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GROUNDWORK KEEPS COOL BY BUILDING MICROFORESTS

Groundwork Elizabeth

On August 2, 2022, Groundwork Elizabeth's Executive Director Jonathan Phillips announced support from the Bezos Earth Fund and Groundwork USA, the organization's national affiliate, to develop local projects called "MicroForests" to help mitigate the effects of climate challenges. The press event was held at the Groundwork Elizabeth MicroFarm and Environmental Center, in the backyard of the Elmora Branch of the Elizabeth Public Library.

Groundwork Elizabeth will use funds from the Bezos Earth grant to build four of these MicroForests within the City of Elizabeth. Youth from Groundwork's Youth Initiative programs will assist in planning and construction.

The concept for planting these tiny urban forests was inspired by a Japanese botanist, Dr. Akira Miyawaki. Groundwork planted the region's first micro-forest in December 2021 on City-owned property behind the Elizabeth Public Library's Elmora Branch to provide relief from climate issues such as heat islands. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, heat islands happen when a building or road is hotter than an outlying area. Buildings and roads re-emit heat into the area, while green areas such as forests and water absorb a majority of the heat. Financial and in-kind support from the NJ Conservation Foundation and parties within the Community Foundation of NJ were key to the pilot project.

Groundwork plans on helping other urban communities as well. Urban areas are extremely vulnerable to the dangers of a hotter and wetter climate due to high population densities, impervious surfaces, a network of busy roadways, industry, and a lack of tree cover. Those living in historic redlined areas within urban centers are especially at risk.

"Micro-forests are an ultra-dense, bio-diverse pocket forest that recreate the complexity of a natural forest. They offer a home to an array of native species that boosts the biodiversity of the area. Our tiny forests will improve the soil quality, fight against air pollution, improve water absorption and will help with the effects of



(above, l-r) Pictured are the Groundworks staff: Sarah Sosa, Lucy Crespo, Jonathan Phillips, Darian Griffin, Alexis Zavala, John Evangelista, and Jackie Park Albaum.

Courtesy photo

flooding and erosion," said Director of Operations at Groundwork Elizabeth John Evangelista who leads the effort within the organization.

Jay Watson, Co-Executive Director, and Dr. Emile DeVito, NJ Conservations Manager of Science and Stewardship continue as key partners for the MicroForest projects. Watson noted the organization received the go-ahead to build in October and planted the site quickly by early December. "The NJ Conservation Foundation is honored to play a part in creating this green space in Elizabeth. We intend to do all we can to cool our communities down, and Groundwork is an outstanding partner to create more of these green infrastructure projects in our future."

Groundwork Elizabeth Board President noted collaboration is key to success. "As a good friend once told me, 'if you want to get a little done, you do it yourself but if you want to get a lot done, you build partnerships,' and that's what we've done. It's been a community effort. Our collaboration today with the Bezos Foundation and support made possible through the Groundwork USA Land Innovation Fund is going to help our organization blossom further into the remainder of this decade and beyond."

For more information on the Groundwork program go to www.groundworkelizabeth.org, groundworkusa.org or visit the social media sites of the network.

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Elmora Hills Monthly

PROGRAM TO FEATURE UNION COUNTY'S REIGN OF TERROR

The Union County Historical Society is pleased to host Dr. Walter E. Boright for a program entitled "Union County's Reign of Terror" on Sunday, October 2 at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford. As seating is limited, an advance reservation is suggested by emailing the society with the number attending at uncohissocl@gmail.com.

The presentation centers on a Union County man who earned infamy as one of the most notorious killers in the state of New Jersey. His rampage in the 1950s into the 1970s began with grave desecration and arson, and escalated to rape, murder, and cop killing. He was not linked to some of his crimes until decades after they were committed. This serial killer eventually was convicted of murder and imprisoned for life where he later died of natural causes.

Union County Historical Society President Joanne Rajoppi said, "We are excited to have Dr. Boright, a noted author and historian, review the history of these crimes for the Society's program. Dr. Boright is a respected, well-known author of six local history books and nearly 200 published articles about local, county, and New Jersey State history," she added.

Dr. Boright earned a bachelor's degree as a history major from Kean University in Union where he also taught New Jersey history. He taught history in Clark schools and became a New Jersey superintendent of schools. He earned

master's and doctoral degrees at Seton Hall University. He served as a Kenilworth councilman and was elected five times to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders (now the Board of Commissioners). Dr. Boright has presented many programs to schools and organizations about local, regional, and New Jersey history.

The program is open to the public without charge. Parking at the Cranford Community Center is adjacent to the center and library with free off-street parking.

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(above) Dr. Walter E. Boright

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SECOND ANNUAL JAZZ & ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Kean University invites the community to enjoy a free evening of music at the second annual Jazz & Roots Music Festival to be held at the University campus on Saturday, September 24.

Fast becoming a tradition in Union County and beyond, the Jazz & Roots Music Festival, produced by Kean and internationally acclaimed bassist/producer Mike Griot, offers professional jazz, blues and reggae in a beautiful outdoor setting on The Lawn at Enlow Hall, on Kean's East Campus in Hillside. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics, or settle in and enjoy the food trucks.

The Jazz & Roots headliner will be five-time Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves, who will take the stage early at the event.

"For the second year in a row, we are bringing Kean's students, employees, alumni and neighbors together for a celebration of jazz and blues in a free, family event," said Kean President Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., who launched the festival last year. "Kean has established itself as a cultural force in the region, and we welcome all to join us at the Jazz & Roots Music Festival."

Colleen Hawthorne, M.D., a nationally known wellness expert, physician and author, is a lead sponsor of the festival, which will include wellness programming for guests.

"I am honored to deliver the vision of Dr. Lamont Repollet as Kean University enters the national music festival arena. After an amazing debut event in 2021, we have packed even more entertainment and resources into what will be a truly unforgettable live music experience," Griot said.

The Festival takes place Saturday, September 24, from 4 to 8 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, September 25 from 2 to 6 p.m.

The Festival will include the following artists and groups (in order):

Kean University Jazz Ensemble transcends cultural boundaries with its fresh take on contemporary gospel, pop and musical theater, as well as standard big band and contemporary jazz works.

The preeminent jazz vocalist in the world, five-time Grammy winner Dianne Reeves won the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Recording for three consecutive recordings — a first in any Grammy vocal category. Reeves has performed and recorded with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and appeared in, and won a Grammy for, the Academy Award-nominated George Clooney film, *Good Night, and Good Luck*. She has received honorary doctorates from Berklee and Juilliard, and in 2018, she was designated a Jazz Master — the highest honor the U.S. bestows on jazz artists.

Blues People includes festival producer Griot on bass along with band mates Kelton Cooper (lead vocal/guitar), Victor Burks (vocals/keyboards) and Gene Lake (drums), and musically explores the effects of the blues on American culture on many different levels. The

band, which has been compared to The Meters, Luther Allison, Keb' Mo' and Earth Wind & Fire, has recently released their much-anticipated 2022 debut single *The Skin I'm In*.

Don Braden and Karl Latham – Big Fun(k) is a jam band described as a "synchronized rhythm machine." Each player primarily emphasizes rhythm, and all the parts interconnect — drum backbeats, bass grooves, keyboard riffs and colors and pentatonic tenor saxophone figures.

Judah Tribe with Josh David The struggle of the Children of the African diaspora is expressed through the music of the soul-reggae band. Their music highlights life as a modern Ethiopian through the teachings and example of Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia.

The Lawn at Enlow Hall is located at 215 North Avenue, Hillside, N.J. For more information, visit kean.edu/jazz-roots.

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Photo by Marko Korosec, near Julesburg, Colorado

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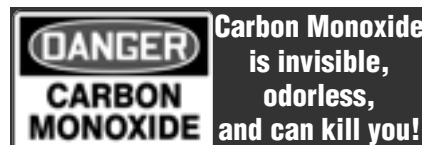
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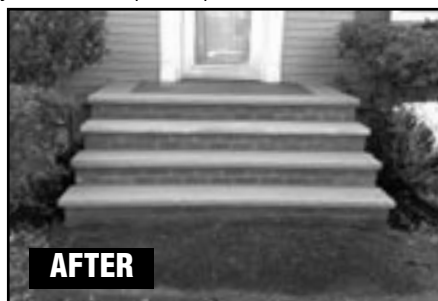
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The Gateway Family YMCA

Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year Before and After School Programs offered by The Gateway Family YMCA in coordination with the Rahway, Elizabeth and Union Township public school districts. School age child care programs continue to be a place where children can remain active, extend their learning and continue to be engaged during their time out of school – a critical time for all school age



(above) Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year Before and After School Programs offered by The Gateway Family YMCA.

children, especially as they continue to adjust to the many changes related to COVID-19.

“The Gateway Family YMCA has served the local community for more than 122 years, during which we have made it through many challenging times together,” stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “As an organization dedicated to youth development, we know how important it is that our children have a safe and enriching environment for learning, both in and out of school.”

“We are pleased to be able to provide these programs to the children in our community, allowing their invaluable social, emotional, physical and academic growth to continue long after the school day ends,” stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “Through a balanced approach to youth development, the curriculum offers activities,

mentorship and academic support, nurturing the potential of all participants throughout the school year.”

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening community through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services for all. The Y doesn’t just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

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

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BOY SCOUT TROOP 23 ATTENDS SUMMER CAMP

Submitted by Daniel Bernier

Boy Scout Troop 23, which is sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church of Elizabeth, recently held their annual summer camp at Winnebago Scout Reservation in Rockaway, NJ. Thirteen Scouts and five adult leaders spent a week in their traditional Delaware campsite, where they were visited by various wildlife, including a young black bear.

The Scouts learned outdoor skills and worked on merit badges in swimming, cooking, environmental science, geocaching, first aid, leatherwork, welding, engineering and electronics, to name a few.

Troop 23 had the second-highest score in the Christmas in July-themed campwide event. They

scored highest among all of the troops in camp for the Cleanest Campsite Award. And they took home a ribbon and watermelon prize for winning the Water Carnival.

Troop 23 is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year, and several troop alumni visited during summer camp to reminisce about their years in Scouting.

Cub Scouting provides activities and training for boys in the first through fifth grades. Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade. New members

are welcome at any time, all year round.

Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 have served the youth of St. Genevieve's parish and the surrounding area for six decades. These units have earned hundreds of awards on the local and national level, have produced 77 Eagle Scouts, and have leaders who are well-known and widely respected by other Scout leaders across the country.

For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at 908-451-1948 or homeinthepark1@comcast.net.



(above) Boy Scout Troop 23 prepares for a nightly flag retreat ceremony in its campsite at Winnebago Scout Reservation during its annual summer camp.

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New Shopping Bag Rules in NJ... and We Need Bags!

New Jersey has the strictest ban on plastics in the country, and it is now in effect for the entire state of New Jersey, including for food distribution at St. Joseph Social Service Center. We are in need of reusable bags for our clients. If you can donate new or used but clean reusable shopping bags, please drop them, 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ, during normal operating hours. If you have questions, please contact our Food Program Director, Corey Wu-Jung at cwujung@sjeliz.org or 908-354-5456 x412.

One of our urgent ongoing needs is for tuna or chicken in single serve pouches. Donations are gratefully accepted!

We are in need of a car or minivan. If you have a spare vehicle in good working condition, please consider donating it to St. Joseph's. Please contact Emy Cruz at 908-354-5456 x403.

SCOUTS CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Over 1,000 boys have grown into responsible and involved young men through their participation in the Scouting program at St. Genevieve's Church, Elizabeth, since Boy Scout Troop 23 was first chartered in July, 1962. Seventy-seven of them earned the prestigious Eagle Scout award.

Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 will have their 60th Anniversary recognized on Saturday, September 17 during the annual St. Genevieve's Church Parish Picnic, on the lawn of the church at 200 Monmouth Road.

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.



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STRANGERS HELPING STRANGERS - THE NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) works with many different organizations to bring food, groceries, and clothes to veteran families in need. One organization they've worked with is Strangers Helping Strangers (SHS). They've provided over 100 meals for veterans and their families while pairing up with the NJVN over multiple projects. SHS itself distributes 20,000 pounds of food in Elmwood Park, NJ.

On Friday, August 12, 2022, Doc Schupp, Director of Veterans Outreach for NJVN, and Dennis Duddie, American Legion Department

Vice Commander, presented the Strangers Helping Strangers team with four awards, including a Hero Award for team President Chris Braitsch, a Certificate of Commendation, as well as the Community Service Award, recognizing their continuous support for Veterans and their families. Strangers Helping Strangers was also presented with the Certificate of Appreciation from The Department of NJ State VFW and an NJVN Community Service award.

When asked about the assistance that SHS has provided for the Veteran Community, Doc Schupp said, "This team (SHS) has provided for

our State's heroes time and time again, we are blessed to have them as partners."

Strangers Helping Strangers was created during the COVID-19 crisis, and has continued to work with the New Jersey Veterans Network to provide for our veterans. They work closely to provide not only goods for those in need, but they also give hope in times of crisis. While SHS provides the food and groceries, the NJVN distributes them directly to the veterans homes. It's a wonderful system that has helped improve the lives of so many veterans and their families.



(above) Doc Schupp, Director of Veterans Outreach for The New Jersey Veterans Network, and Dennis Duddie, American Legion Department Vice Commander, presented the Strangers Helping Strangers team with four awards.

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Disabled American Veterans Chapter 40 in Union, NJ will be holding their meeting on

Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.,
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(Located next to the Union Fire Department)

We are inviting all Veterans to attend our meeting as the Topic of the Day will be "How to file a VA claim and Win." We all know that our claims can go unnoticed for years, but with our help you can get them expedited and get you what you rightfully deserve. Many members of our chapter have been successful in using our method.

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1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
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6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
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SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS AT THE ELMORA BRANCH LIBRARY

740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 • Phone: (908) 353-4820 • www.elizpl.org/

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:45 p.m. • Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. • Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. • Sunday: Closed
library will be closed Saturday, September 3, and Monday, September 5 in celebration of Labor Day

Registration for all our programs will now be on our website. Please go to elizpl.org to check out all of our events.

Zumba: Morning Exercise

Tuesday, Sept 6, 20, & 27, at 8:30 a.m.

Adult Program. Walk-ins are welcome.

Face Painting

Wednesday, September 7, at 3:00 p.m.

Children's Program. Free face painting

Stitch & Chat

Thursday, September 8, at 10:00 a.m.

Teen Program, Adult Program

Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Craft-Tea & Chat

Thursday, September 8, at 2:00 p.m.

Teen Program, Adult Program

Bring the craft. We will have colored pencils, paper, and other crafting supplies available.

Eat Right

Saturday, September 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Children's Program, Teen Program,

Adult Program

Join us for a special program on eating healthy!

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, September 10, at 1:00 p.m.

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.

Mahjongg

Tuesday, September 13, 1 - 4 p.m.

Adult Program -Ages: 18 & up

Everyone who loves Mahjongg is welcome to come and play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners.

Remember to bring your own Mah-Jongg tiles, and we'll provide the space for open play.

A minimum of 4 players are required to play the game.

ABC Sign Language

Thursday, September 15, at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Program

In celebration of Deaf Awareness Month, join Ms. Daysha for an ABC storytime while learning to sign the alphabet.

Matinee Movie: CODA

Friday, September 16, at 1:00 p.m.

Adult Program

Ruby is the only hearing member of a deaf family from Gloucester, Massachusetts. Ruby finds herself drawn to both her duet partner and her latent passion for singing.

Art Lessons

Saturday, September 17 at 2:30 p.m.

Children's Program, Teen Program, Adult

Program. Learn to blend colors, sketch, and many more art skills with Ms. Palak from Palak Studio Ink! All levels of art skills are welcome!

Crochet with Sol

Mondays, September 19 and 26, and

Tuesdays, September 20 and 27

at 11:00 a.m.

Adult Program, Teen 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.

Adult Spanish Book Club!

Tuesday, September 20, at 3:00 p.m.

Adult Program

Join us for a monthly book discussion for adults in Spanish with Martha!

Adult Bingo

Wednesday, September 21, at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Program

Join us for a fun game of BINGO at the library!

Winners will receive a free book!

Drawing for Kids

Wednesday, September 21, at 2:00 p.m.

Children's Program

Learn to draw animals with Ms. Martha!

Stitch & Chat

Wednesday, September 21, at 5:00 p.m.

Teen Program, Adult Program

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

Sand Decoration

Thursday, September 22, at 11:00 a.m.

Children's Program, Teen Program

Get creative with Ms. Martha, decorating mason jars using sand!

Banned Book Bingo

Thursday, September 22, at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Program, Teen Program, Adult

Program. Come play Bingo and win

a free book!

Matinee Movie

Friday, September 23, at 1:00 p.m.

Adult Program

Scout Finch, 6, and her older brother, Jem, live in sleepy Maycomb, Alabama. When Atticus, their widowed father, and a respected lawyer, defends a black man named Tom Robinson against fabricated rape charges, the trial and tangent events expose the children to the evils of racism and stereotyping.

Macrame

Saturday, September 24, at 10:00 a.m.

Children's Program, Teen Program, Adult

Program. Come make your own cute and stylish Macrame bracelet at Elmora!

Coloring for Adults

Tuesday, September 27, at 11:00 a.m.

Adult Program

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

Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, September 28, at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Program

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

Pantry Poison

Thursday, September 29, at 2:00 p.m.

Adult Program

Learn about ingredients you should avoid with Catherine, Nutritionist!

Coloring for Kids

Friday, September 30, at 3:00 p.m.

Children's Program

Relax & color at the Elmora Branch!



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