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Thank you to all who participated in our Veterans Day Ceremony to help honor those who have served our country. We hope to see even more of our veterans to show our appreciation for their service. We want to thank everyone who attended and helped make this ceremony great as well!



Ashley's October Watchung Market Update

\$1,063,833

Average Sales Price

6

of sales

28

Average Days on Market

15

of houses on the market

The Cherie Berger Team
Ashley Berger Freitas M: 908.432.9818
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Watchung 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

Hello December

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TREE OF LIGHTS – DEC. 7TH



The 34th Anniversary of the Tree of Lights will be held on December 7th at 5:30 p.m. on the Village Green in Watchung. Members of the Watchung Rescue Squad will remember the life of Mr. Barry Hunsinger and honor all the volunteers of the Watchung Community.

Barry was born in Overlook Hospital and grew up in Watchung. After a brief period in Roselle Park, he returned to Watchung, where he was an active member of the community throughout the remainder of his life. He was deeply involved in all Watchung sports and was a familiar face behind the counter at the snack shack at football games. Barry also worked to better the educational opportunities for future generations by co-founding the Watchung Educational Foundation, and serving on the WHRHS Board of Education for many years.

With his foresight and compassion, Barry laid a strong foundation for preparedness and responsiveness by improving vital steps of Watchung's emergency infrastructure. His active involvement within the Janet Memorial Fund inspired him to push for AEDs to be installed in all Watchung schools. He also advocated for CPR training for all teachers and staff in the event of an emergency. As an IT professional, he often offered his skills for both the WPD and WFD, fixing technical mishaps and computer systems. While every part of Barry's help was appreciated then, the true scale of his efforts have become even clearer now.

Beyond his numerous contributions to the Borough throughout his life, Barry is most remembered for his ability to connect with almost anyone he interacted with. He had a large heart and a passion for his community that was contagious to all who knew him. Barry is just one example of the countless individuals who made a lasting impact within Watchung.

This year, the Rescue Squad would also like to honor all the unsung heroes of the past, present, and future who volunteer countless hours of their time to the community. At the core of each committee and organization are people shaping Watchung for the better. Their contributions are integral in making Watchung a true home for us all.

For more information visit watchungems.org/tree-of-lights.



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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!



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

Courtesy photo

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WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER - DECEMBER CALENDAR

Located on the Warrenbrook Golf Course, 500 Warrenville Rd., Warren, NJ.

Call 908-753-9440 for more information. Open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Somerset County residents who are 60 years and older are welcome to participate in any of the programs at Warrenbrook Senior Center. They also provide a choice of 4 different meal choices during lunch during the weekdays. Programs are FREE for registered members.

Tapping Solution with Alicia Grey

December 2, 11 a.m.

Wouldn't it be great if there was a simple technique to lower your stress? Well, there is! It's called "tapping". Clinical studies have shown that by tapping on certain pressure points on our face and upper body, we can actually lower the stress hormone cortisol as well as break free of limiting negative emotions, including fear, anxiety and anger.

Decorating the Senior Center for the Holidays

December 3, 11 a.m.

Christmas is right around the corner! We will spend the day decorating the Warrenbrook Senior Center and the Christmas tree.

Living well with Diabetes

December 4, 11 a.m.

with Jennifer Korneski, Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Learn healthy eating tips and foods to help manage diabetes when nearing the season of candies and feasting.

Christmas Bingo with Emily

December 5, 11 a.m.

Bingo promotes socialization, strengthens hand-eye coordination, and improves listening and short-term memory skills

Holiday Party with Sal Di Bianca

December 6, 11 a.m.

Every year we follow the tradition of getting together and enjoying the festivities with musical entertainment while singing and dancing to the holiday music and cherishing the sweet memories of the year we are about to bid farewell to. This year Sal Di Bianca will be entertaining us for the yearly Warrenbrook Holiday Party while we meet our fellow seniors and enjoy the music and food. Expect a surprise visit by Mr. Claus.

Timeless Protection:

December 9, 11 a.m.

This presentation highlights how handwashing remains our best defense against infections.

We'll explore its historical and scientific importance and demonstrate the correct way to wash hands for effective protection. Join us to see how this simple practice can help keep you safe this season.

Drum Circle with Anil Sachadev

December 9, 1 p.m.

Soothe the mind, body and spirit in this drumming circle. The benefits of drumming are deep relaxation, lower blood pressure, reduced stress and open communication.

Christmas Cards with Parul

December 10, 11 a.m.

In a heartfelt way to spread the joy during the holiday season, we will create warm and festive Christmas cards with thoughtful messages of hope, love & encouragement.

They will be sent to our Meals on Wheels clients and also will be donated to senior living homes.

Shell Angel Ornament Craft with Parul

December 11

A beautiful and natural way to create a unique holiday decoration using seashells. We will be embellishing the seashells with a wooden bead head and metallic pipe cleaners for the halo. All materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

Breathing techniques for mental wellness

December 12, 11 a.m.

Dr Prabha Srinivas will be teaching some practices that can be used to distract the mind and induce calm during an anxiety episode. A few techniques can be practiced on a regular basis to develop an ongoing awareness of trigger situations and to calm and regulate the nervous system consistently.

Brains n Games and Hand Bells

December 13, 11 a.m.

Join Adrienne for some mind-tingling, brain-stumping word games and a fun-filled musical workout using hand bells.

Holidays around the world with Mary Ellen from Grace Healthcare Services

December 16, 11 a.m.

We take pride in our national holidays and come together to celebrate the cultural holidays which gives an opportunity to admire the depth and diversity of the traditions we have accumulated throughout history.

Mary Ellen from Grace Health Service will talk about a few of these holidays and traditions that different cultures follow.

Boxed in for the Holidays

December 17, 11 a.m.

with Parul - This is an easy board game that is similar to Bingo because you have to cover numbers in a specific way to win. However, you must cover the numbers in specific order to make your way around the board. Will you be the first to get boxed in and win?

Sing Along with Warrenbrook Seniors

December 18, 11 a.m.

Warrenbrook Senior Ken Tekel will lead the group where we will be singing Christmas Carols while getting into the Christmas spirit.

Hallelujah!

December 19, 11 a.m.

This chorus stirs us from the soles of our feet to the top of our heads. Maestro George Marriner Maull from The Discovery Orchestra will explore how Handel achieved such a magnificent expression through his incredible ability to use musical "text painting."

Christmas Ornament Craft

December 20, 11 a.m.

with Brightview Senior Living - Bring your creativity and holiday spirit as we create a beautiful Christmas ornament to brighten up the season. All materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

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WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER - DECEMBER CALENDAR

Craft – Clothespin Reindeer

December 23, 11 a.m.

A Clothespin Reindeer Craft is a simple and fun holiday project that transforms ordinary wooden clothespins into cute reindeer ornaments or decorations. Materials provided.

Pre-registration is required.

Warrenbrook Senior Center Closed

December 24, 25 - Christmas

Dreidel Games for Hanukkah.

December 26, 11 a.m.

The Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, is being celebrated this week. Let's celebrate and have fun by playing the traditional game of

Kwanzaa with Warrenbrook Staff

December 27, 11 a.m.

Kwanzaa is a week-long holiday beginning December 26th honoring African heritage, unity, and culture. The colors of Kwanzaa are red, green, and black. We will be playing some Kwanza Trivia like African Countries mix, Crosswords, Maze, Secret Message.

Bingo with Emily

December 30, 11 a.m.

Bingo is more than just an exciting activity. Bingo has multiple benefits. It promotes socialization, strengthens hand-eye coordination, and improves listening and short-term memory skills.

New Years Eve Trivia with Warrenbrook Staff

December 31, 11 a.m.

We will play New Year's resolutions word scramble, NYE Word Search and learn some New Year Traditions from Around the World.

Besides the above program, the below programs take place on weekly basis.

Yoga with Kartika

Mondays, 10 a.m.

This class is open to all levels of skill. Hatha yoga poses can be practiced while either sitting or standing. Hatha yoga will help increase bone density, improve strength, flexibility, and balance while you are immersed in a relaxing class. Please call 908-753-9440 for more information. No class on November 4th.

Studio 60+

1st and 3rd Mondays, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Warrenbrook Seniors will meet twice a month to plan the events they are interested in. Some examples include brainstorming for quarterly community service projects, craft work, musical entertainment, and Jeopardy. They will also practice for their quarterly musical entertainment and drama.

Mahjong for Intermediate Players

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

If you are an intermediate mahjong player and would like to play this game of skill, strategy, and calculation, then join us on Tuesday mornings.

Take control with Exercise

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

This is an ongoing exercise program, in video form, for all skill levels that can be practiced while either standing or sitting. This program will strengthen core muscles, improve flexibility and balance while boosting stamina. No fee for this ongoing class. Call 908-753-9440 for more information.

Zumba Gold with Judith

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Get your blood pumping with some zesty music that will truly inspire a hearty workout. This class is achievable for beginners or others who need modifications to their exercise routine. Build cardiovascular health by challenging your heart and working hip, leg, and arm muscles by performing fun and rhythmic moves while sitting in a chair. Cost is \$40 for the 8-week program. Pre-registration is required, please call 908-753-9440.

Bridge Group with Ronnie

Tuesdays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Bridge is a mentally challenging card game that offers intellectual and social stimulation. Playing bridge regularly stimulates your brain and helps keep your memory active and your brain alert. Join Ronnie and her group as they play bridge every week. New members and beginners welcome (lessons available).

Strength Exercise

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

This exercise program is designed to develop strength and enhance the ability to function in daily life. The exercise can be done with or without weights. The hand weight of 2-5 pounds is recommended, which can be brought by the clients for exercise. No fee for this ongoing class.

Line Dancing with Lynda Hyland

Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Line dancing is so much fun that it does not even seem like exercise. You do not need a partner and dancing is an easy way to stay healthy, both mentally and physically. It is suitable for participants with limited mobility and has been shown to increase cardiovascular and muscular strength as well as improve coordination and balance as you work through different moves.

Card/Table Games

Thursdays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Join in and play some of your favorite games such as Dominoes, Left-Center-Right, dice games, Rummikub, Canasta, Mexican Train, and more.

Bridge

Fridays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Bridge is a mentally challenging card game that offers intellectual and social stimulation. Playing bridge regularly stimulates your brain and helps keep your memory active and your brain alert. V

Tai Chi with Roger

Fridays, 10 a.m.

Tai Chi participants will focus on shifting body weight through a series of light, controlled movements that flow rhythmically into one long gesture with guidance from center volunteer, Roger. Studies have shown that some participants have experienced a reduction in pain, fatigue, and stiffness. Tai Chi can help reduce falls. This program can be practiced while either standing or sitting. No fee for this ongoing class.

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Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) honored veterans at Mira Vie assisted living in Warren at a pre-Veterans Day ceremony on November 9. Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR hosted the event, assisted by Boy Scout Pack 67 and the staff of Mira Vie.

Fourteen veterans received medals and certificates from the DAR. Members of the Boy Scouts presented each veteran with their awards

and thanked them for their service. The Scouts also distributed cards that they made for the vets and Mira Vie provided refreshments.

In December, Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter will honor veterans of the past when they decorate a tree for the Festival of Trees at the Somerset County Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge. Their theme is "Celebrating America By Honoring Our Patriot Ancestors." The tree will include brief biographies of members' ancestors who fought in

the American Revolution. The Festival runs December 6-29, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The DAR is a nonprofit service organization open to women 18 and over who can prove descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Based in Green Brook, Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter serves areas of Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties. New members are welcome. Contact the chapter at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.



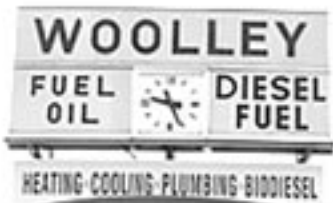
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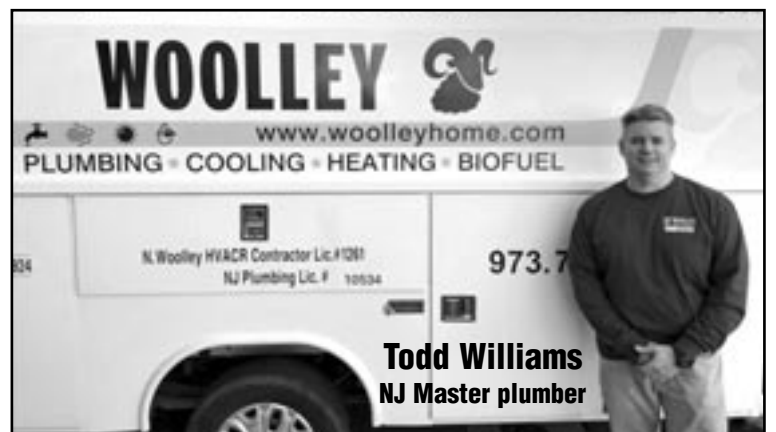


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FREE FAMILY CRAFT FESTIVAL

Somerset County 4-H Association

Spend time with the family as you finish up some holiday shopping. The Somerset County 4-H Association Holiday Craft Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 14 & 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ted Blum 4-H Center of Somerset County, 310 Milltown Road in Bridgewater. Admission is free.

The Craft Festival is a family-friendly holiday boutique featuring local artisans offering a wide variety of jewelry and crafts along with a gingerbread contest, a large model train display, photos with Santa, food and more.

The mission of the Somerset County 4-H Association is to support the 4-H Youth Development Program of Somerset County. The Association owns and maintains the Ted Blum 4-H Center, hosts the annual Somerset County 4-H Fair, offers scholarships, and provides monetary and volunteer support for 4-H programs and events. Learn more at 4HisTops.org.



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MATCHING FUNDS FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

Wilson Memorial Church, located at 7 Valley Road, in Watchung, NJ has allotted \$10,000 in matching funds to be used towards Hurricane Relief through their Memorial Endowment Fund.

The money collected will go to Clearwater Beach Chapel by the Sea, in Florida. Wilson and Chapel by the Sea are members of the ICC (International Council of Community Churches) and have formed a relationship over the years.

Pastor Rhonda Blevins, has communicated to Wilson the devastation in the Clearwater Beach area. The church itself sustained over \$100,000 in damage from Hurricane Helene and further damage from Milton. This seems almost trivial

compared to the destruction within the community itself. Homes completely destroyed, by water, wind, and fire. Lack of food, clothing and shelter.

With the help of donations like yours, the Chapel and Pastor Rhonda have been providing REMS (ready to eat meals) and Target Gift cards, assisting with finding housing, and providing comfort and support- even as they deal with their own losses.

If you have the ability to help Wilson raise funds, please contact Tina in the church office (908-755-5020) or visit wilsonmemorialchurch.org/give.

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Midweek Advent Services with Eucharist
 Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18 at 12 noon
 Organ Recitals After Services on December 4 and 18

Christmas Eve
 Tuesday, December 24
 Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.
 Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
 Wednesday, December 25
 Nativity of Our Lord Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
 Service of Lessons, Carols and Eucharist
 Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Mornings
 Services with Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School, Youth & Adult Forum at 8:45 a.m.

Livestream available
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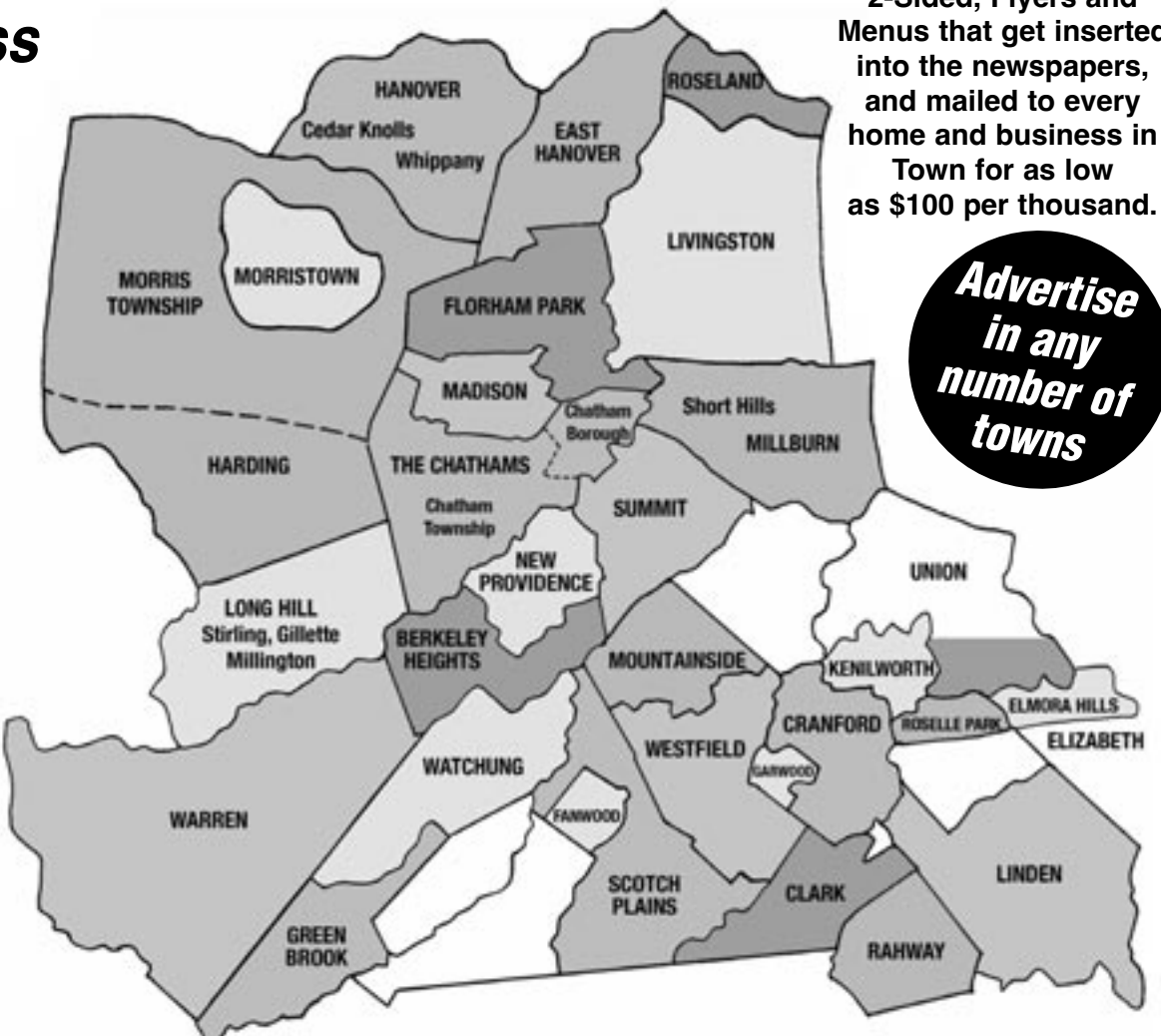
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Life in Roseland NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07068	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY NJ Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076	Summit & Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
18 FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
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HOLIDAY COLLECTION TO BENEFIT HOMELESS VETS

Independence For Veterans

To celebrate Veterans Day and Christmas, Mrs. Stacia McDonough, and her 501c-3 nonprofit, "Independence For Veterans," will be kicking off their 13th annual, "They Kept Us Safe, Let's Keep Them Warm," new winter clothing/necessities drive to benefit the homeless and disabled veterans currently residing at New Jersey's veterans transitional housing facilities. The drive will run November 1, 2024 through January 1, 2025.

Since January 1, 2024, the local, multi-award winning nonprofit has donated over \$538,350 worth of items to NJ and PA veterans shelters.

The items veterans are requesting are:

Brand new clothing such as: coats, hoodies, hats, gloves, slippers, ear muffs, robes, pajamas, undershirts (All men's sizes: M-3XL), dress shirts, thermal underwear, basketball shorts, sweaters, belts, etc.

New bedding such as blankets, pillowcases, Bed-in-a-Bag packages are also in demand.

Toiletries such as: shampoo, body wash, baby wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, Q-tips, deodorant, sunblock, lip balm, etc.

In addition, gift cards from Visa, Amazon, grocery stores, Wal-Mart, and Dunkin Donuts are much sought after by the veterans.

All items collected are hand-delivered to the veterans by Mrs. McDonough and her tireless team of dedicated volunteers.

There are a combined total of approximately 300+ former servicemen and women residing at the 3 New Jersey shelters. The residents are mostly men, however, there are approximately 36 former servicewomen (sizes M-14) residing at the facilities.

Mrs. McDonough was inspired to start this innovative campaign in loving memory of her late husband, John, a highly decorated Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force who served "In Country" during the Vietnam War. The annual collection is now officially "Dedicated in Memory of John E. McDonough."

Sergeant John E. McDonough was assigned to the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron. The 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron engaged in frequent strategical combats in Vietnam's hot zones: Saigon, Anloc, and Nha Trang. This dynamic unit went on to earn five Presidential Citations.

On a cold Veterans Day in 2008, for his exceptional bravery and leadership, John E. McDonough was posthumously inducted to The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, N.J.

"As Americans, we must keep our veterans in the forefront. For their service, bravery, and unimaginable sacrifices these noble warriors should be revered, and never forgotten," says Mrs. McDonough. She is fueled by the tremendous success of her previous campaigns. "I am looking forward to an exceptionally robust year, hoping I will spread some well-deserved Christmas cheer to our amazing heroes. Our phenomenal community has been a tremendous support," she adds.

The drop off collection boxes are located at the following banking locations:

Citizens Bank, 315 Route 202/206 South, Pluckemin.

Kearny Bank, two locations: 675 Martinsville Road, Basking Ridge, and 122 Bernardsville Road, Bernardsville.

For further information on the many missions of Independence for Veterans, kindly visit the website: www.i4v.org or

www.independenceforveterans.org.

Any individuals, businesses, or organizations interested in donating, sponsoring and/or partnering with "They Kept Us Safe, Let's Keep Them Warm" drive, may email info@independenceforveterans.org.



(above) New clothing for veterans residing at the shelter in Lyons, NJ.

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