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WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SHIELD AWARDS FIRST RESPONDERS

Submitted by Tom Kranz

After an absence of two years due to the Covid pandemic, the Father John S. Nelligan Council of the Knights of Columbus presented its Shield Awards to police, fire and EMS responders from Fanwood and Scotch Plains, a recognition of selfless community service performed by the men and women of these emergency services, paid and volunteer. The ceremony was held at the Italian-American Club on Valley Road.

Each recipient was selected by his/her Chief or Captain for outstanding service to the community and to their respective agency. The recipients were:

Fanwood Police Officer Michael Rusin, presented by Lt. Daniel Kranz, who cited Rusin's reliability and called him the most "well rounded" of his officers because of the many duties he takes on and excels at.

Fanwood Rescue Squad EMT Nita Yusuf, presented by Capt. Ian Lewis, who cited Yusuf's tireless volunteer ethic, taking on getting night crews filled and her many call responses. FRS is an all-volunteer organization.

Fanwood Fire Department firefighters Kris Piccola, Brian Piccola, Ken Gorman, Dante Clausen, Nick Tripodi and Bruce Padulsky for their work at a motor vehicle accident in which a civilian was freed after being

trapped between two cars that collided. All are volunteers.

Scotch Plains Police Lt. David Smith, presented by Chief Ted Conley, who cited Smith's good humor, excellent management skills and humility as he goes about the important administrative work that allows the SPPD to function smoothly, have a robust social media presence and have good relationships with with other Township departments.

Scotch Plains Rescue Squad EMT Thomas "TJ" Walsh, presented by Chief Dan Sullivan who cited his enthusiasm and his many call responses. Walsh is a volunteer as are all members of SPRS.

Scotch Plains Fire Capt. Tyler Bowman, presented by Battalion Chief Dennis Hercel who said Bowman surpassed all expectations, is a great leader and role model to fellow firefighters. SP firefighters are also volunteers.

Mayor Colleen Mahr was in attendance and called the first responders "the backbone of both of our communities. As the granddaughter of a fire chief and a first cousin of a police officer, I understand the sacrifices made when you choose to serve your community in this way."

Emceeding the event was Grand Knight Michael Romanyshyn who was joined by awards co-chairman Patrick Harrington and Deputy Grand Knight James Vari.



(above) Group photo of all honorees and their chiefs

Photos by Tom Kranz

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Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Scotch Plains Monthly

BOY SCOUT MICHAEL MAHAFFEY HONORS LOST MARINE

Borough of Fanwood

Marine Corporal Robert Wood, a casualty of the Vietnam War, was memorialized on May 28, 2022, with a sign naming a portion of Paterson Road in his honor. Wood was born in Fanwood, a fact that was lost following the war until just recently, thanks to a local Boy Scout.

Michael Mahaffey, a junior at Union Catholic High School, researched Corporal Wood's background for his Eagle Scout project. It turned out that Wood was never acknowledged as a Fanwood native because his place of birth was mistakenly listed as Georgia where he moved to live with his brother many years ago. Mahaffey followed the trail of historic

information until confirming that Wood was born in Fanwood and spent his childhood here. The project culminated with the unveiling of a street sign honoring Cpl. Wood at the intersection of Paterson Road and Martine Avenue.

Mahaffey was joined at the ceremony by Mr. Wood's brother Richard, 91, who drove up from Virginia, fellow scouts from Troop 203, a U.S. Air Force honor guard and the entire Fanwood-Scotch Plains Memorial Day Committee. Mayor Colleen Mahr made remarks.

Fanwood Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell and Scotch Plains Councilman Matt Adams attended, along with many local residents.



(above) Mahaffey presents flag to Richard Wood



Photos by Tom Kranz

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MADDY JOE SELECTED FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Borough of Fanwood

Maddy Joe, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, was given a rousing sendoff on Thursday, June 2nd after her swim practice at the Jewish Community Center on Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. She departed the following weekend for Orlando, FL, and the Special Olympics 2022 USA Games.

Maddy walked out of the JCC to a reception of fellow swimmers, friends, family and first responders from Fanwood and Scotch Plains including both police departments, the Fanwood Rescue Squad and the Fanwood Fire Department. Maddy's father, Nam-June, is an EMT with the Fanwood squad. The 100 or so well-wishers threw confetti and hugs Maddy's way. Her dad, mom Terrine and sister Carolyn led the pack.

Maddy, 18, has been swimming since she was a little girl. She's swum for the JCC the past six years, three of them as a volunteer coach. She

has competed in the Special Olympics for five consecutive years. She will attend Ramapo College in the fall.



(above) Family picture, Maddy with dad Nam-June, mom Terrine and sister Carolyn, 16

Photos by Tom Kranz

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PRESENTS:

2022 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

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- JULY 14 - ERIC HARRISON'S CRASH CHORUS
- JULY 21 - BORED OF ED
- JULY 28 - WOLF CREEK

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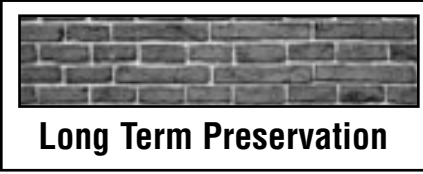
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FANWOOD SUMMER FAN JAM – JULY 10



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Free Summer Movie Series Under the Stars at La Grande Park.

- Jun 28 8:30 Encanto**
- July 5 8:30 Ghostbusters; Afterlife**
- July 12 8:30 Cruella**
- July 19 8:30 The Mitchells vs. The Machines**
- July 26 8:15 Mama Mia**
- Aug. 2 8:15 Guardians of the Galaxy**
- Aug. 9 8:15 Luca**
- Aug. 16 8:00 Paddington**

All movies are scheduled for Tuesday evenings at La Grande Park. The rain date for each movie is the following day. Moviegoers should bring blankets or low beach chairs to sit on.

On Sunday, July 10th from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., music lovers, foodies and car enthusiasts will come together in Fanwood’s LaGrande Park for the 5th Annual Fanwood Summer Fan Jam, Presented by Dentalcare Associates.

Gene Jannotti, CEO of Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, stated, “It is a great pleasure for the GWACC to once again bring Summer Fan Jam to Fanwood for a fun-filled family event complete with classic cars, food trucks, kids zone and music all day long.”

“We have an exciting lineup this year, with music spanning 6 decades. Kicking us off is Jim Barone, the best Elvis Tribute Artist in the United States and also my former classmate from Westfield High,” said Aimee Nuzzo, event director and Fanwood resident. “We have four spectacular acts, culminating in a tribute to The Eagles.”

Fan Jam is a combination Music Festival, Food Truck Festival and Car Show that’s geared toward adult music tastes but features attractions for kids as well. This marks a return to the festival’s traditional time of year. Last year’s event was held in September following the lifting of NJ Covid restrictions.

This year’s music lineup will feature double headliners:

Winslow (5:30 pm) featuring four male tenor leads recreating the halcyon era of Live Eagles music! The Funktion Band (3:30 pm) mixes Funk, Soul, Pop & R&B to play favorites from

Motown to today. They return to Fan Jam by popular demand! Mushmouth (1:30 pm) will get you in the party mood with fun favorite rock and pop songs from 70’s to now. And Jim Barone (12 noon) is the best Elvis Tribute you’ll ever hear. You’ll swear you’re listening to the King himself. All of the acts are New Jersey based.

For those adults 21 & over with ID, you can enjoy a front-seat view of the show from the Sheelen’s Crossing Beer and Wine Garden. For the kids, we have a centrally located Kids’ Zone which will feature children’s rides and attractions within the park, with the purchase of tickets.

For the Car Enthusiasts, the festival will draw more than 100 vintage and classic cars as part of a car show hosted by Hot Rod Mike. Portions of Helen Street, 2nd Street and LaGrande Avenue will be closed to traffic for the car show, which is open to all. Cars register upon arrival on a first-come basis for a fee of \$10.

FanJam goers can sample a diverse cuisine from food trucks and local restaurants. So, bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and the whole family.

There is Free Parking available at the South Side lot of the Fanwood train station. Please note that pets, skateboarding and roller blading are prohibited in the festival area. For further information, please contact the GWACC, 908-233-3021, or visit the website gwaccnj.com and look for Street Fairs.

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SOLEMN MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Borough of Fanwood

Bright sunshine greeted about a hundred spectators at the Fanwood Memorial Library for the annual observance of Memorial Day, hosted by Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Borough Council.

Keynote speaker was Ralph Checchio, Vietnam veteran and longtime chairman of the Memorial Day Committee. Other participants included County Commissioner Al Mirabella,

Assemblywoman Linda Carter, Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo and several members of the SP Council.

In attendance were a number of local veterans including WWII vets Joe Schott and Dante Mariani. The ceremony included the laying of wreaths by local veterans groups and first responders, the reading of the names of Gold Star veterans by Boy Scout troops 33 and 204, a gun salute and taps.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) SPFHS student Maya Handler sings the national anthem



(above) Boy Scouts read the names of Gold Star veterans



(above) WWII veterans Joe Schott and Dante Mariani with their families

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UNICO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO recently announced the winners of its two annual scholarship competitions.

Seniors Ashley DeFrancesco (Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School) and Michael Minniti (Union Catholic High School) received the SP-F UNICO Brian Piccolo Scholarship - named after former NFL player Brian Piccolo, who in 1970 died of cancer at the age of 26 - in the amount of \$500. In addition, four SP-F UNICO Memorial Scholarships of \$2,500 each were awarded to Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors

Marlaina Martucci, Vincent Augello, Gianna Riefler, and Benjamin Root.

ABOUT UNICO

UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States. The organization's objectives are to promote the image of Italian Americans, to serve the community, and to contribute to charitable, cultural and educational organizations and projects.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO was chartered in 1973. Our chapter has raised and donated thousands of dollars annually

to support scholarship programs, organizations and individuals in the New Jersey area. Since 1974, we have co-sponsored the St. Barts/UNICO Italian Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors over Labor Day weekend.

UNICO takes great pride in its rich history, cultural heritage, and dedicated membership. Our local chapter also has been recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" and has earned its place in our community for service to others and charitable contributions since its inception.

For more information on UNICO, please visit unicospf.org



(above, l-r) SP-F UNICO Brian Piccolo Scholarship Recipients: Ashley DeFrancesco and Michael Minniti

(above, l-r) SP-F UNICO Memorial Scholarship Recipients: Marlaina Martucci, Vincent Augello, Gianna Riefler, Benjamin Root



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HONORING OUR SCOTCH PLAINS RESCUE SQUAD MEMBERS

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary recently honored members of the rescue squad in recognition of National Emergency Services Week (EMS week), which was observed from May 15th - May 21st, 2022. The Auxiliary, a branch of the squad, provides support to squad members as they strive to deliver and maintain a standard of excellence while serving the community.

At the May squad business meeting, members enjoyed a hearty meal and gifts presented by the Auxiliary. The 2022 National

EMS Week theme - Rising to the Challenge - perfectly captured the conditions squad members experienced during the last two years. There were many challenges that members rose above to successfully operate in a new normal. The Auxiliary's appreciation for those efforts was also captured in a "Thank You" banner hung in the squad building.

The dedication and hard work of the squad is evident in the fact that it remains one of the few all volunteer squads left in New Jersey. After 85 years, the squad's role as an essential

part of the Scotch Plains community has not wavered.

National EMS Week is a collaboration of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians. For more information about EMS week and how to support your local rescue squad, please visit emsweek.org and www.scotchplainsrescuesquad.com.

Contributing Author: Lila Maxwell, is a member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary.



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SERVICE LEAGUE 2022 DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY



(above) Carol Marquardt (center), Chairman of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Scholarship Committee, poses with two of the seven 2022 scholarship winners: Evelyn Liang (left) and Jazlyn Navarro-Jimenez (right).

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, operators of The Thrift Shop at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, donated \$50,000 to local community organizations and student scholarship winners as part of their ongoing commitment to give back to our local community.

Of the total money disbursed for 2022, \$18,000 was allocated for college scholarships to six Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors and one current college student. Recipients include Jazlyn Navarro-Jimenez (Harvard), Gianna Riefler (Stockton University), Victoria Solsky (Carnegie Mellon),

Molly Sullivan (LaSalle), Kaitlyn Mohabir (Rutgers University), Isaiah Nathaniel (MIT), and Evelyn Liang (a sophomore at Rutgers University).

Grants were distributed to 19 worthy organizations who applied for consideration, with a full listing of those who benefited from these grants available for viewing in The Thrift Shop. Including these 2022 donations, the Fanwood-

Scotch Plains Service League has donated nearly \$1.5 million to organizations in Fanwood, Scotch Plains and other Union County communities—and to scholarships for local students—since the organization’s inception in July 1973.

This monetary support is due entirely to members of the community who have consistently donated goods that they no longer need or want to be re-sold at the Thrift Shop, and to a tireless group of volunteers who run the shop and keep it one of the cleanest, best-stocked and reasonably priced resale stores in the area. The Thrift Shop helps the environment and the community by recycling merchandise that still has a useful life, plowing all monetary proceeds outside of operating expenses back in support of our community.

For more information on the non-profit Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League and how you can help support its mission please call the Thrift Shop during operating hours, Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CIVIL AIR PATROL -AIR FORCE-AUXILIARY

Submitted by Capt. Jose Vergara, C.A.P.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) NJ-102 Squadron participated in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Memorial Day Parade. Thirty cadets marched in the parade (students from middle school and high school) along with their mentors (Senior Members).

Civil Air Patrol was proud to honor those who had given their lives for our nation. Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the US Air Force and, as such, is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 555 single-engine aircraft and 2,250 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of all search and rescue operations within the contiguous United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. CAP's 56,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and other missions at the request of federal, state, and

local agencies.

CAP also has a “Cadet Program” designed for youth who want to serve the community. The cadet program challenges the youth to excel in leadership, character, physical training, and discipline. Also, the cadet program provides education in: aerospace, STEM education, military traditions, emergency service, educational camps, orientation flights, and many more activities.

Students 12 to 18 years old can join CAP with the understanding to follow Air Force-style traditions and discipline and provide community service. The Cadet Program meets after school hours. In addition, adults can join CAP to serve the public and mentor the cadets. Adults could take training and duties to support the Air Force-Auxiliary.

For more information, visit CAP.News or GoCivilAirPatrol.com.

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(above) Civil Air Patrol (CAP) NJ-102 Squadron participated in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Memorial Day Parade.

RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



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.

Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS



Here's what our patients have to say

"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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JULY LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:30am – 9:00pm • Tuesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:30am – 5:00pm • Sunday: Closed
 Monday, July 4 - Library Closed

Our Adult Summer Reading theme is Oceans of Possibilities, with events and activities for all ages. Visit scotlib.org/adult-summer-reading for details.

Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek Fridays, 10am

All you need are a chair and sneakers to experience this gentle but effective approach to moving confidently throughout the lifespan.

This is a virtual class.

Hypertension Clinic

Friday, July 1, 10am to Noon

Hypertension Clinic at the Library with a public health nurse. Call 908-322-5007 x204 to let us know you're coming.

Naval History Account

Thursday, July 7, 7pm

SP resident William McClintock will share the naval history account of his great-great grandfather, Commodore Reigart B. Lowry.

Bagels and Books

Monday, July 11, 10am

An informal discussion of what participants have recently read and enjoyed. This discussion will take place outside the Library, weather permitting.

The Search for Shackleton's Lost Ship

Monday, July 25, 7pm

We'll hear from educator Tim Jacob about his experience on the successful expedition to locate the lost ice ship Endurance.

Learn about the Amazing Osprey

Thursday, July 28, 7pm

Learn about the Amazing Osprey from Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ.

Events are virtual unless otherwise noted. Registration is required. More information about the library can be found at scotlib.org.

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GARDEN HONORS BELOVED LONG-TERM PATIENT

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway now has a garden honoring Everett Duchin of Colonia, a beloved hospital patient.

“When we first discussed it, it was going to be a bench and tree,” joked Everett’s brother Eric of South Plainfield. Everett’s immediate family, together with friends and extended family, started a GoFundMe page to raise money. The Everett Howard Duchin Memorial Garden now includes several ornamental trees, flowering plants, and benches circling the hospital’s familiar gazebo.

“We thank the Duchin Family and their many friends for providing a beautiful place for family, friends and staff,” said Hospital President Kirk Tice.

Everett Duchin was 41 when he passed away at home in 2021. An infection during infancy had left him severely brain damaged requiring 24/7 care. As an adult, he sometimes needed a ventilator to help him breathe.

His family was devoted to his care. He was often hospitalized for weeks and months at a

time.

“My mom spent many a night in a chair by his bedside at the hospital,” Eric recalled. “He was hospitalized so often, we said he should have a wing.”

Everett, called Evi, was beloved by hospital staff, who would comb his hair, play with him or just come in to visit, recalled Everett’s mother, Arleen Duchin. “He had a great smile,” recalled Nurse Theresa Dobbin. “And he really loved Teddy Ruxpin,” an animatronic toy bear that talked.

In a touching ceremony in front of the hospital’s signature gazebo, Arleen Duchin thanked the hospital staff, hospital administration and Hospital President Kirk Tice, her family and all the family’s many friends for contributing to the garden.

“This gift from the Duchin family created a beautiful space for people to take a moment in their day,” said Vice President of Development Heather Hays.

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(above) The Duchin family pose with some of the many staff members who took care of their son Everett. RWJ Rahway Nurse Melanie Mercado, Everett’s parents Mel and Arleen Duchin, RWJ Rahway Nurse Theresa Dobbin. Back row, Everett’s brothers Eric, Jared and Elliot.

Photo by J Martin Production

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The Raptor Trust is also offering private guided tours, virtual school programs, and outdoor field trips and scout programs through the winter months.

You can email education@theraptortrust.org with any booking questions or find more information on our website at TheRaptorTrust.org.



REMINDER TO LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS

Scotch Plains Police Department

Please LOCK your car doors and do not leave anything of value in it, we are experiencing a rash of thefts from cars and thefts from packages from porch areas in town! The majority of the incidents are happening in the early morning hours, between 1 – 5 a.m., and the theft of the packages are happening at all times of the day. If you see or hear anything suspicious, please contact us immediately! Call 9-1-1 if it is an emergency or (908) 322-7100 ext. 0 if it is a non-emergency.

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INTERNS HONORED – SEEKING NEW INTERNS FOR THE FALL

Submitted by Ann Ormsby

Westfield Service League Co-Presidents Rosann LiVolsi and Susan McClelland recognized the organization’s first two volunteer interns during a membership luncheon held on June 7 at the Echo Lake Country Club. The students, Nina Johnson and Leah Weiss, have volunteered at the League’s Thrift and Consignment shops this past year.

LiVolsi and McClelland thanked the students for their energy and enthusiasm and presented each with a check for \$250, a gift certificate to the shop and a basket of college essentials — a small token of appreciation to begin their college careers.

Johnson is a graduating senior at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School and plans to attend New York University in the fall. In accepting her gifts, Johnson described how impactful volunteer service has been to her.

She began volunteering at the shops after a shopping visit with her mother and worked during COVID when students did virtual learning from home. Johnson, who spent her lunch breaks working at the shops, said volunteering “was a breath of fresh air.” She added that she wrote her college essay on the League. “Thank you for helping me get into my dream school,” she told League members at the luncheon.

“The Westfield Service League helped me realize how incredibly easy it is to be generous with your time and help others, and how much gratification it leaves you with. I hope that another person will have the opportunity to spend as much time as I did at the Westfield Service League.”

Weiss is a graduating senior at Westfield High School and will be attending Penn State University in the fall.

“Volunteering at the Westfield Service League has shown me how important up-cycling clothing is,” she said of her experience. “Just because one person is done with a clothing item doesn’t mean somebody else won’t love it. Having access to clothing that makes you feel confident is so

important.”

Thrift Shop Co-Chair Jan Herring, who chairs the Intern Committee, praised the interns for a job well done.

“Nina and Leah were such great additions to our shops. They brought a new and refreshing perspective to how we showcase our inventory, especially for younger shoppers,” she said. “To build upon their success, we decided to formalize and expand the intern program and look forward to working with other students in the future.”

The League’s internship program will be open to juniors and seniors in the surrounding area and begins with the new school year in September. (The shops are open during the school year and close during the summer.) Interns will be expected to work approximately 30 hours over the school year. Each intern will be assigned a mentor who will provide an orientation to the Westfield Service League and be available to answer questions. Responsibilities include visual merchandising of store displays, assisting with special events, such as a holiday sale or a fashion show for seniors, and sorting and pricing donations of clothes, toys, and household items.

Students interested in applying for an internship should send an email to WSLinterns@gmail.com to request an application.

The Westfield Service League has actively assisted the Westfield and surrounding communities through volunteer service and charitable donations since 1932. WSL manages Thrift and Consignment shops at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield. Shop proceeds help fund grants, which are awarded to other non-profit and service organizations in Westfield and the surrounding area. During its almost 90-year history, the League has awarded \$2.9 million dollars to dozens of organizations. Each year, the League members seek and recruit volunteers to work in the shops during spring, fall and winter months. In addition, League members also volunteer at Mobile Meals of Westfield and the Holy Trinity Food Pantry.

To learn more about the shops or volunteering, visit thewestfieldserviceleague.org.



(above) Intern Nina Johnson, a senior at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School, accepts a gift basket from Westfield Service League co-Presidents Rosann LiVolsi and Susan McClelland. Thrift co-chair Jan Herring, left, supervises interns for the League.

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