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# TEN GIRL SCOUTS RECEIVE GOLD AWARDS AT CEREMONY

Chatham Girl Scouts

Ten Girl Scouts from Chatham received the prestigious Gold Award on Tuesday June 11, 2024, at the Stanley Center. The award ceremony was organized by Chatham Girl Scout troop leader Kathy Abbott and included remarks from several influential members of our town's community including Chatham Borough Mayor Carolyn Dempsey, Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis and Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey CEO Sandra Kenoff.

#### THE GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDED:

- Rhea Agarwal: Rhea's Gold Award project called "Removing the Filter" aims to metaphorically and literally remove the filter from images of teen girls and women on social media and all media.
- Annie Alden: Annie's Gold Award project, "Choking Is No Joking Matter," helps prevent choking in young children.
- Selena Bahl: Selena's Gold Award focused on increasing awareness of the importance of supporting native pollinator insects.
- Diana Carbone: Diana's project helps the Chatham Emergency Squad better treat Chatham residents by creating an essential health information form to keep

visible in their house in case they need an ambulance.

- Katelyn Hoffhelder: Katelyn's Gold Award Project aimed to improve the mental health of the children in families who face food insecurity by creating a book borrowing program at three local food banks.
- Eva Morrison: Eva Morrison's project helps make children's experiences in pediatric hospital rooms more positive and enjoyable.
- Julia Nugent: created a program titled the "Winter Ranger Program" to help young children and families in the community and beyond to get outside during the wintertime to help improve their overall physical and mental health during this colder time of year.
- Manaal Qureshi: Manaal's project aimed to reduce people's trash in a local stream that starts at Southern Boulevard and runs across the property of Morris County's Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center.
- Sofia Sorvino: Sophia's Gold Award project was focused on ending period poverty on a local and statewide level.
- Brooke Zidle: Brooke's Gold Award Project aimed to encourage peers to get registered and to vote.

  For more information go to chathamgs.org or contact us at chathamnjgirlscouts@gmail.com.



(above) Chatham Girl Scouts Gold Award recipients.

Courtesy photo







# THE CHATHAMS

# Renna Media LLC, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

The Chathams is published by Renna Media. 7,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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### **SEND US YOUR NEWS**

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com** 

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### **GRANT TO HELP RESTORATION PROJECT**

Chatham Township Environmental Commission

Thanks to the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), The Chatham Township Environmental Commission (CTEC) has received a \$1,500 grant to get started on a restoration project in the native tree grove adjacent to Castle Playground, located at Shunpike Park in Chatham Township. The trees in this grove are healthy, mature trees, but due to water run-off and some unintended foot traffic, the superficial roots are being exposed and the understory has been lost. This bare understory is not only unattractive but is bad for the trees and creates conditions ripe for soil run off and erosion. CTEC will use the grant funds to establish plots within the grove to start regeneration of native plant undergrowth using plants such as American holly, flowering dogwood, American hornbeam, shagbark hickory and / or gray birch. The plots will be fenced in to prevent deer browsing and human footsteps, giving the new plants time to get established.

Thanks to an additional grant from the Chatham Jaycees, CTEC can create and display educational signage explaining the project as well as identity the newly installed plants. The educational signage will include information about the value of understory plants, the importance of native trees, and using fallen leaves as mulch to help control water runoff and create habitats for local insects, birds and other

small animals.

Local Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the Town and Country Garden Club, local Environmental Stewards from Rutgers and the Chatham Department of Public Works will continue to partner with CTEC on this project. CTEC is happy to invite members of the community as well as local community groups such as sports teams to help the Commission with this fun and meaningful project - currently in the design stage. The project will involve laying out the plots, planting native understory trees, fencing against and deer browsing, and watering until the saplings and seedlings are established. Tree planting is planned for November of this year. Please reach out to CTEC Chair, Jessica Romeo at jessica.romeo@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.



(above) The native tree grove adjacent to Castle Playground.

Courtesy photo



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### ANNEMARIE LORD AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

### Chatham Emergency Squad

Annemarie Lord received the 2024 Christine K. Grobert Chatham Emergency Squad (CES) Scholarship, granted since 2014 to a graduating Chatham High School student who has been committed to volunteerism and/or has displayed an interest in the field of medicine or science.

Annemarie dedicated 12 hours a week as a junior volunteer for the Fire Department while still achieving high honor roll and being the captain of the swim team. In addition to her 12 weekly hours, she attended the fire academy from 7-11 pm on Tuesdays, and from 6 am – 6 pm on Saturdays for 5 months. "Becoming a firefighter and serving my community has given me the opportunity to see all sides of the community. Now, I have someone who knows me everywhere I go. The little girls look up to me as being the first female junior firefighter. I like the thought of letting those little girls know that we can do it too. Being a firefighter has opened my eyes to new opportunities. I plan on obtaining my EMT certification while in college and further my education and ability to serve the community," she said.

Annemarie's positive experience as a junior volunteer on the Fire Department has inspired her to pursue a career in the field of Fire Protection Engineering or Fire Science.

"We are thrilled to have Annemarie receiving the scholarship from the Chatham Emergency Squad this year. Out of so many incredible applicants, Annemarie stood out for her exceptional strength and commitment to serving

the Chatham community. We recognized the extensive training that she has gone through to become a junior firefighter in Chatham Borough, along with the dedication that it takes to continuously train in preparation for a safe and effective emergency response. Annemarie has



(above) CES President Evan Skinner (left), Christine Grobert, Annemarie Lord and CES Captain Nicole DiMaggio

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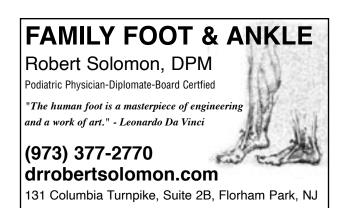
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shown a true sense of duty and purpose through her volunteerism in Chatham. I am sure that her brave, energetic, inspirational spirit will take her far in the future," Christine Grobert stated.

The scholarship applications are judged by a 7-member team who do not know the identity of the applicants as they are assigned a number. Each applicant receives scores based on their volunteerism, their essay, and the financial impact to the applicant. This year 17 students submitted their applications for the \$2,500 scholarship.

CES is an all-volunteer organization funded through donations and never charges for its services. CES provides stand-by support for community and school athletic events. CES also provides free CPR training to residents, teachers, coaches, crossing guards, and emergency personnel. New members are always welcome. To learn more, to donate or to volunteer, please visit chathamemergencysquad.org.





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Youth Choir of New Jersey Sept. 9th & 16th - 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Ages 13-18

Civic Chorale of New Jersey Sept. 10th & 17th - 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Adults

Seniors Sing! Sept. 9th & 16th - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. For the Young-at-Heart

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### **ELKS FAMILY FUN DAY TO HELP HOMELESS VETS**

The NJ Elks East Central District is proud to a sense of stability. announce the 2nd Annual Family Fun Day event on September 28, 2024 from noon to 6pm at the Stirling Elks Lodge at 1138 Valley Road in Stirling. This event aims to bring the community together for a day of food, fun, and entertainment for all ages to help support a crucial cause.

Included with entry, all attendees will enjoy a delicious pig roast, grilled burgers, hotdogs, pulled pork, sausage & peppers, sandwiches, sides, desserts, water, soda, beer, wine, sangria, and more. Kids' activities will include DJ Mr. Socks, contests, games, a bounce house, magic performances, a fire truck, and more. Adults and teens can participate in a professionally run cornhole tournament, a golf pitching contest, volleyball, and bocce ball. Additionally, the event will feature a special rendition of the National Anthem, a NJ State Police helicopter, World War II vehicles, bagpipers, a dunk tank, 50/50s, a Silent Auction, and a paratrooper parachuting the American Flag into the event.

Admission is \$25 (donation) for adults. Children under 12 are free.

There are thousands of homeless veterans in New Jersey which is a tragic reality that the NJ Elks are determined to change. Over the past five years, the New Jersey Elks have successfully helped to move over 2,400 homeless veterans into homes, providing them with a fresh start and

The Elks National Veterans Service Committee operates on a 100% volunteer basis, ensuring that all proceeds from this event will go directly towards improving the lives of our American heroes who have fallen on tough times. In addition, they are actively seeking sponsors and donors to support their efforts and their public relations committee will work hard to acknowledge them through several sponsorship packages.

Donations and advanced ticket purchases can be made at: http://donate.njelks-ecd.org or mailed to Elks ECD Veterans Committee, 87 Harrison Ave., Colonia, NJ 07067. Checks should be made payable to: ECD Veterans Committee, with 'homeless vets' in the memo. (If a 501(c)(3) receipt is needed, please make checks payable to: NJSEA, with 'homeless vets' in the memo).

For sponsorship interest or more information about this event, please contact Apollo Hrehorovich at funday@njelks-ecd.org, call or text 732-540-0062, or visit http://funday.njelks-

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

For more information about the Elks and how to join, please visit http://elks.org today.



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### **SAVOR SEPTEMBER - RESTAURANT MONTH**

The tastiest event of the year is back! Start making your plans to take advantage of Berkeley Heights Restaurant Month, running from September 1 — 30. You'll enjoy special offers from 23 establishments with options ranging from fine dining to casual and quick-serve restaurants. This beloved annual event attracts diners of all ages for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It's your chance to:

- Venture out to new places (some new restaurants have opened this year)
- Try new dishes and special meals at your favorite eateries
- Make family dinnertime easy and delicious on busy weekdays
- Encourage fun get-togethers with friends or co-workers as the summer ends
- Urge teens to head downtown after school and enjoy something new

Jeanne Kingsley, founder and chair of the Downtown Beautification Committee, which manages the event, said: "We are so fortunate to have a robust restaurant scene in Berkeley Heights -one that attracts many diners from surrounding towns. Whether you are looking for a special meal or to get a good deal on wine for a BYOB meal, you'll enjoy delicious finds all over town. We're grateful to the staff of every participating establishment who are working hard to make local dining easy and affordable during this seventh annual Berkeley Heights Restaurant Month. Find the information you need to ensure you get the most value and fun out of Restaurant Month at experiencebh.com, including menus and specials. And follow the fun on social media at @ExperienceBerkeleyHeights on Facebook and experience berkeley heights on Instagram. Please share your photos with the tag #experiencebh.

### AS OF THIS WRITING, THESE ARE THE 23 PARTICIPATING ESTABLISHMENTS:

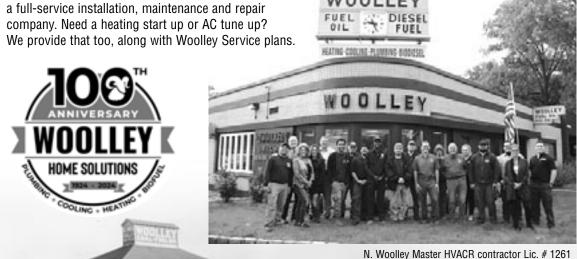
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- Bubbakoo's Burrito's
- Cafe Vincotto
- Charkoal BBQ and Café
- Clemente's Pizzeria
- Cousins Deli
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# Attention Men & Women Over 40 HOW TO LOSE 10-30 LBS. IN 6 WEEKS... AND KEEP IT OFF!

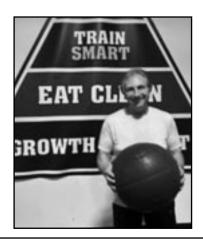
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#### "I WAS WORRIED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP UP"



**STEVE -** My results were both amazing and motivating! It's such a welcoming space. I was worried about not being able to keep up. But that's never been an issue at all. I've never felt rushed even if my pace was slower than those around me. I really love this aspect of the experience. I'm so glad to be part of this community.

#### "LIFE CHANGING FOR ME."



and entertaining trainers. Can't say enough positive things about GFP. Even now, in 2024, the experience at GFP continues to get better. The trainers do a great job helping each and everyone achieve their goals and consistently improve. The gym members support each other. I look forward to every session.

#### "I AM STRONGER THAN I HAVE BEEN IN 30 YEARS."



Gabriele for a few years and absolutely LOVE the training. Coaches are extremely knowledgeable and correct any form issues and continuously challenge us. If I experience any pain, they will alter exercise to keep me safe. I am stronger than I have been in 30 years. They are fun, motivating and have built a great community at GFP.

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- **Personalized and Simple Nutrition Help:** Our coaches are going to sit down with you to map out everything so you know exactly what to eat and when to eat it, which means you'll start making progress immediately.
- **Unlimited Cardio Sessions:** You'll get Unlimited Access to our 'Fat Blast" Sessions that will help get your body buzzing and your blood flowing to help shed those calories and fat!
- Free Nutrition Guide: We are going to give you a ton of references and guides including recipes and guidelines to help you along the way which means you'll get lean and love your food at the same time!

**ABOUT GABRIELE FITNESS:** Gabriele Fitness is a personal training gym that helps people lose weight, gain energy, and live a more active life without the use of fad diets or workouts that beat up their body. They've helped thousands of men and women in the Berkeley Heights Area to transform their health and life for the past 17 years. As leaders in the fitness industry they present their methods to trainers and gyms around the world.





## **GREEK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CULTURE,** CUISINE, AND COMMUNITY IN UNION, NJ

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH: sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece at the 47th Annual Greek Festival, taking place at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, NJ. This eagerly anticipated event, the largest and longest-running Greek Festival in Union County, will delight attendees from September 5th to September 8th, 2024, with a weekend of cultural immersion, culinary delights, and family-friendly entertainment.

### **EVENT DETAILS:**

- Dates: September 5th to September 8th, 2024
- Location: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Ave, Union, NJ 07083 (Free Parking in neighboring lots)
- Admission: \$2 general admission; a portion of admission proceeds benefit local Union Township/Union County charities

"We are thrilled to invite the community to join us for our 47th Annual Greek Festival," said Betty Spiropoulos, Festival Committee Co-Chair.

Established in 1928 in Newark and relocated to Union in 1984, the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church has been a cornerstone of the Union Township community, celebrated for its rich diversity and dedication to promoting Greek culture, faith, and community spirit. Over the years, it has warmly welcomed people from various backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment that embraces cultural diversity and unity among its members.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and behind-the-scenes looks at the festival: @stdemetriosunion

Don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration of Greek culture and community!

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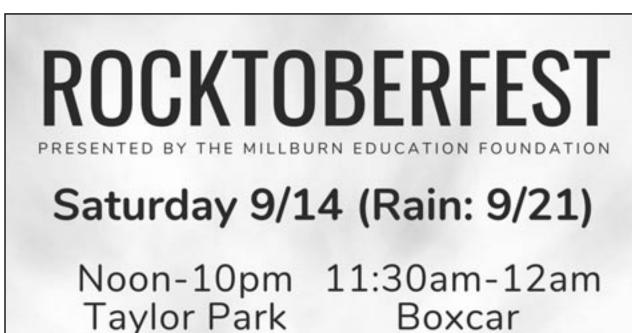
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### ADOPT A DRAIN TO HELP KEEP OUR LOCAL WATERSHEDS CLEAN

When it rains, stormwater carries directly into local watersheds, including the Great Swamp and the Passaic River, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Through the Adopta-Drain program, anyone – no matter their age, physical fitness level, or area in which they live or work in town – can sign up for free to "adopt" one or more of the 1,021 storm drains located in the Township to help reduce pollution and flooding as a result of clogged storm drains.

Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education, the organization that runs the national Adopt-A-Drain program, along with the DPW, mapped every storm drain location in town so that each drain appears on a street map, with a marker showing its location. Markers for drains available for "adoption" appear in yellow. Once a drain is adopted, its marker turns blue.

Those who "adopt" a drain commit to cleaning it on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis, estimating the number of pounds on and around it that they collect, and reporting that information on an easy-to-complete, four-question multiple choice digital report form. Participants name their drain; getting creative as they like! CTEC and the DPW encourage residents to have some fun with their drain names, to submit pictures of themselves drains cleaning their ctec@chathamtownship.org for use on social media, and to encourage friends and neighbors to participate in the program. Chatham Township DPW will pull reports capturing how many pounds of leaves, litter, etc. community members

have kept out of our storm drains.

Stormwater management involves integrating rainwater runoff back into the ground, preventing flooding where possible, enabling the underground water infrastructure to optimize its performance, and keeping waterways as free as possible from litter and contaminants. With the Adopt-a-Drain program, preventing leaves and other objects from falling into drains helps to keep sewer pipes under the drain grates from getting clogged and backing up. Through residents' participation, drains and pipes in our sewer system can function with fewer items inside them causing back-ups. The volunteer work of residents will keep our waterways cleaner, and aid in our township's stormwater management efforts

CTEC Chair, Jessica Romeo, notes that "Residents and local businesses can play a vital role in helping to keep our local watersheds clean

by adopting storm drains in their neighborhood clearing them regularly. Adopting a drain is a meaningful and important way that Chatham Township residents can pitch in to help maintain the health of our environment. Together, as a community, we can do our part to protect the Great Swamp and the Passaic River. Caring for a drain is an easy, family friendly way to volunteer about 15 minutes a month to do something that really makes a difference. By adopting a drain, participants will help to prevent debris and trash from reaching our waterways. We hope everyone is excited to join the Adopta-Drain program."

To learn about the Environmental Commission and for more information about Adopt-a-Drain, please visit the CTEC's homepage on the Township's website. To adopt a drain in your neighborhood, please visit https://nj.adopt-a-drain.org/.



(above, l-r) Jim Connelly (CTEC Commissioner); Rich Young (Public Works Director); Celeste Fondaco (CTEC Commissioner); Christie Tragno (Public Works); Jessica Romeo (CTEC Chair);

Mayor Stacey Ewald (Chatham Township Mayor)

Courtesy photo



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### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:** A WALKING TOUR AT FAIR MOUNT CEMETERY

Join Chatham Historical Society in a guided walking tour of Chatham's past at Fair Mount Chatham High School students portrayed well-Cemetery on Saturday, October 5 (rain date October 6) at 2 to 4 p.m.

Fair Mount Cemetery, located on the hill between Fairmount and Hillside Avenues, was established in 1859 and it is the final resting place for many Chatham dignitaries, war veterans, and ordinary citizens. The cemetery contains many fascinating clues to the history of the Chatham Community and the lives of the people who have populated it for more than two centuries.

The guided tour introduces a few of the men and women - ministers, educators, farmers, doctors, shop keepers, librarians, and veterans whose lives and vision contributed to the unique character and development of the community we enjoy today. Volunteers will guide you through the cemetery with stops to listen as actors in costumes offer monologues portraying historic individuals near the site of their final resting places.

For many years Chatham Historical Society offered the Fair Mount Cemetery field trip for 4th grade Lafavette Avenue School students. known residents from throughout Chatham's history at stops along this walking tour. In the past the society has also organized cemetery tours for adults. In connection with the continued celebration of the Chatham Historical Society's Centennial the society is organizing this popular tour again. More information can be found at chathamnjhistoricalsociety.org.







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# **CHATHAM BOROUGH CONCERT SERIES**

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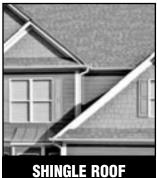






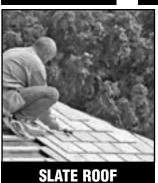
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### **OVER \$34,000 IN GRANTS TO CHATHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### Chatham Education Foundation

The Chatham Education Foundation, a leading provider of private funding to the School District of the Chathams, recently distributed over \$34,000 in grants to fund five creative educational programs and special projects during its Spring 2024 grant application cycle.

"The Chatham Education Foundation is pleased to have awarded these grants this Spring, which cover such areas as Mathematics, Technology, Performing & Visual Arts, Physical Education, and Special Education. These grants finance programs that otherwise would not be funded through the traditional school district budget," said Suzanne David, Chair of the Grants Committee of the Chatham Education Foundation.

Laura Bojanowski, President of Chatham Education Foundation, said "Our Board set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$300K this year in honor of CEF's 30th anniversary, and we exceeded that goal thanks to hundreds of area residents and local businesses. It's the generosity of our donors who make teacher and administrator grant funding possible this year and beyond."

Grants awarded during the spring 2024 grant cycle include:

### **CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL:**

### **Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics**submitted by: Aaron Yamamoto

This grant funds the conversion of the final three high school math classrooms into "Thinking Classrooms". The first two phases of the "Thinking Classroom" transformation funded by CEF grants in 2018 and 2021 demonstrated the validity of current research that supports students working on whiteboard surfaces in the mathematics classroom, resulting in observed increases in student productivity, critical thinking, and wellness. These design changes include vertical non-permanent writing surfaces on flexible seating/standing tables, and the defronting of the traditional classroom setting. This third round of thinking classroom grant funding brings the total funding to over \$60K.

According to Math Supervisor, Aaron Yamamoto, "Through our first phases of "Thinking Classroom" grants we were able to observe the importance of the physical classroom shift. Students were more willing to take academic risks on the non-permanent surfaces, while significantly increasing their willingness to collaborate. These changes resulted in the mobilization of student knowledge through visual evidence, and allowed for teachers to formatively assess their students and provide real-time feedback and targeted differentiation."

### **Musical Exploration of the Durufle Requiem**submitted by: Ken Bryson, Liam Keller

This grant supports a collaboration between CHS Performing Arts and Visual Arts department to create pieces inspired by the individual movements of the Requiem. This is a reprisal of the two departments' very successful collaboration for the Mozart Requiem back in 2018. This marks the third CEF sponsored performance of a masterwork performed by the CHS Choir and Orchestra programs.

"Thank you for supporting this incredible performance opportunity for our students. We look forward to sharing this project with the community," says grant applicant Ken Bryson.

### **CHS TV/FILM Broadcast Studio Equipment**submitted by: Patrick Clark

TV and video production classes serve as an integral part of the educational

curriculum, offering students hands-on experience in video production, editing,

and broadcasting. This grant will fund upgrades to equipment that will empower students with access to state-of-the-art technology, ensuring they are well-equipped with the skills demanded by the modern media landscape. Exposure to industry-standard equipment will better prepare students for future careers in media production, providing a competitive edge in college admissions and the job market. The new video/TV equipment will

not be confined to the classrooms. It will serve as a valuable resource for capturing and broadcasting major events throughout the district, including but not limited to: CHS Fashion Show, TEDxYouth@Chatham, graduation, concerts, performances, and community gatherings.

### Gaga Ball and '9 Square in the Air' equipmentsubmitted by: Gary Adair, Anna Amster

This grant will enhance the physical education experience of all 9-12 graders by incorporating new games to foster sustained physical activity, strategic thinking, and teamwork. According to research, such activities have the ability to enhance cooperation, social skills as well as problem-solving while fostering a sense of inclusivity.

According to grant applicant Gary Adair, "These are great tools to be used for team building activities while aligning with broader education goals of promoting social and emotional growth as well as a healthy and collaborative school environment".

### **MILTON AVENUE SCHOOL:**

### **Supporting Learners in Non-Traditional** Settings-submitted by: Amy Kerr, Jacqueline Maroney, Gina DelloStritto

This project is modeled after a grant that was awarded to the resource room teachers and successfully implemented at Washington Avenue School. This grant will provide students in the resource room and Basic Skills classrooms with various seating options, writing support devices, and fidget objects. These devices enhance a student's ability to sit and attend in a classroom setting and have been shown to increase academic performance.

"When students use alternative seating and fidgets purposefully, it has shown to increase student engagement and achievement in the classroom. The special education team will make visuals, flexible seating schedules and social stories that will be shared with colleagues that outline appropriate usage and expectations", says grant applicant, Amy Kerr.

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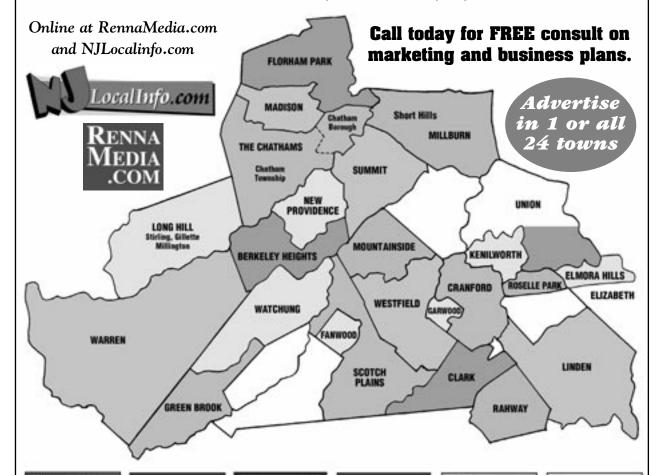
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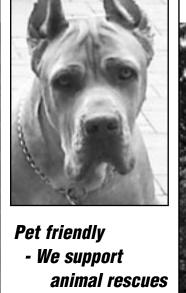




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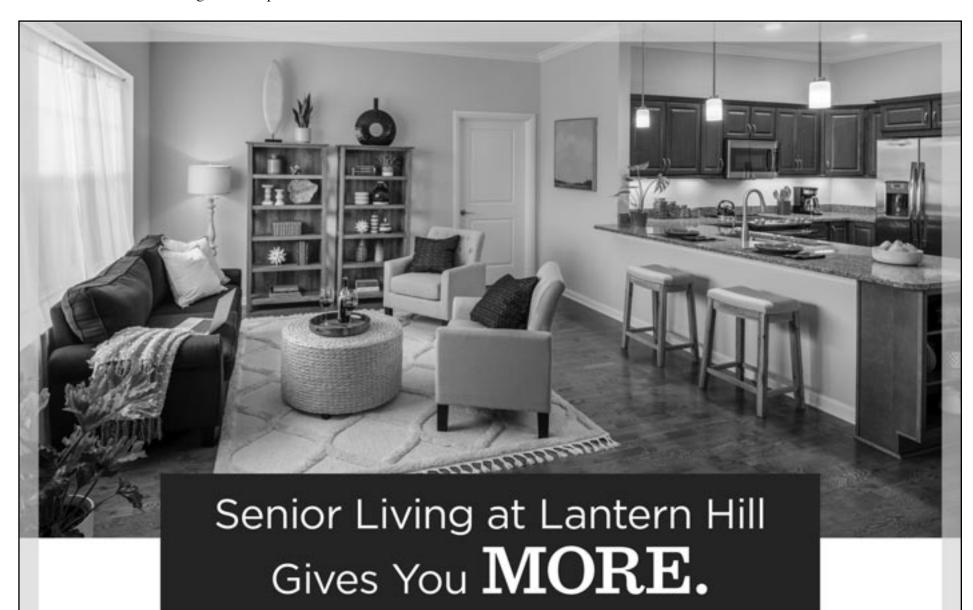


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