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## FISHAWACK FESTIVAL RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEERS

### Borough of Chatham

The 2024 Fishawack Festival was held on Saturday, June 8th, 2024. There were festivities for all ages. Chatham businesses were open during the festival and attendees were encouraged to shop small.

Fishawack was started by Chatham's Chamber of Commerce in 1971 as an event to celebrate the heritage of Chatham Borough, in addition to support local shops. According to John T. Cunningham's 1967 book, Fishawack was the Lenni Lenape word for the Passaic River, and because Chatham's section is the narrowest part, the natives would cross the river at Chatham on their seasonal migration along the Minisink Trail.

While for many, the highlights of Fishawack were the dunk tank, the pretzels, and rides, the event also served as a time to honor three residents who have set extraordinary examples in providing service to the community.

The three volunteers honored were:

Megan Deaton, co-founder and co-executive director of Moms Helping Moms, which distributes over 1 million diapers to families in need.

Reverend Jeff Markey, who helped establish the Chatham Food Distribution and Chatham Food Bank and who has helped reinforce and guide the community in meeting Chatham's goals of inclusiveness and respect for people of all backgrounds.

Tom Salvas, who served in the Navy for 10 years and who has made it his mission to document the history of Chatham and Chathamites, most recently through the Chatham Library Veteran's Project.

Council President Jocelyn Mathiasen presided over the ceremony as Mayor Carolyn Dempsey was out of town. "This is the first time we have given these awards since before the pandemic," said Mathiasen, "and I think it is fitting now to remember that while the pandemic was such a dark, frightening, and tragic time for so many of us, it was also a time that brought out the best in so many as we turned to each other and asked 'how can we help' instead of just retreating into ourselves."



Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on The Chathams page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).  
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# STUDENTS WIN CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

*Submitted by William Corprew*

Newark Academy sophomores Alexis Zhang, a resident of Chatham, and Aadit Shrivastava, a resident of Short Hills, were named winners of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge, in which high school students compete to make the best application in their congressional district.

The presented their app TranquilTally to Congresswoman Hillary J. Scholten, who serves the 3rd district of Michigan. The team competed in the Michigan district because Alexis resided there during the summer, when most of the app development took place.

“TranquilTally offers a simple and stress-free approach to improving mental health and taking mindful steps daily,” says Alexis. “Overall, the website is a valuable tool for anyone looking to enhance their mental wellbeing through self-reflection and positive habit-building.”

The duo was inspired by their personal experiences to create an easy, healthy and effective tool for self-care. “During this process, we had many candid conversations about our shared frustration with stress-inducing methods of self-care that often make it harder to improve mental health,” Aadit says. “We noticed that many existing platforms and approaches were overly complex, demanding, or overwhelming. Our goal was to create a platform that takes the burden out of self-care and, instead, makes it an enjoyable and effective journey toward better

mental well-being.”

With the help of NA Computer Science Teacher Andrew Alford, Alexis and Aadit worked together to make TranquilTally a reality. It took a few months to develop the framework for an innovative yet feasible idea, but once their plan was in place, they dove into coding the user interface and database backend with systems such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP and MySQL.

In April, Alexis and Aadit traveled to Washington, D.C., to demo TranquilTally for members of the House of Representatives at the U.S. Capitol Building during the #HouseofCode, a STEM expo event for the competition winners.



(above) Aadit Shrivastava and Alexis Zhang with Congresswoman Hillary J. Scholten.

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### Chatham Emergency Squad

A Soaking for the Squad - Politicians, Police Officers and EMTs Sent Plunging into Cold Water for Worthy Cause

Residents and visitors of the Chathams who enjoyed the festivities at the annual Fishawack Festival held on Saturday, June 8 in Chatham Borough were treated to the first-ever “dunk tank”. For a donation of \$5 for 3 attempts, kids and adults were invited to have a little fun and try their hand at sending local politicians, police officers and members of the Chatham Emergency Squad into cold water.

Chatham Township resident Lisa McHugh and her husband, Committeeman Marty McHugh, pitched the idea to the Emergency Squad in March. They generously rented the 500-gallon tank, filled it with water and enlisted colleagues and local "celebrities" to take their seat on the platform. Tickets sold briskly with all proceeds benefiting the Chatham Emergency Squad.

106 tickets in total were sold for residents to take their aim at elected officials including Chatham Township Committee members Marty McHugh, Jennifer Rowland and Mark Lois, and Chatham Borough Council member and candidate for Morris County Commissioner, Justin Strickland.

137 tickets were sold to dunk Chatham First Responders including Chatham Emergency Squad Training Lieutenant Jon Carlsson, Chatham Emergency Squad member and candidate for Chatham Township Committee, Craig Alperowitz, Chatham Township Police Sergeant Scott Herchick and Lafayette School Resource Officer, Charlie Ribaldo.

“The line was down the block once officers Scott Herchick and Charlie Ribaldo took to the booth,” said Chatham Township Committee member Marty McHugh. “It’s as though the kids were in cahoots with one another and planning all year for their moment of retribution on these well-regarded officers. They pulled out all the stops – I think they recruited top pitchers from the Chatham Baseball team and Chatham Sparks when they needed the best closers. We politicians had fun, too – don’t tell anyone, but I made the water just a little colder for the police. All-in-all,



(above) Committee Member Marty McHugh with Lafayette School Officer Charlie Ribaldo after getting dunked numerous times by Lafayette and Chatham Middle School students.

it was a terrific day to support one of the town’s most valuable resources – the Chatham Emergency Squad,” he added.

“We are so thankful to Lisa and Marty for their creativity and all the logistics that went into the planning and execution of this event, which greatly benefited our Squad,” said Evan Skinner, president of the Chatham Emergency Squad. “It drew crowds all day which allowed us to watch and have fun throughout the festival. It also brought people to our booth nearby which gave us the opportunity to tell residents about the Squad, what we do for the community and how they can potentially become a member. It was a great day that yielded tremendous results for all,” she added.

CES, Chatham’s all-volunteer emergency medical squad, relies on community donations to fund its day-to-day operations. In addition to responding to your 911 calls, 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](http://chathamemergencysquad.org).

Courtesy photos

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## BROADWAY UNDER THE STARS



(above) Alex Brandon and Shayn D'Souza perform "You're the Tops" from Anything Goes



(above) Lena Clark, Niamh O'Connor and Hannah Grady perform "I Know It's Today" from Shrek the Musical

Photos courtesy of Chatham Performing Arts Boosters

It really was "some enchanted evening" as Chatham High School's Broadway Under the Stars lit up the gazebo before a packed Reasoner Park on Friday night, May 17, 2024.

Under twinkling lights, talented students got right down to business, opening the show with a sizzling rendition of "Burn" from Hamilton.

The students, many of whom performed in the high school's highly successful spring musical, Les Misérables, sang classics from shows such as Cabaret, South Pacific and Kiss Me Kate to more recent hits from shows such as Bandstand and The Prom.

The high school's a cappella groups, Nothing But Treble and Chacafellas, turned up the volume with songs from Spring Awakening and Hercules, wowing the crowd seated on the lawn in folding chairs and on blankets.

Appreciative laughter erupted during "Changing Lives," the opening song of The Prom, a musical that Chatham's student-led group, Theater Leadership for Change, produced at the Chatham Playhouse in June. Director of The Prom and the evening's co-host, sophomore Jonas Wilcox, had the crowd in stitches throughout the night. "Don't make me look bad," he ordered the singers as he strode off the stage.

"What an enjoyable evening experiencing the ultra-talented performing arts students from Chatham High School," said Brian Carrolll, whose nephew, senior Matt Engel, sang a soaring rendition of "Wondering" from The Bridges of Madison County. "Once again, Broadway Under the Stars provided a magical night out for all in

attendance!"

The final act of the evening featured beloved high school choral director Kenneth Bryson singing "Lily's Eyes" from The Secret Garden, a duet with senior Charley Baird-Hassell. This year, the high school's theater and choral departments have a great number of graduating seniors who developed under Bryson's direction, making it an emotional performance.

Siobhán O'Connor – whose daughter, senior Niamh O'Connor, delighted the audience with "Stars and the Moon" from Songs From A New World – was impressed by all of the new young talent. "Our performing arts department is in safe hands as the senior class successfully passes the baton and the microphone to our rising stars," she said.

One word to sum up the night, used by the evening's other co-host, senior Sydney Hnatov, was "splendiferous."

The open-air concert was sponsored by the Chatham Performing Arts Boosters (CPAB) and supported by Chatham Borough and Chatham High School.

CPAB is a 501©(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. To donate, please visit [chatham-pab.org](http://chatham-pab.org)

For information on getting tickets to The Prom, which will be performed at the Chatham Playhouse from June 27 through June 29, visit Theater Leadership for Change's website at [theaterlc.com/home](http://theaterlc.com/home).

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## CHATHAM LACROSSE GIRL 8TH SELECT TEAM FINISHES SEASON UNDEFEATED

Chatham Lacrosse Girl 8th Select team ended the season undefeated. They played New Jersey teams from Summit, Madison, and Westfield, and Connecticut teams from Weston, Greenwich and

New Canaan. They were coached by Mike Choi, Chris Furst, Paul Garavante, Chuck Grom, Joe Levato and Beth McNaughton.



(above, l-r) Chatham Lacrosse Girl 8th Select team: Standing: Abby Reed, Hayden McNaughton, Ava Hunter, Vivienne Stramara, Abby Alden, Emma Vermillion, Lucy Arps, Julia Jadro, Emma Grom. Kneeling: Maddi Tuli, Addison McDonough, Addison Burdorf, Reagan Hay, Caroline Kreuzer, Olivia Choi, Maya Levato

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# SUMMIT COLLEGE CLUB FOUNDATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by Lorna Ness

Lile Hall in Christ Church, Summit, was filled on Sunday afternoon, June 2, 2024, when the Summit College Club Foundation awarded \$4,500 to each of six accomplished high school senior women from Summit and surrounding towns. The scholarships, a testament to the Summit College Club's mission to advance equity for women and girls, will significantly aid these young women in pursuing their college dreams. The recognition of these students through the awarding of college scholarships is an annual high point for the members of the Summit College Club. Since its inception in 1920, Summit College Club has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarship money, a contribution that has helped hundreds of local young women attend the college of their choice and make a difference in their communities.

This year's scholarship recipients, Tanya Dev from Summit High School, Julia Nugent from Chatham High School, Mahrukh Khizar from Kent Place School, Elizabeth Davies from New Providence High School, Winnie Grober from Governor Livingston High School, and Manaal Qureshi from Chatham High School have been chosen for their outstanding academic performance, exceptional leadership qualities, and the significant contributions they have made to their communities.

Marylou Motto, Co-chair of the Summit

College Club Scholarship Committee, gave an update on AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), which had wrapped up its annual conference the previous day. As a branch of AAUW, Summit College Club sponsored a previous year's scholarship winner to attend this year's NCCWSL conference. This year's attendee wrote back to the club about the enormous value she had gained from NCCWSL through the

several days of workshops, activities, and talks that enhanced her leadership skills.

After the awards ceremony, there was a catered reception where Summit College Club members, guests, proud parents, and scholarship recipients enjoyed meeting one another and celebrating the scholarship winners' amazing accomplishments.

For more information about the Summit College Club, please visit [summitcollegeclub.org](http://summitcollegeclub.org) or email [summitcollegeclub@gmail.com](mailto:summitcollegeclub@gmail.com).

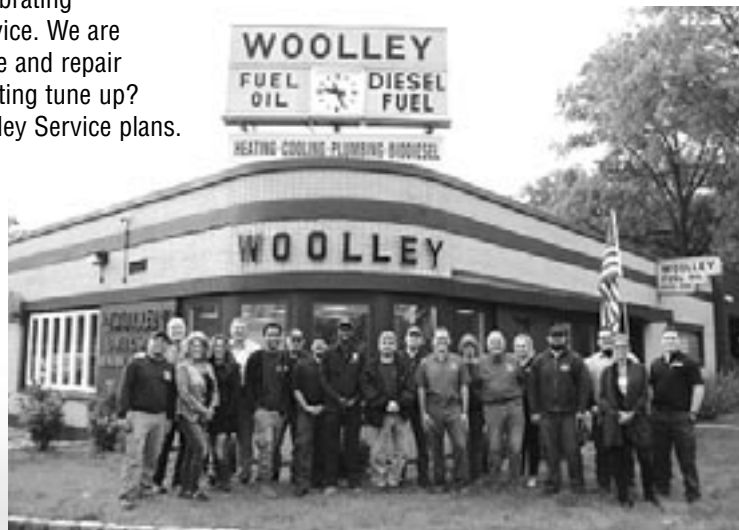


(above, l-r) Scholarship Recipients Julia Nugent, Manaal Qureshi, Tanya Dev, Winnie Grober, and Elizabeth Davies; Speaker Dr. Audrey Fisch.

Courtesy photo

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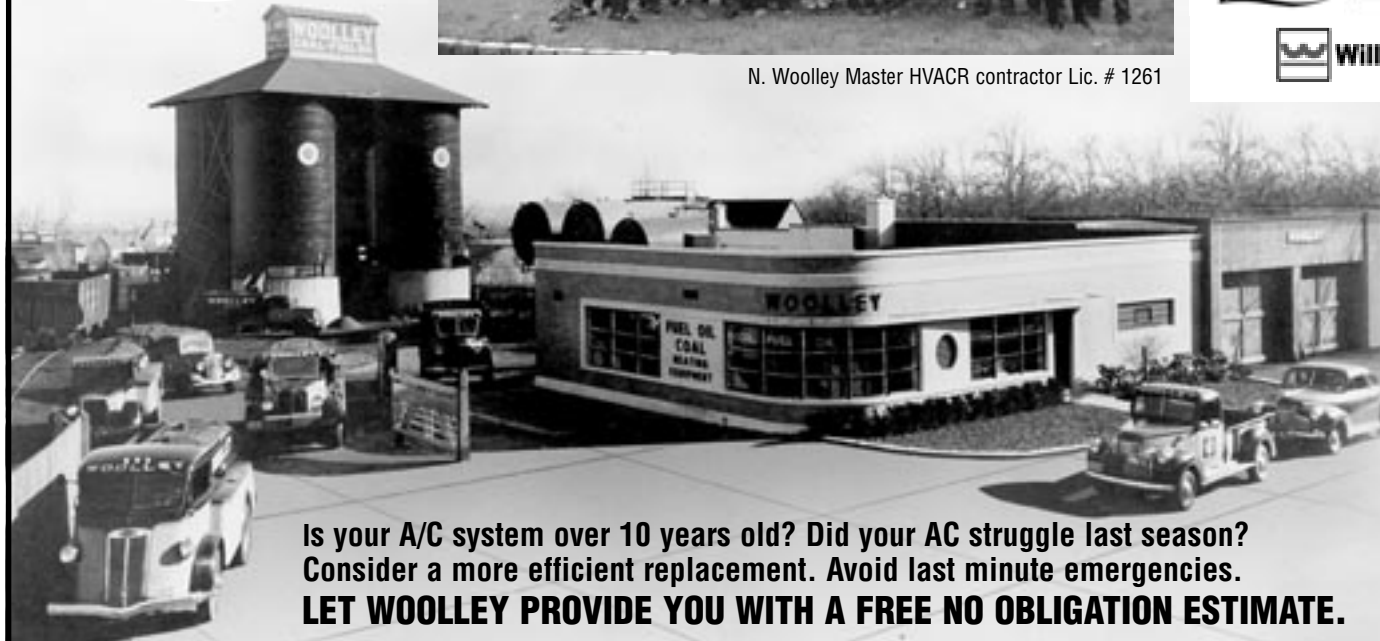
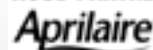
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Summit Area Old Guard



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The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our dues are minimal, and members manage all aspects of the operation. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." The organization was founded in 1930.

We will have five programs in July:

On July 2nd, our speaker will be Craig Guy, Hudson County Executive. He will discuss Hudson County, the process of building a new courthouse, new developments and causes of increased population-growth and some of the initiatives the County has undertaken to keep up with recent changes.

On July 9th, we will hear about Advances in Cancer Research (Zoom presentation). Our speaker will be Pat Morin, PhD, Deputy Scientific and Communications Director for the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. He will discuss the history of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, its programs, and the current developments in cancer research.

On July 16th, Christopher Fiore, Deputy Director of the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency, will discuss New York City's 'Sixth Borough' and review the incredible development of the Hudson County waterfront and of Jersey City – 'a brand new old city'.

On July 23rd, our topic will be Collegiate Athletics. Bryan Felt, Seton Hall University Athletic Director, will tell the story of Seton Hall athletics including the recent NIT Championship, the building of a new basketball practice facility and the success of other sports teams like golf. Also, he will share his knowledge of what NIL is and how the portal works (NIL is an initiative arising out of the recent NCAA scandals exposed in 2019-20).

Finally, on July 30, The Success of a 150-year-old institution. Dr. Michael Gomez, President, Saint Peter's Preparatory, will describe this downtown Jersey City institution that educates students from over 150 towns in New Jersey and New York City. Dr. Gomez will relate how student aid works, the continuing process of updating 150-year-old historic structures and the tremendous success of its student body.

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(above, l-r) Mr. Felt, Dr. Gomez, Mr. Fiore, Dr. Morin, Mr. Guy

Courtesy photos

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# MILITARY FAMILIES SACRIFICE TOO

*Michael D Boll, NJVN President*

For the last few years, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has been helping veterans with resources and assistance with their mental health conditions. Over time we came to realize that the veteran's family was being affected by their struggles as well. Our team had to learn how to include their family members in our outreach efforts. We lose 22 veterans each day to suicide, and they leave behind grieving families. Recently, we decided to make sure all veteran family members can use the same resources that our team has available for veterans. Sometimes we forget about the sacrifices our veteran families have to make and this country should appreciate them for this.

One thing our team decided to do was to have Gold Star families meet disabled veterans at our events, so they can work together and form a bond. This effort was extremely affective and immediately brought joy to both the Gold Star families and to the disabled veterans. By adding veteran family members to the team, it allows us to work together on our peer support and recreational therapy programs. We are honored to have veteran family members to work alongside us and know they are just as committed with helping our veterans live a better way of life.

If you need assistance, or would like to join the team as a volunteer, please send us your name, email, and phone number to NJVN1775@gmail.com.

## ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. Help us save Vets! We are always looking for volunteers, with various skills, to join the team. If you are a veteran or family member that is in need of assistance; or are interested in volunteering, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email NJVN1775@gmail.com. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Michael D Boll, NJVN President, with Dina and Tom Duffy who lost their son Tom Duffy, a Marine Corporal and Afghanistan War veteran. Courtesy photos



(above) NJVN team members participated in a 22-hour ruck march in Wildwood, NJ in remembers of Tom Duffy, a Marine Corporal and Afghanistan War veteran.



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