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JUNIOR LEAGUE ANNOUNCES 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Junior League of Summit (JLS) gave out \$32,000 in grants, scholarships, and awards at its General Membership Meeting at the Summit Elks Lodge in May. Additionally, the JLS presented its first ever “Friend of the Year” award to a worthy recipient.

Grants in the amount of \$22,000 were awarded to SAGE Eldercare, Empowering Kids Organization, CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, Family Promise Union County, New Providence Community Service Association, YWCA Union County, Summit Area YMCA, Vivid Stage, and Helping Hands, NJ. The JLS Community Grants Program focused on programming and projects which are meeting the emerging needs of the community arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and focusing on organizations aligned with the JLS mission. The program enables the JLS to support other nonprofit organizations creating change in the Summit area.

The Jean Hudson Gano Award was given to Sue Fieseler. Sue was honored for her extensive volunteer work in the Summit community, exemplifying dedication and outstanding leadership.

Shirley Wight Keeney Scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 each were granted to Leigha Matter, Manaal Qureshi of Chatham and Maya Sternberg of New Providence. Each student demonstrated academic excellence and has shown significant volunteer work that aligns with the JLS mission.

Shirley was a beloved member and Past President of the JLS.

The Amanda Parrish Block Grant winner was Sally Simonfay and the Help4All organization. Sally and her friends collaborate to support the most vulnerable, embodying the spirit of everyday people coming together to make a difference, one act of kindness at a time.

Inaugural JLS Friend of the Year Award winner was John Avagliano. John is a local contractor and husband to the JLS Thrift Shop Manager. He served as an enormous helping hand over this past holiday season, quickly getting the Shop floor ready for business after the rugs on the first & second floor were replaced. This award recognizes the businesses, organizations and individuals in the community who go the extra mile for the Junior League of Summit to help us fulfill our mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact. The winner receives a plaque as a thank you.

The Junior League of Summit, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer actions, collaboration and training.

For more information about the Junior League of Summit, please visit the website at jlssummit.org or contact the office at 908-273-7349.



(above) Recipients of 2024 Grants and Scholarships with JLS members at May 21, 2024 Membership meeting.

Courtesy photos

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CHATHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SHINE

The Mayors Wellness Campaign Advisory Committee of the Chathams recently teamed up with Chatham Middle School students in an initiative to connect the community with essential healthcare resources. Mrs. Kovacsofsky and the students assisted in preparing and sending letters to local healthcare businesses, inviting them to contribute articles on a variety of health-related topics such as preventive care and wellness tips that would be published in the local community media.

The students, Julia Van Slyck, Anoushka Sen, Sloan Miller and Aubrey McCarthy, displayed remarkable enthusiasm and

efficiency, completed the task in record time, embodying the spirit of teamwork and community service. Their contributions were much appreciated by the Mayors Wellness Campaign, demonstrating that when we work together, everyone benefits.

This project not only aims to provide residents with valuable health insights but also gives local businesses a platform to share their expertise. Our heartfelt thanks go out to these young volunteers for their dedication and hard work. They have set a shining example of community engagement and shown that, together, we can achieve great things!



(above, l-r) Students Julia Van Slyck, Anoushka Sen, Sloan Miller and Aubrey McCarthy.

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Chatham Borough Concerts are held at the Gazebo in Reasoner Park! Grab some takout on Main Street and your favorite chair; a fun night for the whole family!



July 18	6pm	Andy Wang – Hawaiian Music
	6:30pm	The Doms – Rock/Alternative
August 15	6pm	Curren DeVico Quartet
	6:30pm	Blue Soul – Blues, Jazz, R&B
September 19	6pm	Mike Sodano-Classic Light Rock
	6:30pm	Kings Road Band-Alternative Rock
October 16	6pm	Chatham Community Band

For more information email: communityservices@chathamborough.org or call Janice Piccolo 973-655-0674 x2000

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107TH ANNUAL ELKS PARADE

Summit Elks

Summit Elks joined and marched with 1,500 New Jersey Elks in the 107th Annual Elks Parade on Saturday June 8th. Leading Summit were Esquire Lou DeSocio and Exalted Ruler Fred Honold.

Immediately following was Leading Knight Rocco DiPiano who organized two dozen Elks with Summit's 20 x 40 USA Flag. At the reviewing stand of NJ State Elk Parade Judges, Rocco called an "audible" to have Summit Elks closest to the judges stand lower our USA Flag to the ground while those furthest away raised our Grand Ol'Flag on High. The judges, went "Wild in Wildwood!" Summit was awarded 3rd place for parade honors among all 107 NJ Lodges who participated.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SUMMIT ELKS

To be eligible for membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, you must be a citizen of the United States over the age of 21 who believes in God. The Summit Elks Lodge #1246 has close to 3,000 members, they predominantly come from these communities: Summit, Berkeley Heights, The Chathams, Millburn - Short Hills, New Providence & Westfield.

For more information visit summitelks1246.org.

ELKS MISSION STATEMENT

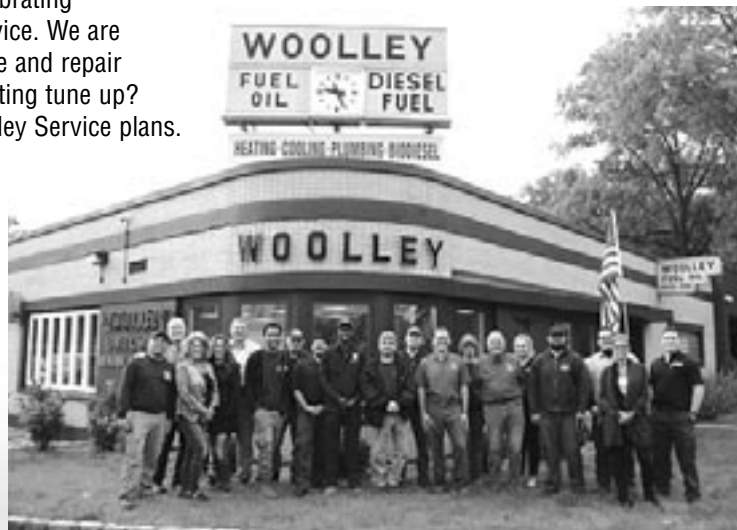
To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.



(above) Summit Lodge #1246 Leading Knight Rocco DiPiano organizes Summit's Flag Team of 2 Dozen Strong to carry the USA Flag on High @ The NJ Elks State Convention Parade on Saturday June 6 in Wildwood. Summit won 3rd Place Honors.

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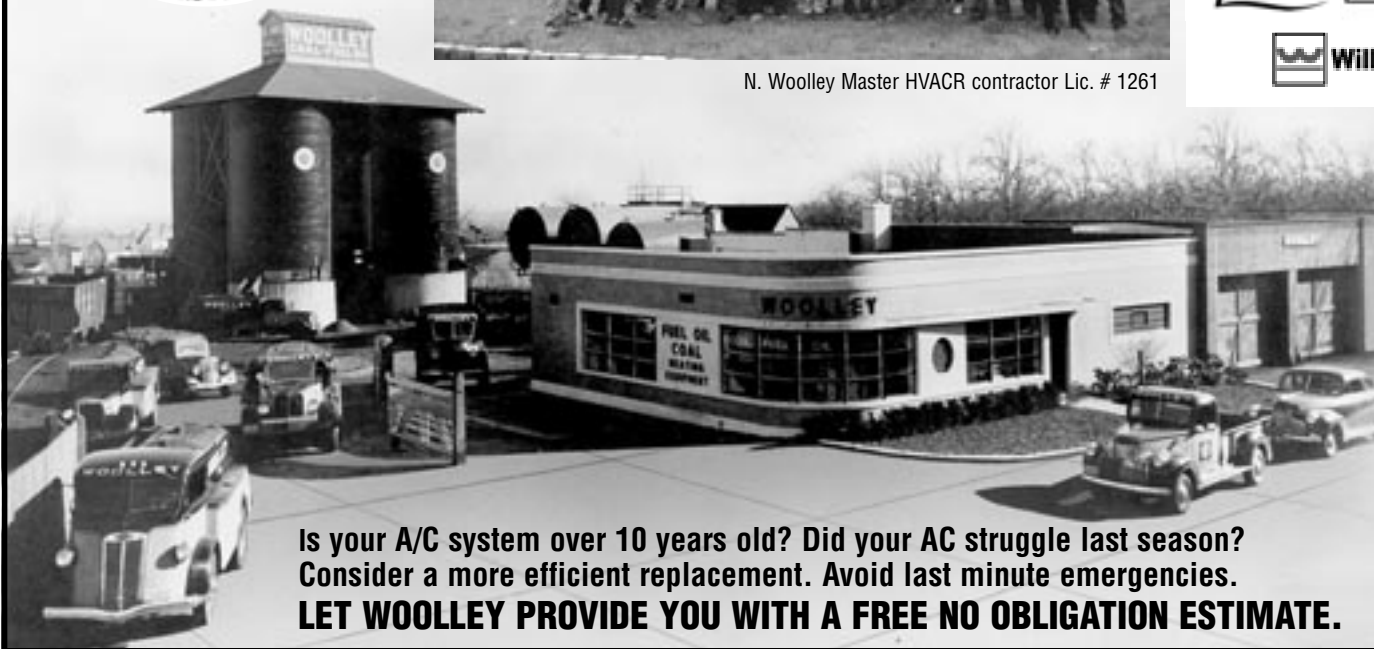
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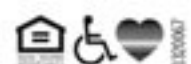
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SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS: AUGUST EVENTS

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.

Piano Recital by a High School Student

Monday, August 5, 1:00 PM

Trivia Game

Wednesday, August 7, 1:00 PM

Ice Cream Social

Thursday, August 8, 11:00 AM.

Seating is limited.

Guitar Performance by Ken Knowlton

Thursday, August 8, 12:00 PM

Home Sharing Presentation

Monday, August 12, 11:00 AM

Crafters Corner

Thursday, August 15, 10:30 AM

Make a refreshing cucumber scrub as a gift or a treat for yourself.

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Pizza Party

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2024 ROSEMARY HOWLETT ART SCHOLARSHIP WINNER WILL FARKAS

Art League of the Chathams

Will Farkas, a talented senior from Chatham High School, has been honored with the prestigious 2024 Rosemary Howlett Art Scholarship by the Art League of the Chathams. This accolade recognizes Will's exceptional talent and dedication to the arts, marking a significant achievement in his artistic journey.

From an early age, Will has embraced creativity as a means of self-expression and exploration. His artwork spans various mediums, from sketching and painting to sculpting and beyond. Reflecting on his artistic process, Will describes it as intuitive and deeply personal. His pieces often explore themes rooted in personal experience, ranging from introspective self-portraits to abstract interpretations of emotion and identity.

Reflecting on his influences, Will credits his upbringing and the support of his family. His grandmother, a talented acrylic artist, and his father, also creatively inclined, have played pivotal roles in nurturing his passion for art since childhood. Will also acknowledges the guidance and inspiration from his art teachers at Chatham High School, particularly Mr. Eric Hreha, Mr. Kenji Hasegawa, and Ms. Janet Kraemer, who is retiring in 2024.

"Art allows me to communicate and connect with others on a profound level," Will explains. "Whether I'm sketching a spontaneous idea or



(above) Will Farkas

embarking on a meticulously planned project, each piece reflects a part of my journey."

Will's artistic achievements extend beyond the classroom. His work was recently selected for display at the prestigious Annual High School Student Show hosted by Morris Arts and Blackwell Street Center for the Arts. Among hundreds of submissions, Will's piece earned a place at the renowned Atrium Gallery in Morristown's Morris County Administration & Records Building.

Outside of art, Will is an accomplished

drummer who performs regularly and played varsity Volleyball at Chatham High School. He enjoys camping and the outdoors, spending summers in Maine at a camp where he will now be a counselor.

Looking forward, Will plans to pursue a degree in Fine Arts at TCNJ, where he aims to further develop his artistic skills and explore art education. "In college, I'm majoring in fine arts, and I am considering concentrating into an art education program in the future" he shares. "Regardless of what direction I take, I will be in the studio and at home/in the dorm as often as I can, making stuff."

For more information about Will Farkas and to view his artwork, please visit his Instagram account that showcases his portfolio at [instagram.com/will.art.farkas](https://www.instagram.com/will.art.farkas).

The Art League of the Chathams celebrates Will Farkas for his artistic accomplishments and for his dedication to creativity and innovation. Through initiatives like the Rosemary Howlett Art Scholarship, the Art League of the Chathams continues to support and inspire the next generation of artists in the Chatham community.

The Art League of the Chathams (ALC) has three shows a year at the Chatham Twp. Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham Twp. and is open to new members.

For more information, go to artleagueofthechathams.org.

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CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Submitted by Marianne Ivers

The Chatham Historical Society 2024 Margaret Keisler scholarship was awarded to Karina Bliss. The \$1,500 scholarship, presented at the commencement exercises of Chatham High School, is named in memory of “Peg” Keisler, a lifelong resident of Chatham who was the Borough’s historian and dedicated educator. It is through the generosity of members and friends that make this scholarship possible.

Chatham is made up of unique individuals, each with a distinctive story to tell. As part of the scholarship process, students were asked to share their own stories. The Historical Society received 15 essays all with a different focus.

In her essay Karina reflects how her own family, originally from India, found Chatham, settled in, and grew their roots here. Her family has lived in the same house for 50 years. She points out that even though her family has “little in common with Chatham’s settlers, rose farmers, and the Lenape tribe,” originating “from an entirely different part of the world,” they built their roots here. Her family of three generations

have witnessed how the town has continued to grow and change, welcoming more immigrants and becoming a more diverse community.

As a student, Karina took AP US History, AP World History, and her favorite - AP Art History. Last semester, she also took French Film, which ended up being one of her favorite "accidental" history courses, as each movie identified a different aspect of French history and culture. Over the last two years she worked on her AP portfolio on world architecture and finished her high school art career by painting the senior mural and as a National Art Honors Society Member.

This fall, she begins pursuing a dual degree in French and Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh. Studying Art History led to her appreciate the charm of Edinburgh, its old town, and architecture. “Edinburgh's Scottish master's program also allows me to specialize in my degree, and begin researching my preferred branch of Linguistics, which is Historical Linguistics,” she stated.



(above) Kariana Bliss Courtesy photo

MARGARET KEISLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Essay by Kariana Bliss

My Tata (Grandfather) was on an oil tanker for work where he was pretty lonely. Only a few years prior, he decided to leave his home in Hyderabad, India, taking his wife first to London, and then to a small house in Randolph New Jersey. The year was 1975, and while aboard the oil tanker in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, he met a man called Robert Berner who was building houses in Chatham. It sounded like a beautiful place to raise a family, far different from his own hometown growing up. Robert encouraged him to visit Chatham, and he, his young wife, and his 3 year old daughter, fell in love with it. My Mom grew up in the same town, the same house, and the same bedroom as I am now. On a quiet street with a view of the Great Swamp. She attended Mountainview school from kindergarten to 5th Grade, making the same mile-long walk through the neighborhood each morning as I did with my Amama (my Grandmother) to visit the Senior Center in the now repurposed Chatham Municipal Building. She graduated from Chatham High School two years after the Township and Borough districts merged in the class of 1990 with a grand total of 80 people. Sophomore year, for my US History final project, I found myself in the Red

Brick Schoolhouse museum, just a little ways up the street and down Fairmount Ave. Open for only two hours each month, the two women who ran the tiny museum were surprised to see me, and excited to shower me with pamphlets and materials for my project. I wandered the museum, marveling at spearheads found in the woods, left by the Native Americans, and read plaque after plaque of recorded bits of Chatham’s settlement, town governments, and involvement in the Revolutionary War. I couldn’t help but notice that this version of Chatham’s history felt so far removed from my own experience here. My family has deep roots in Chatham, yet from the outside we have little in common with Chatham’s settlers, rose farmers, and the Lenape tribe, because we are from an entirely different part of the world. However, although from a different perspective, 3 generations of my family have witnessed the town continue to grow and change. Soon, 34 years after my Mom, I will be graduating from the same Chatham High School with a class of almost 400 students. Since my Amama and Tata decided to raise their family here in Chatham, hundreds more immigrants made the same decision, creating an even more diverse community of families.

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23RD ANNUAL DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT

Drive for Autism Foundation

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXIII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on Monday September 16, 2024.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$855,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children (Paramus, NJ), Young Life (greater Summit area), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 - formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ), and Seton Foundation/Mother Francheska Elementary

School (Staten Island, NY).

Grant recipients use money to fund Health and Fitness Programs, Social Skills Programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please

go to: birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXIII

ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2024

The Drive for Autism XXIII is scheduled for Monday Sept 16, 2024, at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please visit birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXIII, call 908-451-8033 or email driveforautism@comcast.net.



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