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The New Jersey Veterans Network

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, The New Jersey Veterans Network, in conjunction with DeFalco Towing of Chatham and the Geico Insurance Company, celebrated the contribution of a totally refurbished 2017 Volkswagen sedan to Iraqi Freedom US Army Veteran, Mark Steppe.

Marc is the founder of the Unbridled Heroes Project 501(c)3 and he devotes his time to actively participate in assisting veterans suffering from PTSD. Marc was without an operating vehicle, this will now permit him to continue his work providing veterans an outlet and the support they need to maintain a healthy mental status, and be able to fully function in today's society.

Marc's 501(c) non-profit, The Unbridled Heroes Project, provides veterans equine therapy on his horse ranch, where they become one with the animals. Studies have shown this to be beneficial as a calming and coping mechanism. We thank him for his tireless efforts and financial contribution to continue the operations of the ranch..

In addition, to memorialize Marc's years of service, a portrait was commissioned showing him as a young man in full dress uniform.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. If you are a veteran or family member that is in need of assistance, or are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Marc Steppe being presented the car



(above) Everyone who helped make this happen.

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5 Dogwood Dr	5	4.1	3	\$1,950,000	\$1,860,000	32
1 Crestwood Dr	4	3.1	2	\$1,650,000	\$1,825,000	8
30 Rose Ter	4	3.1	2	\$1,699,000	\$1,825,000	0
209 Lafayette Ave	7	5.1	2	\$1,685,000	\$1,655,000	24
48 Lisa Dr	4	2.1	3	\$1,249,000	\$1,605,000	20
11 Maple Rd	5	3.1	3	\$1,325,000	\$1,461,000	16
33 Oak Hill Rd	6	5.0	2	\$1,435,000	\$1,435,000	9
9 Red Rd	5	4.1	2	\$1,225,000	\$1,417,500	9
42 Runnymede Rd	5	3.2	2	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	0
51 Johnson Dr	4	2.1	2	\$1,175,000	\$1,356,000	11
88 Britten Rd	4	2.1	2	\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000	13
112 Chatham St	4	2.1	2	\$875,000	\$1,175,000	9
419 Fairmount Ave	5	3.1	4	\$1,225,000	\$1,100,000	33
362 Fairmount Ave	5	3.0	2	\$949,000	\$999,999	13

Source: GSMLS, select properties sold 7/2/2022-7/18/2022



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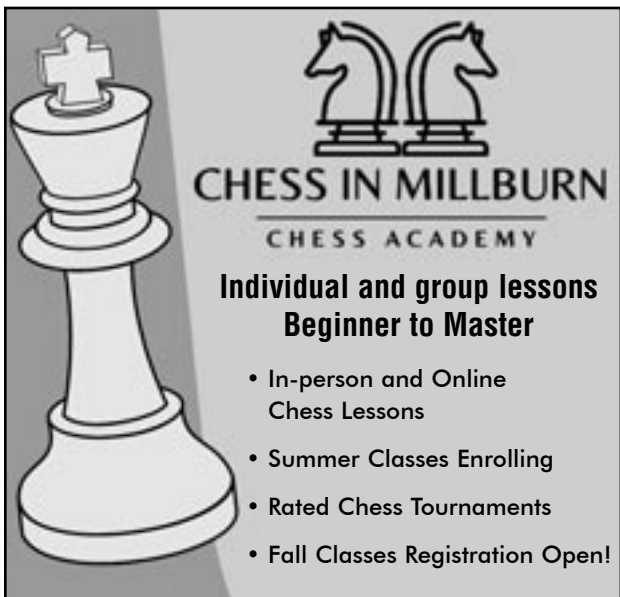
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Chess for Fun is a casual group of chess players who have been meeting for roughly 50 years. The group's players come from all over, and in the case of Larry Morse, as far away as Whitehouse Station. The most senior player, at 98 years old, is still playing strong.

It their earlier years the group met at the Rahway Public Library when it was located on St. Georges Avenue. In 1999 a flood destroyed the library. Chess for Fun has been meeting in

the Clark Public Library every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And at Max's Pizza & Bistro in Scotch plains on Monday mornings at 11 a.m.

There are no formalities to the group. It is not an established club with officers or membership. Everyone of any ability is welcome to participate. Regulars bring their own board to share so it is not necessary to bring a board, but it would be helpful if you can.



(above, standing, l-r) Players and hometowns: Larry Morse, Whitehouse Station; Mark Shoengold, Colonia; Jack Rothstein, Edison; John Foy, Scotch Plains; Bodre.
(seated, l-r) David Goldstein, South Plainfield; Neil Landau, Edison; Matthew Bistis, Mountainside.

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COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION RECEIVES GIFT FROM INTERFAITH CLERGY

In recognition of the second anniversary in May 2022 of the Chatham Community Food Distribution (CCFD), the local Chatham Interfaith Clergy Council (CIC), at its monthly meeting on May 10, made a gift of \$1,200 in support of the work of this important, ongoing effort. The amount approximates the weekly cost of purchasing fresh produce such as fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs and other perishables for distribution to the 30-60 families who are in need of assistance in any given week.

In accepting the check, Rev. Jeff Markay of the Chatham United Methodist Church (CUMC) where the drive-through food distribution takes place, expressed his deep gratitude to the CIC, saying “I so deeply appreciate the ecumenical friendships and support that we enjoy in this community. At one of our last meetings, Rev. Tom Brown of the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township proposed that the CIC use some of its funds to support the food distribution. The volunteers for the food distribution have consistently come from the churches of our community, and have become a real expression of the coalition of compassion. We have learned over the past two years that food insecurity is very real and is unlikely to go away soon. We’ve also learned that it has been life-giving to be able to serve others. It is a mutual gift, to give, and to receive. I’m deeply grateful to the interfaith community which has worked together for many years, and together seeks to serve those in need.”

Speaking on behalf of the CIC at the presentation of the check to Rev. Markay, Rev. Dr. Christa Compton of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Chatham spoke to the need for continuing support. “We are so pleased to be making this gift. But, at the same time, we realize it covers just one week of fresh produce for the families visiting our distribution. We hope our gift will be seen as an invitation to Chatham

residents to join us, even consider matching our gift and in so doing help 50 plus families put fresh food on the table in any one week. Of course, gifts in any amount are extremely important and deeply appreciated.”

Checks can be made payable to: Chatham UMC, earmarked Covid Relief. Donations to purchase food can be given online through the website chathamumc.org.

Food distribution occurs weekly, on Wednesdays, at the church. In addition to what the CCFD is able to purchase, local businesses

such as Fleur de Sel and Panera Bread have been especially generous in donating dairy products and baked goods.

Member houses of worship of the Chatham Interfaith Clergy Council include the Chatham Church of Christ; Chatham Summit Quaker Meeting; Chatham United Methodist Church; Corpus Christi Parish; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church; Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church; Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township; St. Patrick Parish; St. Paul's Episcopal; United Methodist Church at Green Village



(above) Members of the Chatham Interfaith Clergy Council present its check to support the Chatham Community Food Distribution and celebrate its second anniversary


Courtesy photo

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SAVANNAH BERRY WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Art League of the Chathams

The 2022 Art League of the Chatham’s \$1,000 scholarship winner is Chatham High School’s graduating senior Savannah Berry.

Savannah will study Fashion Design and Textiles at Bath Spa University in Bath, England.

Her interest in the field began at a young age being exposed to a mother who always sewed and inspired the “CATWALK” as a PTO project at her school. Savannah participated and was the winner of the Best Design for the 2022 Chatham High School CATWALK Project. This event confirmed her interest in clothing and textile design.

Savannah’s parents hail from different parts of England and her father’s job relocations gave her

an opportunity to live in many parts of the world. She was born in California and lived in Paris and Hong Kong before moving to New Jersey.

She has three sisters: Georgia, her twin, who will study ballet and attend the Royal Conservatory of Scotland; India, the eldest, is a history major, and lives and attends the University of St. Andrews in Scotland; and Florence, the youngest, will be going into seventh grade.

The Art League of the Chathams provides this annual scholarship to a Chatham High school Senior who plans to make a career or use art in their future. For more information visit artleagueofthechathams.org.



(above) Savannah Berry



(above) Eyes of Judgement

(far left) My Thoughts

(left) Self Portrait

Courtesy photos

RISHA SURANA RECEIVES THE CHRISTINE K. GROBERT CHATHAM EMERGENCY SQUAD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Submitted by Evan Skinner

The Chatham Emergency Squad is pleased to announce that it has selected recent Chatham High School graduate and Chatham Emergency Squad member Risha Surana as its 2022 recipient of the Squad’s annual scholarship award.

Established in 2014 by Christine Grobert, a teacher at the Lafayette School, while serving as President of the Chatham Emergency Squad

(2014, 2015), this annual award is presented to a Chatham High School student who has been committed to volunteerism and/or has displayed an interest in the field of medicine or science. In 2020, the name of this scholarship was officially renamed in honor of Christine Grobert’s 21 years of dedicated service to the Chatham Emergency Squad, where she held numerous positions.

Surana will continue her education at the University of Southern California where she will join 2021 CHS graduate and fellow CES Scholarship award winner, Claire Silverstein. Surana plans to study Computer Science and Linguistics. As a member of the Class of 2020 Cadet class at the Chatham Emergency Squad, Surana not only navigated successfully through the challenges of being a cadet during COVID, she was also a regular contributor to The Dispatch, the Squad’s monthly newsletter, writing the “Cadet Corner” for each issue. In addition, she spent several weeks sorting through thousands of Squad photos which she will scan into a digital archive this summer. This project dovetailed with Surana’s “secret” wish to work at a library and organize to her heart’s content.

Commenting on Surana’s selection, Grobert said “Chatham has no shortage of exceptional youth. Every year our scholarship committee is in awe of the drive, character, and commitment of our applicants. This year was no exception. We are so proud to award Risha with our scholarship.

She epitomizes a selfless commitment to her friends, family, and community, tackling challenges head on with compassion and determination. We’re honored to be able to award this scholarship to such an amazing young lady.”

“Our cadets never cease to amaze us with their skills, interests, contributions and capabilities and Risha is the perfect example of that,” said Steve Davenport, President of the Chatham Emergency Squad. “As a member of the Monday day crew for two years and a valuable contributor to the Squad’s history archive and newsletter, Risha has brought together her various interests in ways that have truly benefited the Squad. This award isn’t automatically given to an eligible Squad member, so we are thrilled with her selection as the 2022 recipient of the Christine K. Grobert Chatham Emergency Squad Scholarship Award.”

ABOUT THE CHATHAM EMERGENCY SQUAD

The Chatham Emergency Squad is an all-volunteer organization funded nearly exclusively by donations and never charges for its services. The Squad provides stand-by support for community events, such as the Chatham Turkey Trot, Fishawack, and school athletic events. The Squad also provides free CPR training to residents, teachers, coaches, school crossing guards and emergency personnel, including fire and police. New members are welcome. To learn more, to donate or to volunteer, please visit chathamemergencysquad.org.



(above, l-r) Steve Davenport, President; Risha Surana, Scholarship winner; and Christine Grobert.

Courtesy photo

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GARDEN STATE LANDMARKS & AMAZING PLACES

Monday, August 1, 11:00 AM

Historian Paul White will be at the Senior Center to make a presentation about wonderful sites in New Jersey. Please call to sign up.

NONFICTION BOOK GROUP

Friday, August 5, 1:00 PM

All are welcome to join the discussion. The group will discuss "The Snow Leopard" by Peter Matthiessen.

CELEBRATE THE MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, August 11, Noon

Enjoy some cake and celebrate those with birthdays in August before watching the Thursday movie. Sponsored by Sunrise of Madison, Sunrise of Summit, and Brighton Gardens Florham Park.

SCRIPT READING

Tuesday, August 16, 12:45 PM

Join us for the popular script reading group. Roles assigned and scripts distribute at the session. Please call the Center to sign up.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Thursday, August 18, 11:45AM-12:30PM

Get your blood pressure checked for free. No appointment necessary; walk-ins welcome.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Mondays & Fridays, 10:00 AM

Game is played in the Municipal Township Gym. Sign up is required. Fee for July-September is \$20.

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 12:20 PM

The Gentle Exercise classes sequence is Balance & Flex on Mondays and Thursdays, and Gentle Stretch on Tuesdays. Instructor: Donna Sue Dowton. Contact Center for fee information and to sign up.

INTERMEDIATE EXERCISE CLASSES

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

9:00 AM

The Intermediate Exercise Classes sequence is Balance & Flex on Tuesday, Mat Stretch & Alignment on Wednesday, and Low Impact Cardio on Friday. Instructor: Donna Sue Dowton. Contact Center for fee information and to sign up.

PICKLEBALL

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 AM

Game is played in the Municipal Township Gym. Sign up is required. Fee is \$20 for July-September.

DVD LECTURE SERIES

Tuesdays, 10:30AM

Call the Center for current lecture topic. Sponsored by Brandywine Living at Summit.

THE WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Tuesdays, 1:00 PM

A social discussion group where women get to know one another by talking about issues and topics that interest them.

OPEN BRIDGE PRACTICE

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-Noon

The session is open to those who want to practice playing bridge. Bring some friends and we'll provide the cards. Call the Center the day before to confirm that play will be on.

RECENT RETIREES GROUP

Wednesdays, 10:30AM-Noon

Retiring from a job or career often leads to a shift in identity. There are certain expectations about how you are 'supposed' to feel. But many find they miss the camaraderie of colleagues, are bored, or are not sure what to do with their day. Retirees may also feel a loss of

professional identity and have questions about the future. These are all very normal parts of the transition to retirement. If you are struggling to define your next step and looking to connect with others in the same transition, join this support group facilitated by Claire Solu-Burd, LCSW. The group runs through August 17. Sign up is required.

NIFTY KNITTERS

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM

This active and social group gets together to create caps, blankets, and more for donation to local hospitals and veterans' organizations.

They welcome all knitters interested in contributing to their cause.

FREE PAINT

Thursdays, 10:00 AM-Noon

The art room is open for artists to work on their own creations using their own supplies.

MOVIES

Thursdays, 12:30 PM

A movie is shown every Thursday. Call Center for titles. A foreign film is shown once a month on a Friday at 12:30 PM. Call Center for date and details. Sponsored by Brandywine Living at Summit.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Fridays, 10:30 AM

A friendly and relaxed gathering of men who engage in lively discussion about current events, have some laughs, and exchange useful information over coffee.

BEGINNER KNITTING CLASS

Fridays, 11:30 AM

Learn how to knit from Center staffer Carol Eisenhardt. All materials provided. Free class.

Fee required as class progresses.

Sign up is required.

TABLE TENNIS

Five Days a Week, 12:30 PM

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THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

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SAGE WORKSHOP RENEWS LIFE FOR 20-YEAR-OLD FATHER'S DAY GIFT

Ed Midgley of Berkeley Heights received a bench as a Father's Day gift from his children. After years of outdoor weathering and exposure to the temperatures, it had fallen apart in a distant corner of his garden. While spring cleaning this year, Ed decided to have it refurbished at SAGE Workshop in Summit and it is now a focal point of curbside appeal for his home. "Coming into the workshop in the basement" said Ed, "is like coming into Santa's Workshop with every workstation abuzz with elves working on gifts for the holiday."

Simon Rosenstein, workshop volunteer, chose mahogany flooring to restore the bench. He measured, cut the wood planks to fit the originals, and painted the wrought iron back to its original glamour. "Repairing this bench for Ed was an honor," said Simon.

Since 1961, the SAGE Eldercare Workshop 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 its 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 over fifty years ago as a place for older men who no longer had access to a home workshop. Dozens of women have worked in the historically male enclave. Most volunteers are former professionals including investment bankers, college professors, physicians, and scientists. Over the years, they have taught each other caning, rushing and a myriad of other techniques needed to fix the aging furniture brought to them for restoration.

The Workshop is in the basement of the SAGE building located at 290 Broad Street, Summit and is easily accessible. 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.

ABOUT SAGE ELDERCARE

SAGE Eldercare supports the independence, wellbeing 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; Meals-on-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 sageeldercare.org.



(above) Ed Midgley of Berkeley Heights with bench after repairs.

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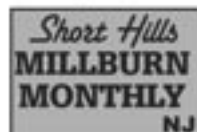
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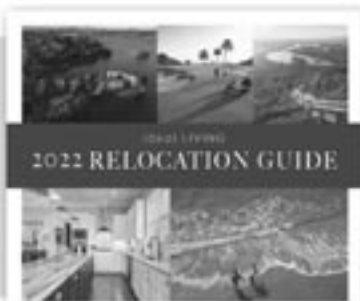
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