Published by Renna Media

Issue 151 • April 2024

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ANDERSON SCHIEFERSTEIN'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Boy Scout Troop #145

In February 2024, Anderson Schieferstein, a presumptive Eagle Scout of Boy Scout Troop #145, launched The Lego Lending Library, a new addition to the Clark Public Library, where community members can check out Legos, just like books!

Anderson, a Clark resident and junior in high school at The Academy for Information Technology, is working to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve. Anderson worked with Dierdre Morley, Children's Librarian to execute his idea.

The Lego Lending Library offers community members the opportunity to access highly sought- after Lego themes such as Star Wars, Marvel, Minecraft, Harry Potter, City sets, and more. Anderson wanted to do a project that would combine his lifelong love of Lego building, along with his desire to share the benefits of this type of creative play with the community. "Lego building has many benefits. It is a brain building activity, offers early engineering skills, helps with math skills and is an example of a relaxing activity which promotes mindfulness." says Anderson. It even plays a role in developing cognitive functions at a young age, such as hand-eye coordination.

To achieve Eagle Scout, a Scout needs to have 21 merit badges and then plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project that benefits the community. In Anderson's case, he planned a fundraiser, held at Schieferstein Farm, his father's 121-year-old family farm, where he collected new and used Lego sets, along with financial donations to buy new sets and create an inventory of over 50 sets for the library. Then, Anderson along with over 15 members of his troop, spent the day sorting Lego pieces, printing instruction manuals, and building a Display case.

On Feb 4th, 2024, they launched the new Lego Lending Library to



(above) Stop by the Clark Library to browse the Lego inventory, check out a Lego set, and enjoy a new set every 14 days!



(above) Anderson Schieferstein, a presumptive Eagle Scout of Boy Scout Troop #145, launched The Lego Lending Library, a new addition to the Clark Public Library, where community members can check out Legos, just like books!

community members, and it was a big success. Ed Grande, the Superintendent of the Clark School Distract was there, along with Brian Toal, Councilman for Clark, Ralph Bernardo, Clark Recreation Director, Troop 145 members, over 30 local families and Scout Master John Cistaro attending the event. Deirdre Morley said that Anderson "raised money for and created many more sets that we even imagined, and the community will enjoy this project for many years!"

The entire event was filmed by local channel 36. View the footage on Troop145.org under the "in the news" tab. If you have a library card, you can stop by the Clark Library to browse the Lego inventory, check out a Lego set, and enjoy a new set every 14 days!

Courtesy photos



Clark Monthly

Renna Media LLC, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Clark Monthly is published by Renna Media. 6,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Clark, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com**

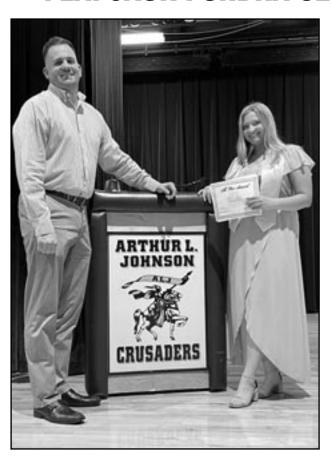
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FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Spring is in the air as well as the smell of hotoff-the-griddle pancakes!

The Kiwanis Club of Clark will hold its fourth annual Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's in Clark Commons, 1255 Raritan Road, on Saturday, April 13 from 8 – 10 a.m.

The public is invited to partake in the fun where Arthur L. Johnson High School Key Club members will act as wait staff to serve pancakes, sausage links, eggs, and beverages. Tickets for adults are \$12, and for children under 12, \$7.

The proceeds of this fundraiser will go toward scholarships for senior Key Club members from Clark and Garwood.

For tickets, contact Ron at 732-574-9182 or any Kiwanis Club member.

A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Clark Kiwanis is the local chapter of Kiwanis International, a not-for-profit organization that focuses on making this a better world, one child, one community at a time.

(above) It's all for the Kids... Bruce Jones, president of the Kiwanis Club of Clark, presents a scholarship to Key Club member Victoria Szaro, one of last spring's recipients at Super Stars Night at the ALJ High School last May. The April 13, 2024 Flapjack Fundraiser is a source of funds for scholarships given out yearly by the philanthropic club. To donate, buy tickets, or purchase an ad in the souvenir booklet, contact Ron at 732-574-9182.

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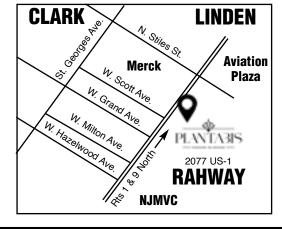
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16 STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 16 students in a candlelighting ceremony held at the Shackamaxon Country Club on February 27th. The night began with a welcome from NHS President Grace Wright. NHS member Isabel Cortese opened the ceremony with the National Anthem and Eva Sarantidis led the flag salute.

Ms. Jessica Kyle, National Honor Society Advisor spoke of the collective accomplishments of the group and the rigorous selection process. The candle-lighting ceremony was completed by NHS members Taylor Normann, Eva Sarantidis, Grace Wright, and Zoey Brown. Each current member discussed the meaning of the pillars scholarship, leadership, service, and character and their role in the life of a NHS member.

Superintendent of Schools Edward Grande congratulated the students and reminded them that we all make mistakes but what is important is what is learned from them. He reminded them their journey does not end here.

Arthur L. Johnson High School Principal Tara Oliveira spoke about the students and their specific accomplishments to the community which have led to their recognition as NHS inductees

New inductees took a pledge led by Brown and received certificates. NHS Member Taylor Normann issued a challenge to students to "My challenge to you is to keep going. Never be satisfied with where you are right now. Do things that make you nervous and that you wouldn't normally do. You all have proven that you are able to balance so much, but in order to continue to grow you need to keep doing things outside of your comfort zone."

NHS Member Abigail Henkel then recognized Mr. Joy Donaldson, ALJ English teacher. Every year, a staff member is recognized for their dedication to student learning. Henkel stated, "The best teachers are those who can connect with their students, and Mrs. Donaldson brings a vivacity to teaching I have never seen in another classroom. There is no being bored or having a dull day in her room filled with conversation, energy, and poetry."

During the ceremony, students were also asked to give a flower to someone who supported them throughout their lives.

The evening closed with "Words of Inspiration" from member Gwendalyn Cahill who stated, "Even if whatever you want to do in life seems daunting, I know you can do it. Your determination, hard work, and care is what has



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gotten you here, and it is what will take you far Leadership, Service and Character. If a passing in life. So, don't be afraid to go for whatever you want in life. Even if it seems super outlandish and unattainable to you, there is always a chance for it to happen. And just remember: if you shoot for the moon and miss, you will still land among the stars."

The evening was attended by parents, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members.

In order to be invited to submit an application to the National Honor Society, the first requirement is to have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 4.15 at the conclusion of their sophomore or junior year. Next, students submit an application detailing their contributions to Leadership, the School and Community. Lastly, a group of faculty council scores and rates these applications based on Scholarship,

score is achieved, students are offered to be in the National Honor Society.

The 16 new inductees join 18 existing members.

The Inductees: Jack Helm, Ava Hladek, Nicole Kotula, Katherine Mallick, Aidan Mazza, Gabriella Muretta, Tyler Pardo, Justin Perdiz, Braelyn Prusakowski, Alyssa Schlauberg, Krista Steiner, Alexa Tavares, Mackenzie Thompson, Lacey Vill, Ryan Volmut, Ava Wood

Current Members: Danielle Archer, Elisabeth Brighouse, Zoey Brown, Dillon Cahill, Gwendalyn Cahill, Isabel Cortese, Sophia Downing, Kaden Hackney, Abigail Henkel, Jacob Kolibas, Miriam Lakkis, Kaileigh Netland, Taylor Normann, Antonio Rafoa, Natalia Rojas, Eva Sarantidis, Leah Scepkowski, Grace Wright.



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40 Ivy St.
15 Tudor Dr.
10 Washington St., Unit 0
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.

40.0
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 Jupitor St.
61 Sycamore Rd.
15 Briarheath Ln.
43 Kathryn St.
io Ratinyii ot.
WARER OF TRA

, ., 20
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 Jupitor St.
458 Oak Ridge Rd.
307 West lane

93 Jupitor St.
166 Meadow Rd.
67 Lefferts Lane
41 Oleander Way
160 Riverside Dr.
45 Briarheath Lane
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.
344 West Lane
30 Haliday St.
-

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 232, 160 ARE IN CLARK



(above) The Arthur L. Johnson High School Italian Club, advised by Mrs. Alessandra Bonacchi.



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ALJ ITALIAN CLUB SUPPORTS ITALIAN LIBRARY

Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Italian Club, advised by Mrs. Alessandra Bonacchi, helped the Tifosi Napoli Club New Jersey raise over \$700 to support an open-space library in Forcella, Napoli. The club has held Nutella bake sales after school and a district-wide jeans day to help raise money. The library was built in memory of Annalisa Durante who tragically lost her life at 14-years-old.

In addition to donating the funds, an ALJ student Eva Venturino, and Mrs. Bonacchi created an illustration showing the connection between Napoli and America. Italian Club members all signed their names to it. The canvas

and donation were presented to the President of the Annalisa Durante Foundation and Annalisa's father on what would have been Annalisa's birthday.

Highlights of the event including this special gift were highlighted by the local and national media in Italy. The illustration is now permanently and proudly on display at the library in Napoli.

Mrs. Bonacchi stated, "My kids, with the support of the district staff, did an amazing job raising money for this cause. And one of my talented kids brought the ideas I had in my head to life on a canvas. Thanks to everyone who supported the ALJ Italian Club!"



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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.





WESTFIELD COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND SPRING CONCERT - APRIL 12

The Westfield Community Concert Band will present its annual Spring Concert on Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street in Westfield. Dr. Thomas Connors, conductor and music director of the band, has prepared a program which is highlighted by popular, traditional and contemporary selections for wind band. Admission is free and open to the public.



(above) The Westfield Community Concert Band, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Connors, Music Director, will present its annual Spring Concert on Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street, Westfield.

The program will feature the band's performance of the complete Candide Suite, written by Leonard Bernstein and adapted by Clare Grundman for wind band. Composed in 1956 as operetta based upon a Voltaire's novella of the same name, the music from this selection is widely featured in Maestro, the recent film about Bernstein.

The program will also feature the music of Gilbert and Sullivan, renowned composers of British operettas, with a performance of the music from the ballet, Pineapple Poll. This 1951 composition includes music from the most popular Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, including H.M.S. Pinafore, Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado. This arrangement has been performed leading wind bands, including the United States Marine Band, "The President's Own".

The band also performs Epic March, by John Ireland, Savannah River Holiday, by Ron Nelson,

The program will feature the band's and Music for a Festival, by popular erformance of the complete Candide Suite, contemporary composer, Philip Sparke.

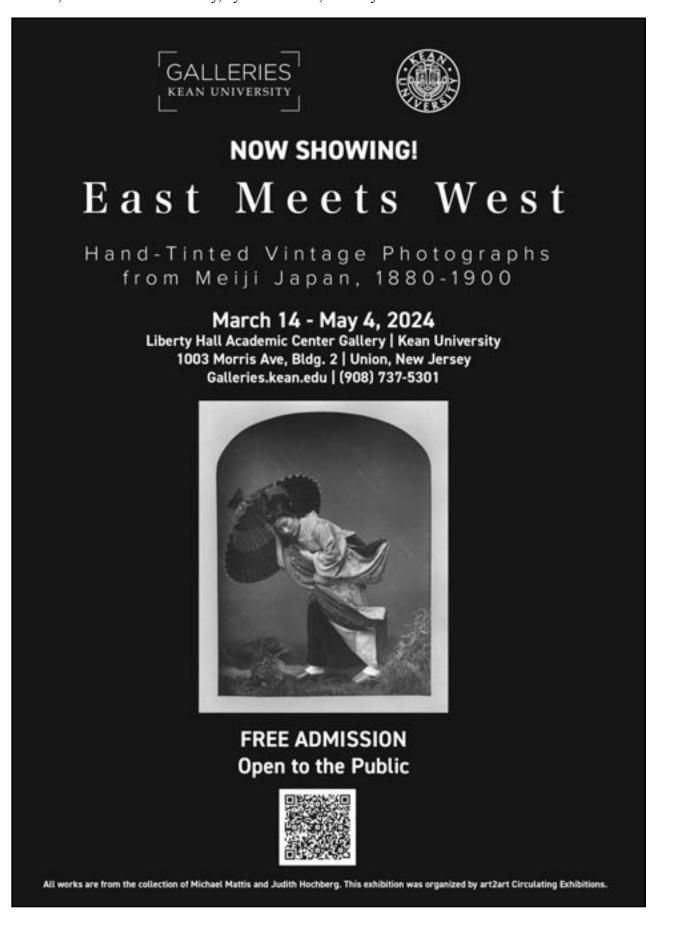
The band, in its 112th concert season, will also be presenting its annual Summer Concert Series on Thursdays, June 20, June 27, July 4 and July 11 in Westfield's Mindowaskin Park.

Experienced area musicians may inquire about joining the band by contacting Barry Rosenberg, band president, at 908-337-9073 or by email at info@westfieldcommunityband.com. The band rehearses each Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the community room located in the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, and performs throughout the year.

The band is sponsored in part by the Westfield Recreation Department, Megan Schaffer, Director. The band's concerts are made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



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BOOK AND JEWELRY SALE - APRIL 13

The Friends of the Clark Library will be hosting a book sale (10 a.m. -3 p.m.); and a costume jewelry sale (10 a.m. -2 p.m.) at the Clark Library on April 13, 2024.

Paperback books are only 50 cents; hard cover books are \$1.00. Audio books and DVD's will be available.

Fill a tote bag (no larger than 14" x 13") with books for just \$9.00. Oversized tote bags are \$13.00

We have many new costume jewelry items, which are all \$1.00. Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings, watches and more.

All proceeds will benefit the Clark Library.



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100 ACTS OF KINDNESS AT VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL

Clark Public Schools

Mrs. Kimberly Nacht always challenges her class to complete 100 kind acts before the 100th day of school. This gives the class about 2 weeks to complete them! The class talks about learning how to work together as a team and how if every student does 5-6 acts, they will reach the goal together more easily than if just a few students track their kind acts. This year, she told her class

that if they exceed their goal of 100 before the 100th day, that they would have a surprise, a pizza party! This class rose to the occasion and worked hard at tracking 152 kind acts! The whole class was so proud of themselves for exceeding their goal. "We learned that kindness doesn't have to stop here! Even a smile to one another is the easiest way to show kindness!" Mrs. Nacht said.





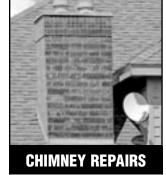


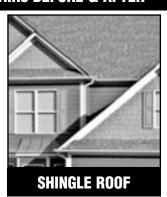




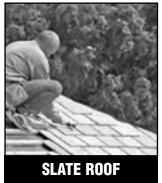
















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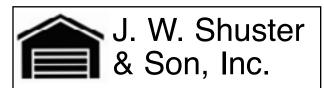
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UNICO CASINO NIGHT IS A BIG WINNER

Clark UNICO hosted a Casino Night in March to raise funds to support the upcoming National President - Anthony Bencivenga. It was a successful night and people enjoyed games, raffles, food, and camaraderie.

Clark UNICO is an Italian-American organization that strives to incorporate our unique Italian heritage and culture into the lives of our members and surrounding communities. In accomplishing this, we organize and run countless community related and Italian-centered events throughout the year. For more information visit clarkunico.com.





(above) UNICO National President and VP Ralph Bernardo

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(above) Unicans enjoying Black Jack.

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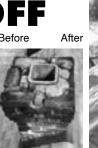




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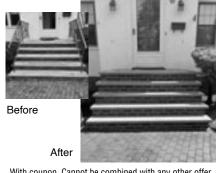


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SENIORS CELEBRATE ST. PATTY'S DAY

Clark Township

The Clark Recreation Department held an early St. Patrick's Day luncheon tailored specifically for senior citizens. Held on Thursday, March 7, the event included an afternoon filled of festive delights and lively entertainment.

In the spirit of the Emerald Isle, attendees were treated to a performance by The Irish Trio. Their music uplifted spirits and created a joyful atmosphere. Adding to the festivities, guests were indulged in corned beef sandwiches, a beloved staple of St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

The early St. Patrick's Day luncheon not only offered seniors an opportunity to revel in the holiday spirit but also provided a chance for community bonding and camaraderie.

"We were delighted to host this special event for our seniors," said Ralph Bernardo, Director of the Recreation Department. "It's a wonderful occasion to celebrate Irish culture, enjoy delicious food, and share laughter and music with friends and neighbors." Courtesy photos









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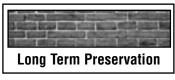
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CARBON

40TH ANNUAL QUILT SHOW - APRIL 20TH

Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 40th annual quilt show on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The 40th Sharing the Quilts will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., fiber artist Karen Hochman of Plainfield will show her creations and speak on "Everything Old is New Again, What Inspires You?" The award-winning hand-quilter is a former antique dealer and collector of vintage textiles. A Harvest Quilter since 1990, her quilts are influenced by and connected to women artists and makers of the past and present.

Kathy Anderson Lee of Plainfield will be recognized as 2024's Featured Quilter with a special display of 17 colorful modern bed sized quilts. The chemical engineer and active STEM education volunteer began quilting in the 1980's while living in North Carolina. After a hiatus from the craft to raise 2 children and work in oil research, she rediscovered her talent in 2018.

"It was a revelation returning to quilting given all the advancements in technology, dyes, digital printing along with the new availability of international fabrics," Lee said.

Baby quilts made by members will be displayed and later donated to a local women's shelter. Several additional local charities will benefit from the sale of fabric and drawings for a queen-sized quilt and sewing themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer's choice awards, kid's crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church's youth activities.

For additional information, please contact harvestquilters.com or with questions email: harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com.

Courtesy photos



(above) Fiber artist Karen Hochman of Plainfield will show her creations and speak on "Everything Old is New Again.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ADVOCATE FOR UNION COUNTY CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Five-year-old Jennifer is diagnosed with autism and almost completely nonverbal. Due to excessive violence in the family home, a concerned neighbor called for help and, after investigation, Jennifer was placed in foster care. The two phrases Jennifer can say graphically depict violence witnessed at home and confirm trauma she's endured. Since entering care and being enrolled in school, it's evident Jennifer has also experienced educational neglect. At age three, she was entitled to an Individualized Education Plan from the Department of Education to provide such intervention services as in-home speech and behavioral therapies, both helpful for future enrollment in a half-day educational program. Unfortunately, Jennifer's parents neglected to utilize these services and she is now more than two years behind her peers.

Jennifer is just one of the more than 500 children removed from home in Passaic and Union counties each year due to abuse and neglect. These children are separated from all they've ever known: parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and their belongings. For Jennifer, the road ahead is long, and she needs a caring, consistent adult in her corner to protect her best interests while in foster care. That's where Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers come in.

A CASA volunteer is trained on the ins and outs of advocating for child-victims and fully supported by CASA staff for the duration of the case. No special background in child welfare is necessary; successful CASA volunteers are dedicated community members with varied life experiences who believe abuse and neglect are non-negotiable. CASA volunteers visit the children, make unbiased observations, interview others in the child's life, and make recommendations to the judge. They often are the only consistent adult in the life of a child involved in the child welfare system, as caseworkers, professionals, and even placements



(above) There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer!

can be ever-changing. A CASA volunteer provides continuity during a time of chaos and unknowns.

There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer! Plans are underway for an advocate training class.

To learn more, attend an information session either Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue in Clark, or Tuesday, April 30, at 10 am at the CASA office, 1143 East Jersey Street, Second Floor in Elizabeth. Register now at

casapassaicunion.org/info-session.

ABOUT CASA OF PASSAIC AND UNION COUNTIES:

The nonprofit is court-empowered to recruit, train and support volunteer advocates to speak up for the best interests of children in foster care. Assigned by a court order that grants access to the child and all those in their lives, the CASA volunteer gathers information and makes informed recommendations to the judge deciding the child's future. Often, the CASA volunteer is the only consistent person in the child's life. For more information about CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, call 973-832-4002, e-mail info@casapassaicunion.org or log on to www.casapassaicunion.org.



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CLARK'S SNOWMAN MAKING CONTEST

Clark Township

After several years of anticipation, the February snowfall finally provided the perfect canvas for residents to showcase their creativity and winter spirit in the Clark Recreation Snowman Making Contest. Initiated in 2022, the Snowman Making Contest has not been repeated since due to sparse snowfall.

"It's been incredibly heartwarming to witness the community come together in such a festive and spirited way," remarked Ralph Bernardo, Director of the Clark Recreation Department.

"The Snowman Making Contest provided Queen gift card. families with an opportunity to bond and be wonderland "

The task of selecting winners proved to be a challenge for the judging panel, given the array of entries. Ultimately, the Cannici Family, Pires Family, Moglia Family, and the Binder/Kihm Family were crowned as the standout creators, each receiving a charming snowman figure accompanied by chocolate kisses and a \$10 Dairy

The success of the Snowman Making Contest creativity, all against the backdrop of a winter is a testament to the enduring sense of community spirit that thrives within Clark Township. The event provided a welcome respite from the ordinary, transforming a snowy day into a magical celebration of togetherness and creativity.

> The Clark Recreation Department extends its heartfelt gratitude to all participants for making the contest a success.



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(above) Binder/Kihm Family

Courtesy photos



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Renna Media has posted its second episode of "Mind Your Own Local Business," a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business. To learn more call me, 908-447-1295, or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.



Scan for Second Episode of Mind Your Own Local Business on YouTube.







(above, l-r) Cannici Family, Pires Family, Moglia Family



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NEW FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING BUILDINGS CELEBRATED



(above) A moving dedication ceremony concluded with an uplifting blessing offered by Father Anthony Randazzo of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.





St. Joseph Social Service Center

The St. Joseph's community, encompassing residents from Elizabeth and volunteers and supporters from five counties in New Jersey, came together on February 24, 2024, to celebrate the opening of two new buildings on its campus. The new food pantry building is already in use, and the second building will ultimately be used for clothing distribution.

The cold weather was no match for the warm spirit of compassion and caring that animated the event and has guided the agency for the past 38 years. All in attendance toured the new buildings and participated in a moving dedication ceremony that concluded with an uplifting blessing offered by Father Anthony Randazzo of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

The two new buildings represent the first phase of an ambitious capital improvement plan to improve and expand services to families and children in need in Elizabeth and to fulfill St. Joseph's vision to serve those experiencing homelessness and poverty with dignity. The new food pantry building will allow St. Joseph's to offer a better food pantry model - an individual choice food pantry. With this model, clients will come at an appointed time and will be able to choose their food based on their personal and cultural preferences. The new clothing building will be used as temporary program space during the next wave of renovations and ultimately will be used to offer clothing and home goods in a more dignified environment.

"Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1986," noted Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director. "Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are truly welcomed as sisters and brothers."

Daisy Trocan, a member of the Board of Trustees, spoke at the dedication event about what these new buildings will mean to Elizabeth residents. As a child her family relied on support from the agency during difficult times. "The love and support my family received from St. Joseph's meant so much to us," Trocan reflected.

Harold "Kess" Kessler, who has overseen the capital improvement plan from its inception several years ago, remarked that work has already begun on the second phase of the construction plan. Over the next year, the main hall on campus will be transformed into a multipurpose space with private offices for mental health counseling and case management services, new facilities for the soup kitchen program, spaces for the Adult Learning Center and health and nutrition workshops and diagnostic testing, and a reception area where residents can obtain information about agency programs and community services. Karen Maher, President of the Board of Trustees, noted that these new spaces will "allow the agency to expand services to the community, particularly in the areas of physical and behavioral health."

Six days a week a dedicated team of 6,000 volunteers from Elizabeth, Union, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside, and dozens of other communities, make sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's serves over 3.500 individuals annually. The organization helps Elizabeth residents access food, medicine, mental health counseling, adult education, clothing and a myriad of additional healthcare and support services.

To learn more about St. Joseph's please visit sjeliz.org.

Photos from this and other events canbe found online at rennamedia.com and on the Renna Media page on facebook.com.

Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."





KUMPF MIDDLE SCHOOL AMERICAN HEART CHALLENGE

Clark Public Schools

Kumpf Middle School has partnered with the American Heart Association this February for the American Heart Challenge. The purpose of the event is for the students to complete Finn's Mission as they look to learn lifesaving skills. Finn is a congenital heart defect survivor. Finn's Mission is a way for students to participate in the Kids Heart Challenge to learn more about Heart Health and help support the mission of the American Heart Association!

As part of the American Heart Challenge, Kumpf Physical Education and Health Teacher Brittany Casares set up an event where all

Kumpf students had the opportunity to learn about CPR. All students learned how to perform hands only CPR during their Physical Education and Health class at school on February 6th and 7th. With the help of certified CPR and AED instructor and Physical Education and Health teacher Mr. David Hartzler helped with the event.

Students were provided the knowledge and information on what to do step by step. "We are hoping the students will never have to use these lifesaving skills but are happy to provide them with the knowledge of what to do in case they need to," Ms. Casares stated. In a few years, the students will have the chance to be CPR and AED certified as a Junior at ALJ.

Congratulations to 7th grader Brandon Remolino and 6th grader Victoria Radtke on being the first two student to complete Finn's Mission. Congratulations to 7th grader Brandon Remolino, 8th grader Logan Bloom, and 8th grader Christopher Brand on being the top three fundraisers so far. It's not too late to complete Finns Mission or donate! You can help by visiting heart.org/Schools once you get there, find Kumpf Middle School and set up an account to raise money for the American Heart Association and help save a life!





(above) Kumpf students had the opportunity to learn about CPR

MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT TALK APRIL 23

The Union County Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI UC) is hosting a free presentation on April 23, 2024. Christine Backiel of Bridgeway Crisis Intervention Services (BCIS) of Union County will speak about their services. There will be free resources for adults. The meeting will be held from 7:30 -

9:00 p.m., at the RWJ Fitness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Road, in Scotch Plains. No advance registration is required. Audience participation is encouraged and free literature will be provided. Visit namiunioncountynj.org to learn more about NAMI's free resources on mental illness.





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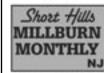
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Open Play for Little Ones

Monday, April 1, Tuesday, April 2 and Friday, April 5 at 10am

There's no story time today, but please feel free to drop in for open play with the library's toys!

Kids Space Movie

Tuesday, April 2 at 11am

Drop by the library to watch a space movie for kids! Please call or check our online calendar for the title of the movie. Eclipse glasses will be available for those in attendance.

Teen Space Movie

Tuesday, April 2 at 2pm

Drop by the library to watch a space movie geared to teens! Please call or check our online calendar for the title of the movie. Eclipse glasses will be available for those in attendance.

Adult Space Movie

Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30pm

Drop by the library to watch a space movie geared to adults! Please call or check our online calendar for the title of the movie. Eclipse glasses will be available for those in attendance.

Patches and Stitches

Tuesdays, April 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, April 9, 23 & 30 at 6:30pm

Enjoy a new movie for adults just released to DVD on our big screen. Please check our online calendar or visit the library to check the movies being shown.

USA Karate & Fitness Martial Arts Class for Kids

Wednesday, April 3 at 2pm USA Karate & Fitness will be hosting a free 30 minute kid's martial arts class! For ages 2 and up. Please register.

Chess Club

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

New members and all levels are welcome!

Thursday Afternoon Movies

Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 1pm Enjoy a movie for adults. Please check our online calendar or visit the library to check the movies being shown.

Tales for Tots

Mondays, April 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 9:45am OR at 10:30 am

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

Evening Book Club

Monday, April 8 at 7pm

Join us for our next evening book club meeting. We will be discussing "The Maidens" by Alex Michaelides. Please speak with a librarian or email reference@clarklibrary.org if you need a copy of the book.

Baby Bookworms

Tuesdays, April 9, 16, 23, & 30 at 10am Join us for stories, songs, nursery rhymes, and movement activities. Geared toward the under 2 crowd with caregiver. 30 minutes of open play follows.

Digital Literacy Tutoring

Tuesday, April 2, 9,16, 23, & 30 at 6:30pm Do you need help with your digital literacy skills? Join us for tutoring sessions on topics including Google Drive, Microsoft, Email, and resume help. Registration is required as sessions are limited to 4 students at a time.

Tinker Tots

Thursday, April 11 at 10:30am

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

ASK (Aging Services Kiosk)

Thursday, April 11 from 10am-12pm

Do you have questions about services available in Union County for seniors or their caregivers? Come visit the Union County Aging Services Kiosk, speak to our specialist and get answers to your questions.

Teen Advisory Board

Thursday, April 11 at 7pm

Teens - let your voice be heard at the library! The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) helps create, plan, and run teen programs and services they would like offered at the Clark Public Library.

TAB participants work directly with the librarians to develop ideas and bring them to life. Our March meeting will focus on a few major programs being run in May. TAB is open to all teens in Grades 6-12. Teens in neighboring towns are always welcome to join. Registration is required.

Stories & More

Fridays, April 12, 19, & 26 at 10am

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

Friends of the Library Costume Jewelry and Book Sale

Saturday, April 13 at 10am - 3pm

Looking for your next favorite book? Come to our book fair! Our event will feature hundreds of books for all ages and interests, including new releases, bestsellers, and classics.Bring your own tote bag(no larger than 14x13) and fill it for just \$10.00. Bags will also be available. Hardcover books are \$1.00. Paperback books are .50. DVD's and audio books are also available. Jewelry items are \$1.00. Cash only.

The History of Oak Ridge Park with Jeff Cupo Tuesday, April 16 at 7pm

Join local historian Jeff Cupo, as he discusses the deep and significant history of Oak Ridge Park and the surrounding Ash Brook Swamp.

From prehistoric mastodons browsing the wetlands, a Lenape village playing European colonists against each other, a plantation built on the coerced labor of enslaved workers, Black soldiers fighting for liberty and helping save Washington's army, and potentially serving as a path to freedom on the Underground Railroad, Oak Ridge Park serves as a powerful lesson on the valuable history that exists right in our

backyard. **Krafty Kids**

Wednesday, April 17 at 3:30pm

Join us as we make some fun and creative artwork! Don't forget to bring your imagination and creativity! Registration is required. Geared for Kindergarten-5th grade.

Little Scientist

Wednesday, April 18 at 3:30pm

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

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, April 23 at 1pm

Join us for our next afternoon book club meeting. We will be discussing "Watching You" by Lisa Jewell. Please speak with a librarian or email reference@clarklibrary.org if you need a copy of the book.

Adult Program: Spring Acrylic Painting

Tuesday, April 23 at 7pm

Join us for a relaxing evening of painting. Follow along with an online tutorial while we create a beautiful Spring-themed acrylic painting on canvas.

Downy Woodpecker Houses for Kids

Thursday, April 25 at 6:30pm

Learn how to build a downy woodpecker bird house with Bob! Hosted by the library, this is a collaborative and fun event. At the end of the night, each family will leave with one birdhouse which will be ready to mount; just in time for spring! We will be using power tools so adult supervision for each family is a must. Registration required to ensure we have

enough supplies. **Books & Bagels**

Friday, April 26 at 11am

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

LEGO Master Builders

Friday, April 26 at 3:15pm

Create your own LEGO® structures to be displayed in the Children's area of the library! LEGO® are provided by the library. For children entering grades K - 5. Light snacks will be served.

Angelina Ballerina

Wednesday, May 1 at 10:00 am

Join us for a book and a mini-ballet class for preschoolers with Center for Dance Education (CDE.) Please register.

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WHI:		¢3U OO	VODI		¢21 00
Buchanan's 12yrs old			Absolut (regular)		ΨΕ1.33
Buchanan's 12yrs old			Absolut (regular)		ψυ 1.33
Bushmill's Irish			Belvedere Organic Vodka		ψυυ. σσ
		•	Belvedere Organic Vodka		үто.ээ
Chivas Regal Chivas Regal			Ciroc (all types)		Ψ23.33
			Ciroc (all types)		
Chivas Regal 18 yrs old			Finlandia		•
Crown Royal			Finlandia		•
Crown Royal			Grey Goose		
Dewars 12 yrs old		•	Grey Goose		
Dewars 12 yrs old			Ketel One		•
Dewars White Label			Ketel One		
Dewars White Label			Luksusowa Vodka		
Gentleman Jack			Pinnacle (all types)		
Gentleman Jack		•	Pinnacle (80 proof)		
Glenmorangie 10 yrs old			Skyy		
Glenlivet 12 yrs old			Sobieski		•
Glenlivet 12 yrs old		•	Sobieski		
Grants		•	Stolichnaya (all types)		
Grants		•	Tanqueray Sterling		•
Jack Daniels		•	Tanqueray Sterling	1.75L	
lack Daniels			Three Olives (all types)	1L	
Jack Daniels Fire		•	Tito's Vodka	1.75L	
Jack Daniels Fire		•	RUI	VI	
lameson					640.00
lameson			Bacardi Light & Gold		400.00
lim Beam Whisky			Bacardi Light & Gold		
Johhnie Walker Blue		•	Captain Morgan Spice		
Johhnie Walker Blue			Malibu		
Johnnie Walker Black	750ml	\$29.99	Malibu	1.75L	\$31.99
Johnnie Walker Black			TEQU	ILA	
lohnnie Walker Double Black	750ml	\$35.99	Deleon Blanco Tequila		\$37 99
Johnnie Walker Red	750ml	\$19.99	Deleon Blanco Tequila		
lohnnie Walker Red	1.75L	\$33.99	Patron Silver		
Macallan 12yrs old (double cask))750ml	\$74.99	Patron Silver		
Makers Mark			Cantera Negra Coffee Tequila		
Makers Mark	1.75L	\$56.99	BEE		Ψ23.33
GI	IN		Becks (12oz) 24pk		\$27.99
Beefeater		¢26 00	Blue Moon		
		•	Bud and Bud Lite cans		
Bombay Saphire			Bud and Bud Lite loose bottles		
Seagram's gin			Coors Lite (24oz) cans		
Tanqueray			Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bottles		
Tanqueray	1./3L	\$38.99	Coors Lite/Miller Lite		
			Corona/Corona Lite loose bottles		
COGNAC 8			Dab (16oz) cans		
Courvoisier V.S	750ml	\$35.99	Founders All Day IPA		
Courvoisier V.S		•	Heineken/Heineken Lite bottles		
Remy Martin V.S.O.P			Land Shark		
Remy Martin V.S.O.P			Lech (500ml)	•	
			Modelo Especial cans		-
CORD	IALS		Pabst Blue Ribbon cans		
Bailey's Irish Cream		\$47.99	Pilsner Urquell		
Duggan's Irish Cream			Sam Adams Boston Lager		
Kahlua			Stella Artois loose bottles		
Krupnik			Super Bock		
Lines 42			Verneller Level and		

asal Garcia Vinho Verde1L1 los du Bois Chardonnay1.5 L\$19.99 om Perignon.......\$264.99 dagio Pinot Grigio\$10.99 reixenet Brut, Extra, Extra Dry......750ml \$11.99 oseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon......750ml...... \$21.99 Gendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay750ml \$13.99 Cim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc750ml \$14.99 ouis Jadot Beaujolais Villages750ml \$13.99 ouis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse750ml\$26.99 **Nenage a Trois Red** **\$10.49 //ii Amore Red...... \$ 8.99** Noet Imperial Champagne.......750ml.....\$46.09 anta Margerita Pinot Grigio......750ml\$22.09 ilver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet750ml \$115.99 Voodbridge (All Types)1.5L1.5L **\$12.49**

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