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NJ

Published by Renna Media, On-line at RennaMedia.com **ISSUE 128 • JULY 2023**

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CLASS OF 2023 PROJECT GRADUATION

The Watchung Hills Regional High School Class of 2023 held their Project Graduation event on Thursday, June 15th at Iron Peak Sports & Entertainment in Hillsborough, NJ. 2023 marks the 32nd year of Watchung Hills Regional High School's Project Graduation.

Graduates enjoyed a full night of fun, including rock climbing, basketball, spikeball, volleyball, an arcade, and so much more. Food and drinks were also available throughout the night.

A volunteer team of parents of WHRHS seniors comes together to plan events for the graduating class throughout the year that lead up to a safe and fun graduation celebration for the entire class.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

Photos by Dan DiBella *(More photos on pages 10 & 11)*



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



Ashley's Watchung Market Update

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Average List Price	# of new listings	Average Days on Market	# of houses on the market

The Cherie Berger Team
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Watchung Post

Renna Media LLC, Publishers
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International invites singers to register for its free "Big Summer Sing." You can come on any or all of the following Wednesdays: July 12, July 19, July 26, and August 2 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ for chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part a cappella music.

Each week, guests will participate in vocal and physical warm-ups and work on songs with the chorus. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more.

For more info, or to register for the free "Big Summer Sing," visit hickorytreechorus.org, email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399.



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*Thank you,
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(above) Watchung library patrons Tamara Benc and Virginia Hartmann met the Patriots' mascot Sparky in the stands.

LIBRARY PATRONS ENJOYED PATRIOTS GAME

Friends of the Watchung Library
Thirty lucky Watchung Library patrons recently enjoyed a Somerset Patriots' Baseball game thanks for the Friends of the Watchung

Library, who gave away tickets for box seats in the Somerset County Board of Commissioners reserved seating at TD Bank Ballpark. The Patriots beat the Reading Fightin Phils.



(above) Watchung Library patrons and Somerset Patriots fans give a thumbs up for the patriots before the game.



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IRISES IN BLOOM ART SHOW

Watchung Branch Library

Vibrant irises are the subject of the inaugural art show at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung branch. Chatham resident Hannah Kerwin photographed most of these May blooms at Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Montclair, New Jersey.

"As you view these spectacular flowers, consider the interplay of colors, patterns, shapes, and textures," said Kerwin. "Look for sunlight reflected in raindrops, rhythmic veins lining ruffled petals, and juxtapositions of light and shadow."

The photographs will be on display on the second floor of the branch through July 31, 2023 during standard operating hours. To learn more about exhibiting at the Watchung branch art space, email watchung@sclibnj.org.

The Watchung branch is located at 12 Stirling Road in Watchung. To contact the Watchung branch, email watchung@sclibnj.org or call (908) 458-8455. To discover all SCLSNJ has to offer, visit SCLSNJ.org or connect with SCLSNJ on Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube.



A MASS OF HEALING FOR CANCER


A Mass of Healing for Cancer will be offered on July 7 at the Koinonia Academy Gym, 1040 Plainfield Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060 by Fr. John Gordon, Secretary of the Office of Evangelization for the Newark Archdiocese. The

Mass is for all cancer patients, caregivers, family and friends to pray for those with cancer or have succumbed to cancer. All are welcome, there is no charge or obligation. For further information call 908-256-1788.

Jesus is Lord!

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7:30pm
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*BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL
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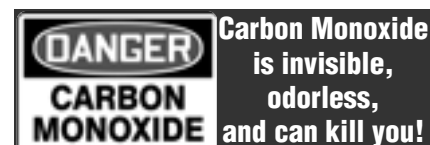
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(above) A toddler enjoys the fairy village at the Watchung Library.



(above) Two and a half year old Asher is fascinated by the Fairy Garden.

FAMILY BASEBALL NIGHT AND BARBEQUE

The Knights of Columbus St. Damien Council #6575, Stirling, NJ invites you to a Somerset Patriots Baseball Night and Barbeque

(Yankee AA Team), on Saturday, August 12th. Barbeque start: 6:00; Game start: 7:05, TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, NJ.

Game + Dinner Price: \$37.00. Special Discount: one free ticket per each family of four. Enjoy burgers, hotdogs, pulled pork, soft drinks and dessert in the K of C reserved barbeque area.

To Reserve a seat, contact Ed Pniewski, 908-251-1681; polkajig@verizon.net. Checks should be made payable to: Knights of Columbus.

NEW FAIRY GARDEN AT WATCHUNG LIBRARY

Amy Fiorilla, a member of The Friends of the Watchung Library, has created an absolutely charming Fairy Garden for children to enjoy at the library. The fairy buildings are created from materials that can be found in the woods - tree

bark, pine cones, moss, and so on - as fairy buildings would be! Youngsters and the young at heart can view the Fairy Garden on the hillside through the picture window in the children's area of the library.

Come see our Fairy Village

The fairies have been busy in Watchung. Come inside the Watchung Library and look through the window in the children's wing to see the fairy village on the hillside.

The fairies make their houses out of materials they find in the woods - tree bark, pine cones, moss, and much more. See how many building materials you can name!

View anytime the library is open, but please do not walk near the hillside village outside. The fairies are shy.

How many of the fairy houses can you spy?



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Photos by Dan DiBella



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KATHLEEN BRITT NAMED 2022 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885

Kathleen Britt has been a Trustee with Wagner Farm Arboretum (WFA) for the last 5 years and is in her 2nd term as President. One of the many functions of the WFA is maintaining the Community Garden. As the name implies this garden is a place where gardeners gather as a community in a well-managed environment and share their love of gardening by growing their own produce. Kat also oversees The Giving



(above, l-r) Lodge 885 Americanism Chair Elia Shehady presenting the COY award to Kat Britt

Garden (GG)- this same community of gardener's volunteer time to grow additional produce for the sole purpose of feeding those in need. Since its inception in 2007, The Giving Garden has produced 586,000 pounds of food for donation. In 2022 alone over 41,000 pounds of produce was raised and distributed to local food banks. Nearly 800K individuals benefited from these donations. The GG continues to expand the number of garden plots used to produce food for distribution. The Watchung Hills Elks ENF Grant awarded to WFA will help fund this expansion.

Among her other responsibilities, Kat also runs the largest fundraiser for the WFA, Brite Nites. Prior to COVID, this had been a walk-through event. In 2020, despite COVID restrictions, Kat reimaged Brite Nites as a drive through to allow patrons to enjoy the event from the safety and comfort of their vehicles. In 2022 Kat took it a step further and created a hybrid event, so that some nights were a drive through, and some nights were walk through. This enabled people with mobility restrictions the opportunity to attend the event. It also meant the return of the walk through. Kat implemented additional changes to the running of the event, making it the most well attended and profitable Brite Nites fundraiser in WFA history. The Brite Nites event helps fund the operation of the WFA, including the Community and Giving Gardens.

Besides WFA, Kat belongs to several other

non-profit community groups. She has been a member of Sweet Adeline's International (SAI), a women's A Cappella singing organization, for 26 years. She is a singer/performer in the internationally renowned Harmony Celebration Chorus in Ridgewood, NJ and has competed numerous times in award winning quartets. She is a Certified Director of The Jersey Harmony Chorus (JHC) near Princeton, NJ where she has been the director for the past 11 years. Jersey Harmony's outreach to the community includes performing at many charitable and civic events. She also serves on the volunteer staff of SAI Region 15. Kat is also passionate about history. She belongs to the Historical Society in Warren Twp and is a guild artist in The Historical Society of Early American Decoration (HSEAD).

Volunteering is part of Kat's DNA - her dad, Dan Luna, was a lifelong community volunteer. In fact, he won this very award (COY, 2001) on March 10, 2002 for his service in the American Legion as well as his 45 years on the Warren Twp Volunteer Rescue Squad!

For Kat's many contributions to those in need and the community, she is being recognized as this year's Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885 Citizen of the Year for 2022.

If you'd like to learn more about Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885, please visit us on the web at elkslodge885.org and follow links to our Facebook page to see our upcoming events.



(above, l-r) Father Dan Luna and Daughter Kat Britt with their COY awards, separated by almost 20 years.

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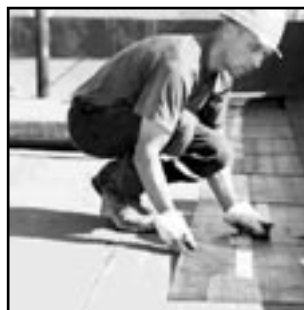
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Vacation Bible School is coming soon to Wilson Memorial Church (7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ). This year's theme of "Finding Jesus Under the Sea" will be packed full of music, crafts, stories and other fun that will teach youth about Jesus.

The four days of camp, (July 24-27 from 9-12:30), will include topics such as being vocal about your relationship with Jesus, emulating Him in your "crabbies" moments and keeping spiritually alive. You can make a difference, even if you are small! On the last day of camp, there will be a performance based on what was discovered during the week.

Registration for VBS is now open. All children aged 4-11 are welcome. The cost is \$40 per child with a discounted cost of \$20 per additional child.

Registration will close July 12th. Please contact the Church Office with any questions. 908-908-755-5020, wilsonmemorialchurch.org



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(above) The Pool House under construction; George, Tom and Barry making knee walls for the building.



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VANDALS CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

The "Pool House Gang" were caught red handed vandalizing a building at Boy Scout Camp Wheeler, in Byram Township, NJ. They are seen here in a "line up" against the wall.

They claim that they were doing repairs and renovations to an old decrepit building at the Boy Scout Camp. But they were seen removing valuable lumber, sinks, toilets, shower heads, and construction materials from the building.

Just kidding. This is a group of dedicated volunteers, including many retired professionals, who volunteer every week all year round at the Boy Scout camps for Patriot's Path Council in northern New Jersey. These guys pictured have come up every Wednesday and Thursday for several months to renovate the Pool House and other buildings. This group includes retired engineers, an electrician, computer experts, small business owners, and corporate executives.

The Pool House building was built in 1971. The roof was still good, but the wooden walls were completely rotted, and the roof was sagging perilously. They needed to prop up the roof and replace the boards one by one.

Eventually the building will have two bathrooms, two common showers and 8 individual changing rooms on each of two sides. There is a full sized swimming pool behind the building, so all of the chlorination, pumping mechanisms and electrical service are also located inside the building.

The "Flintlocks BSA, Inc." a 501c3 corporation, is a group of retired scouters who volunteer at the camps every week, all year round, to help the council. They do most of the repairs and maintenance for the three Council camps, but also build new structures, such as cabins, waterfront structures, picnic tables and tent platforms. In 2018 they secured funding and built the STEM Lab at Allamuchy. Second, they make the craft kits for birdhouses, bird feeders, stools, handy boxes, racing sailboats, etc., which are sold through the Scout Shops. Third, Flintlocks volunteer to help run the many Council programs. Three quarters of the Flintlocks have received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest National award a volunteer may receive. The Facebook Page is "Flintlocks" For more information please contact Secretary Dr. Michael Hart drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above, l-r) "Line Up": Al Thomas, Randy Johnson, Frank Wallace, Dave Greene, George Van Dyke, Barry Bird, and Tom Mollitor.

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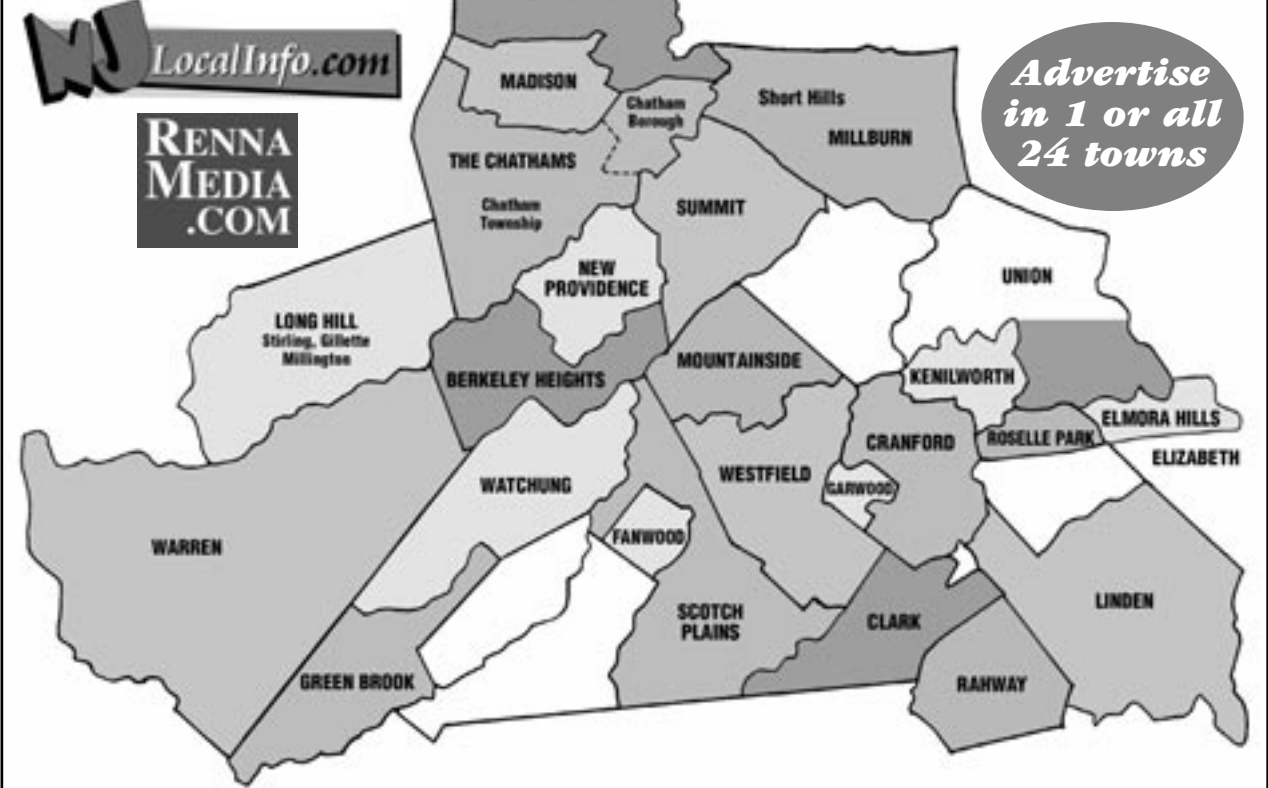
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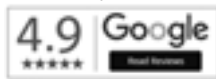


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