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# **BOY SCOUT TROOP 8 HONORS THREE NEWEST EAGLE SCOUTS**

Boy Scout Troop 8

At a Boy Scout Troop 8 Court of Honor, held on May 8, 2025, Matthew Bene, Will Hartzell and Andrew Laconte were recognized as Eagle Scouts.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is a prestigious achievement that represents years of dedication, effective leadership, and extensive community service. As the highest rank attainable, this requires at least 21 merit badges, fulfilling leadership roles within the Troop, and each Scout must complete a significant community service project.

Matt Bene, who has been in scouting since he was a Cub Scout Pack 6, has always been an enthusiastic leader and contributor to Scouts. For four years straight, he was the Troop's number one fundraiser, selling popcorn door to door. And, he has held many leadership roles, including Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster and Troop Guide.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Matt designed and built two beautiful picnic tables for the Liquid Church in Parsippany, to help accommodate the church's growing community.

Will Hartzell, a long-time scout, has held several vital roles in Troop 8 and embarked on incredibly challenging scouting trips demonstrating his initiative, positive attitude and appetite for rugged adventure. He has served as the Troop's Librarian,

an Instructor, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader.

Will created two Gaga pits for the middle school, offering a space for fun competition, exercise, and outdoor activities as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

Andrew Laconte, a significant contributor to Troop 8, is a four-time Assistant Patrol Leader and two-time Patrol Leader. In addition, he served as a Crew Chief, Watchu Ranger, Quartermaster, Camp Staff and Camp Somers and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Andrew, with the help of fellow Scouts, cleared, marked and excavated an area to create a gravel pathway for the Chatham Community Bee Garden.

Collectively, these individuals have hiked hundreds of miles, attended hundreds of campouts, and completed countless hours of community service. Above all, they have shown unwavering commitment to the principles of a Boy Scout, bringing honor to their Troop and community.

Troop 8 meets every Monday evening from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church, 286 Main Street in Chatham. For questions and opportunities to join, please contact bstroop8@gmail.com.



(above) Eagle Scouts Matt Bene, Will Hartzell and Andrew Loconte with parents Chris and Chrissie Bene, Chris and Cate Hartzell, and Sharon Penn and Rich Loconte.

Courtesy Photo



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### **CHURCH NAMES NEW YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER**

Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township

The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township (PCCT) recently announced that it has named Elizabeth Monkemeier to serve in a newly-created position of Director of Youth and Family Ministries. According to the church, this step will further enhance and expand its intergenerational ministry supporting children, youth and families in their faith journeys.

Elizabeth will be responsible for coordinating a variety of educational, fellowship and mission opportunities to help kids and teens from pre-K through 12th grade engage in the life and ministry of the church. Working with a team of volunteers, she will provide leadership for Sunday morning church school, middle- and high school youth fellowship groups, youth Confirmation classes, and the annual summer mission trip for grades 9-12, among other initiatives.

"We're delighted that Elizabeth has joined our staff in this important new role," said The Rev. at the Peck School in Morristown. In addition, Thomas A. Brown, Pastor of PCCT. "She has a in the lives of children and teens by helping them reconnecting with those children and families. deepen their faith. In addition, she brings unique skills and abilities that will no doubt lead to Madison. She holds a bachelor's degree in music vibrant programs and meaningful experiences for education from Rutgers University, where she our church family and the community."

included teaching instrumental and general music Drew University.



(above) Elizabeth Monkemeier

she served as Director of Children's Music at genuine and heartfelt desire to make a difference PCCT from 2022-23 and looks forward to

Elizabeth was born, raised and still lives in was a Dean's List student every semester and a Elizabeth is an educator and church musician member of the Cap and Skull Senior Honor with a background in both classroom teaching Society. This fall Elizabeth will begin studies and children's ministry. Her previous experience towards an M.A. in Theology and Ministry at



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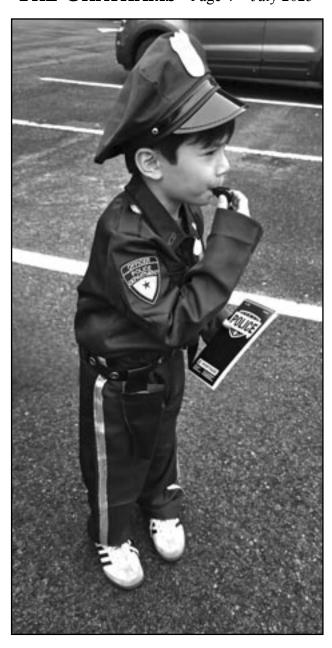
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(Above) Chief Benjamin Capalbo

Courtesy Photo



## **BENJAMIN CAPALBO - POLICE CHIEF FOR A DAY**

Chatham Borough Police Department

As part of the Chatham PTA's Family Fun Night Silent Auction, Benjamin Capalbo had the incredible opportunity to serve as Chatham Borough's Police Chief for a Day, and what a day it was! After being officially sworn in by Chief Gibbons, Benjamin proudly put on his uniform and got right to work. His first mission? A VIP tour of Police Headquarters, where he explored the processing center and jail cells, and then answered a call from the dispatch center who reached out to him over the radio just like a real Chief!

Chief Capalbo also had the chance to check out police equipment, sit inside a real patrol car, and activate the lights and sirens.

To finish out his unforgettable shift, Benjamin returned to his class at Milton Avenue School,

where Chief Gibbons and officers from the Chatham Borough Police Department spoke with Benjamin's classmates about police work and leadership.

We'd also like to thank Borough Administrator Steve Williams, who stopped by Headquarters during Benjamin's tour to show his support!

This special experience was made possible thanks to the overwhelming support for the PTA's Family Fun Night, which raised over \$9,000 the highest total in the event's history! Even more exciting, proceeds from the night are going toward new playground equipment at the school, bringing years of joy and lasting memories to children in our community.

We're proud to be part of such a generous and connected community. Thank you for making this event and Benjamin's day so memorable.



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# SUMMIT COLLEGE CLUB FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Lile Hall in Christ Church, Summit, was filled on Sunday afternoon, June 8, 2025, when the Summit College Club Foundation awarded scholarships to each of seven accomplished high school senior women from Summit and surrounding towns. The scholarships, a testament to the Summit College Club's mission to advance equity for women and girls, will significantly aid the students in pursuing their college dreams. The annual ceremony in which the club awards scholarships is a high point of the organization's year. Since its inception in 1920, the Summit College Club has given away more than \$1.1 million in scholarship funds, which has helped hundreds of women to attend the college of their choice and make a positive impact in their communities.

While a few of the awards have more specific requirements, all of them seek a senior young woman from a local town (Summit, Berkeley Heights, Chatham, Millburn, Mountainside, New Providence, or Springfield) who is graduating from one of eight high schools and who has "achieved academic excellence and demonstrated leadership potential."

Each recipient, then, has a stellar academic record, but that's just the starting point of her achievements. As a group, these young women have mastered second (or third) languages, conducted scientific research at the university level, founded nonprofits, captained winning

sports teams, volunteered with local, national, and international organizations, and exercised leadership in school clubs, committees, and extracurricular activities. They exemplify intellectual curiosity and rigor, drive and resourcefulness, compassion and collaboration, as well as resilience. They've used personal challenges as a springboard for growth, achievement, and giving back. Both literally and figuratively, these young women have climbed mountains. The Summit College Club is proud to honor them with scholarships and looks forward to following their careers in the years ahead.

The awards ceremony commenced with Summit College Club President Lynne Rogerson warmly welcoming everyone. She gave a brief history of the Summit College Club and its activities over the past year, highlighting its role in the local community and its connection to the American Association of University Women, a national organization.

Dr. Audrey Fisch, professor of English at New Jersey City University and founder and president of the nonprofit, More Than Bootstraps, then spoke about the crucial importance of every young person having access to and support for success in higher education. She spoke directly to the scholarship recipients about the transition from high school to college and strategies that would help them thrive. More Than Bootstraps helps build a community of first-generation students who empower each other to access and

succeed in higher education through peer mentorship, and parental engagement.

Next, Tanya Dev, a 2024 recipient newly returned from her freshman year at Tufts University, spoke about the importance of curiosity and the fun of being in a new, diverse environment.

The Summit College Club sponsored a 2023 scholarship recipient, Eden Levkov, in her attendance at AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Eden spoke about how much she had learned from participating in the workshops and activities designed to enhance her leadership skills—and about meeting college students from all over the country.

After these speeches, the seven scholarship recipients were honored with a certificate, a rose, and, most importantly, a scholarship check. Following the awards ceremony, the scholarship recipients, their families, and Summit College Club members stayed to enjoy refreshments, to meet one another, and to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of the awardees.

Summit College Club is a branch of the American Association of University Women, an organization that promotes equity through education, research, and advocacy.

For more information about the Summit College Club, please visit us on Facebook and summitcollegeclub.org, or email summitcollegeclub@gmail.com.



(above, l-r) The Summit Collect Club Foundation awarded \$30,00 in scholarship monies during a reception. Scholarship recipients were Sophia Erickson, Anna Kramarchuk, Emma Vachal, Carina Pang, Samantha Rose, and Ishita Yadav. (Moira Joel is not pictured.)



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# CHATHAM EMERGENCY SQUAD CELEBRATES NEWLY RENOVATED BUILDING

Submitted by Evan Skinner

It was many years in the planning and execution, but the Chatham Emergency Squad's newly renovated building at 45 Spring Street was officially opened on Sunday, June 1. The Open House and ribbon cutting was attended by local officials, police and fire department members, CES members past and present, and many members of the Chatham community.

In a brief ceremony, CES President, Nicole DiMaggie said "We needed to create a space that was welcoming and people would want to come and volunteer for us. So, over the past six years, we have given our blood, sweat, and tears, our money, your money, and we have created this beautiful, beautiful space."

Bryan McGookin, CES Captain, added his thanks. "I can tell you that every single square foot of this building is being utilized to its fullest capability, and all these members are using it every day."

President DiMaggio summed up the volunteer experience at CES, "It is a source of pride for us, it is something we love to do. We love serving the community and the support we get back from you is what fuels us and keeps us going." She also took the opportunity to encourage the attendees to consider joining the all-volunteer CES "If you've ever considered joining us, the time is now!"

Tours of the building, CPR demonstrations, children's activities and Scoops ice cream completed the day.

The Chatham Emergency Squad is an all-volunteer service available to the Chatham community 24/day. CES is almost entirely funded by donations from the community and organizations. In addition to Basic Life Support care, CES provides coverage at community events, non-emergency transport for Chatham residents, and CPR training to community members as well as local police, fire and DPW personnel and local teachers. For information about CES, volunteering and/or donating, go to the website chathamemergencysquad.org





(above) Long time member Christine Grobert at the kids' table

(above) The newly renovated building

Photos by Tom Salvas



(above) Chatham Emergency Squad members (represents approximately half the membership!).









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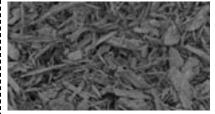
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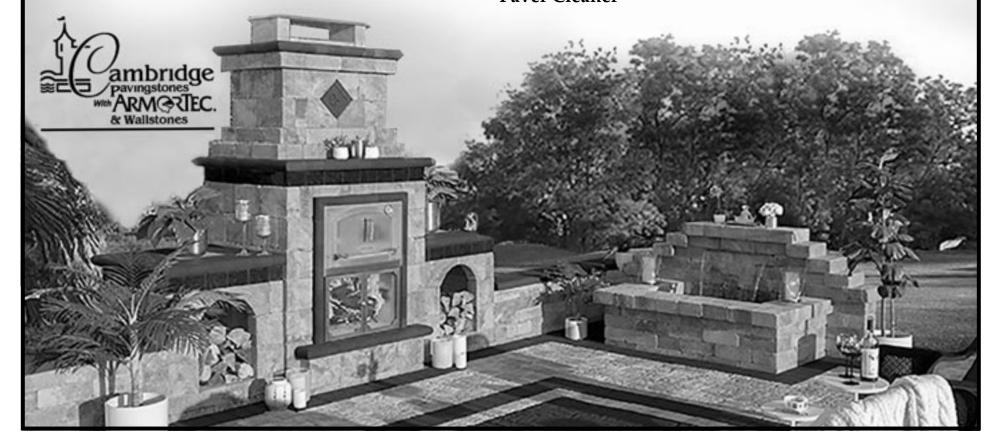
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## MCVSD OPENS CAREER TRAINING CENTER ON CCM CAMPUS

#### **County of Morris**

More than 100 people gathered on Friday, May 30, 2025, at the County College of Morris (CCM) to celebrate the official opening of the Morris County Career Training Center, a new facility of the Morris County Vocational School District (MCVSD) on the college campus in Randolph.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the completion of a 46,350-square-foot, two-story building that will expand MCVSD's capacity by hundreds of high school students starting with about 150 in the fall 2025 semester. The center will offer share-time programs focused on career and college readiness in fields ranging from medical and dental assisting to artificial intelligence, renewable energy and supply chain management.

The \$26.8 million project was funded through \$18.6 million from the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act and \$8.2 million in county support. The building is located adjacent to CCM's Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Center and the future Entrepreneurship and Culinary Science Center, which is currently under construction, forming a hub of career and technical education in the county.

Programs offered at the center will provide students with hands-on experience, industry-recognized credentials and the opportunity to earn up to 18 college credits. The share-time model allows students to attend specialized technical training for half the school day as part of their junior and senior year high school programs.

"This building does not feel like a high school. It feels like a high-tech, innovative space, and I know students will love learning here. They will know they are in special space," said MCVSD Acting Superintendent Shari Castelli, who emceed the event.

"This event is not just about the opening of a new building. It's about opening the doors to our students, where they will be able to cultivate their dreams, hopes and aspirations. They will have a safe and inspiring environment where they can explore the many possibilities and opportunities that will be available to them to discover their own individual talents," said MCVSD Board of Education President Barbara Dawson.

"The Morris County Vocational School District Career Training Center is the result of a unique and innovative partnership. It's a shining example of what can be achieved when educators, with the support of county and state leaders, come together with a shared mission to empower the next generation of young people,

and ultimately strengthen our community," said Paul Licitra, chair of the CCM Board of Trustees.

The project was made possible through collaboration among CCM and its Trustees, MCVSD and its Board of Education members, federal and state legislators, Morris County and the Board of County Commissioners, and the Township of Randolph and Councilmembers. During the event, the contributions of former MCVSD Superintendent Scott Moffitt were also recognized.



(above) Students who will benefit from the Morris County Career Training Center gather during the ceremony.



(above) Exterior of the finished building, the Morris County Career Training Center.

Photos by County of Morris



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# **SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS JULY EVENTS**

58 Meyersville Road (lower level) in Chatham 973-635-4565 to register. Mondays-Fridays, 9AM-3PM. chathamseniorcenter.org.

#### **Patriotic Sing-Along** with Flip Peters & Ice Cream Treats

Thursday, July 3, 11:00 a.m. Get in the July 4th spirit by singing along to patriotic songs performed by Flip Peters. Followed by ice cream treats.

#### The Center is closed

Friday, July 4 for Independence Day Say What? Seniors v. Teens Game Show

Wednesday, July 9, 12 p.m.

Teams battle to decipher each other's generational slang terms to see who is truly the coolest. Chatham High School students will lead this program.

#### **Musical Tribute to "Grease"**

Monday, July 14, 12:00 p.m.

Dan Furnalds, guitarist and singer, will perform favorites from the popular musical.

#### **Afternoon of Hawaiian Music**

Monday, July 21, 12:00 p.m.

Andy Wang plays traditional Hawaiian slack key guitar and sings Hawaiian music bringing the Aloha spirit to his performances.

#### **Veterans Coffee & VA Benefits Information**

Thursday, July 10, 11:00 a.m.

Learn about the free benefits veterans have earned while enjoying coffee and pastries.

#### Salsa Dance Lesson

Wednesday, July 16, 12:00 p.m.

Designed with older adults in mind, this salsa dance lesson is for all who are able to dance or who simply want to enjoy the music.

#### **Line Dancing**

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#### **SENIOR CENTER WELCOMES AREA RESIDENTS**

For 35 years, the Senior Center of the Chathams has been encouraging independence and well-being of older adults and their families by connecting them with each other and the general community. As a unique not-forprofit agency, the Center serves the senior population from the Chathams and older adults from a wide surrounding area. The Center helps older adults age in place and remain active and engaged through activities and services that educate, empower, and promote community engagement. Programs and services are offered in the areas of fitness and wellness, enrichment, support and connection, and information and resources. There is no membership fee to join. Many programs are offered free of charge, while others involve only a minimal fee thanks to individual donations, fundraising events, and grants. The Center is located at 58 Meyersville Road (lower level) in Chatham and is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 973-635-4565 or visit chathamseniorcenter.org.

## FRED'S ROOM HELPS CHILDREN PROCESS GRIEF

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

and big feelings need a safe place to be expressed. That's why we created the Volcano Room, a dedicated space where children can release their emotions in a healthy way. Recently film series, the room features cushioned walls, soft basketballs, and big pillow piles to jump in where children can process their grief in their own time.



For the DeJesus family of Scotch Plains, At Imagine, we know that grief is complex, Imagine has been a source of comfort for the past five years. To honor their beloved husband, son, and father, they chose to dedicate the Volcano Room as "Fred's Room." The event happened on the fifth anniversary of Fred DeJesus' death at redecorated with characters from the Inside Out just 38 years old. Fred's wife Suzanne, and their daughters led the family in a heartfelt dedication ceremony.

> "We know that Fred is watching over us, front row for every dance recital, Girl Scout event, and school performance," Suzanne shared. "He's still cheering us on, asking, 'How did it go, kiddo? I know you hit it out of the park."

> Spaces like Fred's Room are made possible by families who want to create a lasting tribute to their loved ones. As Imagine continues to grow, we are honored to help families find meaningful ways to celebrate the lives of those they hold dear.

> Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and caregivers of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org or visit their website at imaginenj.org.

(above) The DeJesus family gathers in Imagine's "Volcano Room" recently dedicated in memory of



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## FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE **PARADE & CEREMONY JULY 13 & 14**

The American Friends of Lafayette is sponsoring a 13-month long reenactment of General Lafayette's 1824-1825 Farewell Tour as America's "National Guest." It began in August 2024 in New York City and follows the General's itinerary with programming throughout 24 states. In July 2025, the General will return to Morristown - the Military Capital of the Revolution. In 1825, Lafayette visited Morristown on July 14, Bastille Day, and now 200 years later he will return to Morristown on July 13, 2025 and July 14, 2025. Activities planned include a Parade and a celebration at the Morristown Green.

The plans include having local businesses, historical and lineage societies, and non-profits on the Morristown Green concurrently with the parade and celebration on Sunday July 13, 2025.

Local and French dignitaries will be on hand, and our goal is to have 1,000 spectators actively participating on the Green.



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This September, Drew University's Concert 9/26 – SOUTHERN STEEL: Hall in Madison, NJ, transformed into a powerhouse of live entertainment as Gene DiNapoli Presents delivers six unforgettable nights of tributes and laughter. From heartland rock and Southern soul to mystical classics and offbeat comedy, each event brings a unique and electrifying experience to audiences of all ages.

#### 9/13 – HUMAN WHEELS:

#### THE ULTIMATE MELLENCAMP EXPERIENCE

Feel the pulse of heartland rock with Human Wheels, New Jersey's premier Mellencamp tribute band. Featuring hits like Pink Houses and Jack and Diane, this seven-piece ensemble brings Americana to life with authentic, high-energy performances.

#### 9/19 - A BROTHER'S REVIVAL: A TRIBUTE TO THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND

Led by former Allman Brothers Band bassist David "Rook" Goldflies, this faithful tribute captures the spirit of Southern rock with jaminfused renditions of classics like Midnight Rider and Ramblin' Man.

#### 9/20 - GYPSY:

#### A TRUE STEVIE NICKS EXPERIENCE

Sabrina Staats leads this enchanting tribute that channels the haunting voice and ethereal style of Stevie Nicks. Backed by a top-tier band, audiences can expect faithful renditions of Rhiannon, Edge of Seventeen, and more.

# **CLASSIC SKYNYRD LIVE**

Relive the golden age of Southern rock with Southern Steel, known for their pitch-perfect performances of Lynyrd Skynyrd favorites like Sweet Home Alabama and Free Bird

#### 9/27 - RODNEY NORMAN: **COMEDY, INSIGHT, AND LAUGHTER**

TikTok sensation and viral comedian Rodney Norman brings his signature blend of quirky wisdom, deadpan delivery, and philosophical hilarity to the stage for one night only.

#### 9/28 - LIGHTS OUT: THE JERSEY BEACH BOYS

Imagine the sun-soaked sounds of The Beach Boys, with the signature swagger of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. LIGHTS OUT brings that fantasy to life in The Jersey Beach Boys-a coast-to-coast musical mashup where you'll sing, sway, and relive the golden age of harmony.

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# July 14 thru 18 **CLARK HOLIDAY INN**

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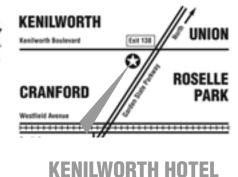
60 S 31st Street Kenilworth, NJ 07033 9am to 5pm

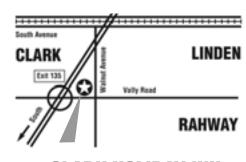
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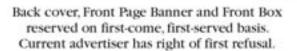
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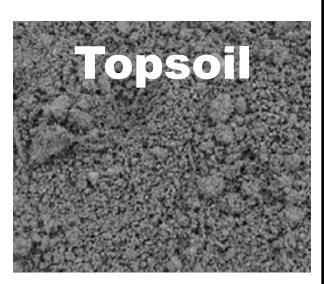


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