

# Summit NJ Times

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Issue 84 • September 2022

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## STEVEN ZAGORSKI OFFICIALLY SWORN IN AS CHIEF OF POLICE

*City of Summit*

Acting Police Chief Steven Zagorski was officially sworn in as the City of Summit's new Chief of Police on July 28, 2022. Zagorski assumed the role of Acting Chief in December 2021 following the retirement of Andrew Bartolotti.

"Over the past seven months, Steven Zagorski has led the Summit Police Department with integrity, understanding and compassion," explained Mayor Nora Radest. "As a highly experienced, 30-year veteran of the Summit Police Department, he was well-qualified to guide the department during this period of transition and has exceeded expectations with his thoughtful and progressive leadership. I am thrilled to make his appointment official today and for him to guide the department into the future."

Chief Zagorski joined the Summit Police Department in 1989. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1999 and assigned to the Patrol Bureau. During his tenure as a Patrol Sergeant, he also served as the Auxiliary Police Coordinator, Crime Prevention Unit Supervisor, and the Bike Unit Supervisor. Zagorski was promoted to Lieutenant in 2007 and served as the Detective Bureau Commander for five years. He was

promoted to Captain in 2012 and served as the Operations Division Commander until 2020 and as the Support Services Division Commander until 2021.

"For the entirety of my 33-year career, I have had the privilege of serving the Summit community and appreciate the opportunity to continue leading one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country," explains Chief Steven Zagorski. "I am extremely grateful for the confidence that Mayor Radest and members of Common Council have placed in me to advance Summit's public safety priorities and carry out the duties of this important office."

Chief Zagorski has received numerous service awards and citations including the NJ Honor Legion Valor Award, two meritorious service awards, two exceptional duty awards, six distinguished service awards, three unit-citation awards and 33 letters of commendation for exemplary service. He also received the Samaritan Award for assisting with rescue and recovery operations following the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York City. Zagorski lives in New Providence with his wife and two children.

For more information on the Summit Police Department, visit the City of Summit website.

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(above) Pictured during his official swearing in as Chief of Police is Steven Zagorski with Summit Mayor Nora Radest, wife Kim and children Natalie and William.

Photos by City of Summit

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## Summit Times

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Summit Times is published by Renna Media. 9,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Summit, NJ.

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Summit Times

## DOGGY DIP EVENT – SEPT. 24

City of Summit

The Summit Department of Community Programs is announcing that its annual Doggy Dip event will take place on Saturday, September 24 at the Summit Family Aquatic Center, located at 100 Ashwood Avenue. The event is open to Summit residents and non-residents.

The fee to attend is \$5 per dog for Summit residents and \$10 per dog for non-residents. Small dogs (under 20 lbs.) can swim from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., followed by medium dogs (20 to 50 lbs.) from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. There will be two swimming sessions for large dogs (50 lbs. and up), from 12 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. A maximum of 40 dogs per size group is allowed.

Interested participants should register online with a credit card prior to the event. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows and can pay with cash or check only. All participants will be required to sign a waiver at check-in.

All dogs must be accompanied by at least one owner who is 18 years of age or older. Dogs must be six months of age or older, current on all vaccinations, and have a valid license tag. Please note, only dogs will be permitted to swim during this event.

For more information, please visit [summitcommunityprograms.com](http://summitcommunityprograms.com) or call the Department of Community Programs at 908-277-2932.



(above) The Summit Department of Community Programs is announcing that its annual Doggy Dip event will take place on Saturday, September 24 at the Summit Family Aquatic Center, located at 100 Ashwood Avenue.

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Nathan Weiser

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Thank you Spring Grove for a wonderful and pleasant stay.



Charles Sherrick

★★★★★

I have been at Spring Grove for a few weeks now, they have exceptional service and excellent staff. All the nurses have been professional and attentive to all my needs. I never thought a rehab center can have such a beautiful layout and well put together. The newly renovated room I have stayed in, is up to date and extremely clean. The therapy staff have gone above my expectations with their expertise and getting me to where I am today. Alyssa the social worker has gone above and beyond with all her assignments.

Thank you Spring Grove.



Chrissy Sloan

★★★★★

The nursing staff and administration is professional, patient, attentive and understanding. The facilities are very clean and well maintained. My parents room is always clean and tidy. Although it was a difficult decision to make relocating my folks from a home environment to a senior living facility, Spring Grove made my decision easy.

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38 Blackburn Pl	6	4.1	2	\$2,950,000	\$3,410,000	14
76 Prospect Hill Ave	6	4.1	2	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	0
21 Joanna Way	6	5.1	2	\$2,390,000	\$2,390,000	15
51 Blackburn Rd	5	3.2	2	\$1,875,000	\$2,157,000	17
7 Oxbow Lane	5	5.0	2	\$2,050,000	\$2,050,000	7
4 Stacie Ct	5	3.1	2	\$1,695,000	\$1,840,000	8
49 Fernwood Rd	5	3.1	1	\$1,725,000	\$1,725,000	10
706 Springfield Ave	5	3.1	2	\$1,495,000	\$1,655,000	15
17 Wallace Rd	4	4.1	2	\$1,600,000	\$1,595,000	29
41 Colt Rd	4	3.0	2	\$1,395,000	\$1,325,000	51
25 Greenfield Ave	4	3.1	1	\$1,050,000	\$1,205,000	8
67 Eggers Ct	3	3.1	2	\$899,000	\$1,050,000	19
6 Evergreen Rd	3	1.1	1	\$779,000	\$925,000	10
49 Tulip St	3	2.0	1	\$899,000	\$820,000	36
79 Baltusrol Rd	3	1.1	1	\$699,000	\$735,000	13

Source: GSMLS, select properties sold 7/23/2022-8/23/2022



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## 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 uncohissoc1@gmail.com.



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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



(above) 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. Courtesy photo

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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## FIESTA LATINA EVENT SEPT. 16

### City of Summit

The Summit Department of Community Programs is announcing that its annual Fiesta Latina event will be held on Friday, September 16, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Village Green, located at 356 Broad Street in Summit.

Citizens are invited to this free community event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Attendees can enjoy musical and dance performances, Latin food trucks, and cultural demonstrations. From 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. there will be dance and cultural demonstrations from different local groups. From 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. a band will perform in concert on the main stage, playing music from Latin and South America.

Community and cultural groups should contact David Guida at [dguidajr@cityofsummit.org](mailto:dguidajr@cityofsummit.org) or 908-277-2932 to sign up to host a table at the event or become a sponsor.

For more information, please visit [summitcommunityprograms.com](http://summitcommunityprograms.com) or call the Department of Community Programs at 908-277-2932.

The Summit Department of Community Programs Presents...

# Fiesta Latina

Friday, September 16, 2022  
6:00 pm until 9:00 pm  
Summit's Village Green  
356 Broad Street, Summit, NJ

Music All Night Long  
Dancing Demonstrations  
Latin Food Trucks

For more information on this event please contact the Summit Department of Community Programs at 908-277-2932 or email [dguidajr@cityofsummit.org](mailto:dguidajr@cityofsummit.org).

Please note that all City of Summit events are smoke, alcohol and drug free.

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## BATTLE OF THE BANDS - OCTOBER 2

### City of Summit

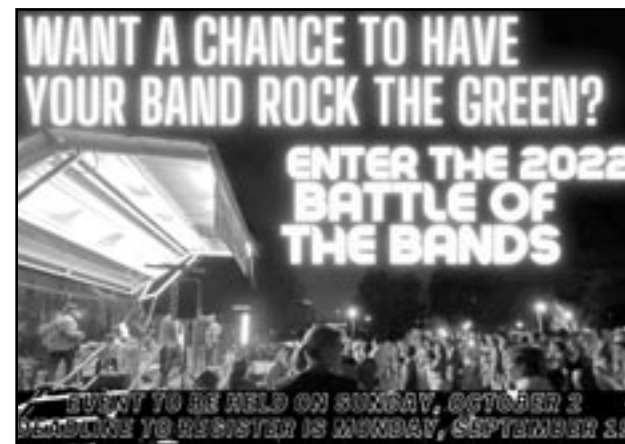
The Summit Department of Community Programs (DCP) is announcing its second annual Battle of the Bands event will take place on Sunday, October 2, on the Village Green, located at 356 Broad Street in Summit.

Local bands are invited to enter and can perform at the event for up to 30 minutes, playing any original or cover songs. The deadline to sign up is Monday, September 19. To register, email David Guida at [dguidajr@cityofsummit.org](mailto:dguidajr@cityofsummit.org) with a preferred performance time between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. on October 2. The schedule of performers will be released once the lineup and participating bands are confirmed. The event is tentatively scheduled for 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. but is dependent on the number of bands that participate. Event updates will be posted to the DCP and City of Summit Facebook pages.

All participating bands will be required to bring and use their own PA/amplification system

for their performance. The winner of the Battle of the Bands will get a paid performance at a 2023 event with the Department of Community Programs.

For more information, please visit [summitcommunityprograms.com](http://summitcommunityprograms.com) or call the Department of Community Programs at 908-277-2932.



## RARELY SEEN

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Photo by Marko Korosec, near Julesburg, Colorado

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A black and white photograph of three senior women singing into a microphone. The woman on the left is wearing a white jacket and a patterned scarf. The woman in the middle is wearing glasses and a patterned scarf. The woman on the right is wearing a patterned scarf.

**Seniors Sing!**  
MONDAYS 2:00PM - 3:00PM  
**SEPTEMBER 12th & 19th**  
YOUNG AT HEART


A black and white photograph of a youth choir. There are four young people visible: a girl on the left in a dark dress, a boy in the center in a tuxedo, a girl on the right in a dark dress, and another girl on the far right in a dark dress.

**Youth Choir**  
MONDAYS 7:30PM - 9:00PM  
**SEPTEMBER 12th & 19th**  
AGES 12-18

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A black and white photograph of a children's choir. There are three children visible: a boy on the left in a tuxedo, a girl in the center wearing glasses and a dark dress, and another girl on the right in a dark dress.

**Children's Choir**  
TUESDAYS 4:30PM - 5:45PM  
**SEPTEMBER 13th & 20th**  
AGES 6-11

A black and white photograph of a civic chorale. There are several adults visible, mostly men, wearing suits and singing.

**Civic Chorale**  
TUESDAYS 7:30PM - 9:00PM  
**SEPTEMBER 13th & 20th**  
ADULTS

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The Summit Free Public Library has partnered with local businesses to reward library cardholders and business patrons with discounts, savings, and special offers – all people have to do is show their Summit Free Library card to get a special deal for the entire month of September.

Here is a complete list of participating businesses and discounts:

- Bake Bakery: Save 10% on all donuts
- Brownie Points Bakery: 1 Free Cupcake, limit 1 per person for the month.
- Doria's Pizza: Save 15%
- Dunkin Donuts (all 3 Summit locals): Save 10%
- Esperanza Salon & Spa: Free \$20 gift card towards salon services & products
- Fiorino Ristorante: Save 10%
- Marigolds: Save 10% on lunch orders
- The Red Balloon: Special giveaway for showing your library card with purchase. One time use only. In-store only.

- Schroth & Lorensons Jewelers: Complimentary ring cleaning and inspection. Free polishing cloth and jewelry cleaner.
- Smoothie King: Save 10%
- SQR Pizza: Save 10%, in-store purchase only
- Summit Area YMCA: Free InBody Body Fat Percentage Scan. Waiver required: [thesay.org/waiver](http://thesay.org/waiver)
- Summit Health Shoppe: Save 15%
- Sweet Nothings: Save 15% on purchases of \$15 or more. Exceptions apply.
- UPS Store of Summit: Save 5% on shipping, save 15% on all boxes, materials, and printing services
- Willow St: Save \$10 on one new hem over \$100, cannot be combined
- Zappia Cucina & Brick Oven Pizza: Save 10% on pizza

The Summit Free Public Library will also be holding a library card registration drive for all students enrolled in Kindergarten at Jefferson and Wilson Primary Centers during the month of September.

Library cards are available to residents, employees, students, and property owners in Summit NJ, as well as paid members. Library card replacement fees will also be waived during the month of September. Check with each business for additional details about these discounts.

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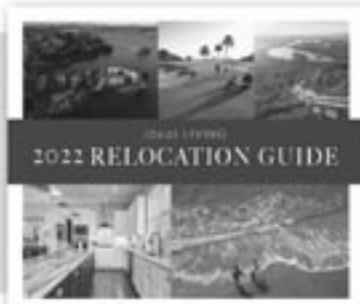
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## STRANGERS HELPING STRANGERS - THE NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

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.

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(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.,**  
at **The American Legion Hall 3**, Bond Drive Union, NJ  
(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.

Complimentary Lunch will be served and we look forward to meeting you

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## SUMMIT'S REPAIR CAFE EVENT FIXES YOUR THINGS FOR FREE - SEPT.17

### BICYCLE RODEO SEPTEMBER 10

#### Summit Police Department

The Summit Police Department and AAA will co-host a bicycle rodeo on Saturday, September 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Brayton Elementary School, located at 89 Tulip Street in Summit.

This free event is open to Summit residents in grades K through 12. Representatives from Trek Bicycle in Summit will perform safety inspections on bicycles and equipment at the event. Representatives from AAA will provide a safety presentation to all attendees and will set up an obstacle course for riders to navigate.

Registration for this event is required and attendance is limited to 30 participants. All participants must sign the waiver form that is available at the registration site online.

For more information on this program, please contact the Summit Police Department Community Policing Unit at 908-598-2113 or [cpu@spdnj.org](mailto:cpu@spdnj.org).

Your beloved but broken items have the opportunity to be repaired at Summit's Repair Café on Saturday, September 17 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Avenue. Christ Church is located at the corner of Springfield and New England Avenues. Please follow outdoor signage and enter the event from New England Avenue. No appointment is necessary!

Repair services available at this event will include small electronics, jewelry, sewing/textiles, lamps, computers, woodworking, knife sharpening and bicycles. Marty's Reliable Cycle will be attending to provide bicycle repairs. To allow all patrons to have the opportunity for repair, repairs are limited to 2 total items per person.

This is a free event, but please note that a voluntary contribution is appreciated when an item is brought in for repair. Contributions help to fund future repair events. Replacement parts for lamps will be available for an at-cost fee. Please only bring items that you can carry into our event unaided.

Summit's Repair Café events are co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Café Garden State. Green Faith Circle's goal is to inspire, educate, organize, and mobilize people of diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds globally for environmental action. Repair Café Garden State is a network of community organizers who host monthly repair events across the state. This collective shares news and schedules of all

upcoming Repair Café events in New Jersey via their website [repaircafes.org](http://repaircafes.org). Here you can find all the details of Summit and other local repair events.

If you would like to volunteer or help to repair beloved but broken items at this event or future events reach out via email:

[summit@repaircafes.org](mailto:summit@repaircafes.org)

or visit [repaircafes.org](http://repaircafes.org) for a complete list of all repair event locations in New Jersey.



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# OUTSTANDING CITIZENS TO BE HONORED BY BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Submitted by Jennifer Volz

Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council will be honoring local citizens at the annual Union County Lifetime Achievement Awards Dinner to be held on the evening of Tuesday, September 13 at the Galloping Hill Golf Club in Kenilworth. This year's Lifetime Achievement award honorees are Peter Chemidlin, Melissa Mann, Kathy Matthews, Joanne Rajoppi, Theodore Schlosberg, and John Wohlrab. Doug Harris is receiving the Boy Scouts of America 2022 National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award at the event.

The event recognizes outstanding citizens for their community service, as evidenced by their leadership and interests within the Union County community, and for their embodiment of the values of the century old Scout Oath and Law in their personal and professional lives. The event co-chairs are Nancy DiLiegro and Gene Jannotti, past Lifetime Achievement Award recipients and active volunteers in the Union County

community.

Peter Chemidlin is the President of Family Investors Company located in Fanwood; Melissa Mann is the Administrative Director GME at Trinitas Regional Medical Center; Kathy Matthews is an Educator at Union Catholic High School; Joanne Rajoppi is the Union County Clerk; Theodore Schlosberg is the Founder and Executive Director of the NJ Workshop for the Arts; and John Wohlrab is the Director of Government Relations at Waste Management.

Union County is a part of the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America along with the counties of Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, and Sussex. In the council, over 3,000 adult volunteers deliver the values of Scouting to over 7,500 Scouts.

For more information on Scouting in Patriots' Path Council, attending the event, and sponsoring the program journal, contact Jennifer Volz, Sr. Development Director, at 973-765-9322 ext. 249 and/or jennifer.volz@scouting.org.

# SHARE THE FUN CLUB AFTER SCHOOL

City of Summit

The Summit Department of Community Programs is announcing its Share the Fun Club program for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Share the Fun Club is a fully supervised, drop-in, after-school program for Summit residents in grades 1 to 8. Program supervisors will lead children through a variety of interactive gym games and activities, arts and crafts, homework help, and more. The program operates at the Summit Community Center, located at 100 Ashwood Avenue, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on all school days and most half-session school days from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To attend, participants must register for an Open Gym Membership online or by calling 908-277-2932. There are individual and family memberships available for purchase.

Participants should enter the Community Center through the main entrance and scan their ID badge at the front desk. Personal belongings should be placed in the Investors Gymnasium. There are three rooms at the Community Center that will be available for participants to use:

**Investors Gymnasium:** The Investors Gym will be divided into two sections. On one side of the room, arts and crafts will be offered, supervisors will be available for homework help, and a snack will be provided each day. On the other side of the gym, children can enjoy a variety of activities such as basketball, dodge ball, four square, badminton, and more.

**Game Room:** The Jordan Glatt Youth Lounge, or "Game Room," has couches and seating where children can play video games, board games, or do arts and crafts.

**Meeting Room:** The Meeting Room across from the professional offices at the Community Center will be open for children to take part in quiet activities such as homework.

For more information, please visit [summitcommunityprograms.com](http://summitcommunityprograms.com) or call the Department of Community Programs at 908-277-2932.

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Sunday, Sept. 11: 6pm- 11pm  
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## City of Summit

The City of Summit Fire Department is issuing a series of campus fire safety tips for college students to use during the school year. U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated annual average of 3,870 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and off-campus housing. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, from 2000 to 2015, 85 fires that resulted in 118 fatalities occurred on a college campus.

“The Summit Fire Department recognizes that going to college is an exciting time for students and their families,” explains Fire Chief Eric Evers. “Living away from home for the first time not only gives young adults more freedom to make their own choices, but it also puts upon them an increased level of personal responsibility while at school. When it comes to on- and off-campus housing, it’s important to educate students on fire safety.”

The following safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association can be used to ensure a fire-safe environment on campus.

Look for fully sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.

If you live in a dormitory, make sure your sleeping room has a smoke alarm, or your dormitory suite has a smoke alarm in each living area as well as the sleeping room. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the dormitory suite should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.

If you live in an apartment or house, make sure smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room,



outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the apartment unit or house. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.

Test all smoke alarms at least monthly, and never remove batteries or disable the alarm.

Learn your building’s evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they are the real thing. • If you live off campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.

When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.

Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a grill, fire pit, or chiminea.

Check your school’s rules before using electrical appliances in your room.

For more information and fire safety tips, please visit [cityofsummit.org/fire](http://cityofsummit.org/fire) or contact the City of Summit Fire Department at 908-277-1033.



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# 2022 SUMMIT POLICE DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACADEMY

## City of Summit

The Summit Police Department has completed the sixteenth season of its Youth Academy, a popular program designed to provide area youth with an opportunity to understand the role of the police officer in the community. 59 cadets graduated from the 2022 Youth Academy during two ceremonies that were attended by family members, Mayor Nora Radest, Police Chief Steven Zagorski, and members of Common Council.



Ranging in age from 11 to 14, cadets experienced the same types of drills and physical training practiced by recruits in the police academy. In addition to receiving instruction in criminal investigation techniques, evidence recovery, and patrol tactics, cadets experienced hands-on training in processing crime scenes, conducting high-risk motor vehicle stops, and evasive driving.

During a visit to the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains, cadets utilized the obstacle course used by police recruits, received unarmed self-defense instruction and firearms simulator training. The cadets also attended demonstrations from the Union County K-9 Unit, S.W.A.T. Team, Bomb Squad, and the Summit Fire Department.

“We are thrilled to be able to host this program year after year, and continually have so many young Summit residents interested in learning about the challenges and responsibility of police work,” explains Police Chief Steven Zagorski. “While the students that attend the academy may not want to become police officers in the future, the program instills confidence and a sense of achievement that will benefit them for years to come.”

The following cadets, listed in alphabetical order, graduated from the 2022 Summit Police

Youth Academy Session 1: Ben Barlow, Samuel Benavides, Brian Byrne, Madelyn Byrne, Henry Decker, Anthony Delarosa, William Dolan, Anya Gokhale, Ayanna Hubert, Letitia Hubert, Daniil "Ace" Karotki, Elle Kennedy, Rishant Kona, Rithvik Kona, Zack Lipin, Owen Manahan, Sarah McKegney, Duncan O'Connor, Ishan Pal, Spyridon Petrou, Selena Shanker, Grace Sherman, Cooper Smoragiewicz, Nicolas Solis-Negron, Sophia Teixeira, Alexavier Tolentino, Enzo Tolentino, Dalia Valdes, Sebastian Vasquez.

The following cadets, listed in alphabetical order, graduated from the 2022 Summit Police Youth Academy Session 2: Kvyar Arora, Geanluca Asitimbay, Brayden Beatty, Casey Bello-Ventura, Steven Bello-Ventura, Logan Buntin, Jed Callahan, Andrew Cassidy, Alan Castillo, Alex Castillo, Ava Deutsch, Blakely Diekmann, Alexandra Flores, Maksim Hartevelt, Xavier LeBlanc, Catherine Liang, Margaret Liang, Alexandra Luther, Michael Madden, Leo Paterek, Jack Petrella, Gabriella Rajguru, Emma Roberts, Sarah Romero, Tyler Ruck, Mia Solano, Paul Spitzer, Bethany Stanton, Brandon Ulloa, Artem Zakharov.

For more information on the Youth Academy, please contact Juvenile Detective Sean Thompson at [sthompson@spdnj.org](mailto:sthompson@spdnj.org) or 908-598-2114.



(above) 59 cadets graduated from the 2022 Summit Police Department Youth Academy.

Courtesy photos



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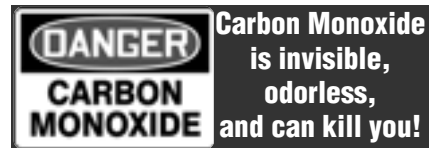
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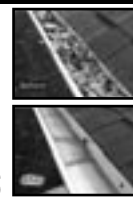


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## MEET SUMMIT'S JANICE BECKMEN - CASA VOLUNTEER

*'I wanted to provide guidance to help a less-fortunate child.'*

By Caroline Mueller, CASA of Union County

All CASA cases are unique and come with their own challenges and rewards, and Janice Beckmen of Summit can speak to this unique balance. A court appointed special advocates for foster youth (CASA) volunteer for two and a half years, she's dedicated to the nine-year-old



(above Janice Beckmen)

boy relying on her – even when it's not easy work.

Janice understood the ins and outs of what being an advocate means, and reminds herself that that young boy she works with comes from a tough background, as many CASA youth do. Still, she's consistent in her drive and efforts to build and maintain a good rapport with him, building on it each time they connect. And, she adds, the little moments of smiles and satisfaction where the duo goes swimming together, eats a meal – preferably pepperoni and pineapple pizza, of course – make all the dogged perseverance absolutely worthwhile.

For the mother of three, a 25-year-old and 21-year-old twins, it was when her children were wrapping up college and deciding on post-grad landing spots that she knew her time as an empty-nester would be best spent helping others, and she wanted that to be a vulnerable youth. "I wanted to provide guidance to help a less fortunate child", she quipped.

After leaving her long-time Wall Street career to care for her young children, she also began getting involved in multiple community organizations. The current member of the Board of Trustees at The Pingry School in Basking Ridge has also held board posts at SEEDS Access in Newark and Bridges Outreach in Summit. SEEDS Access provides high-achieving, low-income middle- and high-school students access to enhanced educational programming, and Bridges Outreach works to alleviate homelessness in Newark, Irvington, and lower Manhattan.

Notice a common thread in most of Janice's volunteer work? That's right, it's education. After training to become a CASA Volunteer, Janice requested a case where she could work with a child whose needs included educational support. Turns out, the child is doubly fortunate – not only does he have Janice in his education corner (and elsewhere, of course!), a close

family friend of his paternal grandmother knows more about educational advocacy in the Union County School District than Janice could have hoped for – so between the pair, he has an excellent individualized education plan (IEP) and services in place at school and together his "advocacy team" work to ensure it remains that way and, in fact, gets better any way it can.

In her spare time, Janice enjoys keeping her mind sharp playing bridge and, more recently, Mah Jongg – a hobby she's finding herself quite competitive about! She enjoys watching basketball games of her alma mater, Duke University, and she and husband Jeff enjoy hunkering down together for some challenging episodes of Jeopardy. (No word on how competitive she gets with him, though. Jeff, you want to chime in?) She's also got her trusty labradoodle Sadie to keep her on her toes.

Janice's work as a CASA Volunteer has challenged and taught her more than she expected, especially about the court system. "As a CASA for more than two years on one case, I feel as though I know all of the particular details, but time in the courtroom doesn't always permit my contribution and additional insight," she remarked. Still, the judges hearing CASA cases are quick to ensure all advocates during their swearing in that the CASA reports are among the first things they look at before stepping onto the bench. Whether she's vocal in the moment, or silently ensuring what needs to be done gets done, Janice's hard work is paying off! She shares, despite what he's been through and that he's not yet in a permanent placement, she is seeing him excel and, she quips, "He is currently living his best life!"

There are more youth like Janice's awaiting their own CASA volunteer. The need is real, and so is the opportunity to change a life. Will you become a CASA volunteer for a Union County foster youth? Contact our team to learn more at [info@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:info@casaoofunioncounty.org).

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## SEPTEMBER KICKS OFF “SEWING SEASON”

Sewing’s resurgence during the height of the pandemic remains strong going into Fall 2022, with so many people buying sewing machines (or dusting off old ones), taking classes and stitching everything from face masks to easy home dec accents, clothing and accessories. Having the time to immerse (or re-immers) ourselves into fabric, needle and thread also gave us a much needed creative release.

Over the past two years in particular, more people have realized that sewing (along with other home-centered activities like cooking and gardening) is a valuable life skill with limitless benefits. Aside from the obvious creative benefits, sewing also relieves stress, aids in focus and decision-making and maintains/improves hand-eye coordination, among others. And the benefits apply to sewing

enthusiasts of all ages. You can discover countless ways to incorporate sewing into your lifestyle, making it work with your particular needs and interests.

And since September is designated as both National Sewing Month and African Fabric Month, this is the perfect time to kick off “Sewing Season” with culturally relevant projects! Cultured Expressions Sewing Studio at 1417 Main Street celebrates both occasions with special offers during Rahway’s ArtsFest on Saturday, Sept. 24. Learn about the studio’s private Sewing Machine 101 classes and custom group events, along with a growing menu of virtual classes. Already know how to sew and quilt? The studio also offers a wide variety of African textiles and embellishments, kits, and lots of inspiration.



(above) Lisa Shepard Stewart,  
CulturedExpressions.com

Photo by Limitless Visions



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## DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GOLF EVENT

### Drive for Autism Foundation

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXI will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on September 19, 2022.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$818,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence), Salt Brook School (New Providence), AW Roberts School (New Providence), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children, Paramus, Young Life (greater Summit area), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island), Spectrum360 formally The Children’s Institute (Verona,) and Seton Foundation/Mother Francheska Elementary School (Staten Island, N.Y)

Grant recipients use money to fund Health and Fitness Programs, Social Skills Programs,

educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to [birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXI](http://birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXI)

### DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2022

The Drive for Autism XXI is scheduled for Monday Sept 19, 2022 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, New Jersey. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please visit [birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXI](http://birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXI), call 908-451-8033

or email [driveforautism@comcast.net](mailto:driveforautism@comcast.net).



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## CABARET FOR YOUNG ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES – SEPT. 13

### Paper Mill Playhouse

Paper Mill Playhouse welcomes the New Jersey-based non-profit Shining Stars Network for the “Shining Stars Network Cabaret”, a showcase at the theater’s outdoor Brookside Cabaret featuring young artists with disabilities. Performers will present an evening of music celebrating their love of all things music and dance! The cabaret will take place on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the cabaret are \$35 with a \$25 food and beverage minimum per person. Seating begins at 5:15 p.m. Tickets may be purchased directly from Shining Stars Network by emailing [shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com).

Shining Stars Network, celebrating their ten-year anniversary, is well-known for creating opportunities in the performing arts for the special needs community to showcase their many talents. By producing inclusive entertainment, opportunities are provided for people with and without disabilities to work together to create experiences that enhance their lives. Shining Stars Network believes that everyone deserves the chance to showcase their abilities and talents and to connect with their community. Shining Stars performers are individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities who perform in inclusive events that build self-esteem and friendships. To promote an inclusive environment, Shining Stars Buddies, neurotypical high school students who mentor Shining Star cast members, will be performing alongside the cast. Starting from a local group from Cranford, New Jersey, there are now Shining Stars performers from five different New Jersey counties.

“We are beyond thrilled to partner with the iconic Paper Mill Playhouse to bring this show to life,” noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and CEO Mike Curci. “Our cast is very excited and we can’t wait for our stars to shine at such an amazing venue as we celebrate ten years on stage.”

This event marks an expansion of Paper Mill Playhouse’s Theater For Everyone programs, the award-winning initiative that strives to weave inclusion throughout the fabric of the institution, creating opportunities for people of all abilities to learn, perform and attend performances with independence and dignity.

“Shining Stars Network Cabaret” is an opportunity to foster a love for performing for these young artists whose gifts are many, and who have an enthusiasm for music, dance and theater that is huge!” remarked Paper Mill Playhouse Producing Artistic Director, Mark Hoebee. “We’re very pleased to offer our cabaret stage to these performers. This event speaks to our core mission to provide theater for everyone, in a most meaningful way.”

“Our special performers are talented and love to take the stage,” shared Shining Stars co-founder and show director, Sally Curci. “Each and every year our audience has grown along with our cast. They continue to inspire us every



(above) Shining Stars Network performers

day. Each opportunity offers our cast to create lifetime memories and we are so excited to give our special cast the chance to perform at such a great venue!”

Long a national leader in cultural accessibility, Paper Mill Playhouse offers a myriad of award-winning access programs and services, including audio description, sensory seminars, Braille and large-print programs for the visually impaired, and open-captioning and assistive listening devices for those with hearing loss. In addition, Paper Mill offers autism-friendly performances of both mainstage and children’s shows throughout the season. Upcoming Access performances include an autism-friendly performance of the one-hour musical *The Lightening Thief* on December 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., followed by Paper Mill mainstage autism-friendly performances of *The Sound of Music* on December 30, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., and Disney’s *Hercules* on March 12, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. For more information, please visit [PaperMill.org/access-for-all/](http://PaperMill.org/access-for-all/).

Paper Mill Playhouse, a not-for-profit arts

organization under the direction of Mark S. Hoebee Producing Artistic Director, Michael Stotts - Managing Director and recipient of the Regional Theatre Tony Award, is one of the country’s leading regional theaters. Paper Mill Playhouse programs are made possible, in part, by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Paper Mill Playhouse is a member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre, the Council of Stock Theatres, and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. Paper Mill Playhouse Education and Outreach are proudly sponsored by Hearst Foundations. Major funding for autism-friendly programs is provided by Merck and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support includes BD, The Karma Foundation, and The Summit Foundation.

Shining Stars Network is a non-profit organization founded by Sally and Mike Curci that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of building self-confidence and self-esteem while enjoying the experience of performing on stage. In addition, their Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders while building friendship and understanding. Camp Shine (for ages 10-20 years) and the Shining Stars Summer Workshop (21 and over performers) are two-week intensive programs open to everyone. There are also two full productions each year — “An Evening of Shining Stars” — set for May 13, 2023 — and the “Shining Stars Christmas Spectacular” on December 9, 2022. For more information on any of their programs or to purchase show tickets, please visit [shiningstarsnetwork.org](http://shiningstarsnetwork.org) or send an email to [ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com).

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# SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH

City of Summit

During National Preparedness Month in September, the City of Summit is encouraging residents and businesses to make disaster preparation a priority. Making a plan to prepare for disasters is the best way to protect your family. This year's theme is "A Lasting Legacy." Visit the FEMA website to view tips on creating

a family plan, building an emergency kit, and other useful information: [ready.gov/september](https://ready.gov/september). The Office of Emergency Management page on the City of Summit website has a number of safety checklists that can be used to prepare for severe weather conditions and storms: [cityofsummit.org/emergencymanagement](https://cityofsummit.org/emergencymanagement).

# REGISTER FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY COURSE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

National Alliance on Mental Illness

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Family-to-Family Education Course will be offered by the Union County Chapter of NAMI. The course will begin on Thursday evening, September 22, 2022, and meet each Thursday over a consecutive 8-week period. It is free of charge with all necessary materials furnished at no cost.

The course is offered specifically to the parents, siblings, spouses, teenage and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The program is not appropriate for individuals who, themselves, suffer from one of the major mental disorders. This course is taught by NAMI members who have completed intensive

training.

Curriculum topics include schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, etc., the clinical treatment of these illnesses, and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively. Attendees will learn about new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative, and how to deal with critical periods.

Capacity is limited. To register, or if you have questions, please contact Pat Roman at 732-397-8123 or via email at: [patroman2@aol.com](mailto:patroman2@aol.com) before September 15, 2022. Please include "F2F Course" in the subject line. A Family-to-Family instructor will contact you with the details.

# RECYCLING SCHEDULE

City of Summit

Please be advised, that there is a modified recycling collection schedule due to the Labor Day holiday. All recycling pickups for the week of September 5 are postponed one day. Monday collection will be pushed to Tuesday, September 6; Tuesday collection will be pushed to Wednesday, September 7; and so on. Please note that there is no change to the trash collection schedule or operations. Trash is still collected on holidays. For more information on recycling, please visit [cityofsummit.org/recycle](https://cityofsummit.org/recycle).

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Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

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<b>MADISON</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	<b>MOUNTAIN</b> SIDE NJ VIEW Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	<b>New Providence</b> NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	<b>OUR TOWN</b> Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	<b>ROSELLE PARK</b> MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains</b> NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
<b>Short Hills</b> MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041 07078	<b>Summit</b> NJ Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of</b> UNION Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung</b> Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield</b> NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
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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**TIME:** 10:00 am

**COST:** FREE

**REGISTER:** <https://score.tfaforms.net/17?EventID=a105a000005qvnQ>

Participants are encouraged to ask questions as they pertain to their own businesses.



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Renna Media

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Each month, over 160,000 newspapers are mailed to every home and business in 24 towns. He also offers full color printing and mailing services as well as an online presence that parallels his print publications. Through these publications, Renna Media has focused on the needs of the local business owner offering customized, affordable, advertising opportunities. Joe Renna also helps his advertisers with their marketing plans as a value-added service.

Mr. Renna's presentation will address the different aspects of building a marketing plan and tuning up existing ones. The audience will leave with the information to guide them in developing a plan that will get them the best return for their marketing budget. The presentation will encourage questions from the audience and will address specific challenges facing participating business owners.

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