

Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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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.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. If you are a veteran or family member that is in need of assistance, or are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(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.

Courtesy photo

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FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY RETURNS SEPTEMBER 9TH

Watchung Post

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WATCHUNG PTO

The Watchung Parent Teacher Organization has announced the long-awaited return of Food Truck Fridays, a weekly family-friendly outdoor food truck gathering and fundraiser, on Friday September 9. This successful social community engagement created and organized exclusively by the PTO at the height of the COVID pandemic has been a fixture on the grounds of the town's elementary school, Bayberry, since August 2020. To date, this community initiative which fostered a safe environment for the community to gather and dine has provided thousands of dollars to support the students and families attending the Watchung schools.

The Fall Season of Food Truck Friday returns on Friday September 9 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bayberry School, 113 Bayberry Lane, Watchung. The opening night trucks include Cousins Maine Lobster, Arctic Dog, and Mr. Cooper's Funneland.

"After our summer hiatus, I am excited to see the return of our weekly tradition of Food Truck Friday. As our community comes back together for the start of a new school year, we can reconnect with friends old and new at Bayberry every Friday night this fall. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and let's all hope for great weather on Fridays!" said Daryl Eisenberg Knegten, chair of Food Truck Fridays.

Residents have enjoyed over a year of diverse food truck dining featuring cuisines from a revolving list of accomplished Garden State

vendors. Food and dessert trucks donate a percentage of their proceeds from the evening back to the PTO. Parking is available on-site at the school and the Bayberry playground is open for all to enjoy.

Upcoming food truck vendors include Lobster Dogs, Taxi Cab Burgers, Ice Cream Creations, Empanada Guy, and Doughnut Evolution. For further information on vendors, truck schedule, and the Watchung PTO, visit watchungpto.com. Food Truck Friday will run every Friday, 4:30-7:30 p.m., from September 9 through October 21.

The Watchung Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves to strengthen the education and cultural enrichment of Watchung district students as well as to build a closer relationship between the home and school.

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS FRIDAYS - 4:30-7:30 PM

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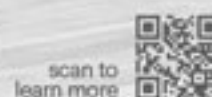
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Home for Good Dog Rescue

WoofStock is back and better than ever! Home for Good's 3rd Annual two-day music and food festival will feature two of NJ's most popular live bands, The Nerds and Brian Kirk & The Jerks. Bring your family and furry friends and be ready

to rock and roll! Live music, beer and wine, and food trucks will be ready for you to devour their tasty treats.

It will be a fun-filled weekend with vendors, games, dog contests, and activities for kids and the whole family. WoofStock is a reunion event for adopters, fosters, and volunteers. We have a network of over 10,000 adopters throughout the New Jersey area that come to the yearly summer event to reunite with their Home for Good family. There will be a Tricky Tray, prizes, and a 50/50 raffle. WoofStock welcomes all well-behaved and leashed dogs!

WoofStock is your chance to not only support our local dog rescue but to promote your business, no matter how big or small, by having direct contact with the local community.

Join Home for Good Dog Rescue on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11, at Brook Valley Farm, located at 336 Loantaka Way, Chatham, NJ, for a weekend celebrating Puppy Love! To purchase tickets visit homeforgooddogs.org or call 908-598-8212.

Home for Good Dog Rescue is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. We are dedicated to saving dogs from the South from abuse, neglect, and high-kill shelters. Our dogs are fostered by local families until they are adopted. In the 11 years we have been in operation we have saved over 10,000 dogs and adopted them to loving families.

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GSWA JOINS EFFORT TO PRESERVE DREW FOREST

Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) has become the latest organization to officially join in the efforts to save the Drew Forest from development.

Located on the Drew University campus in Madison, New Jersey, Drew Forest is a 53-acre undeveloped, biodiverse preserve that is home to glacial ponds and some of the oldest trees in Morris County. The Forest has been called a living classroom for teaching and research for Drew University students and the wider community.

Drew University recently requested that the Borough of Madison rezone the Forest to potentially allow for the development of hundreds of market rate housing units. This has

prompted more than 15 municipalities, government agencies, and organizations working with Friends of the Drew Forest to urge Drew University to partner with the Borough of Madison to preserve this tract of land.

"Great Swamp Watershed Association is proud to support this important preservation initiative," stated Sally Rubin, GSWA Executive Director. "The Drew Forest is an invaluable natural resource that will be lost forever if the Borough is ordered by the court to allow construction and the land is fragmented by development."

The Buried Valley Aquifer flows beneath the Forest which provides all the drinking water for the boroughs of Madison and Chatham and is a major source of drinking water for 30 municipalities in Morris, Essex, Somerset, and Union County. The Forest provides critical recharge, a natural cleansing process, that captures and purifies approximately 71.5 million gallons of rainfall each year. This ecosystem service is valued at \$1.5 million annually by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Friends of the Drew Forest, a volunteer advocacy group, was formed by concerned citizens to permanently protect and sustain the Forest and to raise awareness on the value of all forests. The group has proposed a "win-win" solution; a conservation sale where Drew University would work with Madison Borough to sell the land for full market value to a conservation buyer. The organization is asking the public to support this initiative by signing

their online petition. With more than 13,000 signatures towards the goal of 15,000, The organization states, "The petition is a clarion call to local officials, Drew University and the press." To learn more and to sign the petition, visit friendsofthedrewforest.org.

GSWA joins the following municipalities, government agencies, and organizations working with Drew University in support of preserving of the Drew Forest: Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, Harding Environmental Commission, Morristown, Morris Township Environmental Commission, Parsippany-Troy Hills, Sierra Club NJ, Ridge and Valley Conservancy, the Drew University Student Government, Whippany River Watershed Action Committee, Schiff Natural Lands Trust, Native Plant Society of NJ, Garden Club of America Zone IV, and the Old-Growth Forest Network.

ABOUT THE GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1981, the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and improving the health of the Passaic River through science, education, land preservation and stewardship, and advocacy. In collaboration with partners, we work to instill our communities with an awareness of water's effect on health and the beauty of the environment, from source to sea. The organization educates nearly 5,000 school children, monitors over 30 stream locations, and holds approximately 50 public events each year.



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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, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children, Paramus, NJ, Young Life (greater Summit area), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ), 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

ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

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, call 908-451-8033

or email driveforautism@comcast.net.

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Our fall 2022 season offers varied and dynamic experiences in music, comedy, and theater starting Saturday, Sept. 10.

September 10: Well Alright, A Rolling Stones Tribute performs the biggest hits from the Rolling Stones catalog with the look, energy, and musical detail providing fans with the ultimate Stones experience.

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2022 FALL / WINTER SEASON

Sept 10	Well Alright - A Rolling Stones Tribute
Sept 17	An Evening of Doo Wop: The Duprees, Reactions, Jimmy Rossi Remember When and Comedian Tommy Gooch
Sept 24	Pink Floyd USA Experience
Oct 1	Winslow, An Evening of The Eagles
Oct 8	Comedian Bobby Collins
Oct 15	Rocky Horror Picture Show (Movie with Shadow Cast)
Oct 21	Rock & Roll Royalty Revue: MelloKings, The Knockouts, Del Satins, & Tributes to Connie Francis and Elvis.
Oct 22	Psychic Medium Nini Grace (Hosted by Steve Trevelise)
Oct 23	1924's Silent Film Waxworks Accompanied by the Wurlitzer Organ
Oct 28	Motor City Revue: A Tribute to Motown
Nov 11-20	Seussical, The Musical
Dec 2-11	A Christmas Carol
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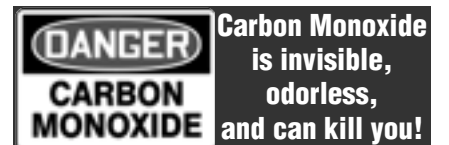
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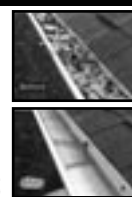
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EXPLORE SCLSNJ'S VIRTUAL SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

To join a virtual program by phone, dial 646-876-9923. After dialing, you will be prompted to enter a meeting ID, which is unique for every event. The meeting ID is the series of numbers at the end of the Zoom link posted for each event.

Those Bald Eagles of Somerset County - Presented by Conserve Wildlife Foundation

September 1, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6420302

Reducing Food Waste at Home

September 6, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6441552

Neuro Linguistic Programming:

Tools for Real Life - Presented by Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Center

September 7, 10 a.m. - noon

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6555947

Organize for the Unexpected -

Create Your Quick Emergency Plan Today

September 7, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6301313

Lost New York City -

A Tour of New York's Demolished Landmarks

September 8, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6716553

The Great Fire of 1835 and the Emergence of Modern New York - Presented by Author Daniel Levy

September 13, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6570362

Hanging Henry Wirz - Andersonville Prison and War Crimes During the Civil War

September 14, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6355148

A Virtual Trip to Costa Rica -

Presented by NJ Audubon

September 15, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6284268

Make Your Job Search Work For You -

Presented by the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board

September 16, 11 a.m. - noon

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6667223

Tanzania: A Photographer's Journey

September 21, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6406852

Stress Reactivity, Mindfulness - and MBSR (Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction)

September 22, 7-8:30 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6668684

Andrew Carnegie -

From Steel to the Building of Libraries

September 26, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6458989

Publishing James Joyce -

Sylvia Beach and Shakespeare and Company

September 27, 7-8 p.m.;

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6336743

The Escape that Broke The Rock -

The Story of the Escape from Alcatraz

September 28, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6312276

Chili Night - Vegetable Chili with Tea Sangria (Non-Alcoholic)

September 29, 7-8 p.m.

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/6301614

DEMOCRACY CONVERSATION PROJECT

New Jersey Council for the Humanities



Courtesy photo

(above) Bridgewater Branch Manager Meredith Hoyer pictured alongside a Democracy Conversation Project Storybox.

Through November 8, 2022, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) will be participating in a statewide initiative in partnership with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) called the Democracy Conversation Project.

The goal of the program is to discover what New Jerseyans have to say about the state of our democracy. The tool that SCLSNJ and NJCH are using to collect this information is called Storybox. These Storyboxes provide a place for New Jerseyans to add their voices to the national story with personal reflections on preprinted response cards.

Join the conversation at SCLSNJ's Bridgewater, Hillsborough, North Plainfield, Somerville, Warren, and Watchung branches. To learn more about the Democracy Conversation Project, visit: njhumanities.org/programs/museum-on-main-street/dcp.

LIBRARY GETS NEW GARDEN

Follow The Garden Club of Watchung on Face Book.

Abby F. and Annabelle C. of Girl Scout Troop 65036 finished planting this garden at the Watchung library to attract hummingbirds. The girls will be adding descriptions of the plants and will tend to the garden for a year to earn the Girl Scout Silver award. A special thank you to Scout leader Yee C. who is also a member of our Garden Club. Great job everyone!



EXPLORING STEAM AT THE LIBRARY

Patrons at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung branch recently explored basic chemistry concepts during a STEAM program by making play dough using general kitchen baking ingredients.

"STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics," said Katie Salerno, youth services librarian. "The Watchung branch hosts monthly STEAM programs intended for children in or entering grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. STEAM programs include hands-on experiments where we discuss expected outcomes and inquire what will happen next as we learn the science behind a topic."

Continued Salerno, "What we learned during this experiment was what to do if the play dough

was too wet or too dry. We learned to add more flour if it's too wet and add more water if it's too dry. It was very messy but very fun and informative!"



(above) Aanya Patel, age 5, of Warren made play dough at an SCLSNJ STEAM program.

Courtesy photo

5TH ANNUAL "CLUBS FOR CABINS" GOLF OUTING

Watchung Post • Page 13 • September 2022

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County will be hosting their 5th Annual "Clubs for Cabins" Golf Outing fundraiser on Monday, September 12, at Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater Twp.

Camp Jotoni, a 15-acre summer camp program for special needs children and adults of all ages, is located at 51 Old Stirling Rd. in Warren Township and owned and operated by The Arc of Somerset County.

Fundraising for Phase 1 & 2 (4 ADA accessible sleeping cabins) began in late 2015, with construction completed in early June 2022 after The Arc Foundation, Board of Trustees and long-term donors and supporters of camp helped raise over 3 million dollars over the course of 6 years.

The four new cabins were put to good use this summer as we returned to near normal operations post COVID-19, welcoming both long-time and first-time campers. Beyond the summer season, Camp Jotoni's new facilities will allow expansion to year-round respite, recreational and other service programs for the children, adolescents and adults we currently serve and those we hope to meet.

The existing aging pool is Jr. Olympic sized with a ramped entry (zero entry) for those who use mobility devices and is undeniably the highlight of each camp day. Renovation here will also include relocation of the pool facilities to improve accessibility and omit the need to walk or be supported down a long-graded driveway that is becoming increasingly difficult for our campers and counselors to navigate several times a day. The original pool structure,

now well over 20 years old, is a high priority for Camp Jotoni.

The Arc Foundation is asking the Somerset County and surrounding community for financial support as we seek to raise the funds to complete all of the demolition and reconstruction of our new pool, pool house and related structures and infrastructure – an approximate 2.5 million dollars.

Register to participate in the golf outing or attend the cocktail and dinner program on September 12 and learn more about the full campaign plans.

The check in table opens at 10:00 a.m., lunch begins at 10:30 a.m., and the scramble starts at 12:00 p.m. Cocktails and dinner will follow at 5:00 p.m. and are open to the general Somerset County public by registering.

A major raffle will be presented at this event and will include a 2022-2023 beach house weekly rental destination in Martha's Vineyard, a 2013 beach condo destination in Wildwood, NJ, and a winter condo weekend stay at Shawnee Wyndam for ski lovers.

Since 1972, The Arc of Somerset County has provided unwavering support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc offers a full range of programs and services to more than 1,400 children, adolescents and adults, and their families in 33 locations, including 27 group homes and apartments, four employment centers, The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, and Camp Jotoni. For more information about The Arc of Somerset County and Camp Jotoni, please visit thearcofsomerset.org or call 908-658-3805.



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NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
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
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
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TIME: 10:00 am

COST: FREE

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



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Joe Renna has been in business since 1984 supplying businesses with a full array of marketing and advertising services. From developing business and marketing plans to multimedia production, over the years, his ad agency has worked with every size business. Since 2000 Renna Media has been publishing hyperlocal community newspapers.

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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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOSTS CONCERT FOR THE HOMELESS

Newark, New Jersey – (September 24, 2021) – Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark is excited to announce its 4th Annual Benefit Concert for the Homeless, taking place on Saturday, November 13 at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway, featuring the iconic 1960's band, Tommy James and the Shondells.

Tickets for the concert range from \$30 to \$150 and all ticket proceeds will directly support the Catholic Charities' ongoing homeless programs and services, which provide assistance to thousands of men, women and families each year. This is made possible thanks to the commitment of numerous sponsors whose backing effectively underwrites the expenses for the artist and production.

"We are most thankful for the support we have already received for this show," stated John Westervelt, CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, "and we hope that people will come to enjoy a great night of classic music while supporting a very worthy cause. Our homeless programs are always in need of supplementary funding, and this benefit concert will substantially help to close a financial gap in our operations."

Now entering his 53rd year in the music business, Tommy James continues to tour the county with his strong expressive voice and a catalog of upbeat pop tunes that have a solid rock and roll punch. Tommy James and the Shondells had its first #1 hit, "Hanky Panky," in 1966. The band went on to produce a string of successful pop/rock tunes including Crystal Blue Persuasion, Crimson & Clover, Mony, I Think We're Alone Now, Draggin the Line, Sweet Cherry Wine, Three Times in Love, and Mirage.....totaling 23 gold records, 9 platinum albums, over 100 million records sold worldwide and 32 Billboard Hot 100 Chart Hits.

Due to new safety protocols instituted by the Union County Performing Arts Center, all attendees will be required to show a proof of vaccination, or a recent negative COVID-19 test, and wear a mask inside unless they are eating or drinking.

Sponsors supporting the event include Goya, NJ Imaging Network, Quick Copper Communications, United Healthcare NJ, Investors Bank, Jackson Lewis, David & Christina McAleer, Andy & Gina Wood, St. Peter's University, Newport Construction, Gallagher, Marzulli, Anselmi & DiCicco, Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark, Place Vendome/Summit, US PASS, Accurate Diagnostic Labs, Matt & Kelly Fulton, Faith Menard and Rendina.

To purchase tickets directly from UCPAC, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucpac.org. To support the event visit <https://e.givesmart.com/events/n4u/>.

For more information, contact Peter Ruccione at Catholic Charities at 973-818-4060 or pruccione@ccannj.org.

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