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### FRANK REILLY BECOMES LIFE MEMBER STIRLING FIRE CO.

Long Hill Firefighter Frank Reilly was recently elected to become a Life Member of the Stirling Vol. Fire Co. This is a rare and honored achievement few achieve. It is only available to those with 20 or more years serving as a Stirling firefighter.

He currently holds the office of Trustee and serves on various other committees. He enjoys doing the annual fire prevention training at local schools, where he is joined with 1 or 2 other firefighters. Rumor has it that he is Santa Clause.

Reilly says "I love doing it all. I get great satisfaction on fire alarms helping people on some of their worst days. I've always liked helping others as a firefighter."

Firefighter Reilly also had 20 years with the Dunellen Fire Dept. where he was a captain and secretary for several years. Reilly was also a volunteer firefighter in the Dover Fire Dept. for several years. He was the executive director of the Morris County Dept. of Transportation Management where he started the trailblazing paratransit service.

Frank Reilly is also an Army vet. He was stationed in a combat ready strike outfit in Germany from 1961-1964. "Those were some really interesting, exciting, and dangerous days, especially the day when I was taken prisoner by Russian Army soldiers behind the Iron Curtain for photographing their military base. I was adventurous."



(above) Frank Reilly on the Stirling Vol. Fire Co. 1939 Diamond-T Smokeater fire engine at the 2024 Memorial Day Parade. Courtesy photo

### HAVE SANTA VISIT YOUR HOME ON A FIRE ENGINE

What can be better than having Santa make a personal visit with your etc. Your help and support to these local heroes children at your house? Santa arrives on a real fire engine, delivers a special will be most sincerely appreciated. present, and talks with your children and family. He will be making his visits on Sat., Dec.14, so sign up now and get an unforgettable and everyone age 16 or older, male or female, is treasured holiday memory for your child and your family, one they'll eligible to join. cherish for years to come.

You may take photos with your family and Santa with his fire engine, as well as take photos of your whole family with Santa. He'll be accompanied by costumed firefighter elves to enhance this experience.

Sign-up for Santa's memorable visit by sending an email to Stirling's Santa at stirlingfirecompany@gmail.com. Leave your name and phone number and a Firefighter Santa's helper will respond to confirm your visit. The firefighters request a \$50 donation for the visit.

You purchase and wrap your child's gift then drop it off at the Stirling Firehouse, 321 Somerset St., Stirling either on Dec. 12 or 13 between 5 and 9 p.m. Santa will deliver it on Sat., Dec. 14. Your \$50 donation is due when you drop off your gift. Please make your check payable to the Stirling Vol. Fire Co.

The Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. consists of Township residents who are always ready to help every hour of every day as they have done selflessly since 1913. This is an annual fund-raising event for the Stirling Volunteer Fire Co. and supports them in paying for training, equipment, maintenance,

Firefighting here is a real brotherhood, and





# AL CUSTOMER **POST**



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### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

Watchung Hills Regional High School

The Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) hosted their 46th induction ceremony of the WHRHS chapter of the National Honor Society on October 22, 2024. The program was held in the school's performing arts center.

During the opening remarks, WHRHS students, Sana Khurana and Caroline Roberts spoke about the history of the National Honor Society. Highlighting how it was founded in 1921, and it was designed to "recognize and encourage academic achievement while

developing other characteristics essential to citizens in a democracy."

A candle lighting ceremony followed. There were four candles representing different characteristics: Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Community Service.

The induction of 82 students into the National Honor Society followed.

The program concluded with honoring WHRHS teacher, Ms. Christina DiBartolo as National Honor Society Teacher of the Year.



(above) The executive board, administration, NHS Advisor, & NHS Teacher of the Year Ms. Christina DiBartolo Photos by Watchung Hills Regional High School

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### HOLIDAY COOKIE **DECORATING CONTEST**

Get ready to sprinkle some holiday magic and show off your decorating skills in the Long Hill Township Parks & Recreation's Holiday Cookie Decorating Contest. From November 29 to December 17, we're inviting all cookie enthusiasts-kids, adults, and even our reigning champs-to join the fun. Whether you're a seasoned baker or an up and coming artist, there's a category for everyone:

• Children under10 years • over 10 years old • Adults

Prestigious Baker Award (for past winners looking to defend their title!)

Submit your sweetest creations to recreationasst@longhillnj.gov and be sure to include your full name, address, email, phone number, and the category of entry. Winners will be announced on December 20th, so don't miss out on your chance to claim the crown! Entry is free for Long Hill Residents.

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### **HOUSE / BUSINESS DECORATING CONTEST**

Light Up Long Hill! Join the 5th Annual Holiday House & Business Decorating Contest!

Deck the halls (and yards!) and show off your festive spirit in Long Hill's favorite holiday tradition! Register by December 9th on Community Pass for your chance to dazzle in one of these festive categories: Best Traditional / Classic; Most Unique; Best Theme; Best Dressed Business; Brightest; High Tech; Best Yard Display

Our judges will be out from December 10th-16th, so get those lights and decorations ready to shine! All participants agree to have exterior photos shared on social media, websites, and in newspapers. Open to all Long Hill Township residents and businesses, and registration is free!

Got questions? Call Long Hill Parks & Recreation at (908) 647-8000 x219 or x267. Let's make Long Hill sparkle this season!





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### **DECEMBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS** LONG HILL TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:** 

Santa's Storytime Show

Saturday, Dec 21 @ 10am Santa Claus is visiting the Library! Join Santa for a whimsical Storytime that includes the magic of the North Pole, a dash of comedy, and plenty of audience participation. Stay after the show for pictures with Santa. Register required.

#### **Gingerbread Making Workshop**

Sunday, December 22 @ 1:30pm The Caputo family is back! Join them to learn all about the world of competitive gingerbread making. See some of their award-winning productions & then have time to create your own winter scene.

#### Winter Wonderland Magic Show with Steve Woyce

Thursday, Dec 26 @ 11am Join us for an enchanting magic show with Steve Woyce that combines colorful comedy magic and lots of audience participation. Volunteers will help make Candy Canes vanish, build a magic snowman, and make Lulu the Magic Rabbit appear. For ages 3-11 with their caregiver. Registration required.

#### **ADULT PROGRAMS:** A Photographic Odyssey

Saturday, Dec 7 @ 11:30am Gifted local photographer, David Surks, will take us on a colorful and ingeniously crafted photographic journey around our country with dramatic music to match as well as his own special commentary and enthusiasm. This presentation will feature a visit to Yellowstone in winter plus more photographs of David's

#### **Piano Concert with Jung Lee** Sunday, Dec 15 @ 2pm

travels.

We are thrilled to have Ms. Lee return for a piano concert at the LHT Library. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2014 as the 2nd place winner of the American Protégé International Piano competition. In addition, she has won many other competitions and awards, including the Korea Music Competition, Price of Korea Piano Duo Concours, and the Italy Verbania International Music Competition. Join us on Sunday, December 15 at 2pm for a wonderful musical treat! No registration required!





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**1790 Springfield Avenue New Providence** (Located behind Zitas Ice Cream) NEW

The Long Hill girl scout service unit all came together to participate in a sing-a-long at dusk at Hicks Track, Millington on Sunday, November 3rd. The event originally intended to be a campfire sing-a-long on the Stirling Elks property had to be amended due to the fire restrictions. Many girl scouts from the Daisy level to the Cadette level all came together and participated with flashlights and glow bracelets. The scouts all congregated in Hicks Tract on the wooden platforms that were built by former girl scout, Jillian Gaydos for her gold award project. The scouts still had fun even without the

campfire with each troop leading their own song. Songs included Tooty Ta, I'm Bringing Home a Baby Bumblebee and Baby Shark.

In the spirit of giving back, Senior Troop 96605 collected donations from the participants to put together cookie bags to donate to 12 Baskets Food Pantry so families have ingredients to make homemade cookies this holiday season.

The evening ended with the entire service unit forming a big circle and singing Make New Friends. Every scout left with a bag of goodies to make their own s'mores.

Courtesy photos







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### **SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS**

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.

For 35 years, the Senior Center of the Chathams serves the senior population from the Chathams and older adults from a wide surrounding area. The Center helps older adults age in place and remain active and engaged through activities and services that educate, empower, and promote community engagement.

There is no membership fee to join. Many

### **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS**

#### Submitted by Jennifer Ricci

The Watchung Hills Pop Warner 13U football team lead by Coaches Fred Ricci, Stephen Kelly and Jeremy Herring defeated the Somerville/Branchburg Pioneers in the Central Jersey Pop Warner Division 2 Conference Finals on October 27th by a score of 14-6. The entire Wolverines team battled a tough four quarters against the talented Pioneers but the Watchung Hills Wolverines were able to secure the victory in the end closing the regular season with an 8-1 record. Watchung Hills continues to dominate their opponents in the first round of regionals defeating Toms River 36-6. Let's Go Wolverines!

programs are offered free of charge, while others

involve only a minimal fee thanks to individual

The Center is located at 58 Meyersville Road

(lower level) in Chatham and is open Mondays

through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more

information, call 973-635-4565 or visit

donations, fundraising events, and grants.

chathamseniorcenter.org.



(above) Watchung Hills Pop Warner 13u Central Jersey Conference Champions

#### **DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE SENIOR CENTER:** French Impressionism & Art Nouveau

Wed., Dec. 4, 12:00 p.m. Tour Parisian art of the Belle Epoque virtually and explore the birth of artistic movements including Impressionism and Art Nouveau with virtual tour guide Julie Averbach at the

#### Senior Center. Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Thurs., Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. Monthly support group for those who care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Life in America on Pearl Harbor Day, Wed., Dec. 11, 10:00 a.m.

Presentation by Center member Herb Waddell. George Gershwin: Behind the Music,

Wed., Dec. 11, 12:00 p.m. Lecture by FDU Professor of Music, Allen

Cohen, about the life, legacy, and music of George Gershwin.

#### Kings, Queens & Guillotines

Wed., Dec. 18, 11:00 am. Joel Farkas, Lecturer, will talk about the American and French Revolutions, two kings, two queens, two countries, two revolutions, and

the guillotine.

Backgammon lessons

*Tues.*, *Dec.* 17, 12:00 p.m. Learn how to play the famous board game from Center member Lee Corcoran.



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