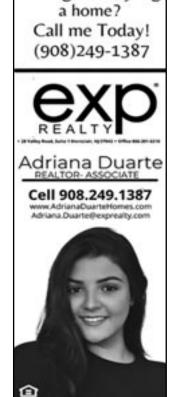


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Issue 149 • August 2022



Thinking about selling or buying

LINDEN POLICE OFFICER JOHN BYKO REMEMBERED

City of Linden Police Department

Members of the Linden Police Department gathered at Rosedale Cemetery on June 14, 2022 to honor the sacrifice of Linden Police Officer John Byko, who was killed on Friday, June 14, 1935. To date, Ofc. Byko remains the only Linden Police Officer to die in the line of duty.

Ofc. Byko was killed when the patrol car he was driving in was struck head-on by another vehicle on Route 1, formerly known as Route 25. His partner Officer Harry Weitzman was also seriously injured in the accident but survived.

The driver of that vehicle, Vincent Rodnick of Carteret, had lost his license following a fatal crash seven years earlier in which he crashed into a truck, killing his passenger. It was learned that Rodnick used a fake name to fraudulently obtain the registration for the vehicle that killed Ofc. Byko.

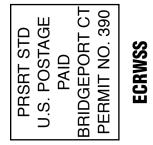
Rodnick plead guilty to a charge of causing death by automobile, was jailed for six months and deprived of his right to drive.

At the time of his death Officer Byko had served with the Linden Police Department for seven years. He was survived by his wife Mary and two children, John and Barbara.

Sadly, his sacrifice was forgotten until his death was discovered in an archived log book in 2010. Ofc. Byko's name was added to Union County Fallen Officers Memorial in October 2010, and to National Law Enforcement Memorial in 2013.



(above) Linden Police Officer John Byko





(above) A ceremony was held at Rosedale Cemetery on June 14, 2022 to honor the sacrifice of Linden Police Officer John Byko, who was killed on Friday, June 14, 1935.

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2022 National Night Out August 2nd 5PM -7PM

Free food, drinks, entertainment, and give aways for the whole family!

In front of Linden City Hall (301 N Wood Ave). Rainout Location at the Gregorio Center (330 Helen St.)

CHESS FOR FUN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

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

Chess for Fun is a casual group of chess 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.



chessinmillburn@gmail.com



(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.





INDEPENDENT AUTHORS BOOK EXPO TO BRING TOGETHER WRITERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

The Roselle, NJ-based nonprofit Independent Authors Book Experience (IABX) will be hosting its 9th annual book expo in person on Sat., Aug 6th, 11a.m. – 5 p.m., at Linden Public Library, 31 East Henry St, Linden, NJ. Authors from around the nation will be gathering together to share their original works and to promote the love of literacy to all ages, while attendees can enjoy readings from the authors, book signings, children's books giveaways and more.

"It's always such a pleasure hosting this outstanding event where book lovers, young and old, can gather and meet the writers of such unique stories," states Renaee Smith, founder and CEO of Independent Authors Book Experience. "This year, we are welcoming children's book writers, biography authors, sci-fi and fantasy works and lots of poets. All will have a chance to meet with interested readers, as well as have a chance to read an expert to the crowd."

In acknowledgement of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will be held outdoors. All CDC recommendations at that time will be followed. Forty authors and multiple vendors will be gathered together to showcase their work and create a fun event for all ages.

"Our annual expo is always a blast, and we won't let COVID-19 dampen our spirits," states Smith. "We look forward to meeting in person and hosting this intimate networking event. We are planning some exciting activities, including our regular children's corner for kids to listen to some new stories and take home some free crafts, giveaways for all who participate, and seminars for authors to help them along with their craft. There is something for everyone who attends."

The goal of the Expo is to also help novice authors find ways to make a living through the written word. Smith speaks from a position of experience - she is an international awardwinning author herself, pulling from her native Jamaica to write cook books, as well as writing children's picture books. She inherited her mother's passion for reading and literature, sharing her deep love for the arts at a young age.

Smith started IABX in 2014 with a goal to promote and empower independent authors through various events and workshops, thereby promoting literacy for all ages. To date, 300 writers from all over the nation have benefitted from the services offered by the nonprofit.

For more information about the event and how to register, visit: www.iabx.org/iabx-expo ABOUT INDEPENDENT AUTHORS BOOK EXPERIENCE

Independent Authors Book Experience (IABX) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and empower independent authors through events, workshops and author services, thereby promoting literacy for all ages. Since its creation, IABX has become a widelyrecognized hub of resources for the launch and promotion of new titles, including author profiles, book reviews, recommendations, event information, interviews and articles. Learn more about IABX at iabx.org.

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NICHAEL'S

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES The City of Linden Summer Concert Series lawn chairs as space permits.

continues thru September. All concerts are free and start at 7:30 p.m. They are held at the are held as scheduled at the JTG Recreation Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade, 400 North Wood Ave., Linden, NJ. Seating is first-come, first-served. Additional seating available for

In event of inclement weather, the concerts Center, 330 Helen St.

For up-to-date concert/rain information, call 908-474-8604 after 4:00 p.m.

Sensational Soul Cruisers - Motown
Linden's Bless the City Event - Linden Gospel Music
Funk Salsa Urban - Salsa
Valarie Adams & Dimension - Jazz
100 Proof - Country/Rock
Beatlemania - Beatles Tribute - Rock/Pop
Karickter Band - Jazz
Jersey Shades - 50s & Up
Gentlemen of Soul - Earth, wind & Fire Tribute - R&B
High Strung - Rock/Country
Van Halen Nation - Van Halen Tribute - Rock

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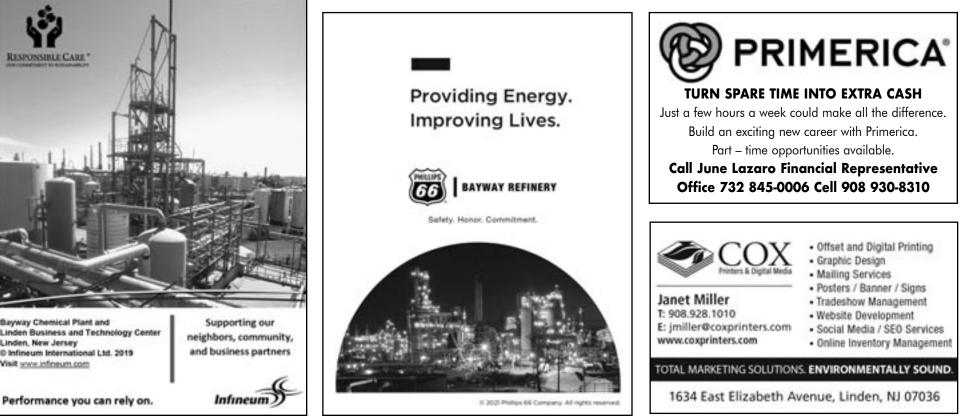
Adelines International invites women singers to register for its free "Big Summer Sing." You can come any Wednesday, in August, 7 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ for chord-ringing, fun-filled, fourpart a cappella music.

Each week, guests will participate in vocal and

The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet 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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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.

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 tendemess 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 ound sleep.



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 explain 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!

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.

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 fluoro scopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoros

copy 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 fluoros copy 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 more with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and - Patricia G. down steps with no pain."

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting - Perry O. hack to normal.

"After only four visits, i have absolutely no pain? The staff is "top-notch." Quenton L.



SUMMER MOVIE SERIES IN AUGUST

The Linden Public Library continues its popular summer movie series with ten films throughout August and to Labor Day, including a tribute to Tom Cruise on his 60th birthday with Tom Cruise Tuesdays, staring on August 9th. All movies are shown in the Columbia Bank Room and begin at 1:00 p.m. They are presented freeof-charge. The line-up is:

Chicago (2002; PG-13; 113 minutes) Wednesday, August 3rd **Connecting Flights (2021; NR; 95 minutes)** Friday, August 5th The Outsiders (1983; R; 93 minutes) Tuesday, August 9th Hollywoodland (2006; R; 126 minutes) Friday, August 12th Jerry Maguire (1996; R; 139 minutes) Tuesday, August 16th Cry Macho (2021; PG-13; 104 minutes) Friday, August 19th Collateral (2004; R; 120 minutes) Tuesday, August 23rd In Her Shoes (2005; PG-13; 130 minutes) Friday, August 26th Tropic Thunder (2008; R; 104 minutes) Tuesday, August 30th **Honeymoon in Vegas** (1992; PG-13; 96 minutes) Friday, September 2nd

CHILDREN'S FILM SERIES

Babe (1995; G; 91 minutes) Thursday, August 4 Underdog (2007; PG; 84 minutes) Thursday, August 11 Mouse Hunt (1997; PG; 98 minutes) Thursday, August 18 **Raya and the Last Dragon** (2021; PG; 107 minutes) Thursday, August 25

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Mythical Sea Creature Bingo Tuesday, August 2, 1:00 p.m., **Terrific Toddlers Story and Playtime** Wednesday, August 3, 10:00 a.m. Love to Read Club and Craft Thursday, August 4, 10:00 a.m. **Create You Own Comic and Creatures Club** Friday, August 5, 1:00 p.m. **Bermuda Triangle Escape Room** Tuesday, August 9, 1:00 p.m. **Terrific Toddlers Story and Playtime** Wednesday, August 10, 10:00 a.m. Love to Read Club and Craft

Thursday, August 11, 10:00 a.m. Located at 31 East Henry Street, the Linden Public Library has been at the center of the city's social, cultural, artistic and educational life since it was founded in 1928. If you have any questions about the film series or programs, please call the library at 908-298-3830 or check out the library's Facebook page or web site at www.lindenpl.org.

Be sure to "Like" the library on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Something else I see almost every day,

ANGELA THOMAS AND WINSHA JULIEN GRADUATE TRINITAS NURSING SCHOOL

Trinitas Regional Medical Center's School of Nursing recently celebrated 49 graduates at its 168th commencement ceremony. Included were Linden residents Angela R. Thomas and Winsha Julien.

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 highquality 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 nontraditional, 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.



Photo by Grace Photography



AMANI TO PERFORM AT NEW JERSEY'S MOST INTIMATE COFFEEHOUSE

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Amani, ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ 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 Cafe! 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.

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 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.





ADD 'THRIFT SHOPPING' TO YOUR AUGUST ADVENTURES

The 'Gift and Thrift Boutique' is found in The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, 2018 Dewitt Terrace in Linden, NJ. The Gift and Thrift Boutique will be open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 2 - 6 p.m. and on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Customers enter the main doors on Dewitt Terrace and follow the stairs to the store. The space is not handicap accessible. The Gift and Thrift Boutique features clothes, shoes, jewelry, kitchen and household items, decorations for the home, toys, CD's, DVD's and seasonal holiday materials. Hundreds of items... GREAT PRICES! All revenue supports the ministries of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist.

For more information, friend the Gift and Thrift Boutique on Facebook, call the church at 908 925-1535 or email giftandthriftboutique@yahoo.com.

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. То register or donate visit: givebutter.com/FNpmmK or text 53-555 and type in: WALKLUPUS22. For more information, please call 973-379-3226.





THE KIWANIS CLUB OF LINDEN

a collection for cleaning supplies and other items for donation to the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. The Coalition is located in Elizabeth, but also provides services/programs for individuals and families in surrounding Union County communities including Linden.

Various items are needed for the Coalition's temporary transitional housing program, that helps working, low-income individuals/families get back on their feet.

*Please – NO bleach products

Donation bins are located at the Linden Free Public Library and Linden City Hall. Please join the Kiwanis Club of Linden in this community service project. Ouestions can be directed Lois 908-296-5266 or June Lazaro, Bass. 908-930-8310.

For more information about the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless visit: https://www.theelizabethcoalition.org/

Kiwanis Club of Linden holds hybrid meetings monthly, on the fourth Thursday. Lunch is offered to those attending in person at 1301 Kent Place in Linden. The June meeting will be held on June the 26th, Thursday at 12 pm to 1 pm. One can attend in person or virtually via zoom.

The Kiwanis Club of Linden is spearheading Lois Bass, a retired employee from Infineum USA L.P., is our current President.

> Interested in having an impact on our youth and serving our community? Contact June Lazaro to be invited to one of our luncheons. For information on joining, contact June at 908-930-8310 or email her at junlazaro@verizon.net. Together we can positively impact the future by guiding children through leadership and community service. Thank you!

HOW CAN YOU HELP? BY DONATING NEW ITEMS* SUCH AS:

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• Soaps

• Pillows

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• Hand Towels

• Wash Cloths

• Shampoo

- Blankets

• Paper Plates

SUPERHERO WORKSHOP **FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

The Gateway Family YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA announced an exciting and unique new program, designed specifically for children with special needs and their parents. The Superhero Workshop is a collaboration with the Maker Depot Academy, and offers a 4-week program where children will use their imagination and creative skills to design their own superhero. At the end of the session, children will have a project to display, share and take home.

Registration for the August session is available online at tgfymca.org or in person at The Gateway Family YMCA - Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway where the program will be held. This program is open to the community and financial assistance is available.

"The Gateway Family YMCA has served the community since 1900," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "Our programs and services are essential in meeting the needs of everyone in the community."

The Gateway Family YMCA - Rahway Branch offers a variety of traditional YMCA programming like swimming lessons, youth sports and child care, as well as arts programming and education.

"We are proud to be a part of the community in Rahway, and our commitment to the Arts, as well as our extensive renovations of the Rahway Branch a few years ago," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "The Superhero Workshop is a fun and unique twist to traditional arts programming and we are excited to see this concept take off in our community."

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. Working locally, the Y focus on empowering young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across communities. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y ensure that all have access to the opportunities, relationships and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive.

For more information on The Gateway Family YMCA visit tgfymca.org or contact The Gateway Family YMCA – Rahway Branch at 732-388-0057 or rahwayinfo@tgfymca.org.

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ELIZABETH AND LINDEN PD JOIN "ARRIVE TOGETHER"

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

Acting Attorney Matthew J. Platkin has 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."



(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.

"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 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.

"With the noted influx of persons with mental health illnesses, the teaming of police and mental health professionals provide the balance required to determine lines of responsibility for the appropriate care of an individual," said Dr. Pamela B. Jones, CEO of Communities In Cooperation, Inc.

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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Courtesy photo



LIFE in LINDEN • Page 14 • August 2022 ELEMENTARY INVENTORS WIN THREE AWARDS IN STATEWIDE CHALLENGE

Gary Miller for Linden Public Schools

A team of technology students from Linden Schools No. 4 and No. 9 won three awards in the finals of the statewide STEAM Tank Challenge, drawing high praise from a panel of judges for their Read-O-Matic invention.

The students were honored for Arts and Creativity; J.E.D.I. (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion); and Social-Emotional Learning. Linden's team was one of more than 400 to enter the competition and was one of just 40 to make the finals after impressing the judges with their first-round presentation.

"The students were outstanding," said technology teacher Mitch Gorbunoff, who is guiding the students. "They spent the time between our last interview and this one conducting research, refining their prototype, and preparing for this interview, and they excelled in all areas. They became the experts and shared that expertise with highly qualified judges."

The Linden team is made up of the Student Vanguard technology club at School No. 4 and the fifth-grade Gifted & Talented students at School No. 9. They are Jayden Countrymen, Izabelle Rivera, Eva Bien, Heidy Yanes, Izurum Efobi, and Andrea Rivas from School No. 4, and Philipe Pajishvili, Mark Prieto, Rasha Bashir, Mohammed Shawir, and Nina Szczurowski from School No. 9.

The STEAM Tank Challenge encourages students and teachers to work collaboratively in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). It also supports the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The program was created by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) and is sponsored by the U.S. Army.

"I believe the students' background knowledge and ability to clearly explain how the Read-O-Matic works impressed the judges," Gorbunoff said. "Several of the judges had a personal connection to the struggle of learning to read, so this invention resonated with them."

The Read-O-Matic is designed to help students learn letter sounds then blend them together. The students demonstrated the invention on May 20 virtually from the School No. 4 reading room to a panel of judges made up of educators from around the state. They took turns showing different features of the invention and explaining stages of their research and development.

Gorbunoff and the students were supported at the presentation by School No. 4 Principal Dr.

Suzanne Olivero, School No. 9 Acting Principal Antoinette Modrak, Supervisor of Instructional Technology Joseph Scaldino, School No. 4 Vice Principal Rosalia Kolibas, and School No. 9 Gifted & Talented teacher Stephanie Webb.

Judges told the students that with more work, they could patent the Read-O-Matic to allow it to be used in classrooms to help young students learn how to read, or even for adults learning a new language.

"The students are super excited to see what happens next," Gorbunoff said. "Next year our focus will be to distribute the Read-O-Matic to different classrooms across the district to gather data on the effectiveness of their invention, refining the programming and the design, and working with an attorney to secure a provisional patent on the idea."

The Read-O-Matic uses a device called a Makey Makey, which allows any conductive material to be turned into a keystroke. Students use Scratch, a programming website, to code specific sounds each time certain keys are pressed. Students form letters out of Play-Doh then place these letters on metal squares on the board. When the student presses on their Play-Doh letter, they hear the correct letter sound.

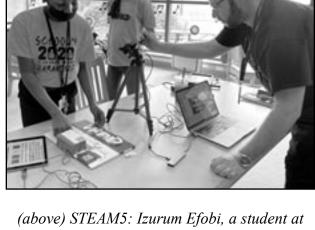
"You can see the growth in these students that this process helped facilitate," Gorbunoff said. "The future of the Read-O-Matic is bright to be sure, but it's these students and their potential that shines the brightest."

(continued on page 15)



(above, l-r) Technology students from Schools No. 4 and No. 9 in Linden won three awards in the statewide STEAM Tank Challenge. From left are Izurum Efobi, Rasha Bashir, Nina Szczurowski, technology teacher Mitch Gorbunoff, Philipe Pajishvili, Heidy Yanes, Mark Prieto, Andrea Rivas, Mohammed Shawir, Gifted & Talented teacher Stephanie Webb, Eva Bien, Jayden Countrymen, and Izabelle Rivera.





(above) STEAM5: Izurum Efobi, a student at School No. 4 in Linden, and technology teacher Mitch Gorbunoff demonstrate the Read-O-Matic invention during a virtual presentation on May 20 in the finals of the statewide STEAM Tank Challenge. The Linden team won three awards in the competition.



Photos by Linden Public Schools

Houses

• Decks

Roofs

Patios

Fences

Siding

Gutters

And More

Driveways

INVENTORS WIN (continued from page 14)



(above) Technology teacher Mitch Gorbunoff and students from Schools No. 4 and No. 9 get ready for their virtual presentation to a panel of judges in the finals of the statewide STEAM Tank Challenge on May 20. The team won three awards for their Read-O-Matic invention.



(above) Linden Public Schools administrators showed their support for their elementary school students as they presented on May 20 in the finals of the statewide STEAM Tank Challenge, where they won three awards for their Read-O-Matic invention. From left are School No. 9 Acting Principal Antoinette Modrak, School No. 4 Principal Dr. Suzanne Olivero, Supervisor of Instructional Technology Joseph Scaldino, School No. 9 fifth-grader Rasha Bashir, and School No. 9 Gifted & Talented teacher Stephanie Webb.



(above) STEAM4: Students from Schools No. 4 and No. 9 in Linden responding to judges' questions during their virtual presentation in the finals of the statewide STEAM Tank Challenge on May 20. The team won awards for Arts and Creativity; J.E.D.I. (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion); and Social-Emotional Learning.

YMCA'S 7TH GRADE INITIATIVE

The Gateway Family YMCA Registration opens on August 15th for the 2022-2023 class of 7th Grade Initiative members at The Gateway Family YMCA. As part of the NJ YMCA 7th Grade Initiative, a state-wide program designed to support and encourage teens to maintain a healthy lifestyle, The Gateway Family YMCA offers a supportive 7th Grade Leaders Club program and complimentary membership for all 7th Grade Students in the local community. Upcoming 2022-2023 7th Grade students are invited to visit the YMCA and join with proof of grade and a guardian's signature. Registration is available at The Gateway Family YMCA - Elizabeth Branch -135 Madison Avenue, Five Points Branch -201 Tucker Avenue, Union, Rahway Branch - 1564 Irving Street, Rahway and Wellness Center Branch – 1000 Galloping Hill Rd, Union.

The goal of the 7th Grade Initiative is to increase physical activity and support teens in the development of lifetime healthy habits, volunteerism and leadership skills while providing a safe and supportive environment with role models at the YMCA.

"We recognize that 7th grade is a pivotal time in youth development, and are committed to support the youth in our community. Many teens become sedentary as sports become more competitive," stated Krystal. R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "Now, more than ever, our 7th grade students need activity and socialization, and role models to provide healthy habits to last a lifetime."

As part of the 7th Grade Initiative at The Gateway Family YMCA, students can become a part of the 7th Grade Leader's Club, a structured program offering teens leadership and volunteer opportunities. With a focus on team building, personal growth, character development, service and volunteerism, the 7th Grade Leader's Club empowers teens to create a chart of work specific to the needs within their community and provides support for projects to strengthen community.

Students participate in programs and services offered by the YMCA, and receive a complimentary Full Privilege membership including health and wellness options, swimming, group exercise, as well programs designed exclusively for teens. "Our goal is to provide ongoing support for 7th grade students, assisting them to strengthen healthy behaviors, increase activity, gain a better understanding of nutrition and develop leadership skills to assist in their development and future," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA's 7th Grade Initiative, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch at 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch at 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch at 732-388-0057 or Wellness Center Branch at 908-349-9622.

LIFE in LINDEN • Page 16 • August 2022



Nancy (Nigro) Gersick 1/29/1933 - 6/23/2022



(above) Ralph and Nancy Gersick celebrating thier 25th Wedding Anniversary in 1984.

Nostalgic photos of Linden by Nancy Gersick can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Life in Linden page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share".



(above) Video from the 1992 Linden Debutant Ball can be found on Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network channel on Youtube.

REST IN PEACE, NANCY GERSICK

Linden, NJ entered into eternal rest on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Nancy was born and raised in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, the daughter of the late Joseph Nigro and Mary (Nufrio) Nigro. She moved to Linden in 1959 after marrying lifelong Linden resident Ralph Gersick, who passed away in 1996.

Nancy was the bookkeeper for several businesses that she and Ralph ran from her home office including RTG Trucking Co., F&M Trucking, and Linden Sandfill. Nancy and Ralph were also co-owners in The Charade, a bar on Elizabeth Avenue in Linden, and The Cotillion Room, a banquet hall on the same property. Previously she was a secretary for Joseph H. Rinfeld Liquor House in Union for 12 years.

Nancy and Ralph Gersick gave generously of thier time and resources to community services benefitting the residents of Linden. Nancy dedicated her life to helping others. She gave tirelessly of her time and energy, never asking anything in return. Her involvement with the Linden Lion's Club is legendary. She was also a member of the Pulaski Day Parade Committee, an honorary Pole though marriage. She was also active in the Vallatese Ladies Society of Elizabeth, a social club of descendents of Vallata, her family's hometown in Italy.

Most of all Nancy cared for her family and friends. Having no children of her own, she took

Frances (Nigro) "Nancy" Gersick, 89, of on the role of second mother to all her nieces and nephews, for both her Nigro family as well as the Gersick clan. Her first nephew, Joe Delorenzo was born in 1943. The number of nieces and nephews that followed, including great, and great great nieces and nephews, is incalculable. Yet, she embraced each as her own.

In addition to doting on her family, Nancy was and a caring neighbor and friend, caring for anyone in need. She enjoyed the company of her close friends and fellow club members. They had a knack of making thier community service spectacular and enjoyable.

As the years went by, Nancy, blessed with youthful good health, was the one to care for those who needed rides to doctor appointments, needed some shoping done or just needed some one to listen. It would seem that her entire day was spent caring for others. She outlived many of her closest friends. Maybe, at that point, she felt it was time to go and join them. Her work was done.

To everyone who knew her, nancy was an angel on Earth. Everyone who knew her is better for it. If the greatest lessons in life can be learned by example, Nancy was the greatest teacher.

One can only hope to have an Aunt Nancy in our life. Those of us who have are blessed. It would be a challenge, but one with heavenly rewards, if we could pay her compassion and generosity forward.



(above) Nancy Gersick, back center, with fellow officers of the Vallatese Ladies Society in 2007.



(above, l-r) Linden Lion club members Josephine Caggiano, Nancy Gersick, Joan Silver, and Viola O'Brien in 2000.



(above) This photo is from the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City from 1996. Nancy Gersick loved taking photos and documented many Linden events including those of the Pulaski Day Parade Committee.

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1982 P.A.L. LITTLE LEAGUE



1984 P.A.L. LITTLE LEAGUE

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Life in Linden page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share".

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and custom orders, just ask!



"Cold or warm Beer = Same Price" "Visit the store for more In-Store Specials!"

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