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Summit NJ Times

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SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL PLAY – THE PROM

Summit High School Performing Arts Program

Rehearsals are underway for Summit High School's upcoming production of *The Prom*. A contemporary story based on true events, *The Prom* is a hilarious, heartwarming musical that celebrates individuality, acceptance, and the power of love.

The *Prom* follows Emma, a high school student who incites controversy in her small Indiana town when she tries to take her girlfriend to the school prom. Her story attracts both the attention of the media and of four eccentric out-of-work Broadway actors who decide to rally around Emma's cause in the hopes of getting back into the spotlight. As they work to fight injustice and give Emma the prom she deserves, they ultimately learn valuable lessons about selflessness and empathy--and so does the entire community.

This lively musical is filled with big, exciting dance numbers, moving ballads, and the uplifting, timely message that everyone deserves to be loved. "We are so excited to tell this story about acceptance of others and ourselves. Our cast loves this show and the music!" says SHS Director Anne Poyner.

Performances will be in the Summit High School Auditorium at 125 Kent Place Blvd on Wednesday, February 26 at 6 p.m., and Thursday, February 27 through Saturday, March 1 at 7p.m.

For tickets, visit cur8.com/projects/hilltopper

Summit High School Theatre Arts Presents

the PROM

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February 26th at 6pm
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Summit High School Auditorium
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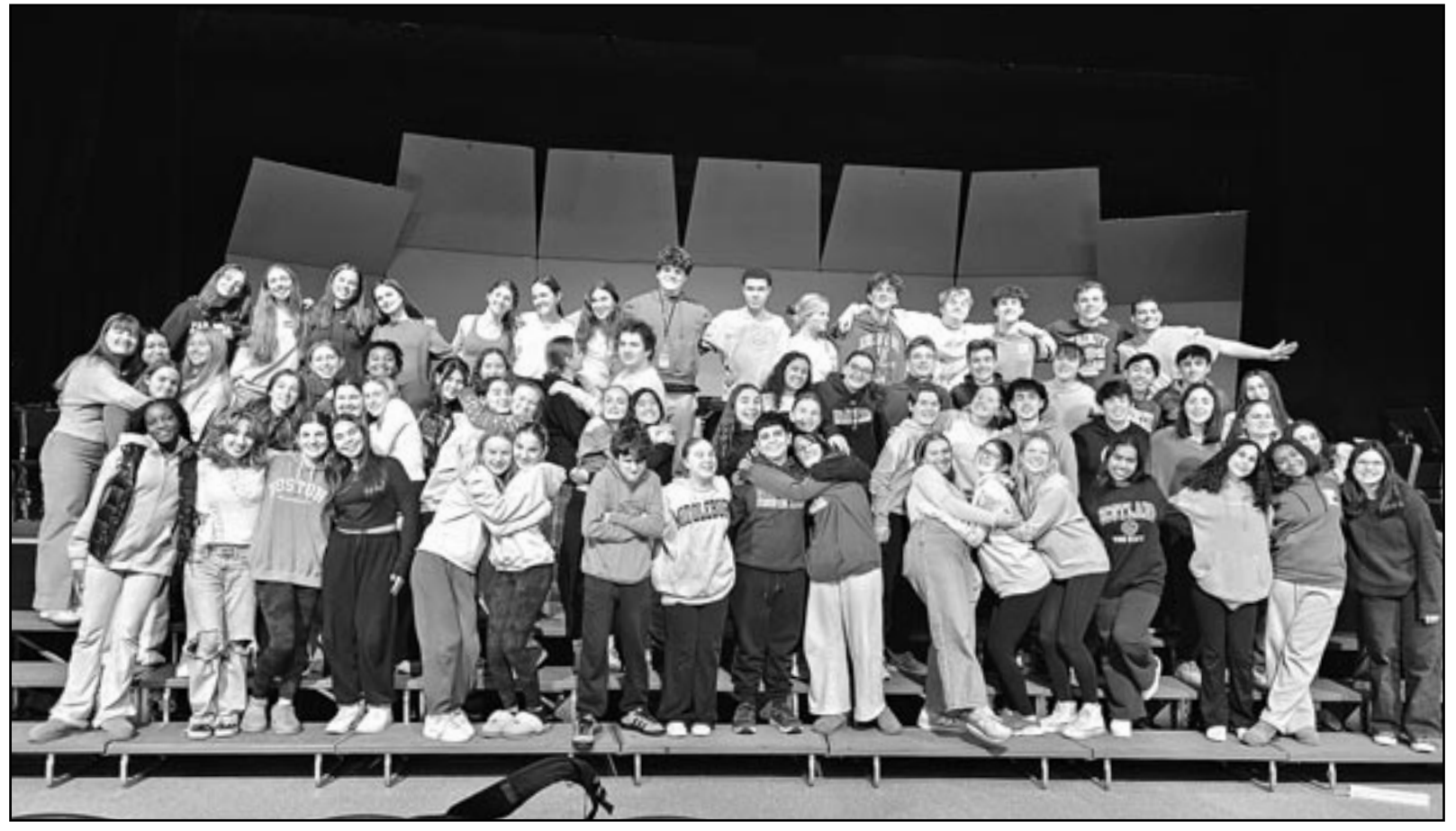
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DONNA MILLER JOINS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Summit Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Donna Miller to its Board of Trustees, effective January 1, 2025.

“We are thrilled to welcome Donna Miller as a new trustee,” announced Dana Turk, president of The Summit Foundation. “Donna brings strong local leadership experience, including as former president of the Summit Board of Education. Her deep ties to the community, shaped by her professional achievements, volunteer service, and long-time residency, make her a valuable addition to our board.”

As founder and CEO of DMJ Strategic Solutions for 22 years, Miller brings a wealth of expertise in organizational development and leadership. Her record of service includes past presidencies of the Summit Board of Education, the Summit Area YMCA Board, and the Junior League of Summit, as well as volunteer work with numerous local organizations, such as Overlook Hospital, Shaping Summit Together, and the PTOs of Summit High School, LCJ Middle School, and Brayton Elementary School. She is also the founder of Winespan, a wine education company.

Since 1972, The Summit Foundation has played a vital role in strengthening and enriching the Summit, NJ area by addressing local needs, developing philanthropic solutions, and building

partnerships to enhance the quality of life for residents. In the past decade, the Foundation has invested over \$10 million in the community through grants to nonprofits, scholarships for local students, special-purpose funds and donor-advised distributions. The Summit Foundation champions programs and initiatives that foster a thriving and engaged community for all.

To learn more, visit summitforever.org.



(above) Donna Miller

Courtesy photo

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Communities

2025 SUMMIT FREE MARKET DATES

City of Summit

The City of Summit is pleased to announce the 2025 event dates for the Summit Free Market, a unique community initiative designed to encourage sustainability, foster community engagement, and provide resources to residents in need. The Summit Free Market continues to offer residents an opportunity to exchange gently used items at no cost, promoting the reuse of goods while reducing waste.

EVENT DATES & DETAILS

In 2025, the Summit Free Market will continue to be held on the second Saturday of each month from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Municipal Transfer Station located at 40 New Providence Avenue. The Summit Free Market will also be held on the fourth Friday of each month from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., with the exception of December. Please note, the Friday event in November will be held on the third Friday instead of the fourth.

A COMPLETE LIST OF THE 2025 EVENT DATES:

- January: 11 and 24
- February: 8 and 28
- March: 8 and 28
- April: 12 and 25
- May: 10 and 23
- June: 14 and 27
- July: 12 and 25
- August: 9 and 22
- September: 13 and 26
- October: 11 and 24
- November: 8 and 21
- December: 13

ABOUT THE SUMMIT FREE MARKET

The Summit Free Market is a student-led, volunteer-run initiative that promotes the principles of reuse, sustainability, and community sharing. Since its inception in 2008, the Summit Free Market has helped more than 5,000 residents and kept over 175 tons of reusable materials out of the waste stream. The market is open to Summit residents, offering them an opportunity to bring gently used, yard-sale quality items they no longer need and, in turn, take whatever they wish at no cost.

HOW IT WORKS

Donate: Residents bring reusable, yard-sale quality items to share with others.

Browse & Take: Residents may browse the available items and take whatever they wish, free of charge.

Sustainability: The event encourages the reuse of goods, reducing waste, and promoting a circular economy.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To attend the Summit Free Market, residents must have a permit to access the Transfer Station. Permits are available for purchase online through the City of Summit Parking Services Agency. The cost for an annual permit is \$10 per vehicle and \$5 for seniors over 62. The permit is annual and is valid from November 1 to October 31.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

60-Minute Time Limit: In order to ensure fair access for all, visitors are limited to 60 minutes per event.

No Resellers: The Summit Free Market is a community exchange event. The resale of items collected at the market is not permitted, in line with the spirit of sharing.

Signs are posted at the Summit Free Market building to remind attendees of these guidelines, and any violations may result in removal from the event to maintain a fair and positive experience for all participants.

MORE INFORMATION

The Summit Free Market is a wonderful opportunity to declutter your home, discover new items, and contribute to the sustainability of our community. Whether you are donating items or finding new ones, your participation supports an important environmental and community-building initiative.

For more information, including guidelines for donations and how to get involved, please visit the Summit Free Market webpage: cityofsummit.org/617/Summit-Free-Market

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City of Summit

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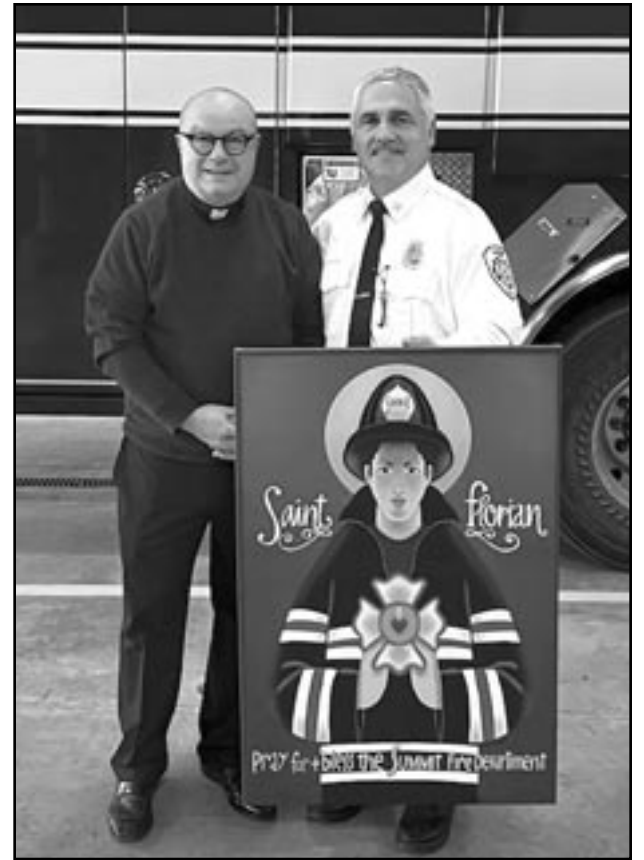
On Monday, January 13, 2025, the new facility was blessed by Summit's St. Teresa of Avila Parish priest Monsignor Robert Meyer, who also presented a beautiful painting of St. Florian, the patron saint of firefighters, in a ceremonial gesture of protection and goodwill for the department.

Residents are encouraged to visit the new firehouse at 281 Broad Street for any fire-related needs. The new location offers ample on-site parking for ease of access.

For non-emergency fire-related inquiries, residents can call City Hall at 908-277-9400 and follow the prompts to reach the fire department. For emergencies, please continue to dial 911.

The Summit Fire Department thanks the community for its ongoing support and looks forward to serving the residents of Summit from its new, state-of-the-art facility.

For more information on the Summit Fire Department, go to cityofsummit.org/fire.



(above, l-r) Monsignor Robert Meyer of St. Teresa of Avila Parish, and City of Summit Fire Chief Eric Evers.

Photo by City of Summit

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Parents Welcome!

February 24*

- Flute Choir 5:00-5:40 PM
- Flute Forum 6:30-7:10 PM
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February 25

- Percussion Ensemble III 4:00-4:45 PM
- Sinfonia 5:00-6:00 PM
- Youth Symphony 6:30-8:00 PM

February 26

- Philharmonia 6:15-7:15 PM
- Clarinet Ensemble 6:30-7:00 pm

February 27

- Primo Strings 4:30-5:15 PM
- Percussion Ensemble II 4:30-5:15 PM
- Percussion Ensemble I 6:30-7:15 PM
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PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP-OFF BOX

The Summit Police Department has a prescription drug drop-off box located on the first floor of City Hall for residents to use to safely dispose of unused, unwanted, or expired medications. All medications should be removed from their original packaging and placed into a zip lock bag before being deposited into the drop-off box. There should be no personal information listed on any bags that are placed in the drop-off box. Learn more at cityofsummit.org/police.



TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS ADDRESSES POST OFFICE SAFETY

City of Summit

Mayor Elizabeth Fagan's Task Force on Homelessness, working in partnership with Congressman Tom Kean, Jr., has addressed concerns about public health and safety at the Summit Post Office, which had become a focal point for a growing homeless encampment. Recent efforts to reduce overnight disruptions in the post office's vestibule have resulted in adjusted operating hours and an improved environment for both postal workers and residents.

"The safety and well-being of our community members are a priority, and our Homelessness Task Force is dedicated to connecting individuals to the right resources - whether for shelter or longer-term housing solutions," said Summit Mayor Elizabeth Fagan. "By working with Congressman Kean and the U.S. Postal Service, we've found a balanced approach that resolves immediate concerns and continues to support the homeless population with the proper resources

they need."

The post office had been struggling with unsanitary conditions due to people seeking shelter in the vestibule overnight. Residents who used the self-service kiosk early in the morning were confronted with the difficult situation of walking over individuals who were sleeping in the lobby. Post office workers also expressed safety concerns over the encampment. The adjustment of operating hours helps resolve this issue, while also ensuring that those in need are directed to shelters and services that offer appropriate resources.

The Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness will continue its mission to ensure that service providers and first responders continue outreach efforts to connect homeless individuals with needed services with long term housing as the ultimate goal. In the past year, the task force has connected eight individuals experiencing homelessness with either a home, work, or rehab services.



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2025 NJ FMBA COOKED & UNCORKED

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The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off is an integral part of the evening as firefighters will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location.



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VOLUNTEERS CREATE 200 BLANKETS FOR BABIES

The Christ Child Society of Summit (CCS) held its annual Blankets for Babies event on January 16th, in St. Teresa's Memorial Hall. 75 Volunteers assembled to cut, pin, sew, iron and fringe over 200 fleece baby blankets. These blankets will be included in the layettes provided to families at the HealthStart clinics at Overlook and Morristown hospitals.

CCS is a group of dedicated volunteers from all faiths and backgrounds that are joined with the purpose to help under-resourced children and their families.

Donations and volunteers are always greatly appreciated. Opportunities for both can be found on our website:

christchildsummit.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT NJ BLOOD SERVICES

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), a division of New York Blood Center, which provides blood for local patients, is looking for a few good volunteers. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of our team whose tasks include assisting donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background necessary. Volunteers should be outgoing to provide friendly customer service, be able to perform tasks as needed, must provide proof of

COVID Vaccination prior to volunteering and must have transportation. All training is provided including additional precautions for the safety of our team and blood donors. For additional information call or text Sharon Zetts, Manager, NJBS Volunteer Services at 732-850-8906, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To apply online as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:
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SUMMIT PUBLIC LIBRARY FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

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 Monday - Thursday: 9 AM - 9 PM; Thursday - Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: 1 PM - 5 PM

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Monday at the Movies

Mondays, 2/3, 2/10, 2/24,
 12:30-2:30PM & 6:30-8:30PM:

Every week, watch a different film in the Lower Level Program Room. All are welcome. No registration required.

Virtual Author Talk with Sabrina Sholts:

Tuesday, 2/4, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Smithsonian curator Sabrina Sholts speaks on her work *The Human Disease: How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs*, how the very fact of being human increases our pandemic risks, and how to protect ourselves.

Followed by a live Q&A session. Online.

Summit Toastmasters:

Wednesdays, 2/5 - 2/26, 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Refine your public speaking and leadership skills through prepared speeches, impromptu speaking, and constructive feedback in a group setting. No registration required.

Adult Craft Class: Book Folding Art:

Sunday, 2/9, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Transform a book into Valentine's Day-themed art by folding its pages in a unique pattern. Instructor: Marge Barkan.

Virtual Author Talk with Waubgeshig Rice:

Tuesday, 2/11, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Bestselling author Waubgeshig Rice chats about his newest book *Moon of the Turning Leaves*, the hotly anticipated sequel to the bestselling novel *Moon of the Crusted Snow*. Followed by a live Q&A session. Online.

GRACE Pop-Up Distribution:

Friday, 2/14, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Free food distributions from GRACE (Giving & Receiving Assistance for our Community's Essentials). Registration not required.

Virtual Author Talk with Lee Hawkins:

Tuesday, 2/18, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Journalist and author Lee Hawkins speaks on the examination of his family's legacy of post-enslavement trauma and resilience in his riveting memoir, *I Am Nobody's Slave: How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free*. Followed by a live Q&A session. Online.

Brown Bag Book Club:

Friday, 2/21, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunchtime book group for adults. Book to be discussed: *March* by Gwendolyn Brooks. Refreshments served. Registration not required.

Adult Craft Class: Hand-Colored Silk Scarf:

Sunday, 2/23, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Decorate your very own silk scarf using

permanent markers and rubbing alcohol for a beautiful watercolor effect. No special skills are required. All materials provided, including the scarves. Open to adults and teens (13+).

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Dungeons & Dragons:

Tuesdays 2/4 - 2/25, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for a month-long Dungeons & Dragons campaign. Please attend as many of the sessions as possible. Please sign up early, as space is limited. Sponsored by the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library. For Grades 6-8.

Baby Prom:

Friday, 2/7, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Let's celebrate winter with a fun baby dance party. Dress up, explore sensory activities, take fun pictures, and move to the music. For ages 6 months-2 years.

CATSS Viewer's Choice Movie:

Monday, 2/10, 12:30PM - 2:30PM

After the 1/2 day, choose a movie to watch on the big screen in the Hickok Room and enjoy free pizza. For Grades 6-8.

No registration required.

Unless otherwise noted, registration is required and programs are held in-person.



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FEBRUARY 15 AT 8 PM:

WE MAY BE RIGHT: A BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE

Be serenaded by the beloved tunes of Billy Joel, performed by New Jersey's premier tribute led by the charismatic Karl Dietel, this talented band promises a night of pure musical magic.

FEBRUARY 16 AT 3 PM:

THE DUPREES WITH WHO'S JOHNNY

For over 60 years, their unique and timeless sounds have captured hearts. Tommy Petillo, with the group for over 46 years, contributes dynamic vocals. Jimmy Spinelli, since 1989, brings energetic showmanship. Shawn Stevens, the newest member, adds his experience with legendary doo-wop groups and stage performances.

MARCH 30 AT 3 PM: RE-LIVE THE BEATLES

Come together for a magical journey through the Fab Four's illustrious career. This is more than just a concert—it's a trip down memory lane that captures the essence of an era - celebrating the music that changed the world! Relive historic moments like The Ed Sullivan Show, Shea Stadium, the Sgt. Pepper era, and Abbey Road.

APRIL 6 AT 3 PM:

MICHAEL PATRICK'S RING OF FIRE BAND: A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Over a decade ago, Michael Patrick became captivated by Johnny Cash's music—the simplicity, sincerity, and deep, expressive voice. Since then, he's been passionately paying homage to this musical legend.

<p>WE MAY BE RIGHT NJ's Premier Billy Joel Tribute</p>  <p>FEB 15 - 8PM</p>	<p>THE DUPREES NJ Ambassadors of Love Songs</p>  <p>Special Guests Who's Johnny</p>  <p>FEB 16 - 3PM</p>	<p>Come Together on a Magical Journey FROM THE INVASION TO SHEA STADIUM, SGT. PEPPER TO ABBEY ROAD</p>  <p>Re-Live THE BEATLES</p> <p>A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC THAT CHANGED THE WORLD</p> <p>MARCH 30 - 3PM</p>	<p>Michael Patrick's RING OF FIRE BAND A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH</p>  <p>Special Guest JENNI BEE As June Carter</p> <p>APRIL 6 - 3PM</p>
<p>Email for Group Rates: GDPresentstix@gmail.com</p> <p>DREW THE CONCERT HALL</p> <p>Drew University Madison, NJ</p>  <p>GDPresents.simplivetix.com 917-567-5842</p>			



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FEBRUARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave – we encourage visitation, and all are welcome. Our motto is “Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends.” The organization was founded in 1930. Learn more about us at summitoldguard.org.

In February, we will have four speakers:

**ERICK A. FORD, VICE PRESIDENT
STEVENS & LEE PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

On Feb. 4th, our speaker will be Erick A. Ford, Vice President of Stevens & Lee Public Affairs. Erick is a recognized leader in policy and business. In 2024, he was recognized by ROI-NJ as one of New Jersey’s leading energy and utilities influencers, highlighting his significant impact on the state’s energy landscape. He will discuss the state of the energy markets in Jersey.

**DR. D.J. PERON -
THE SURREALIST ART MOVEMENT**

On Feb. 11th, Dr. D.J. Peron will discuss the Surrealist art movement. DJ will show how Dadaism emerged during World War I as a rebellious movement against world war one and the societal ‘establishment,’ and how surrealism came into being. These two movements have been of extreme importance in the evolution of art from post-war modern art up to the present day. The presentation will be like a stroll in a museum with many art representations shown.

SUMMIT MAYOR ELIZABETH FAGAN

On Feb. 18th, Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, will discuss Summit’s current and future trends. Mayor Fagan has been an active resident of Summit for more than 20 years. She will discuss recent and future projects for the City. Some of her updates will be about the coming old firehouse land project and street closings for

restaurant dining. Also, state regulations, specifically the Mount Laurel decision, regarding affordable housing is a topic that affects all municipalities in New Jersey and a current issue for Summit. Bring your questions for the Mayor.

MARYKATE VAUGHN - DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY

Finally, on Feb. 25th, we will learn about hearing loss and hearing aids. Marykate Vaughn, AuD, CCC-A, is a doctor of audiology affiliated with Summit Health. She will speak about the various ways to evaluate hearing in children and adults. She will discuss the large variety of hearing aid devices on the market with their pros and cons. She will also discuss the common reasons why people end up not using their hearing aids and the remediating solutions. Dr. Vaughn has over 30 years of experience in audiology. This topic should elicit a few questions from the Old Guard members!



(above) Erick A. Ford, Dr. D.J. Peron, Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, Marykate Vaughn

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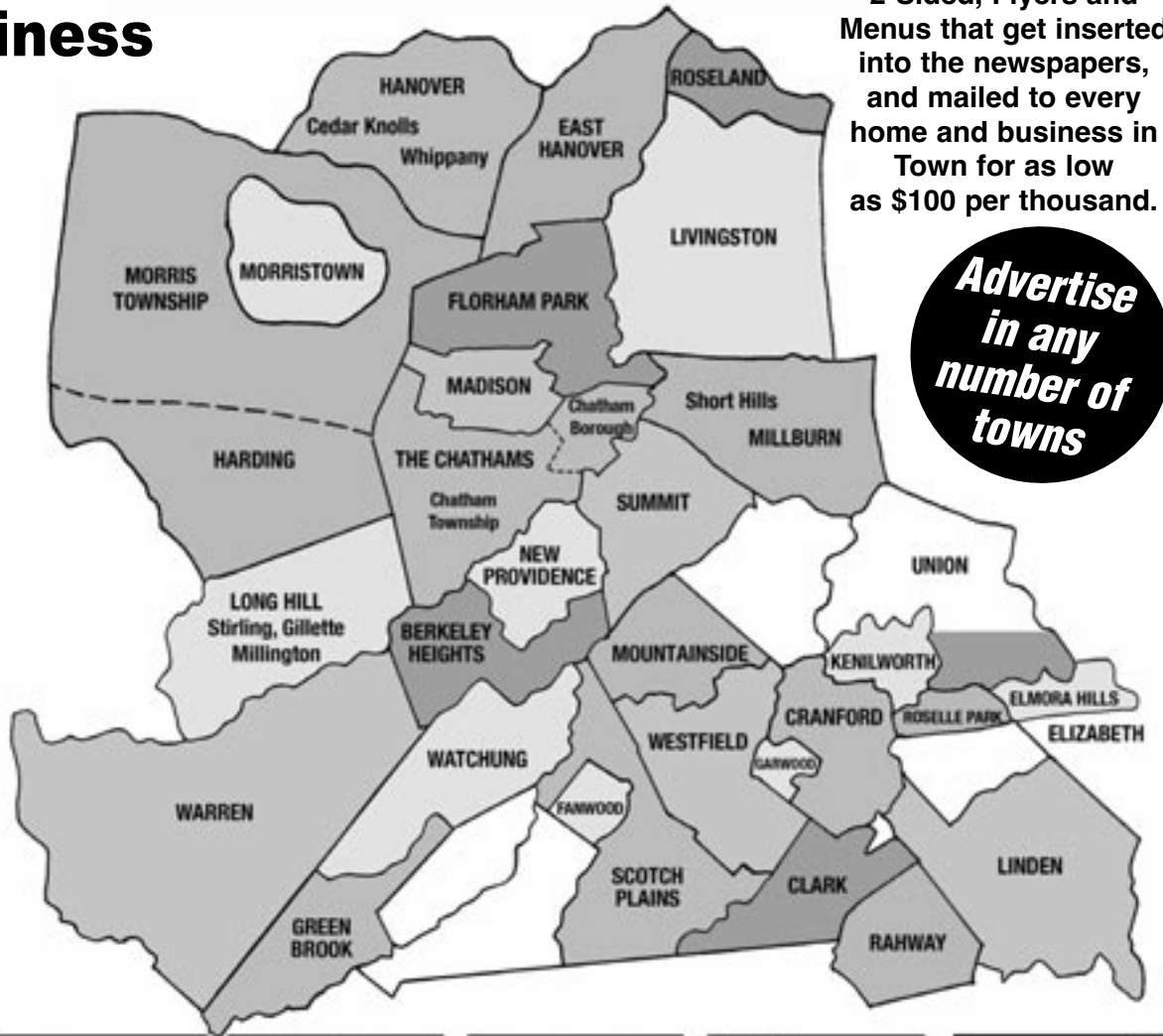
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UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVING HISTORY

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The Hannah and James Caldwell Memorial Obelisk recently underwent a complete restoration and cleaning at the Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church (formerly known as the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown) in Elizabeth thanks to the Union County Historical Society (UCHS).

UCHS President Joanne Rajoppi said, "The 179-year-old obelisk honoring Revolutionary War pastor and patriot James Caldwell and his wife Hannah, was in terrible condition: encrusted dirt from years of neglect with loose mortar and unreadable engravings. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country, what better time to reflect, remember and honor the contributions of our patriots, especially the Caldwells, who sacrificed their lives for independence."

The Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church cemetery is one of the oldest in the state, dating to the late 1680s. More than 40 officers of the

Continental Army are buried there, many of whom attended the church while Reverend Caldwell served as its pastor. Caldwell also served as General George Washington's Deputy Commissary of supplies during the war. The British placed a bounty on his head and he was murdered in 1781. His wife Hannah and mother of their nine children had been murdered the previous year by a British soldier in the aftermath of the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

There are also more than 313 enslaved and free African Americans buried in the historic cemetery, often in unmarked graves: some are children, and some are likely war veterans. The 313+ Ancestors Speak Project acknowledges and commemorates their lives and burials. A monument with their names was recently erected in the cemetery.

The restoration of the Caldwell memorial was partially funded by a Union County Heart Grant,

donations by the Union Township Historical Society, the NJ Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, (NJSAR), the West Fields Chapter of SAR, American Legion Post 248, the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and many individual contributors.

Ms. Rajoppi said that the restoration included a workshop on how to clean gravestones.

Volunteers, including local area Boy Scouts, the Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and UCHS members attended the four-hour event.

The restoration work was completed by Richard Grubb & Associates, a full-service cultural resource management firm and one of the largest, independent archaeological and historic preservation consulting companies in the eastern United States. Their corporate headquarters are in Cranbury, New Jersey.

ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

The UCHS was incorporated by an Act of the 93rd Legislature of the State of New Jersey on April 1, 1869. The objective of this Society is the collection and preservation of all matter of historical relics, books, records, documents, and manuscripts, to stimulate and encourage historical research and the study of history pertaining to the territory originally embraced by Elizabethtown and the present Union County.

The Society exists through the help and generosity of its members. Membership is comprised of citizens who have a common interest in preserving the past. There is no paid staff. The Executive Board and Members perform all Society functions.



(above) The recent restoration and cleaning of the James and Hannah Caldwell Memorial Obelisk at Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth was commissioned by the Union County Historical Society.

Courtesy photos

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