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PROJECT GRADUATION 2025 WRAP UP

Project Graduation Committee

The 2025 Project Graduation was a HUGE success! Over 175 of or Class of 2025 seniors enjoyed a safe fun filled night at The Funplex in East Hanover NJ. The event ran from 9:15 p.m. -

A team of 15 volunteers, led by Annie Basile, helped with registration and bag check at GL before our seniors departed.

Our wonderful event chaperones loaded 5 busses with our seniors and traveled to and from Funplex. Without them this event would not have been possible. These amazing volunteers were: Tracy Gardner, Jeanie Ruban, Michelle Blum, Janice Kelly, Kate Motz, Portia Villanueva, Christa Cerullo, Joan McLaughlin, Carla Randig, and Tony and Christina Knuth.

There was a variety of food and activities for all to enjoy including Splashplex Water Slides, Video Games, Reverse Time rides, Drop Tower rides, Bumper cars, Skyscraper ride, Super Twister, XD Dark rides, Bowling, Go Karts, and Laser Tag. Beach towels and gift card prizes were given out at the event.

Mountainside EMTs Domenico Deluca, Maya Dinic, and Joey Grimaldi were on hand for the entire evening, as well as, Shaun Bendyk (Mountainside Police) and Don Maxwell (Berkeley Heights Police). A huge shout out to our EMTs and Police Officers!

A huge thank you to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, Mr. Nixon, Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. Dagounis, and the all of GL team. Project Graduation would also like to thank all the local businesses for their generous donations (including 15 dozen donuts and 4 boxes of munchkins donated from the Berkeley Heights Dunkin' Donuts located on Springfield Ave.), as well as First Group and their phenomenal team of busses and drivers.

GET INVOLVED!

Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior parents, please consider getting involved with Project Graduation in the future!

Project Graduation includes many activities throughout the year including a Senior Breakfast









See Photo album on page 19

Senior Picnic on the day of prom, and finally the Project Graduation event. The Project Graduation committee is also responsible for seat and parking spot raffles for graduation, the sale of the graduation lawn signs, as well as, the sale of the Highlander Way pavers.

If you would like to get involved please reach out to our new PG in the fall, Prom Fashion Show in February, a Coordinators, Catia Salerno and Jovan Siconolfi though www.bhpsnj.org.



Berkeley Height COMMUNITY NEWS

Renna Media, LLC, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Berkeley Heights News is published by Renna Media. 5,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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RECYCLING AUGUST DATES

foam recycling dropoff is available Saturday. August 2 and Saturday, August 16 (first & third Saturday of every month) at the Department of Page here: ucnj.org/recycling/. There you can Public Works yard off of Berkeley Avenue, near the Municipal Complex. Coming from Plainfield Avenue, go past the Municipal Complex and take your first right onto Berkeley Avenue. Coming down Park from Mountain Ave, Berkeley Ave is on your left just before the Municipal Complex.

Time runs from 9 a.m. -12 noon. In addition, residents can drop off their thin-film plastic during this event the first Saturday of every month. Reminder that we are now accepting electronics for recycling from our residents as a service TWICE a month because of the heavy volume - the first and third Saturday of every month.

Please bring proof of residency and please arrive with sufficient time as it ends promptly at noon. You do not need to get out of your car; DPW workers will take the items out of your car

RECYCLING MAIN JUNE 2021

County Recycling Events for Scrap Metal, Paper Shredding & Hazardous Household Material

Union County offers a host of scrap metal, shredding and household hazardous waste recycling events throughout the month - and year. Please visit ucnj.org/recycling for more information or directions.

The Township's monthly electronics and #6 OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT EXACTLY YOU **CAN RECYCLE. HOW & WHERE?**

Please bookmark the Union County Recycling find information about how to safely recycle items such as CFL bulbs, helium tanks, paint & more. Plus, tips on composting, additional upcoming recycling events & more.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH: 9:00 AM - 12 PM Department of Public Works Berkeley Ave (next to new Town Hall)

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT ACCEPTED:

Monitors Laptops Computers Televisions Fax Machines Printers **DVD/VCR Players Tablets** E-readers

E-WASTE COLLECTION WILL BE LIMITED TO THESE MATERIALS ONLY!

NEW! SCRAP METAL RECYCLING PROGRAM

Residents can bring white goods/appliances (refrigerators, stoves, washer/dryer and other scrap metals)

Other Items Accepted for Recycling:

- **♦** Car Batteries
- ♦ Motor Oil
- ♦ Fluorescent Tubes (no CFL's)
 - ♦ Styrofoam #6

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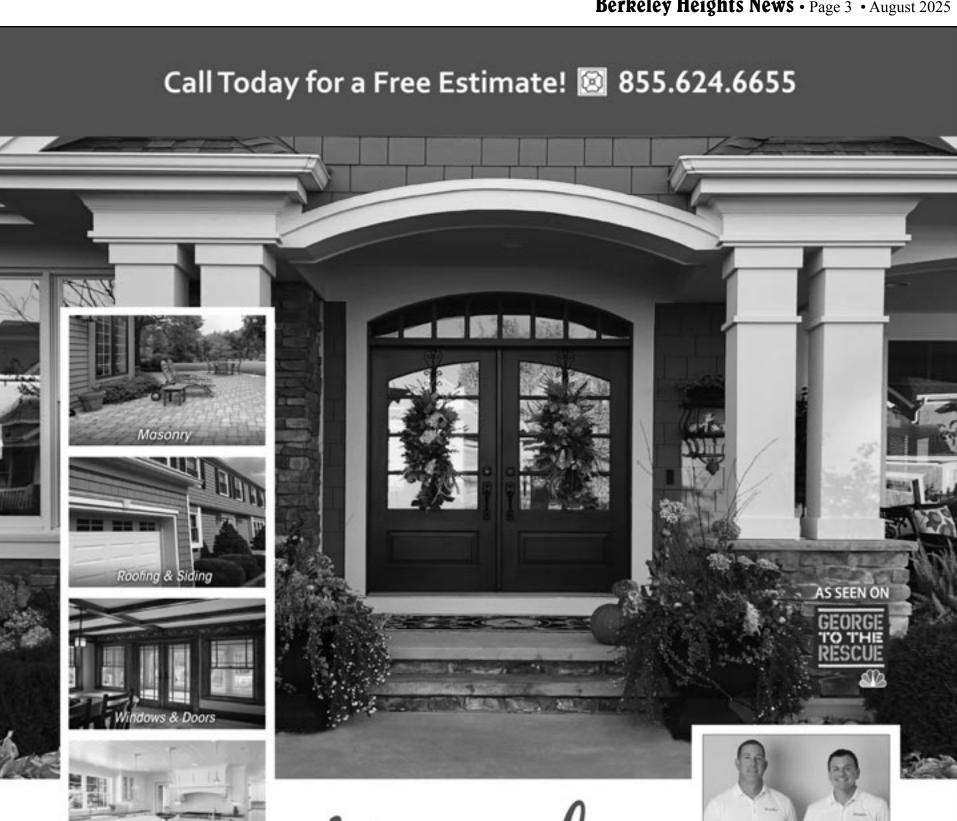
\$500 minimum to open



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MELIA SCHETTINO RECEIVES AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS



(above) Melia Schettino of Berkeley Heights received a Youth Volunteer of the Year Award from John Keating of NJ Sharing Network.

Courtesy Photo

NJ Sharing Network, the federally designated non-profit organization responsible for the recovery of donated organs and tissue in New Jersey, recently honored several local residents and organizations for their exceptional volunteer service during its 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Reception, held at its headquarters in New Providence.

"Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our mission," said Kelly Bonventre, Director of Hospital and Community Services, NJ Sharing Network. "Their compassion and commitment help share the gift of life by raising awareness, educating communities, and honoring the legacy of organ and tissue donor heroes. Their efforts make a real and lasting impact in saving and enhancing lives."

Amount the Volunteer Recognition Awards were presented during the event was Melia Schettino of Berkeley Heights.

Youth Volunteers of the Year - This year's awards were presented to Saksham Gupta of Piscataway and Melia Schettino of Berkeley Heights for their outstanding efforts in raising awareness about organ and tissue donation in their schools and communities. Saksham not only attends NJ Sharing Network events - he also actively seeks opportunities to connect NJ Sharing Network with other events in which he is involved. Melia has made a big impact behind

the scenes, helping package helping package information kits and giveaway items for events and infusing every task with contagious positivity and energy.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network is a federally designated nonprofit organization committed to saving and enhancing lives through the recovery of donated organs and tissue. Headquartered in New Providence, NJ Sharing Network partners with 54 local hospitals to bring hope to nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant, while also contributing to the national effort to support more than 100,000 individuals on the U.S. transplant waiting list. With over three million New Jerseyans registered as organ and tissue donors, NJ Sharing Network has achieved record-breaking organ donation milestones for six consecutive years. Recognized as one of the nation's top-performing organ procurement organizations (OPOs), the organization was honored as NJBIZ's 2024 Nonprofit Business of the Year. Additionally, NJ Sharing Network has been named one of New Jersey's 'Best Places to Work' for eight consecutive years, reflecting its dedication to fostering an innovative, mission-driven workplace. To learn more, get involved, or register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.



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FAITH LUTHERAN BACKPACK DRIVE BENEFITS AREA CHILDREN

Lutheran Church in New Providence is collecting new backpacks and school supplies to be shared with St. Stephan's Grace Community in Newark's Ironbound, our Mission Partner congregation, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Jersey City, and other area partners with connections to under resourced communities.

Thousands of children have received backpacks from Faith over the years thanks to the generous response from members of the congregation and community. In 2024, Faith collected and distributed 212 backpacks. They were shared through schools, non-profit organizations, and churches in Plainfield, Jersey City, Newark, and Elizabeth. By providing them with the basics, we can help set kids up for academic success.

The deadline for this year is Sunday, August 24th, to ensure that the collection will be



For the seventeenth consecutive year, Faith distributed before school begins in September.

There are several ways to help.

You can purchase a new backpack of your choice and fill it with the following school supplies: one pack of pens; one pack of pencils; one notebook; one box of 24 crayons; one package of construction paper; one pair of safety scissors; one glue stick; one ruler; one small pencil sharpener; one toothbrush; one tube of toothpaste.

You can drop off a new backpack or any of the above individual supplies and we will fill a backpack.

Items can be dropped off at Faith Lutheran in the

marked bin found underneath the sheltered alcove by the doors at the bottom of the parking lot.

You can mail a financial gift made payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "backpacks" in the memo line of your check and we will shop for you.

The Rev. Jane McCready serves as the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, located at 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ, 07974. Faith worships on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming available on our website, Facebook, and YouTube. We practice an open Communion table, and all are welcome. or more information visit online at famfaith.org or call 908-464-5177.



Courtesy Photo



908-213-5882 PrincetonAir.com



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EMMA MILLER AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP FROM P.E.O.



Courtesy Photo

Submitted by Martha Carrellas

Emma. Miller from Berkeley Heights has been awarded the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship from the P.E.O. Sisterhood by demonstrating excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for success. Ms. Miller was sponsored by P.E.O. Chapter D, based in Short Hills.

A student in a special focus charter school, the Union County Academy for Allied Health Sciences, Ms. Miller was a top student while carrying several Advanced Placement courses. She competed in track and cross country on the varsity level, and continued to give back to her school and the community through her many volunteer and leadership activities, including National Honor Society, tutoring, raising money for Relay for Life and holding a state office position in the HOSA- Future Health Professionals organization.. She was selected to participate in a Student Ethics Education Development Program held jointly with her

(above, l) Emma Miller, center, receives the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship certificate on June 5th at the Senior Awards night at the Academy for Allied Health Sciences, Scotch Plains. Presenting the award are Kathy Petricone, left, and Martha Carrellas, right, both members of P.E.O, Chapter D which sponsored Ms. Miller for the award.

school and Overlook Hospital in Spring, 2024, and was elected Student Representative to the Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program. Additionally, Ms. Miller rides with the first aid squad for the town of Cranford, New

Ms. Miller graduated from the Academy for Allied Health Sciences in June and will attend Davidson University in the fall.

The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship is a highly competitive, merit-based award of \$2,500 that recognizes the accomplishments of graduating high school young women planning to pursue post-secondary education. Applicants must be sponsored by a P.E.O. chapter and complete their submissions in the fall of their senior year, receiving notice of their award the following April. Every year approximately 2,000 applications throughout the USA and Canada are submitted and carefully reviewed. In 2024, nine hundred scholarships were awarded, including 12 to students in New Jersey. The exact numbers for 2025 were not available.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood is one of the largest community-based women's organizations in North America with approximately 250,000 initiated members. A philanthropic, educational organization, P.E.O. provides loans, grants and scholarships through its six philanthropies, including the STAR Scholarship. The P.E.O. Sisterhood is committed to helping women achieve their educational goals.







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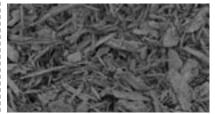
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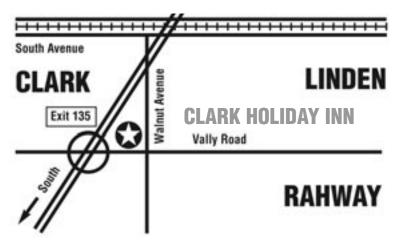
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- -Engagement Rings

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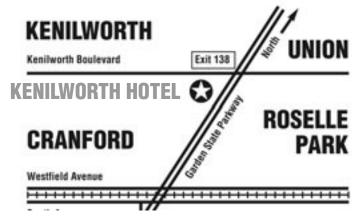
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ATLANTIC FEDERAL **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Atlantic Federal Credit Union

The Atlantic Federal Credit Union ("The Atlantic") proudly awarded scholarships to three local high school graduates who are preparing to begin their college journeys this fall. These scholarships aim to ease the financial burden of tuition and support their continued academic success.

The scholarships were awarded based on multiple factors, including overall academic performance, community service, personal essays and letters of recommendation. The three recipients this year included Ayana J., a graduate of Union High School, who will be attending Rutgers University; Zachary H., a graduate of Flex School in Berkeley Heights, who will be attending Beacon College; and Nathaniel E., who will be attending Stanford University.

On site at The Atlantic's Union Township branch location to present the scholarships was Anthony Mero, Chief Executive Officer of The Atlantic. "It's an honor to recognize and support these three outstanding young adults as they take the next step in their education and leadership development. We're excited to see how they'll continue to grow and make an impact within our community."



(above) Zachary H., a graduate of Flex School in Berkeley Heights

LABOR DAY 5K RUN & WALK - AUGUST 30

Day 5K Run/Walk? Like last year, the 5K will be held at 8:45 AM on Saturday, August 30th at the Warren Municipal Complex.

Get ready for a fun-filled morning of movement and community synergy. Whether you're aiming for a new personal best or want to enjoy a relaxing walk, this event has something for everyone!

Take in the fresh air, soak up Warren's natural beauty, and enjoy the energy of fellow runners and walkers as we kick off Labor Day weekend in a spirited way. There will be medals for

Who's ready for the 2nd annual Warren Labor winners in every age category! Early check-in will be at the Lions Club Pavilion on August 27th, 28th, and 30th, between 5 PM to 7 PM. We are looking for volunteers to help out with checkin, race set-up, water stations, and race clean-up. If you are interested, please register through the race website! This year's 5K proudly supports the Mayors Wellness Program, promoting a healthier and more active community.

> Donations are welcome. Sponsorships are available. For more information,

email warrenlaborday5k@gmail.com or call 908-505-8650.

JOIN US FOR THE *Second* **WARREN LABOR DAY 5K RUN/WALK**







MAYORS WELLNESS

AUGUST 30TH 8:45AM WARREN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

Sign up at:

https://runsignup.com/race/nj/warren/laborday5kwalkrun Contact information:

warrenlaborday5k@gmail.com or 908-505-8650

Mayors Wellness Campaign 4

MOUNTAINSIDE PAL TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, SEPT. 13 2025 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

MAP PICK UP AT THE LIBRARY. 8 AM SALE DAY For more information or to

get a link to the sale application, please e-mail Mountainsidegaragesale@gmail.com

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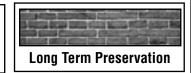
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EDIBLE BOOK CONTEST

Friends of the Berkeley Heights Public Library

LIBRARY AUGUST EVENTS

29 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor Phone: 908-608-8603 • Website: bhplnj.org Summer hours: Through Labor Day weekend, the Library is closed on Saturdays and Sundays and closes at 5pm on Wednesdays.

FOR ALL AGES

Friday Movie Matinee - Wicked August 22 at 1pm

Children's Storytimes and Programs
Baby Storytime - Mondays

Mondays at 10am - August 4, 11, and 18.

Baby Playtime

Monday August 25 at 10am Crafternoon: crafts

for ages 4-7 with caregiver

Mondays at 3:30pm

August 4 (pom pom fish)

August 11 (paper bag monster)

August 18 (sunflower pointilism pictures).

Toddler Explorations - Tuesdays

for toddlers with caregiver

Science Discoverers

Tuesdays at 10 am August 5, August 12, and August 19.

Goodtyme String Band

Tuesday, August 5 at 10:30am.
Toddler Playtime

Tuesday, August 26 at 10am.

Storytime at the Park - Wednesdays

Wednesdays at 10am

August 6, August 13, and August 20.
Tummy Time

Wednesdays at 2pm

August 6, August 13, and August 20.

Pre-K Play

Wednesday, August 27 at 10am.

Block Party - Thursdays

(Build & play with blocks)

Thursdays at 10am

August 7, August 14, August 21, August 28.

Science Explorers

Thursdays at 3:30pm

August 7, August 14, and August 21.

Summer Reading Finale - Fridays

Play Patrol

August 1 at 3:30pm.

Play Pals

Fridays at 10am August 1, August 8, August 15, August 22, August 29.

Lego Play

Friday August 8 at 3:30pm.
Family Fun Friday

Friday, August 15 at 3:30pm.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Tinker Tuesday Crafts

Tuesdays at 7pm - August 5 (faux stained glass) August 12 (shell picture frame)

Coffee and Conversation

Wednesdays at 1pm August 13 and August 27. The Berkeley Heights Public Library and the Friends of the BHPL teamed up to host a lively kickoff to summertime with their first-ever Edible Book Contest at the Berkeley Heights municipal complex.

The contest was attended by residents of all ages and featured ten edible book entries. These works of culinary artistry were crafted by children and adults who found the inspiration, imagination, and kitchen skills to bring book titles to life.

Several entries were inspired by children's classics, like The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Rainbow Fish and Pinkalicious, while other entries portrayed novels, such as The Music of Bees and Five Point Someone. There was also a deliciouslooking exact replica of the library's logo created by local bakery, Two Fields Bake Shop.

At the end of the two-hour viewing, judges

awarded prizes, after which, forks in hand, attendees were able to sample the entries.

Local businesses that sponsored the event with donated prizes included Two Moms and a Whisk, Renew Salon and Spa, Delicious Heights, Café Vincotto, Goodman's Restaurant and Deli, and Rita's.

Based on enthusiastic community feedback, Library Assistant Director Maureen Langley has shared that the library hopes to host another Edible Book Contest next winter.

Interested in learning how to get involved with library events like the Edible Book Contest? Great libraries need good friends, so follow and join the Friends of the Berkeley Heights Public Library. The Friends of the BHPL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to supporting the Berkeley Heights Public Library and the community.

Courtesy Photos











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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

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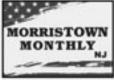
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