

Clark Monthly NJ

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for 2023**



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19TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE & MENORAH LIGHTING

Clark’s 19th Annual Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting was held on Saturday, November 25th. It was hosted by the Township of Clark and the Clark Recreation Department.

Santa was there, and families had the opportunity to visit with him and take photos.

Other highlights were 3 bands including the AIJ Marching Band, Navasink Brass Band, and the Winter Wonderland Band.

There was a mechanical reindeer, a “Candy Land” Play Center, Trackless Train Ride, Buggy Rides, Ice Sculpting, Petting Zoo, Horse Drawn Hay Rides, Snow Globe, Ice Rink, Strolling Dickens Carolers, Popcorn, Home Baked Cookies, Cider Donuts, Philly Pretzels, Hot Chocolate & More!

“We try to think of everything,” said Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo. “We just want this to be a winter extravaganza that our community loves, and our children will always remember as part of their youth growing up in Clark.”

The fun continued for families attending the annual “Breakfast with Santa,” on Sunday, November 26. Children and their families were treated to breakfast while waiting to take a photo with Santa and check whether they are on the naughty or nice list this year.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Clark Monthly page on facebook.com Feel free to “Like,” “Tag,” and “Share.”

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MARINE BIOLOGY TRIP TO SANDY HOOK

Mr. Lou Van Bergen’s Marine Biology class from Arthur L. Johnson High School took a field trip to Sandy Hook this fall. They had spectacular weather for the end of October, sunny and 70 degrees. Students had studied barrier beaches and salt marshes prior to their field trip.

They spent the morning on the oceanside completing a number of surveys. They used simple, yet effective techniques to conduct a beach transect. They then conducted a number of tests to determine the ocean water quality. Last they carried out a current study.

The next stop was the salt marsh. The main focus here is to survey and collect organisms. The students used seine nets, dip nets and a shovel and sieve to collect specimens. The list of organisms collected included a wide variety of fish, crabs and shrimp. The students enjoyed this stop so much it was hard to get them out of the water.

After a quick break for lunch Mr. Van Bergen and Mrs. Bernadette Jacobi led the students on a hike through the dunes. As they entered the trail evidence of deer was present with hoof prints in the sand. Not too long after they came across a number of deer. Along the way they saw numerous plants of the dunes including the only cactus in New Jersey, the prickly pear cactus. After the hike it was back on the bus to get the organisms back to the new home for the school

year in room 228 at Johnson.
Multiple students commented “This was the best field trip I have ever been on. I’m coming in the spring again.” A new set of students will return to Sandy Hook at the end of May.



(above) Aidan Mazza and Alyssa Schlauberg collecting samples in the salt marsh with a seine net.

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In my many years as a top producing realtor, I have been involved in a tremendous amount of Clark transactions. I live and work here and know everything this outstanding town and school system has to offer. Using an agent with a proven track record is very important. I put an enormous effort into marketing, advertising and customer satisfaction. Since 1/1/20 to present, I have had 220 transactions, 153 in Clark, and have many homes that are currently under contract. I also made the highest level of Platinum for 2022 Circle of Excellence Award which ranks overall in the top 1% of Realtors in New Jersey. I also made Top Agent Magazine!



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LORI'S CLARK TRANSACTIONS FROM 1/1/20 TO PRESENT

SOLD

15 Westfield Ave.
40 Ivy St.
15 Tudor Dr.
10 Washington St., Unit 03
47 Briarwood Path
39 King St.
56 Lexington Blvd.
13 Blake Dr.
213 East Lane
1168 Lake Ave., Unit 4
45 Wendell Pl.
501 Oak Ridge Rd.
309 Oak Ridge Rd.
29 Conger Way
13 Florence Dr.
303 West Ln.
1 Rose Ter.
187 Liberty St.
11 Harding Ave.
40 John St.
77 John St.
17 Hillside Ave.
11 Avon Rd.
81 New York Ave.
42 Kenneth Pl.

1 Kathryn St.
29 Hillside Ave.
9 Shetland Dr.
12 Yorktown Dr.
84 Wheatsheaf Rd.
12 Ascot Way
301 West Lane
1119 Maurice Ave.
1 Longfellow Lane
8 Wendell Place
13 Blake Dr.
42 School St.
29 Harvey Ct.
18 Yorktown Dr.
45 Starlite Dr.
1538 Franklin St.
40 Conger Way
15 Ayers Lane
72 Dorset Dr.
5 Schmidt Lane
269 Willow Way
18 Ginesi Dr.
7 Blake Dr.
43 Willow way
95 Briarheath Ln.

18 Terhune Rd.
1 Jarvais Ter.
39 Frances Dr.
28 Gibson Blvd.
41 Largo Lane
5 Tudor Dr.
111 Westfield Ave.
14 Washington St.
118 Jupiter St.
61 Sycamore Rd.
15 Briarheath Ln.
43 Kathryn St.
54 Harding Ave.
1 Plymouth Rd.
306 Parkway Dr.
75 Union County Pkwy
49 Briarwood Path
549 Valley Rd.
161 Meadow Rd.
16 Nassau St.
160 Meadow Rd.
415 Valley Rd.
49 Joseph St.
23 Ayers lane
110 Sweet Briar Dr.

30 Stanton St.
76 Harding Ave.
53 Stemmer Dr.
291 Willow Way
330 West Lane
139 Jupiter St.
458 Oak Ridge Rd.
307 West lane
93 Jupiter St.
166 Meadow Rd.
67 Lefferts Ln.
41 Oleander Way
160 Riverside Dr.
45 Briarheath Ln.
40 Emerald Pl.
24 Hawthorne Dr.
45 Briarwood Path
21 St. Germain Dr.
532 Valley Rd.
21 Orchard Ter.
307 West Lane
64 Mildred Ter.
103 Amelia Dr.
1132 Westfield Ave.
22 Glenwood Ter.

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 220, 153 ARE IN CLARK

ATLANTIC FEDERAL GIVES GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

The Atlantic Federal Credit Union (“The Atlantic”) distributed \$50,000 in grant funding to five local nonprofit organizations through the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York Small Business Recovery Grant Program (“SBRG”). The SBRG is designed to support the financial security and health of organizations that have faced economic challenges due to the rate environment, inflation, supply-chain constraints, and/or rising energy costs.

The SBRG began in 2017 in response to hurricanes in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Program relaunched in 2020 and was made available again in 2021 to aid small businesses and nonprofit organizations facing challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. By participating in the SBRG this year, The Atlantic was able to grant \$10,000 each to Bianca F.L.O.W.E.R.S. Inc. in Plainfield, Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey, Mobile Meals of Westfield, St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth, and The SHARE Alliance in Springfield.

“Thank you to the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York for their partnership and the opportunity to extend recovery grants within the communities we serve,” shared The Atlantic Federal Credit Union Chief Executive Officer Anthony Mero. “The SBRG funding will help our deserving recipients continue their selfless work throughout Essex and Union counties – ensuring community members in need have access to food, clothing, social services and other crucial resources through the holiday season and beyond.”

ABOUT THE ATLANTIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

The Atlantic Federal Credit Union was founded in 1935 as a not-for-profit financial cooperative to meet the savings and borrowing needs of Members. Today, The Atlantic Federal Credit Union exclusively serves Essex and Union counties in New Jersey with financial wellness resources, competitive rates and technology-driven solutions for personal and business banking. For full eligibility criteria and more information, visit TheAtlanticFCU.com.



(above, l-r) Mobile Meals of Westfield - Adam Cadmus, Chief Experience Officer at The Atlantic; Josephine Walsh, Operations Manager at Mobile Meals of Westfield; Carla White-Garrett, Community Engagement Representative at The Atlantic; and Anthony Mero, Chief Executive Officer at The Atlantic.

VET KIDS MEET SANTA

Clark American Legion

The annual Clark American Legion Kids’ Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 10th at the Legion Hall on Westfield Avenue, Clark. Volunteers served hot dogs, chicken nuggets, mac and cheese and ice cream to all. A toppings bar was provided for anyone who wanted goodies on their ice cream. Santa gave out gifts to all the children in attendance. KC Balloons provided balloon animals and face painting to the children. The American Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Auxiliary helped with the food, gifts, and overall planning of the event. The annual event makes sure the children or grandchildren of American Legion members has a fun Santa experience every Christmas.

(right) Tammi Angelo, Margaret Alago, and Jack Doran help at the ice cream topping bar at American Legion Children's Christmas



Courtesy photos

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A Clark History

Daunno Realty is a company founded upon a deep historical connection to Clark. Our principals were born and raised in town, are Arthur L. Johnson graduates, Clark property owners, and local residents. Given our lifelong ties to the community, we were proud to locate our company headquarters at 206

Westfield Avenue, right next to Dunkin Donuts.



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK PROGRAM

Clark Public Schools

In conjunction with New Jersey’s yearly “Week of Respect,” the students at Arthur L. Johnson High School ran a “Can Drive.” The school community responded with big hearts, collecting more than 15 large boxes of food just in time to distribute for the holidays.

The food was donated to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, located in Hillside. As Jack Helm, ALJ junior and student ambassador for the Food Bank, said, “The Community Food Bank Ambassador Program is a great way to get the students and community involved in a positive way for a great cause.”



(above) Student Jack Helm and the food collected by the Community Food Bank Program at ALJ.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

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MASON’S JOURNEY TO SERVE HIS COMMUNITY

Mason Immella, an 8th grade student at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School, is always looking to help his community. This year he decided to organize and lead a kids pajama drive through the Pajama Program (pajamaprogram.org) for children under the age of twelve.

To get the word out, Mason created a flyer and posted it on social media asking for donations. He also contacted one of his schoolteachers, Mrs. Fernandes, and partnered with her to spread the word to students.

Over 100 pairs of pajamas and 122 books were collected!

Mason planned to deliver the items to the Pajama Program’s New Jersey Chapter in Middletown and then stay to help sort out deliveries received from other organizations throughout New Jersey.

Mason believes it’s important to give back; that small acts of kindness can make a big difference in people’s lives. “It makes me feel good to do this... helping other kids with these books and pajamas whose families might not be able to afford them.”

(above) Mason Immella with a small portion of what he was able to collect for the pajama and book drive. Courtesy photo

SPIRITUAL? CURIOUS? SEEKING?

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Alpha is for everybody that wants to discuss seeking answers to life’s big questions. Why are we here? Is this all there is to life? Where are we going? How do I attain peace of mind, heart, and soul? Whether you are young or old, have faith or are atheist or agnostic, Alpha provides a safe environment for exploring our big questions about life.

We begin by sharing a meal together and getting to know each other. We watch a video

together then break into small groups for uninhibited discussion about what is on our minds.

There is no cost to participate. The series runs for 12 weeks on Monday nights beginning at 7:30 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. It will begin February 5th, 2024, and end May 6th, 2024. Three of the sessions are live in person and the remainder are on Zoom. You will need a desire for frank discussion, a willingness to participate and a commitment to attend. You will also need a computer or smartphone capable of Zoom sessions.

The live in person sessions will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 1571 S. Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

If you have any questions, please call (908) 889-2100.

To register go onto IHMParish.net/alpha.

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Alpha Winter/Spring 2024
Season begins **LIVE**
Monday February 5th
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(Followed by weekly sessions hosted on Zoom)

Scan the QR Code with your phone or smart device to access our sign up page at www.ihmparish.net/alpha

If you have questions about Alpha, please contact the Nazareth Center Office at 908-889-2100 or send an email to office@ihmparish.net

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ARTS INTEGRATION DAY AT KUMPF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Clark Public Schools

Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark celebrated their annual Arts Integration Day on November 6th. Arts Integration helps students to use critical and creative thinking to gain a better understanding of the content being taught. According to artsintegration.com, arts integration “is an approach to teaching and learning through which content standards are taught and assessed equitably in and through the arts.” All teachers in every subject area used visual and/or performing arts in their lessons that day.

Sixth grade science teachers, Joe Rodrigues and Annemarie Lamberti had their students use watercolors as a way to help the students understand atmospheric perspective. Students created a scene with a silhouetted foreground, midground, and background. Rodriguez said, “When students ask me why we are doing art in science, I tell them science is about creativity, and creativity comes from imagination, well art is all about imagination, so where do you think the ideas for science come from?” Suzanne Hamilton had her language arts students illustrate portions of a graphic novel based on the audiobook, *The Hallow*. Thomas Peitz, Kumpf’s art teacher, was able to discuss how to layout their two-page spread as well as incorporate shot variety, narrative text, composition, and graphic design. “Our class had a fantastic time creating a vision of this audiobook and bringing it to life. It was a new and unique way to engage with literature.” Students in Kelli Yetsko’s seventh grade honors language arts classes explored the concept of moods and memories created by color. Using paint swatches as inspiration, students wrote poems incorporating the color names, matching the mood of the color story. As further inspiration, the class listened to a “colors” music playlist. Katie Penrose and Lyndsay Groome had their math students create Jasper Johns inspired overlapping numbers while exploring shape and color in the process. Michele Greenspan incorporated theater into her language arts class about status and connected it to the short stories she taught during the school year. Matt Chretien, social studies teacher, used ceramic clay and craft sticks in his lesson on Sumerian cuneiform. “I feel that arts integration

enhanced my ability to teach social studies by using aspects from art to teach the students why certain materials affected the way ancient peoples behaved.” Lauren Fernandes and the rest of the 6th grade math team taught order of operations through creating triangular mosaics. “Bringing the arts into the classroom allowed the students to think differently about the topics that we were learning in math. Students were able to use their creativity in the math classroom to create a mosaic solving order of operations problems.”

Brad Terhune and Chris Marcin, both art teachers from Arthur L. Johnson High School, came to Kumpf to help all the teachers dive deeper into their lessons using art. Terhune remarks about the day, “The Arts Integration Day at Kumpf provides students with experiences that prove that art is part of everything we do, and that creativity and

technical skill play a key role in all disciplines and subject matter. Exposure to the arts has been proven to enrich lives, improve academic performance, and develop world views and cultural awareness.” Marcin states, “I really enjoyed collaborating with the middle school teachers and helping the students design some creative artwork. I am excited to see the final projects and look forward to working with these students when they attend high school.”

One goal of incorporating the arts is to help the students learn non-arts subject material in a variety of ways that will increase student interest. Another goal is to help the teachers become more comfortable with using visual and performing arts in their lessons. Assistant Principal, Mandy Clarke states, “We are very excited to integrate the arts into all of our classes and this day was only a small sampling of what goes on all of the time.”



(above, l-r) Brad Terhune and Chris Marcin assisting students in Mrs. Corby’s social studies class of 6th graders.

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30 am - 9:00 pm • Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm • Sunday: 1pm to 5pm
Closed: Sunday, December 31, Sunday, January 1, Monday January 15, and Wednesday, January 24.

Open Play for Little Ones

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, January 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 16 & 19 from 10am - 11am
There's no story time these days, but please feel free to drop in for open play with ourtoys!

Patches and Stitches

Tuesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 12pm - 2pm

Bring your quilt or other crafty project and visit with the members of the quilting club.

Totally New Tuesdays

Tuesdays January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 6:30pm

Enjoy a new movie for adults just released to DVD on our big screen.

Chess Club

Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 11am - 3pm

New members and all levels are welcome!

Thursday Afternoon Movies

Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 1pm
Enjoy a movie for adults. Visit online calendar or visit the library to check the movies.

USA Karate and Fitness Board - Breaking Class

Thursday, January 4 at 4pm

[Adult Craft] Winter Acrylic Painting

Wednesday, January 17 at 11am

Follow along with an online painting tutorial while we create a beautiful winter-themed acrylic painting on canvas.

LEGO Master Builders

Friday, January 19 at 3:15pm

LEGO® are provided by the library.

For children entering grades K - 5.

Light snacks will be served.

Dungeons & Dragons: Teen One-Shot

Friday, January 19 at 3:15pm

Join us for a Dungeons & Dragons one-shot. No experience (or character) necessary, but helpful.

Open to teens 12+. Snacks will be provided!

Tales for Tots

Mondays, January 22 & January 29 at 9:45am

Stories and songs geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome! 30 minutes of open play follows. Please register.

Tales for Tots

Monday, January 22 & January 29 at 10:30am

Stories and songs geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome! 30 minutes of open play follows. Please register.

Teen Gaming Club

Monday, January 22 at 3pm

Nintendo Switch on the big screen with a range of games. You can also bring your own system or laptop to game on. Snacks will be served. Registration Required. Open to Grades 6-12.

Evening Book Club

Monday, January 22 at 7pm

Join us for our next evening book club meeting. We'll be discussing "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell" by Robert Dugoni.

Baby Bookworms

Tuesdays, January 23 & 30 at 10am

Join us for stories, songs, nursery rhymes, and movement activities. Geared toward the under 2 crowd with caregiver.

Tinker Tots

Thursday, January 25 at 10:30am

Come join us for a morning of fun STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities perfect for little ones. For children ages 1 through pre-k. Please register.

Little Scientist

Thursday, January 25 at 3:30pm

Learn how to build and create with our Science Experiments! Each session will touch upon a different STEM skill.

Teen Stress-Less: Neon Emoji Paintings

Thursday, January 25 at 7pm

Join us for this fun program where we will make neon emoji paintings in the pop art style. These paintings will absolutely shine under a black light! Open to grades 6 - 12. Registration is required. Snacks will be served.

Stories & More

Friday, January 26 at 10am

Stories, movement, songs followed by a simple craft for active listeners ages 3 - 5 years old. Registration is required.

Books & Bagels

Friday, January 26 at 10am

Enjoy bagels and coffee while we chat about books you have been reading and learn what others in your community are reading as well.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, January 30 at 1pm

Join us for our next afternoon book club meeting. We'll be discussing "The Last Bookshop in London" by Madeline Martin.

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DJ DREWSKI & FRIENDS CONCERT AT THE UCPAC

Dj Drewski a radio host on Hot 97 fm and TV Personality hosted a Hip Hop concert that concert goers will never forget for years to come.

The Halloween themed concert was a huge success that sold out the UCPAC in Rahway NJ. Majority of its attendees were High School and college students who attend local schools in the New Jersey area. One concert goer said "Shout out to DJ Drewski because this has been the best show I ever seen!"

The attendees got way more than they bargained for when they got to witness some of the hottest hip hop acts hit the stage.

The show featured hip hop stars such as Sleepy Hollow, 41, Ron Suno & Dj Drewski (who is a Elizabeth NJ native.)

"I was extremely happy with the turnout and being able to use my platform to entertain and inspire the youth" said Dj Drewski.

"It was a great opportunity to bring the local youth to an incredible theatre like the UCPAC and show them they do not have to go out of town to see some of their favorite performing artists."

Solar, who is Dj Drewski's 2yr old daughter also joined the stage with him to celebrate such an incredible show. For Drewski, that was a full circle moment because as a child himself DJ

Drewski's father hosted a Rock & Roll concert at the same theatre years prior. Inspired by his upbringing in Elizabeth NJ, Dj Drewski plans to host more events and shows like this in the near future and is glad he was able to give both The City of Rahway and the surrounding communities a taste of what is to come.

Thank You to the Union County Police Department, Rahway Police Department and UCPAC for making sure everyone was safe and had a wonderful time.

To keep up with more of what Dj Drewski is doing follow him on social media at @SoDrewski



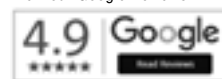
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CLARK SENIORS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



The warmth of the holiday season could be felt when over 300 Clark seniors dressed to impress and had a great time enjoying each other’s company during the annual Clark Recreation Holiday Party held on December 1, 2023, at the Grand Centurions. Lunch was served, Pam and Steve Wahlberg were the singers, and Michael Canta the DJ – his father Charlie sang also. Rumor has it that Steve Kalbaba attended as Santa.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Clark Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to “Like,” “Tag,” and “Share.”



CRUSADER MARCHING BAND NEWS

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School Crusader Marching Band recently competed in the Tournament of Bands Statewide Competition. Marching Units from 24 schools came to Barnegat High School to compete for State Championships across 4 Divisions. As part of Group 1A our Marching Crusaders were one of 15 Bands vying for the State 1A Title.

Going into the competition Ranked 9th in New Jersey, the Marching Crusaders faced some serious competition with all bands increasing

their scores week to week despite many weather challenges. Our Marching Crusaders pulled together to post their highest score of the year... an outstanding 90.24! That score placed the Arthur L Johnson Marching Band in 2nd Place overall for Group 1A. Jumping from 9th place to an astonishing 2nd in the State.

The week prior the Marching Band took 1st Place at Central Jersey Regionals, winning high awards for Music and Percussion.

Scores are based on 100 points and bands are judged on Music in 3 parts (Individual,

Ensemble and General Effect) and Visual in 2 parts (Ensemble and General Effect). Separate awards for Auxiliary and Percussion are also awarded.

Marching Band Advisor and ALJ Music Teacher Erik Krebl stated, "The Marching Crusader family has had quite a season. With constant rain outs and indoor performances, the band did not let that get into their heads, they rehearsed hard and are now raking in the results of their effort."



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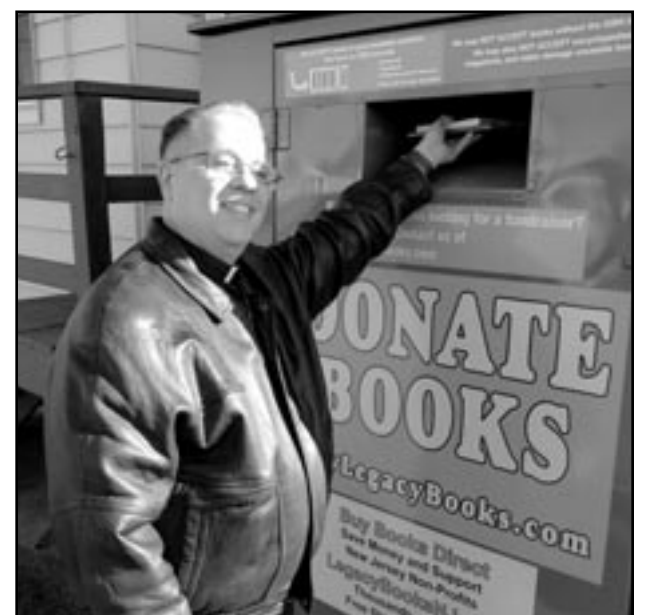
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DONATE UNWANTED BOOKS

Looking for a place to donate your unwanted books? Father Paul Prevosto, Pastor of Church of the Assumption in Roselle Park, announces the addition of a book donation bin located in the Church parking lot at 113 Coolidge Place (near the corner of Westfield Ave. and Faitoute Ave.)

All books must have an ISBN barcode on the cover. Hardcover, paperback, and textbooks are all welcome – no encyclopedias, magazines, or water damaged books. Your donation raises funds for the parish.

For more information, or if you wish to purchase books please visit NewLegacyBooks.com.



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IMAGINE, A CENTER FOR COPING WITH LOSS

As the staff at Imagine prepared to launch a new program year in September, it quickly became evident that the demand for Imagine's grief support groups had grown. Imagine began its new program year offering three in-person Nights of Support at their Mountainside location, one Night of Support at their Newark location and a virtual option. Though each Night of Support (NOS) can accommodate up to 60 families, it became clear that a new night was needed to support all of the new families that had reached out to Imagine seeking support following the death of someone close to them.

The first step in launching a new NOS is to train new volunteers to facilitate each support group. Imagine held a training session November 3-5th, training 10 new facilitators for the new NOS that will meet on alternate Mondays beginning in November. The ten new facilitators were joined by new Imagine staff who participated in the training as well.

In addition to the story sharing and support for one another that's part of Imagine's training, the group had an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills regarding Alan Wolfelt's Companioning Model for grief support that's practiced at Imagine. Many of the participants in Imagine's training program find the training experience to be meaningful and life changing. One participant

shared: "The training was truly amazing and inspiring. I am so honored to have had the opportunity to participate in it." Another said: "The Imagine Staff are amazing. I so appreciate all the knowledge they shared and the encouragement they gave to me and the other participants." The staff at Imagine are so pleased to welcome this new group to their wonderful team of volunteers!

Imagine has been providing free peer support groups for children and families for over 10 years and relies on both the generosity of volunteer facilitators who donate their time, and the generosity of donors who help fund Imagine's programs. This holiday season, if you'd like to support Imagine's mission of ensuring that no one grieves alone, please consider making a donation to support Imagine's programs at imagine-nj.org.

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@imagine-nj.org.



(above, l-r) Imagine held a training session November 3-5th, training 10 new facilitators (pictured above) Back row: Brian Stump, Sandra Toppin, Cynthia Goodman, Tina Bouldin, Shari Levine, Latoyya Schenck, Imagine's Chief Development Officer, Paul Muir, and Marianne Rubino. Front row: Imagine's Mountainside Program Associate, Kellie Saracino, Jen Schildge, Imagine's Operations Consultant, Susan Pink, Rachel Heisch, Imagine's Training and Development Operations Associate, Alexa Adubato and Pat Taeschler

Courtesy photo

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FOSTER YOUTH JOIN FOREVER FAMILIES AT ADOPTION DAY

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties

On a recent fall morning, five youth ranging from three to 10 years old entered the courtrooms of Superior Court Judges Gavin Handwerker, Paul Nieves and Chanel Hudson as foster youth and, shortly after, emerged as official members of their new families.

Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by many at Union County's Family Court, as ample smiles fill the courthouse – a juxtaposition to the daily navigation of complex issues fraught with loss or discord. This year, county dignitaries presented families with proclamations and certificates, and festivities included performances by 30 high school students from Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy A Cappella Choir; a former foster youth sharing her personal journey and adoption story; a roaming balloon artist; sheriff's officers dressed as superheroes and a Batmobile outside for visiting; furry greetings from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle High School mascot bear; personalized cupcakes; and

ice cream, face painting, and friendship-bracelet making stations.

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties presented family fun-themed gift baskets made possible in part from donations by David Brearley Bears That Care program and the Union County Bar Association. Baskets were given to all those finalizing on Adoption Day, as well as several families who adopted earlier in the year.

Cynthia Evans of Scotch Plains was among the CASA volunteers to attend the ceremonies for their assigned children. "The day was a long time coming for these sisters, and it was amazing," she said. "I've been their advocate since 2020. Between their adoptive families and all involved, embraces and cheers were aplenty. My time as their CASA volunteer was both rewarding and challenging. I'm thankful I could help ensure their needs were met and services were provided while in care."

Adoption Day is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care. Since its

inception 23 years ago, nearly 60,000 children have found permanency. More than 437,000 youth in the United States are currently in the child welfare system awaiting a permanent home, and the average wait is four years. For more than 23,000 youth, that doesn't happen, and they age out of the system, facing life on their own.

For details on CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, becoming an advocate for foster children or other opportunities to support the organization's work, log on to www.casapassaicunion.org.



(above, right) Event included a balloon artist; cupcakes; ice cream, face painting, and bracelets.



(left) Each family received a basket made possible by CASA of Passaic and Union Counties & the David Brearley Middle High School Bears That Care Program.



(above) Sheriff's officers dressed as superheroes, and maned a Batmobile outside the courthouse.

Courtesy photo

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CLARK CRUSADER YOUTH FOOTBALL AWARDS BANQUET

On Tuesday, December 05, 2023, Clark Crusader Youth Football held their annual post-season awards banquet. President of CYF, Gus Kalikas, presided over the event as all athletes were honored for their contributions to Crusader

Youth Football. All athletes received awards for their accomplishments this past season. The night culminated with the showing of the 2023 Crusader Youth Football Team's highlights. It was a wonderful evening to celebrate both past

and present Crusaders and to continue to keep the tradition of Crusader Football alive and well. Please keep an eye out for Fall 2024 registration which will open soon. GO Crusaders!!!

Courtesy photos



(above) CYF A Level

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Customers enter the main doors on Dewitt Terrace and follow the stairs to the store. The space is not handicap accessible.

Open every 2nd & 4th Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For more information, Friend the Gift and Thrift Boutique on Facebook, email giftandthriftboutique@gmail.com or call the church office at 908-925-1535.



(above) CYF E Level



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CARL H. KUMPF STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Kumpf PTA

Students from Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark volunteered their services to the “Be the Change NJ” organization on November 19, 2023. The students and their families drove to the Highland Park headquarters where they sorted and bagged Thanksgiving Dinners which included turkey, stuffing, rice, vegetables, potatoes, produce, beans, fruit, and of course pie.

They were able to feed over 270 families throughout the area who otherwise would not have been able to have Thanksgiving. Students that attended the event were: Kalani & Naiana Caballero Herrera, Adriana & Justina Erszkowicz, Mason Immella, Kylie Mignon, Ronnie Miller, Tyler Nunes, Evangelia Papadakis, Sophia Robinson, Gavin Schmidtberg, and Nicole Zdeb

Before lining up to begin the bagging, everyone gathered in a circle with hands in the middle and said a prayer for everyone to find peace and happiness in the world. What a fantastic experience and memorable event for the students. It feels wonderful to be able to give a helping hand to the community as well as making an impact on those families in need this year.

Courtesy photo



(above) Mason Immella and Dr. Norma Bowe, Founder of Be the Change



(above) Evangelia Papadakis



(above) Tyler Nunes



(above) Nicole Zdeb, Sophia Robinson, and Kylie Mignone



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ENGINEER RICHARD O'CONNOR RECOGNIZED FOR ALJ FIELD PROJECT

Township of Clark

The New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers has honored Clark Township Engineer, Richard O'Connor, with an Honorable Mention 2023 Project of the Year Award in Municipal Construction Management for communities under 20,000 residents.

The recognition is for the Athletic Complex Improvements at Arthur L. Johnson High School, which included multi-sport artificial turf fields, tennis court reconstruction, and various amenities.

Despite an initial budget projection exceeding \$4 million, Grotto Engineering Associates, LLC, worked with stakeholders to optimize costs, leading to expanded project features within budget constraints.

The construction incorporated an underground

stormwater management system meeting NJDEP regulations. Grotto, previously recognized for projects in 2007, 2009, and 2012, serves as the Municipal Engineer for the Township of Clark

Clark Board of Education member Bob Smorol was a major supporter of the project. "The field project was a major initiative for the school because it could be utilized by all of the students through sport or physical education throughout the entire year," he said. "The field provides great sport flexibility and availability, as weather becomes a non-factor. We are enormously proud of how the complex came out and we have received many compliments from our townspeople and from those of other towns. Our town engineer a Rich O'Conner and his team did a great job in helping us complete this important initiative."



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 - **WEBSITE CREATION/UPDATE: \$2,400**
Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design
 - **WEBSITE HOSTING: \$300 PER YEAR**
Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
 - **SEO SERVICES: AVERAGE COST \$1,000 - \$2,000 PER MONTH**
Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing
- Call for free a consultation if you need help developing an online marketing plan.**

**STARTER
WEBSITE
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Call Walter at 201-478-7408
email: wwwinnj@gmail.com

WEBSITE AUDIT/ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION PLAN

- **SEE WHAT IS WORKING AND NOT WORKING**
Know where your web traffic is coming from and why.
- **ELIMINATE / AVOID COSTLY SCHEMES**
Evaluate the return you are getting from your online marketing costs.
- **INCREASE ONLINE MARKETING RESULTS**
Recommendations include ways to increase traffic to your website
- **NO OBLIGATION**
This service is recommended even if you have an existing web management contract. Use it to tune up your marketing plan.

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Call for a consultation if you do not have a website or if need a new one.
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Buchanan's 12yrs old	1.75L	\$57.99
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Chivas Regal	1.75L	\$62.99
Chivas Regal 18 yrs old	750 ml	\$82.99
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Crown Royal	1.75L	\$50.99
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Dewars 12 yrs old	1.75L	\$45.99
Dewars White Label	750 ml	\$19.99
Dewars White Label	1.75L	\$32.99
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Gentleman Jack	1.75L	\$52.99
Glenmorangie 10 yrs old	750ml	\$40.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old	750 ml	\$56.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old	1.75L	\$104.99
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Grants	1.75L	\$24.99
Jack Daniels	750ml	\$27.99
Jack Daniels	1.75L	\$48.99
Jack Daniels Fire	750ml	\$26.99
Jack Daniels Fire	1.75L	\$48.99
Jameson	750ml	\$32.99
Jameson	1.75L	\$60.99
Jim Beam Whisky	1.75L	\$32.99
Johnnie Walker Blue	750ml	\$193.99
Johnnie Walker Blue	1.75L	\$449.99
Johnnie Walker Black	750ml	\$29.99
Johnnie Walker Black	1.75L	\$59.99
Johnnie Walker Double Black	750ml	\$35.99
Johnnie Walker Red	750ml	\$19.99
Johnnie Walker Red	1.75L	\$33.99
Macallan 12yrs old (double cask)	750ml	\$74.99
Makers Mark	750ml	\$29.99
Makers Mark	1.75L	\$56.99

GIN

Beefeater	1.75L	\$38.99
Bombay Sapphire	1.75L	\$39.99
Seagram's gin	1.75L	\$24.99
Tanqueray	750ml	\$22.99
Tanqueray	1.75L	\$38.99

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Courvoisier V.S.	750ml	\$35.99
Courvoisier V.S.	1.75L	\$60.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	750ml	\$50.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	1.75L	\$129.99

CORDIALS

Bailey's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$47.99
Duggan's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$32.99
Kahlua	1.75L	\$45.99
Krupnik	750ml	\$20.99
Licor 43	750ml	\$27.99
Licor 43	1.75L	\$45.99

VODKA

Absolut (regular)	750ml	\$21.99
Absolut (regular)	1.75L	\$31.99
Belvedere Organic Vodka	1L	\$39.99
Belvedere Organic Vodka	1.75L	\$49.99
Ciroc (all types)	750ml	\$29.99
Ciroc (all types)	1.75L	\$57.99
Finlandia	750ml	\$16.99
Finlandia	1.75L	\$26.99
Grey Goose	750ml	\$24.99
Grey Goose	1.75L	\$39.99
Ketel One	750ml	\$19.99
Ketel One	1.75L	\$39.99
Luksusowa Vodka	1.75L	\$25.99
Pinnacle (all types)	750ml	\$11.99
Pinnacle (80 proof)	1.75L	\$17.99
Skyy	1.75L	\$21.99
Sobieski	750ml	\$12.99
Sobieski	1.75L	\$21.99
Stolichnaya (all types)	1.75L	\$30.99
Tanqueray Sterling	750ml	\$19.99
Tanqueray Sterling	1.75L	\$30.99
Three Olives (all types)	1L	\$19.99
Tito's Vodka	1.75L	\$31.99

RUM

Bacardi Light & Gold	750ml	\$13.99
Bacardi Light & Gold	1.75L	\$20.99
Captain Morgan Spice	1.75L	\$26.99
Malibu	750ml	\$21.99
Malibu	1.75L	\$31.99

TEQUILA

Deleon Blanco Tequila	750ml	\$37.99
Deleon Blanco Tequila	1.75L	\$59.99
Patron Silver	750ml	\$46.99
Patron Silver	1.75L	\$89.99
Cantera Negra Coffee Tequila	750ml	\$29.99

BEER

Becks (12oz) 24pk	24pk	\$27.99
Blue Moon	24pk	\$36.49
Bud and Bud Lite cans	30pk	\$25.99
Bud and Bud Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$22.99
Coors Lite (24oz) cans	12pk	\$18.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$23.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite	30pk	\$26.99
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Modelo Especial cans	24pk	\$29.99
Pabst Blue Ribbon cans	30pk	\$20.99
Pilsner Urquell	24pk	\$30.99
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Stella Artois loose bottles	24pk	\$32.99
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