

# Green Brook Gazette

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## CHARLIE FORD EARNS EAGLE SCOUT RANK

### Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129

Charles James Ford achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on December 1, 2025, from Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129. Charlie started as a Tiger Cub Scout and has continued into his sophomore year at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Charlie has been working his way to Eagle Scout over the last few years, starting with some of his positions in the Troop such as Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Bugler as well as joining the Order of the Arrow. One program that helped Charlie develop leadership skills was a training program offered by the Boy Scouts. The National Youth Leadership Training, a weeklong program that helped him “provide guidance and keep the Troop organized as a leader.” Another exciting adventure Charlie had was backpacking through Norway for three weeks which was scout inspired.

Charlie decided to do an Eagle Scout project at the Watchung Police department with an honor chair and a memory garden. This project included many of the Troops scouts and leaders who came together under Charlie’s direction to complete the chair honoring fallen Officer Matthew Melchionda.

During Charlie’s High School career his interests include the High School Marching Band, Jazz Band and NJ Youth Symphony Jazz Program where he plays the baritone saxophone. In addition, Charlie also is part of the Model UN, Lincoln Douglas Debate team, Mock Trial, Track Team along with many honors classes.

Charlie has balanced his scouting, academic and extracurricular activities in preparation of applying to college at West Point and eventually the US Army. Charlie states, “West Point is one of the most prestigious colleges in our country and requires massive amounts of discipline, accountability, and integrity, which scouts helped me develop. The honor of being able to serve my country is the best way to give back to this great nation after all it has given to me.” Charlie intends on pursuing a career in politics as a foreign diplomat while being a positive role model and active member of his community which he learned and lived by since he was a Tiger Scout.



(above) Charlie’s Eagle Scout project benefited the Watchung Police Department, with an honor chair and a memory garden.



(above) Another exciting adventure Charlie had was backpacking through Norway for three weeks which was scout inspired.

Courtesy Photos

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# Green Brook Gazette NJ

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# GREEN BROOK CLEAN UP - MAY 2ND

NJ Americorps Watershed Ambassadors, the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, Union & Somerset County Clean Communities Programs, Mayor's Alliance for a Cleaner Green Brook Waterway, Central Jersey Stream Team, and the municipalities of Dunellen, Green Brook, Middlesex Township, Plainfield, South Plainfield, Watchung, Scotch Plains and Bound Brook invite

you to choose a site along the Green Brook, and register to join us for a multi-site clean-up on Saturday May 2!

For all sites please be prepared with waterproof shoes/boots and clothing you do not mind getting wet and dirty.

Gloves/trash bags/supplies will be provided.

Registration is required. Visit Register at: [lowerraritanwatershed.org/events](http://lowerraritanwatershed.org/events)

## CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- Dunellen: McCoy Park (246 4th St, Dunellen, NJ 08812. Meet at the picnic tables).
- Green Brook: Green Brook Regional Center (275 Greenbrook Rd, Green Brook Township, NJ 08812. Park in the right side parking lot).
- Middlesex Township: Mountainview Park (300 John F Kennedy Dr, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Parking in the Mountainview Park parking lot next to the High School).
- Plainfield/South Plainfield: Green Brook Park (Parking along Park Drive. Latitude: 40.6085, -74.44438. Meet near the playground).
- Watchung/Scotch Plains: Cinemark of Watchung 1670 US-22, Watchung 07069 (Parking near the Green Brook in the movie theater parking lot.)
- Bound Brook/South Bound Brook: Billian Legion Park

## GREEN BROOK CLEAN UP

### Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026

**9:30 AM-12:00 PM**

**Multiple Sites!**

Dunellen  
Green Brook  
Middlesex  
Plainfield/South Plainfield  
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Bound Brook/South Bound Brook

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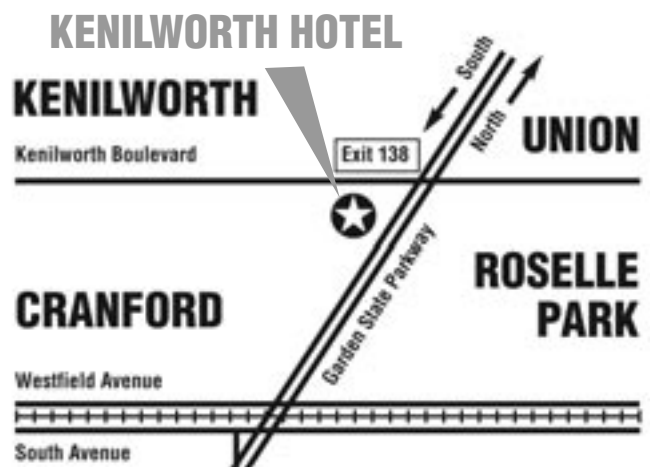
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# MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ADVANCE TO FINALS OF STEAM

## Green Brook Public Schools

Sixth grade students from Green Brook Middle School continue to make an impressive impact, as Team Hunger Haulers has advanced to the Final Round of the New Jersey STEAM Tank Challenge!

The NJ STEAM Tank Challenge is a statewide competition that encourages students to apply skills in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems. Advancing to the Finals is a significant achievement, placing Team Hunger Haulers among the top student teams in the state.

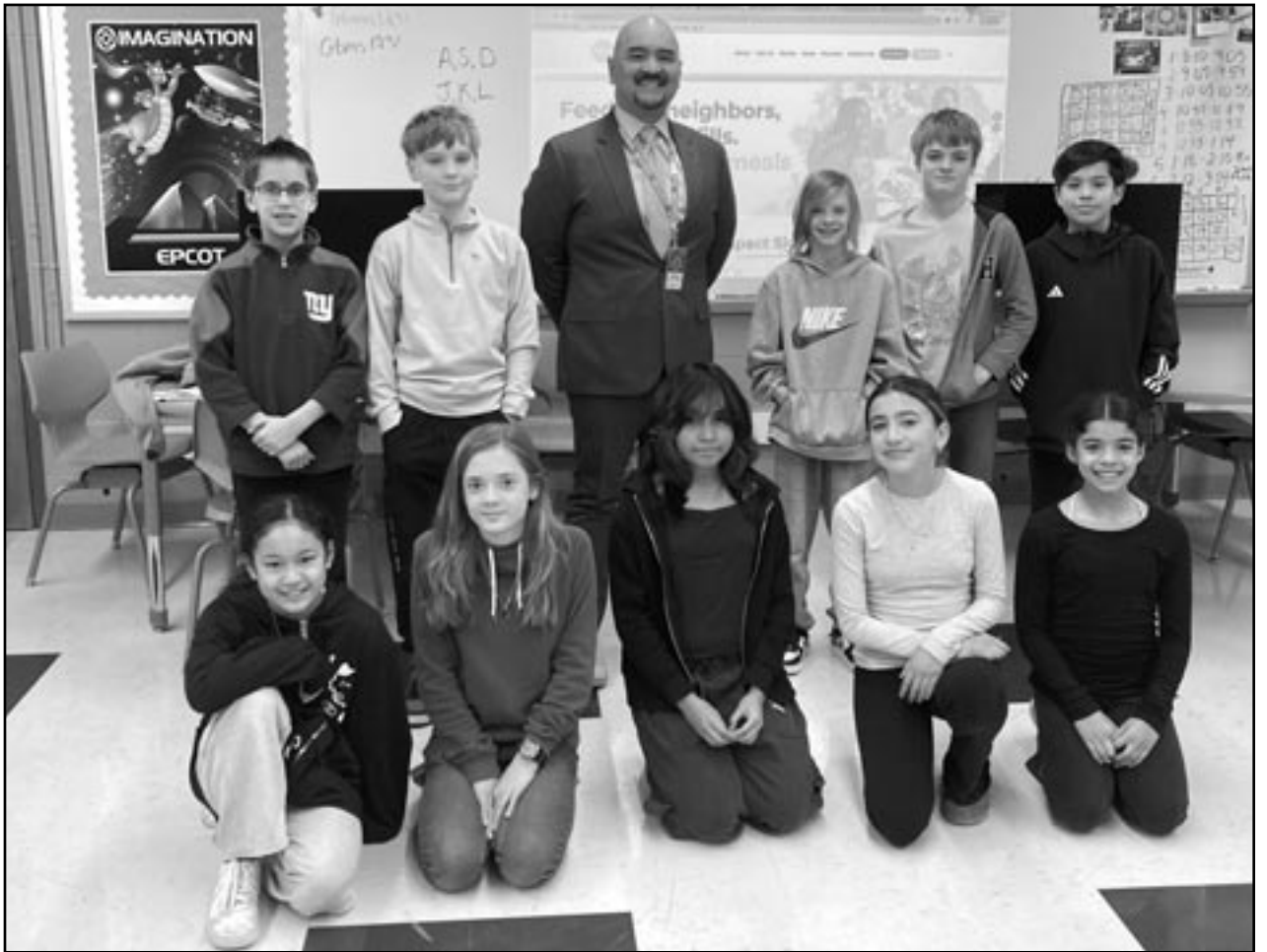
The Hunger Haulers are developing a business model for a mobile food pantry operated from a food truck. Their goal is to improve access to affordable, healthy food by traveling to low-income urban neighborhoods and providing essential items at low cost. Their project focuses not only on addressing immediate needs, but also on creating a sustainable and community-centered solution to food insecurity.

As part of their journey to the Finals, students had the opportunity to work with subject matter expert Mark Dinglasan, a statewide leader in the fight against hunger. Mr. Dinglasan serves as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate, where he works to connect families with food resources, improve existing programs, and develop innovative solutions to address food insecurity across the state.

With more than 20 years of experience, Mr. Dinglasan has dedicated his career to supporting communities in need. His extensive background in program development, fundraising, and nonprofit leadership provided students with valuable insight into how large-scale food programs operate and evolve.

During their collaboration, Mr. Dinglasan offered guidance on real-world logistics, sustainability, and the importance of addressing both immediate needs and long-term solutions. His feedback helped students refine their ideas and think more deeply about how their food truck model could operate effectively within New Jersey communities.

As Team Hunger Haulers prepares for the Finals, they carry forward not only a strong business concept, but also a deeper understanding of the challenges surrounding food insecurity and the power they have to be part of the solution!



(above) *The Hunger Haulers*

Photo by Green Brook Public

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# WARREN LIONS CLUB EXPO WILL BE HERE SOON!

4 Days of extravaganza, June 10th to 13th, 2026, with a grand Fireworks Show on Fri, Jun 12th

Before you know it, the Warren Lions EXPO will be in town. We are less than 2 months away. The EXPO is the biggest social and commercial event, held every year from 2nd Wed to Sat of June (4 days), at the Warren Township municipal field (46 Mountain Boulevard).

The gathering is a classic carnival for all ages, family and friends, 6 to 10pm from Wednesday to Saturday. This year's EXPO, in its 58th occurrence, will be hosted from 10th to 13th June, 2026. There will be amusement rides, games of chance, fireworks, food vendors, and an exposition of local businesses and not-for-profits organizations. We will also have a spectacular Fireworks, to celebrate the local community, on Friday, 10pm.

The Lions EXPO attracts more than 10,000 people, over the four days, and has become the premier family & friends' melting pot, in the Warren Township and the neighboring communities.

In addition to the daily tickets, the EXPO has the pay-one-price wristbands every night. And don't forget the Giant 50/50 cash raffle with the drawing on Saturday June 13th, resulting in thousands of dollars payout to a single winner. The winner need not be present at the drawing. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Expo, every night, for \$5 each.

Our Event sponsor is NextHome Realty. We are also supported with Corporate sponsorship from Goddard School Basking Ridge, Mira Vie, Lightbridge Academy, Warren Oral Surgery, Atlantic Health Warren Pavilion, Temple Har Shalom and Orchard Academy, Lawrence Law Firm, and Warren Hills Orthodontics.

## LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSITION

The EXPO is an excellent platform for local businesses to showcase their services and connect directly with customers through the purchase of a \$500 Exclusive Game sponsor sign or a \$150 non-exclusive ride sponsor sign, displayed at the Expo for the 4 days.

"Interacting with potential customers at a high profile community event can greatly boost

a company's image and customer base," noted Anthony Franchini, the Warren Lions Club Treasurer. "Community members deeply appreciate those businesses that demonstrate their local support through events like this." said Mark Ramos, the EXPO Chairperson.

We have started accepting applications for tent vendors to sell or promote their businesses to the thousands of people in attendance at the gathering. For information on becoming a tent vendor at the 2026 Warren Lions EXPO, please contact Anthony Franchini at 908-334-9304.

All proceed from the Lions EXPO are donated back to the community organizations and sight and hearing foundations throughout New Jersey.

## THE LIONS CLUB OF WARREN TOWNSHIP

When caring people come together, roll up their sleeves and take actions to make their community better, it's a beautiful thing and an incredible feeling for everyone involved. That's Lions. Being a Lion is about leading by example, building relationships and improving the world through kindness.

Lions Clubs International is made up of 1.4 million members in 50,000 clubs who bring hands and hearts to the communities we serve in nearly every country on earth. Our Lions and Leos help hundreds of millions of people every year.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) provides grants that empower the service of our members. Since its inception in 1968, LCIF has awarded more than US\$1.3 billion in grant

funding.

The Warren Lions Club currently has more than 100 active members from the Township as well as surrounding communities. Members include business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and bonding in the communities.

All funds raised by the Lions Club of Warren Township are used to support a wide variety of community service organizations and projects. The Club holds dinner meetings every second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from September through June and occasionally feature speakers, donation recipients and special guests that inform and entertain. The Club encourages all members to help set the direction of our Club, participate in leadership roles, and identify causes to support and the Club's priorities, while fostering camaraderie and advancing our mission.

## OUR MISSION AND MOTTO

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

Our motto: "WE SERVE."

Our Vision: To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

To learn more about us, please visit our Warren Lions Club website [www.warrenlionsclub.org](http://www.warrenlionsclub.org) and our social media page [www.facebook.com/warrenlionsclub.org](http://www.facebook.com/warrenlionsclub.org)



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# EXPO2026

The Lions Club of Warren Township proudly presents our 58th Lions Expo! Calling all families and thrill-seekers! Get ready for a few nights of non-stop fun, laughter, and excitement at our annual Lions Expo!

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The Warren Lions Expo will feature rides, games, food, vendors & entertainment with a **FIREWORKS** display **FRIDAY** night!

**10,000 PEOPLE ATTEND EXPO EVERY YEAR!**  
For information & sponsor opportunities, call Anthony Franchini at (908) 334-9304. or visit the Warren Township Lions Club online at [www.WarrenLionsClub.org](http://www.WarrenLionsClub.org)

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# BROOK ARTS CENTER FEATURES RAGETIME & FREDDIE MERCURY IN MAY

## PARAGON - MAY 3

The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra will turn the Brook Arts Center in Bound Brook back into a 1920s movie palace on Sunday, May 3rd. The 12-piece ensemble performs Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* live, with the film on the big screen and the orchestra playing the score from the pit. Showtime is 3 PM.

Paragon Ragtime Orchestra (PRO) is led by founder and conductor Rick Benjamin, who stumbled into his life's work in 1985 when he unearthed thousands of turn-of-the-century orchestra scores that had been packed away and forgotten. Since then, millions have heard the ensemble's recordings as the daily music on Main Street, U.S.A. at Disneyland, Disney World, and Disneyland Paris.

PRO and Benjamin were recently featured on Great Performances on PBS: "Now Hear This: Everyone Loves Joplin," which aired April 17 with host Scott Yoo tracing the life of ragtime's most famous composer. The Bound Brook performance brings the orchestra to New Jersey just weeks after that broadcast.

In *The Gold Rush*, Chaplin stars as the Little Tramp, a lone prospector braving the Klondike in search of fortune. Facing blizzards, hunger, and a cast of rough-and-tumble gold seekers, he relies on his wit, charm, and slapstick brilliance to survive the wilderness and win the girl.

The performance is part of the Brook's "Road

to 100," leading up to the theatre's centennial in 2027. The Brook opened in 1927, near the end of the silent era, as a vaudeville and movie house. This is exactly the kind of show it was built for. The only surviving vaudeville theatre in Somerset County, it is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and is run entirely by volunteers.

Sunday, May 3 at the Brook Arts Center, 10 Hamilton Street, Bound Brook. Theatre organist Ian Fraser opens with a pre-show performance at 2:30 PM; showtime is 3:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. Get yours at [brookart.org](http://brookart.org) or call 732-469-7700.

Paragon Ragtime Orchestra concerts are sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

## MERCURY - MAY 15

Terry Barber is bringing his most requested tour to NJ and is available for interview. His recording of this material was considered for 8 Grammy nominations.

May 15, The Brook Arts Center, 8pm

Internationally acclaimed performing artist, Terry Barber who moved to NJ five years ago, has just signed an agreement for his most recent project, "3 Tenors of the Americas" to headline for the World Cup (FIFA) Festival in Mexico City in July.

In the meantime he is bringing his band from

Phoenix, NYC, and Chicago to share the best selling music of all time. "Mercury" has been touring the USA and Canada and is now headed for the historic Brook Theater in Bound Brook. Barber connected with Gail Woerner and Andrew Golden who are working to restore The Brook to its previous glory days.

The show not only features the hits of QUEEN live, but also helps the audience get to know legend, Freddie Mercury as Barber shares stories about him and his actual words.

"I am not impersonating this iconic artist who taught a generation how to Rock... But I believe my audience leaves with a better sense of the man, his triumphs, and tragedies," Barber explains about his most requested tour to date. "Like Mercury, my goal with this show is to entertain, of course. He cared deeply about the audience having a great time and this show is a party for all who attend, I hope. In short, We Will Rock You," Barber shares with a chuckle.

As a past member of the multiple Grammy award-winning group Chanticleer, American countertenor, Terry Barber has been a soloist at many of the world's best venues from the Metropolitan Opera to Moscow's Svetlanov Hall. He can be heard on recordings alongside artists from Madonna, Jewel, Chaka Khan and Cyndi Lauper to the London Philharmonic. Terry's recent album and tour, the music of Freddie Mercury was considered for 8 Grammy nominations.



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## CELEBRATING AMERICA 250 BY WELCOMING NEW CITIZENS

Members of Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently took part in a naturalization ceremony at Montgomery Lower Middle School in Skillman. As students looked on, 26 individuals took the Oath of Allegiance.

“It was an awesome experience,” said DAR Chapter Regent Nancy Stoll. “When you see people celebrating becoming American citizens, it reminds us to not take our own citizenship and freedoms for granted.” DAR members greeted the new citizens and presented them with gift bags.

The DAR has a long history of providing support to those seeking citizenship. More than 12 million copies of the “DAR Manual for Citizenship,” published in several languages, have been distributed; the Manual is now available online.

Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter supplied

sewing machines and fabric for a DAR-sponsored occupational therapy program at Ellis Island in the first half of the 20th century. In the 1980s, members were involved in a naturalization ceremony on Ellis Island and in the creation of a DAR room in the National Museum of Immigration. In recent years, chapter members have attended naturalization ceremonies in Princeton, Elizabeth and Somerville.

The DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, service organization. Any woman, 18 and over, who is descended from a man or woman who aided American independence during the Revolutionary War may join the DAR.

Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter serves areas of Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties. Women interested in joining are invited to attend meetings and events. Contact the chapter at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.



(above, l-r) Clara Barbaz, Marti Kalko, 5th grade teacher and organizer of the event Michael Warvolis, Regent Nancy Stoll, and Beth Kavanaugh.

Courtesy Photo

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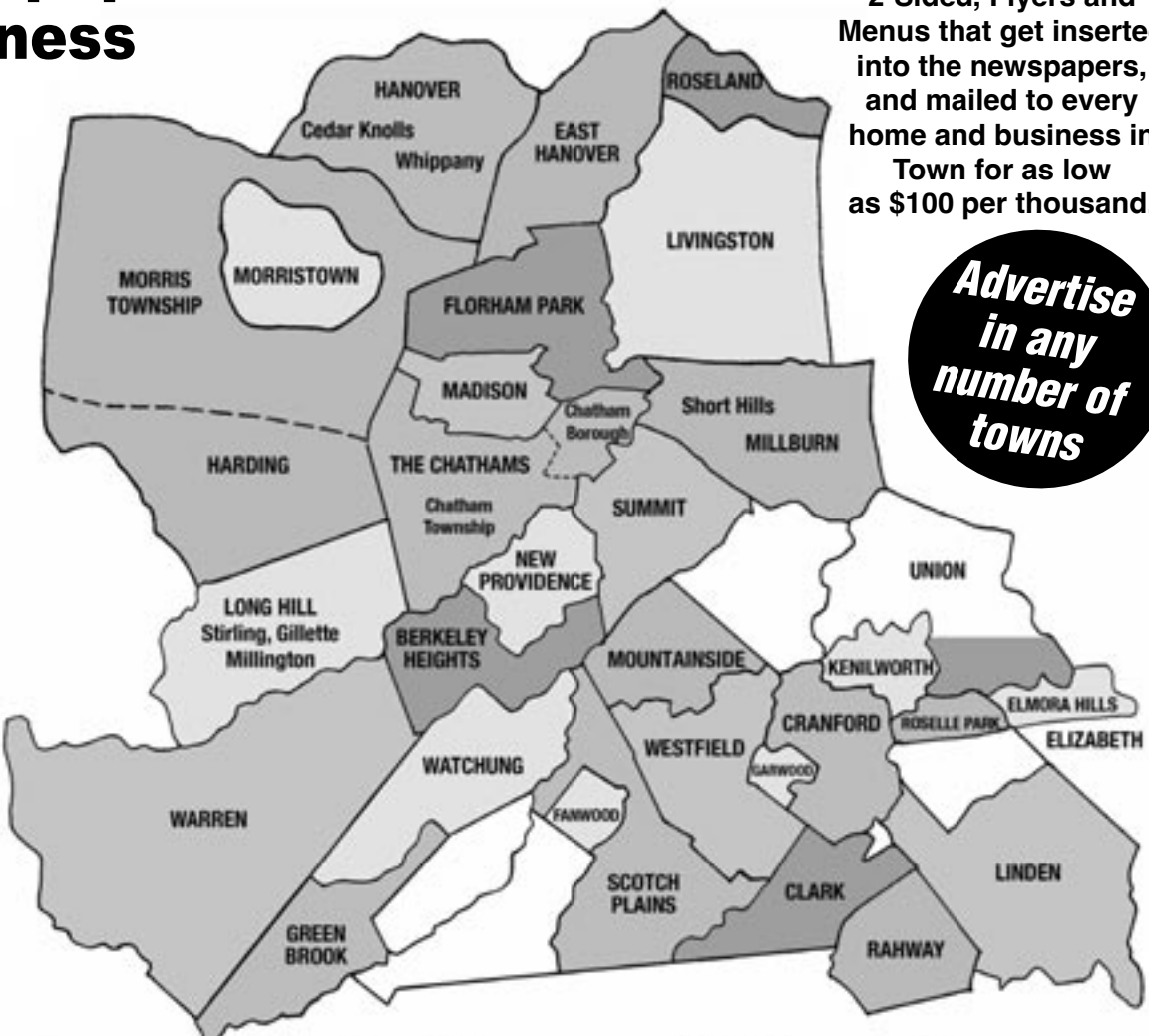
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# WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER - MAY CALENDAR

Warrenbrook Senior Center located at 500 Warrenville Road is one of the six county operated Senior Center. Somerset County residents who are 60 years and older are welcome to participate in any of the programs at Warrenbrook Senior Center. They also provide a choice of 4 different meal choices during lunch that seniors can take advantage of during the weekdays. All the programs are free for the registered members. Please call 908-753-9440 for more information on how to become member of the Warrenbrook Senior Community.

## BABY/TODDLER

### Baby Song and Rhyme Time

Tuesday, May 5, 12, 19, and 26

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

This interactive program is filled with brain-building rhymes, movement, songs and stories.

## KIDS

### Kids in the Kitchen

Tuesday, May 12, 4:30 - 5:15 pm.

Build your cooking skills and socialize with other kids as we make a new recipe.

### Art in the Style of: Keith Haring

Wednesday, May 13, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Create artwork in the style of Keith Haring.

### Cupcake Collage Craft

Friday, May 15, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Drop in to make a creative cupcake collage craft. Parental supervision is required.

### Book Buddies - Celebrate Katie Woo and Pedro

Thursday, May 21, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Drop in to participate in activities and crafts celebrating our favorite book buddies!

Parental supervision is required.

### LEGO® Club

Saturday, May 23, 11:00 a.m. - noon

Join the fun if you like building with LEGO bricks. Bring your creativity.

## FAMILIES

### Family Storytime and Craft

Thursday, May 7 and 14

10:15 - 11:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. - noon

An interactive storytime followed by a messy craft. Limited spots in the program will be determined on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### Dragon Boat Festival Craft

Saturday, May 9, 11:00 a.m. - noon

Children will learn the legend behind the festival, explore its customs, and discover how families celebrate through stories. Participants will make scented sachets, which were believed in ancient times to protect children from illness and bad spirits during the hot summer months.

This program is presented by the Center for Cultural and Creative Exchange.

### Read to a Therapy Dog

Monday, May 11, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Drop in to practice your reading skills by reading a story to a certified therapy dog.

No registration required.

### World Day for Cultural Diversity

Thursday, May 14, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Join teen volunteer Naina for an art activity to commemorate World Day for Cultural Diversity. This UNESCO event promotes understanding and appreciation for cultures.

### Saturday Family Social

Saturday, May 16, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

We're opening up our program room for self-guided play and social time for families. Board games, toys, books, and activities available.

### Toddler/Preschool Playgroup

Thursday, May 21, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

For ages 18 months - 5 years. Opportunity for parents and caregivers to socialize while your children play.

## TWEENS/TEENS

### Teen Volunteer Night

Thursday, May 7, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Connect with other teens as you help with hands-on projects in preparation for upcoming library programs. Participants will earn one community service hour.

## ADULTS

### English Conversation Group

Wednesday, May 6, 13, 20, and 27

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Practice speaking English in a friendly setting. Intermediate English skills are required. Hosted by SCLSNJ staff in partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County.

### In-Branch Movie: Song Sung Blue

Thursday, May 7, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

In celebration of the annual Oscar Awards, view a 2026 nominated film. Registration is recommended to secure a seat.

### Dance of the Brush – the Art of Chinese Brush Painting - Presented by Paul Tong

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Chinese Brush Painting is one of the oldest painting traditions of the world, with its special aesthetics and methods.

### Yarn and Threads

Monday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Attention crocheters and knitters. Bring your own project and join this group of friendly fiber fanatics for advice and camaraderie.

### Examine Life: Exploring the Aging Process Through Personal Writings

Tuesday, May 12, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

If you are curious to discover how events and forces in your life affected you, this guided series will encourage you to discuss, explore, reflect on, your life through writing.

### Drop-In Tech Help

Tuesday, May 12, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Connect with one of our library staff to get answers to your questions about technology.

### Adult Craft: Crochet Bookmark

Monday, May 18, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

In this class you will learn how to make a bookmark using single crochet. This is a beginner/intermediate class. Basic crochet skills are needed to attend.

### Keeping Your Mind Sharp

Presented by the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission

Tuesday, May 21, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In this session, you will learn how normal aging affects the brain and helpful hints to maximize your memory. Discover brain exercises to keep your mind sharp.

### In-Branch Movie: F1: The Movie

Thursday, May 21, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

In celebration of the annual Oscar Awards, view a 2026 nominated film. Registration is recommended to secure a seat.

### Hybrid Book Discussion

"The Plot" by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Wednesday, May 27, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

This hybrid book discussion will be moderated by a Warren Twp. Librarian.

### Disabilities Social Hour

Wednesday, May 27, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Designed for adults with cognitive or developmental disabilities (18 and up) to meet new people, as well as explore fun and interesting activities. Caregivers and support staff are welcome.

### May is Mental Health Month

with Richard Hall Community Health and Wellness Center

Thursday, May 28, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

This is a table event. No registration necessary.

Just walk in!

### In-Branch Movie: Sinners

Thursday, May 28, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

In celebration of the annual Oscar Awards, view a 2026 Oscar nominated film. Registration is recommended to secure a seat.

### Recorded Lecture:

"Hofheimer: The Family and its Legacy"

Friday, May 29, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This pre-recorded lecture, "Hofheimer: The Family and its Legacy" presented by Alan A. Siegel, is also available on the SCLSNJ

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