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## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER CONCERTS CONTINUE

Long Hill Parks and Recreation Dog Days of Summer Concert Series began in June and continues through September 7th, 2023. A wide selection of bands stretching across genres of classic rock, country, pop, and more perform every week. All remaining concerts will be held at Kantor Park and are free to the public.

Long Hill Parks & Recreation Presents Dog Days of Summer Concert Series 2023			
Date	Time	Band	Genre
Thursday, Aug. 10th	6:30pm	Total Soul	Motown, R&B, Pop
Thursday, Aug. 17th	6:30pm	Asbury Jam	Rock/Folk Rock
Thursday, Aug. 24th	6:30pm	Tequila Rose	Modern Country Rock
Thursday, Aug. 31st	6:30pm	Silver Starline Orchestra	Big Band Jazz & Latin
Thursday, Sept. 7th	7pm	Millie's Closet	Classic Rock

All concerts will be held at Kantor Park on the rear grass soccer field. Bring lawn chairs or beach blanket and picnic dinner if you like. All concerts are FREE. Bring the family for a great evening out! In case of inclement weather, please check website for updates: <https://www.longhillnj.gov/recreation/index.html>



(photos) Music lovers listening to Due South on July 13th, 2023.

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Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on Long Hill Leader page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/LongHillLeader) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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# Long Hill LEADER

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

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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[facebook.com/ Long Hill Leader](https://facebook.com/LongHillLeader)

## 4-H FAIR CELEBRATES MILESTONE AUGUST 9-11

This year's Somerset County 4-H Fair will celebrate 75 years of Free Family Fun. For many families, a visit to the fair is a multi-generational summer tradition. The first county 4-H Fair was held in 1948 at the fairgrounds in Far Hills. In 1962, the fair moved to its current location at North Branch Park in Bridgewater.

The fair is the highlight of the year for 4-H club members who showcase their skills through a variety of exhibits, demonstrations and competitions. You can reconnect with the county's agricultural past with farm animals, or glimpse the future with 4-H projects in robotics and rocketry.

Be sure to bring your appetite. A large food tent features many items to tempt your tastebuds. Food sales benefit local nonprofit organizations and help to make the fair possible.

The Somerset County 4-H Fair is August 9-11, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., at North Branch Park on Milltown Road in Bridgewater. Admission and parking are free. Visit [4HisTops.org](http://4HisTops.org).



(above) The 4-H Fair offers 15 acres of Free Family Fun.



(above) Animals shows from pets to livestock are popular events.

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## MATT PEPE TO WEAR SHIELD #145

The Stirling Volunteer Fire Company recently congratulated Matt Pepe on his graduation of Firefighter 1 from the Somerset County Fire Academy. Matt, who will wear shield #145, put more than 180 hours into his training to become FF1 certified. Members are always wanted! Contact the Fire House if you are interested in serving your community.

*Follow Stirling Fire Company No 1 on Facebook*



*(above) Pictured with Matt is Chief Al Gallo, Antonio Gallo and Gino the Firehouse Dog*

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

The Long Hill Township Police Department participated in the 40th annual Torch Run for the Special Olympics on Friday, June 9, 2023. Officers began the run on Valley Road heading

North West to Basking Ridge Road for about 2 hours of running. Thank you to all who make this tribute so special.

*Follow Long Hill Police on Facebook*



## LONG HILL WELCOMES NEW POLICE OFFICERS

The Long Hill Township Police Department swore in Officers Joseph Napolitano and Sidney McAvoy on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Joseph

and Sidney recently graduated from the police academy in early June after countless hours of mental and physical training.



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(Cheer is open to grades K-3rd and attends the 8:45am slot).

### FUN FACTS:

- Opening day will be on:  
**Saturday, September 9th, 2023.**
- The season ends on:  
**Saturday, November 11th, 2023.**
- The season is 10 weeks long and practices and games are 1 day a week on Saturdays.
- Each Football Flag session is divided into 2 timeslots:  
(1st) **K-4th @ 8:45am -10:15am** - Flag/Cheer  
(2nd) **5th-12th @ 10:30am-12pm** - Flag only
- All sessions are held on the Green Brook Middle School Turf Field (132 Jefferson Ave, Green Brook, NJ)
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## DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT SEPT. 18TH

### DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on September 18, 2023.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$851,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children, Paramus, NJ, Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ), ECLC (Chatham, NJ) and Seton Foundation for Learning (Staten Island, N.Y).

Grant recipients use money to fund health and fitness programs, social skills programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and

educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to [birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXII](http://birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXII)

### ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

### DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2023

The Drive for Autism XXII is scheduled for Monday Sept 18, 2023 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, New Jersey. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please visit

[www.birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXII](http://www.birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXII),  
call 908-451-8033

or email [driveforautism@comcast.net](mailto:driveforautism@comcast.net).

## MUSIC FESTIVAL – AUGUST 19

Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885



On Saturday, August 19th, from 12-8 p.m., join the Watchung Hills Elks Lodge for our 1st annual Music Festival. The fundraiser will provide charitable services to veterans, special

children, and the local community.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased on-line, where you can also find more details on the performers: [elkslodge885.org](http://elkslodge885.org)

Live bands including headliner (and Warren hometown favorite) "The Bobby Lanza Blues

Band," "Forget the Whale," and "Cyclone Static."

Your ticket price covers non-stop access to fresh grilled hotdogs, hamburgers and all the fixings and refreshments. A cash bar will also be available.

This is an all-day event; keep your wristbands on in case you need to step out and want to return later in the day. Bring your favorite chairs and/or blankets and enjoy music, food and drink under the shady canopies of our trees. Our outdoor event space is the best in town. Parking is available at the lodge, directly across the street, and also in the municipal parking lot across the street, just 50 yards away.

Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885 is located at 1 Elks Trail, Warren, NJ. The restrooms, parking-lot, and pavilion are all wheelchair accessible.

**MUSIC FESTIVAL**

 **Saturday, August 19, 12-8pm** 

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[www.elkslodge885.org](http://www.elkslodge885.org)







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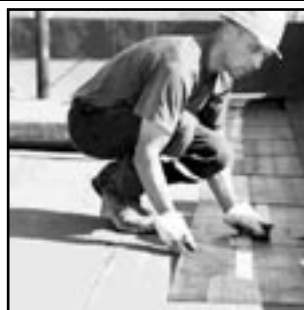
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# SINGLE USE PLASTICS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

**NJCCC**  
The New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC), a statewide, comprehensive, litter-abatement 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](http://njclean.org) and [litterfreenj.org](http://litterfreenj.org).



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



(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



# 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 [imagine.nj.org](http://imagine.nj.org) or contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or [info@imagine.nj.org](mailto:info@imagine.nj.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

## RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE – AUG. 18-19

Meyersville Presbyterian Church will hold its Summer Rummage and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, August 18, and Saturday, August 19, at the Church on the Circle in Meyersville located at 223 Hickory Tavern Road, Gillette, NJ.

A huge variety of gently loved treasures will be offered for sale, including holiday, decorative items, collectibles and vintage, housewares, linens, books, toys, and more! Come and discover that "something" you just can't live without!

We have many talented bakers, so there will be a grand selection of delicious Baked Goods available for purchase.

## FAMILY BASEBALL NIGHT AND BARBEQUE

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

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

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

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# AREA ELKS SPONSOR PICNIC AT MENLO PARK VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME

Submitted by Jon Joshua

On July 15, more than 20 Elks from the East Central District, consisting of Lodges in Stirling, Summit, Springfield, Mountainside, Cranford, Union, and Rahway sponsored a picnic at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home in Edison.

With warm weather and blue skies,

hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage & peppers, roasted potato, salads, and watermelon were just some of the items on the menu that was served to over 80 veterans in attendance.

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." At Lyons VA, East Orange

VA, Menlo Park Veterans Home, Paramus Veterans Home, and across the country, Elks volunteers provide direct service to Veterans in more than 330 facilities each month. And through grants, Elks Lodges connect with veterans and military members in their communities, providing them with services where they live.

For more information about the Elks and how to join, please visit [elks.org](http://elks.org).



(above) More than 20 Elks from the East Central District sponsored a picnic at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home in Edison.

Courtesy photos

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