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GROW YOUR

Issue 9 • November 2022

JOSEPH BRENNAN, FORMER POLICE DIRECTOR, PASSES AT 88

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Joe Brennan, former Elizabeth Police Director passed away on September 29, 2022 at the age of 88. He was born November 7, 1934, on Liberty Street in Elizabeth, NJ. He attended St. Mary's grammar and high school located across the street from his home. He dated his wife, Patricia Hickey in high school. She was a graduate of St. Genevieve Grammar School in the Elmora section of Elizabeth. They married in 1958 and moved to Elmora on Floral Avenue where they stayed for 65 years until retiring to Spring Lake, NJ, in 1998.

Joe comes from a large law enforcement family that continues today. He joined his father, Thomas, and brothers, Tom and John, on the Elizabeth Police Department in 1958. He rose up through the ranks receiving promotions from Patrolman, to Sergeant, to Lieutenant, to Captain. During this time, he furthered his education, receiving an Associate Degree in Police Science from Seton Hall University in 1961. He graduated from the FBI Academy in 1972 and trained as a bomb disposal expert in Huntsville, AL. Joe was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration by Kean College in 1976. In 1973, Joe was selected to serve as Police Director of the Elizabeth Police Department. His 20-year tenure was marked by a progressive attitude and innovative changes to the department. Among his many accomplishments were the hiring of Elizabeth's first female police officers in 1978, the design, development and construction of the new Police Headquarters, the establishment of Police Mini Stations, the transition to Sig Sauer Autoloading Pistols, the introduction of Neighborhood Team Policing and the scheduling of Community Meetings throughout Elizabeth.

After retiring from the Elizabeth Police Department, Joe was appointed an Undersheriff for Union County by Sherriff Ralph Froehlich. Joe served in this capacity until retirement in 2000.

Joe was a life member of PBA #4 and the president of the Elizabeth Police Superiors Officers Association. He was a member of the Elizabeth Rotary Club, the Manasquan Elks, the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick, a founding member of the Baseball League. He received the "Outstanding Officer Award" in 1972 by the New-Beth Masonic Club. Joe was named "1995 Irishman of the Year" by the Thornsticks.

Joe proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict attaining the rank of Sergeant.

After retirement, Joe loved nothing more than spending time with his grandchildren and logged many miles pushing kids in strollers on the boardwalk in Spring Lake. He also took up the game of golf and enjoyed hours on the course with his (Dick) and Jerome.



(above) Joe Brennan joining his father Thomas, brother Tom and brother John on the EPD (1958)



(above) Joe Brennan and his sons (l-r) Joe, Tim, and Pete

best buddy, Michael Melchione. Joe leaves an amazing legacy as a steadfast leader, a loyal friend, and a beloved Poppy.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Pat. Joe was Thornsticks, and a founding member of the Elmora Youth very proud of his three sons, Dr. Joseph (Pam), Peter (Ella), and Tim (Irene), his grandchildren Daniel (Lindsay), Joseph (Ísis), Liam, Brendan, Leah, Sean, Peter, Michael, Nora, and Tommy, and his wonderful great-grandson Connell. Surviving are his siblings Mary Brennan, Joan Ann Smith, Brendan Brennan (Joanie), and sister-in-law Joan Brennan, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his infant son Daniel, parents Thomas and Nora Brennan, siblings Thomas (Marion), Vincent, John (Pat), Anthony (Florence), Nona (More photos can be found on page 6.)





Renna Media LLC, Publishers

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UNION COUNTY'S GOT TALENT AT KEAN ON NOVEMBER 19

fundraising event that supports the Union High School Performing Arts Company and the Douglas Michael Krueger Scholarship Fund, both of which directly benefit the students of Union Township.

Union's Got Talent has been a major community success and, this year, we have gone county-wide.

Our contestants this year either live, work or attend school in Union County. We have 20 contestants from various towns in Union County. The show, on November 19, 2022, will be

FAMILY SUPPORT **GROUP – NOV. 15**

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness?

NAMI of Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness.

The group is led by NAMI-trained facilitators and is a peer support group that allows participants to gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

Zoom sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

To register, email Denise at:

namiunioncounty@yahoo.com with your name, town, and phone number.

Union County's Got Talent (UGT) is a major hosted by Kean University and will take place at Kean's Enlow Recital Hall.

> Tickets are available only online at unionsgottalent.org. Tickets will not be available at the venue. Enlow Hall is a small theater with only 300 available seats. We advise that patrons buy their tickets early.

> This year, UHSPAC and the DMK Scholarship Fund will be partnering with the Township of Union's Cultural Arts Committee with sponsorship by Investors Bank, Union's Special Improvement District and BCB Bank to present UGT on Saturday, November 19, 2022.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The YWCA Union County is actively seeking volunteers. Crisis Response Tram Volunteers are needed to work with local police departments that are providing options, advocacy, and emotional support to domestic violence survivors.

IF INTERESTED, THE FOLLOWING IS REQUESTED:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
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- Bilingual a plus
- Must have driver's license and vehicle • Experience working/volunteering with vulnerable & diverse populations a plus
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- For more information please contact Amanda

Gonzalez, CRT Coordinator via email at: amgonzalez@ywcaunioncounty.org.



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LOCAL VOLUNTEER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS JEAN HARRIS AWARD

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart Marilyn Ryan was presented with the prestigious Jean Harris Award at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Westfield. This award is given to a non- Rotarian who does exceptional service to the community. It is a District-wide award. The Rotary District 7475 comprises of 77 clubs through 9 counties in northern New Jersey

District Awards Chair David Breidinger, from the Rotary Club of Trenton, presented this award on June 7, 2022.

Past President and Rotary Club Foundation Chair Liz Ensslin nominated Marilyn because she has worked closely with her for many years through the Rotary's food program to feed the hungry. Her remarks are as follows:

"Marilyn has dedicated her entire life to those in need. After earning a bachelor's degree in education from Seton Hall University in South Orange, Marilyn embarked on a 20-year career as a teacher in the parochial school systems in both Elizabeth, at St. Genevieve's and Blessed Sacrament, and Linden. She returned to school and became a licensed practical nurse, working in the Rahway Hospital Pediatrics Unit for the next 12 years. In 1985, she assumed the position of Pastoral Associate at Parish Community of



(above, l-r) District Awards Chair David Breidinger, Jean Harris Award recipient Marilyn Ryan, Rotary Club Foundation Chair Liz Ensslin.



Saint Helen in Westfield. In this role Marilyn coordinates many Outreach Programs and Eucharistic Ministry. Marilyn is the coordinator of the Helping Hands and Hearts Program, which is designed to provide temporary financial or material assistance to those in need in our community. Marilyn serves on the advisory board of Sister Pat's Camp for Kids with Cancer in New York and is an Emeritus Member of the Board of St. Joseph's Social Center in Elizabeth. What is most important to know about Marilyn is that she is truly one of the most selfless people we know. The poor, the hungry and those in need always come first. She is the driver of our Soup Kitchens, Food Pantry, Service Auction and many other ministries.

When it comes to her work, Marilyn leads by example. She empowers others to lead their ministries for the poor and disadvantaged, but she also never hesitates to roll up her sleeves, pack Thanksgiving Baskets or deliver gifts to the poor. Marilyn knows first-hand that to "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." Her legacy is not only the work she does herself but the work she supports and empowers others to do. While we think of Marilyn delivering to those in need, we also deeply value the support she provides to members of our community who are suffering from illness, grief or a family crisis. She has truly touched the hearts of many and taught us how to serve others and be an advocate for others less fortunate than ourselves."

Many guests attended the meeting and gave Marilyn accolades for her dedicated service to the community and surrounding avenues.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets the first three Tuesdays of the month at noon at Limani Restaurant on North Ave. Guests are always Welcome. For information check the Rotary Club website at westfieldrotary.org or contact secretary Michael Hart by email drmhart@yahoo.com.



SUPERCELL STORM CLOUD Photo by Marko Korosec, near Julesburg, Colorado

September 1 - November 23, 2022

Liberty Hall Academic Center Gallery & Exhibition Hall

galleries.kean.edu

Exhibition by National Geographic Society











JOSEPH BRENNAN, FORMER POLICE DIRECTOR, PASSES AT 88 (Continued from page 1)



is brothers, Thomais, center, a rapidit, and John, a deputy chi-the directorship at one time. The new director succeeds This w manicipal finance director. Slory, other pictures Page 17.

(above) The Daily Journal 9/27/1973



Elizabeth Mayor Thomas G. Dunn, left, held Eible Wednesday as new Acting Police Director Joseph Brennan, second left, and Finance Director Thomas J. Byrnes, second right, were sworn in by City Clerk John J. Dwyer. Byrnes moved Into finance directorship from the police post.

(above) The Daily Journal article of Brennan getting sworn in as Acting Police Director.



(above) Sgt Joe Brennan (right) on his motorcycle (late 60s)



(above) Joe & Pat'Brennan on their 60th wedding anniversary (2018)



(above) Four generations of Brennans: Joe holding great-grandson Connell, grandson Daniel, and son Joe.





BOY SCOUTS TO SELL WREATHS AND GRAVE BLANKETS

The Boy Scouts of St. Genevieve's Troop 23 school playground. are again selling Christmas wreaths and grave blankets. The holiday items will be on sale in the St. Genevieve's Church parking lot, 822 Livingston Road, from 7:30 am to 1:00 p.m. on the four Sundays from November 20 to December 11.

The wreaths and grave blankets are of a good quality and are sold at a reasonable price. In addition, there will again be a self-serve contactless option 7 days per week, on the

Please support the activities of our awardwinning Scout troop, which teaches character, citizenship and physical fitness to the boys of our area. 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.

For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster. 451-1948 at (908) or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Holiday wreaths and grave blankets will be sold by Boy Scout Troop 23 at St. Genevieve's Church from November 20 to December 11.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD - NOV 19

conducting a massive campaign to collect food for the homeless and needy. On Saturday, November 19, Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church, will be collecting food throughout the Elmora area. Please be as generous as possible. All food collected will be given to food pantries and assistance agencies for distribution locally.

Because of the size of this project, the Scouts must limit themselves to the area bounded by Westfield Avenue, Stiles Street, Morris Avenue, the Lehigh Valley Railroad, and Galloping Hill

The Boy Scouts of America is again Road. Please leave your donations in a bag or box marked "Boy Scouts" on your front porch or steps, visible from the road, by 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 19.

If you live outside of the collection area, but wish to donate, you can bring your contributions, including frozen turkeys or turkey breasts, to the church parking lot at 822 Livingston Road between 9:30 and noon on that Saturday (Nov. 19).

Questions can be directed to Dan Bernier, (908) Scoutmaster, 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 will be Scouting for Food for the homeless and needy on Saturday, November 19



NJ Sharing Network

Trinitas Regional Medical Center has been honored with the 2022 Workplace Partnership for Life Platinum Award for its organ and tissue donation awareness program from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Platinum Award is the highest accolade granted by HRSA to hospitals who promote organ and tissue donation among their community and hospital. Trinitas coordinates its outreach efforts with NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State.

The recognition is part of HRSA's Workplace Partnership for Life initiative, launched in August 2014, which connects organ and tissue donation organizations with hospitals to create ongoing awareness to educate team members, patients, visitors and community members.

We are proud to be recognized by HRSA for our ongoing partnership with NJ Sharing Network to save and enhance lives through organ donation and transplantation," said Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President/CEO of Trinitas. "There are nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a life-saving transplant. We must continue to raise awareness of this critical issue and remind our community that registering as an organ and tissue donor can help bring the gift of life to others."

Throughout the past year, Trinitas conducted multiple awareness and registry activities to encourage new donor registrations. Activities included both in-person and online campaigns to reach internal and external audiences, such as Proclamation Day with Mayor J. Christian Bollwage of Elizabeth and the annual donor memorial service including a flag display in honor of the donors in the Trinitas lobby. Donor Registration Day made it possible for 50 people to become registered organ donors.

"Trinitas and our hospital partners are vital to our life-saving mission," said Alyssa D'Addio, Vice President of Hospital and Community

Services, NJ Sharing Network. "We have been fortunate to work with Trinitas' dedicated team members. They are great advocates and have shown passion and energy in educating others about the power of donation and transplantation."

According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), there are over 100,000 Americans waiting for a life-saving transplant. One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.

ABOUT TRINITAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Trinitas Regional Medical Center, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, was established in 2000 following the consolidation of Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital. Previously in 1990, Elizabeth General acquired the Alexian Brothers Hospital, also in Elizabeth. The spirit of the three Elizabeth hospitals lives on in Trinitas, a major center for comprehensive health services for those who live and work in Central New Jersey. Trinitas is a Catholic teaching medical center with Catholic oversight provided by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. With 12 Centers of Excellence across the continuum of care, Trinitas has distinguished itself in cardiology, cancer care, behavioral health, renal care, nursing education, diabetes management, wound healing, breast health, senior's healthcare, women's healthcare, and sleep medicine.

For more information, visit rwjbh.org/trinitasregional-medical-center/, or follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter. **ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK**

Currently celebrating its 35th anniversary, NJ Sharing Network is the federally designated nonprofit organization responsible for recovering donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. Last year, 233 generous individuals in New Jersey gave the gift of life, an all-time high for a single year. In addition, 42,112 eye and tissue donations enhanced the quality of life for those in need. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization has been recognized by NJBIZ as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for five consecutive years.



(above) Staff members of Trinitas Regional Medical Center and heart transplant recipient Craig Clark gather around Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President/CEO of Trinitas and Ireabdaly Segovia-Conrad, Hospital Services Manager, NJ Sharing Network, to celebrate their efforts in earning the 2022 Workplace Partnership for Life Platinum Award. Courtesy photo

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ELMORA BRANCH LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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. The library will be closed on Nov. 8, 11, 24, 25.

Zumba with Monica

Tuesday, November 1, 22, & 29 at 8:30 a.m. Call 908-353-4820 to reserve a spot but walk-

ins are welcome! Mahjonng

Tuesdays, November 1, 15, & 22 at 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Everyone who loves Mahjongg is welcome to come & play at the library. Remember to bring your own MahJongg tiles, and we'll provide the space for open play. A minimum of 4 players

are required. Ages: 18 & up

Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, November 2 at 5:00 p.m. Kids will share the love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading, and motivate kids to read. Ages: 5-8

Stitch & Chat

Thursday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m. Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Friday, November 4 & 18 at 1:00 p.m. Come out to Elmora Branch Library to watch Thor: Love & Thunder on 11/4 and Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore on 11/18.

Coloring for Kids

Saturday, November 5 at 10:00 a.m. Relax & color at Elmora Branch for an hour! **Crochet with Sol**

Monday, November 7 & 14

Tuesday, November 15 at 11:00 a.m. 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.

Stitch & Chat

Wednesday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m. Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Art Lessons

Saturday, November 12 & 26 at 2:30 p.m. Learn to blend colors, sketch, and many more art skills! An excellent experience for children, teens, and adults! All levels of art skills

are welcome!

Thanksgiving Story & Craft

Wednesday, November 16 at 5:00 p.m. Join Ms. Martha for an interactive program that promotes early learning and a happy heart and mind.

Drawing for Kids

Thursday, November 17 at 3:00 p.m. Join Ms. Martha for a cute storytime and learn to draw different animals!

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, November 19 at 1:00 p.m. 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 for the whole family.

Coloring for Adults

Tuesday, November 22 at 11:00 a.m. Drop in for some relaxing coloring fun! Come discover the calming effects as well as meeting some good company!

Sign Language Storytime

Saturday, November 26 at 11:00 a.m. A family storytime where everyone can learn sign language together. Stay for a quick activity to socialize after the program!

Toddlers World

Monday, November 28 at 11:00 a.m. An hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime.

Junior's Book Club

Wednesday, November 30 at 5:00 p.m. Tweens will share the love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading, and motivate kids to read. Ages: 9-12





STICHCRAFT ART SHOW

Established Elizabeth artist, Paula Borenstein, is the featured artist during November and December at the Elizabeth Public Library, third floor exhibit space.

Paula is one of the founders and directors of the Elizabeth Arts Council (EAC). She is known for her fabric collages and assemblages which often depict her family's immigrant journey. Her work has been on view at various venues in New Jersey, including the Pearl Street Gallery, 73See and the Jewish Museum of New Jersey. In 2014, she was the artist in residence at the Elizabeth Public Library. She conducted workshops and visitors were welcome to stop by and see her room-sized installation - Sanctuary - in progress.Please check elizpl.org for library hours.

RAHWAY'S FALL FISHING FLEA MARKET NOV. 19

The Rahway Fall Fishing Flea Market will be held on Saturday, November 19th, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Thomas Church Hall, 1400 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, NJ. A wide variety of salt and fresh water fishing tackle will be on display for anglers looking for great buys.

New, used, antique, custom fishing and boating items will be available to all. Door prizes will be given away every half hour which include rods, reels, tackle and much more. Food and refreshments are sponsored by St. Thomas Holy Name Society. Admission price is \$5 per adult, children 12 and under are free. For show or vendor information visit fishingfleamarkets.com or call 732-381-2165.



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MILITARY FAMILY MONTH TO THANK AND SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES

The Gateway Family YMCA helps families of military personnel maintain health and well-being while their loved ones serve our country

Since its inception in 1996, YMCAs have celebrated Military Family Month, providing Americans the opportunity to recognize the dedication, sacrifice, and service of military personnel and their families. Throughout the year, and especially this November, The Gateway Family YMCA supports military families with programs and initiatives that improve their well-being and provide opportunities to connect with other families waiting at home.

"Military families have unique needs when a loved one is away from home," said Melynda A. Disla, EVP/COO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "Whether it's providing a place where kids can make friends and have a sense of belonging or providing a place for adults to meet health goals, the Y is here and able to help."

The Gateway Family YMCA offers YMCA family memberships through the national Military Outreach Initiative. Since 2008, the Military Outreach Initiative has provided more than 82,000 Y memberships to military members and their families nationwide. Here in Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County, The Gateway Family YMCA supports active duty military members and their families every day with programs to support all.

"Since moving to Elizabeth, my entire family has been a Y member due to the Army's relationship with the YMCA. My membership is free and my family gets to use the Y as part of the Military Outreach Program. My wife uses the gym daily and takes advantage of the spin

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and Zumba classes, and my daughter participates in swimming and dance classes," stated Brian, YMCA member and active duty military.

"My YMCA membership has allowed me to stay active and healthy," added Clara, YMCA Member and military spouse. "More importantly, it has helped me cope during the stressful times that all military families go through."

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

First established by the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and recognized by the U.S. government ever since, Military Family Month recognizes the dedication and service of military personnel and their families.

To learn more about the Y and programming that supports military families, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057 or the Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622.



Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com





