

Clark Monthly NJ

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CAMP AVERAGES OVER 800 CAMPERS A DAY

Township of Clark

Clark Summer Recreation Camp averages over 800 campers a day for fun-filled activities. Children started the third week of camp climbing rock walls, creating ceramics, playing laser-tag, enjoying a juggler and participating in other sports and games.

“There is always something age-appropriate to do here,” said Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo. “The kids are having a blast and so are we. Even the rain showers on some mornings this week couldn’t stop our fun.”

Throughout the week each grade level had a chance to tie-dye a shirt. It’s an annual tradition at camp and a kind of rite of passage for local kids to have an array of tie-dye shirts of all colors and sizes by the time they end middle school.

The week ended, as it always does, with water day. The Clark FD was on hand for a weekly splash down, along with giant water slides and a DJ.

Photos by Township of Clark



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Clark Monthly NJ

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NEW OFFICERS FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Clark American Legion Auxiliary installed the 2023-2024 officers on May 23rd.



(above, l-r) Treasurer Kathleen Switek, Secretary, Margaret Alago, President Tammi Angelo, Vice President Karen Fink, Sergeant-at-Arms Maureen Reilly, and Geri Fellerman, Chaplain.

Courtesy photo

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In my many years as a top producing realtor, I have been involved in a tremendous amount of Clark transactions. I live and work here and know everything this outstanding town and school system has to offer. Using an agent with a proven track record is very important. I put an enormous effort into marketing, advertising and customer satisfaction. Since 1/1/20 to present, I have had 198 transactions, 138 in Clark, and have many homes that are currently under contract. I also made the highest level of Platinum for 2022 Circle of Excellence Award which ranks overall in the top 1% of Realtors in New Jersey. I also made Top Agent Magazine!

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LORI'S CLARK TRANSACTIONS FROM 1/1/20 TO PRESENT

SOLD

15 Westfield Ave.
40 Ivy St.
15 Tudor Dr.
10 Washington St., Unit 03
47 Briarwood Path
39 King St.
56 Lexington Blvd.
13 Blake Dr.
213 East Lane
1168 Lake Ave., Unit 4
45 Wendell Pl.
501 Oak Ridge Rd.
309 Oak Ridge Rd.
29 Conger Way
13 Florence Dr.
303 West Ln.
1 Rose Ter.
187 Liberty St.
11 Harding Ave.
40 John St.
77 John St.
17 Hillside Ave.
11 Avon Rd.

81 New York Ave.
42 Kenneth Pl.
1 Kathryn St.
29 Hillside Ave.
9 Shetland Dr.
12 Yorktown Dr.
84 Wheatsheaf Rd.
12 Ascot Way
301 West Lane
1119 Maurice Ave.
1 Longfellow Lane
8 Wendell Place
13 Blake Dr.
42 School St.
29 Harvey Ct.
18 Yorktown Dr.
45 Starlite Dr.
1538 Franklin St.
40 Conger Way
15 Ayers Lane
72 Dorset Dr.
5 Schmidt Lane
269 Willow Way

18 Ginesi Dr.
7 Blake Dr.
43 Willow way
95 Briarheath Ln.
18 Terhune Rd.
1 Jarvais Ter.
39 Frances Dr.
28 Gibson Blvd.
41 Largo Lane
5 Tudor Dr.
111 Westfield Ave.
14 Washington St.
118 Jupiter St.
61 Sycamore Rd.
15 Briarheath Ln.
43 Kathryn St.
54 Harding Ave.
1 Plymouth Rd.
306 Parkway Dr.
75 Union County Pkwy
49 Briarwood Path
549 Valley Rd.
161 Meadow Rd.

16 Nassau St.
160 Meadow Rd.
415 Valley Rd.
49 Joseph St.
23 Ayers lane
110 Sweet Briar Dr.
30 Stanton St.
76 Harding Ave.
53 Stemmer Dr.
291 Willow Way
330 West Lane
139 Jupiter St.
458 Oak Ridge Rd.
307 West lane
93 Jupiter St.
166 Meadow Rd.
67 Lefferts Ln.
41 Oleander Way
160 Riverside Dr.
45 Briarheath Ln.
40 Emerald Pl.
24 Hawthorne Dr.
45 Briarwood Path

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 198, 138 ARE IN CLARK

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."

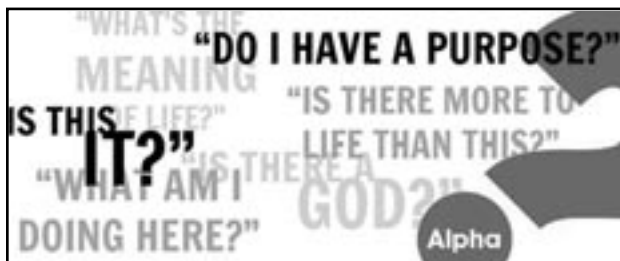
Sessions are free to attend and are scheduled on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting will be live and in-person on Monday, September 18, 2023, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Nazareth Center of Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Church: 1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains.

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.



(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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A Clark History

Daunno Realty is a company founded upon a deep historical connection to Clark. Our principals were born and raised in town, are Arthur L. Johnson graduates, Clark property owners, and local residents. Given our lifelong ties to the community, we were proud to locate our company headquarters at 206

Westfield Avenue, right next to Dunkin Donuts.



CARL H. KUMPF MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION CEREMONY

Clark Public Schools



(above) Valedictorian Amelia Helena Hajduk

Photo by Clark Public Schools

On Wednesday, June 21st, eighth graders at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark participated in a promotion ceremony. The event was attended by Board of Education President Steven Donkersloot, Board of Education members, Superintendent Edward Grande, family members, teachers, administrators, and other community members.

The ceremony began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Student Council President Olivia Reese Fabros. The “Star-Spangled Banner” was sung by Isabella Hernandez.

Salutatorian Aja X. Yerovi said one of the most important lessons she learned in middle school is it is okay to make mistakes. “None of us are perfect. We’re human. We all make mistakes. They are a part of life. What matters is how you deal with them. Do you quit? Or do you learn?” She continued. “Success isn’t just about achieving your goals. It’s about the journey you take to get there.”

Superintendent Edward Grande also addressed the class. Grande stated, “You should be most proud of your accomplishments in the classroom, on the athletic field, and on the stage.” He continued, “You are leaving Kumpf very well-equipped for this new challenge.”

Delmonaco congratulated all of those who received awards at the awards ceremony held the previous week. He noted two special awards given then. The Citizenship Award was given to Luke Ashley. The Faculty Award was given to Gavin Ford. He also recognized two teacher retirements Patricia Healy and Maria Falzone. He addressed the class stating, “It truly has been an honor to work with each of you. I commend all of you for your work ethic, perseverance, and your ability to change course a number of times.”

Valedictorian Amelia Helena Hajduk reflected on her time at Kumpf thanking her family, teachers, and friends. She stated, “Our middle school careers may have seemed impossible to end but there is still so much to come in the future.” She continued, “Before you know it, you will be graduating from high school so make every moment count.”

Assistant Principal Amanda Clarke read the names and Board of Education Members presented the students with diplomas.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, “It was a pleasure being able to spend the evening with these now high school freshmen. It is exciting to think about the possibilities that await the Class of 2027.”

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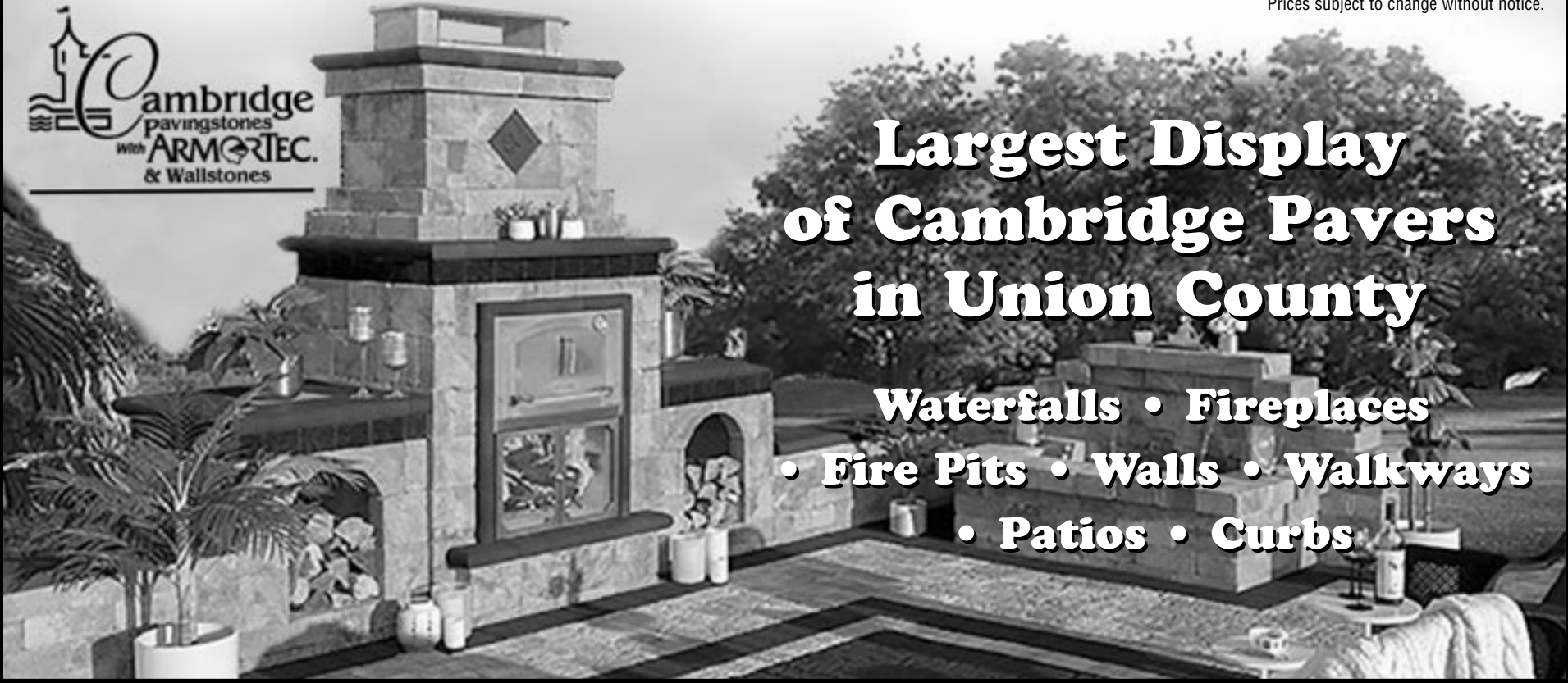
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- 1 1/2-3 Goose Egg.....\$125
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CARLY STAUFFER RECEIVES STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School recognized student Carly Stauffer for receiving the Transition Student of the Year. Union County Administrators of Special Education presented the Student Recognition Award to Carly in June 2023. Congratulations to Carly on receiving this prestigious honor!



MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Clark Pool Members enjoyed Members Appreciation Day on Saturday, July 15.

Instead of the usual day at the pool, members were treated to a water obstacle course that spanned a large section of the pool surface. Additionally, members enjoyed a slip and slide, the opportunity to dunk a lifeguard in a poolside dunk tank, free Italian ices, a balloon artist and hopping music with a special DJ.

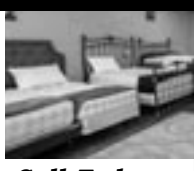
"Our members love this annual event," said Ralph Bernardo, Director of Clark Recreation. "And why not? It's all water fun on a hot day."



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CVES WELCOMES ITS NEWEST EMTS: KATIRIA (KAT) COLON AND SHREYAS BOLLA

Submitted by Susan Alacchi

The Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad (CVES) is pleased to introduce our newest EMT members, Katiria (Kat) Colon and Shreyas Bolla. Shreyas is currently a cadet and has been with the squad for over a year. He recently graduated from John P. Stevens High School in Edison, NJ. "I came to CVES because of my interest in medicine, but also in doing fulfilling volunteer work," said Bolla. He continued, "As a cadet, and now EMT, I've gotten to know the Clark community better and gain valuable medical experience, all while having the opportunity to make a difference in another person's life." In the fall, Shreyas will be heading to NJIT in their 7-year medical program with New Jersey Medical School. After medical school he plans on taking what he learned as an EMT at CVES to inform his decisions and be a doctor that best serves the

patient.

Kat is a full-time member and works in an urgent care facility as a medical assistant. She is grateful the CVES has really supported her in pursuing her EMT certification. "I did my riding hours with them where I was first exposed to patients outside the office or hospital," Kat said. "I rode on multiple days getting as much experience as I could as well as getting to know the community I would be riding in." Kat has since passed her EMT test and is now riding as a full-fledged EMT. While she has handled a number of calls so far, she uses every one as a chance for growth. "From MVAs on the parkway to the lift assists at home I'm ready to help my new community," said Kat.

Anyone with questions or interested in joining the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad is invited to contact the Corresponding Secretary at salacchi@hotmail.com.

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Carol Mullen, "Monarch," collage, 18x3x5 in.
Melissa Stern, "Deflated," 2020, sculpture, 43x18x17 in.
Lisa Ficarella-Halpern, "Joy, after Reynolds," 2023, oil on canvas, 62x38 in.
Giants, Dragons & Unicorns: The World of Mythic Creatures is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org).

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MOBILE MEALS RECEIVES DONATION

Sheet Metal Workers' Union No. 22 recently presented Mobile Meals of Westfield a \$1,000 ShopRite gift card donation. Representing the union was Business Representative, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Jason Rooney. Accepting the donation was Mobile Meals Operations Manager Josephine Walsh.

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides nutritious and affordable hot meals for those unable to provide meals for themselves. The organization serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. For more information about the organization, visit mobilemealsofwestfield.org or call 908-233-6146.

Sheet Metal Workers' Union No. 22 serves Union, Morris, Somerset and Sussex Counties. The union members support veterans, the homeless and non-profit organizations as part of their community assistance programs. In addition, new union members, as part of their apprenticeship, provide 20 hours of community service annually over a five-year period for a total of 100 hours. For more information on the union, visit SMWIALU22.ORG.



(above) Union representative Jason Rooney and Mobile Meals Operations Manager Josephine Walsh. Courtesy photo

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RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Additions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

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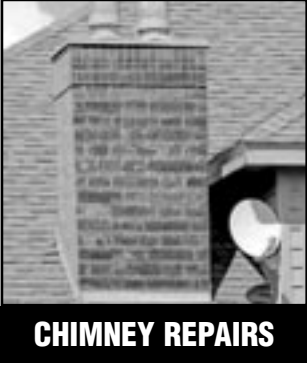
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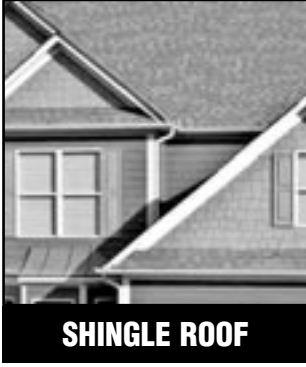
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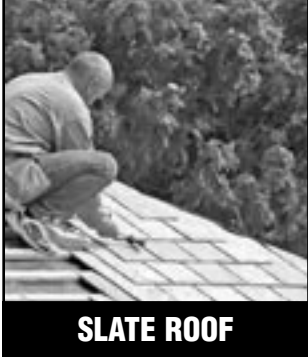
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CLARK EMS AT YOUR SERVICE

Submitted by: Susan Alacchi

The Township of Clark and Clark Recreation Department held a series of concerts this summer. The Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad (CVES) was there in case anyone needed our assistance. Thankfully, to date, no one did. The weather has been perfect and the music was great. The audience seemed to have an enjoyable time.

The last concert in the series will be held on Tuesday, August 8th, at 7:00 p.m., with music provided by Valerie Adams and The Dimensions. CVES will be there. Please introduce yourself to us and take a look at the ambulance, and feel free ask us any questions you may have.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Corresponding Secretary at salacchi@hotmail.com for an application.

Donations are gratefully accepted by sending a check to The Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad at 875 Raritan Road, Clark, New Jersey 07066. CVES is a 501(C) 3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.



(above) The Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad was in attendance during the Summer Concert Series. One of the many services they provide to the Township.

Courtesy photo

REEVE HOUSE GETS A DAY OF BEAUTY

Volunteers from the L’Oreal Corporation of Clark visited the Westfield Historical Society’s Reeve House to take part in L’Oreal USA’s Annual Volunteer Day held on June 22nd.

It was a day of weeding, mulching, dead plant removal, bamboo shearing, decorating, sweeping and cleaning as twenty volunteers from the L’Oreal Corporation pitched in and accomplished these tasks as they have done in many previous years. Westfield Historical Society President, Brian Remite supervised the

volunteers who worked despite the misty rain.

Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and like us on Facebook.

Photo by Westfield Historical Society



(above) Volunteers from the L’Oreal Corporation in Clark worked to accomplish much-needed tasks at the Westfield Historical Society’s Reeve House during the June 22nd L’Oreal Annual USA Volunteer Day.

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ENDING SCHOOL ON A COLORFUL NOTE

The K-Kids Club members at Valley Road School in Clark recently participated in a special after-school project that was donated by their parent club, the Kiwanis Club of Clark. K-Kids adviser Kim Belverio and the students enjoyed this activity because not only was it fun but it had a purpose. Students were given palm size rocks, permanent markers, paints, and brushes to create colorful messages of hope, inspiration, and love to share with the community. Ms. Belverio said, “The students took home their rocks and are going to hide them in random places around town.” She said it was the perfect end-of-the-year activity to send the children off with a message of making the world around them a happier place.

Clark Kiwanis Club secretary Cara Hund

initiated the June 15th activity and was instrumental in securing the supplies. “This is a fun activity that is easy for the students and brings so much joy to others when they find a colorful message.” She shared that the Hehnly School’s K-Kids are planning to do the activity in the fall.

Kiwanis International is a non-profit, global community of adult clubs with more than 550,000 volunteers who are dedicated to improving the lives of children, one community at a time. For more information about the Kiwanis Club of Clark which sponsors the local K-Kids Clubs, the Builders Clubs, and the Key Club, at the Clark and Garwood Schools, reach out to crusadersue@hotmail.com.



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(above) At an end-of-the-year activity, the K-Kids Club at Valley School in Clark painted and decorated colorful rocks to hide in places around town. Their elementary school adviser, Kim Belverio, said the children thoroughly enjoyed the activity that the parent organization, the Kiwanis Club of Clark, sponsored.

Courtesy photo



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(above) District Governor Anthony Benceivenga swore in Clark President Joe Arancio
Courtesy photos

VFW BUILDING REPAIRS FUNDRAISER

The Clark/Rahway VFW, John L. Ruddy Post 7363, has scheduled a fundraiser for building repairs. Closed since March 2020 due to Covid, the Post building needs a roof, ceiling work, air conditioning replacement and inside renovations. A Barry Manilow/Neil Diamond Tribute Concert starring Conner Lorre, a Las Vegas show headliner, will be held at the Union County Performing Arts Center, UCPAC, in Rahway on Friday, September 1, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40-\$45 and can be bought on-line at UCPAC.ORG/events or at the UCPAC, 601 Main St, Rahway, NJ, 732-499-8226.

The VFW is a non-profit military organization for Veterans of Foreign Wars. Many of these veterans are World War II, Korea, Viet Nam or Gulf War service men and women. The VFW is a service group that helps veterans and their families apply for and maintain their benefits. Members of Post 7363 are from Rahway, Clark, and neighboring communities. Our hope is to keep Post #7363 as a viable location in the community for veterans to gather, get help, and share their common experiences.

If you can't make the show consider a donation to help us reach our goal of \$200,000 over the next year. Checks change be mailed to VFW Post #7363, 6 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066.

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Contact us today if you live in or near the Clark, NJ area and see what it takes to become a UNICO member. Call 732-713-2708 or email CLARKUNICONJ@GMAIL.COM.



(above) The 10 recipients of the \$1,000 scholarship, and the Scholarship Committee.



(above, l-r) Clark Chapter of UNICO recently held its annual Installation Dinner at the Gran Centurions. Shown here is Past National President Anne Wolco swearing in the Board of Directors: Jackie Venezio, Steve Romano, Mark Conforti, Fran Parisi, Ralph Bernardo, Anne Wolco, Val Trani, Henry Trani, Vinny Barbera.

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COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2023

CLARK MONTHLY • Page 17 • August 2023

Clark Public Schools

On Thursday, June 22nd, 2023, Arthur L Johnson High School held its sixty-seventh commencement ceremony. The event was attended by Board of Education President Steven Donkersloot, Vice President Thomas Lewis, Board of Education members, Clark Superintendent Edward Grande, Garwood Superintendent Christopher Kinney, family members, teachers, administrators, and other community members.

Senior Class President Julia Ranski led the Pledge of Allegiance and Marina Milara sang "The Star-Spangle Banner". The processional leaders included Julia Ranski and Victoria Szaro, Student Council President.

Salutatorian Samantha Domenick stated, "The people you spend your time with are important.

While some friends come and go, others stay and so do the memories. Leaving high school I know the connections and relationships you develop make so much more of an impact than any grade or lab result."

Brian Morris then performed a flute solo to "Somewhere Only we Know."

Julia Ranski, Senior Class President reflected on her experience at ALJ and sharing her many memories, "Cherish the people and places you see because nothing will ever be the way it is again."

Valedictorian Brian Morris talked about the importance of taking advantage of opportunities. "Wherever you go, don't live a normal life. Live to be the very best person you can be and whatever any of us choose to do, I hope that none of us let any opportunities pass us by."



Photo by Clark Public Schools

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Township of Clark

More than 300 members of the Clark community joined together at the Somerset Patriots game on Friday, June 16. The tickets sold by Clark Little League and Clark Recreation, brought together a crowd gathered around a favorite pastime.

“Summer nights and baseball go hand in hand,” said Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo. “And this has become an annual tradition especially for families of Clark.” The Patriots seven-game winning streak was ended that night in their game against Pennsylvania’s Altoona Curve.



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SHINING STARS TO MAKE HISTORIC DEBUT AT PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

Shining Stars Network

After making their successful Broadway debut recently at the Gershwin Theatre, Shining Stars Network, a regional theater group for young adults with disabilities and their typical peers, will be performing a groundbreaking show at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ on August 5, 2023. The esteemed group will perform a selection of songs and dance from Broadway, movies and more! Shining Stars Network will be the first group of performers with special needs to be featured on the main stage in Paper Mill Playhouse history. The Tony award-winning Paper Mill Playhouse has been offering a theater experience since the late 1700's and is excited to bring this unprecedented performance to their stage as part of their Theatre for Everyone program.

"We are beyond thrilled to partner with the iconic Paper Mill Playhouse to bring this show to life," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder & CEO Mike Curci. "Our cast is so excited and we can't wait for our stars to shine at such an amazing venue and to work with the talented Paper Mill team."

The Shining Stars Network cast recently celebrated their ten-year anniversary of inclusive theater performances with the assistance of typical buddies. It all began in a local home with a karaoke machine and people with disabilities who just wanted to perform to the best of their abilities with joy and acceptance. Shining Stars Network has performed in front of large audiences at the Union County Performing Arts Center, the Paper Mill Cabaret, and most recently the Gershwin theater on Broadway in New York City. They provide a safe and enthusiastic learning experience, culminating with a professionally staged performance.

Tickets for the Paper Mill performance start at \$25 and can be purchased at:

my.papermill.org/shiningstars.

More information about Shining Stars Network can be found at shiningstarsnetwork.org/.

Shining Stars Network offerings include their annual "Evening of Shining Stars" spring show, a two-week Summer Workshop for individuals 21 and over, Camp Shine for students under 21, and their annual "Christmas Spectacular" in December.

"We're all about inclusion and opportunity while building self-esteem and creating friendships," noted Shining Stars co-founder and Show Director Sally Curci. "There have been so many incredible performances over the years and we can't wait to see our stars shine on the Paper Mill stage."

"Each opportunity offers our special cast members a chance to create lifetime memories," added Mike Curci. "Our ensemble just made their Broadway debut at the "Arts for Autism" concert at the Gershwin Theatre, where they received a standing ovation, and now, the amazing opportunity to perform a full show on the legendary Paper Mill stage will be another dream come true."

SHINING STARS NETWORK is a non profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. founded by Sally and Mike Curci that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of building self-confidence and self-esteem while enjoying the experience of performing on stage. Now entering its 6th year, Camp Shine (for ages 10-20 years) and The Shining Stars Summer Workshop (21 and over performers) are two-week intensive programs open to everyone, including those with developmental disabilities, and will take place Aug. 14-25. To register, or for more information on Shining Stars Network or any of their programs, please visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org or send your email to ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com.



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PACK 145 CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Submitted by Mike Sedelmaier

Clark Cub Scout Pack 145 recently hosted its first Blue and Gold Banquet since before the start of the pandemic, inviting scouts and their families to the Columbus Club of Kenilworth to celebrate the pack’s 30th year as a chartered organization, its community service achievements throughout the year, and the advancement in rank of its scouts.

Cub scout packs throughout the nation traditionally hold Blue and Gold banquets to highlight the accomplishments of the pack and to award badges of rank.

The banquet began with a procession of scouts from each den in the pack and their den leaders, introduced by event emcee and Assistant Cubmaster Tony DeMarco. Once all members of the pack were called forward, scouts and their families recited the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law.

Cubmaster Matthew Jadro made remarks highlighting the 30 years that Pack 145 has provided scouting for the community and the service projects the scouts had completed throughout the year. Cub Pack 145 service projects from the past year included collecting several tables worth of food for the Osceola Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, collecting toiletries and personal items for the Osceola Church Fresh Start Program, collecting donations for the Toys for Tots program during the holiday season, cleaning up the Clark municipal complex after the town’s UNICO Italian-American Festival, painting rocks to

decorate the Caitlin Nelson Memorial Playground, serving hundreds of portions of pancakes, raising over \$1,000 to help a local scout family, and raising funds for pack activities.

All pack den leaders from Lions through Webelos called their scouts forward again to present them with their rank badge. Arrow of Light scouts, who received their Arrow of Light badge in a crossing over ceremony held in January, were presented special certificates by their den leader to acknowledge their achievement and years in Cub Scouts.

Lion scouts James Holodak, Aiden Prata, Nathan Rinon, Logan Stec, and Maximilian Telewiak were presented their Lions Rank Award by den leader Danielle Cotayo and assistant den leader Kyle Stec.

Tiger scouts Tony DeMarco, Logan DiFabio, Anthony Esposito, Mason Francisco, Thomas Gargiulo, Hudson Roesch, and Vincenzo Sangiuliano of Den 2 and Logan Brady, Nicholas Goni, Ben Grow, Joseph Merlo, Tanner Moore, Eddie Olas, Sebastian Pajak, and Jake Webb of Den 3 were presented their Tiger Rank Award by den leaders Michelle Gargiulo and Chrissy Olas and assistant den leader Tony DeMarco.

Wolf scouts Brennan Daley, Logan Dietz, Anthony Interiano, Remy Larmony, Damian Perez, Justin Perez, Andrew Roesch, Hunter Skembo, and Jackson Zarrow of Den 1 were presented their Wolf Rank Award by den leader Dan Zarrow and assistant den leader Mark Skembo.

Bear scouts Antonio Alvarado, Regan Giovannielli, Chase Hickman, Mason Kihm, Nicolas Pereira, Giovanni Scipioni, and Matthew Sedelmaier of Den 9 were presented their Bear Rank Award by den leader Bryan Hickman.

Webelos scouts Conrad Butler, Christopher David, Samuel Dietz, Logan Hickman, Sean Holodak, Maksim Jadro, and Connor Klimuc were presented their Webelos Rank Award by den leader Tom Klimuc.

AOL scouts Ciro Cutrona, Ralph Palma, James Sedelmaier, and Mauricio Vilela were presented their certificates by den leader Mike Sedelmaier.

Blue and Gold Banquet chair Michelle Gargiulo was the lead coordinator of the event, working with pack leaders and families to book the venue, hire catering and entertainment, purchase and set up décor, and develop the program.

The Cub Pack 145 leadership includes Cubmaster Matthew Jadro, Assistant Cubmaster, Unit Advancement Chair, and Tiger Assistant Den Leader Tony DeMarco, Pack Committee Chair and Webelos Den Leader Thomas Klimuc, Pack Committee Secretary, New Member Coordinator, and Tiger Den Leader Chrissy Olas, Pack Committee Treasurer Amy Dietz, Unit Public Relations Chair and Arrow of Light Den Leader Mike Sedelmaier, Lion Den Leader Danielle Cotayo, Lion Assistant Den Leader Kyle Stec, Tiger Den Leader Michelle Gargiulo, Wolf Den Leader Dan Zarrow, Wolf Assistant Den Leader Mark Skembo, and Bear Den Leader Bryan Hickman.

Courtesy photo



(above) Clark Cub Scout Pack 145

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CLARK SENIORS TREATED TO FUN AND BEAUTY

Township of Clark

Clark Senior citizens take a break from monthly meetings and special events during the summer months. Before they ended this season, they took time for some fun and getting fancy.

In early June, Clark's seniors enjoy their last official meeting with entertainment, a lunch provided by Bubbakoos Burritos and DI Cosmo's Italian ices. Next they were up on their feet with entertainment.

Later in the month, 45 seniors joined over 25 employees from L'Oréal for a day of beauty. Employees painted the seniors' nails and offered each a goodie bag of makeup to take home. L'Oréal graciously donated the resources to make the day special for seniors.

"I love my seniors," said Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo. "They are a pleasure to work with and really enjoy all the activities and spending time together."



COMMUNITY GARDEN INSTALLED AT ALJ HIGH SCHOOL

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School recently created a community garden with help from the Union County Dig In Grant. The project helped with the installment of two garden beds, soil, and various vegetable plants. All produce will be maintained by ALJ students, and then donated to the Osceola Church Food Bank, located in Clark.

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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
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AUGUST EVENTS AT CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30 am - 9:00 pm • Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm • Sunday: Closed
 The library will be closed on Wednesday, August 23 & August 30 for staff training.

It is time for our annual Summer Reading Challenge, All Together Now!

Up to August 31

All ages are encouraged to participate! Registration is open now. Register using the free Beanstack Tracker App or online at clarklibrary.beanstack.org. Children earn raffle tickets for attending library events, too!

6 Word Book Review, All Month

Teens are invited to submit 6 Word Book Reviews for their finished summer reads. Love a book and want to share it? Think wisely about the 6 words you will use in your recommendation! Open to Grades 6-12.

(Hybrid) Baby Bookworms

Tuesday, August 1 & 8 at 10am

Babies and toddlers are invited to listen to some books, and learn some songs, rhymes, lap bounces, and fingerplays. 30 minutes of open play follows. Registration is requested. Virtual option is available.

Patches and Stitches

Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
from 12pm - 2pm

Bring your quilt or other crafty project and visit with the members of the quilting club.

STEM Club

Tuesday, August 1 at 3pm or 4pm

Have fun exploring, experimenting, designing, and creating with a new theme each session! Priority registration for Clark residents with library cards.

Children entering grades K-2 meet at 3 pm
 Children entering grades 3-5 meet at 4 pm

Totally New Tuesdays

Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 22 & 29 at 6:30pm
 Enjoy a new movie for adults just released to DVD on our big screen.

STEM You Can

Wednesday, August 2 and
 Friday, August 4 at 11am

Open to girls entering 4th - 6th grade. The students will be taught a specific topic each day, and then apply their knowledge by conducting experiments.

Krafty Kids

Wednesdays, August 2 & 9 at 3pm

Join us as we make some fun and creative artwork! Don't forget to bring your imagination and creativity! Registration is required. Geared for entering Kindergarten-5th grade.

Decorate a superhero cape and mask

Wednesday, August 2

Make a wooden tool box

Wednesday, August 9

Chess Club

Thursdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at
 11am - 3pm

New members welcome!

Thursday Afternoon Movies

August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 1pm

Movies for adults. Please check our online calendar or visit the library to check the movies being shown.

LEGO Club

Thursday, August 3 at 3pm

Create your own LEGO® structures to be displayed in the Children's area of the library! LEGO® are provided by the library. For children entering grades K - 5.

Stories & More

Fridays, August 4 & 11 at 10am

Stories, movement, songs followed by a simple craft for active listeners ages 3 - 5 years old.

Registration is required.

Friday Family Flicks

August 4 & 11 at 2pm

Beat the heat Friday afternoons while watching a family friendly movie and munching on popcorn! All movies will feature the theme of friendship and kindness for bringing us All Together Now.

All You Can Craft Buffet

Saturday, August 5 from 10am to 4pm

All ages are welcome to drop by to choose from a full buffet of supplies and make whatever you want—just have fun!

TEEN-y Tiny Art Show. Pick up of materials begins Monday, August 7

We will be running a TEEN-y Tiny Art Show on August 28th and we are looking for Tweens and Teens to contribute to the show. Stop by the library to pick up a TEEN-y Tiny canvas.

Canvases will be available starting on August 7th through August 19th, or while supplies last.

YoBoo for Kids

Monday, August 7 at 3:30pm or 4:00pm

YoBoo combines Yoga & Bootcamp, giving kids the ability to use their mind, body, and spirit in fast, slow, and freezing movements featuring music and stories for non-stop fun!

For ages 3 and up.

Paint & Sip: Adult Summer Reading Finale Monday, August 7 at 7pm

Celebrate with us as we wrap up our Adult Summer Reading Program: All Together Now! Attendees must be signed up for the Adult Summer Reading Program to participate.

Indoor Campout - Teen Summer Reading Finale Wednesday, August 9 from 2pm-4pm

Celebrate with us as we wrap up the teen summer reading program! Drop in anytime between 2 pm - 4 pm.

Indoor Camping Summer Reading Finale

Thursday, August 10 between 4pm to 7pm
 Celebrate all the reading you have done so far this summer! We will have food, crafting, and games, with a campfire theme!

Tales for Tots

Monday, August 14 at 10am

Stories and songs for active listeners. Geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver.

Union County Aging Services Kiosk

Monday, August 14 from 10am - 12pm

Do you have questions about services available in Union County for seniors or their caregivers? Come visit the Union County Aging Services Kiosk, speak to our specialist and get answers to your questions.

Kumpf Middle School Summer Reading Book Discussion

Monday, August 14 at 2pm

Join us to discuss the required summer reading title "Linked" by Gordon Korman. Share your thoughts and questions about the book and learn what your classmates think as well.

Open Play for Little Ones

Tuesdays, August 15, 22, & 29

Mondays, August 21 & 28 at 10am

and Friday, August 25 at 10am

There's no story time on these dates, but please feel free to drop in for open play!

Resume and Cover Letter Workshop

Wednesday, August 16 at 11am

Learn the essential elements of a successful resume and cover letter.

Kindness Rocks

Wednesday, August 16 at 2pm

Help us to paint rocks for our new Kindness Rock Garden or to leave around the community. Create beautiful painted rocks with an inspiring message to brighten someone's day. Open to all.

Hot Glue Embroidery for Teens

Thursday, August 17 at 2pm

Calling all crafty teens! Join us on a journey using hot glue and embroidery to create a fun and unique shooting star wall hanging.

Finger Painting

Friday, August 18 at 10am

No childhood is complete without some good, old-fashioned, messy finger painting. We will read a story and then make some squishy, colorful creations. Wear some old clothes! Clark residents will have priority registration.

Teen Gaming Club

Monday, August 21 at 1pm

Drop by the library for a fun afternoon of gaming. Play some Nintendo Switch games on our big screen or bring your own device. Snacks will be served! Open to Grades 6-12.

Learning LinkedIn

Tuesday, August 22 at 7pm

Learn how to use LinkedIn to build a network of professional contacts, stay up to date on the industries and companies you are interested in, and to find a new job.

Dungeons and Dragons

Thursday, August 24 at 7pm

Attention Adventurers, Warriors, Rogues, and Magic Wielders!

The Clark Public Library is proud to be hosting its first Dungeons & Dragons 101 Info Night! Learn more about this incredible game, please join us for this all ages event.

Registration is required.

Evening Stories

Thursday, August 31 at 6:30pm

Join us on Thursday for a special evening storytime! Interactive stories, songs, and fun for children of all ages! Registration is requested.

Take & Makes for Preschoolers - Adults

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