

# Summit NJ Times

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## FAMILY FUN NIGHT RETURNS DOWNTOWN – JUNE 12

Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) is thrilled to announce the return of one of the community's most beloved traditions: Family Fun Night (FFN)! On Thursday, June 12 from 4 – 8 p.m., Beechwood Road and Bank Street will be transformed into a high-energy, carnival-style celebration filled with free activities, live entertainment, and plenty of fun for the whole family.

This year's lineup includes exciting new attractions and some crowd favorites. The main stage at the top of Beechwood Road near Springfield Avenue will host a rotating schedule of family-friendly performances, including the return of Peas & Carrots Music, the interactive magic of Mr. Magico, and everyone's favorite DJ, Mr. Socks—spinning family dance tunes throughout the evening.

Also new this year: Dinosaurs Arise, an immersive, interactive dinosaur exhibit where kids can explore, learn, and maybe even meet a dinosaur or two! Eyes of the Wild also returns with their live animal show—always a huge hit with curious animal lovers!

Other activities include: Face painting & airbrush tattoos, Remote control car racing, Robbie the Robot, Free cotton candy from Sweet Nothings, A photo booth, and Juggling and unicycling by the always-entertaining Krazy Kevin.

In the Bank Street Parking Lot, visit the Healthy Kids' Corner, hosted by the Summit YMCA and The Connection, featuring active games and learning activities, including Paint-a-Rock and yard games from the Summit Public



Library. The ever-popular NJ Bubble Parties will be back with their engaging and educational demonstrations.

Food & Game Truck Alley on Bank Street is a must-visit, offering a delicious mix of returning favorites and new treats:

HK Wetzels (fresh pretzels and snacks), Cereal Dreams (fun, cereal-inspired sweets), Jake's Burgers, Anita's Baked Wonders, Pizza Vita, and Puras Paletas, and Plus the return of the Mobile X Game Truck

The event is free and open to the public, made possible thanks to the generous support of our community sponsors: Atlantic Health Systems – Overlook Hospital, Brownie Points Bakery, and Lois Schneider Real Estate as well as all the businesses in downtown Summit. Many of your favorite spots will have a table at the event featuring interactive games, promotions and giveaways.

“Family Fun Night really captures the spirit of downtown Summit, welcoming, playful, and full of energy,” said Amanda Lynn, Assistant Director of SDI. “We’re excited to welcome families back for an evening packed with fun, music, and great food.”

As a special bonus, Summit Street Sounds will be in full swing from 5:00–8:00 PM, with live musicians performing at various downtown locations to add even more excitement to the evening. See you in Summit!

For full details and updates, visit [summitdowntown.org/events/family-fun-night](http://summitdowntown.org/events/family-fun-night)

Summit Downtown, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the on-going development and promotion of the business community in downtown Summit, NJ.

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT**  
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PASSING OF SUMMIT FIREFIGHTER LONN MULLEN

It is with deep sorrow that the City of Summit and the Summit Fire Department announce the passing of Active-Duty Firefighter Lonnn Mullen, 53, on May 8, 2025.

Firefighter Mullen began his distinguished career with the Summit Fire Department in April 1995, dedicating the next 30 years to the safety and well-being of our community. His commitment to service was rooted in family tradition - his father proudly served as Battalion Chief for 25 years. Lonnn continued that legacy with unwavering dedication, professionalism, and a profound sense of duty.

Throughout his career, Lonnn exemplified courage, compassion, and steadfast resolve on the front lines of public safety. He was not only a trusted firefighter but also a valued member of the broader Summit family.

In recent years, Lonnn bravely battled cancer with the same quiet strength and determination that defined his career. He faced each day with hope and resilience, steadfast in his desire to return to the department and the community he so deeply loved.

His passing is a tremendous loss, not only to his family and colleagues in the Summit Fire Department, but to our entire city. Lonnn was deeply respected and beloved by all who knew him. His legacy of service and sacrifice will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps.



(above) Summit Firefighter Lonnn Mullen

Courtesy photo

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OBITUARY

HELENE FRITCHE  
KRANICHFELD



Helene Fritche Kranichfeld, known affectionately as “Fritz” by her friends and family, passed away on March 19th, 2025. She was a woman of fearless determination, boundless energy, and unwavering loyalty.

Helene graduated from Irvington High School, Berkeley School, Drew University, Kean Graduate School, and held a master’s in social work. She served in air combat intelligence at Jacksonville Naval Air Space Station as a navy wave.

She married William H Kranichfeld’ in 1947 and was married for 68 years. She lived in Summit New Jersey since 1951, raising three children, Barbara Kranichfeld, Robin Gorham, and William H Kranichfeld Jr.

Helene volunteered for 7 years as director of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), a drug abuse prevention education program designed to equip elementary, middle and high school children with knowledge about drug abuse, the consequences of abuse, and skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

She also worked for 7 years acting as administrator of the Community School at St. John’s. And volunteered many years at the Reeves/Reed Arboretum.

Helene is survived by her three children and five grandchildren, Julie and Liza Gorham, Will, Jane, and Harry Kranichfeld.

10TH ANNUAL FEATHERFEST – JUNE 1

We invite you and your family to The Raptor Trust (TRT) on Sunday, June 1, 2025, for a day of all things bird! Make a difference in one day. FeatherFest is the biggest event of the year, when our community comes together to raise funds to help care for the influx of baby birds we admit each spring/summer. Tour our facilities and participate in games, gifts, auctions, raffles, food, and FUN! Entry times for FeatherFest must be booked online at: [theraptortrust.org/featherfest](http://theraptortrust.org/featherfest)

The Raptor Trust is located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ.

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization which provides free medical care to thousands of orphaned or injured birds each year. Our infirmary staff is available seven days a week during daylight hours to admit injured birds, but we must rely on the people who find them to bring them to us for care. If you find a bird that needs help, please visit our website

[theraptortrust.org](http://theraptortrust.org) for instructions. We cannot do what we do without the kindness of many – including our visitors!

Our 10th Annual TRT Celebration

# FeatherFest



## SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 1, 2025

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# SUMMIT POLICE DEPARTMENT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

### City of Summit

Summit Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, MD, officiated the swearing-in ceremonies for seven members of the Summit Police Department on May 1, 2025, at the Summit Community Center:

- Captain Ryan Peters was sworn in as the newly appointed Chief of Police;
- Detective Lieutenant Christopher Medina was sworn in as Captain (Support Services Division);
- Patrol Lieutenant Jonathon Garcia was sworn in as Captain (Operations Division);
- Detective Sergeant Thomas Rich was sworn in as Detective Lieutenant;
- Patrol Sergeant Jeffrey Deets was sworn in as Patrol Lieutenant;
- Ryan Kroeger was sworn in as Police Officer; and
- Elson Gloss was sworn in as Police Officer.

“This is an exciting time for the Summit Police Department,” says Mayor Fagan. “Due to the retirement of former Chief Steven Zagorski, numerous positions have opened up within the department, which have been filled by some outstanding current members and a few new hires. I continue to be impressed by the work our police department does on a daily basis, and I look forward to working with Chief Ryan Peters as he leads the department forward in his new role.”

Chief Peters addressed the crowd after Mayor

Fagan performed the swearings-in. “I stand before you tonight deeply honored and humbled to accept the role of Chief of Police,” said Chief Peters. “This is not a responsibility I take lightly, and I am grateful for the trust placed in me to serve our great community.”

Peters continued: “To the residents of Summit,

our administration pledges to lead with transparency and accountability. Your safety and well-being will always be our top priority, and we will work tirelessly to foster a department that is deeply connected to the community and willing to go above and beyond in the name of public service.”



(above, l-r) Officer Ryan Kroeger, Detective Lieutenant Thomas Rich, Captain Christopher Medina, Chief Ryan Peters, Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, Captain Jonathon Garcia, Patrol Lieutenant Jeffrey Deets, Officer Elson Gloss.

Photo by Summit Police Department.



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# JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025

5:00-9:00 PM

BERKELEY HEIGHTS YMCA



## A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM AND CULTURE

This year, the Summit Area YMCA will pay special tribute to the resilience, leadership, and contributions of Black women throughout history. Join us for an evening filled with culture, connection, and joy as we recognize this important day. Whether you're here to reflect, learn, or simply enjoy a night of fun, everyone is welcome at this free community event.



### LIVE PERFORMANCES

honoring the rich cultural heritage of Juneteenth



### INSPIRING SPEAKERS

sharing the significance of the holiday



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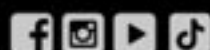
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To sponsor this event or make a donation, scan the QR code or visit [thesay.org/juneteenth](https://thesay.org/juneteenth).

Questions? Contact: [Trevor.Cromwell@thesay.org](mailto:Trevor.Cromwell@thesay.org) (Director for Teens & Equity)

SUMMIT AREA YMCA



[www.theSAY.org](https://www.theSAY.org)

The Summit Area YMCA is one of area's leading 501(c)(3) organizations. Through the generosity of our members, donors, and partners, we are able to offer financial assistance for our programs and services to those with demonstrated need.



# MEMORIAL DAY: A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION

**Michael Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network**

Every Memorial Day, millions of Americans attend parades, fire up their grills, and host large backyard BBQs for friends and family. As a veteran, I look forward to marching in a parade and attending a BBQ. However, before the festivities begin, I make it a point to check in on fellow veterans and ensure they are in a good place. For some veterans, Memorial Day is a difficult day, and they could use some reassurance from a friend or comrade.

For too long, our military members and veterans have been facing a heartbreaking crisis. A new study suggests that 44 veterans and servicemembers take their lives every day. This has become a nationwide epidemic, and countless families are struggling with this issue alone. Fortunately, there are many organizations working tirelessly to help our uniformed heroes get through these difficult times.

In 2017, the New Jersey Veterans Network (501(c)3) was created with a focus on the well-being of military members, veterans, and their families. The NJVN is a volunteer-driven mobile outreach team that actively seeks out veterans in need, providing them with free, life-saving resources and services. As a grassroots organization, we have a unique perspective on the needs of our uniformed heroes.

Our approach, combined with the ability to

collaborate with other organizations that share our mission, has allowed us to save lives and help veterans live a better quality of life. Recently, the NJVN has ramped up our mentorship and peer support programs. However, our recreational therapy events and functions have produced the most impactful results.

The NJVN has had great success hosting social events such as: movie nights, group hiking, paintball, professional sporting games, fishing trips, hunting, and other outdoor activities. Additionally, every year, the NJVN sends veterans to Camp Patriot (a PTSD retreat) for a week of healing.

Each week, the NJVN provides veterans with

food, clothing, housing assistance, VA benefits information, and mental health support. By partnering with numerous other groups and organizations, we can offer our uniformed heroes a better way of life.

We are always looking for volunteers that can both assist with upcoming events and help mentor veterans so they can live better productive lives. Volunteers are the most important NJVN resource, and we would love to have more people help us save lives. If you need assistance, or are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please send us your name, email, and phone number to [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com) or call 973-332-1556. For more information visit [NJVN.org](http://NJVN.org).



(above) A Memorial Day parade march



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# JUNE 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. Our website address is [summitoldguard.org](http://summitoldguard.org).

### JUNE 3RD - MITCH ERICKSON

On June 3rd we will talk about ‘getting the lead out’. Our speaker will be a well-known Old Guard member, Mitch Erickson. Mitch holds a PhD in chemistry and has spent much of his professional career dealing with environmental matters. He will talk about lead mining, the metal’s use, and the dangers from exposure to it. Mitch will review the efforts to remove lead from our environment over the past half-century, notably leaded gasoline, paint, and lead piping. While we have improved human lives and raised IQs by reducing this often-present element, there are still challenges ahead.

### JUNE 10TH - ROSIE NOVELLINO-MEARNS

On June 10th, Rosie Novellino-Mearns will tell us of her fight to save Radio City Music Hall. Rosie is a retired Radio City Ballet Dance Captain and formerly President of the Showpeople’s Committee to Save Radio City Music Hall. She is also an author and lyricist. Rosie will review the story of how she organized the

gargantuan effort in the spring of 1978 to save Radio City. You will be shocked by the “no good deed goes unpunished” climax of the story in which she reveals her reward for spearheading the movement to save “The Showplace of the Nation.”

### JUNE 17TH - STEVE VILLAS

On June 17th, Steve Villas will delve into the intricacies of world oil and gas trading. After receiving a degree in engineering and an MBA from Wharton, Steve spent the next forty-five years in the petroleum industry working for Exxon, Standard Oil of Ohio, British Petroleum, and the Hess Corp. He has experience in Chemical Plant design, advertising and promotion, supply and logistics, government affairs, commodities trading, financial hedging, oil and gas marketing, and more. He will address current topics of interest in the world oil markets

including oil and gas contracts trading.

### JUNE 24TH - MIKE MCTERNAN

Finally, on June 24th, Mike McTernan will tell us how he transitioned from a successful career in finance into a totally different career in education, all the while engaging in community service. Mike is currently teaching history at Ridge High School and is also serving as President of the Summit Common Council. He previously spent almost 30 years working in corporate finance and banking. He will address current issues facing secondary education including his subjects of Global History and AP Government and Politics. He will also describe the challenges of a mid-career transition which required him to attain a EdD from Seton Hall University. He will be happy to entertain questions concerning local government issues as well.



(above, l-r) Mitch Erickso, Rosie Novellino-Mearns, Steve Villas, Mike McTerna



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# GRACE IN WONDERLAND RAISED MORE THAN \$191,000



(above) GRACE in Wonderland Invitation Committee: David Guida, Jr., Rebecca Michalopoulos, Janet Russell, Jaclyn Lasaracina, Ni Liu, Megan Myers, Michelle DeMuth, Joanne Seelaus, Michelle Duncan, Amanda Parrish Block (GRACE Founder), Ilyse DiChiara, Andrea Caserta, Gwen Riddick, Christine Semcer, Liz Newell, Rikki Owen, Shawntée Boyer, Mary Rollino. Not Pictured: KC Artemenko, Ellen de Havilland, Ericka Gandhi, Abby Horev, Marla Napurano, Kerri Price.

Photos by Fisk Foto LLC

**Submitted by Ellen de Havilland**

Step through the looking glass and believe six impossible things before breakfast. Have a slice of unbirthday cake and your dreams will grow. Drink from the "Drink Me" bottles from Summit House, and our community's problems will shrink. GRACE in Wonderland was a success as our community raised more than \$191,000 to ensure happiness, health and security for all of our neighbors in need.

There were delights for all the senses as we stepped through the looking glass and into the world of wonder, helping GRACE empower our community to thrive. More than 200 friends, neighbors, sponsors and partners followed the white rabbit through GRACE in Wonderland at



(above) Honorees of the night: Liz Newell, GRACE Board Member and Past President, and Kevin Hill from Central Presbyterian Church's Lena Willis Fund.

The Albion Summit on April 25th. Members of the community gathered to celebrate our successes, while honoring Liz Newell and Central Presbyterian Church's Lena Willis Fund for their unwavering support of GRACE since its inception in 2016.

In community our problems shrink, and we grow the possibility of building a place where everyone can thrive. We connected, we rejoiced together with the music of The Brynn Stanley Band, and we gathered the life-changing support our community needs to succeed. Delighted by fresh spring blossoms and inspiring floral designs that intrigued and inspired, Polycarp Flowers transformed the space. While guests enjoyed cocktails in the "garden", a toast opened up the surprises that made the night magical, with Summit dancers opening the curtains to Dragonfly Productions, presenting stilt walkers, a Mad Hatter full of magic tricks, a unicyclist and a juggler.

Honoree, Liz Newell shared "I'm thrilled to live in a city that I absolutely love. Everything I do for the city is in memory of my mom, Barbara.

We can make this world a better place by being in service, and volunteering is key! GRACE couldn't exist without our volunteers and local businesses. Thank you to Central Presbyterian Church, Kevin Hill, and to all our volunteers."

Impactful fundraising events take time and dedication to build. Ellen de Havilland, Development Director for GRACE shared gratitude for the invitation committee and volunteers that made this event possible. "If we listen in and look around, we find magic in each moment. This magic took hundreds of hours of volunteers working together, going down the rabbit hole and dreaming of hidden moments of surprise, to make this night a success. In a place like Summit, the possibilities are endless when we act in community, as partners, supporting each other and lifting each other up. With this support GRACE will continue to serve more than 700 families every week with the food, essentials and stabilizing supports they need to thrive."

Every week, the GRACE team comes together to gather the resources and social support to make our Summit community a wonderland. In the past year volunteers contributed 14,000 hours of service, and that includes more than 40 individual volunteers who gave their time every week, to make GRACE happen. Volunteers and partners work together to fulfill every need that exists in our community.

Thanks to the support of our top event sponsors and visionary community leaders: The Albion Summit, MICRO, Polycarp Flowers, SEELAUS, KC & Billy Artemenko, Abby & Avi Horev, Jaclyn Lasaracina & Corey Sanders, and Megan and Todd Myers.

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Since 2016 GRACE has been Giving & Receiving Assistance for our Community's Essentials. As a volunteer run 501(c)3 non-profit organization, GRACE meets community demand with community resources. For more information, visit [www.gracegivingreceiving.org](http://www.gracegivingreceiving.org), or email [info@gracegivingreceiving.org](mailto:info@gracegivingreceiving.org).

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE TO FORMER CLIENTS OF THE LATE ATTORNEY RUSSELL H. HULSIZER

Russell H. Hulsizer, who practiced law at 99 Summit Avenue, Summit, New Jersey and ceased practicing in 2014, passed away on November 22, 2023.

Former clients who wish to collect their legal files or records must do so within 30 days of the publication date of this notice. After that time, the remaining files will be securely destroyed in accordance with the legal and ethical obligations of the State of New Jersey.

To arrange collection or for further information, please contact:

James K. Estabrook, Esq.  
Executor and Attorney Trustee  
for Russell H. Hulsizer  
908-301-5610  
[jestabrook@lindabury.com](mailto:jestabrook@lindabury.com)  
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The Church of the Little Flower in Berkeley Heights will be hosting a free 8-week Journey through Bereavement support group on Mondays June 9 through July 28. Time is 10 - 11:30 a.m. It will be led by an experienced bereavement facilitator.

The meetings will be held in the Bernauer Parish Center, 290 Plainfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights. Registration is required.

For questions and to register, please contact Dan Grossano, pastoral associate, at 908-464-1585 or email bereavement.lf@gmail.com.



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# SEA SCOUT OPEN HOUSE – JUNE 21

The crews of Liberty Sea Scout Squadron from Patriots' Path Council will host their annual open house at the Carteret Marina, located in the Carteret Waterfront Park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, Carteret, NJ, on Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The open house will include tours of our primary training vessel, the Sea Dart II, an introduction to the Sea Scout program, and nautical activities. Our members are from across Northern New Jersey; historically from as far as Warren, Sussex, and Ocean counties.

The Sea Scouting program is open to male and female youth ages 14 to 21. The crews operate a fleet of vessels that include the Sea Dart II, sailboats, powerboats, and paddle craft out of the Liberty Nautical Education Center (libertynautical.org) on the Rahway River in Linden, NJ. Aboard the vessels, young men and women learn nautical skills, including navigation and engine room maintenance, while visiting various ports on their many trips. Come down to visit and the scouts will be glad to welcome you aboard!



(above) Come down to visit and the scouts will be glad to welcome you aboard during our open house on Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Courtesy photo



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# VO-TECH STUDENTS FORGE LASTING BONDS



(above) GlamourGals chapter members visited Union County senior home.

Courtesy photo

## GlamourGals

Students at Union County Vocational Technical Schools are making a meaningful mark on their community through their growing involvement with GlamourGals—a nonprofit dedicated to ending senior isolation through teen-led makeovers and intergenerational connection. Since launching their chapter, these students have brightened the days of local seniors through complimentary manicures, heartfelt conversations, and simple moments of shared joy.

Their very first event laid the foundation for something much bigger: a movement of compassion and connection. For Ivy L., now attending her second GlamourGals visit, the experience has been deeply personal. “We connected over our childhood memories of painting our nails—she used to do her own all the time, and I talked about how my mom would paint pictures and designs on mine,” Ivy recalled. “Today’s visit was another beautiful, memorable experience. I already can’t wait for the next one.”

For fellow volunteer Gayatri S., each visit is a reminder of the deeper mission behind the glitter and polish. “When I think about why we do this, I’m reminded that GlamourGals exists to fight senior isolation,” she said. “Hearing her story helped me realize how much joy and comfort our presence brings. Every time we visit, we’re taking another step toward that goal—and that means everything.”

The Union County Vocational Technical Schools’ GlamourGals chapter is more than a student group—it’s a team of young changemakers leading with empathy. Through their commitment, seniors are reminded that they are valued, seen, and never alone. And for these students, the journey is just beginning.

GlamourGals, a 501(c)(3) founded in 2000, reduces social isolation by empowering beautiful connections across generations. Our signature beauty makeovers are led by teen-led chapters nationwide that bring honor and companionship to seniors in aged care.



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# NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA PRESENT “MOZART IN THE GARDEN” JUNE 14

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Back by popular demand, New Jersey Festival Orchestra's highly acclaimed outdoor concert returns on Saturday, June 14, 2025 with “Mozart in the Garden,” a spectacular open-air musical celebration set against the grand backdrop of one of Westfield's finest residences. Concert begins at 7:30 PM. Gates open at 6 PM. Free on-street parking and full accessibility available.

Under the direction of Maestro David Wroe, the NJ Festival Orchestra invites audiences to

step into the golden age of European cultural grandeur. From the joyful flair of Mozart's “Prague” Symphony to the toe-tapping rhythms of Kodály's Hungarian folk dances and Elgar's sweeping, romantic elegance, this concert promises a night of unforgettable charm and symphonic brilliance under the stars.

The evening opens with the fiery folk rhythms and gypsy spirit of Kodály's Dances of Galánta, a tribute to the Hungarian countryside of the composer's youth. The program continues with the romantic Viennese-sounding elegance of Elgar's Introduction and Allegro, a virtuosic showcase for the NJFO string section.

The evening culminates in a performance of Mozart's joyful and exuberant Symphony No. 38, “Prague,” a dazzling work that celebrates the composer's special connection to the city that embraced him.

“Viennese giant Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart made his home in Vienna but allowed the city of Prague to adopt him, said Maestro Wroe. His “Prague” symphony jumps for joy and displays a bravado and confidence unique amongst his compositions.”

“This concert highlights cultural and geographical empires at the pinnacle of their power, all unified through the power of music,” Wroe added.

Held under the stars with full theatrical lighting, acoustically enhanced sound, and Westfield's historic elegance as the setting, “Mozart in the Garden” promises an unforgettable summer experience.

“This concert is going to be another phenomenal event,” stated NJ Festival Orchestra board member Keith S. Hertell. “We transform my grounds to create a beautiful outdoor performance experience with stage lighting, acoustics, and a fully professional stage. It's a huge undertaking and we are deeply grateful to Ray Catena of Union for their support.”

Admission: \$45 General Lawn Admission (bring your own chairs and refreshments). \$85 VIP Reserved Seating (limited access seating close to the stage with chairs provided)

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.njfestivalorchestra.org](http://www.njfestivalorchestra.org), by phone at (908) 232-9400, or in person at the NJFO office, 224 East Broad St., Westfield.



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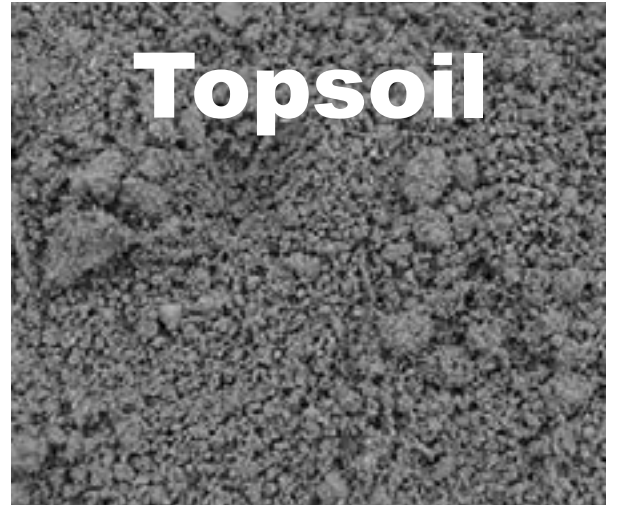
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## BRIGHT YOUTH'S "INCLUSIVE TRAIL" RETURNS

*Submitted by Jingyi Han*

Bright Youth's Inclusive Trail – Hiking with Special Hearts program, which provides outdoor experiences for children with special needs. After a winter hiatus, the program resumed on March 29, 2025, with eight Bright Youth members: Allison Guo, Jason Guo, Alex Jiang, William Jiang, Ryan Ng, Keela Wang, Angela Yang, and Arik Zhang—guiding seven children with disabilities, including Down syndrome and autism, along with their families, on a scenic hike through Great Swamp in Chatham, NJ. Following the approximately two-mile trek, the volunteers and children enjoyed an exciting Easter Egg Hunt. Dividing into three teams, they searched the woods and grassy areas for nearly 150 eggs, which had been carefully hidden in advance and filled with Hershey's Kisses chocolates. The event was a joyful and heartwarming kickoff to the spring season, bringing smiles to both the children and volunteers.

The Inclusive Trail – Hiking with Special Hearts program was launched by Bright Youth's high school volunteers in June 2024, with the goal of providing children with special needs a welcoming and supportive environment to engage in outdoor activities. The program promotes physical activity, social interaction, and a sense of belonging, while also offering families an opportunity to connect and share experiences.

From June to November last year, Bright Youth organized seven monthly light-hiking trips across central New Jersey, including locations such as Watchung Reservation in Union County and South Mountain Reservation in Essex

County. Each hike featured engaging activities tailored for young participants, such as ball passing, Rubik's Cube solving, and magic tricks. In total, these hikes spanned nearly 15 miles over the course of the year.

"Hiking with special needs children is a great way to spend a weekend afternoon," said Allison Guo, co-founder of Bright Youth and a sophomore at Summit High School. "It feels like we're on a glorious quest for a lost artifact. The children run, play, and explore—it's a truly magical experience." The program has welcomed families from Union, Essex, Bergen, Morris, and Somerset counties, fostering meaningful connections between children, peers, and older mentors.

Bright Youth, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit led by high school volunteers, strives to create inclusive experiences through various initiatives. "Bright Youth is the quintessential place to foster a strong sense of community and explore passions," said Arik Zhang, a junior at Millburn High School and an enthusiastic Bright Youth member. "Whether through arts and crafts or outdoor adventures, Bright Youth's offerings are the perfect source to foster creativity and show love for ourselves and others. We welcome many others to join our program and continue honoring this culture of belonging."

For more information about the Inclusive Trail program and other Bright Youth initiatives, please visit [brightyouth.org](http://brightyouth.org).

Courtesy photo





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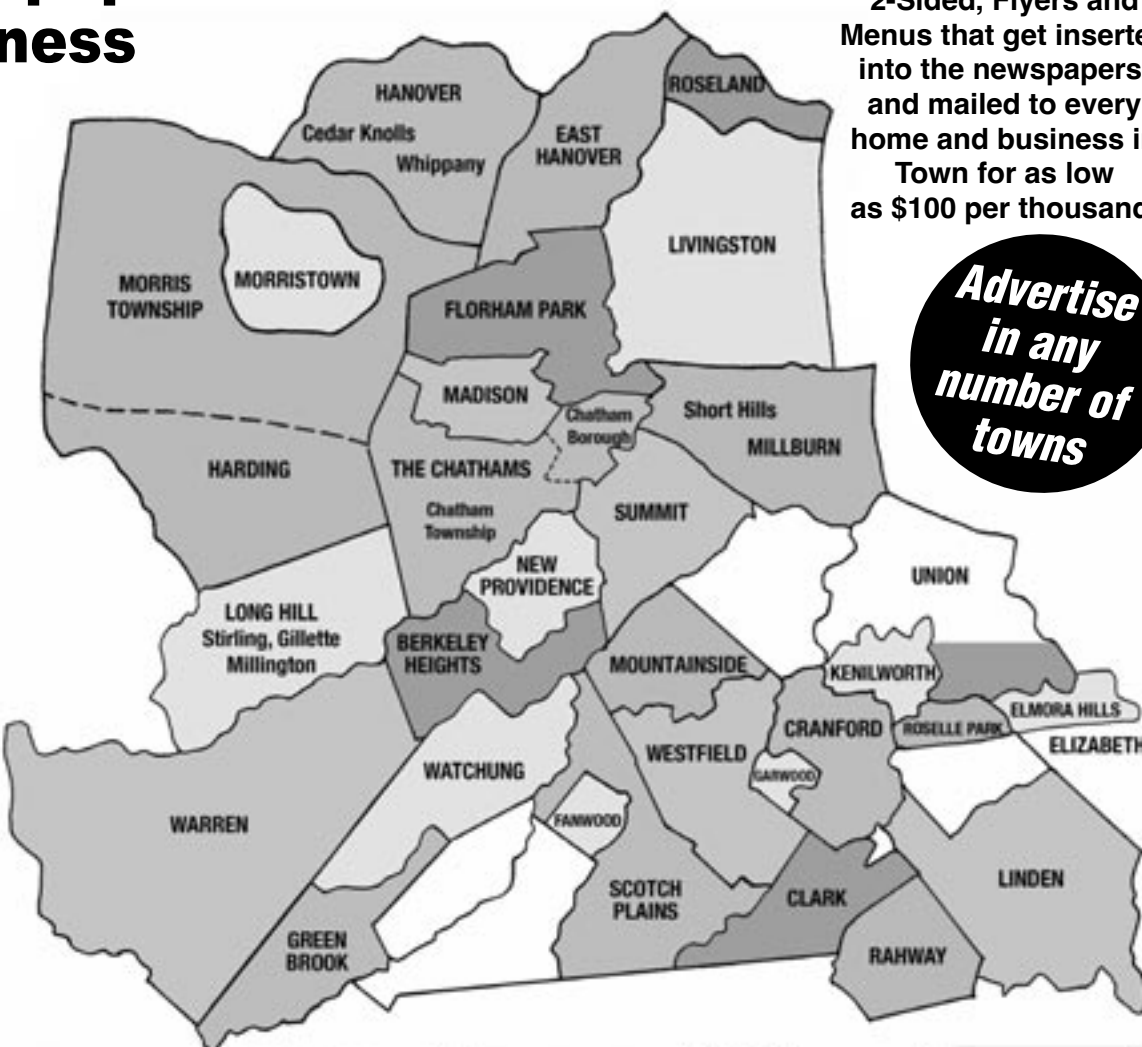
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<b>Fanwood Post NJ</b> Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023	<b>Florham Park Press NJ</b> Qty: 6,000 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood NJ Times</b> Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook NJ Gazette</b> Qty: 3,300 Zip: 08812	<b>HANOVER TOWNSHIP PRESS NJ</b> CEDAR KNOLLS WHIPPANY Qty: 6,100 Zips: 07927, 07981	<b>BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ</b> Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in LINDEN</b> Qty: 18,000 Zip: 07036	<b>Livingston NJ Monthly</b> Qty: 12,100 Zip: 07039
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<b>Life in Roseland NJ</b> Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07068	<b>ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY</b> Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY</b> Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076	<b>Summit NJ Times</b> Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of UNION NJ</b> Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN MONTHLY NJ</b> Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung Post NJ</b> Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield NJ MONTHLY</b> Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES		1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS	27 TOWNS	30 TOWNS
Units (wide x High)	Size											
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25"x2"0	100	260	360	460	560	600	660	700	800	900	1000
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										
BACK PAGE	10"x14"	600										
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25"x2"	360										
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5"x4.5"	320										

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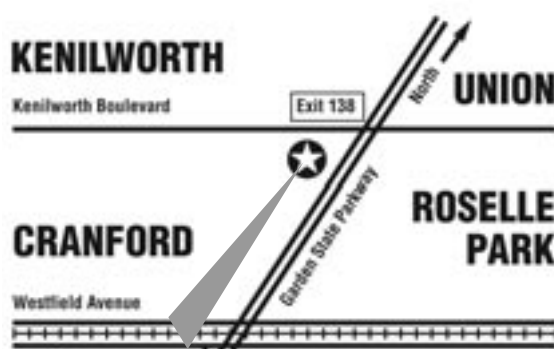


## THREE WEEKENDS THREE LOCATIONS IN JUNE

**June 16 thru 20  
CLARK HOLIDAY INN**

36 Valley Rd, Clark, NJ 07066

**10am to 5pm**

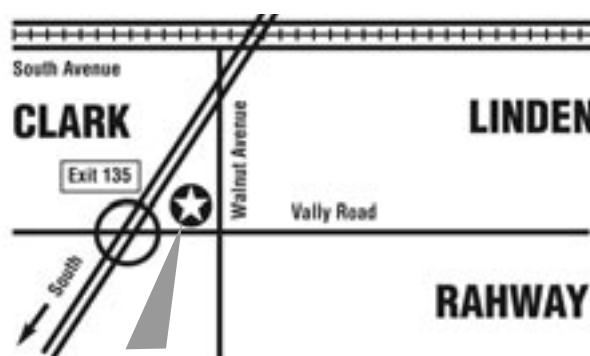


**KENILWORTH HOTEL**

**June 23 thru 27  
KENILWORTH HOTEL**

60 S 31st St, Kenilworth, NJ 07033

**10am to 5pm**



**CLARK HOLIDAY INN**

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**10am to 5pm**



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