

# LIFE *in* LINDEN

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## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

On Thursday, October 12th, 2023, the Linden Chamber of Commerce Division held their 12th Annual Oktoberfest at the Deutscher Club in Clark, NJ. Proceeds benefit the chamber's scholarship fund.

Attendees enjoyed music by DJ Bruce Z, a dinner buffet, beer, pretzels, and the great company. The Linden Chamber of Commerce Division works to provide support for new and current businesses and is actively involved in the community.

The Linden Chamber Division is now part of the Greater

Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce. In the spring the Linden Chamber gives out scholarships to graduating seniors at its annual awards dinner. Meetings take place at 8:30 a.m., on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Representatives from the Linden government as well as police and fire are always in attendance at meetings, which allows for an open and communicative relationship between business owners and the city. For more information call 908-355-7600 ext.103, or Janet Miller 908-928-1010.

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## AMERICAN LEGION & VFW POST BREAKFASTS

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST – DECEMBER 17, 2023

Come to a Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 102, on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at the American Legion Post 102, located at 112 West Elizabeth Ave., from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This month's special is Ham Steaks. Donations: Adults \$8.00 / Seniors & Children \$7.00 / Ages 5 & Under Free. Take outs are available.

This event is open to the public, so come out and enjoy a home cooked breakfast, and support our veterans!

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST – DECEMBER 23, 2023

Come one, come all to the VFW#1397 Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 23, 2023 for the VFW Post #1397, which will be held at the American Legion Post 102, located at 112 West Elizabeth Ave in Linden from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Donations: Adults \$7.00 / Seniors & Children \$6.00/ Ages 5 & Under Free. Take outs are available.

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# POLICE & SCHOOLS PARTNER TO OFFER L.E.A.D. PROGRAM

### City of Linden

The Linden Police Department has partnered with Linden Public Schools to offer L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) instruction to 5th grade students in Linden School # 8.

The L.E.A.D. program is a collaborative effort by certified law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents, and the community to offer an educational program in the classroom to prevent or reduce drug abuse and violence among children and youth.

The emphasis of the program in fifth grade is to help students recognize and resist the many direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, or other drugs or to engage in violence. The L.E.A.D. program offers preventive strategies to enhance protective factors – especially bonding to the family, school, and community – which has been proven to help foster the development of resiliency in young people who may be at risk for substance abuse or other problem behaviors. It also helps to build the capacity of young people in making healthy, independent growth, despite adverse conditions. These strategies focus on the development of social competence, communication skills, self-esteem, empathy, decision-making, conflict resolution, sense of purpose and independence, and positive alternative activities to drug abuse and other destructive behaviors.

“A strong, engaged partnership with our schools is a cornerstone of our community policing philosophy,” said Police Chief David Hart. “The L.E.A.D. program has a proven record of success, and we are excited to have an opportunity to build and enhance the relationships between our Officers and students to create a safer and healthier environment within our schools.”

Before they can provide instruction, Officers must complete a 40-hour course to become a certified instructor. Six Linden Police Officers

have attended the training thus far, and additional Officers are scheduled to attend.

Chief Hart added, “There is a significant commitment required to administer this program, and I want to thank Superintendent Perkins, Principal Rodriguez, and the Linden Board of Education recognizing the value of this program and bringing into our schools. It is my hope that the success of this program will warrant future expansion into other Linden schools.”

Student participation in the L.E.A.D. program is incorporated as part of the school’s curricular offering in health, science, social studies, language arts, or other subjects as appropriate.

“We are thankful for the Linden Police Department’s LEAD program. The program fosters a supportive and engaging educational environment. It also aligns with social and emotional learning by equipping students with valuable skills for self-awareness and having them think about responsible decision-making,” said Superintendent Atiya Perkins. “As Superintendent my vision is to strengthen partnerships with the community to influence positive student outcomes. The LEAD program plays a crucial role in establishing unbreakable bonds for unstoppable student progress.”

The NJ based L.E.A.D. program was started in 2014. The L.E.A.D. program is unique in that it has proven effective by third-party researchers. For additional information about the L.E.A.D. program please visit [leadrugs.org](http://leadrugs.org).

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## GRANT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR YMCA COMMUNITY SERVICES

# The Gateway Family YMCA

The Westfield Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant to The Gateway Family YMCA in support of WISE Community Services (Wellness, Independence, and Socialization for our Elders). This grant assists the YMCA in providing supportive programs and services for individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, cognitive impairments, or other functional challenges, as well as support for their family and caregivers.

“We are grateful for the support of The Westfield Foundation, and their shared commitment to this unique demographic in our local community,” stated Melynda A. Disla, President and CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “Social isolation is an even greater challenge to these individuals and their families. Through dedicated staff, innovative programming formats, and partners like The Westfield Foundation, we can bridge the gap and ensure that our programs reach those in need.”

WISE Connect combines health and wellness opportunities with supportive activities, specialized staff and wrap-around resources for

caregivers and families. The goal is to keep participants cognitively stimulated, physically active, and socially engaged. Hybrid in-person and virtual activities range from games, puzzles, discussion and arts (journaling, storytelling, painting, poetry, music, movement) to education (healthy living, legal and financial planning, home safety, consumer awareness, aging issues) and exercise (cardio, yoga, resistance, balance, flexibility). WISE Connect uses an innovative format that introduces individuals to the benefits of adult day programs without an often-intimidating commitment.

Approximately 87% of WISE Community Services participants have some form of dementia. All activities are designed and led by Activities Specialists with years of experience working with this demographic and certified fitness professionals. In addition to services provided to individuals with cognitive or functional impairments, WISE Connect also provides hybrid social work services to their

caregivers through support groups, counseling, education, advocacy, information, referrals and ongoing case management.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. Working locally, the Y focuses on empowering young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across communities. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y ensure that all have access to the opportunities, relationships and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit [tgfymca.org](http://tgfymca.org). For information about the WISE Community Services programs, please contact Susan Butler, WISE Community Services Director at 908-349-9622 or [sbutler@tgfymca.org](mailto:sbutler@tgfymca.org).



*(above) WISE Community Services at the YMCA provides supportive programs and services for individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, cognitive impairments, or other functional challenges, as well as support for their families and caregivers.*



# YOUR FAMILY BELONGS!

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## POLICE PROMOTION



(above, l-r) Linden Police Chief Hart, Sgt. Wayne Hanns, and Mayor Armstead during a ceremony held on October 4th in the Municipal Courtroom where Officer Hanns was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

## HONORING VETERANS

VFW Post # 1397 Linden, NJ

Thank you to all that participated in Linden's Veteran's Day Services on November 11th & 12th, 2023. Special "Thanks" to Villani Bus Company and Hector Torres, who provides transportation to all the ceremonies which are held at all the monuments in Linden. Linden's Police Department, VFW Post 1397 Post & Auxiliary Members, American Legion 102 Post, S.A.L. & Auxiliary Members, Catholic War Vets, Martin Danowski Detachment Marine Corp, Polish American Legion Post 91, Mayor Armstead, Councilmen Javick & Strano, Councilwoman Hudak, UC Commissioner Joe Bodek and the Citizens of Linden.

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God Bless our Veterans!

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To benefit Relay for Life of Rahway & American Cancer Society

Bring the kids to Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2nd, from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m., at Applebee's, Aviation Plaza, 671 West Edgar Road, Linden. Breakfast includes, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and a beverage (coffee, tea, juice, or soda).

Tickets are \$12 per person, \$6 for children 5 and under. To purchase tickets, please contact Paula at 732-331-9520, or paulaspad4@gmail.com, or Renee Sarnicki can be reached Monday through Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at 732-382-5550, or reneesarnickiacs@aol.com.

Tickets can be paid for via Venmo @RahwayRFL (reference "Donation-Breakfast with Santa"). Cash or checks (made payable to

"Cash") can be dropped off (on Fridays only from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., unless other arrangements have been made) at the Rahway Regional Cancer Center, 892 Trussler Avenue, Rahway, in an envelope labeled with your name.

All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society in funding breakthrough research, clinical trials, and services for cancer patients and their families. Your participation helps make a huge difference in this fight!

If you are unable to attend this event,

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at [www.relayforlife.org/rahwaynj](http://www.relayforlife.org/rahwaynj)

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## EVENT HELPS WELCOME HAITIAN FAMILIES TO LINDEN

### City of Linden

On Saturday, November 4, the John D. Gregorio Recreation Center was the scene for a lively community event hosted by the Linden Department of Parks and Recreation, with the cooperation and participation of several local and regional community organizations: the New Jersey-Haiti Chapter of Partners of the Americas, and One Million Quarters. The purpose of the event was to help Haitian migrant children and families, who are recent arrivals in Linden to acclimate themselves to the city, the public schools, the State, and the country. The organizers drew some of their inspiration from the successful Backpack Bonanza and Library Card Extravaganza that took place on August 28, 2023, at School No. 1, in which some of them participated.

The audience included both parents and children, and parts of the program were directed at each group. Ms. Claire Demise Stelus of the New Jersey-Haiti Partners served as mistress of ceremonies, and Mr. Ernso Pamphil provided simultaneous translation into Haitian Creole of all remarks delivered in English.

Ms. Laurene Experience, President of the New Jersey-Haiti Partners, coordinated the program, along with some devoted members: Marie E. Glemaud, Yvenie Montilus, Harry Exume, and Mijeanne Etienne. The principal speakers for the parents were Ms. Kindlyne Vilcant-Barthelemy, a behaviorist and school psychologist with the Early Childhood Program in Irvington, who explained civic responsibility and social etiquette, and Dr. Monalisa Ferrari, the President of the Foundation for the Emancipation of

Women and Girls (FEWGI), and Mr. Johnny Celestin, the leader of KONBIT For Haiti and Professor of the Studley Graduate Programs at the New School for Social Research, who covered social integration. Dr. Ferrari and Professor Celestin are based in New York City.

A special kids' workshop and games for the children were conducted by the Rev. Junia Nicolas, a child and family specialist from Union. Closing remarks were delivered by the First Lady of Linden, Ms. Danie Orelie, who also represented Mayor Derek Armstead. Ms. Orelie recounted

her personal experience in overcoming prejudice and her continuing effort to promote the fair treatment of Haitian-American students in the public schools.

A total of 82 family members attended the event, and 40 backpacks with school supplies were distributed to the children.

Several devoted members of the Parks and

Recreation staff helped to implement this event: Mr. Keith Pressey, Management Specialist, Ms. Megan Martin-Ortiz, Supervisor, and the Recreation Center Maintenance Crew.

Under the leadership of Director Woody Philippe, Jefferson Park Ministries (JPM), staff were present to provide information on resources available in the community that can help meet the needs of new migrant families.

The success of this event was also made possible by generous donations from several anonymous individuals and United Way of GUC. The refreshments were donated by Cercle De L'Amitie, Margarette Estil, Realtor Associate, E'Mart LLC, and ML Thinkers LLC.

The participants shared a significant amount of positive feedback. They felt that similar events could benefit more migrant families in the surrounding areas. The New Jersey-Haiti Partners indicated their willingness to cooperate in presenting similar programs in the future.

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## KNITTING AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS



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.

## 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](http://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](mailto:pruccione@ccannj.org)

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.

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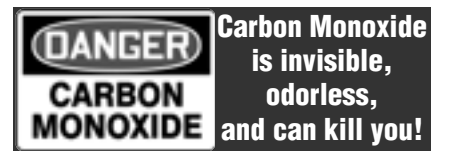
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## BLUE ENVELOPE POLICE PROGRAM FOR AUTISTIC RESIDENTS

The Blue Envelope Program is accessible to all Union County residents on the Autism Spectrum. Residents can obtain a Blue Envelope at their local police departments throughout the county.

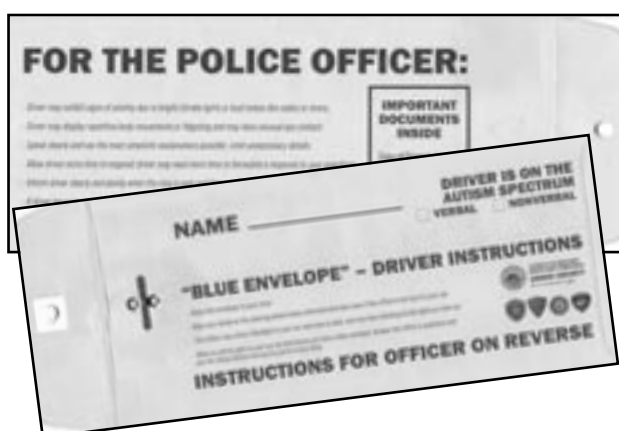
The Blue Envelope Program introduces a simple yet effective tool that contains essential information for drivers with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This includes a copy of their driver's license, vehicle registration, insurance details, and an emergency contact card. Additionally, the envelope provides clear 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 include:

- **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.



## RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

### DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere,

**Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



### If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

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

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

### Consider This Alternative To Surgery

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

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

### How Does This New Treatment Work?

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

### Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

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

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

### Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

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

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy 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.

Call 732-827-0800

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

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- Patricia G.

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## SNEAKER DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Friends of the Linden Public Library is holding an athletic shoe drive fundraiser on Starting in November to raise money for The Linden Public Library. The Friends of the Linden Public Library will earn funds based on the total quantity of gently worn, used, and new sneakers collected. GotSneakers, a social enterprise, will issue funds in compensation for the collected sneakers. Those funds will benefit the Linden Public Library. Anyone can help by simply donating gently worn, used, and new sneakers.

GotSneakers has developed a unique fundraising program that asks communities to reach into their closets, not their pockets! The sneaker recycling program helps keeps sneakers out of landfills, which has harmful effects on our environment, and helps organizations like ours raise much needed funds. The program is truly a win – win! Learn more about GotSneakers by visiting their website at [gotsneakers.com](https://gotsneakers.com).

“We are excited about our sneaker drive fundraiser. We know that most people have extra sneakers in their closets they would like to donate rather than throw away. By doing so, we raise money for The Linden Public Library and help the environment. It’s a win – win for everyone!” said Theresa Villani (Vice President).

The Friends of the Linden Public Library is a 5013c non- profit organization of volunteers to help provide funds for the Linden Public Library.

## GRAND OPENING OF WAWA IN LINDEN

*Submitted by Christine Hudak for Linden Public Schools*

The Linden High School Marching Band, Cheerleaders, and the NJROTC all participated in the grand opening of WAWA on W. Edgar Road in Linden on November 2, 2023. The students were engaged in hands-on learning opportunities which included discussions with business leaders and were able to foster relationships with local community members that will help them become active citizens.

Superintendent Atiya Perkins stated "What an amazing performance from our students. This is a testament to the expert guidance and

instruction that our administrators Director of Athletics Mr. Firestone, and Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts Mr. Lorenzetti, NJROTC Naval instructors, Fine and Performing arts teachers provide, and the Cheer coaches' talent, hard work, and passion for our young adults here at Linden High School.”

Superintendent Atiya Perkins embraces opportunities to strengthen the school district’s partnerships with businesses like WAWA to get more involved in Linden Public Schools and make a real impact in the lives of students through innovation and collaboration.



*(above) Linden High School students participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony along with mascots Wally Goose, Linden Tiger, and the Linden Fire Department Sparky the Firedog, WAWA representatives, city officials, school administrators, and others.*

Courtesy photo



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## NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT - 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](mailto:info@njio.org), or visit NJIO's website [njio.org](http://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,**  
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### NJIO'S SPRING CONCERT

**followed by 30th Anniversary Celebration!**  
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## COPING WITH LOSS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

There is so much pressure to be happy in our culture, especially at the holidays. We are supposed to have a Happy Thanksgiving, a “merry little Christmas” or a Happy Hanukkah. But grief doesn’t take a holiday.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss would like to offer support to those navigating the challenges of grieving during the holiday season and offer some coping strategies as well. On Thursday December 14th from 6:30-8 pm, Imagine will offer a workshop on Coping with Loss During the Holidays. The free workshop will be held at their center at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside and is open to adults and children grades 3 and older.

Imagine’s Grief Educator, Connie Palmer, LCSW will present the workshop in English and Training and Education Director, Veronica Ortiz, LPC and Bilingual Program Manager, Sonia Nuñez will present the workshop at the same time in Spanish. Pizza dinner is available prior to the session beginning at 6:15 for those who sign up. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served as well.

If you are looking for support as you cope with a loss this holiday season, the staff at Imagine would like to help, and hope to see you at the workshop on the 14th.

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@imagineenj.org](mailto:info@imagineenj.org).



(above) If you’re interested in attending the workshop presented in English, please scan the QR code or visit Imagine’s website at [imagineenj.org/education-training/community-webinars/](http://imagineenj.org/education-training/community-webinars/) to register. Registration is not required for the workshop presented in Spanish.

## GIFT & THRIFT BOUTIQUE

The holidays are here! Come check out all our holiday décor, gift selections and clothing. The month of December we will be open Sat. 12/9 and 12/16. We will not be open Sat 12/23, our elves need a break! We will be having surprise sales throughout the Holiday Season. Bring a Friend! We have new inventory for every sale.

The ‘Gift & Thrift Boutique’ is open every 2nd & 4th Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items for sale include Women’s, Men’s & Children’s clothes, shoes, jewelry, kitchen and household items, decorations, toys, CD’s, DVD’s, books for all ages, seasonal & holiday décor.

The Gift & Thrift Boutique is found in The Episcopal Church of St. John The Baptist, 2018 Dewitt Terrace in Linden, NJ. Customers enter the main doors on Dewitt Terrace and follow the stairs to the store. The space is not handicap accessible. For more information, friend the Gift and Thrift Boutique on Facebook, email [giftandthriftboutique@gmail.com](mailto:giftandthriftboutique@gmail.com) or call the church office at 908-925-1535. Donations accepted during operating hours. If you have any questions, please contact us at the above e-mail address or phone number.

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From traditional to pops, renowned tenor fare and Broadway favorites, New Jersey Festival Orchestra's (NJFO) holiday concerts promise to fill the entire family with warmth and cheer.

They're back! Under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, the orchestra will kick off the festive season with a bang and plenty of bling as The Three Holiday Tenors join NJFO to present a family festival of traditional and contemporary holiday songs and music.

"We cannot wait to return to The Presbyterian Church at this special time of year and are thrilled to welcome back The Three Holiday Tenors – each more talented than the next – to help us celebrate the Holiday season," said Wroe.

The concert features Metropolitan Opera's internationally acclaimed tenor Errin Brooks and award winning tenors Jeremy Brauner and Mackenzie Whitney to celebrate and captivate with a dazzling selection of renowned tenor arias. Traditional carols, signature versions of familiar fare and a host of wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

"We believe there is something for everyone in this performance. Our holiday concert is a vessel for children, parents, grandparents and friends – indeed the entire community – come together through festive music at this unique time of the year."

The concert will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave in Westfield.

## RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH NJFO!

NJFO's quintessential New Year's celebration is also back on Sunday, December 31 in Westfield with "The Great American Songbook," a superb revue of American song and dance showstoppers.

Audiences are invited celebrate the New Year and revel in the musical genius of America's great composers, outstanding vocal performers, dazzling dance numbers and a world-class professional orchestra led by Maestro David Wroe.

A cabaret style event for the whole family, the concert promises a superb review of musical theatre classics presented in glorious symphonic splendor. The concert features renowned guest singers direct from the Broadway stage and dancers from Dance Theatre of Harlem who join NJFO to swing to favorites from Broadway and beyond.

The performance will take place on Sunday, December 31 at 7pm at Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield.

"There is much to celebrate this holiday season," continued Wroe. "So gather your friends and family for a series of merry musical programs of song and dance for audiences of all ages!"

This seasonal stroll is sure to bring us together with joy, and distinctive holiday memories.

For tickets and further information for both events go to [www.njfestivalorchestra.org](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org) or call 908 232 9400.

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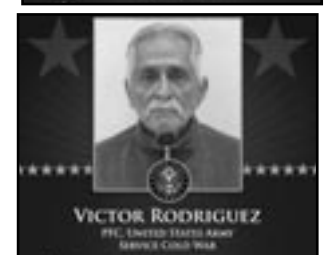
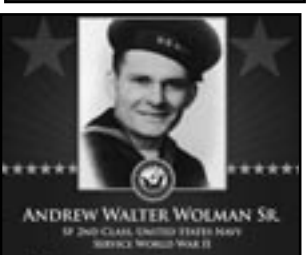
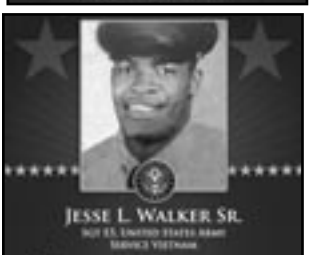
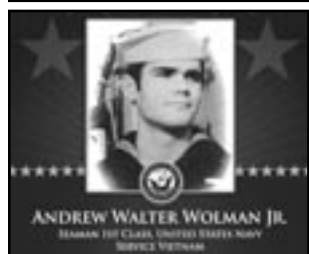
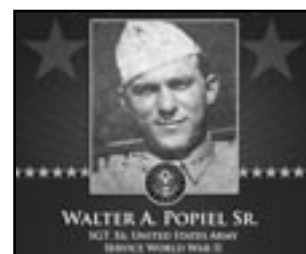
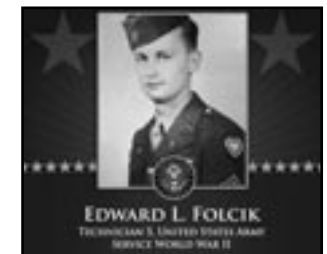
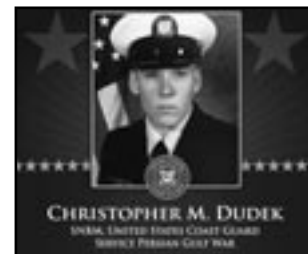
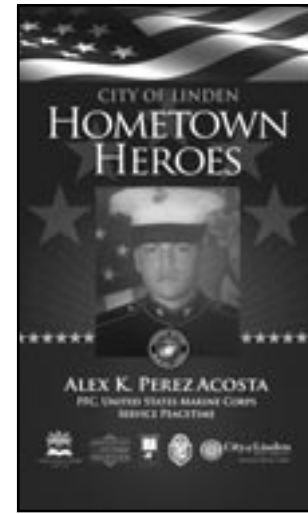


# CITY OF LINDEN SALUTES ITS HEROES

The City of Linden's fifth commemorative "Hometown Heroes" banner presentation was held on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at the J.T.G. Recreation Center. During a ceremony which included a buffet dinner, thirty-three banners were presented. In attendance were veterans and their family members, and city officials. The guest speaker was Lashanda Carter, Department of Veterans Affairs. The

following week the banners were hung on poles on the 100 block through the 600 block of N. Wood Avenue.

For more information on the Linden Hometown Heroes Banner Program, or to obtain applications for the 2024 Banner Program please call the Linden SID - Uptown Linden office at 908-718-5831 or email mikki@uptownlinden.com.



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# December

12/21 – 1st Day Of Winter – BRRR!

12/25 – “Merry Christmas”

12/31 – “Celebrate” New Years Eve!



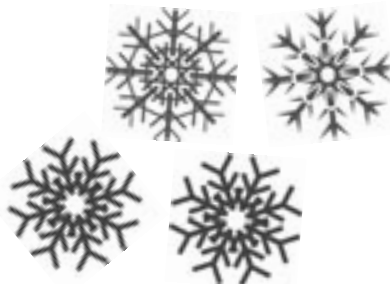
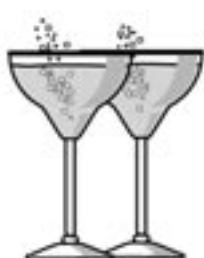
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