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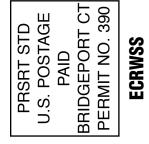
ELKS FAMILY FUN DAY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS DELIVERS

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On Saturday September 28th, hundreds of residents in the area enjoyed an impressive array of entertainment, food, and beverage options for a very worthy cause. This fabulous event, the 2nd annual Elks ECD Family Fun Day, raised over \$45,000 to Benefit Homeless Veterans. Hosted at the Stirling Elks in Stirling NJ, the event was organized by The Elks East Central District Veterans Committee of NJ.

The organizing committee procured help from over 25 different in-kind donors enabling every dollar raised to go directly to the cause. This occasion truly had entertainment for everyone and a wide assortment of great food and beverages.

There was a fabulous Pig Roast courtesy of Dealaman's Enterprises, professionally grilled hamburgers and hot dogs from Applebee's-Union, salivating sausage & peppers, Assorted Trays from the Committed Pig, Sandwiches from Towne Deli-Summit. Assorted sides, corn & pies from Jonathan Sage, Tasticakes & pies from Tasticakes, scrumptious desserts from Baba's Bakery-Madison, Natale's-Summit and Bake-Summit. There were plentiful refreshing beverages: beer donated by Traprock-Berkeley Heights, Wine from Cambridge Wines, and San-Gria as well as water and soft drinks.

Guests of all ages enjoyed an amazing lineup of donated entertainment that included: the always energizing DJ Mr. Socks, dancing to a Live performance from New Jersey's AMP'D, a captivating opening ceremony that included: a stirring rendition of the national anthem by singing prodigy Sasha Capobianco, full military honor guard, Manville Fire Dept. hoisting the American Flag, and Bagpipers from the Essex County Emerald Society. There was a Silent Auction, a 50/50, a closest to the pin golf contest, Mgr. Tom Boehm on hand for Cornhole, Bocce Ball, a Dunk Tank from Paddy the Brush, Face Painting, Seeing Eye Puppies, Elroy the Elk, and other fun entertainment for the little ones.

This elaborate event was the culmination of hundreds of hours of planning and preparation by an Elks East Central District Committee of - 40 members spearheaded by Apollo Hrehorovich and Rocco DiPiano of the Summit Elks. The Team included members of Elks East Central District Lodges: Summit, Cranford, Mountainside, Rahway, Union, Springfield/Hillside, Stirling, and from the Short Hills Ski Club.

If you didn't get a chance to attend or contribute to the 'Family Fun Day' event and would like to help a veteran in need, please scan the attached QR code or send a check payable to: ECD Veterans Committee.

Mailing address: Attn: Doreen Duffy, Elks ECD Veterans Committee, 87 Harrison Ave., Colonia, NJ 07067. Any questions email Summit Elks member: apolloh99@yahoo.com





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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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BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINSIDE HOSTED "HARVEST MOON" FALL FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Jeffrey A. Moran

The volunteer group Beautiful Mountainside hosted a "Harvest Moon" dinner dance fundraiser at Masker's Barn on Friday, September 27, raising more than \$7,000 and giving partygoers a real 'fall experience'. The all-volunteer group, whose aim is to build town spirit through beautification, relies fully on donations and is thrilled to be able to continue its efforts, thanks



to all those who attended and donated.

"We had the perfect location in the Masker's Barn in the Deserted Village," said group president Todd Evans. "And we have some really talented members who brought the event idea to life through fall décor, food and general ambiance. We are so lucky to have these members who really love this town and wanted to make the event feel so fun and special."

The evening featured a delicious menu for 90 guests, catered by Mazzella's with additions from the Mountainside Deli; tasty wines and beers courtesy of Publick House (and a local resident); and decadent desserts provided by The Bake Zone and Mountainside Deli. Music was provided by DJ Spinners Entertainment, and they kept the group dancing right up to doors closing! Other meaningful donations included shuttle transport, provided by DJ's Limousine Services – a must to navigate the Deserted Village roads and parking limitations; and two tasteful raffle prizes from Christoffers Flowers & Gifts.

Funds from the event will allow Beautiful Mountainside to continue ongoing litter clean up throughout the town and along Route 22; maintain the Holiday tree lighting; provide ongoing planting/maintenance of the flower boxes along Mountain Avenue and around Borough Hall; and other ad hoc beautification projects.

4 TIME AWARDEE of US News Best Nursing Home Union County's Leading Rehabilitation Option Hospitality Focused Rehab Experience with 24 Hour Guest Services Line Physiatrist Driven Customized Rehab Planning our by Dr. Cristin McKenna Onsite Physician and Specialty **Consultations by Leading Area Physicians** Seamless Transition to home provided by our Care Navigation[™] Specialist. Urgent SNF™ Direct from ER Stabilization Program **NOW Certified in Heart Failure** by The American Heart Association SPRI BEST REHABILITATION & HEALTHCARE CENTER 144 Gales Drive, New Providence, NJ 07974 • (908)464.8600 scan to SpringGroveRehab.com learn more



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DEERFIELD SCHOOL NAMED 2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Mountainside Public Schools

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized 356 schools as the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools. The Mountainside School District is thrilled to announce that Deerfield School is one of 11 schools in New Jersey to receive this prestigious recognition which highlights schools that excel in academic performance. Additionally, Mountainside's Deerfield School is the only school in Union County to be honored with this award this year. "The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a testament to the exceptional achievements of students and educators at each of these schools," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools are raising the bar for our nation's students, serving as models for effective teaching and intentional collaboration in their schools and communities. As we celebrate their achievements, let us look to these schools for



inspiration as we champion education as the foundation of a brighter future for every child."

Mrs. Janet Walling, Superintendent of the Mountainside School District remarked, "I am so incredibly proud of the efforts of the Deerfield administration and staff, who maintain a daily focus on student achievement and emotional growth throughout our students' critical developmental years from 3rd through 8th grade. The leadership of Mrs. Suzanne Jenks, the building principal, and the efforts of her entire staff, along with the support of the Mountainside community has allowed us to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students. I am thrilled that this important work is being recognized at both the state and federal levels and am confident in our District's continued success."

The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools reflect the full diversity of American education and serve students from all backgrounds. While awardees represent a wide array of schools, they share common traits. National Blue Ribbon Schools are led by leaders who articulate a clear vision of instructional excellence and uphold high standards. They showcase effective teaching methods and offer robust professional development for their staff. Data-driven instruction is a hallmark, and there is a concerted effort to ensure every student succeeds. Collaboration among families, communities, and educators is a key component of their

success.

As part of the process, nominated schools submit a comprehensive application detailing its school culture, programs, assessments, instructional practices, professional leadership, family, development, and community involvement. Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education official in each state, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

The Department recognizes all schools based on student performance data including assessment results, student subgroup performance and graduation rates. Deerfield School was recognized in the following performance category:

Exemplary High Performing Schools: These schools are among the top performers in their state as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

As a National Blue Ribbon School, an award flag will be displayed at our school's entryway as a widely recognized emblem of exceptional teaching and learning. Proudly serving as a symbol that Deerfield School is a model of effective and innovative practices for educators across the nation.



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FULFILL WISH LISTS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE - CHILD FOCUS

Focus, the nonprofit child advocacy organization that runs Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties, is thrilled to announce the launch of its annual Holiday Wish List Drive. This initiative aims to bring joy and personalized gifts to more than 400 children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, honoring their unique interests and wishes this holiday season. The holidays can be especially difficult for those involved in the child welfare system, and this drive seeks to ensure each child feels seen, valued, and celebrated.

Child Focus invites community members, organizations, and businesses to support the drive by purchasing items directly from its Amazon Wish List, donating gift cards to popular retailers such as Target, Amazon, Walmart, Macy's, Old Navy, and Sephora, or contacting Child Focus directly to learn what specific items are needed this year. All gifts must be new, unwrapped, and delivered to the Child Focus offices in Wayne or Elizabeth by Monday, December 9.

"The holiday wish list drive is always a bright spot in our programming, as our community comes together to make wishes come true for these children who have experienced so much turmoil in their young lives," stated Child Focus Executive Director, Erica Fischer-Kaslander. "It

As the holiday season approaches, Child is an important reminder that a small act of kindness can have an incredible impact in a young person's life. We are grateful for our community partners who have stepped up year after year, including those who have been willing to scour the internet and pound the pavement to locate some of those special gifts, injecting some much-needed holiday magic into the lives of these deserving children."

Child Focus thanks the community partners who continually step up to make wishes come true for hundreds of children in foster care.

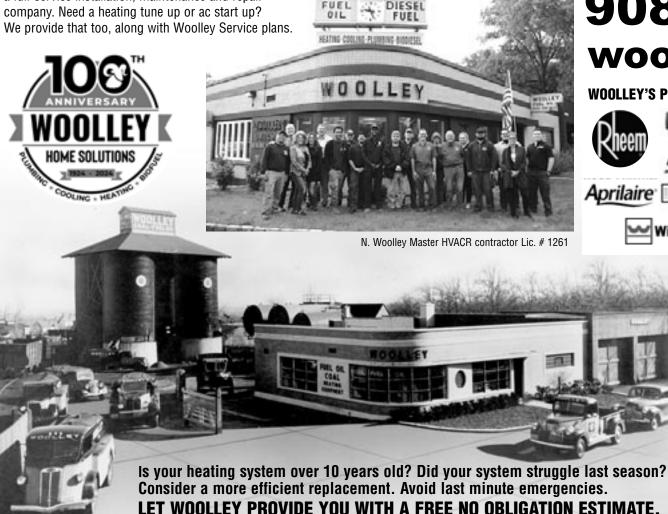
For more information on the Holiday Wish List Drive, including a link to the Amazon Wish List, or to learn how you can become a CASA volunteer, please visit childfocusnj.org or call (973) 832-4002.

ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus prioritizes the needs and wellbeing 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, log on to www.childfocusnj.org.

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JOHN BROWNE MARKS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN FIRE DEPARTMENT

John Browne celebrated his 50th anniversary with the Mountainside Fire Department in 2024. Recently we were able to honor him and celebrate. John Browne is one of our top five responding members even after 50 years of service. He has served as Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, and Chief. He continues to serve as a role model and mentor to new firefighters. Congrats John, we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Follow Mountainside Fire Department on Facebook





SHOP LOCAL FARMERS' MARKETS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The New Jersey Council of Farmers and Communities (NJCFC) is excited to highlight the abundant offerings of local farmers' markets, where residents can access the freshest produce the Garden State has to offer.

By visiting jerseyfarmersmarket.com, consumers can easily locate farmers' markets in their area and explore a wide array of locallygrown fruits and vegetables, along with delicious recipes that enhance the farm-to-table experience. Look for the unmistakable Jersey Fresh sign, it insures the purchase of authentic New Jersey produce.

New Jersey boasts over 715,000 acres of dedicated farmland and is renowned for its diverse specialty crops, producing an impressive 1.2 billion pounds of tomatoes, 74 million pounds of blueberries, and 400 million pounds of sweet corn annually. With its unique climate and fertile soil, New Jersey's farmers are devoted to sustainable practices that not only elevate the flavor and quality of their crops but also support environmental stewardship. Specialty crops from New Jersey play a crucial role in both local consumption and national markets, significantly bolstering the state's economy.

The NJCFC supports numerous farmers' markets across the state, fostering community engagement and promoting sustainable living. "New Jersey's agricultural industry is thriving, and our specialty crops are among the best in the nation," said Joseph Mikulewicz, President of NJCFC. "By choosing local produce, consumers invest in their health while supporting our



dedicated farmers and strengthening their communities."

Buying local produce provides numerous advantages: it minimizes carbon footprints thanks to shorter transportation distances, stimulates local economies, and guarantees access to fresher, nutrient-rich food. Research shows that locally grown fruits and vegetables often have higher nutrient levels compared to those transported over long distances.

Farmers' markets, along with local restaurants and grocery stores throughout New Jersey, proudly feature locally sourced produce that encourages healthier eating habits while nurturing a sense of community connection. The state remains committed to upholding its leadership in specialty crop production through initiatives centered on education, sustainability, and making fresh food accessible to all residents.

For more information on New Jersey's specialty crops and the benefits of purchasing local produce, please visit jerseyfarmersmarket.com.



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MOUNTAINSIDE ACTIVE RETIREES

the 2024-2025 season was to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on October 8th.

The bus was filled and all enjoyed the show and meal. Members are looking forward to the 7th annual cookie swap on December 10th

The Mountainside Active Retirees first trip of known as the 3-B meeting (bake some, buy some, bring some) and the Holiday luncheon on January 14th. Regular meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Community Room at Borough Hall. Come introduce yourself!



Courtesy photo

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS EVENT

Join us at the Scotch Plains Public Library on November 6, for this National Alliance on Mental Illness NJ (NAMI NJ) "In Our Own Voice" program, where you are invited to come hear two trained presenters speak about their own experience living with significant mental illness.

Michael, who grew up and has lived for 39 years in Scotch Plains and Fanwood, lives with schizophrenia, severe anxiety flare-ups, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. In the past, he lived with depression. An additional presenter will share their own experience with their mental illness. After the presenters describe namiNJ.org.

"what happened" to them, "what helps" them, and "what's next" for them, questions and comments about the presenters' lived experience are welcome. This presentation dispels myths, and leaves all with a sense of hope.

Registration is suggested, but not required. If you register, we'll send you a reminder before the program. For more information or to register, to cotlib.org, email go library@scotlib.org or call (908) 322-5007 x 204. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue.

To learn more about NAMI NJ visit





VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

Mountainside Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10136 will commemorate Veterans Day with a ceremony on November 11, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.at Mountainside Veterans Memorial Park, which is adjacent to the Mountainside Library. All Veterans and Mountainside residents are encouraged to attend. The Mountainside Restoration Committee is graciously hosting community veterans & spouses for lunch at the Hetfield House immediately after the ceremony. If clement weather, the ceremony will be held at Borough Hall.



et a complimentary desert with this coupon during the month of July with the order of two entrees. Expires 11/30/24.

LIBRARY NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

1 Constitution Plaza, Mountainside, NJ • 908-233-0115 • www.mountainsidelibrary.org Mon., Thurs.: 9:30am - 8:00pm; Tues., Wed.: 9:30am - 6:00pm Fri., Sat.: 9:30am-5:00pm; Sunday: closed

Closed: October 14th for Columbus Day. No afternoon movie October 11th.

We will be closed on Monday, November 11th for Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 28th and Friday November 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday. Our Autumn Story Times continue as follows (no registration

necessary): **Cuddle Story Time** *Tuesdays, Nov. 5, 12 & 19 10am-10:30am* Nursery rhymes, simple stories & songs for children up to 2 with their caregivers and siblings.

Family Story Time Wednesdays, Nov. 6, 13 & 20 10am-10:45am Stories, rhymes, songs and a craft for preschool

children and their caregivers. Babies-in-Arms Wednesdays, Nov. 6 & 20

11:15am-12pmA lap-sit story time for the littlest.

Time to visit afterwards. **Yoga Story Time** Thursdays, Nov. 14 & 21 10am-10:30am With Jennifer from Little Pathfinders.

For preschoolers and a caregiver. Arrive early to get a spot. Boad to a Therapy Dog

Read to a Therapy Dog Thursday, Nov. 21, 4-5pm Come cuddle up and read for 10-15 minutes. Bring three of your own books when you come. All readers are welcome. Register and reserve your spot by emailing Ms. Elizabeth at eperrin@mountainsidelibrary.org.

Please include your reader's name, age and contact phone number.

Our Great Courses Series continues How Winston Churchill Changed the World Mondays, Nov. 4, 18 & 25 - 1pm

Light refreshments will be served. Books & Bagels Saturday, Nov. 2 - 10:30am No Assigned Reading! Join us for bagels and

coffee and find out what everyone is reading. **Monday Night Book Club** Nov. 4 - 6:30pm Join us to discuss "Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Books are available at the library.

Call to reserve your copy or get more information.



Dreams

Thursday, Nov. 7th - 1pm Grades 1-4. Explore with Meredyth Coleman of City Winds Trio. Do you hear sounds when you dream? Meet and hear different percussion instruments. Play several games, draw dream shapes and create a dream catcher. You will start your own dream journal to take home. To register, call the library at 908-233-0115.

AARP Speaker's Bureau: Retirement Planning

Thursday, Nov. 7th - 4pm Be prepared for retirement. Learn how to plan from a speaker from the AARP Speaker's Bureau. Registration recommended. Friday Afternoon Movies Nov. 1, 15 & 22 - 1pm Trivia

Friday, Nov. 8 - 12pm Hosted by Cranford Park Care. Enjoy an afternoon of Trivia. Adults, Free to attend. No registration required.

Scrapbooking

Saturday, Nov. 9 - 1pm Bring 8-10 of your favorite photos (not digital) for some autumn-themed scrapbooking! Hosted by Jessica McSulla. Photos should preferably be Fall theme but not to worry if they are not. If you forget photos we can work around it. Free to attend. Registration required. Call the library at 908-233-0115.

Monthly Documentary

Wednesday, Nov. 13 - 1pm Into the Arms of Strangers. This Best Documentary Feature Winner tells the story of the 1939 rescue that transported 10,000 Jewish children out of Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia to safety in England. The film features archival film clips and photos, reenactments and interviews with survivors. Judi Dench is the narrator. Free to

attend. No registration required. **Who are the Lenni Lenape?**

Tuesday, Nov. 19 - 3:30-4:30pm Ages 8 to adult only. A talk from Trailside Nature and Science Center. November is Native American Heritage Month. Come, listen and learn about the "original people". You will be able to touch artifacts and natural items that the Lenape used to survive. Call the library to save your spot at 908-233-0115.





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BIG NEWS: RENNA MEDIA IS LAUCHING SIX MORE NEWSPAPERS IN DECEMBER

Renna Media will be launching six new newspapers in December 2024. The new towns joining Renna Media's family of newspapers are Livingston, Roseland, Hanover, East Hanover, Morristown, and Morris Township. The newspapers are Every Door Direct Mailing (EDDM) to every home and business in town.

The new monthly publications will add over 40,000 new postal patrons for a new total of over 200,000 newspapers mailed to 30 towns in Union, Somerset and Morris Counties.

The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns. The newspaper's goal is to have a positive influence on the economic development and overall well-being of the town. Our publications exist to share community service news and the good things that are happening in the community.

The concept of being hyper-local is to give local businesses a venue to promote services. Reaching local customers gives you the highest return for your advertising dollars. The black and white newspapers are designed to keep the cost of an advertisement to a minimum. Ads in one town start at \$100. Regional businesses can take advantage of discounted rates for advertising in multiple towns.

Renna Media also prints full-color flyers and tri-fold menus that get mailed along with the newspapers. A cost effective alternative to mailing postcards.

Renna Media is a Cranford, NJ based business

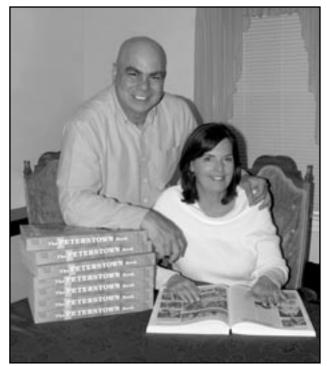
owned and operated by husband-and-wife team of Joe and Tina Renna. They are celebrating 40 years in business.

For more information about Renna Media publications, please visit RennaMedia.com.

Press releases with community service news can be emailed to editor@rennamedia.com.

Businesses interested in advertising can call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295,

or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.



(above, l-r) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, are celebrating 40 years in business.

FUNDRAISER GALA FEATURES ONLINE AUCTION

Hearts for Emma a 501©3 in Cranford, NJ is having a gala fundraising evening featuring cocktails, dinner, live music, sensational raffles, & a silent auction featuring original artwork on November 23, 2024, at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, New Jersey.

Hearts for Emma was founded by Cranford residents Nancie & Emma Rothman after Emma received a lifesaving heart transplant at the age of 12. Hearts for Emma provides assistance to families with children in crisis due to cardiac illness and creates and distributes educational materials in support or organ and tissue donation.

Co-founder Nancie Rothman states, "When Emma received her heart transplant, we were and continue to be so grateful to have the support of our family and community to help us through what was the most difficult time in our lives. Hearts for Emma was founded to help us live every day with purpose and to give back. Our gala fundraiser will be a wonderful evening and a way to support a great cause. We invite anyone interested in attending, donating, and purchasing raffle tickets as well as bidding online for the below painting & other exciting items to do so."

For further information, visit: heartsforemma.org

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Rates effective November 1, 2024. Subject to change. See RennaMedia.com for most up to date pricing. JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com



(above) Joe Renna holds an original 36" x 24' oil painting of the 18th Hole at Galloping Hill he created for Hearts for Emma 2024 Auction.

SOME OF THE ITEMS BEING AUCTIONED

As of this printing 11/1/24

- 10 days in Steamboat Colorado
- (September 19th-29th, 2025,
- Oura Ring
- Shackamaxon Round of Golf,
- pickle ball lesson, Hold Now gift certificate
- Pet Art -unique rendering of your pet
- Bonnie-Leigh Jones painting Beach Scene
- Original oil painting of the 18th Hole at Galloping Hill

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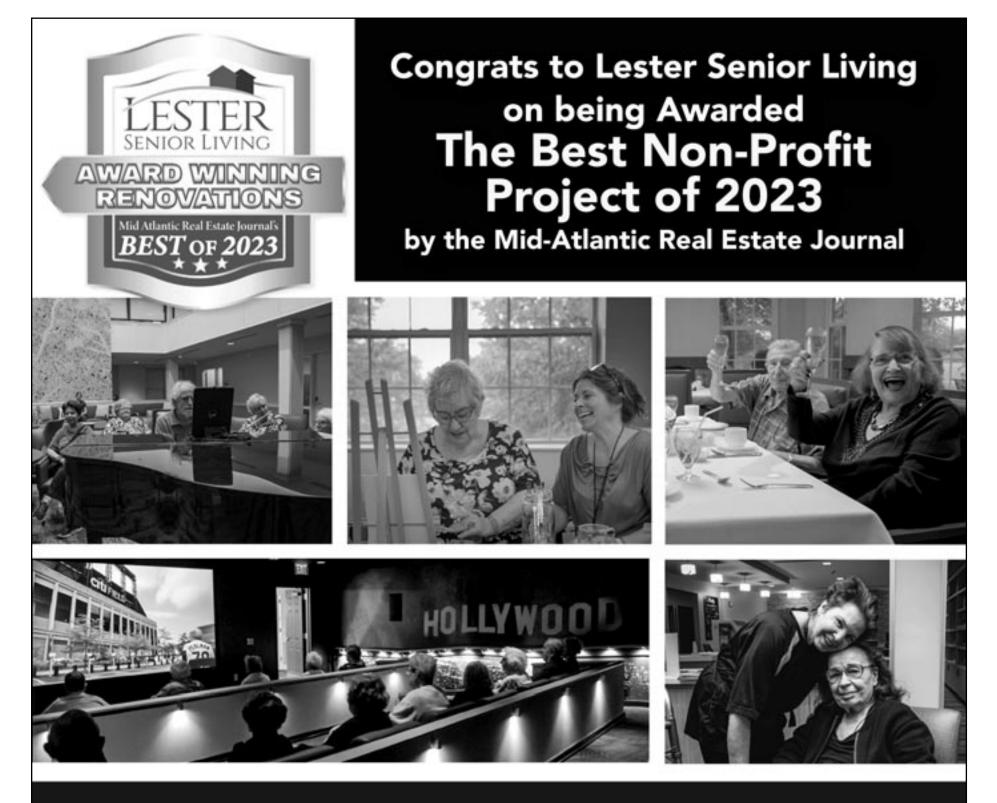


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