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### **"BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE" UNDERWAY; DONATIONS NEEDED**

Chatham Emergency Squad's (CES) "Building for the Future" project has begun. The work at the Spring Street site recently began. The \$1.7 million building project is set to modernize the existing squad buildings. This is the largest project ever embarked upon during the squads' 86-year history.

Renovations to the squad buildings at 31 North Passaic Avenue and 45 Spring Street are designed to better leverage and support the emergency responders' time, skills, and commitment to the squad. Necessary upgrades will also create modernized facilities from which the EMTs can continue to provide immediate, skilled, and free emergency medical service to the community. Everyone will benefit from the facilities' renovations and enhancements, including squad members, neighbors, and Chatham residents.

The renovation will provide the squad with a dedicated CPR training area as well as upgrades to the lecture and instruction space. Modernized training technology as well as added meeting and office space are also part of the upgrade project. At the Spring Street building the renovations include adding a second floor for sleeping quarters for the overnight crew, renovating common areas, adding space for storage, and providing private work spaces for crew members. The small building addition off the ambulance bay will accommodate separate spaces for an isolated oxygen station, decontamination area, as well as enclosed trash and recycling areas.

The "Building for the Future" project came to be after careful consideration, study and planning as how to best attract, train, and retain qualified volunteer EMTs. CES has determined that



*To learn more about the Building for the Future campaign, scan here* Courtesy photo

modernizing and overhauling the squad's existing facilities is essential to ensuring its membership and its ability to continue to provide free emergency medical services to the Chatham community.

So far, CES has raised \$1,350,000 but is still looking to secure another \$350,000 in order to complete the project. As a primarily donor-funded organization, CES relies upon the community's consistent and generous support. Just as the squad has never failed to respond, community members have never failed to demonstrate their support. The squad is grateful for any donation which can be made at the squad's website at: chathamemergencysquad.org or by mailing a check to: Chatham Emergency Squad P.O. Box 609 Chatham, NJ 07928 Attn: Campaign Donations.

CES is an all-volunteer squad that provides basic life support emergency care to Chatham residents, businesses, and visitors. Ninety percent of squad's budget is paid for by donations from Chatham residents and other donors. CES provides stand-by service for special events including Chatham High School varsity football games, Turkey Trots, Fishawack Festival, and other special events. CES is committed to providing CPR training to Chatham first responders, teachers, members of the DPW staffs and the public. CES is always interested in speaking with potential members.

### **CHATHAM BOROUGH ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN - APRIL 29TH**

Help beautify borough owned property including landscape beds and green spaces including the front of Borough Hall, RR Plaza South, Liberty Park at the Layfette Avenue / Main Street corner, and the Middle School Walking Path off Main Street. Come prepared to weed, mulch, pick up trash, and spread mulch at these sites. Please dress for weather and soggy Spring ground! Extra wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes and 5-gallon buckets for transporting mulch brought from your home will assist in moving these workload projects efficiently. Please be sure to label all privately owned tools.

The Spring Clean-up event Saturday April 29th from 8 a.m. -1 p.m. will have an information station on the front lawn of Borough Hall for walk-ups and late arrivals. Project reassessment for completion of all site locations will occur at 12 noon where pizza will be served on the lawn of Borough Hall to volunteer workers.

We appreciate the community's support!



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#### SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! Email: editor@rennamedia.com

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#### **CHATHAM GIRLS 7TH GRADE** WHITE TEAM WIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Jersev Basketball the won Championship on Sunday, March 19th, 2023, record.

The Chatham Girls 7th Grade White team with a 31-24 victory over Long Valley at Ridge League High School, finishing the season with a 21-3 Courtesy photo



(above) Front Row: Cali Sprague, Rory Presti, Elle Segel, Maya Levato, Lucy Manwaring; Back Row: Meegan Carey, Aileen McEnroe, Tess Vogt, Tatum Kahney, Megan Farrell, Leyla Morelli, Hayden McNaughton; Head Coach: Bob Carey; Assistant Coach: Kathy Sprague, Joe Levato



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THE CHATHAMS • Page 3 • May 2023



# New Jersey Youth Chorus Spring Concert & 30th Anniversary Reception

Join us for a special anniversary edition of our annual spring concert, with performances by all five of NJYC's ensembles as well as an Alumni Choir featuring original choristers of the Somerset Hills Children's Chorus!

# Sunday, May 21, 2023, 4 PM

Our Lady of the Lake Church | Verona, NJ



For tickets, a full listing of alumni events and performance opportunities, and for more ways to connect with and support NJYC,

please visit NJYC30.org.



(above) Galina Muller

### **SENIOR DAY TRIP**

The Berkeley Heights Seniors are sponsoring a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Monday, May 15. The bus leaves the parking lot at Town Hall, 29 Park Avenue at 8:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$35, which includes bus transportation and a \$20 Voucher for slot play. For further information or reservations, call Ramona at 908-647-3295.

#### GALINA MULLER APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SAGE ELDERCARE

The Board of Trustees at SAGE Eldercare, Summit-based nonprofit provider of programs and services to the elderly, their families, and caregivers, has appointed Galina Muller, most recently Director of Finance & Administration, as Executive Director, effective February 9, 2023.

Since 1954, SAGE Eldercare has provided a wide array of information, support, and services designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. From helping with errands, to exercise classes, community programs, care planning, meals delivery, adult medical daycare and home health care, SAGE's mission is to help older adults remain independent in their own homes.

Muller joined SAGE in 2007 as Finance Director, to supervise all accounting activities and maintain financial records. During the pandemic, Muller was promoted to Director of Finance and Administration, interim for the vacant Executive Director position, and took on addressing organizational effectiveness. She restructured SAGE's business model by identifying best practices, consolidating its two clinical care programs, HomeCare and Spend-A-Day, to improve quality of care, and reducing costs to allow the organization to deliver on its mission for many years to come. As Executive Director, Muller will oversee the overall operations and the fundraising component of SAGE Eldercare.

Muller earned a master's degree in accounting from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a bachelor in economics, accounting, and finance from New Bulgarian University. Prior to joining SAGE, she held various positions of increasing responsibility at Robert Saunders CPA in Westfield, Island Auto Rental Group, and Glory School of Foreign Languages.

"I am pleased to announce Galina Muller has accepted the responsibilities of Executive Director for SAGE. Her knowledge of SAGE and tenure with the organization contributes to keeping it constant and thriving for our community. Galina is committed to the mission of SAGE and the clients we serve," said Leslie Hardin, President of SAGE Eldercare's Board of Trustees.

"In my role as Executive Director of SAGE, I look forward to helping the organization grow and evolve to meet the increasing needs of older adults in our area and continuing on our mission to help seniors age at home where they want to." said Muller.

For more information regarding SAGE Eldercare, call 908.273.5550 or visit www.sageeldercare.org.



THE CHATHAMS • Page 5 • May 2023



Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and is committed to being accessible to all patrons, students, parents and visitors. All programs, classes, events and concerts are accessible ensuring that everyone can participate in a diverse range of arts programming and classes.

### **GOLDEN OLDIES SHOWS AT SEIMINSKI THEATER**

Basking Ridge, NJ, The Jersey Four and Johnny Maestro's 16 Candles will take audiences on a musical journey through the life and music of these legendary artists whose music has stood the test of time! Showtimes are 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

Tickets are available at sieminskitheater.org. or call 866-307-8532

The Jersey Four celebrates the most successful 1960s rock and roll group of our time - "those four guys from Jersey" - The Four Seasons! The stories, humor, and audience participation will delight audiences! The Jersey Four are accomplished singers and musicians from Jersey who stay true to The Four Seasons' music, incorporating, authentic costumes and musical equipment to recreate that famous sound of The Four Seasons.

Johnny Maestro's 16 Candles featuring Joel

You've got money, friends, and a beautiful family. Why do you often feel so angry and sad? You deserve to feel better. Psychotherapy can help. Dr. Adam Brown author, professor, trauma expert www.adambrownphd.com

On June 10th at the Sieminski Theater in Katz pays homage to an American Rock & Roll icon. 16 Candles takes audiences on a journey of the iconic sound of Johnny Maestro's performing the legendary hits and deep cuts that no other groups perform. 16 Candles will perform your favorites - "16 Candles", "Six Nights A Week", "Step by Step", "The Angels Listened In", and the iconic song "Worst That Could Happen".

Get your tickets now for this fabulous concert sieminskitheater.org. or call 866-307-8532

paying tribute to two of the greatest artists of our time! The Sieminski Theater is located at 8000 Fellowship Road in Basking Ridge, NJ. This intimate theater is a premier entertainment venue for the very best in music, theater, dance, and the cultural arts providing the optimal live experience in performing arts.

For tickets and information please visit us at





Web: continuoarts.com



AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS! New Jersey Children's (ages 6-11) & Youth Choirs (ages 12-18) & Civic Chorale of New Jersey (Adults)



audition

#### THE CHATHAMS • Page 8 • May 2023 OVER \$27,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO CHATHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Chatham Education Foundation** The Chatham Education Foundation, a leading provider of private funding to the School District of the Chathams, recently announced that it has distributed over \$27,000 in grants to fund the following educational programs and special projects during the second grant application cycle of the 2022-2023 academic school year:

K-12 Art Show (District)—submitted by Lauren Spooner

This grant will fund additional permanent and sustainable portable display pieces to supplement those funded by CEF in 2017 for the annual K-12 district art show so that even more SDOC talent can be showcased. Display pieces will be allocated to each district school to be used by teachers for other events.

Director of Arts and Languages Lauren Spooner said "We will expand our collection of permanent display panels to improve the annual district art show and eliminate the need for temporary and less durable displays."

Coding with Marty: Interdisciplinary Robotics Initiative (Lafayette Avenue School)—submitted by Jennifer Cifrodella, Kyle Kermick

This grant will fund "Marty" robots, which were previously piloted at Lafayette Avenue School. The robots will be used during the Hour of Code and in the Design & Technology Humanoid Robots & Coding Unit. Teachers will connect Chatham Middle School and Chatham High School robotics students and club members with younger students and will work with K-3 schools to have Design & Technology teachers utilize Marty.

According to the grant applicants, "This classroom set of "Marty" robots will allow each student in the class to engage in hands-on, project-based learning experiences that make use of STEM subject learning, computational thinking, cross-curricular opportunities, and cooperative learning experiences. Coding these robots will provide meaningful experiences in order to expose them to the opportunities open to programmers and engineers while exploring math and science."

Building Student Autonomy Through Reading and Surroundings (Chatham Middle School) submitted by Lisa Calamari, Sarah Pasternak-McGinn, & Kristine Quintero

Purchase supplemental texts for three sixthgrade ELA class libraries along with flexible seating options such as benches, ball chairs, adjustable stools, and floor chairs. According to the grant applicants: "The objective is to promote self-selected books and seating in order to





(above) "Marty" robots grant in action. Courtesy photo

positively impact social emotional growth and make connections to our current units of study in ELA. We want students to have choices for independent reading novels that are informational genres and high interest novels with flexible seating options to promote a high level of engagement."

Chatham Education Foundation is a privately funded organization dedicated to supporting educational excellence in the School District of the Chathams through parent and community donations. Founded more than 25 years ago, the CEF has funded over 260 grants for a total of \$1.6M. The CEF supports initiatives that would not otherwise be funded through the traditional SDOC budget, impacting students in all six SDOC schools. The CEF's charter has principal focus on innovative learning spaces, educator growth, student well-being and student learning. The most impactful grants have been those that help SDOC stay at the forefront of implementing new educational research and technology. The board will continue to evaluate grant applications throughout the year.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Chatham Education Foundation, or financially supporting its efforts, are encouraged to visit chathamedfoundation.org.

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#### ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT NOW OPEN

#### Art League of the Chathams

The 2023 Spring Reception for the Art League of the Chathams (ALC) was held on Sunday, March 12, at the Lundt/Glover Gallery, which is located in the Chatham Township Municipal Building.

Over fifty pieces of Artworks from ALC artists adorn the walls. A solo exhibit, titled "Snap, Paint and Draw-Two Friends Together," showcases paintings and pastels of Kathy Havens and photography of Larry Kerner, both residents of Chatham Township.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during normal business hours. It will continue through mid-September 2023.

Courtesy photos

#### **"MEET THE ARTIST" SERIES AT THE SUMMIT LIBRARY**

Vivid Stage has announced its "Meet the Artist" series at the Summit Library, which will showcase new theatrical works and provide a forum for the public to speak with playwrights, directors, and actors. At each event, a new work will be presented, followed by a conversation with the artists who created it. The series aims to provide insight into the creative process of theatrical production, from the written form to the final performance. It also gives the playwrights an opportunity to receive feedback from the audience. The series will be held at the Summit Free Public Library on four Wednesdays in May: May 3rd, May 17th, May 24th, and May 31st, from 7 to 9 p.m.

"We are so excited to be holding our Meet the Artist series at the Summit Public Library this

Vivid Stage has announced its "Meet the rtist" series at the Summit Library, which will owcase new theatrical works and provide a rum for the public to speak with playwrights,

> Vivid Stage is a non-profit theater located at Oakes Center in Summit, NJ, with a professional ensemble of actors. The theater is dedicated to representing its neighbors and their personal stories, and aims to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels at home.

> The Summit Free Public Library is located at 75 Maple Street, Summit, NJ. To attend this series, visit the Library's website at: summitlibrary.org.

> For more information on the "Meet the Artist" series and Vivid Stage, please visit: vividstage.org.



(above, l-r) Chatham Artist, Donatella Bacchlerl "Daisies in the Sun" oil; "Sunflowers" & "Bouquet of Tulips" Acrylic by artist Sally Abbott of Chatham



(above) Khaya Peluso "Women of the World" Art on canvas generated by AI.



(above) "Veteran" Acrylic by artist James Van Duzer







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# **ATTENTION PARENTS OF KIDS AGES 6-18**

# **31 IDEAS TO HELP KIDS** EAT BETTER, RUN FASTER, GET STRONGER AND **BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES**

Cut This Page Out and Put on Your Refrigerator

#### **Eat Better**

- Drink AT LEAST 4 Water bottles
- ☐ Have a fruit or veggie with each meal
- □ Have nuts instead of chips as a snack
- □ Have a source of protein in each meal
- □ Take a multivitamin
- Limit sweets to only one serving

#### **Get stronger**

- □ Perform 50 bodyweight squats
- □ Perform 50 pushups
- $\Box$  Perform a plank for 60 seconds 3 times
- □ Perform 25 vertical jumps
- □ Get at least 8 hours of sleep a night

#### **Be Happier**

- □ Get at least 30 minutes of exercise
- Do a morning routine that you enjoy
- □ Write 5 things that you are grateful for
- □ Adopt a Growth Mindset
- □ Listen to music whenever you can

#### **Run Faster**

- Do 10 hill sprints
- □ Perform 15 Broad Jumps
- $\Box$  Sprint for 50 yards
- □ Perform single leg jumps
- **Perform High Knee Marches**

#### **Build Confidence**

- □ Do something outside of your comfort zone
- **Read** a book
- □ Practice or spend time on your hobbies
- $\Box$  Learn a new skill
- □ Work towards a new Goal

#### **Be More Active**

- □ Walk during TV show commercials
- □ Schedule exercise time
- U Whenever you see a commercial
- for a car company, perform 10 squats
- $\Box$  Find a buddy, and exercise with them
- □ Try a new method of exercise every week (i.e. biking, running, lifting weights, etc.)

#### **Do You Want GRIT ATHLETE PERFORMANCE** to Help You with all of this?

**Registration for Our Summer Program Is Now Open But Only 17 Spaces Remain** 

Scan QR Code for cost, timeslots, and dates.

#### **Early Bird Registration Expires June 19**

# Attention Parents of Kids Ages 6-18 **UPDATE: THE GRIT ATHLETE SUMMER PROGRAM HAS ONLY I7 SPACES REMAINING** We'll have your kids stronger, faster, and more confident...guaranteed.

#### Here's what parents can expect to happen:

- They will get stronger which means when they show up to their sport they'll be able to perform better than ever.
- They will run faster and jump higher so they can show up to their next season and people will start asking what the heck have they been doing.
- They'll become more coordinated and improve agility which means they'll pick up new skills their coaches teach them faster.
- Your children will start to eat better because we'll be educating them daily on what's good and what they should avoid ...don't be surprised if they start asking you to buy more vegetables.
- Confidence will skyrocket. When kids get stronger, faster and more fit...their confidence will rise...so will their self-esteem which means their performance in every aspect of life will get better.
- Their mindset will improve. We're going equip your child with very specific mindset skills that'll help them learn how to transform how they think about mistakes and failures.

### HAPPY PARENTS TALKING ABOUT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR KIDS...

• "When my son started Grit he was quiet, shy, and had some difficulty with movements...Now he is confident in himself, has become more vocal, and is mastering the exercise he struggled with in the past."

- Jen O'Brien, Grit Athlete Parent

• "My son is more disciplined and confident in himself"

- Steve Hughes, Grit Athlete Parent

• "I have watched my children become more confident and vocal."

- Christine Stramandinoli, Grit Athlete Parent

• "His confidence has shot up in the last few months...and has carried forward to the way he approaches other activities like sports and schoolwork. My son is now making his bed daily and exercising every day."

- Catherine Solfaro, Grit Athlete Parent

### **GET MORE INFORMATION (STARTS JUNE 19TH)**







Warning: The summer session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the summer session.

### **HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TO SPEAK - MAY 9TH**

#### The Summit Old Guard

Of the 1.6 million Jewish children who lived in Europe before World War II, only 100,00 survived the Holocaust. Most were hidden children. Separated from her parents in July 1942, 6-year old Maud Dahme and her 4-year old sister, Rita, were hidden from the Nazis by Christian families in the Netherlands. Dahme will share with the Summit Old Guard her wartime experiences, as well as her reunion with her parents, immigration to the United States at age 14, and serving as a Holocaust education advocate.

"I think the greatest gift that was given me was to be alive," said Dahme in an interview with the Huffington Post. Dahme went on to explain the significance of genocide education and the importance of emphasizing the efforts of people who hid, protected, and rescued Jewish people with no concern for their own safety. "I think it's very important to remember that it was a time in history when millions of people died and only

#### **CHATHAM FISHAWACK FESTIVAL** SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

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because of their religion. But there's also the Providence, NJ. This presentation is open to other side of the story, which is how many people cared and were willing to risk their lives to save Jews and anyone else."

Dahme was inducted in the New Jersey Hall of Fame as one of the state's Unsung Heroes in 2014. She served as president of the New Jersey State Board of Education and has spent much of her time speaking to students and adults about her experiences during World War II. Dahme's story was published in a 2015 memoir entitled "Chocolate, The Taste of Freedom." The memoir was co-written and edited by Maryann McLoughlin of Stockton University's Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource center.

Dahme will speak at the Summit Old Guard's weekly meeting on Tuesday, May 9th at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall of the New Providence Presbyterian Church, 1307 Springfield Ave., New

guests and prospective new members, who are also invited to enjoy coffee and conversation at a social reception starting at 9:15 a.m.

About the Summit Old Guard: The Old Guard of the Summit NJ area was founded in 1930 with the purpose of providing retired business and professional men with good fellowship and activities. Men from throughout the broader Summit area gather on Tuesday mornings to hear from interesting speakers on a broad range of topics. The 270+ members may also choose to participate in various activities/interest groups, including bocce, golf, fishing, books, chess, financial & investment, sports forum, timely topics, and weekday lunches. Prospective new members are always welcome to attend a Tuesday morning meeting to learn more about the organization. See also summitoldguard.org.

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"Doug and Kim put in the sweat equity to get our home sold. They were there for us, answered all questions and we had a lot! They were very knowledgeable about the market. We are happy with our choice and think you will be too!"



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### THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY IS HATCHING

Invasive Insect Is a Danger to Trees, Decorative Plantings, and Agriculture

Residents are reminded to keep an eye out for the invasive spotted lanternfly that has caused damage to residential and agricultural plants and trees throughout the area. Residents are asked to check trees, fences, and other flat surfaces around their homes and neighborhoods for egg masses, as well as grown lanternflies and Stomp Them Out!

The spotted lanternfly is native to China, India, and Vietnam. It was first sighted in the United States in Pennsylvania, and has since spread to surrounding states, including New Jersey. The spotted lanternfly was first discovered in Somerset County in 2019. While not harmful to humans or animals, this invasive insect feeds on the sap of many different hardwood trees, scrubs, ornamental plants, and has the potential to impact agricultural crops of economic importance such as grape vines, hops, and apple orchards. Feeding damage caused by the spotted lanternfly significantly stresses the affected plants which can lead to decreased health and potential crop loss.

Residents and visitors are advised to keep an eye out for spotted lanternflies and their egg masses and kill them on sight. Destroying spotted lanternfly egg masses before they hatch is the best way to limit their spread. Eggs can be laid on any flat hard surface including metal, wood, and plastic. Egg masses are commonly found on fence posts, telephone poles, lawn furniture, and the underside of tree branches. Egg laying begins

in September and continues through November or until the first freeze.

While adult spotted lanternflies do not survive the cold winters, their egg masses do. Beginning in May through June, the eggs will start to hatch and mature through their life stages into adulthood. Join the battle to beat the bug and help us Stomp Them Out!

#### IF YOU FIND SPOTTED LANTERNFLY EGG MASSES:

- Scrape egg masses using scraper cards, or anything else that is hard, tapered and/or flat
- Kill eggs by putting them into doubled bags, using alcohol/hand sanitizer, or by smashing



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### **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILIES**

The Fresh Air Fund

Open hour hearts and homes to a New York City child for one week this summer. Looking for volunteers in Morris County and Somerset County, New Jersey.

The Fresh Air Fund is looking for new volunteer families to host a New York City child, ages 8 to 14, for one week this summer with The Fresh Air Fund's Friendly Towns program because a summer can last a lifetime. Enjoy the simple pleasures of summer when you host a Fresh Air child.

A Fresh Air visit to a volunteer host family is full of fun experiences like playing in the backyard, riding bicycles, swimming, hiking, catching fireflies, gazing at the stars and making new friends. Volunteer host families live in small towns, suburban and rural communities along the East Coast. Every host family goes through a rigorous screening process including a home visit, background check, interview and reference check.

"Volunteer host families can create lifelong connections, gain new perspectives and make memories that will last a lifetime. By volunteering as a host family in Morris County or Somerset County, New Jersey, you will expand opportunities for New York City children living in underserved communities to help them learn, grow and thrive in the summer and beyond," says Lisa Gitelson, The Fund's Chief Executive Officer.

For more information about The Fresh Air Fund's host volunteer program, please visit FreshAir.org/Host.

Since its founding in 1877, The Fresh Air Fund, a not-for-profit youth development organization, has provided free life-changing summer experiences in the outdoors to more than 1.8 million children from New York City's underserved communities. Young people also participate in year-round leadership, career exploration and educational programs.



(above, l-r) Fresh Air Fund volunteer host family the Lynchs, Kasey, Daniel, Marleen, host mom and James, host dad, welcomes Fresh Air child Bryant, 13 (center).

Photo Courtesy of The Fresh Air Fund

#### Chatham Volunteer Fire Department 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Open House Live Music • Beer Garden Variety of Food & Ice Cream 3:00-8:00 pm @ Reasoner Park, Firehouse Plaza Tuesday, July 4, 2023 9:00 am Flag Raising, Department Inspection 10:30 am Our Traditional Hometown Parade 7:00 pm Chatham Middle School Live Music Until Dark 9:15 pm The Show That Everyone Can't Get Enough of... Fireworks!!! Saturday, October 14, 2023

Open House Fire Prevention Pizza • Ice Cream 10:00 am-1:00 pm Get Your Picture With Sparky!

Follow us: (?) facebook.com/chathamboroughfire i Instagram: @chathamfiredept for the latest updates and event information.



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#### THE CHATHAMS • Page 20 • May 2023 WOMEN FILL LEADING ROLES AT CHATHAM EMERGENCY SQUAD

Two female leaders - President Evan Skinner and Captain Nicole DiMaggio - follow in the footsteps of the Chatham Emergency Squads' (CES) women pioneers as they simultaneously took the reins of the top two squad positions in January. "I'm proud to serve next to Nicole in the top jobs as a symbol of how completely women are integrated into the squad, from leadership to cadets," Skinner said. However, she pointed out that the "gender doesn't play a role in nominations or elections; the ability and willingness to serve is paramount." **HISTORY OF WOMEN IN THE SQUAD** 

### It has been eight years since the top leadership

positions were held by two women; Connie Hartman as captain and Christine Grobert as president in 2015.

Until 1959 squad membership was restricted to men, first drawn from the Fire Department and later recruited from among the male citizens of Chatham. In 1959 the squad faced a personnel shortage in handling the increasing load of daytime transportation requests. Many of the members worked out of town and were not available during daytime hours. As a result, the squad decided to open its membership to women, with the first two women joining in November 1959. By 1974, women comprised half of the squad membership, handling all work on an equal basis with their male colleagues.

In 1985, Sue Dornfeld became the squad's first female captain and the following year, she was joined by female president Ronnie Read in the first female dual leadership pair. Ginnie Philp served as the second female captain in 1987 and 1988. In 1989 and 1990, Carol Nauta served as captain with Therese Pick as president – both women are still living in Chatham.

#### **GETTING INVOLVED**

For both Evan and Nicole, the interest in emergency medicine simmered for years until life circumstances sparked their decision to join the emergency squad. "I was always drawn to emergency medicine but didn't have the drive or financial opportunity to pursue it as a physician," Evan explained. While she was walking her children to Southern Boulevard School for years, she would point to an CES ambulance going by and tell her children that when they grow up, that's what she was going to do. In March 2014 she attended an event at her church where two squad members gave a speech. "On the way home, my husband turned to me and asked 'What are you waiting for?' I joined the squad that night and was riding on the Tuesday day crew 10 days later."

When she was in her 20's Nicole became interested in emergency medical care through a friend whose father was a volunteer EMT in Bergen County. Her interest continued when she moved to Chatham and became the next-door neighbor to squad EMT Brian Foley. "I would pepper him with questions about the squad and frequently told him 'I'm going to join you one day'." She spent the next 15 years raising her three sons, and joining the squad was pushed into the future. In 2014 her son, Michael, was struck by a car while walking home from school on Main Street. "The Chatham Emergency Squad was there within minutes to care for him. Michael's injuries were severe; he required ten surgeries and two years of rehab. During that time the Chatham community lifted up my family



(above, l-r) President Evan Skinner and Captain Nicole DiMaggio Courtesy photo

and was our lifeline. Friends, neighbors, and strangers delivered our meals, did our grocery shopping, walked my dog, drove my carpools, and provided unending support. Once Michael was back to living his normal life, I knew I had to give back to the community that had been so good to me and I joined CES in 2017. It is without question one of the best decisions I've ever made," Nicole said.

#### **DUTIES OF THE LEADERS**

Prior to being nominated president this year Evan had a previous two-year tenure as president in 2019-2020. She has also served on the Board of Trustees as board secretary and VP of Community Engagement. In her current position Evan presides over all regular and special meetings of the members and the Board of Trustees as well as assures that all important administrative tasks are performed. The president names new auxiliary members, oversees the squad's legal documents and secures legal advice when appropriate, in addition to representing the squad at public events. Together with the Captain she appoints new members.

Nicole has also served on the Board of Trustees as training lieutenant and operations lieutenant. She has also been the cadet manager. Her job as captain is to ensure that the squad is fully prepared to serve the community and respond to 911 medical emergencies. This includes making sure that the crews are fully staffed and appropriately trained, ambulances properly equipped and running effectively, as well as ensuring that first aid supplies are stocked and up to standard. She also works with the local police, fire, emergency management, and municipal partners to ensure any emergency response readiness.

#### MANY REWARDS

The Skinners had always been active in their children's schools. But when their youngest went to college they encountered "a huge drop in the casual ties to Chatham" which they had enjoyed for 21 years.

Their friends also started to move away from Chatham. "Joining the squad reconnected those bonds to the community in so many ways. I met people I'd never otherwise meet and became professional partners as well as personal friends.

Additionally, when we go into a Chatham home to provide assistance on someone's worst day, we are called upon to use our education and experience. But we also get the reward of helping our neighbor and the pride in knowing that we're delivering this care at no charge to the patient or family. That's a whole series of wins," Evan said.

For Nicole the rewards are also twofold. "The first is the camaraderie and fellowship amongst squad members. We all come from different backgrounds and have different reasons for joining the squad but the one thing that binds us all is our desire to serve our community. This mission is central to who we are. Being surrounded by this humble and selfless group of people inspires and moves me. The second is being able to assist someone in their time of need. There's nothing quite like the feeling you get when you are able to help stabilize an unstable patient or simply provide comfort and reassurance during a stressful time. Through all of these individual interactions, you can't help but think that maybe you really are making a difference," she explained.

#### **CHALLENGES AHEAD**

"Volunteer EMS agencies across the state are experiencing a decline in volunteers and funding. Some have closed their doors for good, including several in our immediate area. The communities left behind are forced to hire full time staff or contract with outside agencies and charge for services. This results in a loss of many non-direct service benefits of an all-volunteer squad that communities may not ever realize they are receiving," Evan explained. For example, the emergency squad is providing state-mandated ambulance coverage at all varsity high school football games. The squad also provides standby service at parades, festivals, and races. Community benefits include the transport service for residents that may need assistance getting out of their homes to medical appointments or back home from them. The emergency squad also organizes CPR and first aid training to fellow first responders as well as teachers and members of the DPW staff.

"Chatham isn't immune to the challenges these other squads have encountered. We must be aggressive about recruiting top candidates and we must ensure that we are addressing any challenges to volunteers joining us. This is the driving need behind our recently announced Capital Campaign – Building for the Future. The improvements we plan to both our buildings will respond to the needs of a changing volunteer force - private work space to allow work-from-"home", safe, secure, comfortable sleeping quarters so even out-of-town members can continue to serve overnight shifts and updated training, decontamination and supply storage," she emphasized.

Nicole agrees and points out that in order to maintain the squad's mantra "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" it is "paramount" to recruit local volunteers. "What makes CES so special is that you can always count on a member of your community responding to your emergency. Our trained EMTs live and work throughout the Chathams, so when an emergency arises there is always a helping hand nearby," she said.

Ninety percent of CES's budget is paid for by donations from Chatham residents and other donors. CES is committed to providing CPR training to Chatham first responders, teachers, members of the DPW staffs and the public. CES is always interested in speaking with potential members.

CES's website chathamemergencysquad.org has links for those interested in volunteering and/or donating.



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### A RAPTOR FESTIVAL - COMMUNITY DAY AT RAPTOR TRUST – MAY 21

The Raptor Trust's 9th annual Community Day will take place on Sunday, May 21, 2023 from 11 a.m. -3 p.m. We invite you and your family for a day of all things bird!

Spring and summer are our busiest time of year, and we're preparing for the adorable invasion of tiny Robins, Great Horned Owl fluffballs, and baby Blue Jays with an attitude, among hundreds of other youngsters.

The average cost of one bird's total rehabilitation is currently \$237, and, because we admit an average of 5,000-6,000 birds per year, those costs quickly add up. All proceeds from the event provide resources for these busy monthsfrom purchasing food and medicine for injured birds of all ages and species, to maintaining the caging and grounds that visitors can enjoy.

All proceeds from the event benefit our wild bird hospital, which offers free veterinary services to wild birds, empowering our community to help. On May 21, we celebrate that community. Fore more information visit: theraptortrust.org/trt-community-day

TRT is committed making a long-term impact. With your help, we will continue to play a major role in conserving local wild bird populations and reducing the suffering of wildlife in the tri-state area.

The Raptor Trust is located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ. Approximately 50 resident birds are on exhibit in large outdoor aviaries viewed by walking along the trails. Living on the campus of the Trust throughout the year is variety of raptors and birds of prey. Currently, the Trust is home to two Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, Ravens, Screech Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks, a Snowy Owl and many more!

The aviaries are open to the public seven days of week. Our visiting hours during the fall, winter and spring are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During the summer we are open to visitors from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is no cost to come by for a self-guided tour, however, we ask you to consider a small donation of \$2 per person.

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)(3) not for profit

organization which provides free medical care to thousands of orphaned or injured birds each year. Our infirmary staff is available seven days a week during daylight hours to admit injured birds, but we must rely on the people who find them to bring them to us for care. If you find a bird that needs help, please visit our website theraptortrust.org for instructions. We cannot do what we do without the kindness of many including our visitors.



New Jersey Heart Ball

June 7, 2023 | 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Brooklake Country Club

njheartball.heart.org





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492 Fairmount Ave	4	3	2	\$1,100,000	\$1,188,000	11
9 Minton Ave	4	2.2	1	\$869,000	\$889,000	9
6 Bartow Ln	3	2	1	\$729,900	\$745,000	72
26 Lexington Ct	2	2.1	1	\$525,000	\$525,000	14



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