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ELIZABETH AND LINDEN PD JOIN “ARRIVE TOGETHER”

Acting Attorney Matthew J. Platkin has announced the expansion of a program that pairs a law enforcement officer with a certified mental health screener to respond together to 9-1-1 calls for behavioral health crises. The initiative, known as ARRIVE Together (“Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence & Escalation”), began operating a second pilot run jointly by the Elizabeth and Linden Police Departments in June. The expansion follows a pilot program that was first launched in December and operated out of the New Jersey State Police’s Cumberland County stations based in Bridgeton and Port Norris.

Under the expansion, a screener from Trinitas Medical Center will travel with a plainclothes Elizabeth or Linden police officer in the officer’s unmarked vehicle to respond to 9-1-1 calls for service relating to mental or behavioral health crises during shifts that originate in either the Elizabeth Police Department’s or Linden Police Department’s areas of responsibility. ARRIVE Together shifts will be held two times per week on days alternating between each police department. When not responding to reactive calls, the ARRIVE team will follow up with previous individuals served, as well as proactively visit individuals in the community known to law enforcement that would benefit from such outreach.

“The expansion of the ARRIVE Together initiative is the latest step in our effort to better assess and address behavioral health crises that law enforcement officers encounter and strengthen public safety across New Jersey,” said Acting Attorney General Platkin. “By piloting this program in two additional jurisdictions, we are broadening our goal of connecting those in crisis with the proper mental health resources they need, which in turn helps officers, counselors, and the communities we all collectively serve.”

“The Elizabeth and Linden Police Departments are proud to be a part of this response program,” said Chief Giacomo Sacca of the Elizabeth Police Department. “Police service to a community with separate and distinct needs



(above, l-r) Dr. Jim McCreath, VP of Behavioral Health at Trinitas Regional Medical Center; Dr. Pamela B. Jones, CEO of Communities In Cooperation, Inc.; Linden Police Chief David Hart, Acting New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin, Elizabeth Police Chief Giacomo Sacca, Union County First Assistant Prosecutor James Tansey, and Elizabeth Police Department Director Earl Graves.

Courtesy photo

varies based on dynamics of the incident. A single agency trained in one discipline is limited by their knowledge base. However, through team efforts like Arrive Together, we can ensure that we are pooling our resources for the best response possible.”

“The mental health crisis in our state has expanded exponentially over the past several years, and Police Officers are called upon to assist in these situations at an alarming rate,” said Linden Police Chief David Hart. “This program, combined with our existing initiatives and enhanced training, will further strengthen our relationships and help us better serve this vulnerable part of our community.”

“Trinitas is proud and excited to partner with the Attorney General and the Linden and Elizabeth police departments on this innovative pilot program,” said Dr. Jim McCreath, VP of Behavioral Health at Trinitas Regional Medical Center.

Across New Jersey, a significant proportion of uses of force by law enforcement involve a civilian identified as either suffering from mental illness or who is under the influence. The ARRIVE Together initiative is a recognition that this situation needs improvement, and a step towards achieving better outcomes.

For more information on the Attorney General’s Office’s initiatives to improve outcomes for individuals suffering from mental illness, intellectual disabilities and disorders, substance abuse, and other behavioral health concerns, please visit njoag.gov/behavioralhealth

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Elmora Hills Monthly

LOCAL CHORUS OFFERS FREE A CAPPELLA SINGING SESSIONS

The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International invites women singers to register for its free "Big Summer Sing." You can come any Wednesday, in August, 7 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ for chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part a cappella music.

Each week, guests will participate in vocal

and physical warm-ups and work on songs with the chorus. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more.

To register for the Big Summer Sing, please email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399. For more information, visit hickorytreechorus.org.



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FOURTEEN FROM ELIZABETH GRADUATE TRINITAS SCHOOL OF NURSING

Trinitas Regional Medical Center's School of Nursing recently celebrated 49 graduates at its 168th commencement ceremony. Included were Elizabeth residents Lory Y. Caicedo, Jacqueline Carpio, Keyla Janeth Cruz, Branden Embree, Taisha L. Georges, Sasha B. Gibbs, Tiana Lissette, Herrera Castillo, Mayra E. Leon-Machare, Annabel Mejia Rodriguez, Jasmina Milord, Juliana Z. Njuakang, Elizabeth Pena, and Jessica Pineda.

The graduation ceremony featured a traditional pinning ceremony that symbolizes a rite of passage into the professional world of nursing and the nurse's commitment to those they care for.

While nursing school is uniquely challenging for all who enroll, the students that made up Trinitas Regional Medical Center's School of Nursing class of 2022 faced unprecedented challenges throughout their two-and-a-half year nursing school journeys which started in January 2020 just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time the students navigated multiple

challenges with resilience including transitioning between remote and in-person learning multiple times, adhering to safety protocols including smaller clinical groups, social distancing, mandatory masking and face shields, COVID screening, weekly COVID testing and relocating on campus after Hurricane Ida flooded the Trinitas School of Nursing educational center on the Union County College Campus. Additionally, nursing students in the class of 2022 participated in vaccination efforts with supervision from faculty, administering some of the first COVID vaccines to the community.

"It is my pleasure to congratulate the Trinitas School of Nursing Class of 2022," said Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President & Chief Executive Officer, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, an RWJBarnabas Health facility. "The past two and a half years have been unexpected and unforgettable, but our nursing students rose to every challenge they were faced with. We are very proud of students as well as our faculty and

staff, for doing this important work during a very challenging situation, all while keeping with the mission of Trinitas Regional Medical Center upholding a commitment to providing high-quality care to a diverse population."

Established in 1891, the Trinitas School of Nursing is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Nursing Education, Inc. and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. In 1971, the school made a commitment to serve educationally disadvantaged students, the non-traditional, and those seeking a second career and/or career mobility. This commitment resulted in the formation of a Cooperative Nursing Program (CNP) in partnership with Union County College, which allows students in the CNP to graduate with a Diploma in Nursing from Trinitas School of Nursing and an Associates in Science from Union County College. Upon graduation, all students are also eligible to sit for the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurse Licensure. (NCLEX). For more visit trinitasschoolofnursing.org.



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The Scouting program instills character, good citizenship and physical fitness in youth through outdoor activities such as campouts and hikes, involvement in community activities, and just plain fun! Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 provide activities and training for boys of all faiths, from St. Genevieve's parish and the

(above) Cub Scout Athan Skamangas of Roselle Park helps retire old American flags by burning them in a ceremony on Flag Day, as his brother Christian waits his turn. Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 conduct the ceremony annually at St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth.

SCOUTS CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

To receive more details about the anniversary celebration, email webfoottroop@aol.com and write ANNIVERSARY on the subject line, or contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948.



(above) Boy Scout Troop 23 will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on Saturday, September 17. Troop 23 is known throughout the Scouting organization nationwide for its Webby Webfoot duck mascot and its iconic yellow t-shirts.

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Join Mayor J. Christian Bollwage As
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AMANI TO PERFORM AT NEW JERSEY'S MOST INTIMATE COFFEEHOUSE

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Amani, Saturday, August, 13 2022. The doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Amani means “peace” in Swahili. The group was formed to share the concept of peace through music.

The core veteran musicians are frontmen Stephan Fuller on vocals, and Marty Eigen on woodwinds. Amani is a collective with connections to dozens of talented musicians who perform alongside them regularly.

Amani performs hits from a variety of genres including: The American Songbook, Folk, Blues, Gospel, R&B, Jazz, Bossa Nova and Broadway.

Amani brings the sounds of the Caribbean to the Salem Roadhouse Café! Featuring hits by Harry Bellafonte, Jimmy Buffett, Bob Marley, Sunny Rollins and more, this joyful presentation will have you singing and dancing in the aisles. Amani features: Stephen Fuller, a dynamic bass/baritone singer; Marty Eigen, tenor and baritone sax; Domo, a steel drums, piano and vocalist virtuoso who will also excite the audience with a dance; Alex Gressel, Bass; Larry Greenburg piano; Gordon Lane, drums, along with Oloye Karade, percussionist.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

Salem Roadhouse Café is located at 829 Salem Rd., Union, NJ. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20, and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It's not “church music.” It's music music.

Folks who've come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The

WALK TO END LUPUS NOW SET FOR SEPT. 11

The Lupus Foundation of America, New Jersey Chapter, invites you to our 30th Annual Walk To End Lupus Now. Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at Nomahegan Park in Cranford, NJ as we walk for a cure and to assist people suffering from lupus. Form a team, or walk as an individual, to raise money. To register or donate visit: givebutter.com/FNpmmK or text 53-555 and type in: WALKLUPUS22. For more information, please call 973-379-3226.



Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What's the common thread? They're all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There's no message, just music.

The Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that's why we're located where we are. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.

But the many musicians who've played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here “really listen.” Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the

Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

Community Involvement

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Programs, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, Ukraine disaster relief, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities. The Salem Roadhouse Café, together with Townley Presbyterian Church, has begun a series of free outdoor concerts to help various urgent charitable causes. More are planned.



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Monday Movies

August 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 3:00 PM
(Every Monday)

Children's Program

Join us at Elmora Branch for a relaxing movie with the family. No registration required.

Zumba: Morning Exercise

Tuesday, August 2, 9, 18, 23, & 30
at 8:30 AM

Adult Program

Let's come and feel the energy! CALL 908-353-4820 TO RESERVE A SPOT. WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!

Elmora Garden

Tuesday, August 2 & 9 at 11 AM

Community Service Opportunity

Teen Program

Help the library by maintaining and watering the garden and doing decorative projects to enhance our peace garden.

Spades Club

Friday, August 5, 12, 19, & 26
from 4:00 - 5:30 PM (Every Friday)

Adult Program

Starting July 1st join our adult Spades Club!

Bring a friend to partner up with!

Beginners are welcome.

Creative Aging: Sculpture Workshop

Mondays, August 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11:00 AM
Adult Program

Come along and learn in our exclusive workshop. Learn how to make art from scratch! For older adults. Wear "studio" clothing. When signing up, you need to be committed to attending all 4 sessions. A limited number of spaces are available (15) with a waitlist

Crochet with Sol

Monday, August 8 & 15,
and Tuesday, August 9 & 16 at 11:00 AM

Adult Program

Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get started, from fundamental stitches to the importance of understanding gauge.

Boat Cinema

Monday, August 8 at 3:00 PM

Children's Program

Join us for a special Monday Movie. Children will create their boats made out of cardboard boxes. The kids get to sit in the DIY cardboard box boat and watch a movie on the screen while eating popcorn. Registration is required.

Craft-Tea & Chat

Tuesday, August 9 at 3:30 PM

Adult Program

Join us for our monthly Craft-Tea! Bring the craft you are working on to the library and socialize. We will have colored pencils, paper, and other crafting supplies available.

Adult Bingo

Wednesday, August 10 at 10:00 AM

Adult Program

Join us for a fun game of BINGO at the library! The winner will receive a FREE book! No registration required

Pot Painting

Wednesday, August 10 at 2:00 PM

Children's Program

At Elmora Branch Library join Ms. Martha for a fun time of story, singing, and painting flower pots!

Matinee Movie: King's Man

Thursday, August 11 at 1:00 PM

Adult Program

One man must race against time to stop history's worst tyrants and criminal masterminds as they get together to plot a war that could wipe out millions of people and destroy humanity.

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, August 13 at 1:00 PM

Children's Program

Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, crafts, and oh so much fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family.

Storytime at the Park

Wednesday, August 17 at 5:00 PM

Children's Program

We're bringing storytime to the park! Meet Ms. Martha at Bellevue Park for storytime and songs!

Matinee Movie: Aquaman

Thursday, August 18 at 1:00 PM

Adult Program

Once home to the most advanced civilization on Earth, the city of Atlantis is now an underwater kingdom ruled by the power-hungry King Orm. With a vast army at his disposal, Orm plans to conquer the remaining oceanic people -- and then the surface world. Standing in his way is Aquaman, Orm's half-human, half-Atlantean brother and true heir to the throne. With help from royal counselor Vulko, Aquaman must retrieve the legendary Trident of Atlan and embrace his destiny as protector of the deep.

Monday Movies

Monday, August, 18, & 23 at 10:00 AM
(Every Monday)

Children's Program

Join us at Elmora Branch for a relaxing movie with the family. No registration required.

Lego Hour

Friday, August 19 at 2:30 PM

Children's Program

Come and build an enormous tower or make a race car; the imagination is limitless!

Stitch & Chat

Wednesday, July 20 at 5:30 PM

Adult Program

Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Exploring Fall Crops

Saturday, August 20 at 10:00 AM

Adult Program

There is still time to plan! The fall offers an excellent opportunity to get a particular plant in the ground for an elite season harvest. Explore cold-weather crops and take home some of your own to grow!

Coloring For Adults

Tuesday, August 23 at 11:00 AM

Adult Program

Drop in for some relaxing coloring fun! Come discover the calming effects as well as meeting some good company!

Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, August 31 at 5:00 PM

Children's Program

Kids will share their love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading, and motivate kids to read.

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BICYCLE TOUR HELPS BUILD A GREENER, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Jonathan G. Phillips, Exec. Dir., Groundwork Elizabeth

Nearly 750 cyclists of all ages and skill levels attended the recent Annual Tour de Elizabeth. For 2022, the recreational 15-mile bicycle ride around the City of Elizabeth had as its theme, “Superheroes for a Super City” with many riders dressing up in costume as Superheroes. Participants were escorted along the route by members of the Elizabeth Police Department, enjoyed refreshments and participated in a free raffle.

“We have a great team of committee members that assist with the many details it takes to run the Annual Tour de Elizabeth. It’s a pleasure to coordinate this event each year, and to show off the many good things taking place here in the City to literally hundreds of cyclists,” explained Jonathan Phillips, Executive Director of Groundwork Elizabeth and Tour organizer. This year, riders passed through each of Elizabeth’s vibrant neighborhoods and visited sites along the Elizabeth River and Arthur Kill, including parks, marinas and the historic Singer Sewing Machine manufacturing plant.

The event attracted cyclists from throughout New Jersey and from as far away as Texas, Arizona and Massachusetts. Mayor J. Christian Bollwage was thrilled with the turnout of participants from around the City, State, and

country. “I think it is great that we are able to come together again for an event like this, not only to be able to support Groundwork Elizabeth and their endeavors, but to bring back the camaraderie of our residents or visitors from around New Jersey and beyond.”

Proceeds from the ride assist Groundwork Elizabeth’s work in urban agriculture, open space conservation and restoration, youth programming, and climate safe initiatives. A week before the Tour, the nonprofit grew and distributed 10,000 seedlings to local community gardeners. Final touches are being made to kickoff the first ‘microforest’ grown in Elizabeth. Youth are being taught skills in green careers and are speaking to policy makers like the Mayor of Elizabeth to get their voices heard. They are training to work at Morristown National Park, Gateway National Park, and the Paterson Great Falls National Park and bring skills learned there back to working in local Elizabeth and Union County parks, like the Elizabeth River Trail and Phil Rizzuto parks. Also, Groundwork youth are assisting getting the word out about the value of vaccines to continue fight the threat of COVID-19.

The Tour is scheduled the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend each year. For more

information on Groundwork’s projects and programs or to volunteer to make a Greener Elizabeth, click on Groundwork Elizabeth on social media sites, visit groundworkelizabeth.org or call Groundwork Executive Director Jonathan Phillips at 908-289-0262 ext. 203.



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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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