021-2022 season. High performers all season long, bringing home 2 silver medals and a cache of awards, the RoboWarriors joined with 453 other teams that earned their qualification to the FIRST Robotics World Championships, this year held in Houston, Texas.

Teams had just under 2 months to scratch build an industrial sized robot capable of playing in the season's themed game. "Under strict rules and limited time and resources, teams of high school students are challenged to build industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game in alliance with other teams, while also fundraising to meet their goals, designing a team "brand," and advancing respect and appreciation for STEM within the local community."

Participating teams tackled the hands-on tasks of designing, programming and building a robot, work to train their drive team to maneuver the field and to pick up and transport cargo across the field under enemy defensive plays, offload cargo by shooting into either of two cargo hubs, climb a series of 4 suspended bars at increasing heights and cooperate with their alliance partners to earn ranking points.

During the early season the team brought home 3 coveted awards: Excellence in Engineering, Innovation in Control, Industrial Design. Team families with the assistance of the

WHEAT Foundation raced to organize transportation and accommodations for team members to attend the global event and the team's 54th official event since its inception in 1997. The WHEAT Foundation's GoFundMe, found on [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com): WHRHS Team 41 Robotics to World Championship! seeks to help offset the cost of team participants' families who paid those fees personally, as well as the cost of transporting the robot, pit equipment and tools safely to Houston and back.

WHRHS Team 41 descended on Houston, Texas, during the high-school's spring break, joining their competitors for 4 days of intense competition from Wednesday, April 20 through Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Team battled it out in the Roebbling Division. After collecting ranking points and racing up to 4th rank at one point, team bumped teams up and down the ranks during the 127 matches played. The battle ran fast and furious as bots traversed the field, firing at the target and performing lightning-fast offensive and defensive maneuvers.

With a season full of exhilarating wins and challenging losses, Team 41 drove their bot all the way into the semis, among a mere 96 teams still in contention from the original 3,325 teams who participated in the season.

Team sponsors include: Picatinny Arsenal/The Knotts Company/Nokia Bell Labs/Picut Manufacturing/Warren Lions Club/Intuitive Surgical/Thor Labs/P&R Fasteners Inc./Advent Industrial/Offaly Associates LLC/Advanced Circuits/Watchung Hills Education and Technology Foundation & Watchung Hills Regional High School.



(above) Team members and advisors in attendance at Worlds

Photo by Peter Ponzio



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Watchung Post

The United States u17 women's soccer team participated in the Concacaf Tournament in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic April 23-May 8, 2022. Warren resident Melina Rebimbas was a member and standout of that team that captured the Gold. After defeating their first 5 opponents by the margin of 43-0, the United States was up to the task in the semifinal round defeating Canada 3-0 behind 2 goals from Melina Rebimbas and she scored the game winner in the championship game versus rival Mexico 2-1. Melina finished the tournament with 8 goals. "I was extremely excited to represent my country. Like every little kid growing up playing soccer their dream is to have the opportunity to wear the US crest and this was my dream too... but to be able to score 3 goals in the last two games was nothing that I could have imagined."

Melina began her soccer journey in town playing recreation soccer and soon thereafter she became a member of the travel team and eventually her desire for greater competition took her to the Player Development Academy (PDA). It was at PDA that she began to blossom into one of the elite players in the country. Rebimbas explained, "I was very fortunate to be given an opportunity early to play at PDA. Everyone at PDA is super motivated to be challenged, and they set the bar high for excellence. That expectation of excellence provided me with a

blueprint on what I had to do to be successful."

She is currently ranked 6th nationally in the 2023 graduation class by Top Drawer Soccer and has already committed to playing soccer at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Where she will be mentored by Legendary and 23-time national championship coach Anson Dorrance.



(above) Warren resident Melina Rebimbas

Courtesy photos



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## LIONS CLUB EXPO 2022 – JUNE 15 - 18

We are excited to announce Lions EXPO 2022, to be held at the Warren Township municipal field (46 Mountain Boulevard), a classic carnival of family fun over four days, Wed., June 15 thru Sat. June 18 from 6-10 p.m. There will be amusement rides, games of chance, fireworks, food vendors and an exposition of local businesses. This will be the 54th Annual EXPO, the flagship event of the Warren Lions Club.

Our Event sponsor is NextHome Premier. The Corporate sponsors are Pfizer, Lawrence Law Firm and Lightbridge Academy. The Mitlo Family is sponsoring this year's Fireworks, which concludes the EXPO on Saturday, 10 p.m.

The Lions EXPO attracts approximately 10,000 people over the four days and has become the premier family fun event in Warren Township and the surrounding communities.

The EXPO will have a pay-one-price wristband every night this year. We will be holding a Giant 50/50 cash raffle with the

drawing on Saturday June 18th, resulting in a multi-thousand-dollar payout to a single winner. The winner need not be present. Tickets will be available for purchase throughout the Expo dates for \$5 each.

"Hosting the EXPO has been a tradition for us, it's our resolve to spread the smiles on people's faces, especially after the difficult couple of years we all have endured" said Mark Ramos, the 2022 EXPO chairperson of the Warren Township Lions Club.

The Lions Club, as well as the games, rides and food vendors at the EXPO are committed to observing the State-mandated COVID safety guidelines in force during the Expo dates. In addition to multiple washing stations adjacent to the restrooms, special hand sanitation stations will be available throughout the Expo. All patrons are kindly asked to cooperate with the State-mandated guidelines.

Local Business Exposition The EXPO is an excellent platform for local businesses to showcase their services and connect directly with customers through the purchase of a \$500

Exclusive Game sponsor sign or a \$150 non-exclusive ride sponsor sign displayed at the Expo for the 4-day duration.

We are still accepting a very limited number of applications for tent vendors to sell or promote their business to the thousands of people in attendance at the LIONS EXPO. For information on becoming a tent vendor at the 2022 Lions EXPO, please contact Anthony Franchini at 908-334- 9304.

All proceed from the Lions EXPO are donated back to community organizations and sight and hearing foundations throughout New Jersey.

### ABOUT THE LIONS CLUB OF WARREN TOWNSHIP

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding through Lions clubs. Our motto: "WE SERVE." OUR VISION To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

To learn more about us, please visit [www.warrenlionsclub.org](http://www.warrenlionsclub.org), and our Facebook page.



The poster for the Warren Lions Club 54th Annual Expo Carnival features a background image of a Ferris wheel and balloons. At the top, it says "Welcome to the Warren Lions Club Warren, NJ". The main title is "54th Annual EXPO CARNIVAL" in large, bold letters. Below the title, it states "WED. June 15th to Sat. June 18th 6:00 pm to 10:00" and "Warren Township Municipal Grounds at 46 Mountain Blvd.". A large starburst graphic in the center contains the text "Admission \$200 kids under 5 get in FREE". To the left, a circular graphic lists features: "The Warren Lions Expo will feature RIDES, GAMES, FOOD, VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT with a FIREWORKS display Saturday evening.". At the bottom left, a box lists sponsors: "Sponsored by NextHome Premier, Pfizer, Lawrence Law Firm, The Mitlo Family, Lightbridge Academy, Pinto Brothers Disposal". At the bottom right, it says "WRISTBANDS AVAILABLE EVERY NIGHT" and provides the website "www.warrenlionsclub.org" and contact information for Mark Ramos. A box at the bottom center states "Lions EXPO is the major fundraiser of the Warren Township Lions Club and enables the club to donate to local charities, organizations and events.". A box at the bottom right says "VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE Please call Anthony Franchini at 908-334-9304".

Welcome to the  
**Warren Lions Club**  
Warren, NJ

**54th** Annual  
**EXPO CARNIVAL**

**WED. June 15th to Sat. June 18th**  
**6:00 pm to 10:00**  
**Warren Township Municipal Grounds**  
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[www.warrenlionsclub.org](http://www.warrenlionsclub.org)  
For more information & sponsor opportunities, contact EXPO Chairperson Mark Ramos 908-334-7795

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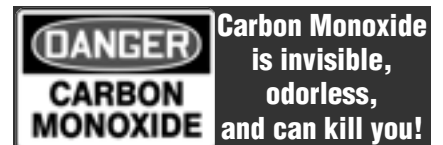
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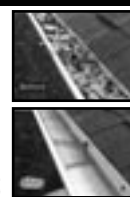
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Invasive Insect Is a Danger to Trees, Decorative Plantings, and Agriculture

The Somerset County Department of Health is reminding residents to keep an eye out for the invasive spotted lanternfly that has caused damage to residential and agricultural plants and trees throughout the area. Residents are asked to check trees, fences, and other flat surfaces around their homes and neighborhoods for egg masses, as well as grown lanternflies and Stomp Them Out!

The spotted lanternfly is native to China, India, and Vietnam. It was first sighted in the United States in Pennsylvania, and has since spread to surrounding states, including New Jersey. The spotted lanternfly was first discovered in Somerset County in 2019. While not harmful to

humans or animals, this invasive insect feeds on the sap of many different hardwood trees, scrubs, ornamental plants, and has the potential to impact agricultural crops of economic importance such as grape vines, hops, and apple orchards. Feeding damage caused by the spotted lanternfly significantly stresses the affected plants which can lead to decreased health and potential crop loss.

Residents and visitors are advised to keep an eye out for spotted lanternflies and their egg masses and kill them on sight. Destroying spotted lanternfly egg masses before they hatch is the best way to limit their spread. Eggs can be laid on any flat hard surface including metal, wood, and plastic. Egg masses are commonly found on fence posts, telephone poles, lawn furniture, and the underside of tree branches. Egg laying begins in September and continues through November or until the first freeze.

While adult spotted lanternflies do not survive the cold winters, their egg masses do. Beginning in May through June, the eggs will start to hatch and mature through their life stages into adulthood. Join the battle to beat the bug and help us Stomp Them Out!

### IF YOU FIND SPOTTED LANTERNFLY EGG MASSES:

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## GATES AVENUE KNITTERS MAKING FRIENDSHIPS AND MORE

On Monday April 25, 2022, the Gates Avenue Knitters celebrated their 22-year anniversary. The group has been meeting at the Long Hill Township Library, located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, every Monday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome from beginners to experts.

There-abouts in the month of April in the year 2000, Gates Avenue, Gillette resident Arlene Kaplan, started a knitting group along with 4 friends. Twenty-two years later the group, now called the Gates Avenue Knitters, are still knitting after all these years. Including 4 of the 5 original knitters who still live in town. One moved to Pennsylvania.

The group has met steadily over the years. During Covid, in the warm months they met outside in Cantor Park. When it got chilly, they moved inside to the Long Hill Township Library. The group is looking forward to spring and spending some warm days knitting outside again.

There are about 40 knitters on the club's roster. Eighteen to twenty show up on any given club meeting day. Their skills range from beginner to master knitters. They help each other get past stitichy problems with patterns, and they are

excited and willing to help beginners learn to knit.

They come from Long Hill Township and surrounding towns, including, but not limited to, Warren, Watchung, Bridgewater, Springfield, Chatham, Madison, Summit, and Westfield. Many were introduced to the club thru friends.

Along with their own projects, the group knits for causes. They knit approximately 500 hats per year and distribute them to soup kitchens. Beginning in November they have a display at the library and the hats are sold as a fundraiser thru March. The group recently presented the library with \$1,300 from the proceeds of the last hat sale, which is the most ever.

The group welcomes donations of yarn and knitting and crocheting supplies. Donations can be dropped off at the Long Hill Township Library any day during business hours.

On Saturday, June 11th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Gates Avenue Knitters will be outside the Long Hill Township Library (weather permitting, inside if it rains), celebrating the annual Worldwide Knit in Public Day. They hope to see you there!

(above, l-r) During the Gates Avenue Knitters 22-year anniversary, the group presented the Long Hill Township Library with a \$1,300 donation from their hat sale. Pictured: Arlene Kaplan, Gates Avenue Knitters; Marygrace Luderitz, Director; and Albie Ashbrook, Adult Services Librarian, Long Hill Township Library.







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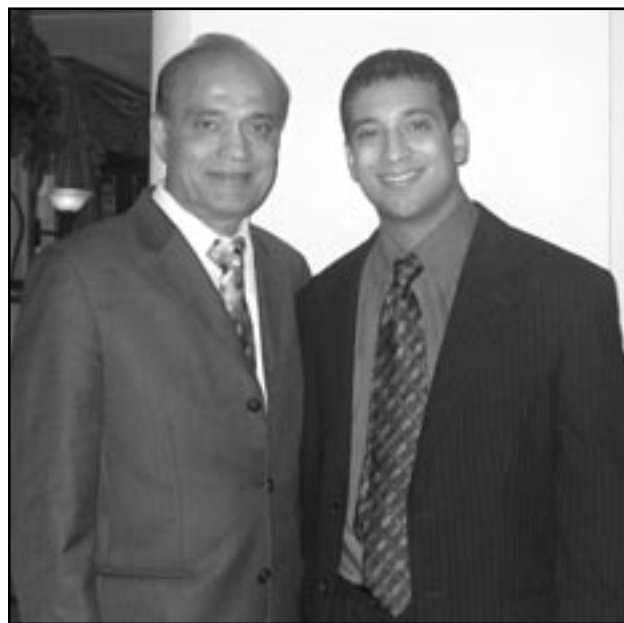


## HONORING THE MEMORY OF A FATHER

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 person in New Jersey dies every three days 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](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org).



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

Courtesy photo

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 of his corneas to two recipients in need.

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 life-saving 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](http://NJSharingNetwork.org).



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## Twelve Baskets Food Pantry

**Goal/Mission:** "Food support for neighbors when times are tough"

**About the Pantry:** Opened for walk-in service January 22nd


- The food pantry is free and confidential
- The food pantry provides supplemental food for Long Hill & surrounding area individuals, families, children, seniors, and Veterans
- The Pantry offers produce, non-perishable foods, and at times, toilet paper, paper towels, and cleaning supplies

**Details to note:**

- Sponsored by local area Churches:
  - All Saints' Episcopal Church,
  - First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, &
  - Meyersville Presbyterian Church
- Located at All Saints' Church Parish House
- Open the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10am to 12Noon
- A valid driver's license or state ID card showing current address is the only documentation needed

**1Qtr Success by the Numbers:**

- Seven** Distribution Offerings to date: 5 Saturdays at Parish House, 1 Senior Center, 5 VA
- Five** pick-ups of perishable and shelf stable food from the Hillside Food Distribution Center
- Total of **~5,612 lbs.** of food distributed
- ~35** Volunteers and over 200 hours from:
  - Sponsored Church's
  - Long Hill CERT Team
  - Local Area Boy & Girl Scouts
  - Community volunteers



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SERVING THE LONG HILL AREA

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Average per distribution week:

- 15 Families
- 10 Seniors
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## COLOR YOUR WORLD AT THE LIBRARY

To help welcome May, Raashi Yadav, 9, of Watchung, colored a flower-themed sheet at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung branch.

"The Watchung branch is excited to have coloring sheets and crayons available in the youth services space," said Katie Salerno, youth services librarian. "Coloring encourages families to spend more time at the Library - exploring our diverse collections, expressing themselves artistically, and connecting to each other and other families."

The branch currently has 14 varieties of coloring sheets available. For the summer months, the branch will be sharing math activity sheets in order to help local students avoid the summer slide. Parents and children can grab-and-go or color in the Library, but the crayons packaged in rainbow order stay in the Library.

The Watchung branch is located at 12 Stirling Road in Watchung. To learn more, email [watchung@scslnj.org](mailto:watchung@scslnj.org) or call (908) 458-8455.





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## HOME FOR GOOD CELEBRATES 10K 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 Remy and learn 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, Remy has no remnants of the extreme cruelty that he endured, and from which he survived.

Home for Good Dog Rescue is 100% foster-based 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, Remy had never felt the gentle hand of a human. Through the patience and perseverance of his foster family, Remy 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 Remy, please visit [homeforgooddogrescue.org/foster](http://homeforgooddogrescue.org/foster)

### ABOUT:

Home for Good Dog Rescue is a 100% foster-based, 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) Remy (center) is pictured with his new forever family. His canine siblings are also rescues who experienced similar rescue stories. Remy 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 Remy longer than most to find his forever family, fate had him waiting for the perfect "home for good".

Courtesy photo



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# EXPLORE JUNE VIRTUAL EVENTS WITH SCLSNJ

The below programs will be hosted virtually. All Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) branches will be closed on Sunday, June 19

To join a virtual program by phone, dial (646) 876-9923. After dialing, you will be prompted to enter a meeting ID, which is unique for every event. The meeting ID is the series of numbers at the end of the Zoom link posted for each event.

**Stress Reactivity, Mindfulness - and MBSR (Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction)**  
June 1, 7-8:30 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6251254>

**Acing the Interview**  
June 6, 6-7:30 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6145260>

**Wall Street and the Price of Food**  
June 6, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6097891>

**All the Buzz**  
June 7, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6092361>

**The Art of Effective Communication**  
June 8, 10 a.m. - noon  
Presented by Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Center  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6173011>

**Betsy Ross - The Flag Unfurled**  
June 9, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6162010>

**When The Cavalry Came to Call - Juneteenth**  
June 13, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6125584>

**Virtual Book Discussion Salons: Mid-Year Book Share**  
June 14, 10-11 a.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6244578>

**"The Guest List" by Lucy Foley**  
July 13, 2-3:15 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6244991>

**"The Birthday of the World and Other Stories" by Le Guin**  
August 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6197692>

**Judy Garland - The One, the Only**  
June 14, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6156744>

**Recipe Club: Meal Planning and Prep**  
June 15, 6-7 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6284220>

**Grilled or Chilled**  
July 20, 6-7 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6284248>

**Packing a Picnic**  
August 17, 6-7 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6284274>

**You Are Here - A New Jersey Travel Guide**  
June 15, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6086390>

**Study for Success**  
June 16, 2-3 p.m.  
Presented by The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6180007>

**Meet the Author: Mike Scardino - "Bad Call: A Summer Job on A New York Ambulance"**  
June 16, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6194283>

**The Ever Changing Lower East Side**  
June 20, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6154462>

**When Watergate Changed the World**  
June 21, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6172864>

**George Eliot's "Middlemarch" - One Hundred and Fifty Years Later**  
June 22, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6175996>

**Relaxed Summer Dining - Delicious Bites, Charcuterie Boards, and Seasonal Snacks**  
June 23, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6079463>

**Keyhole Gardening and Other Ways to Garden Smarter**  
June 29, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6092443>

**Liberty - Don Troiani's Paintings of the Revolutionary War**  
June 30, 7-8 p.m.  
<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6148488>

# MEET YOUR LIBRARY BRANCH MANAGER

Somerset County Library System of NJ

Hannah Kerwin is the manager at the Watchung Library branch, located at 12 Stirling Road in Watchung. A Central Jersey native, Kerwin studied fine arts at the College of Wooster, library science at Case Western Reserve University, and video production and photography at New York University. Her public library career began in the film and music department of New York Public Library in 1986. At SCLSNJ, she served as director of the Bound Brook branch for 15 years and has been manager of the Watchung branch for seven years. She is active in two local history associations and is on the executive board of the League of Historic Societies of New Jersey. With an SCLSNJ colleague, she wrote and photographed a monumental study of a Revolutionary Era graveyard in Bound Brook.



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# DONATION OF CHAIRS INVITES YOU TO ENJOY NATURAL BEAUTY



(above) Watchung Library Advisory Board members Virginia Hartmann and Peggy Ellis, enjoy a beautiful spring day in Adirondack chairs. Inspired by the Bisignano Family's recent donation of a new roof for the library, Virginia and Tom Hartmann donated these beautiful, colorful chairs. Virginia says that this is a perfect spot to sit and read a good book! The chairs are on the lawn that slopes from the rear of the library to Best Lake, affording residents a place to slow down and take a moment enjoy Watchung's natural beauty!

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Groups interested in learning about bears, bees, bats, trees, cool critters and other nature-based topics can register for “Group Outreach Programs” hosted by the Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Education Center (EEC). The outreach programs are available throughout the year as virtual or in-person sessions and are appropriate for any group audience.

“Groups can take a ‘virtual’ trip to the Rainforest, visit Tanzania on a safari, trek deep into Africa or learn about plants, maple sugaring and a variety of other topics. Our subject matter experts know how to tailor the presentation according to the audience and are great at engaging participants,” said Somerset County Park Commission Secretary-Director Geoffrey Soriano. “Our programs are ideal for libraries, senior centers, garden clubs, women’s clubs and other organized groups for a minimal cost.”

The discussion-based lectures, led by professional Naturalists, can be tailored to each group’s specifications, needs, interests and schedule. Programs are available in several formats including a live virtual presentation; a prerecorded video; an in-person presentation; an artifact-based, hands-on program; or a combination of an artifact-based, in-person PowerPoint lecture.

For more information or to schedule a program, contact Kurt Bender at 908-722-1200 ext. 5332 or email [kbender@scpark.org](mailto:kbender@scpark.org).

## SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities who require special and reasonable accommodations must contact the Park Commission at least three weeks before an event to ensure there is time to implement the requested modifications. For more information, call 908-722-1200 ext. 5324.

## SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

The Park Commission welcomes everyone to participate in its programs and facilities regardless of race, color, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, national origin or religious or political affiliation.

The Park Commission stewards nearly 15,000 acres of county-owned open space, which is visited by 2 million park users each year. Five golf courses have three driving ranges, a pitch and putt course and a recreational putting course. Other attractions include a riding stable, an environmental education center, two tennis facilities, an outdoor pool, paddle boating, a rock and rare plant garden, an award-winning rose garden, an arboretum and a sensory and fragrance garden. Six county parks also offer amenities, such as athletic fields, picnic facilities, bike paths, fishing, birdwatching, cross country skiing, and hiking.

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for free email alerts at [co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe](http://co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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**45 Knollwood, Watchung, NJ**  
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