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ISSUE 116 • APRIL 2023

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## SENIORS CELEBRATE INDIAN FESTIVAL OF COLORS – HOLI

Somerset County seniors were invited to mark the beginning of Spring during a free Holi Festival celebration held at the Warrenbrook Senior Center, located at 500 Warrenville road in Warren, one of six county operated senior centers.

Holi is the Indian Festival of colors – it marks the beginning of spring. The Holi festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm all over India. It 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!

Seniors danced to the Bollywood music using Indian scarves and had fun. Seema Moondra from Enjoy Explore India! Co-ordinated the event with Warrenbrook Senior Center manager Parul Patel.

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).



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

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## Dunellen & Green Brook Rotary Club

### ANNUAL PASTA FESTIVAL

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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## OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH

### Greenbrook Historical Society

The Dr. John Vermeule House, one of Green Brook's historic links to its early settlers was built as a farmstead. Construction began in 1799 and became occupied by the Vermeule family in 1805. Dr. Vermeule practiced medicine and operated a farm on the original 113 acres of his property. The home is based on a blending of English and Dutch architectural traditions with Georgian and Federal style influences.

Vermeule ownership of the property ended in 1824. Various families bought and sold the property over the years, namely, Vail, Cohen, Voorhies and lastly, Mundy. The farmstead continued to function as a dairy farm into the mid-20th century. The township of Green Brook acquired the house and remaining 2.2 acres of the property in 2008. Necessary preservation renovations have been made to some structural elements, but the house is virtually unchanged from its original construction.

The Dr. John Vermeule House, located at 223 Rock Avenue, Green Brook will be open for visitors on Saturday, April 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. There you will meet several of its volunteer members to give you a glimpse into 19th - 20th century rural living. There are some interesting outbuildings and farm equipment to see, on the 2-acre property.

Mark your calendars and consider participating as a volunteer or enjoy the event as a proud resident!

Greenbrook Historical Society meetings are held at Green Brook Town Hall, 111 Greenbrook Road, on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:30pm. We also offer Zoom, for those who can't come in person. Our group has a lot of fun exploring our local history and doing our best to preserve and document its rich heritage. Please consider joining us! For additional information, please contact 732-968-7696. Please leave a brief message with your name and phone number where you can be reached at and you'll receive a call back.



(above) The Dr. John Vermeule House, located at 223 Rock Avenue, Green Brook will be open for visitors on Saturday, April 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

## STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NY/NJ ETHICS BOWL

### Green Brook Public Schools

The NY/NJ Middle School Ethics Bowl was held on February 25th, 2023 at Kent Place School in Summit, New Jersey. This academic competition provides an opportunity for teams of students to competitively discuss and analyze ethical issues. Thirteen Schools throughout New Jersey and New York were represented. Green Brook Middle School was one of only of two public schools to attend the event.

Coach John Rockwell of Green Brook Middle School worked with students to practice the critical skills necessary to succeed at the Bowl. There are four main parts of the Ethics Bowl: Presentation; Open Dialogue; Judges Questions; and Final Question.

The teams practiced public speaking and their ability to articulate complex ideas in a clear and concise way. They also developed skills in asking questions to enhance conversation during the Open Dialogue portion of the round. They learned to listen intently and provide reasoned responses to specific questions.

Students showed their ability to actively listen and build on the ideas of others the Final Question portion of the competition.

The Green Brook Teams more than held their

own against many of the schools winning head to head matches against teams from Far Brook, the Packer School, Delbarton and The Peck School. One team tied in a match against the Stevens Cooperative School, which were the winners of the Ethics Bowl. Overall, students were satisfied with their experience in the Ethics program. One 7th Grade student, Sonia Nikhil commented "My mind has flourished with Ethics. I felt encouraged to think outside the box and look at situations from multiple perspectives other than the one I agree with. Another 7th Grade student, Charlie Ford, reflected, "Before, I was sometimes more awkward and one sided when talking to other people, and Ethics has helped me have better conversations with different kinds of people."

Coach Rockwell indicated that the teams' success at the Ethics Bowl was due to the hard work of his students and the support of their parents, who drove their children to team meetings at 7AM on Friday mornings. He also thanked his Superintendent Dr. James Bigsby and his principal Ms. Alicia Subervi for their encouragement, support, and dedication. He also wanted to thank his Supervisor of Learning and Teaching, Matt Santos, for agreeing to be a judge during scrimmages and at the event.

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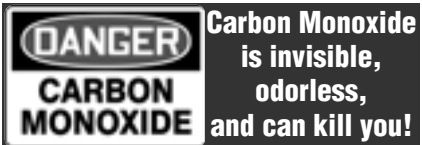
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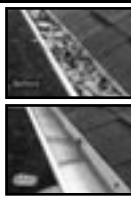
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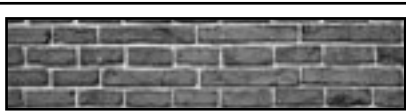
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### Autism Speaks

Every April Autism Speaks celebrates World Autism Month, beginning with the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. This year marks the 15th annual World Autism Awareness Day.

Throughout the month, we focus on sharing stories and providing opportunities to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism, fostering worldwide support. This year, we are committed to creating a world where all people with autism can reach their full potential.

Supporters can participate in World Autism Month by:

Join our 2.8 million social followers and help foster understanding and acceptance by sharing

## WORLD AUTISM MONTH

the diverse stories of people on the spectrum or telling your own. Submit your story by visiting: [surveyMonkey.com/r/AutismSpeaksShareYourStory](https://surveyMonkey.com/r/AutismSpeaksShareYourStory)

Invite your colleagues, classroom and friends to join our Kindness Campaign and encourage acceptance, understanding and inclusion with daily acts of kindness at school, work or in your community. Together, we can create a world where all people with autism can reach their full potential.

Make a meaningful, lasting impact for people with autism with your gift. It's one of the easiest and best ways to show your support.

Learn about all the ways you can fundraise on social media.

Joined by the international community, hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world come together on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, to Light It Up Blue in recognition of people with autism and those who love and support them.

Everyone is encouraged to participate. Whether you have autism, love someone who does, or are looking to support a diverse, accepting and kind community – you're invited to take the pledge to help create a world where all people with autism can reach their full potential.

For more information visit: [autismspeaks.org/world-autism-awareness-day](https://autismspeaks.org/world-autism-awareness-day)



(above) Whether you have autism, love someone who does, or are looking to support a diverse, accepting and kind community – you're invited to take the pledge to help create a world where all people with autism can reach their full potential. For more information visit: [autismspeaks.org/world-autism-awareness-day](https://autismspeaks.org/world-autism-awareness-day)



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# CLASS OF 2023 PROJECT GRADUATION SEEKS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Watchung Hills Regional High School Project Graduation Committee has been busy working on the Class of 2023's Senior year events and graduation night event since the beginning of the school year in September.

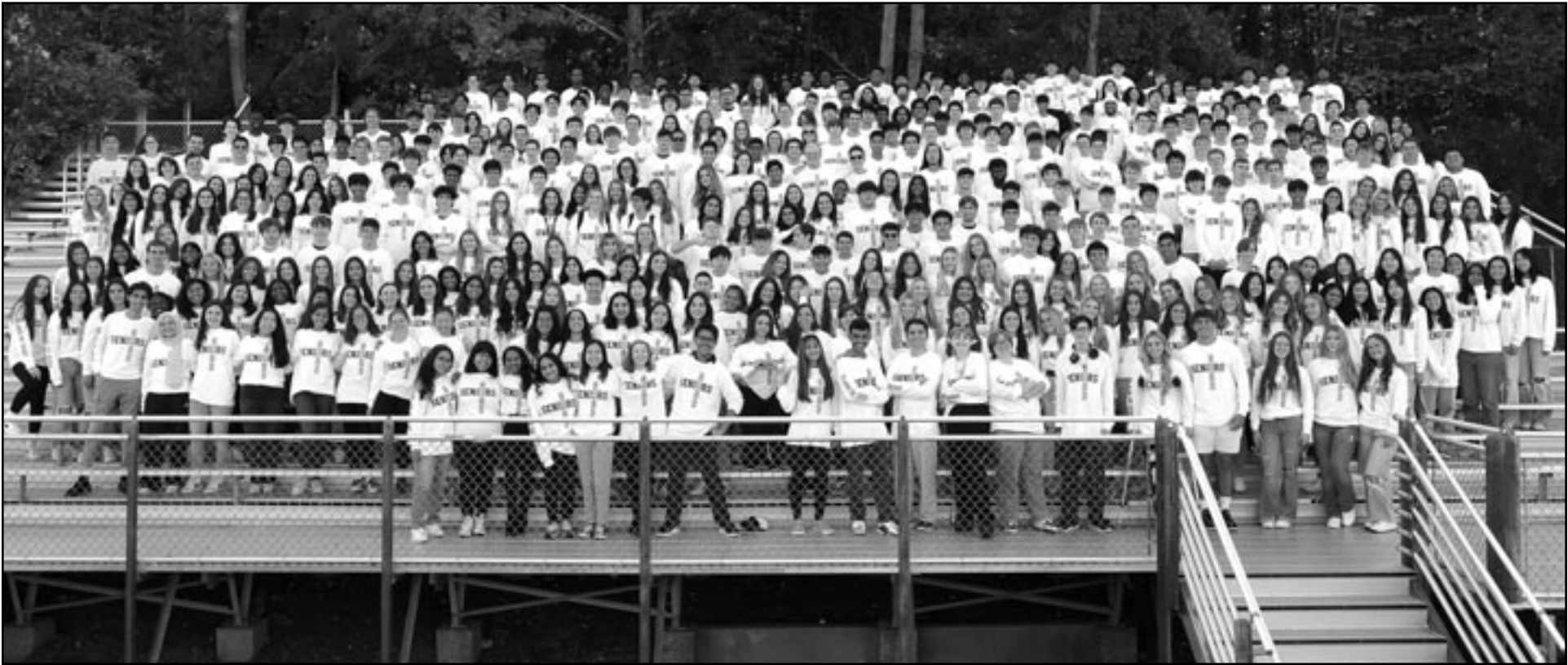
This year's graduation night event will take place at Iron Peak Sports & Events. Project Graduation is a year-long celebration for the

Senior Class that began in October with the distribution of "Senior Class of 2023" t-shirts where students then had a class photo taken to help kick off their Senior Year!

The Project Graduation event is held the night of graduation to help safeguard our Seniors by providing a fun filled, substance free celebration in a safe environment to keep our graduates safe.

Parents, community members and local businesses are the heart of our success. Please show your support to our program by sending in your tax-deductible donation today to WHRHS Project Graduation, 108 Stirling Road, Warren, NJ 07059.

Courtesy photo



(above) Please show your support by sending in your tax-deductible donation today to WHRHS Project Graduation, 108 Stirling Road, Warren, NJ 07059.

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500 Warrenville Road, Warren • Seniors aged 60 and older. Weekdays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Please call 908-753-9440 for more information on the programs and lunch choices.

Warrenbrook Senior Center, located at 500 Warrenville Road, is one of the six county operated Senior Centers. Somerset County residents who are 60 years and older are welcome to participate in any of the programs. 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 registered members.

### **Fish & Wildlife**

**April 5 – 11 a.m.**

A presentation from New Jersey State Conservation Police Officer Brice Paey describing what Conservation Law Enforcement and its role in protecting and preserving New Jersey's vital natural resources. The presentation will cover everything from the daily responsibilities of a New Jersey Conservation Police Officer to the regulations they enforce.

### **PAINT AND CALLIGRAPHY ARTIST EXHIBIT**

Paint and calligraphy artist Allan Jann, of Watchung, will be exhibiting traditional brush fans at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Warren Township branch through May 31, 2023.

Jann draws inspiration in the creation of his art from nature as well as from literary and philosophical concepts. Jann's calligraphic works utilize five script styles: classic Small Seal, Clerical or Lithu, Kaishu or Standard, Coashu or Cursive, or Wild Cursive.

"Daily life should be cherished," said Jann. "Through my creative endeavors, I aim to touch my viewers' hearts."

Viewers should take extra time to look for and detect the parables and special meanings hidden within Jann's art.

Art displays are available to view during regular hours of operation. The Warren branch is located at 42 Mountain Boulevard in Warren.

For more information about the art space, email Kathy DeCristofaro at [kdecristofaro@scslibnj.org](mailto:kdecristofaro@scslibnj.org). For questions about the branch, call (908) 458-8450 or email [warrentownship@scslibnj.org](mailto:warrentownship@scslibnj.org).

### **Blood Pressure Screening**

**April 5 – 11 a.m.**

The nurse from VNA (Visiting Nurse Association) will meet with you individually and take your blood pressure and answer your questions.

### **Easter Trivia**

**April 6 – 11 a.m.**

We will be playing Easter Quiz, Egg-spressions, Unscramble word search, Easter Word Quilt and try to create an Easter Basket.

### **Ladies of Liberty Hall**

**April 10 – 11 a.m.**

Hannah Gaston - From Susan Livingston, daughter of Governor Livingston, whose daring exploits saved Liberty Hall from the British during the Revolutionary War, to Mary Alice Kean who worked tirelessly for the preservation of our historic structures, Livingston and Kean women have played an important role in the history of our community. This lively talk describes 200 years of contributions by the ladies of Liberty Hall.

### **What's Cooking by the**

### **Museum of Early Trades and Crafts**

**April 12 – 11 a.m.**

Learn about the nineteenth century cooking techniques through hands-on examination of cooking utensils and food-related artifacts from the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts teaching collection. Participants are encouraged to reminisce about favorite recipes, and to share food and cooking memories.

### **Basic Computer and iPad Instruction with Parul**

**April 13, 27 – 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**

**April 14, 28 – 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.

### **Healthy Aging with Brenda Miller, Community in Crisis Senior Education Director**

**April 17, 24 - 11 a.m.**

This is a seven-week wellness program for adults 60 years of age or older. The program's interactive lessons provide valuable education to older adults on topics including health and wellness, medication use, stress management, depression and substance use and misuse. The seventh session will discuss alternative ways to manage pain such as yoga, chiropractic care, massage and more. Attendance at all (or most) sessions is requested.

### **Brain Health**

**April 20 – 11 a.m.**

Dr Karthik Joshua Kota—Assistant Professor of Medicine and Geriatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School—will briefly present on how exercise, diet, sleep, and brain health affect a person's cognition. Learn more about what types of activities boost the brain best, and how to best incorporate these non-pharmacologic techniques into your life for a healthy long-term future and age gracefully in place."

### **Mahjong and Bridge**

Every Tuesday the seniors play Mahjong in the morning and Bridge in the afternoon. Please call (908) 753-9440 if you are interested in joining the Mahjong or Bridge group.



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# FIRST LADY FEATURED AT DAR

Dolley Madison took center stage at a recent gathering of the Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The occasion was a celebration of the chapter's 127th anniversary. Jean Stumberger of Bedminster presented a program on Dolley that was enjoyed by members and their guests at Prezzo's restaurant in Warren.

The event included a brief business meeting with a review of 2022 service projects. Several members were recognized for DAR milestone membership anniversaries, including Holly Dunbar of North Plainfield for 40 years, Leslie Strohmeyer of Bedminster with 25 years, and Barbara Diem of Watchung for 10 years. Following the luncheon, the program focused on the life and times of Dolley Madison, wife of our nation's fourth president, James Madison, and our First Lady during the War of 1812.

The next chapter meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, at Green Brook Town Hall. On the agenda are preparations for the upcoming DAR State Conference at Forsgate Country Club, and State Chairman Susan Luczu will speak on DAR insignia. Prospective members are welcome to attend and should contact the chapter at [ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com](mailto:ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com).

DAR is a nonprofit service organization open to women 18 and older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Based in Green Brook, Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter serves areas in Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties. Joining DAR is a great way to preserve your family's history for future generations. Learn more at [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org).



(above) Jean Stumberger addressed the DAR anniversary luncheon.



(above) DAR members celebrated a legacy of service at a recent luncheon in Warren.

# ONLINE AUCTION TO BENEFIT MAPLEWOOD'S "HOUSE ON THE HILL"

Link to [Airauctioneer.com/Art4Ethical](http://Airauctioneer.com/Art4Ethical) to join the "Celebrate Art" Online Art Auction. Bidding runs from April 22 to 29, Preview runs from April 15 to 21). Proceeds from "Celebrate Art" will go to The Ethical Culture Society's Capital Campaign to repair the historic Ethical Culture Society building, the "House on the Hill" at Prospect and Parker in Maplewood, NJ. Ethical Culture Society Members and Friends and the wider community are coming together in this effort.

## INVITE TO ARTISTS

Area artists are welcome to donate work to this online art auction. Deadline for receiving work is Wednesday, April 12, 2023. (sooner, if possible!) Artist will gain name familiarity among buyers, and they will receive a letter for tax purposes documenting their donation. Unsold works will be returned to the artists. Contact us/send a photo of the piece or pieces your wish to donate to [Art4Ethical@gmail.com](mailto:Art4Ethical@gmail.com).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY

Contact us by email [essexethical@gmail.com](mailto:essexethical@gmail.com)

Visit website: [essexethical.org](http://essexethical.org)

and [essexethical.org/whoweare.html](http://essexethical.org/whoweare.html)

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Bidding from April 22 April 29  
Previews from April 15 to 21  
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516 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ 07040  
[www.essexethical.org](http://www.essexethical.org)  
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## “EAGLE’S NEST” PRESERVED IN THE WATCHUNG HILLS

Somerset County in February completed the open space purchase of the “Eagle’s Nest,” one of several major lookouts in the Watchung Hills used by General George Washington during the American Revolution. Consisting of 1.43 acres, the property holds outsized historic importance, and fills in a missing piece in the Somerset County Park Commission’s Washington Valley Park.

Also known as Wayne’s Brigade Encampment, the “Eagle’s Nest” site in Bridgewater Township was owned for several decades by local restaurateur and Navy veteran Herbert Patullo, who showcased it, off-and-on, as a private Revolutionary War museum. The property was accessible via a right-of-way through Washington Valley Park. A lifelong resident of Bound Brook, Mr. Patullo wanted the property to be preserved. Acquiring the land has been a high priority of Somerset County and the purchase was handled through his Estate, following Mr. Patullo’s death in 2020.

“On behalf of the Estate of Herbert (“Herb”)

Patullo, we are very pleased that Herb’s wishes and legacy are fulfilled with the transition of this property to the County of Somerset,” said John Bruder, co-executor of the estate. “Herb expressly desired that the property be conveyed to the County so that the property would be maintained as an historic site and not developed. With this transaction, we have now ensured that Herb’s wishes for the preservation of this historic piece of property are honored. Herb was himself a treasured piece of Somerset County history, having accomplished many things in his life including leaving Bound Brook High School as a 16-year-old to serve his country, at the US Army Supply Depot during WWII, and later in the US Navy. Herb was a local historian and Revolutionary War history buff. He would be very happy to know that Somerset County shall preserve this property for the benefit of all its residents and use it as a centerpiece for its celebration of the 250th anniversary of this nation’s founding.”

Local historian Robert A. Mayers, of Watchung

Borough, wrote about the Eagle’s Nest site in his book *Middlebrook: The Revolutionary War Encampment that Saved America* (American History Press, 2021). In the book, he describes seven lookout rocks through the Watchung Mountains, including the most famous, Washington Rock in Green Brook. Mayers has dubbed the newly acquired property as “Middlebrook Washington Rock” and believes it was used by Washington more often than any other.

“The Revolutionary War was here. Washington stayed seven months right here,” said Mr. Mayers in a video released by Somerset County. “This is a fantastic place, and for 250 years it was forgotten!”

The Eagle’s Nest was acquired in February by Somerset County with dedicated Open Space funds for \$680,000 and will be incorporated into the surrounding Washington Valley Park. The County is considering options for possible future uses of the small residential building, barn, and pavilion that remain on the property. Until a plan is developed for the property, the buildings and adjacent fenced area will not be accessible to the public.

Search for Eagle’s Nest Video on YouTube.



(above) Local historian Robert A. Mayers at the newly preserved “Eagle’s Nest” Lookout in Bridgewater Township.

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