

Summit NJ Times

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RIBBON CUTTING FOR 12 HOMES IN SUMMIT

Morris Habitat for Humanity

Morris Habitat for Humanity, a major builder and leading advocate for affordable housing in New Jersey, celebrated the completion of 12 new homes in Summit with a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony held on December 14, 2023. The celebration brought together the new Habitat homeowners, government officials, volunteers, donors and staff who partnered together to complete the new condominium complex.

“Today is a momentous occasion,” said Liz DeCoursey, Morris Habitat CEO. “We are celebrating alongside the 12 families who will soon be moving in and calling 146 Morris Avenue home. These families have worked hard putting in their ‘sweat equity,’ building their own homes.”

Morris Habitat provides a hand up not a handout to homeownership. Each of the new Summit homeowners performed between 300 – 400 hours of ‘sweat equity’ working alongside other Habitat volunteers toward building their homes.

Planning for the Summit project started in 2015 when Morris Habitat began meeting with the City of Summit and the Italian American Club, the previous owners of the property. While DeCoursey acknowledged the lengthy timeline, she also noted Morris Habitat’s commitment to every project as a “miracle” for families and children.

DeCoursey highlighted the diverse effort that led to the project’s completion. “Those of us who are committed to this work are not a homogenous group. We are from different

backgrounds with different skills and experiences, some coming from nonprofits, businesses and government agencies. We come from different houses of worship, different towns and we speak different languages. Our individual differences make us stronger together, much like the community we helped build here today. But we all have one thing in common. We all believe everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home--a home where memories are made and where dreams come true.”

Helping to make those dreams come true were 1,006 volunteers from civic, church, corporate and school groups who donated 7,660 hours of labor toward building the condominiums.

DeCoursey lauded all who came together to make the project possible, acknowledging a \$1.4 contribution from the City of Summit and \$100,000 from the Summit Civic Foundation. Other major funders included the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Sponsors included the Braunwarth Family; Cavalry Episcopal Church; Central Presbyterian Church; Fountain Baptist Church; St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and Hope Sferra. Other in-kind services were provided by Bowman Consulting Eikon Planning and Design; Dave Bossart of Property Research Associates; Kennon Surveying; Schenck, Price, Smith and King; architect Seth A. Leeb and Stewart Surveying and Engineering. Construction sponsors included GAF and United Site Services.



(above) Twelve Summit families had new homes for the holidays.

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ANIKA JAIN CELEBRATED FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth

Anika Jain from Summit has been honored as one of the brightest students in the world by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.

Anika, a student at Jefferson Elementary School, was honored for exceptional performance on the SAT, ACT, School and College Ability Test, or similar assessment taken as part of the CTY Talent Search. CTY uses above-grade-level testing to identify advanced students from around the world and provide a clear picture of their academic abilities.

Each year, about 16,000 students from more than 90 countries around the world join CTY. On average, less than 30 percent qualify for either High Honors or Grand Honors/SET based on their test scores.

"This is not just recognition of students' performance on one test, but a testament to their curiosity and capacity for learning," said Amy Shelton, PhD, executive director of CTY. "These students have demonstrated enormous potential, and now we encourage them to seek out experiences and communities that help them challenge and stretch their knowledge, connect with other young scholars, understand diverse perspectives, think critically, and pursue their goals confidently."

(above) Anika Jain

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HEART ASSOCIATION AWARDS CERTIFICATION TO SPRING GROVE

Building on its commitment to comprehensive care and services, Spring Grove Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in New Providence recently earned the American Heart Association’s (AHA’s) new Skilled Nursing Facility Heart Failure Center Certification. The 106-bed skilled nursing facility, located at 144 Gales Drive, provides post-hospital care, short-term rehab and long-term residential care.

The world’s leading nonprofit focused on heart and brain health, the AHA has invested more than \$4.8 billion in research since its founding. Evaluation criteria for its new skilled nursing certification – earned by less than 2% of skilled nursing facilities nationwide, to date – was designed by heart failure experts. Certification requirements include program management, personnel education, clinical management, care coordination and performance improvement, as well as patient and caregiver education and support.

“This advanced certification provides heart patients with the assurance that Spring Grove is recognized by the AHA for delivering the most effective heart failure treatment strategies based on a standardized method of current evidence-based guidelines,” said Kani Burgos, regional director of market development at Marquis Health Consulting Services, which supports Spring Grove. “These specific care strategies and services are aimed at improving outcomes for those with chronic heart failure and its co-

morbidities, as well as reducing readmissions.” Spring Grove’s reputation for progressive skilled nursing care is well established. The center was named one of the nation’s “Best Nursing Homes 2022-23” for long-term care by U.S. News & World Report; marking the third consecutive year Spring Grove has been recognized in at least one program category. It maintains a five-star rating for quality measures from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). More information on Spring

Grove can be accessed on the facility’s website, springgroverehab.com.

Brick, N.J.-based Marquis Health Consulting Services provides administrative and consulting services to skilled nursing facilities and senior housing communities along the Eastern Seaboard. The organization’s operational guidance enables its client facilities to overachieve their quality and customer service goals by embracing a progressive, multi-specialty approach to healthcare.

Courtesy photo



(above) Spring Grove Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center’s interdisciplinary care team

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THE FEBRUARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

The Summit Area Old Guard was founded in 1930 and meets most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends."

February speakers include Scott Hough, Ed Oatman or Amy Wagner, Dr. Yaron Moshel, and Amy Behr-Shields. Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

Our speaker on **Tuesday, February 6th** will be Scott Hough, Superintendent of Schools, Summit, NJ. Scott will give us an overview of the school system and describe the impact covid had and how he dealt with it (he was appointed to his position in June 2020!). Scott will also discuss critical issues facing all school administrators, such as bullying, security and student safety. Roughly one half of Summit's annual budget goes to support the public schools, and the appeal of Summit as a great place to live is supported by its excellent schools.

Our speaker on **Tuesday, February 13th** will be either the manager or deputy manager of Union County, NJ. Union County has a diverse population equivalent in size to that of Wyoming and a budget of a half billion dollars. Most people are quite familiar with their own city or town, but usually know much less about their county. Ed Oatman, manager, or Amy Wagner, deputy manager, will hopefully change that for you. County operations include areas such as law enforcement/courts, parks & recreation, public works -roads and infrastructure, health care, economic development, and a lot more.

On **Tuesday, February 20th**, Dr. Yaron Moshel, co-director of the Gerald J. Glasser Brain Tumor Center at Atlantic Health System's Overlook Medical Center, will be our speaker. He is one of a select few surgeons who specialize in removing deep-seated brain tumors using technology that includes computer-guided navigation, awake intraoperative brain mapping, endoscopy, and

microsurgery. Dr. Moshel will explain how the convergence of precision medicine, advanced robotics, and specialized imaging are fostering new breakthroughs in the treatment of brain and spine tumors.

Finally, on **Tuesday, February 27th**, we ask the question, 'with so much information accessible online, is a public library still relevant'? Amy Behr-Shields, the Director of the Summit Free Library, will explain how the library is needed to curate reliable sources of information, and to manage the complexities of digital and non-digital media, while serving as a community center and a welcoming environment. You will also be surprised to learn how many varied programs and services the library offers.

Past speakers and much more can be viewed at SummitOldGuard.org but we encourage people to drop in on our meetings which take place at the church at 10:00 a.m. most Tuesdays. "Come for the Speakers. Stay for the Friends."

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SWIMMING WITH FRIENDS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Barbara Rushman

A group of Masters Swimmers from Madison and the surrounding areas have now had the privilege of swimming together for two decades at the Madison YMCA, the Madison Community Pool, the Summit YMCA and other close by locations. Traditionally, we track monthly swim yardage for the entire year on a user-friendly web site (with support from our web site coordinator Barry Lass). Each of our 60 swimmers has a chance to see how they rank throughout the year in total yards within the group in a monthly newsletter.

Also, as we do every year in January, the Masters Yardstick Swimmers gathered recently at our 20th anniversary annual awards breakfast on January 6th - a combined live (at the Kemmerer Library in Harding Township) and online (via Zoom) event- with strong participation (39 in person and 6 on Zoom)! Hosted by longtime swimmers Bob Nissen, Joe Donohue, and Richard Clew, the multi-media slide show and event highlighted activities of 2023 (aided by our group historian, Barbara Rushman) and brought us together in such a way that all active members could enjoy.

It began with a fascinating summary of our 20-year history- how we started, how we have evolved and grown as the “Yardstick Swimmers”, and what we have accomplished as a group. Since 2004, our collective swimming efforts are amazing- logging more than 371 million yards- or nearly 211,000 miles! That is equivalent to swimming “around the world” more than 8 times!

After reviewing a number of “20th Anniversary Workouts” submitted by our swimmers, we were entertained with a Surprise Video Tape and Congratulations Message from Rowdy Gaines, 3-time Olympic Gold Medal Winner in Swimming.

Many of our swimmers enjoy participating in group workouts at the Walker D. Kirby Aquatics Center in its modern eight lane pool at the Madison YMCA. For further information on the pool and swim program, please contact the main desk at the Madison YMCA at 973-822-9622.

Ultimately, we moved on to the highlight of the event- our Annual Awards. Jane Ikeda of Mendham, Diane Dinsmore of Madison, and Bob Franks of Chatham were each named “Bold Performer of the Year”, for demonstrating improved performance, exceptional effort and a special commitment to the swimming program. 3 D(imension) 20th Anniversary Awards for long

term participation and passion for swimming by exemplifying Commitment, Consistency, and Competitiveness were presented to Jennifer Bauman of Parsippany, Bill Sullivan of Florham Park, and Richard Clew of Harding Township.

The Team Competition was unbelievable, with our two squads each swimming more than 12 million yards in a competition that was close until the final day, when The Yardstick Rulers (led by Captain Richard Clew) bested the Yardstick Junkies (led by Captain Bill Sullivan). Finally, our top two swimmers for 2023 were runner up Cindy Viola of Chatham, and Yardstick Winner Sandra Seddon of Chatham, swimming

1,461,630 yards, or 830 miles! Sandra was awarded the Doug Clark Championship Yardstick, named in memory of our former “Yardstick Swimmer”.

We all had a great time and were so happy to connect with our swimming friends for this special 20th Anniversary celebration. And we will continue our monthly yard tracking in 2024, and are convinced that our program will grow in numbers! Adult swimmers of all levels from beginners to experts are welcome to the Masters programs. To learn more about our Yardstick Challenge, please contact Bob Nissen at bobnissen@gmail.com.



(above, l-r) Row 1: Yardstick Winner Sandra Seddon, Barbara Rushman, Bob Nissen, Deborah Fennelly, Joe Donohue; Row 2: Bob Franks, Bree Olivari, Nicole Sullivan, Noreen McManus, Melissa Griffie, Jane Ikeda, Nicole Bearce; Row 3: Chachi Sabatino, Bill Sjoval, Debbie Goulain, Susan Kirk, Irene Fisher, Ed Tsuzuki, Jim Sullivan; Row 4: Diane Dinsmore, Bill Sullivan, Alan Sawyer, Lynda Przedpelski, Sarah Sangree, Barry Lass, Ted Bohlman, Sam Kongsamut; Row 5: Jennifer Bauman, John Przedpelski, Richard Clew, Barbara Wattenbach, Cande Olsen

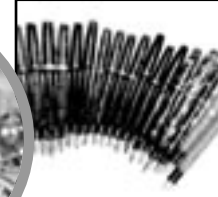
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NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA WINTER FREE CONCERT - FEB 25

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) will present its 2024 Winter Concert on Sunday, February 25th at 3 pm at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

The concert will feature performances by three of NJIO's ensembles: Symphony Orchestra, Intermezzo Orchestra, and Prelude Ensemble. The Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Warren Cohen, will play Beethoven's Leonore Overture no. 1 and Mendelssohn's Symphony no. 5, composed when he was only 21 years old. Also known as the Reformation Symphony, it contains musical references to both the Dresden "Amen" and Martin Luther's chorale "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" (A Mighty Fortress is our God).

NJIO's Intermezzo Orchestra, conducted by Oliver Hagen, will perform excerpts from Beethoven's Symphony no. 5 and Symphony no. 2. The Prelude Ensemble, NJIO's entry-level group, is conducted by Elizabeth Maliszewski. Prelude will be performing La Rejouissance from Handel's Royal Fireworks Music and an arrangement of Beethoven's Greatest Hits!

In addition to playing in this beautiful performance space, this concert will be live-streamed and recorded.

Concert Details:
Sunday, February 25th, 2024, at 3 pm (doors open at 2:40 pm)
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
716 Watchung Avenue
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Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more information regarding the concert or to inquire about patron services, please contact NJIO at info@njio.org or visit NJIO's website at 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 varying skill levels each concert period to one of its several orchestras – no auditions needed!



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; The Lillian Schenck Foundation; The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation; a collective contribution made by the Citizens Philanthropic Foundation and the 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.

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Photo from left, Lantern Hill Business Office Manager Debra Vlahakis, Director of General Services Ed Zappile, and Housekeeping Manager, recently volunteered at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside.

For more information, visit LanternHill.com.



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ELKS RECEIVE VETERANS WELCOME HOME KITS

Recently, twenty-five area Elks and volunteers helped to restock the shelves at the NJ State Elks Veterans Annex in Stirling. The items that were received will be assembled into Welcome Home Kits and delivered free of charge to previously homeless Veterans who are moving into a new residence.

Welcome Home Kits include a bed, night stand, dresser, sofa, dining table and chairs, lamps, bedding, linens, appliances, cleaning supplies, a shower curtain, mats, pots and pans, flatware, glassware, and more. All items are brand new.

Enough items to assemble 20 Welcome Home Kits were purchased by the NJ Elks East Central District, with Lodges in Stirling, Summit, Springfield, Mountainside, Union, Cranford, and Rahway, at a cost of approximately \$10,000 which was provided through grants, donations, and fundraising events.

The NJ State Elks National Veterans Service

Commission has helped over 2,300 veterans since 2016 and makes 25–30 deliveries each month throughout the state. The NJ State Veterans Annex was recently featured in "Givers of Hope" view on YouTube: youtu.be/Qvndf_3l0Y4

Every night, as many as 40,000 veterans are sleeping on the streets. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has pledged to help end veteran homelessness, and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve. In New Jersey, Elks volunteers provide direct service to over 1,000 veterans in multiple VA homes and connect with veterans and military members in their communities, providing them with services where they live.

Please email njelksnvsc@gmail.com to learn more about what NJ State Elks do to help veterans and visit Elks.org for more information about the Elks and how to join.

Courtesy photo



(above) Area Elks and volunteers - Elks Care and Elks Share.

HOMETOWN HEROES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The City of Summit is announcing that enrollment is now open for its 2024 Hometown Heroes program. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2024.

This will be the seventh year for the successful program that displays banners with the names, images, and dates of service of active military members and veterans on city streets from mid-May through mid-August.

An individual qualifies to take part in the Hometown Heroes program if they are serving or have served in any one of the following branches of the United States Armed Forces: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. Members of the United States Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots in World War II are also invited to apply.

Applicants must also have lived in Summit at

any time in the past or present or are currently or have been employed by the City of Summit or Summit Board of Education, or are current or former volunteers in the Summit EMS, Police Auxiliary, or Volunteer Fire Division.

The program is funded through private donations with no fee to participate. Information on application requirements and how to apply is available at cityofsummit.org/hometownheroes.

Donations by check made payable to the Summit Foundation can be mailed to Summit Hometown Heroes, P.O. Box 892, Summit, NJ 07902.

A video with program information and highlights is available on the City of Summit YouTube channel.

For more information, email summitnjheroes@gmail.com.

SUMMIT EMS RESPONSES

Submitted by Jonn Staunton

Summit's EMS volunteers finished the year with a busy December, responding to 226 emergency calls.

Responses included 144 medical emergencies; 16 falls; 18 motor vehicle accidents, including 5 on routes 24 or 78; 15 traumatic injuries; one allergic reaction; 12 cases of overdose or poisoning; five responses to a medical alarm; two pedestrians struck by a vehicle, and two responses to a fire scene. Squad Volunteers also provided six "lift assists" to patients who did not require transport to a hospital.

16 emergency calls were answered by an off-duty "back-up crew" of volunteers responding from home or work when the on-duty crew was busy. Summit volunteers also provided mutual aid assistance to neighboring towns 17 times. 11 patients transported to a hospital by Squad members also received advanced life support care from hospital-based paramedics who accompanied the Squad's ambulance. During December, Squad volunteers transported 161 patients to 4 different hospitals.

The Squad also provided 3 non-emergency ambulance transports for Summit residents, hosted 4 Emergency Management training sessions with the City of Summit, 2 presentations for Cub Scout groups, and a public CPR class.

The Squad answers calls for help 24 hours a day and at a variety of locations. December responses included 89 to a patient's home or apartment; 23 for accidents or medical emergencies on streets or highways; four in a

public park; two in a recreation facility; two in public buildings; 13 at a local business; five at a bar or restaurant, and 3 to a health care professional's office. There were also 22 medical incidents at Summit's train station; 19 at a local behavioral health facility; three on the grounds of Overlook Medical Center; 6 to an assisted living facility, five in a house of worship; 15 on a sidewalk or parking lot, four in a public building, two at Summit's Public Library, three at a school, and three in a hotel.

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad, responds to emergency calls 24/7, is entirely funded through private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided. For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site summitems.org.



(above) For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site summitems.org. Courtesy photo

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TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR 2024 WHARTON ARTS GALA ON MARCH 7

On Thursday, March 7, 2024, Wharton Arts will honor award-winning jazz bassist, educator, and composer Rufus Reid with its Lifetime Achievement Award at its Annual Gala. An active presence in the jazz world since the 1970s, Reid has recorded over 500 albums and can be heard on recordings with Dexter Gordon, Andrew Hill, The Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Quartet, Kenny Barron, Stan Getz, J.J. Johnson, Lee Konitz, and Jack DeJohnette, among others. His reputation as an educator is equal to that of his musical achievements. Reid's book, *The Evolving Bassist*



(above, l-r) Renowned Jazz Bassist Rufus Reid and The Discovery Orchestra's George Marriner Maull to be honored at the 2024 Wharton Arts Gala

Courtesy photos

(Myriad Limited, 1974), remains the industry standard for double bass methodology. Reid and Dr. Martin Krivin created the Jazz Studies and Performance Bachelor of Music Program at William Paterson University, a program offering the first professional academically accredited Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies in the tri-state area.

Reid received the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and the MacDowell Colony Grant. His 2014 release, *Quiet Pride – The Elizabeth Catlett Project*, received two Grammy Nominations for Best Large Jazz Ensemble and Best Instrumental Composition.

The prestigious Wharton Arts Lifetime Achievement Award distinguishes individuals who, during their lifetime, have made creative contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the performing arts and represent a beacon of inspiration to Wharton Arts' students. Previous Wharton Arts Lifetime Achievement honorees were Jamie Bernstein, John Debney, Paul Shaffer, and Angel Blue.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, Wharton Arts will honor George Marriner Maull with its Education Award at the 2024 Gala. Today, Maull is the Artistic Director of The Discovery Orchestra and a three-time Emmy-

nominated public television personality.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3–12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

Wharton Arts' Annual Gala will feature student performances and a live auction at the Westmount Country Club, 728 Rifle Camp Road in Woodland Park, NJ. To attend the gala and support Wharton Arts, including its silent auction, please visit WhartonArtsGala.org.



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ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Summit Library Chinese Club will host their annual Lunar New Year Celebration on Saturday, February 10, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The event will be held simultaneously at the Summit Library from 3 to 5 p.m., and the Summit Area YMCA from 3 to 6 p.m.

The celebration will feature cultural performances, including traditional Chinese dances, Kung Fu demonstrations, Peking operas, acrobatics, folk music and more, presented by skilled artists at the Summit Area YMCA. Attendees can also enjoy a diverse array of Asian cuisines at the YMCA, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese cuisines.

At the Summit Library, attendees can view the Lunar New Year Art Show, featuring original visual art pieces crafted by young artists from Summit and surrounding areas. Additionally, attendees may participate in traditional Chinese visual arts activities including calligraphy, painting, and crafts from various Asian countries.

The Lunar New Year, also recognized as Chinese New Year, is observed on the first new moon that appears between January 21 and February 20. This upcoming lunar year is the year of the Dragon.

"The Dragon is the most auspicious and celebrated sign in the Chinese zodiac," said Ni Liu, member of the Summit Free Public Library Foundation and organizer of the Summit Library Chinese Club. "We welcome you in ushering in



the New Year under its mythical aura, with festivities celebrating the rich cultural significance of our ancient traditions, and the spirit of community in Summit. Happy Chinese New Year!"

The Summit Library Chinese Club is a volunteer-led organization that works with the Summit Library to organize Chinese and Asian culture-related events in the community. They lead many other programs in partnership with the Summit Library, such as their monthly Chinese Corner and Chinese Calligraphy programs.

The Lunar New Year Celebration is open to all and free of charge. Attendees must register for the event on the Summit Library website at summitlibrary.org.

LEGO COLLECTION AT TRANSFER STATION

The Lego collection at the City of Summit Transfer Station was discontinued in January and the bin was removed. Summit residents are encouraged to bring unwanted Legos to Summit Free Market events for reuse.



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