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BROADWAY UNDER THE STARS RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN

Once again, downtown Chatham will feel like the Great White Way as Chatham High School (CHS) performers present “Broadway Under the Stars,” a night of Broadway-themed music, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17 at the Reasoner Park gazebo, 1 Firehouse Plaza.

Come hear the students— many seen recently in CHS’s highly successful spring musical “Les Miserables”— sing favorite Broadway show tunes at this dazzling outdoor concert.

“Broadway Under the Stars’ has become one of my favorite Chatham events,” said Chatham Borough mayor, Carolyn Dempsey. “Showcasing the amazing talent of our students, it brings our community together, in our downtown, to hear classics and even lesser-known gems from Broadway, as the sun sets on our beautiful gazebo in Reasoner Park.”

The event is sponsored by the Chatham Performing Arts Boosters. Admission is free for children, students and senior citizens with a suggested \$5 donation for adults. Contributions

allow CPAB to provide funds for performing arts programming, teachers’ wish list needs and scholarships.

Residents are encouraged to stop by one of the downtown restaurants for a pre-show dinner, or grab some take-out and enjoy a picnic-style meal on the lawn.

Don’t forget chairs for sitting out and enjoying the evening listening to show-stopping vocals and beloved songs from Broadway’s greatest musicals.

The rain date for the event is Saturday, May 18. If there is rain that night, the concert will be held at the CHS Performing Arts Center auditorium at 255 Lafayette Avenue.

The event is supported by Chatham High School and the Borough of Chatham.

Chatham Performing Arts Boosters is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides financial and parent volunteer support for the K-12 music and theatre programs within the School District of the Chathams. Donate online at chatham-pab.org.

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(above) Chatham High School performers present “Broadway Under the Stars,” a night of Broadway-themed music, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17 at the Reasoner Park gazebo, 1 Firehouse Plaza.

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SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS MAY EVENTS

Those interested in attending should call the Senior Center of the Chathams Mondays-Fridays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to register: 973-635-4565.

Alzheimer's NJ Caregiver Support Group - Thursday, May 2, 10:30 AM - This group is run by a trained facilitator and provides families and caregivers with the emotional support and education they need to better understand Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. Those interested may register at alznj.org or by calling the Center at 973-635-4565.

The Psychology of Scams

Monday, May 6, 1:00 PM

Learn how to protect yourself from on-line scammers trying to steal identities and computer data. Sponsored by Bradley & Son Funeral Homes.

Beginner Bridge Lessons

Wednesdays, starting May 8, 10:00 AM

Lessons for those new to the game or just rusty at it. Cost is \$8 per class, plus the cost of the recommended text book, if desired.

Equine Therapy & Miniature Horse Visit

Wednesday, May 8, 12PM

Maureen Coultas, Founder & Director of Hope's Promise will discuss the healing power of equine therapy and bring along a miniature horse to visit with.

Travels on the Lewis & Clark Trail

Wednesday, May 15, 11:00 AM

Slide presentation and commentary by columnist and author, Jennifer Fischer on her travels along this historic trail.

Rose City Songsters Choral Performance

Tuesday, May 21, 1:30 PM

This Madison choral group will perform classics, Broadway tunes, and pop songs.

Remembering the American Revolution

Thursday, May 30, 1:00 PM

Joel Farkas will examine whether what we remember about our country's founding is the truth or a good story. His presentation will cover Paul Revere's Ride, Washington crossing the Delaware, the Battle of Bunker Hill, and more.

Save-the-Date:

We're a Big Dill Pickleball Tournament

Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Support the non-profit Senior Center while playing pickleball. This is an unsanctioned tournament in round-robin format. Register individually or with a partner. The price is \$65 per participant. Go to chathamseiorcenter.org for more information about this fundraiser and to purchase tickets.

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THE NO NAMES WIN MATH COMPETITION

Chatham Public Schools

Over 100 Chatham Middle School 6th Graders took part in a Math Competition. Competing in teams of 3 over a 3-month period, each team played for a particular charity and the proceeds from the event were donated to the winning team's charity of choice. The No Names; Lucas Zhou, Yanchen Wu, and Shruthika Rakesh, were the winners of the competition.



(above) The 3 Math Musketeers



(above) Pitt5top



(above) The No Names!

JLS LAUNCHES 100K DIAPER PROJECT

The Junior League of Summit (JLS) is proud to announce that it is embarking on an ambitious project to collect 100,000 diapers by the end of May. One hundred percent of all diapers collected through the 100K DIAPER PROJECT will be donated to Moms Helping Moms, a NJ-based organization dedicated to addressing the critical issue of diaper need in New Jersey communities.

Now through May 31, 2024, the JLS will be partnering with various community organizations to host a series of diaper drives in our communities. To date, The Gingham Giraffe School (Chatham), Accenture (Florham Park), Swimquest (Millburn), Washington School (Summit), Lifetime (Berkeley Heights), Congregation Beth Hatikvah (Summit), Stanley Preschool (Chatham), Zadie's Nurturing Den (Summit), JUMP Immersion School (Summit), and Chatham Middle School (Chatham) have committed to hosting drives.

Individuals who wish to contribute to the 100K DIAPER PROJECT can do so by donating diapers through the League's Amazon Wishlist.

Diaper need affects a staggering 1 in 2 families across the United States. New Jersey is no exception. Last year, Moms Helping Moms distributed over 1.3 million diapers, which according to the organization is just scratching the surface of the current diaper need in New Jersey.

The shortage of diapers not only impacts the health and well-being of children but can also result in missed work or school due to parents' inability to provide the required diapers to their daycares. Diapers are not recognized as a basic need by government programs and cannot be purchased with food stamps, further exacerbating the challenge for families in need.

The Junior League of Summit is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting volunteerism and improving the community. Learn more at summit.jl.org.

Moms Helping Moms is committed to providing essential baby items to families in need, including diapers. Learn more at momshelpingmoms.org.

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG, AND SO HAVE THE LEAF BLOWERS!

Submitted by the Jessica Romeo, Chatham Township Environmental Commission



(above) Luna moth

Photo by Paul Crook on Unsplash

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 27, 2024, a ceremony will be held at 8 a.m. in front of the Library and War Memorials on Main Street (or in the Fire House Commons Room if it's raining). There will be a reflection, soloist, wreath laying.

Spring has Sprung! The days are longer, the sun is shining. Birds are chirping and trees are budding. Unfortunately, with the change of seasons also comes the frequent whirring of gas-powered leaf blowers. Starting as early as 8 a.m. until the sun goes down it seems; the constant whirring of these machines can be heard all around town. Not only is the use of gas-powered leaf blowers harmful to human health, but it also has a negative impact on nature.

Although we have been trained to see the perfect yard as consisting of a lawn without any stray leaves, twigs or natural debris, these sterile environments don't provide any protection for the littlest creatures that we love to see fluttering about in the Spring and Summer. It's time to change our ideas of the "perfect lawn."

Gas powered leaf blowers create high intensity, low frequency noise, that impacts neighbors, schools, children playing at parks and sports fields, and disturbs local wildlife – not to mention our beloved pets.

Emissions generated from gas leaf blowers create high levels of benzene, formaldehyde, fine particulate matter, and smog forming chemicals. These clouds of dust and debris can include pollen, fertilizers and pesticides, lead and / or asbestos in some cases, fine particulate matter, animal feces and more that are inhaled by the folks who operate the machines and the

community at large.

These heavy-duty blowers erode, compact, and dry out soil. Plants, microorganisms, and pollinators are harmed. Those fireflies we all love to see and chase, the butterflies we watch with joy and magical winged creatures such as the Luna moth can't survive the power of a leaf blower. Gas powered leaf blowers also create CO2 emissions that contribute to the climate crisis and warming of our planet.

What can we do? We can start small: instead of blowing your entire property, consider only blowing the driveway and walkways. Leave the lawn and the flower beds – your plants, the soil, and the pollinators we all love so dearly will thank you! Ask your landscaper to limit use of a leaf blower to paved surfaces only. Consider raking leaves into flower beds to act as a natural mulch and habitat for native insects, act as a natural weed suppressant, and organic matter that will retain moisture and boost soil health. If you have a gas-powered leaf blower, consider purchasing an electric one when the time comes to replace your current machine.

Collectively making simple, small changes to how we groom our yards can have very big and beneficial effects on the balance of nature and on human health.

For more info, visit guides.monmouth.edu/Climate_Change/LeafBlowers



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(above) Rick Loock, a retired Police Officer, and a lifelong resident of Chatham, found the signatures of his Grand Uncle George H. Loock, Sr. and Uncle Carl Henrich, 1948's Chief of Chatham's Volunteer Fire Department, on the 1930 photo signature list.

Courtesy photos

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CAPTURING A MOMENT IN TIME

Chatham Historical Society

New history was created on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at the Chatham Train Station as the Chatham Historical Society (CHS) organized an event celebrating the importance of the railroad to Chatham's development. A panoramic picture was taken of approximately 200 attendees mimicking a 1930's picture of Chatham residents celebrating the arrival of the first electric train into our town.

About a year and a half ago, Debbie Fabian - Chatham Historical Society Vice-President, was in the Chatham Train Station looking around at the blank walls when she had an idea. Why not decorate the walls with some of the photos from the Chatham Historical Society's archives. While looking for photos, she discovered a panoramic photo of a large crowd of people on the westbound station platform celebrating the arrival of the "First Electric Train" into Chatham.

The Chatham Business Men's Association (CBMA) was formed in 1921 to improve the growth and development of Chatham. In 1928, the CBMA, along with other towns serviced by the Lackawanna Railroad, met with railroad company representatives to discuss improvements to the train service. At the end of 1929, the Dover Line was electrified. To celebrate this milestone the participants rode the first electric train on December 18, 1930, from Hoboken to Chatham. When they arrived their

signatures with occupations were recorded and the panoramic photo was taken. This photo is now on display at the station along with many other historic Chatham train pictures through the years for commuters to enjoy.

Sunday, March 24, 2024, turned out to be a bright and sunny day which was perfect for all the attendees who came to see the pictures posted at the station. Just like in 1930, attendees signed their names on the participant sheets before posing for the picture. Coloring book pages of trains that children had colored at the library were on display along the station walls as well.

One of the attendees, Rick Loock, a retired Police Officer, and a lifelong resident of Chatham, found the signatures of his Grand Uncle George H. Loock, Sr. and Uncle Carl Henrich, 1948's Chief of Chatham's Volunteer Fire Department, on the 1930 photo signature list.

The Chatham Historical Society would like to thank New Jersey Transit, Madison Photo, Nicholas F. Rizzo Fine Arts, Inc., various borough employees, especially at the DPW and Community Services, Library of the Chatham, Gerry Geisler, the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, Chatham Jaycees, the Model A Ford Club of New Jersey, Kevin Bumcrot, Tom Salvas, Karen Tannahill, Lisa Justine, various local publishers and all the residents who showed up for this historic "moment captured in time".



(above) Just like in 1930, attendees signed their names on the participant sheets before posing.

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ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

Chatham Artist Sally Abbott is shown with some of her paintings of the Great Swamp featured in her show “Sally Abbott: Favorite Paintings” on view in the Lundt-Glover Gallery in the Township of Chatham Municipal Building located at 58 Meyersville Road in Chatham Township. Her favorite paintings are those of her travel adventures including national parks, European rivers, scenes of China, seascapes and skylscapes, interstate highways, jewel-like still lifes and cocky roosters from her rooster series. The Gallery is open weekdays, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The show runs until Jun 4th and is free to the public and handicapped accessible.

Courtesy photo



OFFICER INSTALLATION 2024-2025

Summit Elks Lodge #1246 installed their 2024 - 2025 Officers during a ceremony held on Sunday, April 7th. Dignitaries from the Elks East Central District presided. Summit Elks Lodge

membership is approaching 3,000, drawing members from Summit and surrounding towns. New members are welcome. For more information visit: summitelks1246.org



(above, l-r) Lodge Officers responsible for the 4 Pillars of Elksdom: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Rocco DiPiano - Esteemed Leading Knight (Charity); Fred Honold - Exalted Ruler (Fidelity); Apollo Hrehorovich - Esteemed Lecturing Knight (Brotherly Love); and Mary Twill - Esteemed Loyal Knight (Justice). These four officers look forward to serving our communities for the benefit of all.

Courtesy photo

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- Robert, GRIT Athlete Parent
- "My son is more disciplined and confident in himself"
- Steve Hughes, Grit Athlete Parent
- "I have watched my children become more confident and vocal."
- Christine Stramandinoli, Grit Athlete Parent
- "His confidence has shot up in the last few months...and has carried forward to the way he approaches other activities like sports and schoolwork. My son is now making his bed daily and exercising every day."
- Catherine Solfaro, Grit Athlete Parent
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GRAND OPENING OF TEEN CENTER CELEBRATED

Library of the Chathams

Library of the Chathams held an official grand opening ceremony of its new Teen Center, on Friday, April 12. This exciting addition to the library comes as a result of years of dedication and community support.

The need for a designated space for teens within the library was identified by the Library Board of Trustees back in 2012, during a comprehensive community survey and strategic planning process. Through the generosity and commitment of various stakeholders, this vision has now become a reality.

The Woman's Club of Chatham played a pivotal role in kickstarting the initiative with their generous donation of \$150,000. On application by Friends of the Library of the Chathams, The Hyde and Watson Foundation contributed an additional \$25,000 for the project. Moreover, numerous individuals from the community also contributed, demonstrating widespread support.

The Teen Center is poised to become a vibrant hub for the teens of the Chathams, offering a diverse range of resources tailored to their interests and needs. From study spaces to an after school recreational facility, the center aims to provide a welcoming environment where teens can learn, socialize, and explore new opportunities. The entire Young Adult book collection is now housed in this area.

ABOUT THE CHATHAM LIBRARY

Library of the Chathams serves as a vital community resource, offering a wide array of programs, services, and resources to residents of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township. With a commitment to lifelong learning and enrichment, the library strives to empower individuals of all ages to explore, discover, and connect.



(above) Mayor Ewald (Chatham Township) & Mayor Dempsy (Chatham Borough) cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the new Teen Center at the Library of the Chathams.

Courtesy photos

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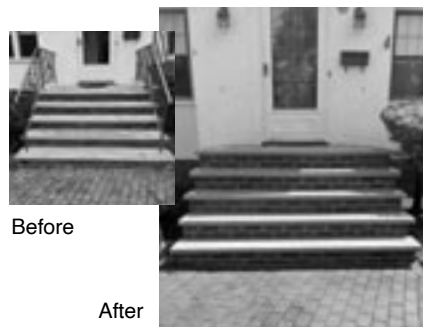
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CHATHAM GIRL SCOUTS' DAY OF SERVICE 2024

Submitted by Ceal Purschke

Chatham Girl Scouts hosted their annual Day of Service event on March 16th, at the Stanley Center in Chatham. This year's topic was Mental Wellness. Over 60 Girl Scouts, ages kindergarten to 12th grade attended. The event organizer, Troop Leader Jessica Romeo, planned the event with her 10th grade Troop 96147; Annika Raffetto, Asher Robson, Chloe Fajolle and Fina Gianusso, who wanted to host a Day of Service that was meaningful and spoke to current issues facing Girl Scouts in the Chatham community.

Many local women volunteered their time and expertise to make this day impactful.

The event kicked off with a yoga and mindfulness practice with resident and yoga instructor Julia Gray followed by a discussion with Chatham Township Mayor Stacey Ewald; Chatham Borough Mayor Carolyn Dempsey; and Chatham Township Police officer Carolina Kopacz on how mental health and self-confidence are important to help Girl Scouts successfully navigate their world and make good decisions. Organizer Jessica Romeo explained to the Girl Scouts that by learning to understand and care for their own well-being, they can be their best and most healthy selves as well as be better equipped to help others.

The Girl Scouts then broke out into groups, organized by age, to visit 15 tables where they learned about topics such as identifying and

understanding feelings and emotions with a feelings wheel, and understanding - and practicing the therapeutic value of hands-on activities, such as creating their own clay worry stones and making meditation/calm jars using kits created by Senior Troop 96147.

Other mental wellness stations included the benefits of getting outside in nature led by Junior Troop 97790, the benefits of gardening on our wellness, coloring for calm with Troop 96323, music therapy with Jill DeBiasse, and self-care bingo. Members of the Chatham High School Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) hosted a table with LGBTQ+ information and resources, and Girl Scouts learned about good mood food with nutrition and wellness health coach Gina Roof. In addition, the Girl Scouts had open conversations with officer Carolina Kopacz about self-respect and issues she sees facing Girl Scouts in the Chathams, and Allison Bardon from the Madison Chatham Coalition was there to provide resources and information on mental wellness programs and support.

Three 12th grade Girl Scouts were in attendance to inspire younger Girl Scouts through their Gold Award projects. Katelyn Hoffelder created a platform to provide books to local food pantries, providing families who utilize those services with the mental health benefits of reading. Ishita Yadav is tackling health issues that women face, including period poverty, and shared how these issues impact girl's and women's mental wellbeing. Rhea Agarwal presented her project on the impact the media has on our body image and the need for body positivity.

Event organizer Jessica Romeo said, "The day was not only fun and engaging for the attendees but shed light for adults on many important topics facing girls each day." Romeo heard feedback from adult attendees who said it was "timely", "very much needed", "impactful". One mother said, "I didn't realize how much I actually needed this day myself!" Romeo also noted that each Girl Scout seemed to leave with a feeling of empowerment and a boost of positive energy to be better able to help others.



(above) Jill DeBiasse, music therapy student, helping Girl Scouts learn about music therapy as self-care.

Photos by Jessica Romeo



(above) Rhea Agarwal, CHS senior Gold Award recipient, and her fellow Girl Scout, Khushi Parekh from Troop 95732, shared with attendees Rhea's project "Removing the Filter" about media and body image.



(above) Troop 97790 hosted a table showcasing the health and wellness benefits of being outdoors.



(above) Chatham Township Police Department officer, Carolina Kopacz, hosted a table about self-respect and issues she sees facing Girl Scouts in the Chathams.



(above) Senior Girl Scout, Asher Robson, teaches Aria and Jiah Zito how to make and use meditation jars.



(above) Chatham Girl Scouts Troop Leader, Erica Kolodziej and daughter Lila Kolodziej from Troop 96754 hosted a table with self-care bingo. Brownie Girl Scout from Troop 98431, Olivia Volpicelli, shown facing forward, enjoyed the game!

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RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR SQUAD

Chatham Emergency Squad

On Saturday, March 16, the members and guests of the Chatham Emergency Squad attended the 2024 Officer Installation Dinner. The annual event, which officially marks the installation of the new officers of CES was a rousing, at times emotional, and heartfelt night of recognition and appreciation.


Nearly 150 EMTs from Chatham and surrounding EMS squads, fire and police personnel, Chatham officials, and families

gathered to mark the annual installation of officers and recognize members for their service milestones.

The Chatham Emergency Squad is a vital all-volunteer organization reliant on community support. They offer free CPR training to eligible individuals, provide essential transport services, and ensure standby presence at numerous community events.


To learn more, donate, or volunteer, visit their website at chathamemergencysquad.org.

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(above, l-r) The 2024 Board of Trustee members: Sam Cooperman, Equipment Lieutenant; Joanne Howden, Membership VP; Nicole DiMaggio, Captain; Jon Carlsson, Training Lieutenant; Evan Skinner, President; Roberta Bitar, Community Engagement VP; Christine Grobert, Secretary; Bryan McGookin, Operations Lieutenant. Missing from the photograph is Steve Davenport, Finance VP and Dan Farkas, Facilities VP.

Courtesy photos



Highest Honor Bestowed on Jim Martin

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Dick Richards Award of Excellence. Cathy Warbrick, the previous recipient, announced Jim Martin, Friday Day Crew Chief, as the well-deserving honoree. Awarded only when a truly exceptional member emerges, this recognition signifies the highest honor bestowed by CES. Martin's exceptional leadership, dedication to training, and tireless efforts in maintaining equipment and facilities earned him this esteemed recognition. In his absence, a surprise presentation was made at his home earlier that

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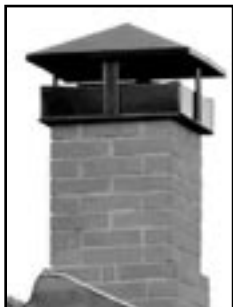
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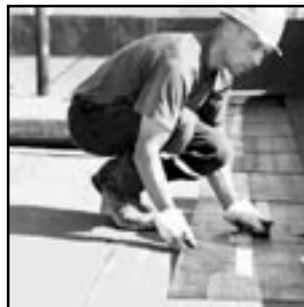
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