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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023

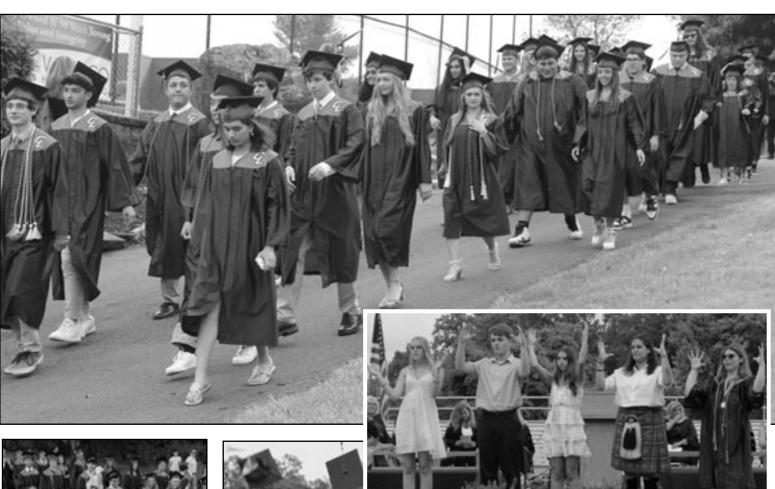
Governor Livingston High School celebrated the Class of June 16th.

The Flag Salute was led by Dante Gioia, Student Council President, Class of 2023 and signed by Rebekah Knuth and Natalie Walsman. The National Anthem was performed by the GL Commencement Band and Concert Choir.

Kavya Casula, Class of 2023 President, made the 2023 at the 63rd Commencement Ceremony held on Friday, Presentation of the Class Gift and the student Commencement Message was given by Waverly Lorne.

> Additional remarks were given by GLHS Principal Robert B. Nixon, Jr., Superintendent of Schools Dr. Melissa Varley, and BOE President Mrs. Angela Penna.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2023!









Photos by BHPS staff member Staci Toporek



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Submitted by Peter DeSarno

generous life changing gifts of two donated corneas, I tend to become very reflective when I collect the donated glasses that are received in the Lions drop box.



(above) The New Providence Lions Club Eyeglass collection site is in front of the New Providence Library which is located at 377 Elkwood Ave. When collected, these glasses are sorted and sterilized and are then donated to a charity and/or medical organizations that provides free eye exams and eyeglasses to needy people in the countries they serve.

When I sort the glasses and package them to Perhaps it is because I see today due to the be sent into the Lions Processing Center, I am reminded of the good in people who are eager to help. I look at all the glasses that were once worn on the faces of members of our community which form a beautiful mosaic representing so many different shapes, sizes, colors, glasses for the old and young....and think that this is beautiful on many levels. I then think about the people who will experience that magical moment I had when sight is restored.

The New Providence Lions Club Eyeglass collection site is in front of the New Providence Library which is located at 377 Elkwood Ave. Since January 2022 we have collected 2,165 pairs of glasses.



(above) Mosaic of some of the 2,165 pairs of glasses collected to date.



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ROTARY CLUB AWARDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Berkeley Heights Rotary Club presented three scholarships to graduating Governor Livingston Seniors at Delicious Heights on Wednesday, June 21. Three one thousand-dollar Rotary scholarships are awarded annually to students with a minimum 3.5 GPA and have participated in an extracurricular service such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Interact Club, or other service organizations. The recipients of the 2023

scholarships are Kate Curran, Sean Gleeson and Landry Lorne. All the scholarship recipients have outstanding scholastic achievements in addition to being student athletes and a strong background in community service and volunteering.

Scholarships are just one of the local projects of the Berkeley Heights Rotary Club. The Rotary

Club also administers the Medic Alert program for Berkeley Heights Seniors, supports the restoration of the Lord-Littel Homestead, sponsors the local Boy Scout Troops, Beach Sweep, Food Banks and so much more. New members are always welcome. The Rotary Club meets at Delicious Heights at 12:15p on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.





(above, l-r) Sean Gleeson, Margaret Gleeson and Rotary Past President, Mike Del Duca. Missing Kate Curran and Landry Lorne.



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JULY 2023 | MARKET REPORT

BERKELEY HEIGHTS



Monthly Sales at a Glance

13

\$768,300

\$811,308

12

HOMES SOLD AVERAGE LIST PRICE AVERAGE SOLD PRICE AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

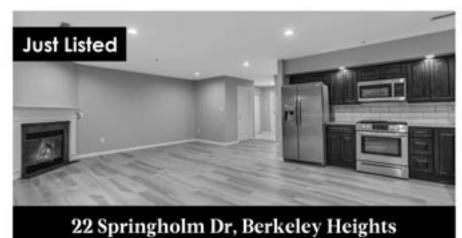


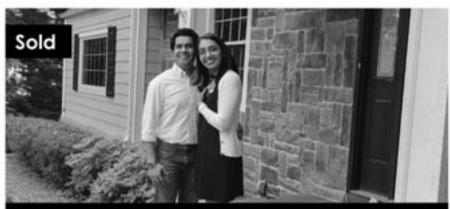
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Berkeley Heights Recent Sales

For more information about the Berkeley Heights market, contact us at 973.953.7777 or 973.615.6504.

ADDRESS	BEDS	BATHS	GARAGE	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
73 Hillside Ave	6	4.0	2	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	23
61 Webster Dr	4	4.0	2	\$1,199,000	\$1,185,000	7
103 Lawrence Dr	4	2.1	2	\$899,000	\$925,000	19
83 Rutgers Ave	4	2.0	2	\$799,999	\$880,000	13
78 Wildwood Way	4	3.1	2	\$799,000	\$775,000	15
20 Whispering Way	3	2.1	2	\$589,000	\$583,000	6





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Source: GSMLS, select properties sold 6/26/2023-7/26/2023. If your property is currently listed with another Realtor, this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing, linformation deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Each office independently owned and operated. Equal housing opportunity. Some homes may be sold and listed by other brokers.





(above) This year's goal is to reach 250 backpacks. Items can be dropped off at Faith Lutheran, 524 South Street, New Providence, 07974, in the marked green bin found underneath the sheltered alcove by the main doors at the bottom of the parking lot. You can mail a financial gift made payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "backpacks" in the memo line of your check and we will shop for you.

MOUNTAINSIDE TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE SATURDAY - SEPT. 9 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. MAP PICK UP AT THE LIBRARY - 8 AM SALE DAY For more information or to get a link to the sale application, please e-mail mtsdnewcomers@gmail.com

2023 BACKPACK COLLECTION IN PROGRESS

Faith Lutheran Church

For the fifteenth consecutive year, Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence is collecting new backpacks and school supplies to be shared with St. Stephan's Grace in Newark's Ironbound, our Mission Partner congregation, and with school children in Plainfield through the Second Street Youth Center.

The backpack collection began as an idea brought up at a church council meeting but quickly grew into a full-fledged ministry spanning more than a decade. Multiple community organizations have received backpacks from Faith's collection over the years.

Backpacks don't often last from year to year and supplies always need replenishing. The aim of Faith Lutheran's collection is to make sure that local kids have items they need for a successful start to the 2023-2024 school year.

The community is invited to support the backpack collection. There are several ways to help.

You can purchase a new backpack of your choice and fill it with the following school supplies: one pack pens; one pack pencils; one notebook; one box of 24 crayons; one package of construction paper; one pair of safety scissors; one glue stick; one ruler; one small

pencil sharpener; one toothbrush; one tube of toothpaste.

You can drop off a new backpack, or any of the above individual supplies, and we will fill a backpack.

Items can be dropped off at Faith Lutheran in the marked green bin found underneath the sheltered alcove by the main doors at the bottom of the parking lot.

You can mail a financial gift made payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "backpacks" in the memo line of your check and we will shop for you.

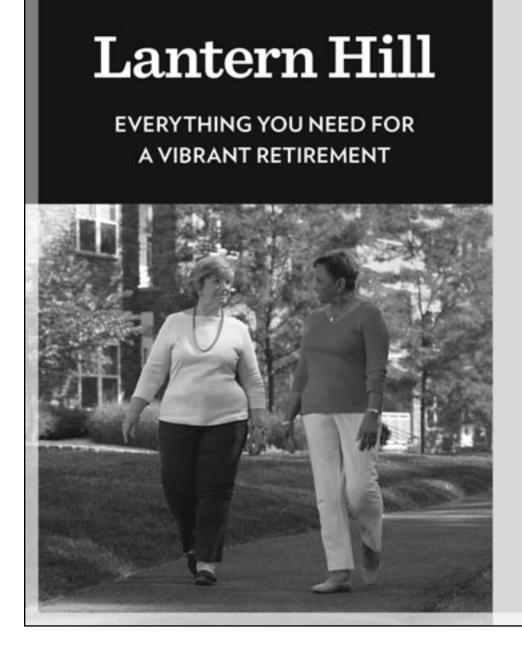
The deadline for individual supply donations is August 20th, to ensure enough time to assemble the remaining backpacks. The deadline for completed, filled backpacks is Sunday, August 27th.

In 2022, Faith collected and distributed 200 backpacks. This year, the goal is to reach 250.

To learn more about Faith Lutheran Church, visit famfaith.org. Faith Lutheran worships on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming available on our website, Facebook, and YouTube. We practice an open Communion table, and all are welcome.

The church phone number is 908-464-5177 and the address is 524 South Street, New Providence, 07974.

The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready.



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Berkeley Heights News · Page 8 · August 2023 OLD GUARD AUGUST SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Summit Old Guard

AUGUST LIBRARY EVENTS

29 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor 908-608-8603 • bhplnj.org Monday - Thursday: 9 AM - 9 PM; Friday, Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: 2 - 5 PM

"Find Your Voice" BHPL's 2023 **Summer Reading Program for all ages**

sign-ups are ongoing for children, teens & adults - the program ends Friday, August 18.

CHILDREN'S STORY TIMES AND PROGRAMS:

Shake, Rattle & Read for ages 3 - 5 Wednesdays, August 2 - 16 at 9:30 am **LEGO Play**

Wednesdays, August 2 - 16 from 2 - 4 pm **Fun with Friends Story Time** for ages 0- 24 months

Thursdays, August 3 - 17 at 9:30 am **Live Tropical Birds with Tina** from NJ Snakeman

Monday, August 7 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm for all ages

Good Tyme String Band

Tuesday, August 8 at 10:30 am Family Movie Night:

Lyle, Lyle Crocodile (Rated PG)

Thursday, August 10 at 6:30 pm

Portable Planetarium Program by Pearl Observatory

Thursday, August 17 at 2 pm for ages 4 and up

Advance signup required: email rsvp@bhplnj.org with # of children attending

Yoga Story Time with Pam Nixon

Tuesday, August 29 at 10:30 am for ages 3 - 6

TWEEN/TEEN PROGRAMS:

Girls Who Code

August 17, 21, 24, & 28 from 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Bring your own device and learn to code. Sign up for whatever dates work for your schedule by emailing lisa@genua.net

ADULT PROGRAMS:

The Book Groups will not be meeting in August and will resume in September. Questions? Call the library email reference@bhplnj.org.

Summer International Film Festival continues

check our website at bhplnj.org/movie-night/ for more info:

Chess Story

August 3 at 6:45 pm (Not Rated, 110 minutes, in German with

English subtitles)

Last Film Show

August 17 at 6:45 pm (Not Rated, 110 minutes, in Gujarati with English subtitles)

Summit in 1930 and meets every Tuesday at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." and our extensive August program arranged by member Stuart Kurtz focuses on health and science topics presented by distinguished scientists and educators. Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

On August 8th, Sheldon Landesman, a former faculty member of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University trained in hematology, oncology, and infectious disease will discuss The Early Years of AIDS: Public Health vs. Civil Liberties in Epidemic Times. Landesman will discuss lessons learned and not yet learned.

On August 15th, Davis Haas, former principal X-ray scientist at Phillips Electronic Instruments will discuss How Society Changed on January 5, 1973, with the installation of scanning devices at airports.

On August 22nd, Harold M. Heft a retired The Summit Old Guard was founded in industry executive whose academic research focused on biopsychology, the philosophy of science, and pediatric autism will speak on "Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) – Disorder or Difference?" Is ASD a neurodevelopmental disorder, or a different way of being in the world?

> Winding up the month, on August 29th, AP educator Anne Soos, trained in biology at Harvard and Princeton will discuss Climate Change. Among her topics will be physical factors that determine climate, climate distinguished from weather, and carbon capture and sequestration, both natural and artificial.

> Past speakers and much much more can be viewed at SummitOldGuard.org but we encourage people to drop in on our meetings which take place at the church at 10:00 a.m. every Tuesday. "Come for the Speakers. Stay for the Friends." We look forward to meeting you.

> The Summit Old Guard meets in New Providence and draws members from northern and central New Jersey and beyond.







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EAGLE SCOUT KATELYN CANNON NAMED NJ VFW SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Scouts BSA Troop 19

The annual Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Convention was again held at the Wildwood Convention Center in Wildwood this June, where Eagle Scout Katelyn Cannon of Scouts BSA Troop 19, chartered at St. Rose of Lima Church, Short Hills, was honored as the New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars "Scout of the Year."

Cannon, a resident of Millburn and a recent Millburn High School graduate was selected by the VFW's Scout of the Year as New Jersey's single standout Scout who exemplifies leadership, patriotism, and love of country. Statewide applicants for this distinguished award are both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts who have earned either the Gold Award or achieved the rank of Eagle Scout respectively.

"The challenge (for the selection committee) is that there are so many worthy applicants from all the districts, but I found this year's choice to be easier than most. It's because this person, this Scout, this Eagle Scout, was just head and shoulders above her peers.", said VFW Scouting Chairman, Jim D'Arcy.

Cannon was requested to address the statewide delegation at the convention where she requested the assembly of dominantly male veterans to close their eyes, as she walked them through a visualization as to what their childhood as Scouts may have entailed.

"Allow me to take you back to your teenage years. Think about the outdoor place that you loved. It may have been a summer camp, or on the riverbed fishing, or even hiking the Appalachian Trail or possibly camping in the Pinelands. Think about those adventures, what did you learn? You were taught to be independent and confident, you learned critical life skills, became leaders, and made lifelong memories and friends along the way. Just think, for over 110 years, these opportunities to learn leadership, experience adventure, and master life-long skills were only open to young men. Now open your eyes. I am proud to stand before you as living proof that your daughters and granddaughters

now too can have the same wonderful experience in Scouting and possibly become Eagle Scouts."

Cannon's Scouting accomplishments include being a founding member of Scouts BSA Troop 19, a former Senior Patrol Leader and current Junior Assistant Scoutmaster who has earned 83 merit badges to date, has received the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII religious awards, as well as a citizenship medal from American Legion. Furthermore, she was selected to attend 2022 New Jersey Girls State, a leadership and citizenship program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. In addition, she was recently selected as the Sons of American Revolution Eagle Scout Essay contest winner for the State of New Jersey and was national runner-up.

"Scouting and my Eagle project was such an

incredible learning experience. Being involved in the program, because of the positive change, has defined my path forward in life.", said Cannon.

"It was and is a tremendous honor for our Post that Katie was selected as the Scout of the Year. We are very inspired by Katie and all that she has done for herself, the Scouting community, our state and great country. It was especially great that our Post was able to sponsor such a well-qualified person to represent our district and state. We here at Post 6259 offer our thanks and congratulations on her terrific achievement.", shared Berkeley Heights VFW Post 6259 Commander Al Campora.

Katelyn Cannon will be embarking on a new journey this fall, studying Public Relations & Strategic Communications at Purdue University.



(above) VFW Scout of year - Eagle Scout Katelyn Cannon (center) with NJ Department of VFW Commander Jay Boxwell (right) and VFW Scouting Chairman, Jim D'Arcy (left).

Photo by Scouts BSA Troop 19, St. Rose of Lima, Short Hills NJ $\,$



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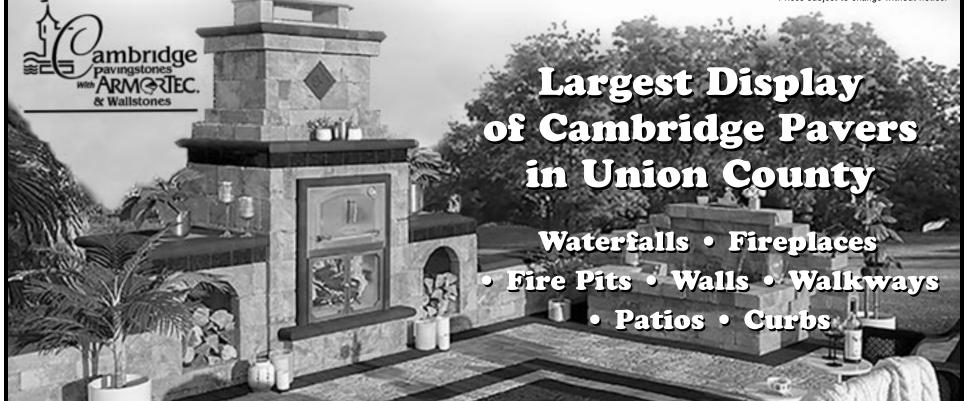
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Because Alpha was had the business The second of the seco

(above) Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains to host a free spirituality seminar. Registration is required, please visit ihmparish.net/alpha.

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IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

A free spirituality seminar is being offered by Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains, NJ. Most meetings are on Zoom. In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard-warriors, Alpha offers content and guidance for churches, ministries, and individuals to create a space for honest and open conversations about life's biggest questions. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits.

Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Alpha fosters honest, open, and judgment-free conversations for anyone to explore the Christian faith. Each session includes a time to connect with others, watch a short video on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share thoughts and questions with the group.

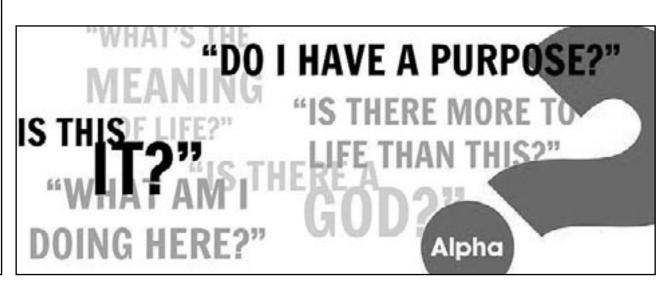
"I was invited to participate in the Alpha pilot. From the initial meeting, I knew this was something that I wanted to be a part of," explains Nancy Schreck. "After completing the pilot, I joined the Alpha team to help plan for the future of Alpha at IHM. It's a wonderful opportunity for people at any level of faith to meet new people and explore new ideas."

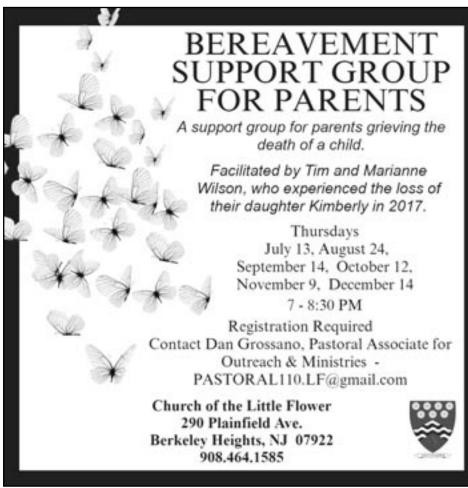
Sessions are free to attend and are scheduled on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting will be live and in-person on Monday, September 18, 2023, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Nazareth Center of Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Church: 1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains. Good food and conversation will be offered to all in attendance. Most meetings after that will be hosted on Zoom. Links and directions will be provided to those who register. Participation is capped at 30 people.

"When I offered tech support for the pilot program at IHM, I had no idea what I was in for. I'm not very religious, but Alpha was an unexpected surprise!" offers Gabe Lamberty. "The program is interesting and entertaining. And it's nice to meet new folks from the community. Overall an unforgettable experience."

"I'm looking forward to the Alpha experience," says Lou Zappo. "It sounds like a lot of fun, and who knows, I might learn something about myself."

Registration is required, please visit ihmparish.net/alpha or call 908-889-2100. If you have questions about Alpha, please email office@ihmparish.net.









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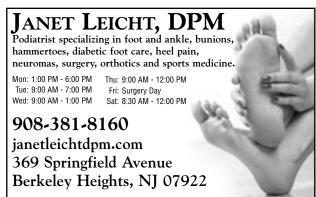
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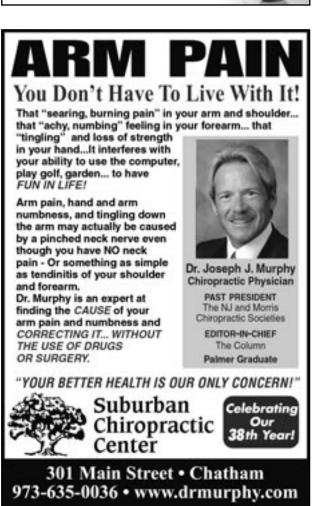
CMS KNIGHTED 'THE HIGHLANDERS'

Recently, students from Governor Livingston High School officially "knighted" Columbia Middle School as The Highlanders! Effective immediately, CMS are now the CMS Highlanders, officially bringing together both the High School and Middle School as one proud Highlander Family.

Paul Kobliska, CMS Principal said, "Columbia Middle School is overjoyed to officially join the Highlander Family. Since Governor Livingston High School's inception, the Highlanders have made this community proud. While the era of the CMS Tigers may be coming to a close, CMS is committed to the legacy established by the Tigers and prepared to meet the high standards created by the GLHS Highlanders and will proudly wear their logo. Together we will continue to move Berkeley Heights Public Schools forward."







CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS GRIEF SUPPORT

Volunteers recently completed three full days of training in order to join Imagine's amazing team of volunteer facilitators. During their training, space was provided where they could share their stories of loss with one another and give and receive support as Imagine staff modeled the skills utilized in Imagine's peer support groups. Imagine practices Alan Wolfelt's Companioning Model which encourages us to walk beside someone on their grief journey, so they feel felt and know that their story matters. Those who participated in this training can utilize the same skills and tools modeled by Imagine staff as they create safe spaces for Imagine participants in our peer support groups.

When asked about their experience at the training, one participant shared: "This training gave me skills that I didn't even know I needed. What I gained from taking part in this facilitator training will assist me in every relationship I have. I've already learned how to be a better

listener to my children, to my husband, and to my friends." Another shared: "I loved the whole thing" and a third shared a belief that the training should be offered in every school. We are so pleased that they found the training valuable and are excited to welcome this wonderful new group of facilitators to Imagine's community of volunteers!

Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Groups are also available for parents who have lost a child aged 30 or younger. Imagine's Training and Education staff provide grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information, please visit imaginenj.org **Imagine** or contact 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



(above, l-r) Imagine's June Facilitator Training Class - Back Row: Katie Perlowitz, Bridgewater; Doug Roberts, Basking Ridge; Mouli Patel, Union; Imagine's Program Supervisor, Abigail Priece; Arielle Miller, Springfield; Curtis Moore, Irvington; and Rong Lui, Chatham; L-R Front Row: Imagine's Summer Intern, Emma Heinze; Meghan Cole, Westfield; Lyrica Smolenski, Cranford; Imagine's Family and Community Engagement Manager, Ashley S Allen; and Imagine's Executive Assistant, Najiyyah Bailey



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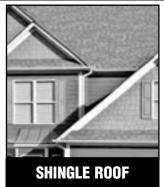
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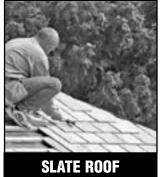
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SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Berkeley Heights Recreation

SPECIAL EVENT:

Monday, August 14:

End of Summer Senior Luncheon

@Lower Columbia Park.

Weekly programs will run:

July and August. No programs: July 3-7.

MONDAYS

BINGO

10:00-11:00, Highlander Room **Chair Stretch**

11:15-12:00, Multipurpose Room Mahjong

12:00-3:00, Multipurpose Room

TUESDAYS

Club Meetings

10:30-12:00 or 11:00-1:00,

Highlander Room.

For schedule visit:

berkeleyheights.gov/352/Senior-Information

WEDNESDAYS

Exercise

10:00-11:00, Multipurpose Room **Chair Stretch**

11:15-12:00, Multipurpose Room

THURSDAYS

Open Circuit

10:00-11:00, Fitness Center

FRIDAYS

Exercise

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ARC OF UNION COUNTY RAISES \$41,000

The Arc of Union County, a non-profit agency serving more than one-thousand adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, raised over \$41,000 at its first annual Swing Into Summer Golf Invitational on June 21st at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth.

Golfers from local and regional businesses, private individuals and other supporters enjoyed a full day of golf, breakfast, lunch and numerous prizes. Among them was a raffle for an allexpense paid luxury three-day, two-night stay at the exclusive Kiawah Island Golf Resort in South Carolina won by Ryan Frangopoulos of Macro Technology.

The event also served as a passing of the torch from The Arc of Union County's long-time Executive Director Frank Caragher, who retired at the end of June after 49 years of service to the IDD community, to his successor, Edwin Asuta, who took over in January.

For 74 years, The Arc of Union County has offered a lifespan of services including family support, early intervention, education, residential, day habilitation and employment services. All proceeds will directly support these programs.

The Arc is grateful to Galloping Hill Golf Course and GAPGEM LLC Golf Event Management for their essential roles in making this event a success. We also thank our 23 sponsors without whose support this event wouldn't have been possible. They are:

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Learn more about The Arc of Union County, its programs and services, at arcunion.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. And for an early start on next year's golf event, contact Marianne Kranz at

mkranz@arcunion.org.



(above) Retired Executive Director Frank Caragher and his successor Edwin Asuta Courtesy photo

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LOCAL STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

NJ Sharing Network

Ten New Jersey high school students, including Caitlin Knorr of Berkeley Heights, were awarded scholarships from the Sharing Network Foundation for their passion and dedication to raising awareness of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. The Class of 2023 graduates were presented with their scholarship awards at NJ Sharing Network's headquarters in New Providence. The Sharing Network Foundation's scholarships are made possible thanks to several of the organization's family and partner funds:

Hearts for Emma Partner Fund - created in celebration of Emma Rothman's life-saving heart transplant to support high school education and donation advocacy efforts.

Jim Rhatican Scholarship Fund - created in memory of Jim Rhatican, a NJ Sharing Network Volunteer, liver transplant recipient and retired teacher and coach of 35 years.

Missy's Miracle Scholarship Fund - created in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Missy Rodriguez's life-saving liver transplant to follow her passion as a college counselor through scholarships for high school students.

Riley's Path – created in memory of organ donor Riley Kogen to provide financial assistance to transplant patients in times of crisis, and to award scholarships to high school students and advocacy heroes.

Caitlin Knorr of Berkeley Heights, NJ (2023 graduate of Governor Livingston High School) received a scholarship from the Jim Rhatican Scholarship Fund. Caitlin was born with a Hemangioendothelioma of the liver, a rare and

deadly disease. She received a life-saving liver transplant when she was just five weeks old, and a second liver transplant three weeks before her second birthday. Caitlin's experiences inspired her, her mother, and her sister to become certified volunteers for NJ Sharing Network. She has shared her story at community events and encouraged her classmates to register as organ and tissue donors. Caitlin plans to attend the University of Arizona in the fall. "I feel blessed, and my life experiences are why I have chosen to pursue my studies in the medical field," said Caitlin. "I will continue to be a huge advocate for organ and tissue donation for the remainder of my life. I want to give hope to those who are waiting for a life-saving transplant."

The Sharing Network Foundation's scholarship program provides an opportunity to recognize and award graduating high school seniors whose lives have been touched by organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Applicants were measured on academic achievement, community and volunteer efforts, extracurricular activities and advocacy for organ and tissue donation. Since the scholarship program's inception in 2011, more than \$120,000 has been awarded to 55 dedicated student advocates.

"We are grateful for the generous support of our partner funds and their ongoing commitment to rewarding students who share a commitment to our life-saving mission," said Amanda Tibok, Executive Director, Sharing Network Foundation. "We know that all of our scholarship awardees will continue as strong leaders educating others about donation and

deadly disease. She received a life-saving liver transplantation throughout their college years and transplant when she was just five weeks old, and beyond."

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network is the federally designated non-profit organization responsible for the recovery of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. NJ Sharing Network provides hope for nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a life-saving transplant, and it is part of the national recovery system for the over 100,000 people on the national waiting list. New Jersey has recorded four consecutive years of record growth in the number of lives saved and enhanced through organ and tissue donation and transplantation. There are more than 2.7 million New Jerseyans registered as organ and tissue donors. One organ and tissue donor can save 8 lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others. To learn more, get involved, and join the National Donate Life Registry as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.

ABOUT THE SHARING NETWORK FOUNDATION

The Sharing Network Foundation supports the work of NJ Sharing Network, the federally designated nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. The Foundation is committed to increasing the number of lives saved through clinical advancement, family support, public awareness and education about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. For more information or to make a contribution, visit www.SharingNetworkFoundation.org.

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(above, l-r) Front Row: The Sharing Network Foundation's 2023 scholarship recipients Noah Kuzloski of Point Pleasant Beach, Maxwell Moore of West Milford, Jacob Grabell of Bridgewater, Veronica Sutkowski of Carteret, Emily Blomkvist of Asbury, Caitlin Knorr of Berkeley Heights, Sophia Fliegler of Mendham, and Amelia Rowniewski of Wallington. Not pictured are Charbel Hachem of Franklin and Nina D'Apolito of Wall. Back Row: Standing behind students Julie Nelson and Jay Rhatican of the Jim Rhatican Scholarship Fund, Mitch Kogen of the Riley's Path Fund, Nancie Rothman of the Hearts for Emma Partner Fund, and Missy Rodriguez of the Missy's Miracle Scholarship Fund.

Photo by NJ Sharing Network

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SINGLE USE PLASTICS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

NJCCC

The New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC), a statewide, comprehensive, litterabatement program, has honored Union County's Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside with its "2023 Single Use Plastics Excellence in Education Award."

NJCCC Executive Director JoAnn Gemenden presented the inaugural award to Center Director Patricia Bertsch during the recent New Jersey Sustainability in Motion Expo in Atlantic City, which attracted hundreds of attendees from across the state.

When introducing the award, Gemenden explained that New Jersey Clean Communities promotes education to change the attitudes that cause littering. With that in mind, the Excellence

in Education Award was designed to honor a business, community organization, school or individual who has achieved measurable results in reducing litter through education.

Union County's Trailside Nature & Science Center, a 4,500-square-foot interactive museum in the Watching Reservation, was bestowed with this year's honor for "fostering an awareness and appreciation of the natural world, while bringing a creative, inclusive, and immersive approach to learning and enrichment programs," Gemenden said.

She noted one of the center's noteworthy projects was inspired during the COVID-19 pandemic, featuring creation of bottle-cap inspired artwork about plastic pollution.

This eye-catching artwork was fashioned in

the shape of marine animals, each paired with educational signage to explain the harm that plastic pollution causes to the environment. These works were placed along trails in the Watchung Reservation, as an outdoor educational walk for park-goers. The initiative was so successful that the artwork has now become a traveling exhibit as various events, including the Sustainability in Motion Expo.

With a plethora of environmental programs, activities, and experiences curated for children and adults, the Trailside Nature & Science Center consistently rises to the occasion, finding interesting and effective ways to engage a wide audience.

Learn more at njclean.org and litterfreenj.org.



(above) NJCCC Executive Director JoAnn Gemenden (L) with Patricia Bertsch, Director of Union County Trailside Nature & Science Center with Karen Inzillo and Dario Scholis of Union



(above) Recycled Dolphin Artwork created by Trailside Nature & Science Center as part of plastic pollution education outreach.











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