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BOY AND CUB SCOUTS RETIRE AMERICAN FLAGS

Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 retired 75 worn out or damaged American flags on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14.

The ceremony, in which flags are properly retired by cutting them into quarters and then burning them, was held behind the St. Genevieve's Church Convent on Princeton Road in Elizabeth.

Thirty-six Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, leaders, parents, other family members and guests participated in the solemn and respectful ceremony, with each having the chance to place flag sections into the fire. The Scouts who participated will receive a brass flag grommet, sifted from the ashes and strung on a leather lanyard, to commemorate their participation.

The Scouting program instills character, good citizenship and physical fitness in youth through outdoor activities such as campouts and hikes, involvement in community activities, and just plain fun! Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 provide activities and training for children of all faiths, from Kindergarten through high school graduation. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com.



(above) Scouts, leaders and family members take turns retiring old American flags by burning them in a ceremony on Flag Day. Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 conduct the ceremony annually at St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth.

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(above) Scouts and leaders of Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 salute the American flag at the beginning of their annual flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day.

Courtesy photos

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STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

Elizabeth Public School students recently helped release Monarch butterflies in celebration of National Pollinator Week. National Pollinator Week was established in June 2023 by Elizabeth Mayor Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, to be

celebrated from June 19th to 25th. Students and community members gathered at the Groundwork Elizabeth MicroFarm for the celebration and event.

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THE FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE

GEORGE A. CASTRO IV (21) SELLS RECORD-BREAKING \$4.36 MILLION DOLLAR MANSION

By: Abraham Friedman

CASTRO - When it comes to the world of business, there is no mistaking that attaining success is anything but an effortless feat. Simply charting a clear-cut way to do so necessitates utmost tenacity and discipline, and to then realize such a goal pivots on consistency. This is precisely what can be said in regard to Real Estate, where one's expertise in communication and character must stand at the forefront of every endeavor, making it a demanding profession, regardless of age. Thus, it's nothing short of outstanding when the youngest in the industry work their way up to greatness, and in regard to those who have gone as far as to break records, look no further than George A. Castro IV of Premier Homes who, at just 21 years old, has realized unprecedented triumph in his career through a most recent transaction worth millions, making a name for himself as the true future of real estate.

Having been acclaimed time and again for his unwavering dedication and ingenuity as a businessperson, it is beyond doubt that George Castro has made impactful strides within the Real Estate industry, and the vast recognition brought about by his latest sale of a new residence is no exception. Located at 420 Ludlow Avenue in Spring Lake, New Jersey, the property was built by "AllertonFox Construction", one the biggest commercial construction and development companies in Manhattan, New York, and is but one of many multi-million dollar homes throughout the prestigious neighborhood.



As with all his previous work, George enthusiastically took this unique opportunity presented to him, procuring a contract on the property under 30 days from the original listing date. The residence was initially listed at \$3,995,000, and was ultimately sold for \$4,367,000, a whopping \$372,000 above the original listing price. While this in itself is an exceptional accomplishment, it is made even more significant by George's remarkably young age, recognized as the most ever expensive residential sale by a 21-year-old in the entirety of the United States.

Castro emphasizes the importance of his medium of both marketing and selling, a crucial variable in his mastery of Real Estate. In the case of most Realtors who are selling million-dollar properties, they often focus solely on the market and local areas surrounding a particular residence, which is considered an outdated means to advertise to affluent buyers. Meanwhile, George has been marketing luxurious properties to purchasers not only from New York but several states throughout the country and even overseas. It is exactly this which differentiates him from the majority of agents. "There are many rich and affluent purchasers in Manhattan who live in small apartments but are paying hundreds upon thousands of dollars in rent," he states. With his concentration on efficient and contemporary ways of selling, George has been able to hone into this market and grant a myriad of buyers, whether near or far, the opportunity of purchasing opulent homes in New Jersey.

With his record-breaking achievement, George Castro's eminence in the tri-state area's Real Estate scene is ever-increasing and has been actualized by the aptly named "Wonder Boy" in the short span of only 3 years, at that. First setting foot in the industry at 18, his talent in Real Estate was put to the test by the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought change to our lifestyles, and hence, the state of the business. George rose to the challenge without hesitation, honing his potential with ceaseless determination to be greater than meets the eye. "If you're looking to think at all, you might as well think big, and in the Real Estate industry, it's important to always look to have the upper hand" he says.

By virtue of his prowess and passion for Real Estate, George Castro has come to establish himself not only as a distinguished professional in an industry marked by competition but as a paragon of his age. Through 2022 and beyond, he has earned numerous commendations as a top agent in the Premier Homes company and the state of New Jersey. More than that, George is the youngest realtor to have received the 2022 Gold New Jersey Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Award, further underscoring his ascendancy in the industry, all through skill well beyond his years.

In recent times, opportunities for prosperity have been sought out on a progressively larger scale, giving rise to new and innovative talent more so than ever before. However, it is George Castro who has proven that the scope of one's success hinges on the individual mindsets of those who strive for it. As he strongly believes "There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking. Usually those who are the most competent and committed, are the ones that rise to the occasion."

BAYWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Bayway Community Advisory Panel (CAP), an organization of local community members and industry representatives including Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Infineum USA L.P., Linden Cogeneration Plant, Veolia North America, and Linden VFT LLC, recently awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 13 local students in the municipalities of Linden, Rahway, Elizabeth, and Staten Island.

All of the high school seniors will be pursuing Process Technology or Engineering degrees in various disciplines (Chemical, Computer, Electrical, Mechanical) this fall at college. The winners from Elizabeth are Joe Alves, Ismael Fuentes, and Bryan Larin.

Joe Alves is a senior at Frank J. Cicarell Academy in Elizabeth, NJ.

Joe is an intelligent and conscientious student who is full of curiosity to learn new things. His analytical approach enables him to absorb difficult concepts in science effortlessly. His work habits reflect his qualities of being a team member and being extremity kind and helpful. Joe has been an active member of some prestigious clubs in school like National Honor Society and Italian Honor Society. He has been enthusiastically involved in Civil Air Patrol activities outside school. His aspiration for higher education has assisted him in maintaining valuable standings in the current academic year. Joe will be pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering. Joe is responsible and proactive therefore a deserving candidate of the Bayway CAP Scholarship sponsored by Infineum USA, LP.

Ismael Fuentes is a senior at Frank J. Cicarell Academy in Elizabeth, NJ.

Ismael has been a student exhibiting great enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, and scholastic aptitude. He takes mathematical changes very well and tries to succeed in whatever he pursues with dedication. With his mature approach to his responsibilities and superior knowledge and involvement in the school, he has demonstrated outstanding leadership. Ismael has developed a strong sense of confidence. He is a good team leader who always leads his team with confidence and respect. He works very well independently as well as group setting. Ismael will be pursuing a degree in Computer Science.

Ismael was strongly recommended for a Bayway CAP Scholarship sponsored by Infineum USA, LP congratulations!

Bryan Larin is a senior at Frank J. Cicarell Academy in Elizabeth, NJ.

Bryan is a skilled student that is willing and motivated to accept challenges as they relate to academia. Bryan is a mature young man for his age. He adapts quickly and has superior abilities that are favorable for his success. His unselfishness to help others far exceeds most of his peers. The subject of mathematics and calculation had always remained a strength in Bryan's learning. Bryan will be pursuing a degree in Physics. It is with great pleasure to award Bryan with a Bayway CAP Scholarship, sponsored by Infineum USA, LP.



(above) Congratulations and best wishes to all the 2023 CAP scholarship winners. Elizabeth winners: Joe Alves, Ismael Fuentes, and Bryan Larin; Linden winners: Jaiden Jones, and Evelyn Ojeda; Rahway winners: Pearl Davis, Destiny Ledgister, and Camilla Monterrosa; Staten Island winners: Aaron McDonald, Anthony McDonald, Terrance McDonald, Evan Randeniarachchi, and Joseph Dalton.

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SCHOOL NO. 12 HOLDS ANNUAL FIELD DAY

Elizabeth Public Schools

Elmora School No. 12 held its annual Pre-k through 4th grade Field Day in June, 2023. Parents joined teachers in helping to make this day possible for the students. The Field Day event is an annual event that takes place at schools nationwide and serves as an opportunity to have fun and promoting physical activity.



IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

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

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 (often over a free meal), 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.

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.

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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Carol Mullen, "Monarch," collage, 18x3x.5 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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ELMORA SCHOOL NO. 12'S MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION

Elizabeth Public Schools

Elmora School No. 12 hosted its annual Multicultural Parade on Monday, June 12th, 2023. Parents and community members were invited to cheer on their children as they dressed in their native apparel and marched around the school. Students represented their native countries proudly while waving American flags to Neil Diamond's "Coming to America."




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Registration for all our programs will now be on our website!

Please go to elizpl.org to check-out all our events!

Sudoku Time Attack

Every Monday (All Day)

Are you up for a challenge? Every Monday, there will be a new sudoku puzzle to solve. Don't know how to play? The instructions will be posted next to the puzzle.

Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, August 8 (All Day)

Every Tuesday at all our locations join us in our fun scavenger hunts and win a small prize. No registration is required.

Coloring for Adults

Tuesday, August 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 1:00pm

Drop in for some relaxing coloring fun! Come discover the calming effects as well as meeting some good company!

Rachel Harrington Storyteller

Friday, August 4 at 12:00pm

Sing songs and tell stories with Rachel! A storyteller whose work has taken her around the globe, presenting imagination-infused performances. Registration Required. For ages 12 and under.

Chess Club for Adults

Friday, August 4, 11, 18, 25 at 12:30pm

Adult Chess Club every Friday @12:30pm!

Beginners are welcome! Registration is required

Coding for Kids

Friday, August 4, 18, & 25 at 4:15pm

Free Python program for grades 6-8. Learn the logic behind algorithms and discuss programming with others.

Book Sale

Saturday, August 5 - Saturday, August 12

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Monday, August 7 & 14 and Tuesday, August 8 & 15 at 12:00pm

Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get started, from fundamental stitches to understanding gauge.

Mahjong

Monday, August 7, 14, 21, & 28 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Everyone who loves Mahjong is welcome to come & play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners. We'll provide the space for open play. A minimum of 4 players are required to play the game. Ages: 18 & up

Chess Club for Kids

Monday, August 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 4:00pm

Join our Hybrid Chess Club for Kids every Monday at 4pm. Beginners are welcome!

Coloring for Kids

Saturday, August 12 at 10:00am

Relax & color at the Elmora Branch for an hour!

Storytime & Craft at Green Acres Park

Saturday, August 12 at 3:00pm

NOTE: Located on 169 Bellevue St, Elizabeth, NJ

Join Ms. Martha for storytime and craft at the park. Registration not required.

Zumba Gold

Monday, August 14, 21, & 28 and Thursday, August 17, 24, & 31 at 8:30am
CALL 908-353-4820 to reserve a spot but walk-ins are welcome!

Stitch & Chat

Tuesday, August 15 at 10:00am

Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Adult Scrabble

Wednesday, August 16 1:00pm

Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing Scrabble with other like-minded adults.

ESL for Kids

Wednesday, August 16 at 5:30pm

Join us to learn English as a Second Language with fun interactive activities. For ages 5-12

Toddlers World

Friday, August 18 & 25 at 11:00am

An hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime!

Matinee Movies

Friday, August 18, & 25 at 2:00pm

Come out to Elmora Branch Library to watch "Evil Dead Rising" on 8/18, "American Sniper" on 8/25.

Drawing for Kids

Tuesday, August 22 at 3:00pm

Join Ms. Martha for a cute storytime and learn to draw different animals!

Stitch & Chat

Wednesday, August 23 at 5:00pm

Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Adult Spanish Book Club

Thursday, August 24 at 2:00pm

Join Martha for a monthly book discussion for adults in Spanish!

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, August 26 at 1:00pm

NOTE: Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ

Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, crafts, and oh-so-much fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family.

All Age Lego

Saturday, August 26 at 3:00pm

It's Lego Hour at Elmora on Saturday @3pm. Come build an enormous tower or make a race car; the imagination is limitless!

Junior's Book Club

Wednesday, August 30 at 5:30pm

Tweens will share the love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading and motivate kids to read.

Grade: 4-6

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