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## **KOSTYACK AND WALSH RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS ROTARY AWARDS**

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart Ray Kostyack of The Rotary Club of Westfield was awarded the F. Matty Mathewson Rotarian of the Year Award; and Westfield resident Darielle Walsh was given the Jean Harris Award by Rotary International District 7475.

The F. Matty Mathewson award was established in 1982 to recognize and honor those Rotarians in the district who have, over a period of time, best exemplified Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" and earning this award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Rotarian by the district.

Jean Harris was the wife of Rotary Founder Paul Harris. This award honors her memory and is presented to a non-Rotarian who exemplifies Service Above Self volunteerism in the community.

Ray was introduced to Rotary in the 1990's when he helped organized a fundraising high school basketball tournament to support The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and enlisted Elizabeth NJ Rotarians to assist at the event and provide sponsorship funds. The event became one of highest profile tournaments in the country over 24 years, hosting nationally top ranked teams and players, many who have gone on to star in the NBA, and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars. These funds supported transitional housing, educational programs and summer camp for the homeless of the community.

Joining Westfield Rotary in 1998, became a trustee on the board from 2005 to 2009, Club president in 2010, and chair of the Rotary Club Foundation in 2001. The Foundation manages over 1.5 million in assets, awards \$100,00 in scholarships and \$30,000 in community grants each year.

For 28 years, Ray along with fellow Rotarians, friends, neighbors and family members have prepared complete Thanksgiving dinners for 8-10 families and delivered them to those in Elizabeth who are living in shelters & motels without kitchens. Then he goes home and cooks for his family.

Ray became involved in all of the clubs many activities, including the Pedals for Progress annual bike collection, which has surpassed 1500 bikes for 24 years, and the Backpack program, where backpacks of food essentials are brought to the schools on Friday afternoons and given to students that have food insecurity at home on weekends.

Westfield Rotary has for many years coordinated a collection called "2nd lunch Tuesday" with the town's 6 elementary school's Early Act programs. The kids are asked to bring a second sandwich for lunch and parent volunteers



(above, l-r) Westfield Rotary Club President Tony LaPorta, Jean Harris Award recipient Darielle Walsh, and District Rotarian of the Year Ray Kostvack.

Courtesy photo

pick up and deliver them to St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth (sister agency to the Elizabeth Coalition). Hundreds of sandwiches were collected weekly.

He is a financial advisor at Wells Fargo Advisors in Westfield where he lives with his wife Maria, proud parents of Michelle & Mark, recent college grads.

Darielle has been active in the community for over 40 years as a volunteer and professional working with non-profit organizations. She is an organizational consultant providing training and board development solutions specializing in governance, leadership and effectiveness. A community builder, her leadership skills, expertise and professional services, enable her to assist local, regional and national nonprofits to maximize their potential, serve their communities and develops stronger organizations.

Darielle and her husband Michael live in Westfield. Married for 53 years, they have two married sons and five grandchildren.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets the first three Tuesdays of each month for lunch at noon, at Limani Seafood Grill on North Ave. Guests are always welcome. For information check out the website westfieldrotary.com or contact club secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart by email at drmhart@yahoo.com







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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

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## **MEET MOTHER GOOSE – SUNDAY, OCT. 1ST**

Did you know that some people believe that Mother Goose was a real woman who lived in Boston during the later half of the 17th century? More likely, the Mother Goose rhymes originated in France. Learn all about the history of Mother Goose and meet our very own Mother Goose as we sing and read some of our favorites. There will be Mother Goose inspired games, a scavenger hunt and more. The fully furnished c1740 farmhouse will be open for viewing and our cooks will be demonstrating 18th century open-hearth cooking using authentic early American techniques and recipes.

Admission is \$5 ages 13 and older; \$4 ages 3-12 and free age 2 and younger. No reservations are necessary.

The Miller Cory House Museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ. Call the museum at 908-232-1776 or email millercorymuseum@gmail.com for more information.

Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Miller Cory House Museum/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 Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society and their events, westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and , like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram.



(above) Mother Goose will visit The Miller Cory House Museum on Sunday, October 1st, 2-4 p.m.

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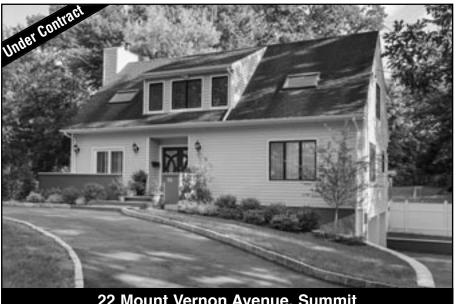
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## **OCTOBER SALES AT THE WSL THRIFT & CONSIGNMENT STORE**

Consignment Store will be selling Halloween costumes for every member of your family starting in October. The costumes will range from \$3 to \$12 dollars.

"We always have a large selection of both child and adult costumes, including scary masks and fright wigs. In addition, we have many



The Westfield Service League Thrift & Halloween-themed housewares to decorate your home for the holiday," said Suzanne Granstrand, who co-chairs the Thrift Shop with Patti Tomasso and Rosemary Lombard.

highlighted in October because it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In the past, WSL has supported "Play for P.I.N.K.," which stands for Prevention, Immediate diagnosis, New technology, and Knowledge, regarding breast cancer. The organization supports thousands of volunteers as they raise funds for breast cancer research through sporting and lifestyle events.

"WSL collects money through the generosity of our members, customers, and employees to support grassroots organizations, such as "Play for P.I.N.K." which is just one of the 40 nonprofits that the WSL supported last year. In addition, every shopper who makes a donation to Breast Cancer Awareness at our shops, no matter how big or small, will receive a special pink bracelet while supplies last," said Rosann LiVolsi, Vice President of the WSL.

In addition to the special items for Halloween and Breast Cancer Awareness, the Westfield community continues to donate women's tops, jeans, blazers, athletic wear, dresses, handbags, scarves, shoes, coats, jackets and jewelry. For men, there are shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, jeans, khakis, coats, jackets and shoes.

"Our volunteers are constantly putting new merchandise out on the floor, including a wonderful selection of jewelry, clothes for the whole family, shoes, housewares, toys, books, Pink apparel and accessories will also be and wall-art. If you don't see something you need on one day, try back again, donations come in every day," said Karen Salemme, Co-President of the WSL.

> "Consider consigning your gently used designer apparel, handbags, and housewares with us. We accept donations Tuesday through Friday, 9:45 to 11 a.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m., and Saturdays 10 am to 2 p.m.," said Susan McClelland, Co-President of the WSL.

> The League has been serving the community since 1932. The money raised from the sale of the goods goes to local non-profit organizations, including the Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey, Moms Helping Moms, Caring Contact, Roots and Wings, and St. Joseph's Social Services Center. Last year, the League was able to donate \$70,000 to 40 organizations.

> The shop is located at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield and is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about donations or volunteering, call 908-233-2530 for the Thrift Shop or 908-232-1223 for the Consignment Shop.

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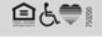
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ADDRESS	BEDS	BATHS	GARAGE	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
708 Dorian Rd	6	6.1	3	\$1,799,000	\$1,910,000	8
642 Tremont Ave	4	3.1	2	\$1,550,000	\$1,757,000	6
220 N Euclid Ave	5	4.1	2	\$1,495,000	\$1,650,000	13
323 Grove St	4	2.1	1	\$1,150,000	\$1,375,000	6
531 Washington St	3	2.1	2	\$999,000	\$1,220,000	8
306 Scotch Plains Ave	4	2.1	1	\$950,000	\$995,100	0

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Source: CSMLS, select properties sold 8/16/2023-9/15/2023. If your property is currently listed with another Realtor, this is not intended as a solidation of that listing. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Each office independently owned and operated. Equal housing opportunity. Some homes may be sold and listed by other brokers.







## **WESTFIELD EDUCATORS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION**



(above) Westfield High School engineering/technology education teacher Laura Doyle (left) is the recipient of the AeroEducate Teacher of the Year Award.



(above) Westfield Public Schools Visual and Performing Arts Supervisor Shawna Longo is among 30 music educators (10 nationwide) to receive the 2023 Music Teachers of Excellence award from the Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation. Longo was interviewed in the Franklin Elementary School music room on September 12 by a crew from ABC Localish, a national TV and digital media network. Courtesy photos





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Westfield Public Schools Visual and Performing Arts Supervisor Shawna Longo is among 30 music educators (10 nationwide) to receive the 2023 Music Teachers of Excellence award from the Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation.

According to its website, the CMA Foundation was established in 2006 to recognize the importance of music education in the classroom. Longo received the award while a general music teacher in the Hopatcong Borough Schools before joining the Westfield Public School District in August. She traveled to Nashville to accept the award on September 19.

Additionally, Westfield High School engineering/technology education teacher Laura Doyle is the recipient of the AeroEducate Teacher of the Year Award. For the past two years, Laura and a team of educators from around the country

Westfield Public Schools Visual and have developed aviation-based STEM activities or forming Arts Supervisor Shawna Longo is for K-12 students, which are shared on nong 30 music educators (10 nationwide) to AeroEducate's website.

This summer, Doyle traveled to Oshkosh, Wisconsin to attend AirVenture, an annual airshow and four-day gathering of aviation enthusiasts, at which she facilitated activities for students and teachers in the AeroEducate Center. Laura was presented with the award on the last day of AirVenture, after she had co-presented hands-on activities for more than 100 educators who attended "Teacher Day" to hear from aviation-based educational organizations.

"Congratulations to Mrs. Longo and Mrs. Doyle on these prestigious recognitions," says Superintendent Dr. Raymond González. "Their exceptional contributions, and that of so many other members of our staff, enrich the educational experiences and the lives of our students."



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## **BULLIES TO BUDDIES** WORKSHOP – OCT. 19

On Thursday, October 19th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss will offer a Bullies to Buddies workshop at their Mountainside center at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside. Ther is no cost for this program. Children and youth, third grade and older are welcome to attend along with adults who wish to help the children in their lives gain skills for responding to bullying behavior. Young people attending will have an opportunity to role play techniques taught throughout the session.

Bullying is a challenge for many students, but children and youth who are grieving are more likely to be bullied or become bullies. The Bullies to Buddies method fosters resilience by showing how to respond to verbal aggression. Children from 3rd grade and up, parents, school staff members and any interested community members are welcome to attend whether or not they have been recently impacted by a loss.

The training will be offered by Connie Palmer, LCSW who is a Grief Education Consultant for Imagine. Connie is a former school social worker, therapist and is a Certified Bullies to Buddies Trainer.

If you and/or your kids are interested in attending, please register by scanning the QR code below or visiting Imagine's website at imaginenj.org. Pizza dinner is available prior to the workshop at 6:15 p.m. Please indicate your interest in coming early for pizza when you register. We hope you can join us at Imagine for this timely and beneficial workshop!

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. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



Scan here to register



## FALL FUNDRAISER – BASKETS OF HOPE

The Center for Hope Hospice Auxiliary

The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary 25th annual fall fundraiser "Baskets of Hope" will take place on October 22nd, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey.

The event will feature a wonderful luncheon, and raffles of over 100 baskets, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, two gift card aprons, and a raffle for VISA gift cards in denominations of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500, and various vendors will offer an array of beautiful merchandise for sale.

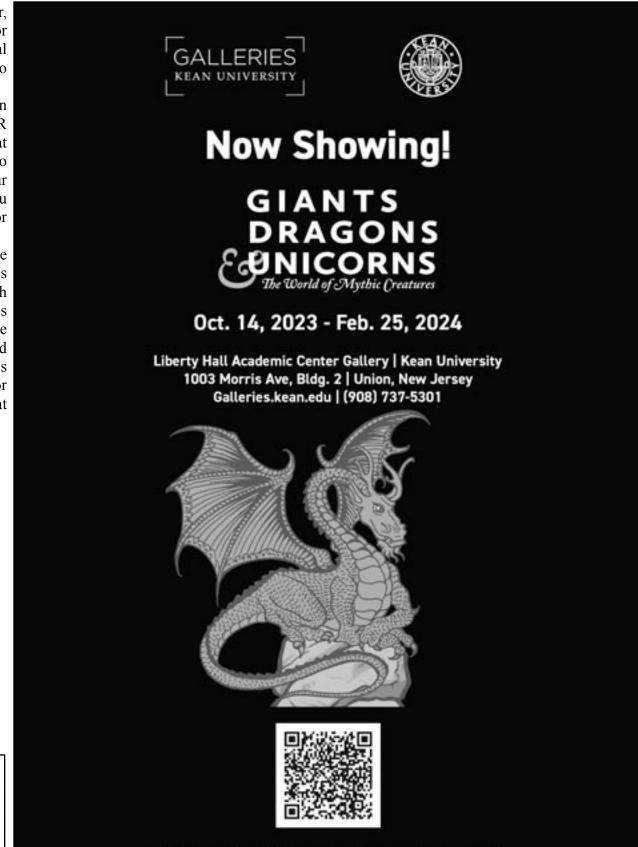
The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary provides financial support of the Center's charity care through fundraisers such as the "Baskets of Hope" in the Fall and a Wine Tasting in the Spring. The Auxiliary also runs the Hope Chest, a thrift store located at 26 Prospect Street in Westfield, New Jersey.

The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative

Care is a not-for-profit hospice that provides loving care to patients and their families regardless of race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, or ability to pay. This care is provided in facilities in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth, New Jersey, and in patients' homes.

For more information regarding the event, and to purchase tickets visit cfhh.org. Tickets for the VISA card raffle can be purchased at the Hope Chest, located at 26 Prospect Street, Westfield, NJ, or from an auxiliary member.





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## **SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE OCT 14 SHOW**

Salem Roadhouse Café presents Zuko, Philips, Cohn & Starr, Saturday, October 14, 2023. The doors open at 7:15 p.m., the show starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in Bailey Hall at Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities.

Zuko, Philips, Cohn & Starr have carved themselves a unique niche within the realm of rock classic tunes. Focused mostly on vocals and light accompaniment with a pair of guitars and a djembe for rhythm, this group of very talented and familiar Roadhouse performers has taken classic rock tunes we all know and love and put a lighter spin on them. The usual trappings of rock with it's requisite "wall of sound" is avoided, making the lyrics and tunes able to be heard clearly. Focused on rich harmonies, their sound is catching on like wildfire. Come and hear songs as you've never heard them before! States Michael Zuko, "We are in the midst of recording our debut album, which will be out next year. More original material is being added to our set lists."

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

#### **ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ**

It's not "church music." It's music music.

Folks who've come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What's the common thread? They're all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There's no message, just music.

The Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey - that's why we're located where we are. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.

But the many musicians who've played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here "really listen." Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Programs, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

#### 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. Addictions 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.

#### 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 tendemess 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.



How Does This New Treatment Work?

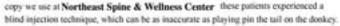
Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with Northeast

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!

#### 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

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and scopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoros



Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoro copy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact Northeast Spine & Wellness Center today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation Scot Paris MD, FACS

#### Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can more with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and - Patricia G. down steps with no pain."

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting hack to normal. - Perry O.

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is "top-notch.

· Quenton L.

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## **GWACC ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF GENE JANNOTTI**

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) Board of Directors announced the retirement of Gene Jannotti, CEO of the Chamber, at the September 13, 2023, board meeting. Gene will leave office when the Board hires his replacement. The Board is expected to announce the new GWACC Chamber Executive Director in October as soon as the position is finalized.

Gene served in his position since 2014 and accomplished much during almost 10 years. Gene increased the Chamber membership from 260 members to currently over 400 members. He enlarged the Board to 20 members to be more representative of the businesses and professionals the Chamber represents and established standing committees with board members and volunteers to increase involvement and awareness of Chamber activities and events.

He expanded the size of the Chamber by incorporating Clark and the Irish Business Association into the GWACC Chamber and the communities it serves in Clark, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. He created special recognition awards for 5-year, 10-year, and older GWACC members. Additional community events were created in Clark, Fanwood and Garwood to engage with community residents and highlight local businesses. During the pandemic, Gene's efforts continued the work of the Chamber on a daily basis and provided updates regarding COVID provided to him by the NJ Chamber of Commerce and the US Chamber. He assisted members and non-members alike with PPP information and access to other State and County Grants. He initiated regular online networking events to keep the business community connected and developed a new website and mobile app to better connect with the members and local communities. Many more opportunities now exist for member businesses to interact with other like-minded professionals at the various networking events.

In 2017 he facilitated the office move to the current location on Lenox Avenue. He established the GWACC 501c3 Foundation primarily to



(above) Gene Jannotti

provide scholarships to local high school students. He started a new budgeting, billing and payments processes including auto-billing of dues to facilitate payments. He established ongoing sponsorship programs for continuing support of GWACC events.

In the past five years, Gene received the Union County Boy Scouts Lifetime Achievement Award, the NJBIA ICON Award and the Inroads to Opportunities Champion of Change Award. He is a graduate of the US Chamber Institute of Nonprofit Organizational Management. Gene is a former member of the Trinitas Hospital Foundation Board, Past President of the Board of Trustees of the Union County Performing Arts Center, current Board member of Union College

Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club of Union County. Gene is a member of the Scotch Plans/Fanwood Rotary, the Westfield Optimist Club, and the Union County 200 Club. Gene is also on the Siena College Advisory Board.

"I have enjoyed my time at the Chamber helping businesses succeed and do well. But now it is time to bring in a new Executive Director to take the Chamber to the next level. I want to thank the GWACC Staff, Mary Cirillo who has been with me for the past nine years and Faith Delaney for the past 5 years for the job they have done for the Chamber. I am very happy that I leave the Chamber in better condition than when I started." Gene thanked all current and former Board members for the opportunity given to him to serve as the Chamber CEO and expressed his thanks to all of the GWACC members who make everything happen at the Chamber. Gene will take well deserved time away from employment to serve on various non-profit Boards, play golf and travel.

#### **GWACC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Established over 75 years ago, the GWACC is the primary business organization in Clark, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, and Westfield. The chamber promotes local business opportunities, economic development, and community growth. GWACC includes 460 member businesses and nonprofit organizations. For more information about GWACC, visit www.gwaccnj.com. You can also call the office at 908-233-3021 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Our office is located at 212 Lenox Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.





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## **OPENING DAY CEREMONY** WELCOMES STAFF BACK TO SCHOOL

## FANWOOD 5K PIZZA RUN - OCT 15

Registration is now open for the Fanwood 5K Pizza Run & 1-Mile Family Fun Run, which will be held on Sunday, October 15th, 2023. The Fun Run will begin at 11 a.m. and the 5K will begin at 11:30 a.m. After crossing the finish line, all registered runners can enjoy free pizza, courtesy of Fanwood's own Fabio's Bistro Italian Restaurant and Nick's Pizza & Deli, and other refreshments. And this year the event features a new USATF Certified route that begins and ends in front of Fanwood Borough Hall at 75 North Martine Avenue.

For more information about the run and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org. Runners who register by October 2nd are guaranteed a race t-shirt. Online registration closes October 13th, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Inperson registration will be available on the day of the race.

This event is sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission, a group of dedicated volunteers who strive to improve and expand recreational opportunities within the Fanwood community. All race proceeds go to benefit Fanwood Recreation events, parks and facilities.



#### Westfield Public Schools

There were lots of hugs and smiles as Westfield Public Schools staff gathered for an Opening Day ceremony on Tuesday, September 5 and prepared for the return of students on Thursday, September 7.

Superintendent Dr. Raymond González welcomed teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, administrators, and other staff members, including 44 new educators who have joined the school district.

"I love the start of a new school year," says González. "It is great to witness the energy on opening day as our teachers, paraprofessionals, and all of our staff gather together, ready and eager to welcome their students back to school."

González expressed his appreciation for the hard work that took place over the summer to prepare for the new school year and for the important work still to come. He told the group that the district looks forward to unveiling its Strategic Plan this fall, a comprehensive blueprint of goals, objectives, and outcomes thoughtfully prepared to provide a clear path for moving the district forward over the next five years.

Also on hand to welcome the staff on opening day were Board of Education Vice President Robert Benacchio and Westfield Education Association President Kim Dickey.

On September 6, staff members spent a full day participating in professional development sessions that included grade level and contentspecific cohorts and an overview of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), an educational framework designed to ensure that all students' needs are met.

On August 29 and 30, the 44 newly hired educators attended a two-day, in-house orientation as part of the New Staff Institute (NSI). The NSI is a two-year program designed to support first-time educators and those who are new to the district.



(above) More than 40 newly hired educators attend a two-day, in-house orientation on August 29-30 as part of the New Staff Institute (NSI), a two-year program designed to support first-time educators and those who are new to the district.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools





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## SUMMIT OLD GUARD OCTOBER SPEAKERS

Summit in 1930 and meets most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. in New Providence. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

October speakers include Dr. Wm. Happer, professor of Physics; Mike Martin discussing ethical drug development; Robert Connley, Mayor of Madison; and Paul Cirillo, astronomer.

On October 3rd, Dr. William Happer, retired professor of physics, Princeton, will present a different interpretation of selected Climate change data. Dr. Happer will question current dogma about climate change by presenting scientific data and theory which questions the underlying assumptions of conventional wisdom, He expects many questions and will allow ample time to accommodate OG members. Dr. Happer worked in various capacities for the Bush and Trump Administrations.

Our speaker on October 17th with be Mike Martin. Mike spent many years in the pharmaceutical industry and will focus on how drugs are developed, the regulatory process, historic examples of pioneering discoveries which have combated serious diseases. Unique theories on how penicillin was discovered! Is Thalidomide which was the scourge of the 1950's still prescribed? The discussion will present an entertaining description on important historical discoveries and controversies. As part

The Summit Old Guard was founded in of the presentation, he will also discuss the origins of a few common therapies which the OG members are currently taking.

> On October 24th, Robert Conley, Mayor of Madison will be our speaker. The Mayor will discuss his administration's efforts to maintain the excellent quality of life in Madison despite dealing with diverse populations composed of students and suburbanites with different needs. Three universities are headquartered in Madison which has tax consequences and other social issues, The Mayor had to address the following proposals: allow Madison to become a sanctuary city and providing a storefront for marijuana dispensing, indeed, Madison is also unique because it has its own electric power distribution facility. The Mayor will discuss these and other issues.

> Finally, on Halloween, October 31st, amateur astronomer, Paul Cirillo will tell us about the latest discoveries that have been made by the many robotic space exploration missions to the planets, asteroids and comets in our solar system as well as the latest images from the James Webb Space Telescope. Also, an overview will be provided of the latest human space programs planned by the United States, China and several commercial space companies.

> Past speakers and 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. most Tuesdays. 'Come for the Speakers. Stay for the Friends." We look forward to meeting you.



(above, l-r) Paul Cirillo, Robert Conley, Dr. Wm Happer



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## ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL CENTER FUNDRAISING DINNER HONORS SOUP KITCHEN TEAMS

Please join us for our Annual Fundraising Raffle Dinner on October 19, 2023 at the Westwood in Garwood at 6:00 p.m.

This year we are delighted to honor our Soup Kitchen Teams from:

- Parish Community of St. Helen, Westfield
- Holy Spirit, Union
- Holy Trinity, Westfield
- St. Agnes, Clark
- Immaculate Conception, Elizabeth
- Church of Little Flower, Berkeley Heights
- St. John the Apostle, Clark
- St. Michael, Cranford
- Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield

Thanks to countless volunteers from these faith communities, a hot meal has been served with dignity and compassion since April 19, 1986. Even during Covid, these volunteers prepared meals 'to-go' so that our sisters and brothers could enjoy lunch on Saturday.

The GRAND 50/50 Raffle will be in 5 cash prizes. Only 2,500 tickets will be sold, so please get your tickets early! The Grand Prize will be \$15,000 or 30% of ticket sales, and there will be Four Consolation Prizes of \$2500 or 5% of ticket sales.

The Tricky Tray and Restaurant Gift Card baskets will be better than ever. This year we are also featuring a Take Me Away Travel Prize

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donated by United Airlines. This prize features 2 electronic certificates valid for round trip travel between US 48 / Alaska / Canada / Caribbean / Central America.

The evening will start at 6:00 p.m. so you will have plenty of time to 'shop' and mingle! To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or make a donation, please visit our website at sjeliz.org/special-events.html. Please purchase tickets by October 10th.

We are very grateful that your generosity has enabled us to serve our community for over 37 years through our food, health, counseling, adult education, clothing, and seasonal programs, and we hope we can count on your continued support.

Thank you for sharing your blessings and offering hospitality and hope to our sisters and brothers!

With gratitude, Jacqueline Karmol, Dinner and Grand Raffle Chair

## TREES OF WESTFIELD

The Westfield Tree Preservation Commission is pleased to kick off its Trees of Westfield awareness campaign on Instagram, where residents can share photos of their favorite tree(s) in town. The tree can be beautiful, tall, wide, tiny, or even ugly – what makes it special to you?

Share it with the community by posting a photo on Instagram using the hashtag #TreesofWestfieldNJ. So take a minute, look up, and post your favorites. Thanks to the Tree Preservation Commission for their ongoing work to prioritize trees in our community.



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## BRIGHTWOOD PARK HALLOWEEN TREE TRUNK OR TREAT

Where else in town can families trick or treat among the trees? Friends of Brightwood Park (FOBP) invite you once again to their ever popular Halloween "Tree Trunk" or Treat, a unique play on Halloween fun with a one-of-akind Jack-O-Lantern trail through the woods in Brightwood. Come in costume and experience a festive trail walk lined with dozens of handcarved pumpkins while collecting treats along the way. Decorate your stash bags and gather for themed backdrop photos amid fun, seasonal music. This event is the perfect kick-off to

## FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND

The Miller-Cory House Museum will participate in Four Centuries in a Weekend, Oct. 21st - 22nd, 3 - 5 p.m., by showcasing eighteenth-century colonial cuisine with authentic colonial-era open hearth cooking using period recipes and techniques. The grounds will be open for viewing and docents will be offering tours of the fully furnished c1740 farmhouse. You can also meet Sabra Miller and George Washington and enjoy a felt-making demonstration at select times TBD. Admission to Four Centuries in a Weekend is a free will donation.

The Miller Cory House Museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ. Call the museum at 908-232-1776 or email millercorymuseum@gmail.com for more information.

Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Miller Cory House Museum/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 Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society and their events, visit millercoryhouse.com or westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram.

Where else in town can families trick or treat Halloween weekend where families can enjoy the camaraderie of community in one beautiful setting.

When: Saturday October 28th, Rain Date October 29th

Time: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Where: Brightwood Park, north left end of Prospect Street, Westfield NJ Registration: Westfield Recreation Department Website: secure.rec1.com/NJ/westfield-

nj/catalog

## YOUTH NATURE CLASSES AT BRIGHTWOOD PARK

Calling all nature detectives! Friends of Brightwood Park( FOBP) kicked off a new season of nature classes this Fall for children ages 2-8.

Each outing highlights a different theme but always with story time, movement, a related craft, and a walk to explore the topic at hand. Last month we used our imaginations to come up with collaborative group stories as we walked through the woods! Come explore the benefit of Brightwood Park as a wonderful supplemental learning environment for the young ones.

#### NOTE: NEW CLASS TIMES:

- 2-4 year olds with adult: 2:30-3:15
- 5-8 year olds: 3:45-4:45
- Classes \$10/child

#### **NEXT UP:**

- October 19: Seasons and Trees
- October 28: Special Family Event Jack-O-Lantern Trail
- November 16: Thankful for Nature
- November 30: Winter Wonderland

For registration and further class descriptions, please visit the Westfield Recreation Department website: Https://secure.rec1.com/NJ/westfieldnj/catalog

Courtesy photo



(above) The Miller-Cory House Museum will be open on Oct. 21st - 22nd, 3 – 5 p.m.



(above) Youth Nature Classes in Full Swing at Brightwood Park.

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## 9/11 SURVIVOR SHARES IMPACTFUL EXPERIENCE

#### Westfield Public Schools

William Raff, a graduate of the Westfield High School Class of 1967 and survivor of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center twin towers on September 11, 2001, recently shared his impactful experience with Westfield High School students.

"September 11 started like any other Tuesday," Raff began as he recounted with great precision the details of that day 22 years ago. Raff, then a senior vice president with Fuji Bank working on the 82nd floor in the South Tower, said 23 of his colleagues were among the more than 2,700 people who were killed in the attacks on the twin towers.

Raff noted that nearly 3,000 people died on September 11 in four coordinated attacks, including at the Pentagon and aboard United Airlines Flight 93.

WHS language arts teacher Steven Cohn organized Raff's visit on September 12. He spoke with students in Humanities, Global Perspectives, and Journalism classes.

"I believe most people are good and that there is always hope," said Raff, who now serves as a docent for the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York. "Ideologues who promote hate are the problem."

The WHS graduate advised students to first be

kind to themselves, adding "Then you can be kind to people you know and, ultimately, to people you don't know."



(above) William Raff, a graduate of the Westfield High School Class of 1967 and survivor of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center twin towers on September 11, 2001, shares his impactful experience with WHS students in Kimberly Leegan's Global Perspectives class on September 12, 2023.

Photo by Westfield Public Schools



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## **SUMMER LEARNING**

Nineteen Westfield students in grades K-5 took part in the English Language Learners (ELL) Summer Experience, a two-week summer camp that provides meaningful enrichment activities to help students continue their English language acquisition.

This year's ELL program ran from July 10-21 at Wilson Elementary School and welcomed students whose native languages include Spanish, Chinese, Tamil, Russian, Ukrainian, Portuguese, and Turkish.

"The ELL Summer Experience is an enrichment program," says K-12 World Languages and ELL Supervisor Enrique Pincay. "Our main goal is for our students to learn through fun and for them to make meaningful connections between language and everyday life experiences."

Pincay credits teachers Jillian Martinez and Pilar Vasconez Urgilez with "working hard every day to provide hands-on, student-centered



(above) Nineteen Westfield students in grades
K-5 took part in the English Language Learners
(ELL) Summer Experience, a two-week summer camp that provides meaningful enrichment
activities to help students continue their English language acquisition.

Nineteen Westfield students in grades K-5 took activities that yield lasting, meaningful learning" that culminated in a visit to the Liberty Science center.

"We enjoy connecting with our students and seeing the happy faces ready to learn and have fun every morning," says Pincay. "I am glad to see our families take advantage of the ELL Summer Experience program and participate in an immersive environment tailored to students who are learning English as their second language."

Now in its 21st year, the Extended School Year (ESY) Program assists students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) in preventing skill regression and preparing for the upcoming school year.

"It is crucial to provide the ESY program for students to help them maintain skills learned from the previous school year," says ESY Supervisor Julia Torres. "It also provides a smoother transition between grade levels and helps foster peer relationships with students from schools all across town."

The ESY program operates from July 6-August 9 and serves approximately 171 students in preschool through grade twelve. The instructional day is structured with a focus on maintaining language arts and math skills, along with the students' IEP goals. The schedule allows for opportunities to learn and build on important social emotional skills as well. Students also may receive Wilson reading instruction and speech, occupational, and physical therapy.

"We have some fun activities this year, including music classes, therapy dogs, and yoga class, Torres says. "The students also participate in Peaceful Playground to foster teamwork and positive play interactions."

Torres praises the district teachers and paraprofessionals who support the students in the ESY program, saying: "We hope the students come away from the ESY program energized and excited for the new school year with more confidence in their skills."

Photo by Westfield Public Schools





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## **MOUNTIANSIDE'S FIRST EVER RESTAURANT WEEK - OCT 21 THROUGH 28**

Mountainside will be holding its first ever restaurant week this year. It will run from October 21st through the 28th. Mayor Paul Mirabelli announced the program, "There are so many great dining options in Mountainside. Some were featured in the most recent edition of NJ Monthly magazine."

11 establishments will be participating in the event. There is something for every taste and every time of day. One can get premium sandwiches and prepared food at Mazzella's and the Mountainside Deli. Chrone's is a favorite local tavern that has good Italian food and American fare.

Bovella's has been the go to bakery in the area for many years, and now their Mountainside location offers breakfast and lunch. The Mountainside Stage House Tavern is a great place to watch "the Game" or catch some live entertainment while choosing from an eclectic menu. Mosaico is known for fine Italian dining and delicious deserts. They also have live entertainment, check the website for details. Spanish Tavern has been named one of the best Spanish Restaurants in Northern New Jersey. Seafood dishes are a specialty reflecting the heritage of its owners.

New Jersey monthly highlighted the Publick House as an upscale gastropub that is the place to go for all occasions. Echo Tap has a very wide selection of delicious culinary choices. It is also a great place to watch your favorite sporting event or enjoy a weekend brunch. Famous Dave's has long been serving the best BBQ in the area.

Most of the restaurants offer an al fresco dining experience as well. If you prefer to eat in the comfort of your own home, all of the restaurants offer take out. If you choose to go this route, local liquor store Vine Republic will be participating in restaurant week as well. The knowledgeable staff can guide you to just the right bottle of wine or micro brew to enhance your dining experience.

Mayor Mirabelli added "I look forward to meeting residents and visitors while enjoying the delicious food that Mountainside has to offer." Borough Administrator Glenn Mortimer added "Mountainside is always looking for ways to build community and to support our local businesses. It is our hope that is the first of many such events."

Visit the Restaurant Week website and mountainsiderestaurantweek.com for more information, including a full list of participating establishments and for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate.

#### **PARTICIPATING ESTABLISHMENTS:**

- Bovella's
  Chrone's
  Mountainside Deli
  Publick House
- Chrone's Echo Tap
  - Spanish TavernStage House Tavern

• Vine Republic

- Famous Dave's
- Mazzella's
- Mosaico

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO



(above) Councilwoman Deanna Andre & Councilman Steve Matejek hold Restaurant Week posters.

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## **IMAGINE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT**

Imagine staff recently gathered with many of Imagine's wonderful volunteers to thank them for all of their volunteer support during Imagine's 22-23 program year.

Some of the volunteers who gathered support Imagine's families by facilitating a support group for children, teens, young adults or their parents or guardians who have experienced a loss due to death. They create safe spaces where group participants can share their stories with one another and receive empathy and support.

Other volunteers at the event serve as greeters, welcoming families as they arrive for pizza dinner at the center on their Night of Support. Still other volunteers help by setting up or cleaning up the center before or after a Night of Support. Imagine could not be the resource for the families they seek to support without this amazing community of volunteers and the staff at Imagine were so happy to show their gratitude

and appreciation for all that the volunteers do! Imagine's Executive Director, Lindsay Schambach said this about Imagine's volunteers: "The volunteers at Imagine truly change lives. They are the most humble, kind, considerate, selfless human beings who sit in a room with you or your children in your moments of the most vulnerability, and they just hold space. They allow you to say everything and anything, the types of things you might not be able to say anywhere else. What they do is they create safety so that you can put yourself back together again. People who volunteer here at Imagine truly help change lives, and we hope that others who can give of themselves in that way consider joining us! The need for grief support continues to grow, and we know there are volunteers who can help meet that need."

If you're interested in learning more about

becoming a volunteer at Imagine, please reach out to 908-264-3100 or email info@imaginenj.org to connect with Imagine staff about volunteering options available. Bilingual (Spanish/English) facilitators are also needed at both locations.

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 www.imaginenj.org or contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



(above) Imagine staff members and volunteers in Imagine's support group program gathered at their Mountainside center for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. The wall behind this community of volunteers is filled with snowflakes, stars, and leaves on which Imagine participants have written messages to their person who died.



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## **ARC OF UNION COUNTY RAISES \$41,000**

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:

Risk Strategies, Meeker Sharkey Hurley, Excel Air, Frieri Law Group, Macro Technology, NJM

The Arc of Union County, a non-profit agency Insurance, The Branna Agency, Columbia Bank Foundation, Document Solutions, Springbrook Wealth Advisors powered by Ameriprise Financial, Withum, Coordinated Compliance Solutions, Caffrey Landscaping, Carracino's Auto & Truck Service, Fuscon, J & E Auto Body, Improcom, MargFinancial, The Robbins Agency, The Dudas Family, Kenilworth Carwash, TK Books, and PSE&G.

> 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





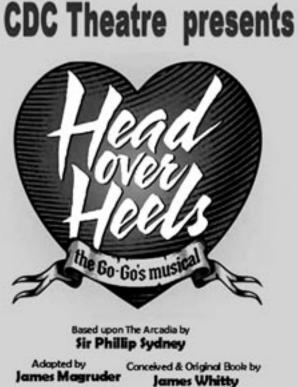
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Oct. 22 Sun.





78 Winans Ave. Cranford, NJ

## VANDALS CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

handed vandalizing a building at Boy Scout Camp Wheeler, in Byram Township, NJ. They are seen here in a "line up" against the wall.

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

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

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

The "Pool House Gang" were caught red two common showers and 8 individual changing rooms on each of two sides. There is a full sized swimming pool behind the building, so all of the chlorination, pumping mechanisms and electrical service are also located inside the building.

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



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

Meeting every Thursday night starting at 8:00 pm KENILWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER AND RECREATION BUILDING 575 Boulevard in Kenilworth, NJ at corner of 24th Street Visitors are always welcome, beginner to master. Membership is not required to play. Kenilworth HESS CLUB www.kenilworthchessclub.org

## DOCUMENTING NJ'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR

Two local women are helping create a new database of New Jersey Revolutionary War Soldiers. A project of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the database will be the most comprehensive produced to date utilizing a wide variety of sources.

"The hope is that this database will not only allow us to recognize and honor these veterans, but also help their descendants and researchers to learn about them," said DAR volunteer Holly Dunbar. Working on Somerset County, Dunbar has compiled information on more than 1,700 individuals to date.

Project volunteers aim to find and record as much information about each patriot as possible. This includes dates and locations of birth, enlistment, death and burial; service record with rank and unit, battles, if wounded, taken prisoner or killed; family with names of spouses, parents and children; and the sources of this information. A special effort is being made to include women, African Americans and Native Americans.

"We are starting with the current DAR database, but also using church records, county and local histories, surviving military and pension records, newspapers, and more," said Dunbar, who is a member of Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter in Green Brook.

Another chapter member, Ruth Ryno, is working on Essex County, which also includes present-day Union and and part of Passaic County. ""I look forward to helping prepare this database in honor of our New Jersey patriots as our country prepares to celebrate America's 250th anniversary in 2026." When the project is completed, the database will cover all of New Jersey and will be made available to the public.

DAR is a nonprofit nonpolitical service organization open to women 18 and older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter is based in Green Brook and serves areas in Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties. New members are welcome. Contact ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com or learn more at DAR.org.



(above) Holly Dunbar, New Jersey DAR State Chairman









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