

# Clark Monthly NJ

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## VALLEY SCHOOL'S MADAGASCAR JR., DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

### Clark Public Schools

Valley Road School's spring play brought the stage to life with its production of Madagascar Jr., delighting audiences with an energetic and heartfelt performance. Based on the popular DreamWorks film, the musical followed the adventures of Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, and Gloria the Hippo as they journeyed from the Central Park Zoo to the wilds of Madagascar. From the colorful costumes to the lively musical numbers, every aspect of the show reflected the hard work and creativity of the students and staff.

Under the guidance of the directing team and teachers, Ashley Palma, Kellie Bonaccorso, Emma Gilardi, and our student volunteer Kylie Mignone, students spent months preparing—learning lines, rehearsing songs, and working together to create a polished and entertaining performance. Behind the scenes, crew members played an essential role in ensuring smooth transitions, set changes, and technical elements throughout the show.

The performances were successful with strong support from families, teachers, and staff. Madagascar Jr. not only provided a memorable theatrical experience, but also



highlighted the importance of teamwork, confidence, and artistic expression within the VRS community.

VRS is incredibly proud of all the students and staff who contributed to the success of this production! We are so proud of all of our actors, actresses, stage crew, and set design!

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Photos by Clark Public Schools

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# Clark Monthly NJ

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Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

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# EASTER EGG HUNT EGGSTRAVAGANZA

## Clark Recreation Department

Clark Recreation held the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28th. The beautiful weather, although a bit chilly brought out the crowds as over 1,000 people filled the rec center. The event held 6 egg hunts with over 7,000 eggs to be hunted. Grand Prize gold tickets could be found in a substantial number of eggs on the hunt. This entitled you to a grand prize basket. In addition, basket prizes were

given out to the coloring contest winners and jelly bean guess winners. Seven bicycles that were donated were raffled off to residents as well. The Easter Bunny (rumored to be Karen Bernardo) was the highlight of the event and visited with over 400 children. The event also had Mickey and Minnie on hand, balloonists, stilt walker, a petting zoo, ice cream, pretzels, juice, cookies, DJ, games, prizes, and plenty of chocolate.



Photos by Clark Recreation

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40 Ivy St.  
15 Tudor Dr.  
10 Washington St., Unit 03  
47 Briarwood Path  
39 King St.  
56 Lexington Blvd.  
13 Blake Dr.  
213 East Lane  
1168 Lake Ave., Unit 4  
45 Wendell Pl.  
501 Oak Ridge Rd.  
309 Oak Ridge Rd.  
29 Conger Way  
13 Florence Dr.  
303 West Ln.  
1 Rose Ter.  
187 Liberty St.  
11 Harding Ave.  
40 John St.  
77 John St.  
17 Hillside Ave.  
11 Avon Rd.  
81 New York Ave.  
42 Kenneth Pl.  
1 Kathryn St.  
29 Hillside Ave.

9 Shetland Dr.  
12 Yorktown Dr.  
84 Wheatsheaf Rd.  
12 Ascot Way  
301 West Lane  
1119 Maurice Ave.  
1 Longfellow Lane  
8 Wendell Place  
13 Blake Dr.  
42 School St.  
29 Harvey Ct.  
18 Yorktown Dr.  
45 Starlite Dr.  
1538 Franklin St.  
40 Conger Way  
15 Ayers Lane  
72 Dorset Dr.  
5 Schmidt Lane  
269 Willow Way  
18 Ginesi Dr.  
7 Blake Dr.  
43 Willow way  
95 Briarheath Ln.  
18 Terhune Rd.  
1 Jarvais Ter.  
39 Frances Dr.  
28 Gibson Blvd.  
41 Largo Lane

5 Tudor Dr.  
111 Westfield Ave.  
14 Washington St.  
118 Jupiter St.  
61 Sycamore Rd.  
15 Briarheath Ln.  
43 Kathryn St.  
54 Harding Ave.  
1 Plymouth Rd.  
306 Parkway Dr.  
75 Union County Pkwy  
49 Briarwood Path  
549 Valley Rd.  
161 Meadow Rd.  
16 Nassau St.  
160 Meadow Rd.  
415 Valley Rd.  
49 Joseph St.  
23 Ayers lane  
110 Sweet Briar Dr.  
30 Stanton St.  
76 Harding Ave.  
53 Stemmer Dr.  
291 Willow Way  
330 West Lane  
139 Jupiter St.  
458 Oak Ridge Rd.

307 West lane  
93 Jupiter St.  
166 Meadow Rd.  
67 Lefferts Lane  
41 Oleander Way  
160 Riverside Dr.  
45 Briarheath Lane  
40 Emerald Pl.  
24 Hawthorne Dr.  
45 Briarwood Path  
21 St. Germain Dr.  
532 Valley Rd.  
21 Orchard Ter.  
307 West Lane  
64 Mildred Ter.  
103 Amelia Dr.  
1132 Westfield Ave.  
22 Glenwood Ter.  
344 West Lane  
30 Haliday St.  
30 Coldevin Rd.  
30 Stanton St.  
131 Jupiter St.  
63 Liberty St.  
31 Ross St.  
118 Sweet Briar Dr.  
902 Raritan Rd.

357 Willow Way  
47 Briarwood Path  
114 Stemmer Dr.  
30 Haliday St.  
312 New York Ave  
30 Haliday St.  
349 Willow Way  
18 Janie Ln.  
118 Delia Ter.  
131 Jupiter St.  
668 Raritan Rd.  
5 Sycamore Rd.  
52 Skylark Pl.  
17 Blake Dr.  
902 Raritan Dr.  
9 Sunset Dr.  
10 Lionel St.  
223 East Ln,  
74 Malvern Dr,  
293 Oak Ridge Rd.  
31 Shetland Dr.  
86 St. Laurent Dr.  
92 Meadow Rd.  
74 Hall Dr.  
262 Valley Rd.  
279 Madison Hill Rd.  
230 East Lane

**TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 321. 210 ARE IN CLARK**

# ALJ'S 2026 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

## Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School is proud to announce the Class of 2026 Valedictorian Charles Nemeth and Salutatorian Erie Lugo.

Charles Nemeth, the Valedictorian for the Arthur L. Johnson High School Class of 2026, is a stellar student and person. He has excelled in 25 Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment courses throughout his four years of high school. One of these courses, Calculus 3, is a class typically reserved for and taken by sophomores in college. His ability to analyze important information across all subject areas is truly impressive. Although his true passions and aptitude lie in the sciences, he is truly a "jack-of-all-trades". Mrs. Morse, his AP Chemistry

teacher, has noted, "Charlie is, without a doubt, one of the most promising science students I have encountered in my career". In the classroom, Charlie can often be found generously helping other students with assignments and/or understanding the content. His generosity also extends to his active involvement in the ALJ Key Club. He consistently volunteers to help out at events in the community as well as donate to various groups or charities. Despite his academic successes, Charlie is, most importantly, humble, kind, and caring. Charlie is still between two colleges to attend next year, and he hopes to major in Chemistry or Marine Chemistry.

Erie Lugo, the Salutatorian for the Arthur L. Johnson High School Class of 2026, is another young man of promise and potential. Also currently deciding between two different colleges for his studies for next year, Erie aims to major in Mechanical Engineering or other engineering

program. With 24 Honors, Advanced Placement, or Dual Enrollment courses under his belt as he nears graduation, Erie has certainly earned his place at the top of the class. He has also earned distinction as an "AP Scholar with Distinction", meaning that he has scored a 3 or higher on five or more AP exams. Not only a leader in the classroom, Erie is also a leader in our local community. His school counselor, Meghan Ryan, explained, "When he is not studying or exploring his various interests, Erie can most likely be found participating in a Scouting America activity as a Senior Patrol Leader. This position is an elected youth officer position, and as such, Erie upholds the spirit of the group and he provides planning and direction to his peers." He also participated in the National Youth Leadership Training Conference, a weeklong training camp which taught him communication, teamwork, and leadership, amongst other things.



(above) Charles Nemeth, Valedictorian; and Erie Lugo, Salutatorian

Photo by Clark Public Schools

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## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE MAY 25

### Township of Clark

The 2026 Clark Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 25 starting at 9 a.m. Please come out and line the streets of our great town to show spirit and patriotism for all our fallen heroes. Parade begins on Westfield Ave. at Nassau St. and ends at ALJ High School. A ceremony honoring our fallen heroes will follow.

The Parade will include classic cars, town veterans, children's sports teams, animals, stilt walkers, marching band, color guard, scout troops and more!

For more info, contact parade chairman Ralph Bernardo at 732-428-8400, or email [rbernardo@ourclark.com](mailto:rbernardo@ourclark.com), if you are interested in joining the parade or if you need further information.

## FREE VETERANS INITIATIVE AT THE YMCA

Last year, The Gateway Family YMCA launched a new Veterans Wellness Initiative, offered at the Wellness Center Branch in Union, NJ and at the Elizabeth Branch in Elizabeth, NJ. Beginning this Spring, the free Veterans Wellness Initiative program will continue with new sessions in Union and Elizabeth and will expand to include an additional session at the Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway. Each program will meet weekly for in-person exercise and wellness, led by a wellness coach, as well as virtually, online to discuss their health in mind, body and spirit.

Open to active military, military veterans, and their spouse or partner, the free 12-week Veterans Wellness Initiative program provides participants access to health and wellness opportunities, as well as meaningful social connection with those who share the bond of military service. Participants benefit from 24-hour access to the YMCA360 virtual platform, an adult couple membership to the Y during the 12-week session, and an additional six-month individual adult

membership following successful completion of the program.

"I have seen first-hand the impact this program has had on our veterans and their families," shared Susan Butler, Director of Community Wellness. "I am excited to continue to expand the Veterans Wellness Initiative throughout our YMCA branches."

The Veterans Wellness Initiative began as a way to create community and wellness opportunities for veterans. During the 12-week course, classes will focus on balance, nutrition, tai-chi, mental health, working out with tension bands, stretching and the circuit course, as well as other weight machines. Small group discussions will build bonds and provide support. To join the interest list for participation in the program, please visit: [tgfymca.org/contact-us](http://tgfymca.org/contact-us)

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit [tgfymca.org](http://tgfymca.org) or contact the Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622 or [veterans@tgfymca.org](mailto:veterans@tgfymca.org) for more information.

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(above) The Gateway Family YMCA has expanded their Veterans Wellness Initiative.

Courtesy Photo

## FIND YOUR PASSION!

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# THE SCALE IS GOING DOWN - BUT AT WHAT COST?

*Most women on weight loss medications want to be lighter and stronger. Without strength training, the medication may make you lighter and weaker instead - here's what you need to know.*

Women make up the majority of GLP-1 medication users. And for many of them, the results have been genuinely meaningful — weight they've struggled with for years finally moving in the right direction. But there is something important that most women on these medications haven't been told.

Not all of what you're losing is fat. Studies show up to 39% of total weight lost on GLP-1 medications can be muscle — and for women over 40, already losing muscle due to hormonal changes, that loss is not just a cosmetic concern. It is a direct path to frailty.

## LIGHTER AND WEAKER IS NOT THE GOAL

Muscle is what keeps you strong, stable, and independent. It protects your joints, supports your bones, powers your metabolism, and allows you to live the life you want at 60, 70, and beyond. When medication strips it away along with the fat, you may step on the scale and feel like you've won — while your body has quietly lost something far more important.

Frailty doesn't announce itself. It creeps in as a little more difficulty on the stairs, a little less confidence on uneven ground, a little more hesitation before a hike or a grandchild's birthday party. The women who avoid it are the ones who protect their muscle while they lose the weight.

*“The goal isn't just a lower number. It's a stronger, more capable body - lighter and stronger, not lighter and weaker.”*

- Kim Musikant, Co-owner, Active Life Fitness

## THE PROBLEM WITH JUST WATCHING THE SCALE

GLP-1 medications suppress appetite so powerfully that many women enter a severe calorie and protein deficit without realizing it. The scale moves fast — and that feels like success. But the scale can't tell you whether you're losing fat or muscle.

That's why at Active Life Fitness, every member gets a body composition analysis using the InBody 270 — a clinical-grade scanner that measures fat mass, muscle mass, and body water separately. Not just total weight. When you can see exactly what you're losing, you can protect what matters before it's gone.

### • MUSCLE LOSS & FRAILTY

Every pound of muscle lost makes daily life a little harder. Over time, unchecked muscle loss leads to frailty, falls, and loss of independence — the very things women on these medications are trying to avoid.

### • BONE DENSITY LOSS

Women can lose up to 20% of bone density after menopause. GLP-1s without strength training accelerate this further, raising fracture risk significantly.

### • REBOUND WEIGHT GAIN

Less muscle means a slower metabolism — making it harder to keep the weight off long-term and easier to regain it all when the medication stops.



*“Training has made me really strong and has helped me to be more active as I age. I just learned today that my bone density is ‘perfect’ at age 60 - I owe that to consistently working out with weights. ALF makes me want to keep coming back.”*

- Gretchen K., Cranford

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

### 1. START STRENGTH TRAINING NOW

Don't wait until you've lost the weight. Resistance training 2–3x per week signals your body to preserve lean muscle even in a caloric deficit — and stimulates bone density, critical for women over 40.

### 2. PRIORITIZE PROTEIN

GLP-1s reduce how much you eat — but your muscles still need protein to survive. Even on a suppressed appetite, hitting your daily protein target is essential to preserving the muscle you need.

### 3. TRACK WHAT ACTUALLY MATTERS

Every ALF member gets regular InBody 270 body composition scans — measuring fat, muscle, and water independently. So you always know you're losing fat, not the muscle that keeps you strong and independent.

### 4. GET EXPERT GUIDANCE

At Active Life Fitness, we specialize in women over 40. Every program is personalized around your medication, your stage of life, your injuries, and your goals — coached by certified experts every session.

*“Love this gym!! I feel so much stronger! Coaches who gently guide technique to maximize safety & target specific muscle groups. I have never been at a gym more than a few months! No turning back.”*

- Robin I., Garwood

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## ALJ ITALIAN STUDENTS RECOGNIZE INT'L WOMEN'S DAY

Clark Public Schools

Students in Ms. Alessandra Savarese's Italian classes at Arthur L. Johnson High School recently celebrated International Women's Day with a special act of appreciation for the women who help make their school community strong.

Inspired by the Italian tradition of giving the yellow mimosa flower on this day, students painted handmade mimosa flowers and delivered them throughout the school to the many women who support students and staff—teachers, cafeteria workers, administrative staff, and board office personnel.

In Italy, the yellow mimosa flower is a symbol of International Women's Day. It represents strength, resilience, and the triumph of life after winter. Chosen for its ability to bloom in harsh conditions and its vibrant nature, the mimosa is traditionally given as a sign of solidarity and recognition of the powerful nature of women.

Through this activity, students not only learned about an important cultural tradition, but also had the opportunity to show gratitude to the many women who help make Arthur L. Johnson High School a supportive and inspiring place to learn.



(above) Students recently celebrated International Women's Day with a special act of appreciation for the women who help make their school community strong every day.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

## ALJ'S WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SERIES

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School proudly hosted a Women's Leadership Series in recognition of Women's History Month, offering students an opportunity to engage with accomplished professionals from a variety of fields.

The event featured a panel of distinguished guest speakers, including Leah Sullivan, Head of Application Engineering: Construction North America at Henkel; Dr. Jayshree Sawhney, Doctor of Dental Surgery; and Riya Varshney, Assistant Vice President at Bank of America. Each speaker shared insights into her educational background, career path, and the experiences that shaped her professional journey.

Throughout the event, students gained

valuable perspectives on leadership, perseverance, and the importance of pursuing their goals with confidence. The speakers emphasized the significance of resilience, continuous learning, and embracing challenges as opportunities for growth.

The Women's Leadership Series served as a meaningful way to celebrate Women's History Month by highlighting the achievements and contributions of women across industries, while also empowering the next generation of leaders.

Arthur L. Johnson High School remains committed to providing enriching experiences that connect students with real-world role models and foster personal and professional development.



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## TWO FAMILIES HONOR 9 YEARS SINCE A LIFESAVING GIFT

### NJ Sharing Network

April is National Donate Life Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the lifesaving power of organ and tissue donation. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and NJ Sharing Network, more than 100,000 Americans — including nearly 4,000 New Jerseyans — are currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others.

During this time, two New Jersey families are coming together to raise awareness and honor a remarkable bond — one that began with tragedy but continues through the gift of life.

In 2017, Caitlin Nelson of Clark, NJ, a vibrant 20-year-old, passed away. In the days that followed, an outpouring of love and support surrounded the Nelson family, as many came together to honor Caitlin's life and the extraordinary person, she was.

Through organ and tissue donation — a decision she had openly shared with her family — Caitlin's legacy lives on through Brick resident Sonia Carlen, who celebrated the 9th anniversary of her double-lung transplant on April 4.

Together, Sonia and Caitlin's family share their story to encourage others to register as organ and tissue donors.

#### A Life of Compassion and a Lasting Legacy

Caitlin was known for her kindness, energy, and commitment to helping others. She was studying social work and dreamed of becoming a pediatric oncology social worker. She dedicated much of her time to service through her church, school, and community. A highlight of this work was her time at Sister Pat's Kids Camp, where she supported children with cancer and related blood disorders. She also served as a counselor at Camp Sea Stars North, a program dedicated to supporting children from the Newtown and Sandy Hook communities following the 2012 elementary school tragedy. That compassion extended to her strong belief in organ and tissue donation.

"She had told me that if anything ever happened to her, she wanted to donate her organs. She'd say, 'you can't take them with you' and someone else could use them to live on," said Rosanne Nelson, Caitlin's mother. "That was who she was — always thinking of others, even in unimaginable circumstances."

Following her passing, Caitlin's final act of generosity saved and enhanced the lives of dozens. Through organ donation, she gave the gift of life by donating her heart, lungs, kidneys,



*(above, left) Caitlin Nelson of Clark gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire others.*

*(above, right) Sonia Carlen, a Brick resident and double-lung transplant recipient, is celebrating the 9th anniversary of her lifesaving transplant during Donate Life Month.*

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

pancreas, and liver. She also donated many bone and tissue grafts.

"Knowing Caitlin's wish to donate her organs and tissue to help others brings us comfort," said Rosanne. "Even in our darkest moment, Caitlin gave others hope."

#### "My Prayers Were Answered"

At the same time, Sonia Carlen was fighting for her life. In 2015, at just 27 years old, Sonia began experiencing persistent shortness of breath that led to numerous doctor visits before she was ultimately diagnosed with a rare lung disease. Doctors explained that the condition was terminal and gave her a life expectancy of just three to five years.

"To hear that news was devastating," said Sonia. "I was healthy, I never smoked, and suddenly I was being told I only had a few years to live."

As her condition declined, she required oxygen around the clock and was placed on the

lung transplant waiting list.

"I tried to stay positive," said Sonia. "My husband, family, and friends were always my strength. I held onto hope every single day."

That hope became reality thanks to a double-lung transplant on April 4, 2017. Her organ donor was Caitlin.

"I call Caitlin my hero and my angel," said Sonia. "Because of her generosity and compassion for others, I am alive today. There are no words that can fully express my gratitude."

#### A Powerful Bond

In the years since, Sonia and Caitlin's family have formed a meaningful and lasting connection.

"Meeting Caitlin's family was one of the most emotional moments of my life," said Sonia. "They welcomed me with open arms. We share a bond that is incredibly special."

For Rosanne, seeing Sonia healthy has brought a sense of peace.

"Seeing Sonia live her life is a beautiful reminder of who Caitlin was," said Rosanne. "It shows us that her spirit and generosity continue to make a difference."

Inspiring Others During National Donate Life Month

Through their advocacy with NJ Sharing Network, both families are working to raise awareness during Donate Life Month.

"Organ donation gave me a second chance at life," said Sonia. "I hope our story encourages others to make the selfless decision to give the gift of life."

Rosanne added, "Registering as an organ and tissue donor is one of the most powerful ways to help others. Caitlin believed that, and we hope others will too."

As Sonia celebrates her 9-year transplant milestone, their shared story serves as an important reminder: even in loss, one decision can save lives — and create a legacy that lives on forever. To learn more or to register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJ Sharing Network's website at [www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org).





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## CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY MAY EVENTS

Please register for any programs through the online events calendar on our website at [clarklibrary.org](http://clarklibrary.org), in person, or by phone 732-388-5999.

### Stories and More

*Fridays, May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 10am*

Join us for stories, songs, and rhymes followed by a simple craft. This program is designed for children ages 3 and up.

### Friends of the Library Book and Puzzle Sale

*Saturday, May 2 from 10am-3pm*

Hardcover, paperback, and children's books will be available, along with DVD's and music CD's. Fill a bag of adult books for just \$9.00. Fill a bag of children's books for \$15.00. Cash is preferred, but credit cards are also accepted.

### Friends of the Library Costume Jewelry Sale

*Saturday, May 2 from 10am – 2:00pm*

All items for costume jewelry sale are only \$1.00. Necklaces, rings, bracelets, watches, etc. Cash only for jewelry. All proceeds will benefit the library.

### Needlework Club

*Saturday, May 2 from 10am-2pm*

Are you interested in sharing your needlework craft or learning a new one? Needlework includes counted cross stitch, needlepoint, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, etc. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. Bring what you are working on to sit, stitch, and chat with others who enjoy needlework! The club will meet one Saturday per month.

### Tales for Tots

*Mondays, May 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 10am*

Stories and songs for active listeners. Geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome!

### Drop-in Craft for Kids

#### May the Fourth Be With You

*Monday, May 4 from 3pm-4pm*

May the Fourth be with you! Drop by and make a Star Wars themed craft!

While supplies last.

#### Baby Bookworms

*Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, & 26 at 10am*

Join us for stories, songs, nursery rhymes, and movement activities. Geared toward the under 2 crowd with caregiver. Open play follows.

#### Patches & Stitches

*Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19 & 26 - 12pm-2pm*

Bring your quilt or other crafty project and visit with the members of the quilting club.

#### Adult Stress-Less: Coloring for Adults

*Tuesday, May 5 at 7pm*

*Wednesday, May 13 at 11am*

Join us to color, relax, and help each other de-stress. We'll provide coloring pages, pencils, and a calm space to unwind.

#### Tuesday Night Movies

*Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 6:30pm*

Enjoy a movie for adults. Please check our online calendar or visit the library to check the movies being shown.

#### Paint A Pot, Plant A Flower for Kids

*Wednesday, May 6 at 3:30pm*

*Thursday, May 7 at 6:30pm*

Ages 4-12 are invited to join us to paint a pot and plant a flower in it!

Registration is required. Attendance is permitted at only one session. Wear old clothes!

#### Chess Club

*Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 - 11am-3pm*

New members and all levels are welcome!

#### Thursday Afternoon Movies

*Thursday, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 1pm*

Enjoy a movie for adults. Please check our online calendar or visit the library to check the movies being shown.

#### Unique Creatures

#### Take Your Child to the Library Day

*Saturday, May 9 at 11am*

We will get to meet different unique creatures followed by a frozen treat for the children from the Friends of the Library!

This is a family event, but please register so that we know how many to expect to ensure the optimal animals for the crowd size.

Children who check out a book any time that day will be entered into a raffle for a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card.

#### Teen Craft Break: Flower Pot Painting

*Monday, May 11 at 3:30pm*

Get creative and spend the afternoon with a relaxing craft by painting your own terracotta flower pot! Perfect for a gift or keepsake. Snacks provided! Registration is required.

#### Krafty Kids - Animal Edition

*Wednesday, May 13 at 3:30pm*

Bring your imagination and creativity so that we can make some fun artwork! This month we are painting hand made animal plaques! Geared towards K - 6th Grade children.

### Tinker Tots

*Thursday, May 14 at 10:30am*

Come join us for a morning of fun STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities perfect for little ones. Play is station based. For children ages 18 months through pre-k. Please register.

### Lego® Club

*Friday, May 15 at 3:15pm*

Create your own LEGO® structures to be displayed in the Children's area of the library!

LEGO® are provided by the library. For children entering grades K - 5. Light snacks will be served.

### Teen Advisory Board

*Monday, May 18 at 3:15pm*

Calling all teens in grades 6-12! Our Teen Advisory Board will be meeting for the month of May to discuss any ideas you have for the summer or any other suggestions to make the library better for teens. Great opportunity for service hours before the school year ends as well as a resume builder. Snacks provided!

### Evening Book Club

*Monday, May 18 at 7pm*

Join us for our next evening book club meeting.

We will be discussing "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult. Please speak with a librarian or email [librarians@clarklibrary.org](mailto:librarians@clarklibrary.org) if you need a copy of the book.

### Unraveled: Knitting and Crochet Night

*Tuesday, May 19 from 7pm - 8:30pm*

Join the Clark Library to knit or crochet (or even cross-stitch or embroider!) for a night of friendship and community. Bring your handwork project to show off or get advice.

### Little Scientist

*Thursday, May 21 at 3:30pm*

Play around with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math!) Each session will touch upon a different STEM skill. Geared to Kindergarten - 5th graders.

### The American Revolution in Elizabeth and Vicinity

*Thursday, May 21 at 7pm*

Join John Prescott from the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs as he discusses the events, people and places in Elizabeth and the surrounding vicinity that made a difference in the War of Independence.

### Books & Bagels

*Friday, May 22 at 11am*

Enjoy bagels and coffee while we chat about books you have been reading and learn what others in your community are reading as well.

### Book, Chat and Chow

*Wednesday, May 27 at 4pm*

Kids in 2nd-6th grade are invited to attend our Books, Chat, & Chow Book Club! Each month we will read a "Where Is..." book and then come together to discuss and share what we have learned, do a related activity, and munch on some treats! For this month, choose a "Where is..." book about any place you would like to learn about or visit.

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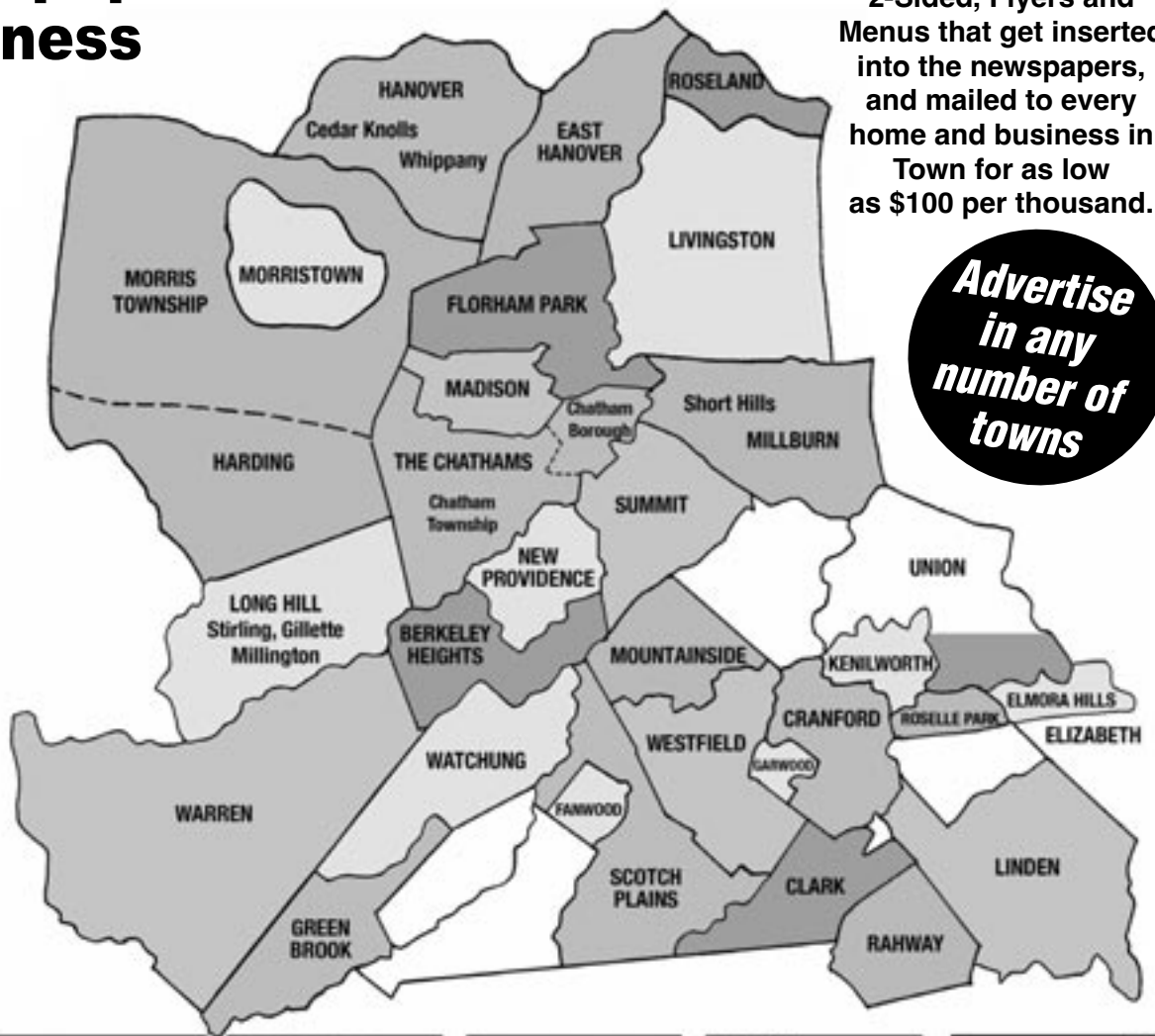
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
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# OPA! NJ GREEK FEST RETURNS TO WESTFIELD MAY 29-31

Pop Star Evangelia Turns Up the Excitement as Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Hosts a Weekend Serving A Taste of Greece Right in Your Backyard

Area residents look forward each year to immersing themselves in the vibrant culture of Greece at NJ Greek Fest, hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Westfield. And this year, the event - known for delectable Greek cuisine, a Mega 50/50 raffle and many other family-friendly activities - turns up the excitement, welcoming the sensational Evangelia, the Greek-American pop star and Eurovision finalist.

Enjoyed by generations for over half a century at the church, located at 250 Gallows Hill Road in Westfield, the festival this year will take place from Friday, May 29 to Sunday, May 31. Free shuttle service will be provided from the nearby UCNJ parking lot. Highlights of this year's festivities include:

- The Greek-American Pop Star Evangelia, whose music blends modern pop with Greek sounds, returns to her Garden State roots for a live performance at the Saturday "Big Night Out." A variety of ticket options are available for the performance, including standing front stage single tickets, as well as high-top and front-row tables, both of the latter including food and drink. Tickets are selling fast, so secure your spot now for an unforgettable evening.
- Authentic Greek Cuisine: Indulge in mouthwatering gyros, souvlaki, spanakopita, baklava, loukoumades and other traditional homemade Greek delicacies.
- Kids' Activities: Keep the little ones entertained with games, face painting and other fun activities designed just for them.
- Mega 50/50 Raffle: Win up to \$10,000 in our Mega 50/50 Raffle. Purchase a raffle ticket for 7 chances to win up to half of the total amount collected from ticket sales. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold at \$50 each, maximizing your odds of winning!
- Church Tours: Tours of Holy Trinity Greek

Orthodox Church, founded in 1965, will be given during the festival. The tours of the church, currently under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Peter Delviziis, offer a glimpse into the sanctuary and Orthodox faith.

- Live Music and Dance Performances: Throughout the festival, enjoy live performances of Greek music and traditional dance, featuring vibrant costumes and energetic routines that celebrate Greece's rich cultural heritage.
- Marketplace: Responding to popular demand, event organizers will for the first time be offering NJ GreekFest merchandise such as sweatshirts, T-shirts and hats. Event guests also can browse the emporium offering Greek-themed arts, crafts, jewelry and souvenirs, perfect for taking home a piece of the southeastern European country.

"We are excited to welcome the community to our annual NJ Greek Fest, where everyone can experience the warmth and hospitality of Greece right here in Westfield," said Fr. Peter Delviziis, presiding priest of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. "It's a wonderful opportunity for people of all backgrounds to come together, enjoy delicious food and lively music, and celebrate our cultural traditions."

Admission to the festival is \$3. A portion of the festival proceeds will benefit Holy Trinity's community outreach programs.

Join us in celebrating Greek culture, heritage and community spirit at the annual Westfield Greek Festival. For more information and updates, please visit [njgreekfest.com](http://njgreekfest.com) and follow @njgreekfest on Instagram and Facebook.

About Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church: A cornerstone of the Westfield community and surrounding area, Holy Trinity, founded in 1966, is dedicated to enriching lives through faith, fellowship and service. Our annual NJ Greek Fest is one of the many ways we connect with our neighbors and celebrate our shared values.

For media inquiries, please contact: Jeannie Arida, Media Liaison, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, (908) 233-8533.



Westfield, NJ 

## GREEK FEST 26

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
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- Loose Diamonds
- Diamond Jewelry
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### 4 WEEKS OF SHOWS AT 2 LOCATIONS!

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**ADD 20% TOWARD YOUR SALE WITH THIS COUPON!**

\* Limit 1 Per Customer. Visit us at a show with this coupon for more details. This Coupon must be presented at the start of the transaction. Other restrictions may apply. All prices subject to market fluctuation. Offers Subject to Condition & Presentation. Please Bring All Appropriate Boxes & Paper Work.

**WEST ORANGE COURTYARD**  
MAY 4th to 8th

**MAY 18th to 22nd**

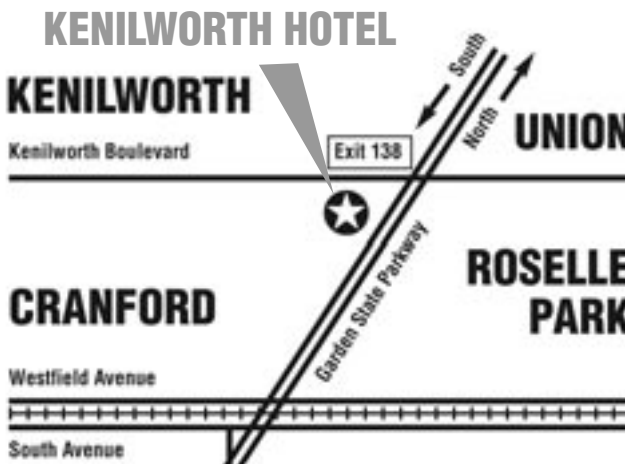
8 Rooney Circle,  
West Orange, NJ



**KENILWORTH HOTEL**  
MAY 4th to 8th

**MAY 18th to 22nd**

60 S 31st Street  
Kenilworth, NJ



**No Appointment Necessary. • FREE Appraisals • FREE Admission**

**Speak to the company's owner: Marshall Smoller: 609-781-6559**