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THE LIFE OF DR. MARILYN HART CELEBRATED

On the evening of April 22, 2025, the Borough Council of Mountainside unanimously passed a proclamation celebrating the life of Dr. Marilyn Hart. She was the first woman elected to the Borough Council, and had a remarkable life, enriching her community and was an outstanding role model. Marilyn and her husband David M Hart each served on the Council, and together were awarded the prestigious Mabel Young Good Neighbor Award.



(above) Dr. Marilyn Hart

The proclamation reads:

WHEREAS, Dr. Marilyn McGuire Hart, a proud member of the “Greatest Generation,” passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 26, 2025, at the age of 99; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn was born on February 19, 1926, in Jersey City, New Jersey, to Edward and Kathryn McGuire, and moved with her family to Mountainside in 1934 during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn was an exceptional student, earning the distinction of Valedictorian at Holy Trinity High School, and later marrying David M. Hart in 1951, with whom she shared 64 years of marriage; and

WHEREAS, despite the demands of raising three children, Marilyn continued her education, earning a BA from Seton Hall University, a Master’s Degree from Kean University and a Ph. D. in Urban Anthropology from Rutgers University, and she dedicated 28 years as a professor at Kean University, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn made invaluable contributions to her community through

her involvement in charitable and civic activities, including serving on the Regional High School Board of Education, becoming the first woman elected to the Mountainside Borough Council, and volunteering for a wide range of organizations such as the Children’s Specialized Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the March of Dimes, among others; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn’s unwavering optimism, work ethic, and leadership inspired countless individuals, and she led by example in her unwavering commitment to her faith, her family, and the betterment of her community; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn was predeceased by her loving husband, David M. Hart, who passed away in 2016, and is survived by her three children and their spouses: Dr. D. Michael Hart, Ellen Richardson, and Alison Brafman; her seven grandchildren and six great -grandchildren; and a community that has been forever enriched by her presence.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside that we celebrate her remarkable life, her unwavering spirit, and countless ways she has enriched our lives. May her memory inspire us to embody the same love and kindness she so generously shared.

Paul N. Mirabelli, Mayor

Dated April 22, 2025



(above) Mountainside Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli presenting a certificate of proclamation celebrating the life of Dr. Marilyn Hart to her son, the Dr. D. Michael Hart. Pictured, l-r - Borough Attorney John Post; Council person Valerie Wass; Ari Brafman; Alison Brafman; Eileen Hart; Dr. D. Michael Hart; Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli; Councilman Don Rinaldo, Jr.; Councilman Rene Dierkes; & Councilman Steven Matejek

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The Blanche M. and George L. Watts Mountainside Community Foundation annually provides 1 or more college scholarship(s) to graduating high school seniors that reside in Mountainside. The Scholarship is awarded for academic competency, community involvement, merit and financial need.

Our 2025 Watts Scholarship recipients are Chelsea Kieswetter and Siena Siconolfi. Each receiving a \$30,000 scholarship to the College of their choice.

Chelsea Kieswetter can be found on the softball field most evenings. As Captain, she has set an example for the other girls on the team. She has brought the lessons she has learned on the field to her everyday life as well. Her positive attitude, volunteerism and determination stood out on her application. Chelsea will continue her education at Bucknell University studying Business.

Siena Siconolfi has an outstanding work ethic. Not only does she excel academically but also has time to be a two-sport athlete and volunteer as a Cadet at the Mountainside Rescue Squad. She was impressed by Nurses who attended to her during an unplanned trip to the Emergency Room. Their professionalism and thoughtfulness solidified her plan to become a Nurse. She has chosen to attend Fairfield University where she

will be majoring in Nursing.

You can find out more information about the Blanche M. and George L. Watts Mountainside Community Foundation at wattsmountainside.org.



(above) Chelsea Kieswetter



(above) Siena Siconolfi

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MOUNTAINSIDE ACTIVE RETIREES CLOSE OUT 41ST YEAR

Kenny i., President - M.A.R.

The Mountainside Active Retirees and their guests toasted the closing of M.A.R.'s 41st year with a road trip to a South Jersey winery for a luncheon and, of course, a wine tasting. Every seat on the bus was taken and even though it was a rain showery day it couldn't wash away the comradery amongst the group.

M.A.R.'s schedule for this coming year, the

42nd, continues with a calendar of eclectic speakers, musical entertainers, trips and luncheons, starting with the first meeting scheduled for September 9th. At that "kick-off" meeting the guest speaker, as in past years, will be Mountainside mayor, Mr. Paul N. Mirabelli informing the members of "what's happening" in Mountainside and then opening the floor to

Q & A.

M.A.R. membership is open to all Mountainside residents 55+ (retired or not) and is also open to M.A.R. sponsored non-residents. Dues are \$20 per member, per year. Meetings are held in the 2nd floor Community Room at Borough Hall starting at 10 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of most months.



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POLICE PARTICIPATE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

On June 6, 2025, the Opening Ceremonies for the Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games were held at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in Ewing. Attending were Mountainside Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Lieutenant William Stolting, Union County Prosecutor William Daniel, and Chief David Hart of Linden. The event featured a significant presence from law enforcement, with officers from across the state lining the field to welcome the athletes.

A highlight of the ceremony was the arrival of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, a longstanding tradition where officers carry the "Flame of Hope" across New Jersey, with its entry into the stadium to ignite the ceremonial flame. This marks the official start of the Games and celebrates the partnership between law enforcement and the Special Olympics community.



ABOUT THE ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY:

Torch Run began in New Jersey in 1984 as a way to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics New Jersey. The run is a day-long event, split into 26 legs (or starting points) with some legs beginning as early as 4:45 a.m. The run travels through more than 300 towns, covering 750 miles on-foot. About 3,000 runners participated in 2025. Representing over 450 police departments. To learn more, visit NJTorchRun.org.



Courtesy Photo

(above) Chief David Hart of Linden, Chief Joseph Giannuzzi, Union County Prosecutor William Daniel, and Lieutenant William Stolting.



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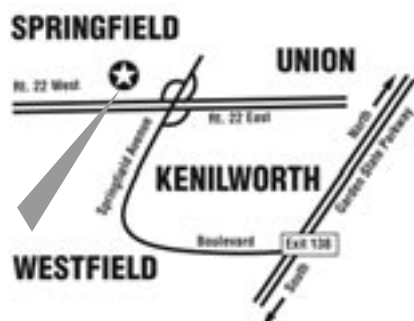
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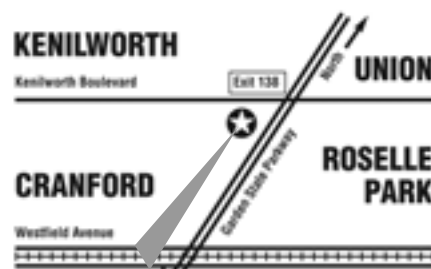
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This September, Drew University's Concert Hall in Madison, NJ, transformed into a powerhouse of live entertainment as Gene DiNapoli Presents delivers six unforgettable nights of tributes and laughter. From heartland rock and Southern soul to mystical 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 jam-infused 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.

9/26 – SOUTHERN STEEL: 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

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JULY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

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.

JULY 1ST - GREG SCHWARTZ

Leading off July, on the 1st, we will learn about cybersecurity. Our speaker will be Greg Schwartz, founder of GSIT, an IT company specializing in assisting small businesses with risk mitigation as well as other digital services. Greg will describe the system infrastructure risks and challenges small businesses face, both current and anticipated, and the tools available to mitigate them. This presentation should also have considerable relevance for individual users.

JULY 8TH - BROOKS SMITH

On July 8th we will delve into the strategy behind philanthropy (even if you are not Bill Gates or Warren Buffett). Our speaker will be Brooks Smith, a minister with the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey. Rev. Smith will describe what might be called the five “Ps” of donation. He will present an overview of the Passions that drive philanthropy and the Partners, Processes, Projects, and Pondering that produce effective, mindful giving.

JULY 15TH - TO BE DETERMINED

We will not have access to our normal venue site on July 15th. Our meeting will be via zoom and our speaker has not yet been finalized. Check website for updates: www.summitoldguard.org.

JULY 22ND - JEN KELBER

On July 22nd, the topic will be home healthcare. Jen Kelber is the manager of client

relations for HomeWell Care Services, a national non-medical in-home care provider. She will describe the different types of services that can be provided at home by HomeWell, with an emphasis on services for veterans.

JULY 29TH - HELEN CHA-PYO

Finally, on July 29th, we will learn about Wharton Arts, New Jersey’s largest independent non-profit performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students, located in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Helen Cha-Pyo is the artistic director of Wharton Arts and is a Julliard trained musician, award-winning conductor, and promoter of music arts development among youth. She will explain the history and development of Wharton Arts and describe its programs, current breadth and impact as well as its future and challenges.



(above, l-r) (above) Greg Schwartz, Brooks Smith, Jen Kelber, Helen Cha-Pyo



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CASA of Passaic and Union Counties

Mia spent most of her nine years in a home marked by instability and fear. Her parents' addiction left her hungry, alone, and unsure of what to expect each day. She eventually entered foster care. While her peers prepare for a fun-filled summer, Mia finds herself living with strangers. A judge assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer to her — and now, although things still feel uncertain and scary, Mia has someone who listens, shows up, and stands up for her.

Mia is just one of more than 500 children removed from home in Passaic and Union counties due to abuse and/or neglect. Living in foster care and separated from all they've known, each child needs a caring, consistent adult in their corner to protect their best interests while in care. Is that you?

CASA volunteers are trained advocates who visit the child monthly and have court-ordered access to all parties in the case. Supported by

CASA staff, advocates make fact-based observations about outstanding needs or concerns and make recommendations to the court. The CASA volunteer is often the only consistent person in the child's life. Applicants must be at least 21, be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, have computer skills, pass a background check, and complete the 36-hour training.

Fall trainings start soon; Union County's begins Sept. 16 in Linden and Passaic County's begins Nov. 3 in Wayne; county of residence does not matter. View the training dates at casapassaicunion.org/casa-training.

The first step to becoming a CASA volunteer is to attend an information session. Register now at casapassaicunion.org/info-session for any of the following:

Union County – Wednesday, July 9 at 12pm, Child Focus office in Elizabeth, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor; Wednesday, July 9 at 5:30pm, Colleen Fraser Building in Westfield; Wednesdays July 16 and July 23 at 12pm, Child Focus office in Elizabeth, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor; and Wednesday, July 23 at 5:30pm, Rahway Library.

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties is a program of Child Focus, which prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children, and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. For details about CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, call 973-832-4002, email info@casapassaicunion.org, or log on to www.casapassaicunion.org.

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CANINE COMPANIONS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

Canine Companions

Mike Saverino was recently matched with his third Canine Companions service dog names Arbor. Mike is overjoyed about how Arbor has picked up right where his retiring service dog Webster left off, making a difference in Mike's daily life.

Arbor II is a two-year-old lab-golden retriever cross specially bred and trained by Canine Companions to serve people with disabilities. Arbor knows over 40 professional commands to assist Mike in his daily life. Arbor opens doors, turns on lights, and picks up dropped items for Mike to name just a few.

Mike enjoys sled hockey, weightlifting, and is heavily involved in the Canine Companions New Jersey Volunteer Chapter.

About Canine Companions: National nonprofit Canine Companions is celebrating 50 years of empowering people with disabilities to live with greater independence — and it all started with a service dog named Abdul. Canine Companions invented the concept of the modern service dog in 1975 and has since placed more than 8,200 expertly trained dogs at no cost to clients, entirely supported by donations. Today, as America's first and largest provider of service dogs, Canine Companions leverages seven locations across the country to serve adults, children and veterans with disabilities as well as professionals working in health care, law enforcement and educational settings in all 50 states. Volunteer, donate and learn more at canine.org.



(above) Mike Saverino & service dog Arbor

Courtesy Photo

FRED'S ROOM HELPS CHILDREN PROCESS GRIEF

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

At Imagine, we know that grief is complex, 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 redecorated with characters from the Inside Out 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, 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 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 Scotch Plains resident Fred DeJesus.

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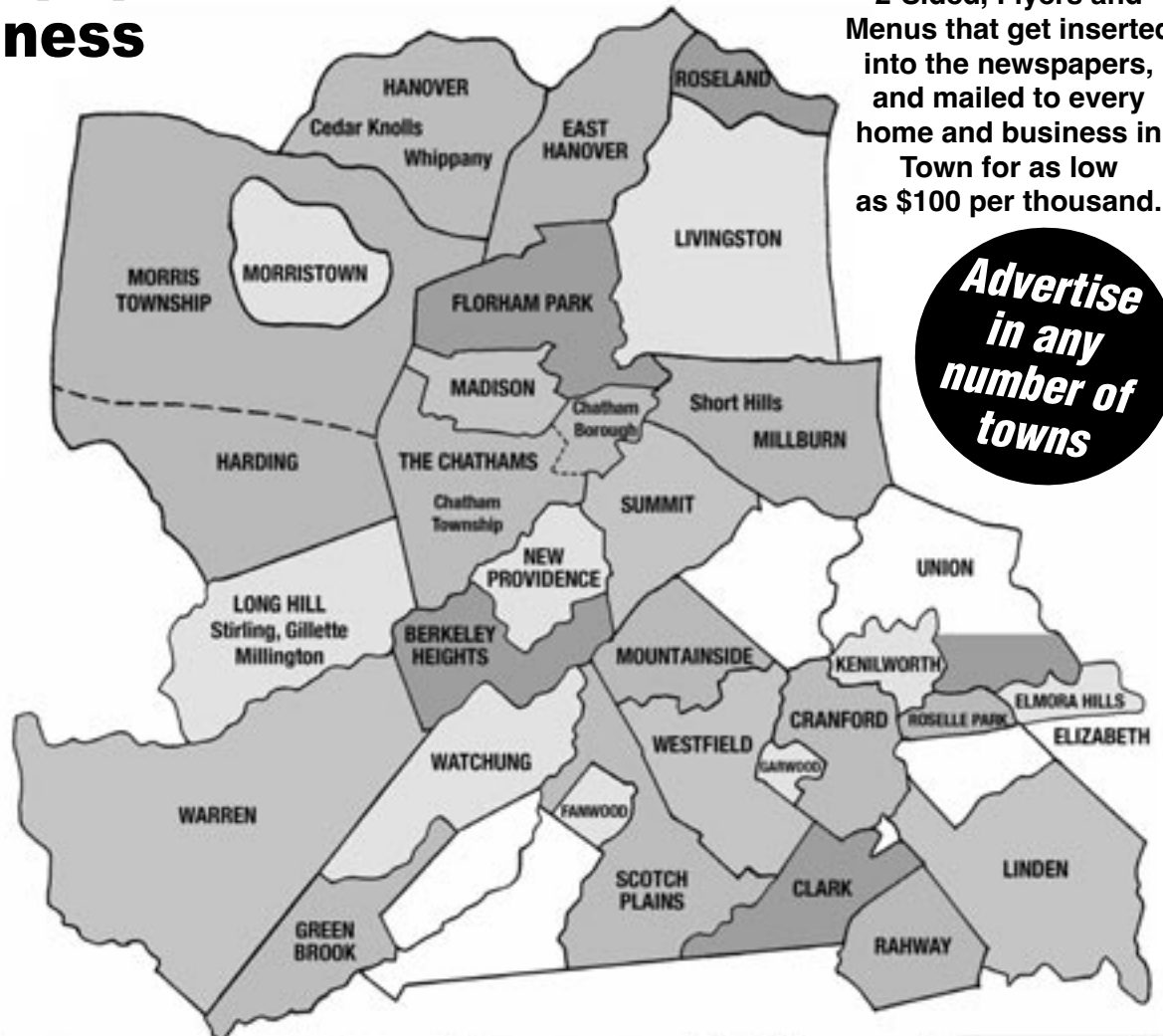
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