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ROTARY CLUBS BAN TOGETHER TO HELP HOMELESS VETS

Westfield Rotary Club

The Watchung-Warren Rotary Club recently banned together with representatives of five other Rotary clubs, including Westfield, Madison, Somerset Hills, Hillsborough, and Morristown, and delivered needed supplies to the homeless veterans living at Lyons VA Administration, building 53, in Lyons, NJ. This Rotary program was designed to help homeless military veterans by Westfield Rotarian Burim Regjaj, and has been running for 4 years.

Rotary International President Gordon McNally has made addressing mental health a priority for Rotary Clubs this year. Past District Governor Dr. Michael Hart feels that as a society we have an obligation to take care of our veterans whose health has been damaged by their service. These men and women put their lives at risk to protect our freedom. More than that, they put their health at risk, and now may be damaged mentally with PTSD.

Eighteen American military veterans commit suicide every day. That's 6,570 suicides per year. More than four times as many than we lost in all the wars since September 11th, 2001. In that time period, the US has lost 7,057 soldiers fighting wars; and 30,177 soldiers to suicide.

Veterans who are damaged with PTSD may turn to drugs and/or alcohol, lose their jobs, then their house, their family, and everything, until they hit rock bottom. Some commit suicide at this point. The VA will dry them out, help them recover, provide psychological counselling, provide help with designing a resume, and provide career counselling. The VA Administration provides the veterans with a bed and meals for 9 months, but then they are either moved to low-cost long-term housing, or just put out of the hospital, back onto the street.

Right now, there are 71 veterans living at the Lyons VA Building 53, including 6 women, and another 162 veterans living at Valley Brook Village next door. Valley Brook Village is basically a dormitory for low-cost, long-term housing.

Since the hospital does not provide the veterans with most clothing or toiletries, Rotary



Courtesy photos

(above, l-r) Rotarians Lonnie Sherman, Susan Sherman, Burim Regjaj, Past District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart.

fills the gap. The most requested item is socks. Rotary provides underwear, socks, long underwear, T-shirts, boots, winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, a "Thank You for Your Service" card from the Ronkonkoma, Long Island Rotary Club, and a rugged duffle bag to keep everything in.

Rotarians recently delivered 71 duffle bags to the veterans, bomber jackets in October, pillows and pillowcases in November, and winter coats, pajamas, hats, gloves, and scarves in December.

An important part of the project is to talk to the veterans as we are giving out the supplies, to let them know that someone cares about them, and thank them for their service, to help instill hope.

The consortium of six Rotary clubs purchases the supplies and clothing from a charity on Long Island called General Needs, Inc. which buys the materials wholesale. This 501c3 was started by Rotarians Lonnie and Susan Sherman, who are members of the Ronkonkoma Rotary Club, and are seen in the photos. They drive 2 hours each way from Long Island to Lyons, NJ to deliver the supplies which the New Jersey Rotarians purchase.

Every Wednesday special education students from Commack High School, Long Island, volunteer at the General Needs, Inc. storage facility to help assemble the duffle bags. The kids are learning skills, and helping the veterans at the same time.

In December, the Rotarians host a Holiday party and give out wrapped gift boxes which include hats, gloves and scarves. High School students wrap the presents, and elementary school students make holiday cards.

This is such a wonderful project that the Rotary Clubs pool our funds in the Rotary District 7475 Foundation.

For information about this effort visit rotary7475foundation.org, or contact Westfield Rotary Club secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart by email at drmhart@yahoo.com.

For information about the Watchung-Warren Rotary Club visit their Facebook page.



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NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT ON - DEC 10

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will be entertaining families on Sunday, December 10, 2023 with a free concert of seasonal holiday favorites. The concert will be from 2pm to 3pm at the Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School, 272 Morris Avenue, Summit, NJ. Families with children of all ages are invited to come and join in the fun!

NJIO's three orchestral ensembles will combine to perform music by Strauss, Mozart, Brahms, and more! The concert concludes with Leroy Anderson's exciting Sleigh Ride, with percussion accompaniment provided by the youngest members of the audience!

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Following the concert, the famous NJIO Instrument Petting Zoo returns! Experienced NJIO musicians will guide young audience members and assist them in safely trying out the instrument of their dreams. Instruments are loaned by Elefante Music of New Providence and Scotch Plains.

Concert Details:

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 2 pm
Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School
272 Morris Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901
Admission is free;

donations are gratefully accepted.

This concert is made possible by funds from: the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation; The Lillian Schenck Foundation; The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation; Investors Foundation; Standish Foundation; and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more



(above) Young audience members get to try out orchestra instruments at NJIO's Holiday Concert Instrument Petting Zoo. Instruments are loaned by Elefante Music.

information regarding the concert or to inquire about patron services, please contact NJIO at info@njio.org, or visit NJIO's website njio.org.

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 30th season, has been nationally recognized as a leader in intergenerational excellence through its unique approach to teaching musical performance and as a model for intergenerational orchestras across the country. Depending on space availability, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities each concert period to one of its several orchestras - no auditions needed!

NJIO's 30th anniversary season will continue with two more concerts:

NJIO'S WINTER CONCERT

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 3 pm
Dolan Performance Hall,
Saint Elizabeth University,
Morristown, NJ

NJIO'S SPRING CONCERT

followed by 30th Anniversary Celebration!
Sunday, April 21, 2024, 3 pm
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church,
Plainfield, NJ

ASSUMPTION CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Church of the Assumption in Roselle Park, in conjunction with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, is coordinating a Christmas Concert on Wednesday evening, December 6th @ 7 PM.

New Jersey's own Chris Pinnella and His Quartet will be performing an array of Christmas and Holiday Classics. Chris is a world class vocalist who has been compared to Josh Groban and Micheal Buble.

All proceeds from the concert will benefit Assumption Church and Catholic Charities.

Tickets in advance are \$20, and can be purchased via the Rectory or by visiting assumption23.givesmart.com Tickets at the door will be \$25.

Sponsorships are also available.

For more information contact Peter Ruccione @ 973-818-4060. pruccione@ccannj.org

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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 24TH ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th joyous season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 17 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for two performances at 2 and 7PM. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 18 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ also with performances at 2 and 7PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, “Highland Cathedral,” “Joy to the World”, and “Amazing Grace”, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

According to producer Robert Currie, “We are absolutely delighted to be bringing our concert back to full force after two devastating years weathering the Covid pandemic. Supporting our GoFundMe campaign will continue to make these concerts possible.”

The 2022 production marks the NYC solo debut of soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. In addition to Ms. Lyons, featured performers include James Robinson from the film “Braveheart,” New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which include annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School.

Proceeds also support the annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebration and the Society’s sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland’s Royal National Mod, and an academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland’s Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience in cooperation with HomeTowne Television. In addition to winning multiple Telly Awards for broadcast production excellence, the 2020 virtual concert was a finalist for the coveted

MG Alba Trad Music Award presented annually in Scotland.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

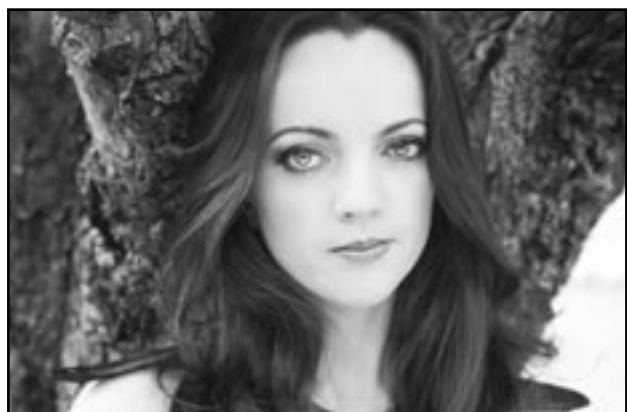
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through ShowTix4U at www.showtix4u.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine). Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.

ABOUT “THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS”

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family’s annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, “The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as “a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found.”



(above) Soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland, made her NYC solo debut at the 2022 Pipes of Christmas concerts NJ.



(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to join the company of the 24th annual “Pipes of Christmas” concerts.



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<p>SATURDAY December 17th 2PM & 7PM New York City, NY</p>	<p>SUNDAY December 18th 2PM & 7PM Summit, New Jersey</p>
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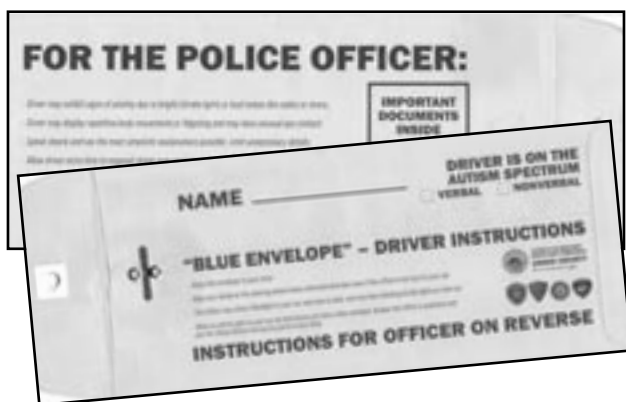
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THE GREEN BROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Dr. John. Vermeule House at 223 Rock Avenue, Green Brook will not be open for visitors nor hold the monthly meeting the month of December 2023. The Open House and monthly meeting will resume in the new year - January 2024. We look forward to your visit.

Thank you for your support and interest and wish you all a happy, healthy holiday season. See you all next year!

The Green Brook Police Department joins departments across New Jersey in the Blue Envelope program which is geared towards fostering inclusivity and promoting safer interactions between law enforcement officers and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Blue Envelopes are available at our police headquarters.

The Blue Envelope Program introduces a simple yet effective tool that contains essential information for drivers with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This includes a copy of their driver's license, vehicle registration, insurance details, and an emergency contact card. Additionally, the envelope provides clear instructions to drivers on how to navigate a traffic stop and interact with law enforcement officers in a manner that promotes clarity and safety.

Key features of the Blue Envelope Program :

- **Specialized Training:** Every officer in Union County, including local officers in all 21 municipalities, will undergo specialized training to develop a deeper understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the best practices for engaging with individuals during traffic stops.
- **Communication Facilitation:** Drivers with

Autism Spectrum Disorder can present the blue envelope to the officer upon being stopped, allowing officers to quickly recognize the situation and adapt their approach accordingly.

- **Essential Information:** The envelope includes guidance for officers to simplify requests and minimize the risk of misunderstandings or potential escalation. Additionally, officers are advised to contact the person listed on the emergency contact card for assistance if needed.
- **Verbal or Nonverbal Indication:** A checked-off box on the envelope indicates whether the driver is verbal or nonverbal, which aids officers in communicating effectively.

"Every single police department in Union County is proud to be a part of this initiative," said Elizabeth Police Chief Giacomo Sacca and President of the Union County Police Chief's Association. "Our officers have undergone thorough briefings and trainings to ensure they are well-versed in the proper protocols, and they are eager to put their training into action."

For information on this program in your town, contact your local Police Department's Community Outreach Unit.



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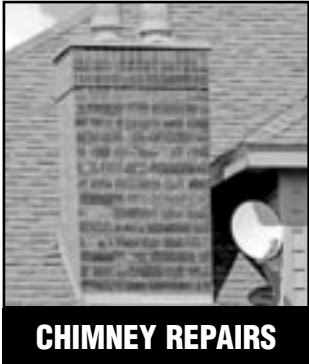

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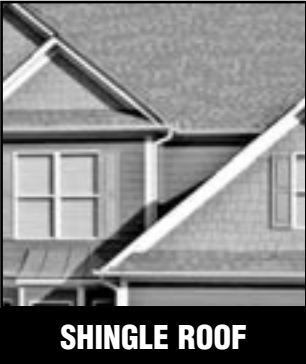
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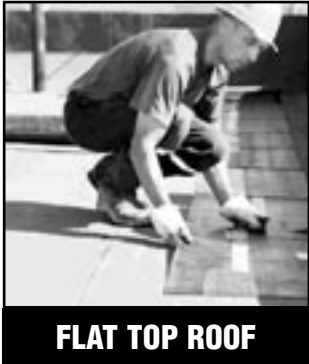
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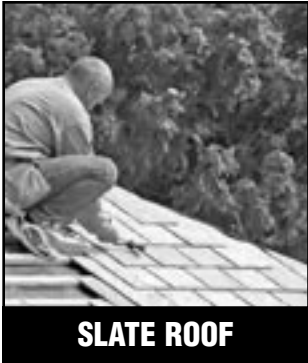
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WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER DECEMBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Warrenbrook Senior Center is located at 500 Warrenville Road, Warren, New Jersey.

For more information call 908-753-9440 or visit: seniorcenter.us/sc/warrenbrook_senior_center_warren_nj

December 14 – Inservice Day - Senior Center Closed, December 22, 25 – Senior Center Closed – Christmas

Somerset County residents who are 60 years and older are welcome to participate in any of the programs at Warrenbrook Senior Center. They also provide a choice of 4 different meal choices during lunch that seniors can take advantage of during the weekdays. All the programs are FREE for the registered members.

Brains n Games and Hand Bells with Adrienne Graubard

December 1, 15, 11 a.m.

Join Adrienne for some mind-tingling, brain-stumping word games and a fun-filled musical workout using hand bells.

Singing Christmas Carols

December 4, 11 a.m.

Warrenbrook Seniors Ken Tekel and John Blain will lead the group where singing the Christmas Carols while getting into the Christmas spirit.

Bingo with Rashmi

December 6, 27, 11 a.m.

Bingo is more than just an exciting activity.

The Sound of Winter

December 7, 11 a.m.

In this presentation, The Discovery Orchestra staff member and violinist Michael Avagliano will explore the seasonal landscape of “Winter,” the last of Antonio Vivaldi’s famous collection of violin concertos, The Four Seasons. The presentation will include a live performance.

Christmas Ornament - Craft

December 8, 11 a.m.

Use your creativity to create a unique Christmas ornament using 2” Styrofoam balls, self-adhesive glitter squares in assorted colors, felt sheets. All materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

Drum Circles with Dave Miller

December 11, 11 a.m.

Soothe the mind, body and spirit in this drumming circle. This is a holistic experience that leaves participants feeling a sense of joy! This is an ancient approach to promote healing and incite self-expression. Dave will teach participants how to hold a drum and how to make different tones.

Holiday Party

December 13, 10:30 a.m.

Every year we follow the tradition of getting together and enjoying the festivities with musical entertainment while singing and dancing to the holiday music and cherishing the sweet memories of the year we are about to bid farewell too. This year DJ Giovanni will be entertaining us for the yearly Warrenbrook

Holiday Party while we meet our fellow seniors and enjoy the music and food. Expect a surprise visit by Mr. Claus.

Christmas Songs with Sal

December 18, 11 a.m.

We continue our Christmas Holiday Party with Christmas and Holiday songs sung by Sal Di Bianca. We will have a visit by Santa

Craft – Beaded & Stitched Santa Claus

December 20, 11 a.m.

Create your own Santa Claus using glass beads, Perforated paper, floss and needles. All materials provided. Pre-registration is required.

Nutcracker!

(Virtual) December 21, 11 a.m.

Peter Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker is one of the most beloved ballet scores in all music and a perennial favorite during the December holidays. The Discovery Orchestra Maestro George Marriner Maull will look within “The Waltz of the Flowers,” a movement from Nutcracker that is filled with gorgeous string sound and beautiful woodwind solos.

Kwanzaa

December 28, 11 a.m.

Kwanzaa, is a week-long holiday beginning December 26th honoring African heritage, unity, and culture. The colors of Kwanzaa are red, green, and black. We will be playing some Kwanza Trivia like African Countries mix, Crosswords, Maze, Secret Message

New Years Eve Trivia

December 29, 11 a.m.

We will play New Year’s resolutions word scramble, NYE Word Search and learn some New Year Traditions from Around the World.

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KNITTING AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

The Gates Avenue Knitters celebrated their 23-year anniversary in April. The group has been meeting at the Long Hill Township Library, located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, every Monday from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in.

In the month of April in the year 2000, Gates Avenue, Gillette resident Arlene Kaplan, started a knitting group along with 4 friends. Twenty-three years later the group, now called the Gates Avenue Knitters, are still knitting together, including 4 of the 5 original knitters who still live in town.

Eighteen to twenty ladies show up on any given meeting day. Their skills range from beginner to experienced knitters (and crocheters). They help each other get past problems with patterns, and they are excited and willing to teach beginners to knit.

They come from Long Hill Township and surrounding towns, including Warren, Watchung, Bridgewater, Springfield, Chatham, Madison, Summit, and Westfield. Many were introduced to the group thru friends.

Along with their own projects, the group knits for causes. They knit approximately 500 hats per

year and distribute them to local charities. Beginning in November they have a display at the library and the hats are sold as a fundraiser thru the end of February for \$10 each. The group recently presented the library with \$1,300 from the proceeds of the last hat sale, which is the most funds ever raised.

The group welcomes donations of yarn and knitting and crocheting supplies.

Donations can be dropped off at the Long Hill Township Library any day during business hours.



Photo by David J. Kaplan

(above) Long Hill Township Library features items made by the Gates Avenue Knitters are for sale as a fundraiser for the library.

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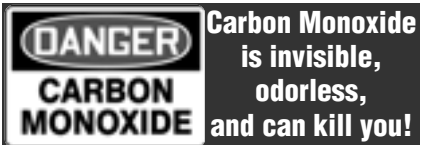
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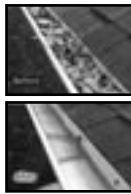
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NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240								

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Who you choose to work with matters

As the year comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for giving me the opportunity to contribute to our amazing community. I am thankful for your trust, not just in my real estate services, but also in my fundraising and community engagement efforts. Your business and friendship mean a lot to me. Wishing you and your loved ones all the happiness and joy in the upcoming holiday season.



★★★★★ Client Testimonial

"I was very lucky to have Roseann O'Keefe as my seller agent. Roseann came in just like a good old friend, with great patience, and guided me through each step from beginning to end. She was always ready to help, always reachable for answering questions, and provided advice, suggestions & recommendations. She was very detail oriented and very efficient; from the property's value analysis, to educating me about the selling process, preparing the house for sale (organizing the cleaning, staging, photography, etc.), handling showings, and making sure a potential buyer is in a solid situation. Her professionalism, hard work and kindness made my house selling experience a wonderful and pleasant one! I strongly recommend Roseann." - Yvonne M.



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