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## SCHOOL 12'S AUTISM ACCEPTANCE CELEBRATION

### Elizabeth Public Schools

Elmora School No. 12 hosted a school wide Autism Awareness Celebration on April 17th. Staff and students formed a human E12 to represent the name of the school and its number. The E12 symbolizes harmony, respect, kindness, and how we at Elmora School No. 12 strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment for every student.

During the celebration, our general education and special needs students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades performed a skit to showcase inclusivity in a classroom environment while embracing each other's differences through acts of kindness. This skit was followed by a song and dance called "Give a Little Kindness" to celebrate acceptance. Then, the school community sang "Let it Go" featuring a ballet to represent the importance of self-expression and embracing the things that make us all different. Finally, our special needs students, parents, staff members, and board commissioners visited our sensory room for some fun and engaging sensory activities.



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## BOY SCOUT TROOP 23 HELPS WATCHUNG RESERVATION FOREST

On Saturday, April 5, the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America and the Union County Board of County Commissioners joined forces for a second year in a project to eradicate invasive plants from the Watchung Reservation. The goals of the Operation WRIP event were to improve biodiversity by making room for native plants, stop encroachment on hiking and bridle trails by thorny bushes, eliminate barberry bushes that harbor the ticks that carry Lyme disease, and provide an opportunity for Scouts to complete service hours requirements.

Under the direction of Union County Parks Department staff, 261 Scouts, Scout leaders, Trail Stewards, and other volunteers spread out to 15 areas of the 2,143-acre park in western Union County. Each crew cut multiflora rosa and invasive barberry bushes and raked them into brush piles to provide shelter for small wildlife. An estimated 2,400 invasive shrubs were removed.

The Scouts of Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church of Elizabeth, worked in the Deserted Village of Feltville. They were able to create two large brush piles from the plants that they cut. Their work prepared the historic site for an historic landscape restoration.

Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church of Elizabeth, welcomes any boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated

from the fifth grade to join them on upcoming camping trips and hikes, a 4-day trip on Memorial Day weekend to Philadelphia, and a week-long summer camp in July. Contact Scoutmaster Dan Bernier at 908-451-1948 or [webfoottroop@gmail.com](mailto:webfoottroop@gmail.com) for more details.



(above) Antonios, Alex, Mr. Banic and Christian, of Scout Troop 23 of Elizabeth, headed out to remove invasive plants from the historic landscape of the Deserted Village of Feltville during Operation WRIP.

Courtesy photos



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# TEENS FOR TEENS HONOR COALITION TO HOUSE HOMELESS

By Elizabeth Baglien

On March 27th, the 12th annual Teens for Teens Gala was held at the Stone House in Warren. Each year, the group of local teenagers chooses a different charity to support through this important fundraiser. The group of 17 teenagers included Fanwood residents Declan Corrigan, Elizabeth Baglien and Alexandra Baglien. This year's gala honored the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, is a nonprofit organization based in Elizabeth, NJ and has provided a safety net for the past 44 years by assisting over 2,500 individuals annually. Not only do they provide emergency shelter and homelessness prevention, but they also advocate for policy changes at all levels of government to ensure access to safe and affordable housing. The Teens for Teens members have even had the privilege of volunteering to work with the Elizabeth coalition, observing the firsthand impact of their work.

Co-President Elizabeth Baglien said, "Teens for Teens is an amazing organization that gives students in high school a chance to make a big impact and help others. I have been involved in Teens for Teens for three years and it has helped me learn more about the issues we face in New Jersey. Being able to address these problems is so rewarding and has taught me about working for change."

The gala featured a silent auction, raffle baskets, performances from local teens and a presentation from Dan McGuire, CEO of the Elizabeth Coalition. Dan said "We're incredibly fortunate and grateful that they selected us as a partner and beneficiary this year. Aside from the generosity of the organization and their families and friends who came out to support the gala, what really stood out for me was how engaged the teenagers were at every step in the process: outreach, engagement/volunteering with our Bernice's Place after school program for homeless youth, and the gala planning and

execution. I want to thank all the members of Teens for Teens for having a big impact on our nonprofit organization!" As we celebrate the success of this year's gala, we are able to see the true impact of the community-driven action. Through the generosity of our guests and

donors, as well as the work of our student organizers, this year's event raised over \$25,000. To learn more about the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and how you can support their mission, visit: [theelizabethcoalition.org](http://theelizabethcoalition.org).



(above, l-t) Teens for Teens members: Cora Waldron, Grant Parker, Josie Heim, Nate Khichi, Lexi Baglien, John Newall, Cayleigh Kaiser, Shane Costalos, Elizabeth Baglien, Declan Corrigan, Maia Chayapruks, Drew Costalos, Preston Nitché, Matthew Grillon, Maeve Mooney, Emma Grillon and Frances Studer.

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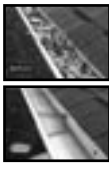
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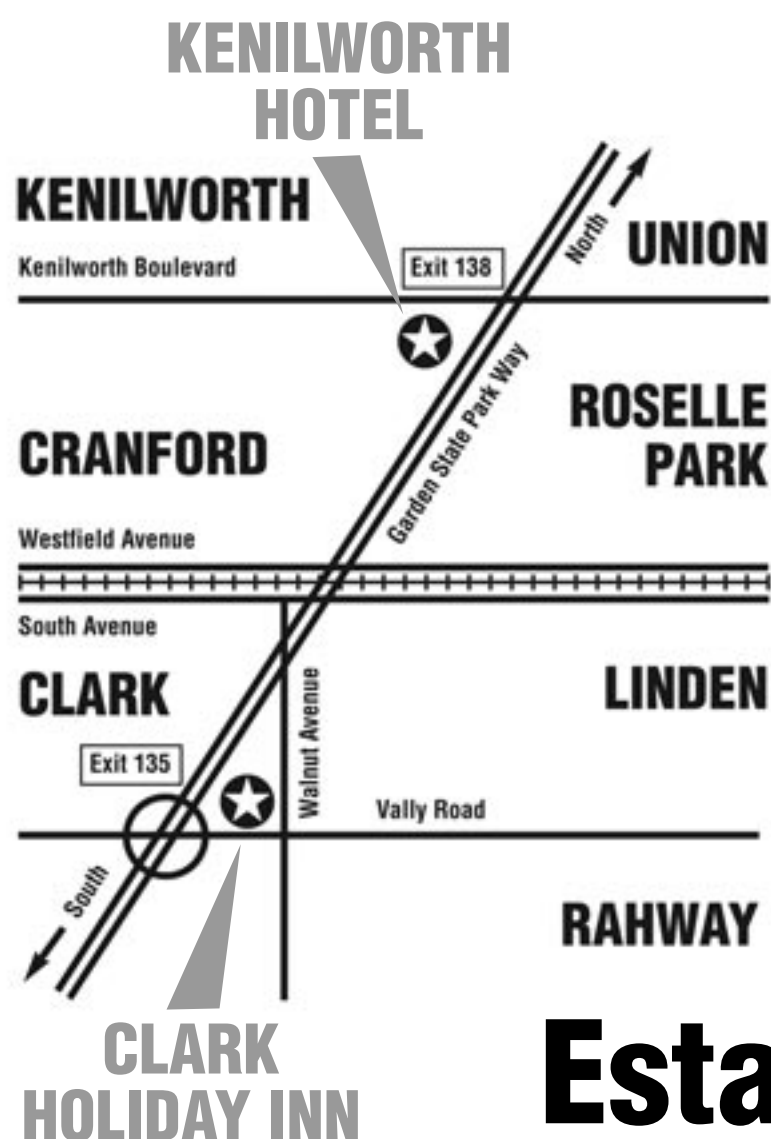
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**Star Wars Scavenger Hunt**

Thursday, May 1 - 10 (All Day)

Can you find all the Star Wars images in the Children's area? May the 4th be with you!

**Zumba Gold**

Thursday, May 1, 8, 15, & 22, Monday, May 5, 12, & 19, and

Tuesday, May 6, 13, 20, 27 at 9 am

Add fitness to your daily routine through the joy of dance! Walk-ins are welcome.

**Adult BINGO**

Thursday, May 1 at 11 am

Join us at the Elmora Branch Library for a fun-filled game of BINGO.

**The Rummikub Club**

Thursday, May 1 & 8 at 2 pm

Join us for a friendly game!

Beginners are welcome!

**Bad Art**

Friday, May 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 1 pm

Embrace your inner artist—no experience needed! We've got all the supplies you'll need, so just bring your imagination and a willingness to have fun. Remember, no art is ever bad!

**Junior Chess Club**

Friday, May 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 4 pm

Don't miss out on our Chess Club for Kids!

We welcome beginners.

**Free Comic Book Day**

Saturday, May 3

Mark it on your calendar for this amazing event! One of the best times of the year is free comics in partnership with Free Comic Book Day! Take a free comic book while supplies last.

**Storytime at Green Acres Park**

Saturday, May 3 at 11 am

Join Ms. Martha for storytime and craft at the park! No registration required

**Mother's Day Craft to Go**

Monday, May 5 to Saturday, May 10

Take home a lovely craft for a mom, aunt, or grandma!

**Mahjong**

Monday, May 5, 12, & 19

from 12 pm - 2 pm

Everyone who loves Mahjong is welcome to come & play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners. We'll provide the space for open play. A minimum of 4 players are required to play the game.

Ages: 18 & up

**Monday Cinema at Elmora**

Monday, May 5, 12, 19 at 1 pm

At 1pm, don't miss out on the fun! Join us for a Monday Cinema at Elmora Branch Library. It's going to be a great time! This month's showtime is "Farewell" on 5/5, "Gook" on 5/12, and "Everything Everywhere All at Once" on 5/19.

**Tai Chi & Qi Gong**

Monday, May 5, 12, & 19 at 4 pm and

Wednesday, May 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 9 am

Chinese art that combines slow, flowing movements with deep breathing. Experience the refreshing benefits of mindfulness!

**Adult English Book Club**

Tuesday, May 6 at 11 am

Join our Book Club meeting and engage in a lively discussion about our latest book.

This Month's book is "Anne of Green Gables" by L.M. Montgomery

**Lil' Bookworms**

Wednesday, May 7 at 5 pm

Encouraging kids to share their love of reading, engage in book discussions, and feel eager about reading.

**Toddlers World**

Friday, May 9 & 23 at 11 am

An hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime.

**Stitch & Mending**

Tuesday, May 13 at 10 am and

Wednesday, May 14 at 5 pm

Come to Elmora to mend your clothing. Bring the article you need help with and assistance will be provided.

**Storytime with Sonic**

Tuesday, May 13 at 4 pm

Speed into adventure with Sonic the Hedgehog Story Time at the Elizabeth Public Library! Hosted by Financial Resources Federal Credit Union, this fun-filled event will bring Sonic's exciting stories to life for kids of all ages!

**Adult Spanish Book Club**

Thursday, May 15 at 2 pm

Come and join Martha as she hosts a monthly book discussion for Spanish-speaking adults!

**Bubbles aRe Us**

Saturday, May 17 at 1 pm

Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, and crafts with LOADS of fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family. FREE PIZZA!!!

**Memorial Day Scavenger Hunt & Craft to Go**

May 19 to May 23

To honor our fallen soldiers, participate in a scavenger hunt and take home a craft to go!

**First Time Home Buyer**

Tuesday, May 20 at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm

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**Adult Craft**

Thursday, May 22 at 11 am

Join us for an adult seasonal craft at Elmora.

**Adult Scrabble Club**

Thursday, May 22 at 2 pm - 3:30 pm

Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing Scrabble with other like-minded adults.

**Game Day at Elmora**

Thursday, May 22 at 4 pm

Join us at Elmora Library to enjoy a variety of board games and card games that the whole family can play!

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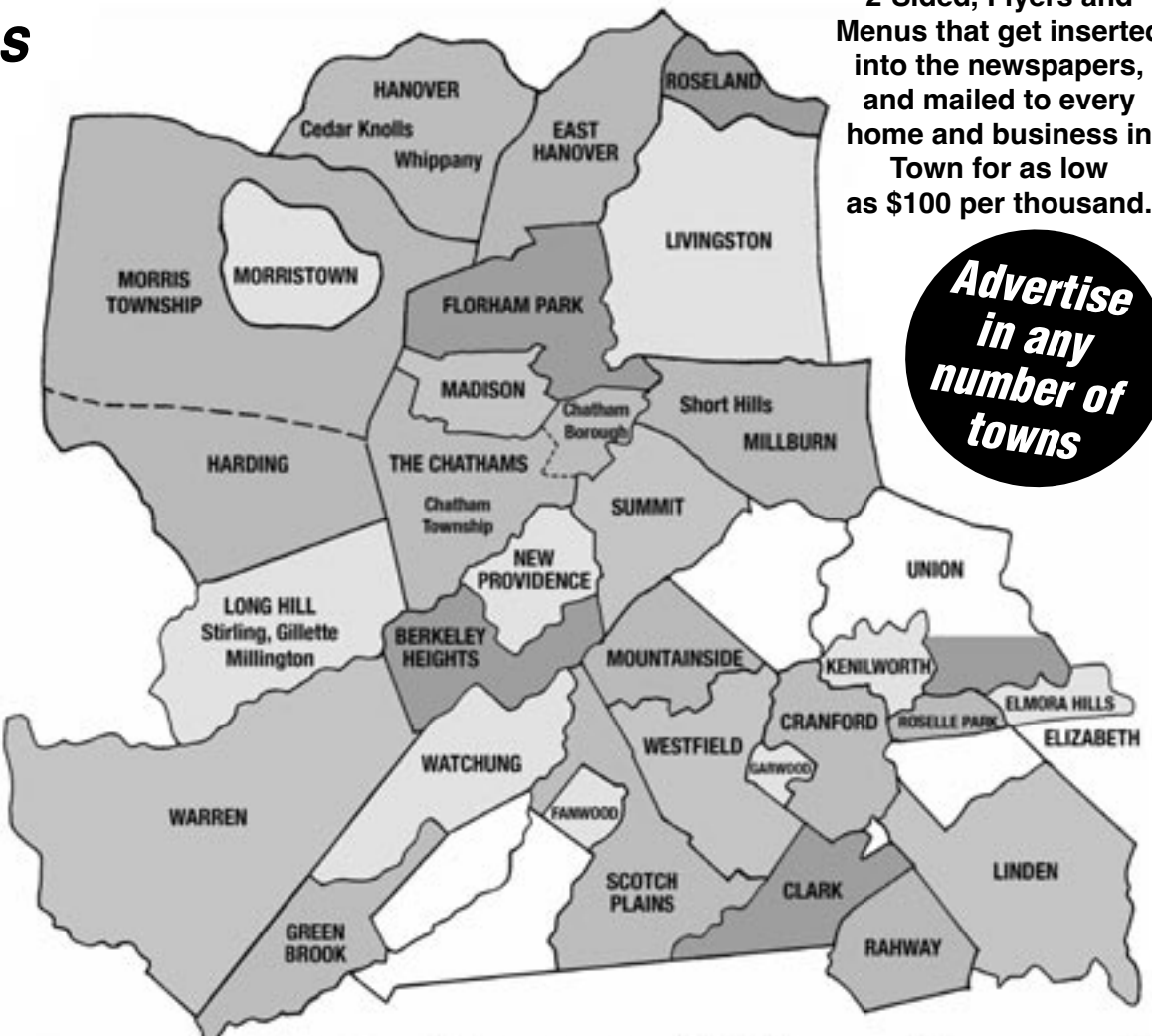
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2 Units	6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	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
2-PAGE SPREAD	(2) 10"x14"	800										
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## TROOP 23 AWARDS 5 EAGLE SCOUT MEDALS

Scouting America Troop 23 proudly convened a Court of Honor on Sunday, March 30, to present Scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout award, to five of its Scouts. During a service in St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth, Eagle Scout medals were pinned on Nicholas P. Agostinho of Elizabeth, John A. Bernier of Berkeley Heights, Melanio F. Nistal of Hillside, and Daniel M. Whelan and James A. Whelan, Jr. of Mountainside.

The service was led by St. Genevieve's Pastor Emeritus Reverend George Gillen and Scoutmaster Dan Bernier, and attended by over 100 people. Special presentations were made by

State Senator Joseph Cryan, Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, and Knights of Columbus Council #253 Past Grand Knight Chris Burd.

Achievement of the Eagle Scout award is an accomplishment realized by only four percent of all the boys who join Scouting. Since its formation in 1962, Troop 23 has awarded 81 Eagle medals.

For information about joining Scouting, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or [webfoottroop@gmail.com](mailto:webfoottroop@gmail.com).



(above) Troop 23 awarded five Eagle Scout medals during a Court of Honor in St. Genevieve's Church on Sunday, March 30. The Eagle Award recipients are (l to r) Nicholas Agostinho, John Bernier, Melanio Nistal, Daniel Whelan, and James Whelan.

## ASTRONOMY DAY MAY 17, 2025

Amateur Astronomers, Inc. along with the North Jersey Astronomical Group, two amateur astronomy clubs located in New Jersey, are once again holding their annual Astronomy Day on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The event will be held in 2 locations: Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside in the afternoon and at William Miller Sperry Observatory on the campus of Union College in Cranford in the evening. The theme is "Solar Max, Unlocking the Secrets of the Sun." This is a family friendly event that focuses on learning about our Sun and its impact on us, and also about astronomy and related sciences in a fun and easy to understand atmosphere. This event appeals to both children and adults. The event is free and open to the public and does not require preregistration. So, mark your calendars for Saturday, May 17, 2025, and come out to learn more about the Sun and our universe!

### 75 YEARS NIGHT SKY GAZING

Amateur Astronomers, Inc (AAI) of Cranford, NJ celebrated their 75th Anniversary on Sunday, November 17, 2024, at The Westwood Caterers of Garwood, NJ. In attendance were 53 past and current members who range from teenagers to seniors.

AAI has always interested anyone who loves looking and learning about the night sky. Housed in the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the Union College campus in Cranford, the observatory is open to the public every Friday night with their twin domes looking at the heavens. One of the domes houses a 24-inch reflector and the other dome houses a 10 refractor, which was constructed by club members. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, they are on current topics in Astronomy.

Youth lectures are presented by the club at 7:00 p.m. to preregistered scout groups to help them earn their patches in science. If you are interested in preregistering a scout group, please contact [info@asterism.org](mailto:info@asterism.org).

The club also celebrates celestial events such as eclipses by opening the Observatory and having numerous telescopes outside the building. For more information about AAI email, [membership@asterism.org](mailto:membership@asterism.org) or visit [asterism.org](http://asterism.org).



(above) AAI has always interested anyone who loves learning about the night sky. Housed in the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the Union College campus in Cranford, the observatory is open to the public every Friday nights. One of the domes houses a 24-inch reflector and the other dome houses a 10 refractor. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, on current topics in Astronomy.

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