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CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by Lori White

Two graduating seniors of Summit High School, April Sanchez and Natalie Peralta, have been awarded the 2022 Christ Child Society of Summit Scholarship of \$2,500 each. The Scholarship is awarded to students who have displayed academic achievement, worked or volunteered with children who have financial need.

April and Natalie were chosen from among 16 applicants because of their dedication to succeed in school, their contribution to their communities and families and their independent spirit. April Sanchez will be attending Gettysburg College this fall and plans to pursue a career in Human Resources. Natalie Peralta will be attending Bowdoin College this fall and will be studying Pre-Medicine.

The Christ Child Society of Summit is a nondenominational not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving children in our community. In addition to the annual scholarship, we help children in need by providing school supplies to Summit students each August and layettes to babies of need at Overlook and Morristown Hospitals throughout the year.

For more information

visit christchildsummit.org.



(above) Christ Child Society of Summit Committee Members: Donna Groskoph, Maura Perier, Bev Luehs, Jane Murphy, Jackie Browne. Missing from photo: Leslie Drummond and Allison Lees.



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Summit LTimes

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BEVERLY BROWN RECOGNIZED FOR EMS EXCELLENCE

Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad received the 2022 Excellence in EMS Award from Overlook Medical Center. An active member for nearly 40 years, Beverly joined the Squad as a Junior member while in high school, continued to serve the Squad while on school breaks during her college years and retuned as an adult member after graduation.

The Summit First Aid Squad has been a big part of Beverly's life. Both of her parents were long time Squad members, her husband also joined the Squad and their daughter served as a Junior member as well. Beverly has held numerous offices over the years including 3 years as Captain and is currently the Crew Chief of the Friday night shift. An experienced critical care nurse, Beverly also serves on the Squad's call review committee. During the pandemic, Beverly remained active and often stepped in to cover open shifts. She continues to serve on at least one, often two Saturday night shifts each month and is also one of our most frequent responders to back-up calls when we need a 2nd or 3rd crew. Beverly's commitment to the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad epitomizes the dedication that has made our organization so successful. Beverly was nominated for the award by Summit First Aid Squad Chief Chief John Staunton.

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad, responds to emergency calls 24/7, is entirely funded through

Beverly Brown, a long-time member of the private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided. For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad 908-277-9479, please call or visit summittems.org.



(above) Beverly Brown and Chief John Staunton.

Courtesy photo

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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.

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 it would be helpful if you can.

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. It their earlier years the group met at the 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



(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.



notice. Fees could reduce earnings on the accounts. 3) Kickstart Savings is a blended rate tiered account with dividends paid on portions of your balance falling within designated tiers: \$0.00 - \$2,500.00: 2.02% APY; \$2,500.01 - \$5,000.00: 2.02% APY; \$5,000.01 - \$7,500.00: 2.02% - 1.68% APY; \$7,500.01 - \$10,000.00: 1.68% - 1.51% APY; \$10,000.01 and above: 1.51% - 0.02% APY. \$100 minimum balance to open. There is a \$100 minimum daily balance requirement to avoid a \$10 monthly maintenance fee. Limit of one Kickstart Savings account per tax identification number. 4) Ultra Savings is a blended rate tiered account with dividends paid on portions of your balance falling within designated tiers: \$0.00 - \$100,000.00: 1.61% APY; \$100,000.01 - \$250,000.00: 1.61% APY; \$250,000.01 - \$500,000.00: 1.61% APY; \$500,000.01 - \$1,000,000.00: 1.61% APY; \$1,000,000.01 - \$2,000,000.00: 1.61% - 0.81% APY; \$2,000,000.00: 1.51% APY; \$2,000,000.00: 0.81% - 0.33% APY; \$5,000,000.01 and above: 0.33% - 0.17% APY. \$100,000 minimum balance to open. There is a \$100,000 minimum daily balance requirement to avoid a \$100 monthly maintenance fee. Limit of one Ultra Savings account per tax identification number.

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP-OFF BOX AT CITY HALL

The Summit Police Department has a prescription drug drop-off box located on the first floor of City Hall for residents to use to safely dispose of unused, unwanted, or expired medications. All medications should be removed from their original packaging and placed into a zip lock bag before being deposited into the drop-off box. There should be no personal information listed on any bags that are placed in the drop-off box. Learn more at cityofsummit.org/police.



EXPLORE NEW SIGHTS AND DESTINATIONS

Summit Free Public Library's Museum Pass program offers free and discounted visits to local museums and attractions.

"This summer, let your imagination take flight at The Intrepid Museum, explore history at The Eastern State Penitentiary, connect with nature at The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, discover art at The Guggenheim and Museum of Modern Art, engage in playful learning experiences at Imagine That!!! and more," said Amy Behr-Shields, Summit Library Director. "Our passes are available at no cost for Summit Free Public Library cardholders." Library cards are available to residents, employees, students, and property owners in Summit NJ, as well as paid members.

"Our museum passes are easy to reserve from home by going to our website or downloading our new Summit Free Public Library app. Patrons



can check out the passes for three (3) days and reserve passes months in advance," said Tahirah Clarke, Head of Circulation. "With these passes, the library and museums provide opportunities for our community to grow and advance through education, interaction, and entertainment."

Here is a complete list of passes available to Library card holders:

Brooklyn Botanical Garden, The Frick Collection, Guggenheim, Imagine That!!!, Intrepid Museum, MoMA, Morris Museum, Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, New York Historical Society, Storm King Art Center, Thomas Edison Center Menlo Park, American Museum of Natural History

Cardholders can also receive \$3 off a regular priced ticket (Adult \$29.99/Child \$24.99) or 10% off a membership to Liberty Science Center. And don't forget: entry to all of New Jersey's state parks, forests, and recreation areas is free of charge all summer long.

To access available museum passes, or for more information, visit the Library's website at: summitlibrary.org/museum-passes, or call the Library at: 908-273-0350, option 3.

The Museum Pass Program is part of the Library's mission to inform, enrich, and inspire members of the Summit community by making educational events and venues more accessible to the public. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library.



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12 Colt Rd	5	4.1	2	\$2,150,000	\$2,712,500	9
17 Warwick Rd	5	4.2	2	\$2,495,000	\$2,550,000	8
28 Dorchester Rd	5	4.1	2	\$2,395,000	\$2,375,000	15
9 High St	4	3.1	2	\$1,775,000	\$2,005,000	11
32 Greenfield Ave	5	4.1	1	\$1,650,000	\$1,800,000	5
90 Druid Hill Rd	5	3.2	2	\$1,675,000	\$1,766,000	10
8 Woodcroft Rd	4	2.2	2	\$1,579,900	\$1,750,000	19
8 Oakland Pl	5	2.1	2	\$1,495,000	\$1,615,000	31
13 Beekman Ter	3	3.0	1	\$1,085,000	\$1,215,000	5
174 Springfield Ave	5	2.2	2	\$950,000	\$959,000	20
218 Mountain Ave	3	2.1	2	\$799,000	\$810,000	15
134 Kent Place Blvd	3	1.1	1	\$810,000	\$810,000	3
197 Ashland Rd	3	2.1	2	\$825,000	\$800,000	19
7 Stony Hill Ct	3	1.1	1	\$675,000	\$680,000	19

Source: GSMLS, select properties sold 6/22/022-7/18/2022



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If your property is currently listed with another Realtor, this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Each office independently owned and operated. Equal housing opportunity. Some homes may be solid and listed by other brokers.

VILLAGE GREEN CONCERTS AND MOVIES

The City of Summit Department of Community Programs summer movies and concerts continue in August on the Village Green, located at 356 Broad Street in Summit.

Presented by Investors Bank, the 2022 Hot Summer Nights Concert Series will feature a variety of bands on the Village Green on Tuesday nights beginning at 7 p.m. This year's lineup includes the Little Mermen on August 9, and Brian Kirk & the Jirks on August 16.

The 2022 Screen on the Green Movie Series will also take place on the Village Green, on Thursday nights in August. The series will feature Paw Patrol 2 on August 4. A family dance party will begin at 7:15 p.m., and the movie will be shown at dark. Attendees may purchase food from the featured food truck of the week. The rain date will take place the following Monday.

All concert and movie attendees are asked to bring their own blankets and chairs. Admission to all concerts and movies is free. All events held by the City of Summit are alcohol and tobaccofree events.

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2022 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 2 ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

Department of Community Programs are announcing the 2022 National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, beginning at 6 p.m. on the Village Green, located at 365 Broad Street.

Summit will join thousands of communities around the United States to celebrate National Night Out, a community-building event that takes place annually on the first Tuesday of August. Featuring a variety of state, federal, and municipal level agencies, National Night Out provides a chance for community members to come together with law enforcement individuals.

The event will feature displays and demonstrations by the US Coast Guard, US

The Summit Police Department and National Guard, Union County SWAT, NJ State Police, and K-9 unit, along with Summit Police, Fire, EMS, and Division of Public Works.

> Food trucks, bounce houses, and other amusements will open at 6 p.m., followed by the annual Blessing of the Badges at 7 p.m. Twice Heard will perform a concert at 7:15 p.m. on the main stage on the Village Green. Free hot dogs will be provided at the Summit PAL food cart.

> Summit's 2022 National Night Out is sponsored by Ray Catena Mercedes-Benz of Union and Paul Ippolito Memorial.

> details Event are available at summitcommunityprograms.com. For more information on National Night Out, visit.natw.org.

THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION **DONATES \$14,000 TO CARING CONTACT**

Trustees of the Summit Foundation, presented a \$14,000 grant to Caring Contact on June 10, 2022.

For 50 years, the Summit Foundation has served the community by growing and granting philanthropic resources to address local needs. During the last 5 years alone, they invested \$5.3 million through grants, scholarships, communitysupported funds, and donor-advised distributions.

"On July 16th the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline changed its' 10-digit phone number to "988", making it easier for those in emotional distress to get the help they need. With this change will come an increase in calls to Caring Contact", said Mary Claire Givelber, Executive Director of Caring Contact. "The Summit Foundation's generosity will ensure that Caring Contact has more trained listeners available to answer these calls."

Caring Contact's goal for 2022 is to answer over 6,000 calls from the Lifeline. We provide this support through our amazing staff of highly

Julie Keenan, President of the Board of trained Volunteer Crisis Line workers. We currently have over 90 volunteers and will begin our 101th training session this September. The Summit Foundation's support allows us to continue training more volunteers which enables us to help more individuals in distress.

> Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed caring and crisis hotline providing active listening support and best-inclass education to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. They attentively and compassionately serve those in emotional distress and educate communities about the power of personal connection. Caring Contact is accredited by the International Center for Helplines, a member agency of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and the American Association of Suicidology. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Caring Contact, visit caringcontact.org. Ringcontact.org If you, or someone you know, is in crisis and need someone to listen, call us at 800.273.8255. You are not alone.



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SUMMER BICYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Summit Police Department Community Policing Unit's citywide bicycle safety program will run until the end of August. The program is sponsored by Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI).

To encourage children to practice bicycle safety, Summit police officers will distribute \$5 gift cards to children that they observe demonstrating proper bicycle safety techniques. such as wearing a helmet, using hand signals and obeying traffic laws.

"With schools out for summer recess, our officers see more children riding around town on bicycles," explains Summit Police Acting Chief Steven Zagorski. "Through this program, we hope to encourage kids to employ responsible, safe bicycle skills and to be safe on the road."

The gift cards have been donated by SDI and can be used at a variety of Summit businesses. A list of participating businesses is available at: summitdowntown.org/gift-cards/

5 NEW EAGLE SCOUTS HONORED

Scouts BSA Troop 63

Families, friends, and local dignitaries recently gathered at New Providence Presbyterian Church to honor 5 young men who earned the Boy Scouts of America's highest advancement rank: Eagle Scout. The 5 new Eagle Scouts from BSA Troop 63 are: Michael Staunton of Summit, Haitham Awad, Bauer Crooks, Gyan Ghoda, and Ivan Grandov of New Providence. Each has held various leadership positions during their scouting career. Gyan Ghoda and Michael Staunton are also members of the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of Scouting. Troop 63 was charted in 1927 and has since seen 121 of its members become Eagle Scouts.

Part of the Eagle Scout Ceremony is to invite all previous Eagle Scouts present to come on stage to congratulate those joining their ranks. Over 20 such members were on hand to do so. Mayor Al Morgan, Councilwoman Diane Bilicska, and Councilman Rob Munoz were

among those in attendance as was Senior Pastor Jeff Lee who had also earned his Eagle Scout rank with Troop 63. Each new Eagle Scout also received congratulatory letters from members of the New Jersey Assembly and Senate as well as our US Senators and Congressman.

During the ceremony, Bauer Crooks and Michael Staunton were also awarded the Bronze Palm for earning additional Merit Badges beyond the Eagle requirements.

Bauer Crooks is a Junior at Seton Hall Prep, Hiatham Awad and Ivan Grandov are Seniors at New Providence High School. Gyan Ghoda and Michael Staunton are Seniors at the Academy for Information Technology in Scotch Plains.

Scouts BSA Troop 63 welcomes new members. The Troop meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. during the school year at The Presbyterian Church at New Providence, 1307 Springfield Avenue. For more information, visit: troop63np.org or email scouts@troop63np.org.



(above) The 5 new Eagle Scouts from BSA Troop 63 are: Michael Staunton of Summit, Haitham Awad, Bauer Crooks, Gyan Ghoda, and Ivan Grandov of New Providence.





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ELKS LODGE 1246 AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

announce that we have four winners of the New Jersey Elks Scholarship contest, \$4,000.00 (\$1,000.00 for four years) and one runner up a memento of this proud occasion. who received a one-time award of \$700.

The winners of the four-year scholarships are: MaryKate Cahill, Victoria Feuer, Anna

Summit Elks Lodge 1246 is proud to Fiamingo, Summer McCullen. The runner up is: Alexander Fudenna

Each of the winners received a silver dollar as

The awards ceremony was held in the lodge on June 15, 2022. The runner up received a set of coins.



(above) MaryKate Cahill, Summer Mc Cullen, and Alexander Fudenna with Exalted Ruler, Rick Wolffe and Lodge Scholarship Chairman John DeSocio.





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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; Mealson-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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(above) Bench before repairs.





• Patios • Curbs

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PETER FRANK RETIRES

City of Summit

The Summit Police Department recently celebrated the retirement of Detective Sergeant Peter Frank who served the City of Summit for the past 27 years.

Sergeant Frank began his law enforcement career in 1993 in Pennsylvania with the Coatesville and Parkesburg police departments. He was hired by Summit in January 1995 and began work as a patrol officer after graduating from the John H. Stamler Police Academy in June 1995.

Sergeant Frank began serving in the Detective Bureau in 1999 and was promoted to Sergeant in 2003. After his promotion, Sergeant Frank returned to the Patrol Bureau as a supervisor. In 2011, Sergeant Frank returned to the Detective Bureau where he served as a supervisor on investigations, crime scene processing, and interrogations. Sergeant Frank served as a firearms instructor for many years and as Range Master until his retirement in June.

Sergeant Frank has been the recipient of two Summit Police Department Unit Citation Awards, the Croix de Negotiator Laurel Award, and countless letters of commendation and appreciation for his dedication to serving the residents and business owners of Summit.



(above) Detective Sergeant Peter Frank Photo by City of Summit



CHARLIE ROBERTSON PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

City of Summit

Detective Charlie Robertson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Summit Police Department on June 16, 2022.

Sergeant Robertson graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He attended the Somerset County Police Academy as an Alternate Route candidate and graduated in 2005.

In July 2005, Sergeant Robertson was sworn in as a Police Officer with the Summit Police Department and was initially assigned to the Patrol Bureau. In 2013, he was assigned to the Detective Bureau, where he handled the investigation of crimes, processed crime scenes, participated in interviews and interrogations, and handled the executions of warrants. In 2021, Sergeant Robertson was assigned to the Union County Narcotics Strike Force from July to September. In 2022, Sergeant Robertson was reassigned to the Patrol Bureau and has acted in the capacity as an Officer in Charge in the absence of a supervisor. He also currently serves as Resiliency Program Officer for the department.

Sergeant Robertson has been the past recipient of the Meritorious Service Award, two unit citations, and numerous commendation letters from both county and federal level law enforcement agencies regarding his work on investigations for indictable cases. He has previously served as Summit PBA Local # 55 President from 2016 to 2020.

When not working, Sergeant Robertson enjoys playing golf, skiing, and spending time with his family and friends.



(above) Sergeant Charlie Robertson

Photo by City of Summit



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REMEMBERING DETECTIVE MATTHEW TARENTINO

Joe Parisi from Sup Bro (middle left) and sponsor Adam Rempfer owner of Defalco's Towing in Chatham (middle right) recently presented Victoria Proctor (middle) and her children with a portrait of Summit Police Detective Matthew Tarentino created by artist Elle McCarthy. Detective Tarentino died in the line of duty five years ago on May 30, 2017. They

Joe Parisi from Sup Bro (middle left) and onsor Adam Rempfer owner of Defalco's owing in Chatham (middle right) recently esented Victoria Proctor (middle) and her National are joined in this photo by Summit Police Captain Rick Proctor (far right) and Juvenile Detective Sean Thompson (far left) and Police Officer David Kotiga (next on left).

> The mission of Sup Bro is to assist families of first responders who are injured or killed in the line of duty. Visit supbro.org for more information.







*Some expiration dates apply so don't delay

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NEW DOWNTOWN MURAL

Summit Downtown, Inc.

Many visitors to downtown Summit may have noticed the ongoing work that started in July on the 6' tall wall on Union Place behind the Summit Diner between the diner and the building that houses Pizza Vita. Well, Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) contracted with artist Kevin O'Connell and coordinated with Summit Diner owners Jimmy & Michelle Greberis to improve the appearance of the wall, which is made of cinderblock, painted white, and has a plywood door to the back area of the railcar diner. The result has created quite a buzz already even though the mural was just completed on Sunday, July 17th.

Kevin O'Connell is a renowned muralist with works all over the country, especially in the New York City area given that he lives in South Orange. For more than thirty years, he has been painting letters and pictures on every imaginable surface, from billboards to brick walls, storefronts to stage flats, gallery walls to canvases, museums to kitchens. His years painting huge pictorial signs in the outdoor advertising industry taught him how to work at unimaginable scale and to satisfy the most demanding art directors in New York City. More about Kevin can be found on his website.

SDI has been working within its Design & Beautification Committee, with representation from Summit Public Art, for over a year to choose the artist and has been collaborating with him to determine the design of the mural. What resulted through various design renditions and revisions is a lovely combination of whimsy and charm that reflects the beauty of the City of Summit and its beautiful, historic downtown.

SDI works with the City of Summit on many initiatives in its day-to-day management of the downtown Special Improvement District while creating events to draw people downtown and marketing initiatives to promote the business district to the surrounding market. SDI also just finished having over 80 of the downtown tree wells replanted or embellished with more perennials to further beautify downtown Summit; and SDI is also responsible for the market string lights that line the streets and cross Maple Street downtown. "While SDI is most recognized for the Summit Farmers Market, Family Fun Night and other downtown events,' said Executive Director Nancy Adams, "The beautification of downtown Summit is also part of what SDI works on to create an atmosphere that people want to keep returning to, which in turn supports the wonderful businesses here."



(above) Kevin O'Connell is a renowned muralist with works all over the country.



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INDEPENDENT AUTHORS BOOK EXPOACROSS

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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