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ISSUE 115 • MARCH 2023

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## FIRE ACADEMY CELEBRATES FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY

Somerset County held its first Fire Academy Graduation on Friday, January 27th, adding 38 new firefighters to 24 Central Jersey departments that protect the public during home fires, floods, and other life-threatening situations. The graduation Ceremony was the first since COVID arrived in 2020 and was a celebration not just of the accomplishments of the graduates, but of the gift of safety and hope firefighters and other first responders give the public every day.

"It is no small thing to commit to enter a burning building, to carry dozens of pounds of gear on your back into unfamiliar spaces, to be ready to save someone else's life at a moment's notice," said Commissioner Deputy Director Doug Singleterry at the celebration. "You give us all the faith that our homes and loved ones are protected at all times, and that when disaster strikes there are highly skilled, highly trained, highly motivated neighbors ready to come give us the help -- and hope -- we need to recover."

Founded in 1991, the Fire Academy is part of Somerset County's Emergency Services Training Academy in Hillsborough, NJ, as part of the Office of Emergency Management. The Academy is tasked with providing educational training and certification for fire, EMS, CERT, Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, search and rescue, amateur radio testing, hazardous materials handling, and other public safety personnel in Somerset County and throughout the state.

"This is an exciting day. This is our first live graduation of the Somerset County Fire Academy since before COVID, so a nice round of applause for a little return to normal," said Somerset County Office of Emergency Management Director Lisa Werner, who oversees the Emergency Services

Training Academy.

The Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy has classes for aspiring and experienced firefighters, EMTs, CERT members and other first responders schedule throughout the spring and summer of 2023. To learn more, visit [www.co.somerset.nj.us](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us), call (908) 725-5070 or email [trainingacademy@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:trainingacademy@co.somerset.nj.us).



(above) Frank Wendling III, Frank Wendling, Jr., and Max Wendling graduated together from the Fire Academy January 2023.



(above) Members of the Summer and Fall 2022 First Year Firefighter class of the Somerset County Fire Academy at the Academy's first in-person graduation since COVID struck. January 27, 2023 at the Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy in Hillsborough, NJ.

Courtesy photos

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# Green Brook Gazette <sup>NJ</sup>

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## A MESSAGE FROM POLICE REGARDING RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY AWARENESS

There has been a recent increase in residential burglaries that have occurred in Green Brook Township and throughout the entire state of New Jersey. The Green Brook Police Department would like to take this opportunity to provide some information to our residents to help reduce the possibility of becoming a burglary victim.

- Report ANY and ALL suspicious activity you may see in your neighborhood.
- Install quality door locks and dead bolts to all exterior doors of your home.
- If you do not have one or both, install an alarm system and surveillance cameras on the exterior and interior of your home. Make sure the alarm is monitored by a central station that will immediately notify the police first when there is an activation. Additionally, when you install cameras ensure that the system has a views of the street, driveway, all door entrances, and perimeter if possible.
- If you already have these systems, make sure you activate them and ensure that they are working properly. We suggest you have a battery/cellular backup installed and your system has remote monitoring capabilities.
- Install motion lights on the perimeter of your property and make sure the exterior of your home is always well lit during all nighttime hours.

- Communicate with your neighbors. Advise them when you are going on vacation or extended weekend trips so they can monitor your home. Have them take in your mail, package deliveries, garbage/recycle cans, and report any activity that may be out of the ordinary.
- DO NOT post on any social media sites that you are on vacation and for how long. We advise that you post any pictures/events from your trip after you return home.
- Fill out a vacation house check form at the Green Brook Police Dept. if no one is available to check on your residence when you go on vacation or extended weekend trips. Once the form is submitted, your home will be specifically checked by the patrol division in your absence.
- Keep any valuables and or cash in a home safe that is secured to the floor or wall. In the event you do not have a safe, secure these items in a well hidden location that is not in your office or bedrooms, including your safe.

The Green Brook Police Department takes all investigations and the safety of our residents seriously. We encourage you to report any suspicious incidents no matter how minor it may seem to 732-968-1188. For any emergencies, please dial 911.

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## SUPPORTING CHILDREN COPING WITH LOSS – WEBINAR, MAR. 21

Children will experience different losses in life: divorce, moving, friendships ending, sports injuries or the death of a friend or family member. Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is working to create grief informed communities where children will be surrounded by adults who are able to provide support as they cope with these losses.

On Tuesday, March 21st from 7:00–8:30 p.m., Imagine will offer a webinar on Supporting Children Coping with Loss for anyone who wants to learn how to support a child who is grieving. While loss due to death will be the primary focus of this webinar, the concepts that will be presented are applicable to all types of loss. It is especially important for parents and grandparents, guardians, teachers, members of community organizations, coaches, therapists, counselors, and social workers to attend this program. The webinar will be offered in both English and Spanish.

### THOSE WHO ATTEND WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Define the terms “loss,” “grief,” and “mourning”
2. Understand the different types of loss and the impact of those losses
3. Identify similarities and differences on how children, teens, and adults experience their grief
4. Learn how to support someone who is grieving

CEUs are available for social workers with a \$30 registration fee. For those who do not need CEUs, a \$30 donation is appreciated, but not required.

Those interested in the Spanish-speaking webinar do not need to register, but may contact Imagine’s Training and Education Director, Veronica Ortiz at [veronica@imagineenj.org](mailto:veronica@imagineenj.org) to receive the link to join the webinar.

Please join Imagine in our effort to create supportive communities for children who are grieving. To register for the English-speaking webinar, please scan the QR code below or visit [imagineenj.org](http://imagineenj.org).



## 39TH ANNUAL QUILT SHOW - MARCH 25

Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 39th annual quilt show on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Sharing the Quilts XXXIX will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult admission is \$8 and \$3 for children under twelve.

As always, giving back will be at the heart of the show, with local charities benefiting from the sale of fabric and drawings for a quilt and fabric basket. A special display will feature several of the over 300 colorful pillowcases and lap quilts made by members and donated to a children’s hospital under the umbrella of Ryan’s Case for Smiles.

At 11 a.m., nationally recognized quilt book author Karen Gloeggler of Rahway will speak on “The Secrets to Preventing Unfinished Projects.” The award-winning quilter is the author of “Jane Austen’s Quilts Inspired by Her Novels” (available for purchase at the show) and “Crazy, Luscious Quilting” due out by the end of the year.

Diane Fleming of Westfield will be honored as 2023 featured quilter. Known for creating one-of-a-kind king-sized works of her own design, Fleming’s 13-year journey as a quilter will be explored through 20 spectacular themed quilts. “My interests in art history and watercolor

painting influence my fabric and design choices,” said the avid gardener and mother of three grown sons, who will also display examples of her painting and needlework.

Linda Blauvelt, artist-in-residence, will exhibit original oil paintings. A quilter for many years, she has branched out into this second art form, recently displaying her work at the Westfield Public Library.

A memorial tribute will be on display for Peg Foy, coverlet expert and prolific miniature quilter. Late Harvest Quilters founder Ann Eelman will also be remembered.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional bed-sized, art and wall hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer’s choice awards, kid’s scavenger hunt, vendor area and a tearoom for snacks or lunch.

For more information, please visit [harvestquilters.com](http://harvestquilters.com)

*Sharing the Quilts XXXIX*  
Saturday – March 25, 2023 – 9am to 5pm  
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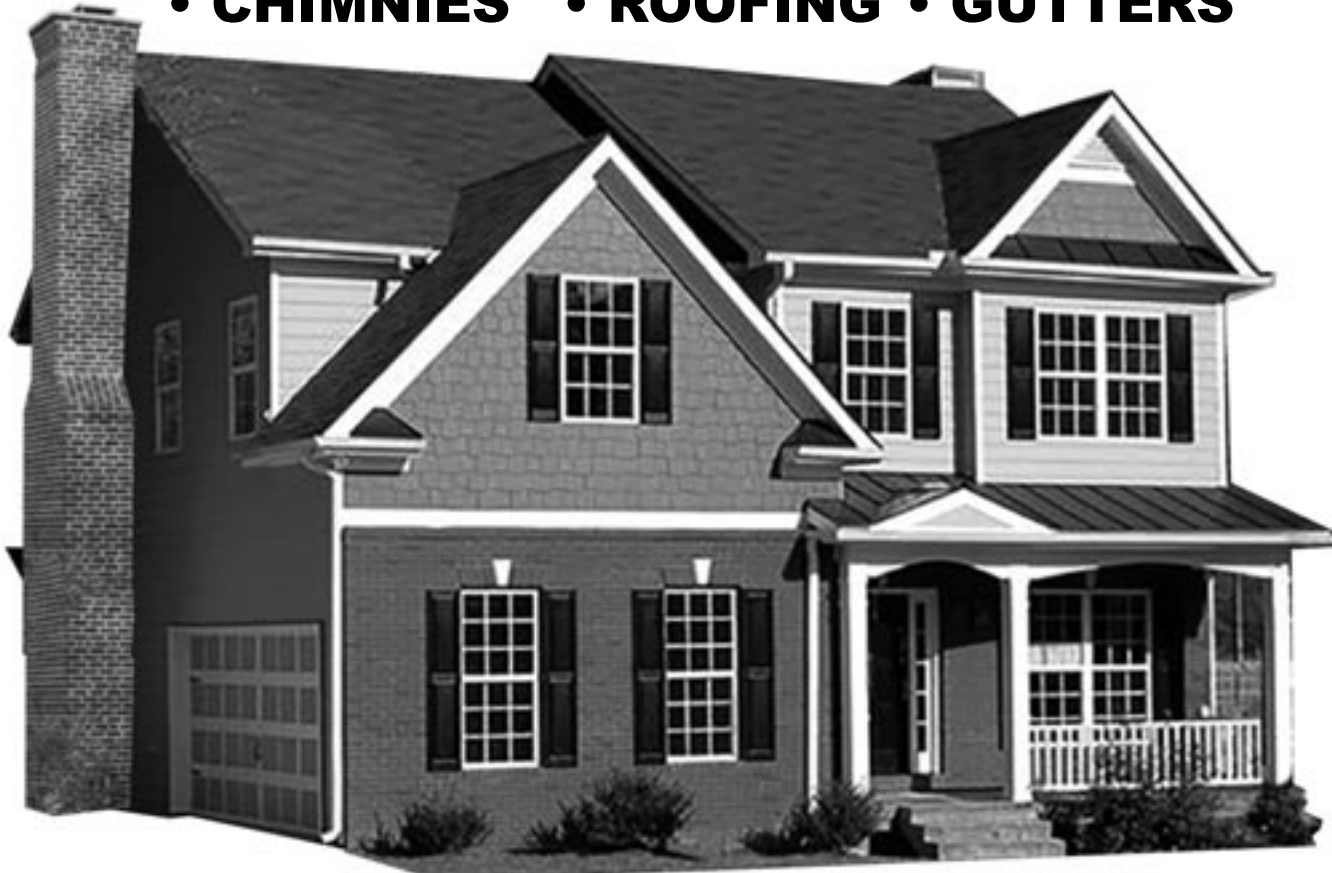
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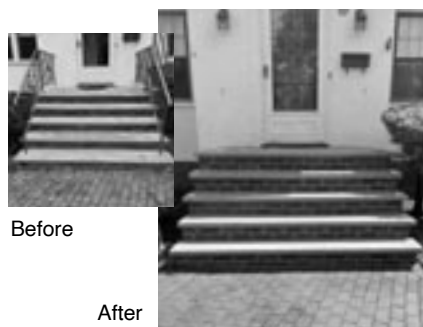
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# MARCH HIGHLIGHTS FOR WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER

Warrenbrook Senior Center, located at 500 Warrentown Road in Warren, is one of the six county operated Senior Center. Somerset County residents who are 60 years and older are welcome to participate in any of the programs at the center. They also provide a choice of 4 different meal choices during lunch that seniors can take advantage of during the weekdays. All the programs are free for the registered members. Please call 908-753-9440 for more information on how to become member of the Warrenbrook Senior Community.

Below is the highlight of programs.

## Basic Computer and iPad Instruction with Parul

March 16, 30 – 11 a.m.

In this basic computer learning class, the topics that will be covered will vary every week and will depend on the needs of the clients. Some of the topics will be checking the email, opening/attaching the attachments, clearing the cache, creating word documents. Please call (908) 753-9440 for more information.

## Brains n Games and Hand Bells with Adrienne Graubard

March 3, 31 – 11 a.m.

Did you know that solving puzzles or challenging yourself with new mind-stretching activities like learning music can stimulate the brain and enhance your creative and critical thinking processes? Join Adrienne for some mind-tingling, brain-stumping word games and a fun-filled musical workout using hand bells.

## Holi –by Seema Moondra, EnjoyExplore India!

March 6 - 11 a.m.

Get ready to welcome spring with a song and dance; enjoy the bountiful harvest, a fruit of labor, not chance! Holi is a time to let bygones be bygones, so let us play games, have fun, and celebrate life - colorful and bright!

The Holi festival celebrated with great enthusiasm all over India gives people the opportunity to renew friendships and build new relationships. It is a time to rejoice in the bounties of nature, honor farmers and their cattle, and enjoy the blossoming of the Earth. During Holi people play with colored powder, dance to fun songs, engage in spring cleaning, light bonfires and hold family get-togethers to celebrate life! Join us to learn more about the festival as you enjoy traditional Indian drinks like "thandai" served during Holi celebrations.

We will listen to Holi songs, learn some cool Bollywood dance moves, and play fun games. So put on your dancing shoes and get ready for some colorful fun!

## Margaret Morris: American Revolution Diary- Marisa Bozarth

March 8 – 11 a.m.

Margaret Hill Morris is one of the hidden stories of the American Revolution. Throughout the war, she kept a diary, now viewed as one of the most detailed accounts from New Jersey. Also, a doctor she treated soldiers and worked in Philadelphia during the yellow fever epidemic of 1793. Morris's story is one that should be remembered as a story of heroism and survival.

## 2022 Tax Preparation

March 8, 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. Please call (908) 753-9440 and sign up for getting your taxes prepared free of charge.

## Craft – Butterfly Button Art

March 10 – 11 a.m.

March 14 is the National Learn about Butterflies Day. What better way to learn about the butterflies than do a craft activity together.

We will be using the buttons to create the butterfly. All supplies will be provided.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

## Berries & You, Perfect Together

– Jennifer Korneski

March 13 – 11 a.m.

A discussion on the history of berries and the health benefits of this functional food.

## Musical Performance – Lorri Woodward

March 22 – 11 a.m.

We're all Irish on St. Patrick's day. To celebrate St. Patrick's day, feast day of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, Lorri Woodward will entertain us with some Irish songs along with other songs from 50's and 60's to commemorate the day.

## The Price is Right- 1960s version

March 23 – 11 a.m.

The game Price is Right debuted in 1972 and was hosted by Bob Barker. We will play a similar version of the game and guess the price of items that was in 1960s.

## Craft – Cherry Blossom & Owl

March 24 – 11 a.m.

Celebrate spring being in full bloom with this craft! The DIY cherry blossom tree signs come to life with simple craft supplies like pom-poms, making them look lush and pretty. We will also be making owl using the sticky back foam pieces, wiggly eyes, scratch art circle.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

## "The Do's and Don'ts of Recycling in Somerset County" by Melissa Harvey

March 29 – 11 a.m.

Somerset County Division of Solid Waste Management. This program will inform residents what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in the county's recycling program.

Melissa will discuss the impact China has had on the marketing of recyclables and where the recyclables are being disposed of. She will also discuss how to dispose of household hazardous waste and electronics and discuss the shredding events throughout the county in 2023.

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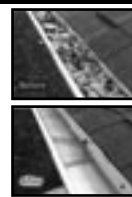
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## FLINTLOCKS SCOUTER GROUP LIVES BY THE SCOUT LAWS

The Flintlocks, BSA, Inc. are a group of retired scouters who dedicate their time and talents to building and maintaining the scout camps of the Patriot's Path Boy Scout Council in northern New Jersey.

The group includes some tradesmen, but also professionals and volunteers of every background. Most are retired, but some still work full-time, and occasionally people volunteer to help for a day here or there. It is a very friendly group with great camaraderie and a good sense of humor. When one member reached age 100, they designated a parking spot reserved for "all Flintlocks over 100 years old". Two other members are 90 years old, but they will have to wait a while before parking in that spot.

The Flintlocks met for their Fall General Meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at their workshop at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. They reviewed the accomplishments of the previous year and discussed future projects the Council needs to have done. Some of the future projects include installing new windows in the

dining hall, building a pavilion near the trading post, collecting Toys for Tots; and making craft kits and Pinewood Derby cars for special needs children.

The Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America encompasses 5 counties in central and northern New Jersey: Middlesex; Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Union. The Council website is ppcbsa.org. There are 11,000 scouts who use the camps in this council.


In spite of their name, the Flintlocks have nothing to do with antique firearms, although some of the old guys are considered "antiques". They meet every Thursday at Camp Winnebago, Rockaway, NJ, all year round, and guests are always welcome. They are organized as a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. All of the members are registered with the BSA, take CPR and AED training, and are vaccinated for COVID.

More than half of the Flintlocks have been awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest National Award for a

volunteer in the Scouting Program. They usually provide approximately 5,000 hours of volunteer skilled labor every year, saving the Council close to \$250,000 of labor costs.

In the past, the Flintlocks have built cabins, picnic tables, painted the dining hall, built the archery range, built all the structures at the waterfront, financed, built and equipped the STEM Lab at Allamuchy Scout Reservation, financed and built an addition to the Wink Dousa Cabin, and repaired damage to camp structures. In addition to building structures and doing repairs and maintenance, they also volunteer at many Council programs throughout the year. One popular program for Cub Scouts for which the Flintlocks volunteer is called "For the Birds". The children learn about birds and build birdhouses and bird feeders.

The Facebook Page is "Flintlocks". Guests are always welcome. For more information contact Secretary Dr. Michael Hart at [drmhart@yahoo.com](mailto:drmhart@yahoo.com).



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(above) The Flintlocks BSA, Inc. members showing the signs representing the 12 points of the Scout Law. They tease one member for always being seen with a coffee cup in his hand, so they made him a sign reading "coffee". These signs will be posted at the Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Byram, NJ, located near Waterloo Village.

Courtesy photo

## MEL'S PERENNIALS

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## FINANCIAL RESOURCES FCU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each Spring, the Financial Resources FCU Foundation receives scholarship applications from student candidates who will be heading to an accredited educational institution (2- or 4-year college, university, or technical school) in the fall. Potential winners are scored on a number of criteria including community service involvement, academic achievement, teacher references, extra-curricular activities and overall application quality. Each scholarship winner receives \$1,000 to use toward their upcoming college costs.

Financial Resources FCU is committed to the communities we serve. We help our members reach their financial goals and hope that these students will continue to be an integral part of their communities through their college careers and beyond.

Frank Almeida, President and CEO of Financial Resources Federal Credit Union and Chairperson of the Foundation notes, "We love giving out these scholarships. Each winner is an excellent student and, more importantly, is highly involved in community service. We are recognizing young adults who will make an

impact during and after their college career."

For more information, or to apply for a FRFCU Foundation Scholarship, please visit us at [myfinancialresources.org/home/about-us/frfcu-foundation/scholarship/](http://myfinancialresources.org/home/about-us/frfcu-foundation/scholarship/).

Applications must be postmarked by April 10, 2023 to be considered for this year.

### ABOUT FINANCIAL RESOURCES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Financial Resources Federal Credit Union is a federally chartered credit union that offers a variety of financial products and services to its members, and business services for its member companies, organizations, and the communities of Flemington, NJ, and the greater New Brunswick/Somerset, NJ area.

Financial Resources is regulated by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), and savings are federally insured to at least \$250,000. Headquartered in Bridgewater, NJ, Financial Resources has over 26,000 members and total assets of \$578 million.

Visit [MyFinancialResources.org](http://MyFinancialResources.org) for more information.

## FREE TAX-AIDE PROGRAM FOR SOMERSET COUNTY RESIDENTS

Somerset County's Volunteer Services and AARP are teaming up again to provide the Tax-Aide program to help residents prepare their taxes. The free tax-counseling service is available to all county residents, but designed specifically for older adults, residents with disabilities, and lower-income residents who need help preparing federal and New Jersey income tax returns.

Tax counselors will review and prepare residents' New Jersey and federal tax documents and file their documents electronically. To ensure they are up to date on current tax laws and forms for both the federal and state governments, volunteer counselors receive annual training and are tested and certified by the Internal Revenue Service and have had their backgrounds checked by Somerset County Sheriff Darrin Russo's office.

This year, there will be approximately 57 volunteers providing direct support to residents at six sites in Somerset County, including Montgomery, North Branch, Manville, Bridgewater, Franklin, and Green Brook.

Tax returns are filed electronically, enabling taxpayers to obtain a more rapid refund if they are eligible. Taxpayers will receive a paper copy of their federal and state returns. Volunteers also can assist with preparing Property Tax Reimbursement (PTR) forms for homeowners ages 65-years or older who meet eligibility requirements.

### APPOINTMENT GUIDELINES


Residents must schedule an appointment to receive tax assistance. Appointments are available through April 17. Residents are required to bring the following items to their appointment:

- 2022 W-2 forms
- Bank, broker, and Social Security Statements from tax year 2022
- Total of all medical expenses and all other deductible expenses from 2022
- Copy of 2021 tax returns
- Property Tax Reimbursement (PTR) forms for homeowners ages 65-years or older who meet eligibility requirements. Please bring the following to complete your PTR:
- The blue booklet received in the mail and prior year's tax return
- Documentation for property taxes paid and other deductible expenses.

To make an appointment, call the Somerset County Office of Volunteer Services at 908-541-5710.

### SOMERSET COUNTY OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteer Services recruits people of all ages to volunteer for various county departments and/or non-profit programs. The Office of Volunteers oversee the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Handyman Project, Tax Filing Assistance Program, Tutoring Program, Fall Clean-Up Program.



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<b>Florham Park Press</b> NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood Times</b> NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook</b> NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	<b>BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in LINDEN</b> NJ Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	<b>Long Hill LEADER</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
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<b>Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	<b>Summit &amp; Times</b> NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of UNION</b> NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung Post</b> NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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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								
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FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
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## CHINESE NEW YEAR PARTY

Somerset County seniors were invited to join the fun of a free Chinese New Year celebration held at the Somerset County Senior Wellness Center in Bridgewater on Wednesday, Jan. 25. Entertainment included line dancing, Tai Chi, a martial arts demonstration, a musical performance, and educational information about the Chinese New Year.

Participants had the opportunity to practice Tai Chi and dance the Mayim-Mayim, which is an Israeli dance adopted by Asians. The Hulusi (gourd flute) solo performance and a sword-drawing demonstration will captivate any audience. Seniors will also learn fascinating facts about the Chinese New Year.

A lunch with an Asian Flair was served. Including: Chicken & Vegetable Dumplings, Vegetable (edamame) Dumplings, Roast Beef with Provolone Cheese Sandwich, Tomato, Arugula, Cheddar Cheese & Pesto Sandwich

All senior centers offer a nutritionally balanced lunch at noon, Monday through Friday. The menu choices include both hot and cold lunches, with and without meat. Lunch reservations should be

made by 10 a.m. the day before attending. There is a suggested lunch donation of \$2.50 for anyone ages 60 and above. For seniors less than 60 years of age, the cost is \$8.07.

To learn more about the Somerset County Senior Wellness Centers, call 908-704-6346 or email [OfficeAging@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:OfficeAging@co.somerset.nj.us).

### ABOUT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Chinese New Year is a 15-day festival that Chinese communities celebrate globally. The holiday is often called the Lunar New Year because it follows the phases of the moon. This year it begins on Jan. 21 and ends on Feb. 20, or until the next full moon.

This year is called "Year of the Rabbit" because the Chinese New Year coincides with the Chinese Zodiac sign the rabbit. There is a repeating zodiac cycle lasting 12 years, with each year representing a zodiac animal that has special attributes. In the Chinese culture, the Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity. People born in the year of the Rabbit are called "Rabbits" and are believed to be vigilant, witty, quick-minded, and ingenious.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on the Green Brook Gazette page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/greenbrookgazette). Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



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