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LINDEN HIGH NJROTC STEPS UP TO ACE INSPECTION

Linden Public Schools

The Linden High School Navy Junior ROTC presented their finest form during the annual Area Manager Inspection ceremony. The annual Area Manager Inspection ensures that all units are working and complying with regulations.

It is conducted by local active-duty personnel led by Area 2 Manager Commander Eric Humphreys. Commander Boyd Decker, Senior Naval Science instructor at LHS and lead instructor for the NJROTC cadets, praised their strong work ethic, discipline, and teamwork. He discussed their long hours of training, including early mornings and weekends, and in addition to being students in good standing. He noted that the unit's commanding officers were also the top students in their grade.

The ceremony was entirely run by the student cadets known as Top 4: Cadet Captain Camila Restrepo, Cadet Commander Layla Soto, Cadet Master Chief Petty Officer Alyssa Perez-Sanchez, and Cadet Commander Nicholas Gonczowski.

Cadet captain Restrepo later said, "The love and support this program provide for our cadets gives them the confidence and self-esteem to pursue and achieve things they thought were impossible." She noted that she endures the program's hardships because of love for the organization and for the close relationships forged through those hardships.

Cadet Officer Perez-Sanches said, "The AMI inspection means the world to me because [my fellow cadets] worked hard, they've been diligent, and I've never seen a group of kids grow together and have such a bond. It's admirable and was an absolutely amazing moment."

There were several cadet demonstrations, promotions, and honors. Demonstrations included the Color Guard, Unarmed New Cadet Drill Team, Unarmed Exhibition Team, Two-Man Armed Team, and the Armed Drill Team. Special Recognition was given to the cadets who will be joining the U.S. military upon graduation, including the Top 4 who all received highly competitive military scholarships. Cadet Captain Restrepo was presented with a special, giant check by the Navy Nurse Corp for her



(above, l-r) Cadet Commander Layla Soto and Captain Caila Restrepo

scholarship.

Special guests who attended included Superintendent Atiya Y. Perkins, Assistant Superintendent Annabel Louis, Mayor Derek Armstead, Board of Education member Dayanara Rosado Quezada, Principal Charles Koonce, 5th Ward Councilman Carlos Rivas, 2nd Ward Councilman Barry Javick, Police Chief David Hart, and Fire Chief William Hasko Ir

As the ceremony concluded, Commander Eric Humphreys encouraged the parents give themselves a round of applause and stated that the cadet's success would not be possible without support from their families.





(above) Superintendent of Linden schools Perks being introduced trough a saber arch

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MYSTIC VISION PLAYERS PRESENTS RENT

The Linden Cultural Committee

Mystic Vision Players, Linden's resident theatre company since 1992, is proud to present RENT. Written and composed by Jonathan Larson and based loosely on Puccini's 1896 opera, La Bohème, RENT follows a year in the life of a group of young artists in late-80's New York amid the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The classic rock musical is a colorful celebration of love, creativity and friendship.

When asked about what prompted the choice of this show, director Bobby Devarona said, "We wanted to do a show that focuses on community and emphasizes the relationships in a chosen family."

Though the show does deal with heavy topics such as addiction and loss, Devarona adds, "At a time that could feel scary and isolating, we find characters celebrating life and possibilities."

Mystic Vision Players bring RENT to the Susan L. Hudak Auditorium at Linden High School this summer, July 19 – July 27, 2024. Tickets are on sale now! Order them online at mysticvisionplayers.com.

Performance Schedule: July 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27 at 8pm. July 21 at 3pm. Tickets are \$20 General Admission and \$15 for Students and Senior Citizens.



(above) Clockwise from top left: Taye McQueen, Denny Mugica, Karen Carratura, Shaicah Wideman, Christian Oquendo, Jannette Fisher, Danny Cancel, Cristian Medeiros

Courtesy photo



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LINDEN COMMUNITY HONORS DECEASED VETERANS

Marlene Michalko, VFW Post 1397, Auxiliary President





Thank you to all who helped facilitate, and all who came out to remember our deceased veterans on this Memorial Day as we visited all of the veterans' monuments throughout Linden.

Special thanks to the VFW #1397 Post members and auxiliary members, American Legion #102 Post, S.A.L., Honor Guard, and the auxiliary members, Catholic War Veterans, Martin Danowski Marine Corp, Polish American Legion Post 91, Mayor Armstead, City Council President, the City Councilmen & Councilwomen and the citizens of Linden who were in attendance.

Thank You to the Villani Bus Company for always sending a bus to enable us to visit each monument.

Thank You to Linden's finest Police Department for escorting us to each location.

Kudos to Michele, Carolyn and Margaret for taking pictures to capture the event.

A special "Thank You" to Pumpkin who volunteered her services to make sure we had coffee and danish prior to placing of the wreaths, prepping, and cooking all the food for us when we returned to the post.



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REBECCA KERINS – TATTOLI HONORED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Linden Chamber of Commerce

Rebecca is a lifelong resident of Linden, whose family dates back to 1854, and resided in the neighborhood between the former General Motors and Merck and Company. This area was her family's farm. These streets are named after



(above) Mayor Derek Armstead, Rebecca Kerins-Tattoli, and her son Carl. A special Recognition Award was given to Rebecca Kerins – Tattoli. Rebecca is a lifelong resident of Linden, whose family heritage in Linden dates back to 1854. Rebecca is currently the Confidential Secretary to Linden Mayor Armstead, and Secretary/Treasurer to the Linden Economic Development Corp.

Smith.

Rebecca went through the Linden School System and is a 1972 graduate. She went on to work for the federal government at the end of the Vietnam War and went back to school to earn an associate in business degree at the Taylor Business Institute. After graduating, Rebecca went to work for the United Nations in Rome, Italy. After returning home she worked with Federal Express. She left FedEx to raise her children, while also helping run the family business and volunteering with the school. While at home she opened her own consulting business and consulted for PG&E & Cavallo Energy. She went to work for the Board of Ed and left there to run the full-time NJ office for Cavallo Energy.

Rebecca is now the Confidential Secretary to Mayor Armstead, and Secretary/Treasurer to the Linden Economic Development Corp.

Rebecca has been involved in the community, county, and state for many years, both professionally, politically and as a volunteer. A list of some of her involvements include: wrote a Special Education Bill which was passed in the NJ Assembly and Senate and has been implemented in the teacher curriculum at NJ colleges and universities, Substitute Teacher's Aide, Part-Time Bus Aide, Mid New Jersey Licensed Traveling Soccer Coach, Linden Youth Soccer Association Co-Founder & Soccer Coach,

her great-grandparents, Rebecca and Hampden Linden Recreation Soccer Coach, Linden Recreation Girls Softball Coach, St. Elizabeth's CYO Cheerleading Coach, Linden PAL Little League Team Sponsor, PTA President 1995-1997, PTA Lifetime Member, NJ PTA Guiding Light Award, Past President Linden Chamber of Commerce, Past President and Trustee Mayor's Youth Commission, Member LIA, served on Linden Bd of Educ. from 1997-2000, member of the Cultural & Heritage Committee, Linden Coalition of the Arts, Linden Historical Society.

> Her public awards include U.C. Freeholders "2017 Women of Excellence Award," "2018 Municipal Alliance Volunteer of the Year Award," NJ Institute for Disabilities "2020 Appreciation Award," and the Boy Scouts of America 2021"Good Scout Award."

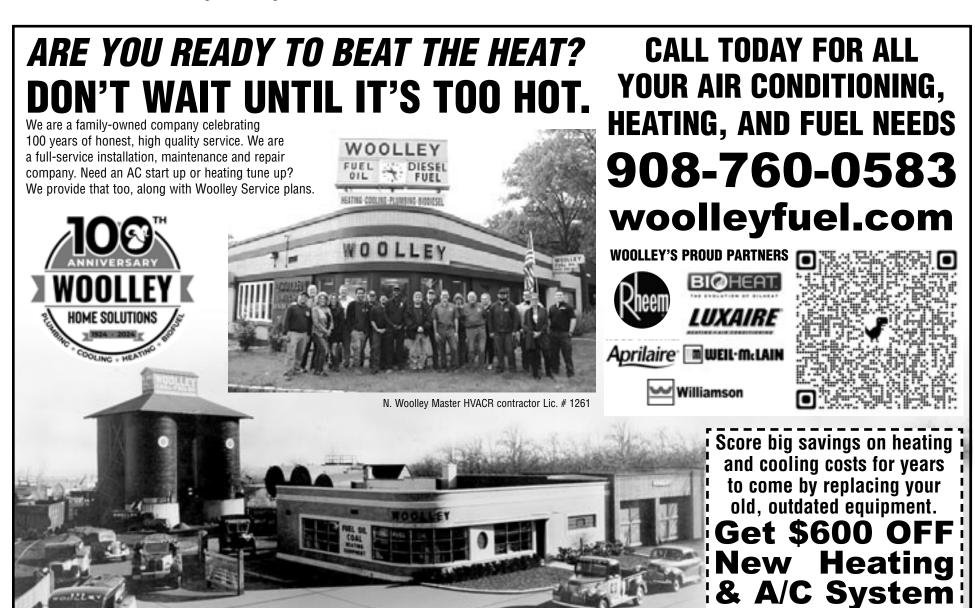
> Of all Rebecca's lifetime achievements, she is most proud of her children, Carl and Gina, and the individuals they have become. They are her life, and have her heart, always and forever, as do her grandchildren, Daniel, and Ava Tattoli, Alora and Sienna Ortiz. She will do anything for them. And if you try to hurt them you will then see the tried and true "MAMA BEAR" show her claws.

> Rebecca is humbled by this acknowledgment. She thanks all the committee members for this honor and is appreciative to be included on this program. She congratulates all those honored tonight, and knows that they all deserve this recognition, and more.

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PATIENCE OPAOLA SWORN IN AS CASA VOLUNTEER FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Child Focus

Linden's own Patience Opaola was sworn in as a CASA volunteer on June 11th alongside training classmates Elaine Anderson of Summit, Loretta Gadson of West Orange, Kathleen Oates-Nies of Westfield, Christine Larrabee of



(above) Patience Opaola of Linden was sworn in as a CASA volunteer on June 11th, 2024. She will be assigned to work with children living in foster care through no fault of their own, advocating for their best interests and ensuring their needs are met while in the child welfare system.



Cranford, and Robert Tracy of Cresskill.

Union County Superior Court Judge Rosalba Comas presided over the swearing-in of the newly trained volunteers, and each can now be assigned to work with children living in foster care through no fault of their own, advocating for their best interests and ensuring their needs are met while in the child welfare system.

The nonprofit organization Child Focus operates CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, and its goal is to provide a CASA volunteer for each of the more than 250 child-victims in Union County foster care. Currently, just 30 percent of these vulnerable infants, children, and teens have the continuity and support of a CASA volunteer serving as extra eyes and ears for judges hearing their cases. The need is critical for additional volunteers to step up and serve waiting children.

"We are proud to welcome this new group of volunteers to the CASA family," said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director of Child Focus. "These individuals have taken concrete action to make a difference in the lives of children who have experienced immense trauma, having been removed from home through no fault of their own, often due to abuse or neglect. We look forward to working with our new advocates as they serve these vulnerable youth and urge more community members to follow their example by volunteering to support children in need."

Judge Comas expressed her gratitude for the CASA program and the volunteers' commitment to the children they serve. "If I really want to know what's happening with a child I listen to the CASA worker, because they are 100% in tune with everything that the child needs, and everything that's happening in the child's life," she shared. "Their job is to look out for the kids, represent the children's interest, and make sure that all of their needs are being addressed. It's not just whether they need clothes or whether they need toys, it's the bond. It's what they need emotionally, it's someone they can count on."

Since caseworkers, attorneys, and foster homes are ever-changing, the CASA volunteer – or

advocate – is a much-needed constant in a child's life, committing to work with the child until they reach permanency in a stable home and the case closes. Children assigned a CASA volunteer are more likely to receive services, spend less time in the foster system, and experience significantly better outcomes than those without an advocate.

Becoming a CASA requires no special skills or background in child welfare. Child Focus provides thorough training on the ins and outs of advocating for abused and neglected children, and volunteers are fully supported by CASA program staff. Volunteers visit the children at least monthly and get to know the people in the child's life, such as foster parents, biological parents, teachers, therapists, and attorneys in order to make unbiased recommendations to the family court judge that support the child's best interests.

The first step to becoming an advocate is to attend an information session. Upcoming sessions will be held Monday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Elizabeth Public Library (Elmora Branch), 740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202; Thursday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza in Rahway; Thursday July 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union County Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue East in Westfield; or Monday July 1 at 10 a.m., Monday July 15 at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday July 24 at 12 p.m., and Wednesday July 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wayne Child Focus office, 415 Hamburg Turnpike, Suite D2. Register now at casapassaicunion.org/info-session.

ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information about Child Focus, visit childfocusnj.org.

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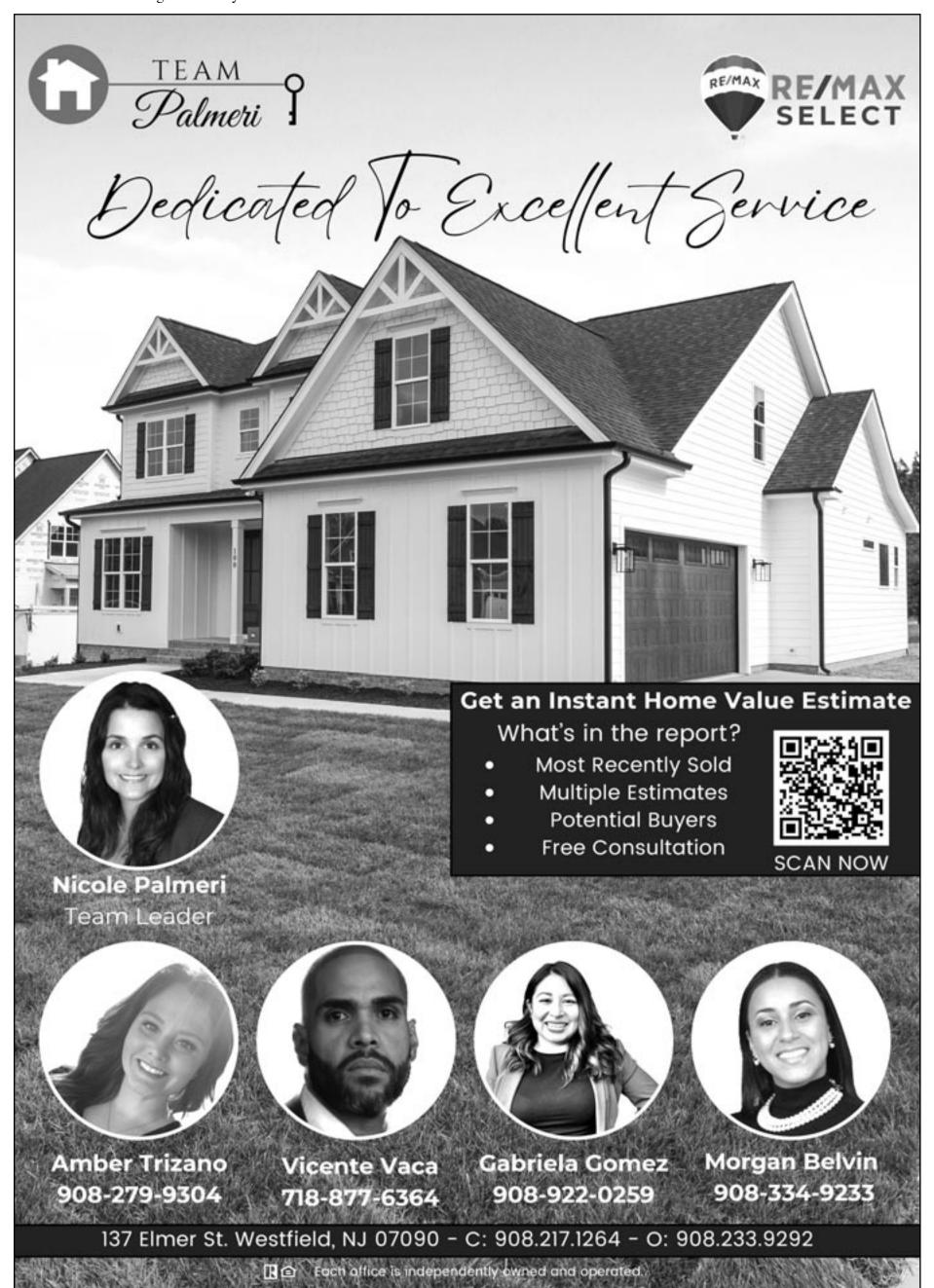






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SUMMER FILM SERIES

The Linden Public Library is proud to continue its popular summer film series in July as we honor all-time Hollywood great, James Cagney, on the 125th anniversary of his birth. All films are presented free-of-charge in the Columbia Bank Room on the third floor of the library at 31 East Henry Street in Linden. The films include:

Oppenheimer (2023; R; 180 mins) Tue, July 2 @ 1:00 p.m.

1776 (1972; PG; 141 mins)

Fri, July 5 @ 1:00 p.m.

Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942; 126 mins)

Tue, July 9 @ 1:00 p.m. White Heat (1949; 114 mins)

Thu, July 11 @ 1:00 p.m.

The Wild Bunch (1969; R; 145 mins)

Tue, July 16 @ 1:00 p.m.

Ferrari (2023; R; 130 mins)

Thu, July 18 @ 1:00 p.m.

Flag Day (2021; R; 109 mins)

Tue, July 23 @ 1:00 p.m.

I Feel Pretty (2018; PG-13; 110 mins)

Thu, July 25 @ 1:00 p.m.

Gigi (1958; G; 115 mins)

Tue, July 30 @ 1:00 p.m.

Enough Said (2012; PG-13; 93 mins)

Tue, July 30 @ 7:00 p.m.

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Concert Date Band Name

Tue, July 2 Legacy

Tue, July 9 Frontiers - Journey Tribute

Thur, July 11 House Music

Fri, July 12 Comedy Under the Stars with Bob Sumner

Tue, July 16 Tequila Rose

Fri, July 19 The Blue Sky Band

Tue, July 23 Discoteks

Thur, July 25 House Music Fest

Sat, July 27 Legends of Linden

Tue, July 30 Jo Bonanno and the Spirit of Asbury Park

Fri, August 2 Comedy Under the Stars with Bob Sumner

Tue, August 6

Sensational Soul Cruisers

Tue, August 13

Tue, August 20 The Verdict

Thur, August 22 House Music Fest

Tue, August 27 Larger Than Life - Ultimate Boyband

El Grupo K'ndela

Tue, September 3 The Kootz

Fri, September 6 Comedy Under the Stars with Bob Sumner

Thur, Sept 12 House Music Fest

Fri, September 20 Blues People Pre Jazz Fest

Genre Rock/Pop

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House Music

Comedy

Country

Polish Rock

70's Disco

House Music

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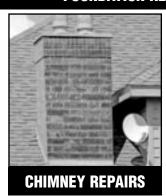
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIPS AND BUSINESS AWARDS

The Linden Chamber Division of the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce held their twenty-third annual scholarship and business awards dinner on June 13, 2024, at Ill Amici Ristorante in Linden, NJ. Linden High School students were awarded four \$1,500 scholarships: Erica Hernandez, Julie Louissant, Christian Mederios and Aryanna Muniz; and two \$1,200 scholarships: Jorge Diggs and Molly McDonald.

Antoinette Modrak a retired district wide Administrator and former principal of Linden High School shared that one of her first jobs was to reach out to the Linden business community to secure jobs for students. The Linden Chamber was instrumental in the process.

The Linden Chamber Division hosts several events during the year to raise scholarship monies. In addition to an ad journal, this event's Host Sponsors were Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Helicopter Flight Services, and Union County Savings Bank. Reception Sponsors were Chemical Services, Inc., Columbia Bank, Dunkin - Stiles Street, Financial Resources, Infineum USA, LP, Linden Warehouse and Distribution Co., Northfield Bank, Quality Auto Center, So Delicious Ice Cream, Tax Lady II UC, The Restoration Group, and WAE Properties, LLC.

A 'Business of the Year' award was given to Hampton Inn - Linden, which offers 149 guest rooms and over two meeting spaces totaling 1200 sq. feet. "We are a newly renovated Hilton Hotel that is pet friendly with a hot, delicious breakfast included in the rate for our local companies, or an event requiring a group block or meeting space for a neighboring company. We have it all. We look forward to our continued relationships and patronage of this area."

A 'Business of the Year' award was given to Broadway Strong Fitness which offers a holistic approach to fitness. Wali Broadway, owner, likens the body to a car, emphasizing the importance of understanding how each part works together for optimal performance. His Linde-based facility offers comprehensive fitness programs, including small group training, nutritional guidance, joint pain relief, and sports team training for all ages and fitness levels.

A Person of the Year Award was given to Janet with the mission to provide support to local Miller. Janet has been a dedicated Chairwoman of the Linden Chamber of Commerce for the past 16 years and is soon to be the President of the Linden Industrial Association. Presenter Ingrid Andrade spoke for many in attendance when she stated, "You are truly deserving of this award, not just this year but every year you have selflessly led our Chamber."

A special Recognition Award was giving to Rebecca Kerins – Tattoli. Rebecca is a lifelong resident of Linden, whose family heritage in Linden dates back to 1854. They resided in the neighborhood between the former General Motors and Merck and Company. This area was her family's farm. These streets are named after her Great-Grandparents, Rebecca and Hampden Smith. Rebecca is currently the Confidential Secretary to Linden Mayor Armstead, and Secretary/Treasurer to the Linden Economic Development Corp.

The Linden Chamber Division of the GECC is leader among the great organizations representing the Linden Business Community, established

businesses. The Chamber works to provide support for new and current businesses, advocates site development and promotes a forward thinking and carefully planned business environment in Linden. Their meetings are designed for sharing information and experiences. Representatives from the Linden Government are always in attendance at meetings, which allows for an open and communicative relationship between business owners and the municipality. Meetings take place at 8:30 a.m., on the fourth Tuesday of every month, except July and August. For more information about the Linden Chamber visit elizabethchamber.com or call (908) 355-7600.

The Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce encourages businesses and organizations to proactively work together to promote and improve the business environment, build responsible partnerships that sustain prosperity and success and create a community that prides itself in providing the best place to work, live and do business.



(above) The Linden Chamber Division of the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce awarded Linden High School students four \$1,500 scholarships: Erica Hernandez, Julie Louissant, Christian Mederios and Aryanna Muniz; and two \$1,200 scholarships: Jorge Diggs and Molly McDonald.



(above) The Touring Troupe of the Linden High School Madrigals entertained the audience.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Life in Linden page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



JANET MILLER NAMED PERSON OF THE YEAR

Linden Chamber of Commerce

Janet Miller was born in Elizabeth, NJ. At one year of age her family moved to Clark, NJ where she went on to graduate from Arthur L. Johnson High School, where she excelled in several sports. Janet also was a member of the band, playing clarinet, bass clarinet and marching trombone. She continued her education at William Paterson College in Wayne, NJ, where she served as President of Nu Theta Chi Sorority, and President in the Inter Fraternity Sorority Council. She graduated with a BS in Sociology, and a minor is Psychology.

Janet moved to the City of Linden in 1990. She joined Cox Printers in 2001 and is presently employed as VP of Sales and Business Development. When Cox Printers moved to Linden in 2008, it gave her more opportunity to be very active in Linden's Business Community.

Janet has been a dedicated Chairwoman of the Linden Chamber of Commerce for the past 16 years (!!) and is soon to be the President of the Linden Industrial Association.

Janet has thoughtfully led the Linden Chamber through many successful fundraisers, awarded numerous scholarships to deserving high school students throughout her term and has recently led their merger with the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce.

She has been very active in several Union County organizations, including serving on the Salvation Army Advisory Board, and the St. Joseph Social Service Center Business Council.

Janet demonstrates commitment, dedication, leadership and at times is looked upon as a resource for local businesses.

In her spare time Janet and her wife Ruth enjoy spending time with family and friends and taking weekly Zumba classes and relaxing on the beach.

Janet recognizes that she could not accomplish these things without God and the commitment of the teams she serves with.



(above) Ingrid Andrade, Person of the Year Janet Miller, and Maria Castanheira

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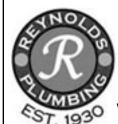
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of the Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, is providing a \$46,000 grant to The Gateway Family YMCA to offer swim safety programming through Summer and Fall Swimming Lessons to 209 low and moderate-income youth.

Melynda Disla, President/CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA, has expressed a pressing need for financial assistance. She states, "We can't provide additional swim lesson scholarships without the help of donors like Phillips 66. Low-moderate-income families can only afford these lessons with financial assistance despite how much they are needed."

Bayway Refinery Manager, Don Susanen, said, "We are proud to partner with The Gateway

The Phillips 66 Social Impact Fund, on behalf Family YMCA. The programs offer more than swim lessons. It provides a safe and healthy outdoor activity for youth, preventing them from being stuck indoors all summer. And remember, every life saved from receiving swimming lessons makes the investment well worth it."

Our support of this program demonstrates how Phillips 66 continues to strive to be a trusted community partner. At Phillips 66, we understand that we share our communities and take responsibility for our neighbors' safety and well-being.

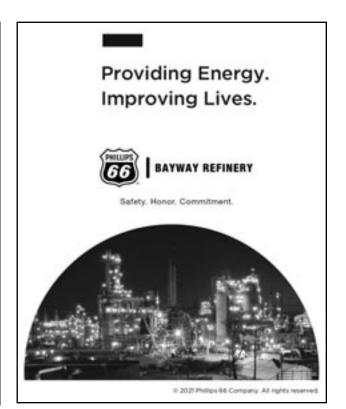
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(above) A \$46,000 grant from Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery provides swim safety for local youth just in time for summer.

Courtesy photo





LOCAL AUTHOR READING - JULY 16TH

The Linden Public Library is proud to host local author, Sheila Hairston on the release of her new novel titled E'kalb Hollow. This author event will be held in the Columbia Bank Room at the library on Tuesday, July 16th at 7:00 p.m. This library is located at 31 East Henry Street in Linden. There is ample free parking and refreshments will be served, courtesy of the Friends of the Linden Library. All in the community are invited to attend this author lecture and discussion

Sheila D. Hairston is an historical fiction writer whose first book, E'kalb Hollow, tells the story of a small African-American town in Virginia during the height of the Jim Crow period. Despite the fact that racism was ever so present in the lives of this community, it did not have the power to destroy the town's self-respect. Creating scenes from actual events and her imagination, Hairston transports readers back through time and connects them to An often painful period from the past yet also offers hope.

Hairston retired from PSEG in 2019 and has dedicated her creative passion of writing by bringing history to life through telling stories that have been lost or forgotten. E'kalb Hollow has been featured on UnionTV34 and the MeTV Network.



(above) Local author, Sheila Hairston, will talk about her latest book at Linden Public Library on July 16 at 7:00 p.m. Courtesy photo

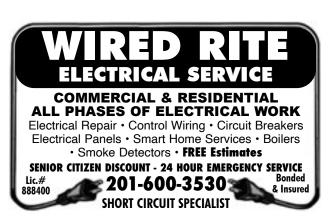
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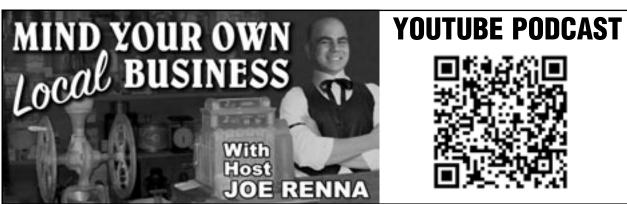
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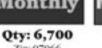


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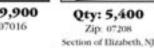








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