

ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY

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Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

Issue 39 • April 2024

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STUDENTS OF THE MONTH ANNOUNCED

Submitted by Bob Zeglarski

The Rotary Club of Roselle/Roselle Park presented Students of the Month awards to deserving seniors from Abraham Clark High School, Roselle Park High School and Roselle Catholic at a breakfast meeting on February 8, 2024.

Elizabeth Councilwoman Patricia Perkin-Augusta spoke to the group in honor of Black History Month highlighting the values and contributions of the black community to the benefit of life in the United States.

The Club presented three students awards for February and one for January. Each student was recognized for their scholastic achievement, school-based and extra-curricular activities, and their service to others.

Donna Eleazer, Rotary Club President, presented the awards to each recipient and stated, "Rotary Roselle-Roselle Park has a long tradition of honoring high school seniors for their dedication to one of Rotary's most coveted ideals, that of service to others. In fact, Rotary's motto is

Service Above Self."

Students of the Month is a service project of the Rotary Club of Roselle-Roselle Park honoring a senior from each of the high schools in Roselle and Roselle Park, including Roselle Park High School and Roselle's Abraham Clark High School and Roselle Catholic High School. Each student receives a personalized plaque commemorating the occasion, a gift card to Barnes and Noble and an opportunity to speak to the group outlining their service to school and community and their academic successes.

The Rotary Club of Roselle Park is a service organization which has served the twin boroughs of Roselle-Roselle Park since 1923 - 101 years! The only qualification for joining is that you are a good person

who wishes to make a difference in the community, the world and in the lives of others. See what we do at roselle-roselleparkrotary.org, and join our cause using the Contact Us feature.



(above, l-r) Students of the Month (seated): Roselle Catholic's Ariela Reyes-Sosa and Rayina Dazooloute, Abraham Clark HS's Jasmine Okantey and Roselle Park High School's Selina Shao. Others in the group photo include Rotarians, parents and siblings of the honorees and school guidance counselors.

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202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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SPRING CONCERT - APRIL 12

Westfield Community Concert Band

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.

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, and Music for a Festival, by popular 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.



(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.

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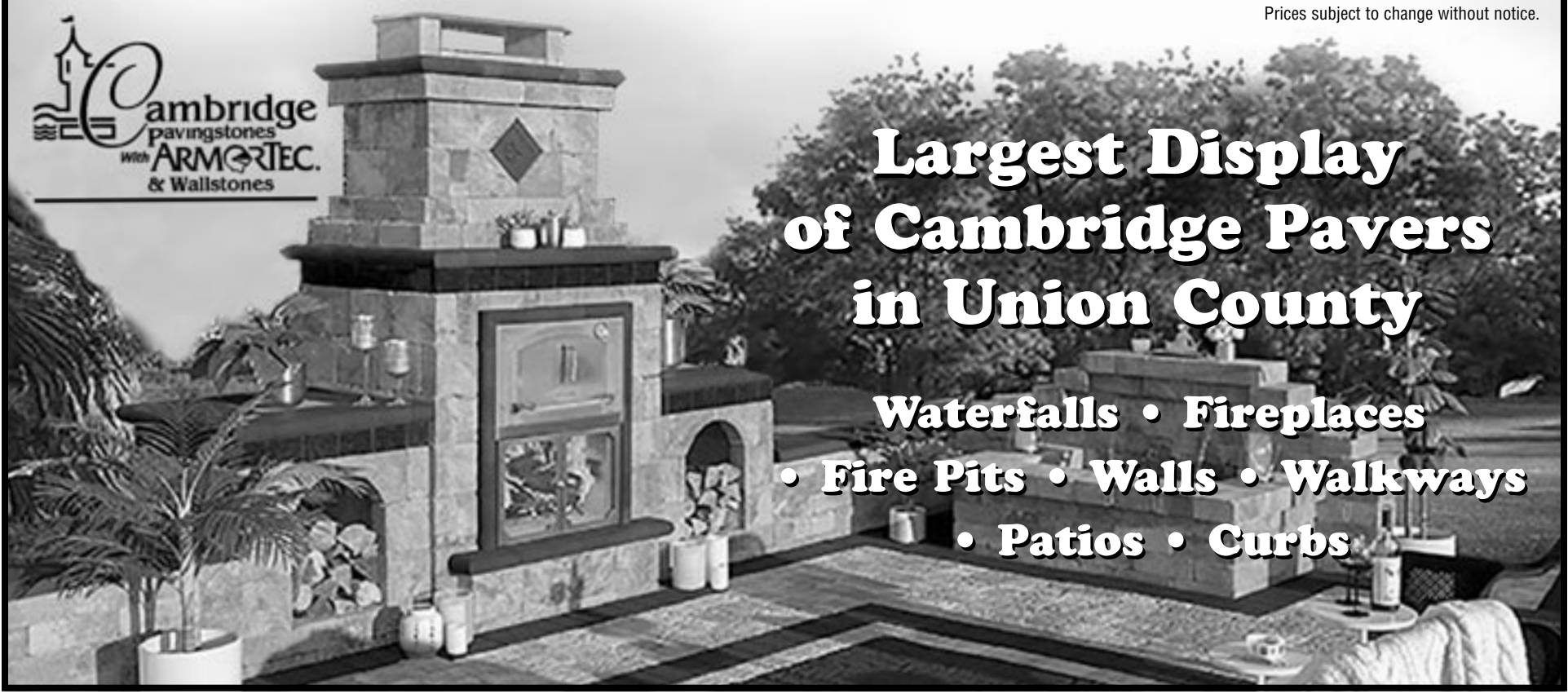
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HOODIES FOR THE HOMELESS



(above, l-r) Rotary Club President Donna Eleazer, with Rotarians Jenny Baguidy and Sheila Williams

Courtesy photo

Rotary Roselle-Roselle Park Club President Donna Eleazer thanked the communities of Roselle and Roselle Park and club members for making its most recent service project, Hoodies for the Homeless, a success. In her statement Ms. Eleazer said, "The warmth shown by the community will bring a warmth to people who need it most, the homeless."

From November through November of 2023, the Rotary club asked for donations of hoodies to be donated to Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, which members of the club help deliver at the Homeless Coalition's Annual Service Fair on January 24, 2024 in Elizabeth, NJ. The response included a large amount of gently used and new hoodies for all

ages and sizes.

A committee of the Rotary club including Sheila Williams, Patricia Gois, Rhonda Johnson and Ms. Eleazer coordinated the collection of the hoodies in cooperation with the public schools of Roselle and Roselle Park, Pinho's Bakery, and Roselle Public Library.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



(above) 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.

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 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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ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION PHOTO ALBUM



The Borough of Roselle Park hosted its annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 16th at the Casano Community Center. Attendees enjoyed free food and live music from Joe Caroselli's Masterpiece Orchestra.



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

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION PHOTO ALBUM



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**ARTFUL TALES

MONDAY 04/15 3:30PM

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**EARTH DAY STORY CRAFT

MONDAY 04/22 3:30PM

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***STORYTIME

SATURDAY 04/27 11AM

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TWEEN/TEEN PROGRAMS

TEEN EARTH DAY CRAFT

WEDNESDAY 04/24 3:30PM

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***ADULT BOOK CLUB & CRAFT NIGHT

MONDAY 04/8 6:00PM

Design a bunny loop yarn wreath while Maria reviews The Wife Upstairs by Rachel Hawkins.

***CAFFEINE AND CHAPTERS

ADULT BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY 04/25 6:00PM

Review our book of the month over a cup of coffee (decaf included) with Lisa and the crew!

ESL

THURSDAY 6PM-7PM

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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.



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

SPRING COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, April 13th the Borough of Roselle Park will be holding a community cleanup event from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All residents and volunteers are welcome to attend. This Borough-Wide Cleanup is part of a twice-yearly campaign that encourages local residents to take ownership of the environment and contribute towards improving the cleanliness of the community.

This event is inspired and funded by the New Jersey Clean Communities program, and

supported by Councilman Jay Robaina as a liaison.

Cleanup tools and supplies will be provided by the Borough on the day of the event at the Casano Community Center. The deadline for group/organization registration is March 22, 2024. Individual residents and volunteers do not need to sign up to participate.

For more information, please email Roselle Park Clean Community Coordinator Deborah Dicosmo at ddicosmo@rosellepark.net.

The Borough of Roselle Park's

Spring Borough-Wide Clean-Up

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Help keep your community & the environment clean!

WHEN
Saturday, April 13th
10AM - 12PM

WHERE
Casano Community Center
314 Chestnut Street

Cleanup tools and supplies will be provided on the scheduled cleanup day. Registration is not required for individual volunteers.

For more information and to register your group, please email Deborah Dicosmo at ddicosmo@rosellepark.net.

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12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
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NEW FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING BUILDINGS CELEBRATED

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.



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



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

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