The Gazette

Carlstadt • East Rutherford • Hasbrouck Heights • Little Ferry • Lodi • Moonachie Rutherford • South Hackensack • Teterboro • Wallington • Wood-Ridge

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Valentine Picks

Gazette Newspaper Valentines go out to the thousands of everyday folks actively binding us together. People who organize food and coat drives, clean ups, town-building events. Organizations such as: Lions Clubs, Women's Clubs, Knights, Elks, Little Leagues, Scouts. Energetic volunteers like: Friends of the Library, Churches, Veterans, Seniors, PTAs, committed firefighters and EMTs. Citizens with good manners that practice random acts of kindness, road courtesy, help neighbors and quietly build our community.

No Valentines for those who tear us apart with partisan politics, extreme prejudices, divisiveness, corruption, biased arrogance, corrosive propaganda -- magnified by siloed media.

Support Ukraine Freedom



On Tuesday, January 23, 2024, the Junior Woman's Club of Hasbrouck Heights hosted their 30th Annual Spelling Bee at Kiefer Auditorium, at Hasbrouck Heights Middle/ High School.

Spelling Bee winners from Hasbrouck Heights School District and Corpus Christi School.

The Spelling Bee winners are as follows: 1st Place: Joseph Mastropietro, 5th Grade Lincoln School, 2nd Place: Hunter The 32 contestants were Plummer, 4th Grade Euclid

School, 3rd Place: Madison Handschuh, 5th Grade Euclid School. Winners advanced to NJSFWC Palisades District Spelling Bee, and those winners from this District Spelling Bee will compete in the State Spelling Bee at NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick. Judges were Maureen Herman, Youth Service Librarian, HH Public Library, Joseph Mastropietro, Principal, HH Middle School, Betty Chiu, Media Specialist, Euclid School. The Spelling

Bee rules were read by Nicole Garfi, Teacher, Euclid School. The Pronouncer was Cindy Capozzi, Media Specialist, Lincoln School. The Moderator was Gina Savastano, JWC President, JWC of Hasbrouck Heights. ###

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On December 8, 2023, girls from Wood-Ridge Cadette Troop 97130 joined other Girl Scouts from the Girl Scout Council of Northern New Jersey on a special tour of the United Nations in New York City.

Our tour guide led us through all the meeting rooms as the Security Council and the General Assembly finished their sessions for the day. The tour highlighted issues of women's rights and inequalities. We learned how the UN addresses global issues. This ties directly into many programs that are available through Girl Scouts of USA.

After our tour, we enjoyed a bus ride through NYC and dinner at South Street Seaport. *Provided by Jane Koegel.* ###





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Come On Barbie... Let's Go Party March 14

On Thursday, March 14, 2024, Wallington High School Home and School Organization, will host a Fashion Show/Dinner/Tricky Tray in the High School Gymnasium, 234 Main Avenue, Wallington.

Tables and chairs will be set up. Food will be available for purchase. Admission is \$10 pp.

- Doors open at 6 p.m. Fashion Show begins at 7:45 p.m.
- Tricky Tray drop-in begins at 6 p.m. Calling begins approximately 7 p.m.

Combo packs in advance or at the door: Gold is \$50. Various ticket levels available. Name/phone number must be written on back of tickets.

• Super raffle \$10 per ticket. Purse Spin \$10 per spin.

For tickets, call Allison McGinn at 201-458-3880, Joe Brunacki 973-632-3845 or wallington.hso@gmail.com ###

HH Garden Club February 21

The Garden Club will be meeting on February 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., for refreshments in the Library Meeting Room, 320 Boulevard, Municipal Building on the second floor. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and will finish by 7:45 p.m.

This meeting will be a question and answer night. If you have any information you wish to share about your indoor or outdoor plants, questions that you might have or solutions to help other gardeners, write them down and bring them to the meeting.

Our meetings are open to all area residents. Come and bring a friend! All programs are free. ###

Grief Support

GriefShare is a support group that meets weekly to offer help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend.

They meet Monday eveings at 7 p.m. at Bible Baptist Church, 31 Passaic Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights.

For more information call 201-288-4139, ext. 2, email BBCGriefShare@gmail.com or go to: www.griefshare.org ###

• Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800s. • More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day. ###

Wind Creek Trip Feb. 27

On Tuesday, February 27, 2024, the Hasbrouck Heights VFW Post 4591 is sponsoring a trip to Wind Creek Casino, Bethlehem, PA. The cost is \$40 (paid in advance).

Join us for a continental breakfast starting at 9 a.m. To help pass the travel time there will be Bingo, 50/50 and a movie. A slot voucher will be given upon arrival. Bus leaves from the Post parking lot at 10 a.m. sharp.

For information call Diane at 201-475-8898 or Gladys at 201-288-9074. ###

Casino Trip February 12

On Monday, February 12, 2024, the Kip Center, 55 Kip Avenue, Rutherford, is hosting a Casino Bus trip. Cost is \$45 pp and includes casino bonus and food voucher. Bingo and snacks served on the bus. Bus leaves at 9 a.m. and returns by 7 p.m. For more information call 201-460-1600. ###

Resorts Casino AC Trip April 21

On Sunday, April 21, 2024, the American Legion Post 310, 100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, is hosting a bus trip to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, NJ.

The cost is \$40 per person, paid in advance. The Casino will give you \$10 back at the slots.

Break fast sandwiches will be served at 8 a.m. On the bus, Bloody Marys and Mimosa.

The bus departs promptly at 9 a.m. Only 50 passengers max. Contact Elizabeth Pezzillo for advance payment at 201-410-9584. ###



Share The Love

Would you like to remember a special someone this Valentine's Day? The Guild of Reformed Church Women invites you to share your feelings and at the same time show your caring by signing their special Valentine and making a donation. This is a good time for sharing your love, as well as sending a message of love to others who need to feel that others care.

If you cannot make it to the Church, you may mail your message (which will be added to the card) and donation payable to: Women's Guild of the First Reformed Church, PO Box 66, Hasbrouck Heights, by February 12, 2024. For further information, call 201-288-1122. The card is posted in Hoffman Hall of First Reformed Church through February 12, 2024. All proceeds to support Friendly Neighbors. ###

MomLife Event February 22

Are you a busy mom? Are you needing some rest? Or grown-up tme? Well, our group would like to have you join us as we navigate this beautiful, crazy thing called mother-hood. Moms of kids ages 0-11 from any town are welcome to join us.

Next event on Thursday, February 22, 7 to 9 p.m. Please RSVP by February 20. Limited KidLife childcare available by RSVP only. Monthly get together and outings, too.

Event hosted by Bible Baptist Church, 31 Passaic Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights. For more info: hasbrouckhtsmomlife@gmail.com; Fb – Hasbrouck Heights NJ MomLife ###

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Jersey Tones Doo-Wop Music March 2

Get your dancing shoes on! American Legion Post 310, 100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, presents The Jersey Tones on Saturday, March 2, 2024 starting at 7 p.m.

They specialize in Doo Wop music, rock 'n' roll, 50s, 60s and 70s -- music the older generation can appreciate.

Free event. Free food while it lasts. No outside drinks allowed. No tickets for this event, just come down and strut your stuff. ###

Hire A Vet

Woman's Club of Carlstadt Meets February 6

The Woman's Club of Carlstadt will hold their meeting on Tuesday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the First Presbyterian Church, Fourth Street and Division Avenue. Our program will be a Chico's Valentine's Fashion Show. Guests are always welcome. Come and enjoy a fun evening. *Provided by Janet Drogo.* ###

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W-R Lions Pancake Breakfast March 24

On Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, the Wood-Ridge Lions Club will hold their annual pancake breakfast in the High School All Purpose Room. This is the longest continuous fundraising activity in the Borough.

Come on out and meet your neighbors and kick off the start of spring! You will enjoy a breakfast of orange juice, hot buttered pancakes with syrup and fruit toppings, sausage, coffee and tea. While waiting for your breakfast to be served, you can enjoy a nice piece of Mills crumb cake.

Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased in advance or from any Club member. They will also be available at the door. Children under four are free.

All of the proceeds will be used to help the blind, sight impaired and others in need. We thank you for your continued support!

For additional information call Jack Nagel 201-641-2803 or email janpro911@aol.com or any Club member. ###

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Pasta Dinner Valentine's March 4

Pasta Dinner sponsored by Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society will be held at Church of the Transfiguration, 135 Hathaway Street, Wallington, on March 4, 2024 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Dinner includes salad, pasta, meatballs, sausage, Italian Bread, cake, coffee or soda.

Plus entertainment by "Songs from the Heart" oldies.

Eat in or take out. Reservations only. Donation: \$14 Adults and \$5 Children. Proceeds for the Church maintenance fund.

For reservations/tickets please contact the Rectory at 973-779-4329 or Barbara Puzak at 201-939-3533. ###

St. Patrick's March 9

American Legion Post 310, 100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, NJ, Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef, Cabbage and Potatoes Dinner, Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Indoor event, but take-out is available while it lasts.

No outside beverages allowed. DJ Jack Jam will be spinning the tunes for the party. Bagpiper. Real live leprechaun. Cost is \$15 per order. All proceeds to benefit Veterans and childrens programs.

For additional information please call 201-807-0470. ###

Dinner Dance February 11

Carlstadt Turnverein will host "A Valentine's Dinner Dance" on Sunday, February 11, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Carlstadt Turn Hall. Donation is \$50 per person and includes food, drink, coffee and cake, with live music by Bud and Linda. For reservations, call 973-777-6677. ###

Bockbeer Fest March 9

Carlstadt Turnverein will host "Bockbeer Fest" on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Carlstadt Turn Hall. Donation is \$50 per person and includes food, drink, coffee and cake with live music by Bud and Linda. For reservations, call 973-777-6677. ###

Dinner Dance March 3

Bergen County American Legion Commander Sophia Dmoch, President Debe Free and SAL Comander Keith Slotwinski invite the public to a dinner dance, Sunday, March 3, 2024, from 1 to 5 p.m., at The Graycliff. Cost is \$60 pp.

Menu is Caesar Salad, Penne w/Vodka Sauce, choice of Prime Rib/Chicken San Marco/Tilapia Franchise, dessert, coffee, tea, soda, water, assorted bottled beer.

Reservations only. Deadline is February 18, 2024.

Make checks payable to Bergen County American Legion. Send to Mike Carroll, 234 Forest Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071.

For more information call 201-933-1814. ###

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Sweetheart Tricky Tray

On Friday, February 9, 2024, St. Francis de Sales Church, at 125 Union Street, Lodi, will host their Annual Sweetheart Tricky Tray. Cost is \$20 pp. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Starts at 7 p.m. Coffee and dessert provided. One sheet of white tickets provided. No tickets sold at the door. No one under 18 permitted.

Reserved table for eight/ ten available.

For tickets and information, call 973-779-4330. ###

Valentine's Party Fundraiser Feb. 10

American Legion Squadron 310, 100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry is hosting a Valentine's Party on Saturday, February 10, 2024 starting at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per person and includes pasta dinner, beer, wine and soda. Every lady gets a rose! Music by DJ Jack Jam.

Advance ticket sales. No tickets sold at the door. No refunds.

All proceeds from this fundraiser go to Veterans and children's programs. Any questions call: 201-807-0470. ###

Valentine's Dance Feb. 17

VFW Post 809, 100 Main Street, Little Ferry is hosting a Valentine's Dance on Saturday, February 17, 2024, 7 to 11 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person and includes dinner, dessert, draft beer, wine and soda. Music by "Boppin' with the Bees." Any questions call: 201-600-6541 or 917-545-1472.

Fish Fry March 29

American Legion Post 310, 100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, is hosting their annual Good Friday Fish Fry, Friday, March 29, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fried Flounder, potato salad and coleslaw salad, dinner rolls, coffee and dessert. Cost \$15 pp. Proceeds to benefit Veterans and Children's programs. For more information call 201-807-0470. Dine-in or take-out available. ###

Fish Fry Feast Feb. 14

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., the Knights of Columbus and St. Joseph's Rosary Altar Society hosts their 3rd Annual Fish Fry, being served by the Famous Thistle Food Truck.

Fish & Chips with Chicken Tenders & Chips available upon request. Dessert is included with meal. Tickets are \$25 pp.

Take out or dine in at St. Joseph's Cafeteria. Use the back parking lot of St. Joseph's Church off Hoboken Road entrance.

Ticket information: Alan De Rosa at 201-376-3029, Joe Egan at 201-842-9262 or Lorraine Joewono at 201-906-5297.

Free Lunch Saturday

The First Presbyterian Church of Moonachie for the "Free Lunch Saturday" program, will be held February 3, 2024, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. February lunch is Mac 'n Cheese (while supplies last).

We average 90+ meals each month, both inside and To-Go bags are available.

A pantry table is also set up for common staple items for those with a need (pasta, sauce, cereal, rice, beans, soup, tuna, proteins sources, etc). All donations are gladly accepted (but please avoid glass jars).

This program is an expansion of the Church's ministry of feeding hungry bodies and hungry hearts. If the economy's got you down, or you want to share a meal with others, come for the food and fellowship. There are no strings attached. A free-will offering is taken. ###

Mozzarella Party Feb. 25

Fair Lawn American Legion Auxiliary #171, is hosting a Making Mozzarella Party on Sunday, February 25, 2024, from 3 to 5 p.m., at 17-08 River Road, Fair Lawn. Cost is \$25. Reservations required.

You must bring a 3 qt. metal bowl and a wooden spoon. Call Theresa for reservations at 210-522-7619. ###

W-R Knights Irish Night March 14

The Knights of Columbus of Saint Anthony Council 11585 in Wood-Ridge will host their 12th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday, March 16,

The dinner will be served from 7 to 10 p.m. and will take place in the Father Patrick Morris Hall in the basement of The Assumption Church.

The menu will consist of mouth watering tender corned beef with flavored potatoes and cabbage. This will be served with both Irish soda bread and rye bread. Catered by Anna-

Members of the Knights are selling the tickets. For more information call Richard at 201-615-5163. ###

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline 24/7

Make connections. Advertise in The Gazette Newspaper

Performing Arts Today

Care on the Corner announces the Winter 2024 program for Kids on the Corner, a Performing Arts Program for children in Grades 2 to 7.

This session marks the 44th production of Kids on the Corner. The goal of Kids on the Corner is to educate and enlighten children in different art forms and cultural experiences. The children are offered opportunities to learn about history, culture, visual arts, theater production, set design, costume design, music and acting.

The Performing Arts group meets Fridays, February 23 to March 22, 2024, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Under the direction of Emily Beets, participants will enact parts of the "Just So Stories," which are adapted from Rudyard Kipling's book. All are welcome to come out and see the performance on Friday, March 22, 2024, at 7 p.m.

The group meets at St. John the Divine Parish Hall, 229 Terrace Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. Call the Care Center at 201-288-9460 to register. There is a \$50 registration fee. Scholarships are available.

Emily Beets is a performer based in New York City. She has spent many years teaching young students theatre and dance. Emily started as a Makeup Attendant, worked as a Freelannce Makeup Artist and Hairstylist Educator.

Emily went on to become a director/instructor at the Chico Creek Dance. Here she created and executed new programs, taught various levels of dance, developed and executed dance camps. She is presently with the theatreMAMA in New York.

She is active in field training and coaching, designing costumes and works with the expansion of programming. Emily is excited to be joining the Kids on the Corner. ###

Cancelled Stamps

The Leisure Club of Hasbrouck Heights collects cancelled stamps. Trim the stamps to 1/4 inch around the stamps. Old envelopes and postcards are also being collected. If envelopes, postcards etc., are more than 40 years old, do not cut off the stamps, but save the whole envelope/ postcard. The stamps can be dropped off: The Gazette Newspaper, 345 Boulevard, Suite 5, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. ###

Yield to Pedestrians

Winter 2024 Session of NewARTS Kids

Care on the Corner is excited to offer NewARTS Kids Winter 2024 Program for children ages 5 through 11 and begins on January 30, 2024.

Under the direction of Debra M. Cook, art students will develop their knowledge of artist skills using a variety of visual arts media while drawing and painting landscapes, still life, self-portraits and abstract painting on canvas

Session Dates:

- Birch Tree Winter Landscapes: Acrylic Painting on Canvas (January 30),
- Snow Globe Fun: Watercolors & Colored Pencils (February 6)
- Heart Art: Oil Pastels & Watercolors (February 13)

The classes meet on Tuesdays 4 to 5 p.m. for 5 to 7-yearolds and Tuesdays 5 to 6 p.m. for 8 to 11-year-olds.

The group meets in the Care Center at 333 Franklin Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights.

Call 201-288-9460 to register. Space is limited to 12 children per class.

Tuition is \$80 and includes all materials. Scholarships are available.

Debra M. Cook is returning to teach these classes. Debra has been teaching art to children for over 25 years. Her classes explore new ideas and new concepts and project ideas.

She works to help each student develop the artist within them. Together they work on developing an understanding of the elements of art and explore how they can be used with a variety of art media.

Debra encourages the children to have a positive attitude. It is her hope that they will continue to develop this positive "can do" approach in all areas of their lives as they learn and grow, not only as artists, but as the wonderful people they were meant to be. ###

Nursing Scholarships

The Bergen County American Legion and Auxiliary are pleased to announce that the 2024 scholarship application process is now open for The George F. Axt Memorial Fund Nurses' Scholarship. The 2024 six individual awards will be \$3,000 each.

Applications and rules are accessible at this link: https://bcnjal.org/george-f-axt-memorial-fund-nurses-scholarship/

The application deadline is March 31, 2024. Affiliation with The American Legion or The American Legion Auxiliary is not a requirement for consideration.

Applicant must be a resident of Bergen County, and either a senior in high school, a high school graduate who has been accepted to an accredited nursing school, or a student currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate nursing program.

For more information, email alaunit136LodiNJ@gmail.com ###

W-R Lions Scholarship Avards

The Wood-Ridge Lions Club will be awarding a total of \$6,500 in scholarship awards this coming June.

Students graduating from Wood-Ridge High School, Parochial High School, the Bergen County Academies or any accredited High School and are residents of Wood-Ridge or Moonachie and will be attending college next September may apply.

Applications will be available March 11th at the Wood-Ridge High School Guidance Office, the Assumption Church Rectory and JAN PROMOTIONS, 50 Moonachie Road in Moonachie. They are also available by email request at janpro911@aol.com

Applications must be received by April 19th. ###

Audrey Nagel Scholarship

Applications are available for the Audrey L. Nagel Scholarship. Parochial School Eighth Graders who are registered parishioners of Assumption Parish in Wood-Ridge or residents of Wood-Ridge registered in another parish and will be attending a Catholic High School this coming fall are eligible.

The \$1,000 award is given in the name of Audrey Nagel who passed away in 2009 after a 9.5 year battle with breast cancer. Audrey was a graduate of Assumption Grammar School and Saint Mary's High School. The award will be presented to a student that has shown a commitment to their education, their school and parish.

Applications are available at the Assumption Rectory, Corpus Christi Grammar School or by email request janpro911@aol.com. Deadline for applications will be May 3, 2024. ###

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Wallington

JFK Memorial Library Senior Center

Wood-Ridge

Memorial Library Kearny Bank

The Gazette is available on-line at: The-Gazette-Newspaper.com

St. Patrick's Day Parade March 3

The Rutherford Irish would love you to attend the 7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, starting at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2024.

Parade application deadline is February 1, 2024. Participants must be approved by the parade committee.

The parade, with extensive pipe and marching bands, steps off at the corner of Woodland and Park Avenues and continues to Ames and Park Avenue.

The 2024 Parade Dignitaries are: Grand Marshal - Joe Kelly, Deputy Grand Marshal - Brendan Dunphy, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - Ret. NJSP Colonel, Rick Fuentes, Firefighter of the Year - William Rood, EMT of the Year - Carmen Addeo and Member of the Year - Karen McDermott.

Sponsorships available. Ad journal requests must be received before January 26. For journal/sponsorship details, call Meghan at 201-370-3925.

The Annual Gala is at The Fiesta in Wood-Ridge, Saturday, February 3, 2024. This fundraiser offsets the cost of the parade and a night where they honor parade dignitaries.

Any questions, contact Pat O'Neill at 201-725-1606 or email: rutherfordparade@gmail.com View the 6th Annual Parade at: http://www.the-gazette-newspaper.com/images/gazette/apr23.pdf

Rutherford Community Pantry

The Pantry is located in the basement of Rutherford Borough Hall. It is a volunteer non-profit which is a joint effort of community faith congregations, organizations and concerned citizens. Call 201-460-3000 x3168 to volunteer. Food donations are welcome during hours of service.

Recipient eligibility is determined by local pastors, social services and other designated organizations. A completed and approved referral is required. Limitations apply. For more information go to: www.rutherford-nj.com/pantry ###

Shamrock 5K Run

The 13th Annual Michael Cassidy Shamrock 'N' Run 5K will be held rain, shine or cold, at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 16, 2024, at Monona Avenue, Memorial Park in Rutherford. Pre-registration ends March 9, 2024. Cost is \$30 plus \$3.04 fee at runsignup.com Mail In registration (no SignUp Fee) can be found at www.shamrocknrun. org. Registration, day of race, \$35. Check-in starts at 8 a.m.

First 300 registrants receive a race shirt. Post race refreshments and entertainment. Race packets, shirts and bib numbers may be picked up at Rutherford

Pop-Up Thrift Shop

The Woman's Club of Rutherford will hold their Pop-Up Thrift Shop on Saturday and Sunday, February 17 and 18 and February 24 and 25, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at our Clubhouse, 201 Fairview Avenue, Rutherford, NJ.

Shop new and gently used clothing, handbags, belts, shoes, sneakers and other accessories.

We have great finds every year -- come check it out and see what bargains you can discover, while helping the environment by reusing and recycling.

Proceeds to benefit local charities as well as the maintenance and restoration of our historic Carriage House. For more information call 201-893-1172. *Laura O'Connor.* ###

American Legion \$300 Lottery Basket

Fund-raiser for community projects, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #142, 135 East Passaic Street, Maywood, NJ 07607, will hold the drawing March 19, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Winner need not be present. Donation \$5. No substitution of prize given. Call 551-587-3699. ###

Senior Helpline 201-336-7400

Bergen County Department of Human Services Division of Senior Services

The 13th Annual Michael High School, Thursday, March sidy Shamrock 'N' Run 5K be held rain, shine or cold, Use Fairview Avenue entrance.

Scenic Rutherford neighborhood event sanctioned and course certified by USATF-NJ Certification # (NJ24006JLW)

Timing and scoring by Elite Racing Systems. Race results will be posted at eliteracing systems. com and RunSignUp.com Proceeds to benefit National Brain Tumor Society. For details go to www. shamrocknrun5K.org

For more information, call Marilyn at 201-280-3748 or email at: marilynrussocassidy@gmail.com

For photos of the 2023 Shamrock 5K run, see page 13 of this link: http://www. the-gazette-newspaper.com/ images/gazette/apr23.pdf ###

Cell Phones for Soldiers

The Hasbrouck Heights Green Team has partnered with A Hero's Welcome to sponsor a Cell Phones for Soldiers Drive began January 15 and runs through February 17, 2024.

The HH Green Team will be collecting donations of cell phones, iPads, tablets and MP3 players, working or not working. Chargers for cell phones, iPads, tablets, and MP3 players. Accessories such as cases, etc., in their original packaging are welcomed.

A drop box will be located at the HH Free Public Library, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights.

Since 2004, Cell Phones for Soldiers (https://www.cell-phonesforsoldiers.com/) has provided more than 400 million minutes of air time to servicemen and women deployed around the world.

They use proceeds to purchase international calling cards for troops to call home and provide emergency funding for Veterans by recycling more than 25 million cell phones, reducing the impact on landfills.

If you have any questions please contact the HH Green Team at hhgreenteam@gmail. com ###

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Mass of **Anointing** February 24

Most Sacred Heart Share and Care cordially invites all parishioners, families, friends and visitors to celebrate a Mass of Anointing at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 127 Paterson Avenue, Wallington, on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 11 a.m. Come experience the beautiful serenity, peace and comfort for mind, body and soul offered at this Mass of Anointing.

If you have never received this Sacrament before, the Mass of Anointing consists essentially in the placing of hands by the priest on the person's head and then the anointing of the forehead and hands of the person with the holy oils. As the priest is anointing the person, he is asking for the special grace provided by this sacrament.

Light refreshments will be served in the Great Hall immediately after the service. The Church and Great Hall are handicapped accessible.

For additional information, please call MaryJane at 201-939-8576.

Music Ministry

It has been long observed that when we praise God in song, we pray twice.

The music ministry at Corpus Christi Parish in Hasbrouck Heights is seeking more voices.

Do you like to praise the Lord with the gift of your voice? Your presence can add so much to the liturgies of this Catholic worship community.

The choir generally sings at one Mass per weekend, as well as at Christmas, Holy Week and Easter liturgical celebrations.

If you would like to be a part of this very important ministry, please call music director Joanna Kowalska at 201-421-0900. ###

Taizé Evening Prayer Service

The next evening Taizé prayer service will take place Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7 p.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 92 Burton Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights.

The Taizé service includes 30 minutes of prayer, simple chant and silence; a peaceful respite to the busy demands of everyday life. Prayers for healing and renewal, with laying on of hands, conclude each service. For more information, go to www.holytrinityhasbrouckheights.com ###

PRAYER TO SAINT ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me my special request. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms. The gratitude of my heart will ever be

PRAYER TO THE **BLESSED VIRGIN**

(Never known to fail) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother, Oh, Holy Mary, Mother Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are some that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother.

Oh Marv. conceived without sin. pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal.

You who gave me the gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine.

The person must say this prayer three consecutive days. After three days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. P.M. ###

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Ash Wednesday February 14

Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, is the first day of Lent in Western Christianity. It occurs 46 days (40 fasting days, if the six Sundays, which are not days of fast, are excluded) before Easter and can fall as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. Ash Wednesday is observed by many Western Christians.

It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed by Western Christians.

Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. This happens during a special Ash Wednesday service.

As it is the first day of Lent, many Christians begin Ash Wednesday by marking a Lenten calendar, praying a Lenten daily devotional, reflection and making a Lenten sacrifice that they will not partake of until the arrival of Eastertide.

The ashes are prepared by burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. The ashes symbolize two main things: death and repentance. "Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash.

When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants as a visible cross, to either the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Most agree that "by the end of the fourth century, the 40-day period of Easter preparation known as Lent existed, and that prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises."

Since 2007, some members of major Christian Churches have participated in 'Ashes to Go' activities, in which clergy go outside of their Churches to public places, such as city centers, sidewalks and railroad stations, to distribute ashes to passers-by.

Ashes were used in ancient times to express grief.

According to the canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus Christ spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter. Every Sunday was seen as a commemoration of the Sunday of Christ's resurrection and so as a feast day on which fasting was inappropriate.

Accordingly, Christians fasted from Monday to Saturday (six days) during six weeks and from Wednesday to Saturday (four days) in the preceding week, thus making up the number of 40 days. Orthodox Christians do this 40 days in a row.

Wikipedia.org, Christianity.com ###

Carlstadt Senior Friendship Club

Senior Friendship Club, Inc. meets at the Civic Center Building, every first and third Wednesday of each month. Every Thursday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., card games and Mexican Train/dominoes.

Trips

All trips leave from the upper parking lot at Lester Stagg Way and Garden Street. Arrive 15 minutes before. Money for trips will be collected first meeting of the previous month. Call Helene at 201-463-3000 for details.

- February 22. Brownstone. Bus leaves 10 a.m. \$57.
- March 13. Resorts Catskills. Bring ID. \$25 slots/\$15 food. Bus leaves 9 a.m. \$4.
- April 24. FDR & Vanderbilt, New Hyde Park. Coppola's Restaurant. Veal Parm/Chicken Marsala/Cod. Bus leaves 9 a.m. \$74. ###

Vic's Hoofers

The Vic's Hoofers, a women's social organization, meets the first Thursday of every month at the Carlstadt Civic Center, Fourth Street, Carlstadt. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1, at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome to join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie. For information, please contact Alice Wood at 201-933-8561. ###

Rutherford Golden Age Club February 27

The Golden Age Club of Rutherford meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 30 Woodland Avenue, Tamblyn Field Civic Center. Come join us at noon for coffee and refreshments. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. The next meeting is February 27, 2024.

The speaker will be from the Good Counsel Homes that help Moms and their babies. All welcome! Questions: Gerry 201-935-2937 or Micki 201-997-5041. ###

Bergen County LGBTQ Seniors Meet Feb. 13, 19, 16

Bergen County LGBTQ+ Alliance (BCLA), a non-profit organization, hosts a seniors (60+) group that meets on the second Tuesday and the third Monday of each month in person and the third Friday virtually. All meetings begin at 11:30 a.m.

The next meetings are on Tuesday, February 13, Monday, February 19 and Friday, February 16, 2024. The Tuesday meeting will be held at The Rutherford Pancake House, 40 Park Avenue, Rutherford and the Monday meeting will be held at CoZie Café, 14-25 Plaza Road N (Radburn Plaza Building), Fair Lawn. Light lunch will be served at the in person meetings.

Contact us at Nick@bergencountyLGBTQ.org or 201-470-8946 for info and/or the link. ###

Little Ferry Seniors Club New Address

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. Refreshments are served. Bingo is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. All meetings and games are held at Little Ferry Senior Center at our new address at 250 Mehrhof Road. New members are always welcome. Dues are \$15 per year, per person. For more information, call Mary at 201-686-8424. ###

Lodi Seniors

The Lodi Seniors Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at noon at its head-quarters on Walnut Place (off Passaic Street). Residents age 55+ are invited to join.

This is a great opportunity to get out of the house and to socialize with peers, attend presentations by guest speakers, go on outings, and enjoy "fun" activities like singalongs. Membership fee is \$15 a year. For more information, call Marie Stein at 973-955-2484. Provided by: Mary Jane Dittmar. ###

AARP Chapter #2015 Lodi

The AARP Chapter #2015 of Lodi meets at noon the third Tuesday of every month at the Lodi Senior Citizens Building, 22 Walnut Place. Each meeting will have either a speaker or entertainment as well as light refreshments. New members are welcome. 2024 dues are \$10 for the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). National AARP membership is also required. For membership information contact Stan at 973-779-8544 or email to aarp.2015.lodi.nj@ gmail.com.

- February 20: Regular monthly meeting.
- March 19: Regular monthly meeting. Refreshments. *Provided by Kathleen Zalenski.* ###

ER Seniors

Any East Rutherford senior resident, 50 years or older, is welcome to join the Club. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Senior Civic Center, 37 Vreeland Avenue. Refreshments are served. There are special events and parties for members.

Free blood-pressure screenings - on the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning at 11:30 a.m. Membership is \$15 per year. Contact Debbie for membership at 201-803-4708 and Raynette for trips at 201-726-3604. Payment must be received 2 weeks prior to an event. All trips leave and return to CVS Parking Lot, Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford.

- Atlantic City Friday trips are scheduled for March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21 and July 19. Cost is \$45pp. Get \$30 back from casino. ###
- March 6. Shore Club "St. Patricks Celebration" from Ireland to America. Irish Tenor Mike Byrne with the Green Derby Band + Comedian + Bagpiper. 1 Hour open bar/ lunch meal choice. Bus departs 9:30 a.m. \$72pp
- April 9. Villa Roma. Presents Caesar's Extravaganza Luncheon & Barry Manilow Tribute staring Anthonhy Duke Claus. Lunch meal choice. Bus departs 8:30 a.m. \$70pp
- May 2. Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. "Beehive". Lunch. Bus departs 9:30 a.m. \$85pp. ###

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Historically Speaking

By James J. Halloran



Silent Witnesses

Today, unit flags are usually found at a headquarters or carried only in ceremonies and parades. This was not always the norm. During the American Civil War, unit flags were in the forefront of battle.

In the gray white haze of gun smoke, the rattle of musketry and the din of exploding shells, verbal orders, drum and bugle calls could not be heard.

The unit's flags, usually at the center of the regiment's line, were large visible symbols of where the regiment was. If the flags moved forward, then the men advanced. If the flags fell back, then the men retreated.

Each regiment was issued a number of flags. However, the most prominent were the National Colors and the regimental flag. Each was six feet by six feet, six inches in size. They were carried on nine-foot ten-inch staffs.

The Color Guard was responsible for carrying and protecting the flags. The Color Guard consisted of all noncommissioned officers. This was composed of a sergeant (Color Sergeant) and eight corporals. Two of the corporals were the flag bearers.

As New Jersey units reached the end of their terms of service, they usually returned their flags to the state. This became the nucleus of The New Jersey State House Flag Collection.

The New Jersey Legislature, in 1871, authorized

the Quartermaster General to recover any flags not turned in. Additional flags, including flags from the Spanish American War, are now in the collection.

The collection has 191 flags of which 132 flags are from the Civil War. Five flags are currently on display in the New Jersey State Museum, in Trenton. They are changed every six months.

The five latest flags now on display are the National Colors of the 5th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry and the 11th N.J.V. Inf. and the regimental flags of the 1st N.J.V. Inf. and the 3rd N.J.V. Cavalry. The fifth flag on display is a captured Confederate battle flag.

Two of these flags, the 1st and the 5th, probably were carried at Gettysburg. The flag of the 11th was carried at the Battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. Both battles were in May, 1864. Two of the Color Guard were casualties.

The Confederate flag was captured by New Jersey troops at the Battle of Chancellorsville, in 1863.

Many of the flags in the State House collection show the ravages of war. They are ripped and torn by enemy bullets and shrapnel. Some are stained with blood. They are silent witnesses to the brave men from New Jersey, who fought to preserve the Union and end slavery.

I am indebted to Doctor David Martin, educator, author and flag historian, for supplying information on the flag collection. ###

March Madness Food & Fun Day March 9

The Rutherford Education Association's (REA) March Madness Food & Fun Day will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 and will benefit the Rutherford Food Pantry. The inclement weather date is March 23

The event will be held at the Pierrepont School gym, 70 E. Pierrepont Avenue, Rutherford, NJ, and staffed by members of the REA.

The price of admission is 2 items for the Rutherford Food Pantry per adult, and 1 item per child.

For information, please contact Maria De Trizio at 201-438-7675, Ext. 4603 or md-etrizio@rutherfordschools.org.

The event will feature entertainment, which will include a balloonist, carnival games, and a magic show. Various activities will also be available, including arts and crafts and jewelry making. There will also be demonstrations of work completed by students in a variety of academic subjects.

This event is a Pride in Public Education activity carried out by the REA. Volunteering to organize this event is one of the many ways that Rutherford School District employees give back to the Rutherford community. Last year, this event was attended by over 700 residents of Rutherford and the surrounding communities. The association was able to collect over 66 boxes of items for the food pantry in addition to monetary donations.

The Rutherford Education Association is an affiliate of the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). Rutherford PRIDE is an ongoing campaign created to share the education successes of the Rutherford School District with all Rutherford residents and build strong community support for and involvement in our great public schools. *Provided by Maria DeTrizio.* ###

"There's one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's." Clyde Moore.

W-R Lions 39th Annual Beefsteak February 9

The Wood-Ridge Lions Club announces their 39th Annual Beefsteak Dinner, February 9, 2024. Our major event conducted over 38 years on the Friday before Super-Bowl, featuring games, sports memorabilia and prizes, along with great camaraderie and BEEF!

The event will be held at Fiesta Banquets, 255 Route 17 South, Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner service beginning at 7 p.m. Cost is \$75 per person. All seats are assigned and must be paid in advance.

For tickets, contact any Wood-Ridge Lions member or send an email to wrlionsnj@gmail.com with your name and number to be contacted.

Door prizes (included with your ticket purchase) cover a variety of restaurant gift certificates and other prizes.

Service to Others - Some of the charities and organizations the Wood-Ridge Lions support:

- NJ Camp for Blind Children Camp Marcella
- St. Joseph 's School for the Blind
- Foundation for Fighting Blindness
- Eversight Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey
- Center for Food Action, Bergen County
 - Juvenile Diabetes JDRF
- The Lions Eye Research Foundation of NJ
- The ARC of Bergen-Passaic Hoehne- Feinman Center
- Special Olympics NJ –
 Adopt-a-Cop Torchrun
- Wood-Ridge Lions Scholarship Fund
- Lions District 16N Charitable Foundation
- Lions KidSight Eye Screenings for Children conducted at local schools

For more information about go to: https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/WoodRidge/orhttps://www.facebook.com/WRLions###

LF Bond Referendum March 12

The Little Ferry Public Schools Board of Education will ask the community to vote Tuesday, March 12 on a \$38 million bond referendum that would generate the upfront funding needed to build a new middle school. State aid that is only available through a voterapproved bond referendum would contribute \$4.7 million toward the total project.

The Board is pursuing a referendum as part of a responsible financial strategy to build a modern educational environment with long-lasting benefits for Little Ferry.

If the bond referendum is approved, the owner of a home assessed at the borough average of \$375,501 would see a tax impact of \$50 per month.

Once the new building is constructed, the Board plans to move all elementary students out of the modulars they are currently using and into Memorial School.

A new middle school, to house Sixth through Eighth Grade students, will be constructed on the site of the former Washington Elementary School.

The district is committed to creating opportunities for Little Ferry residents to learn about the referendum, including a dedicated website, lfboe. org/littleferryfuture, social media (LittleFerryPS on Facebook and Instagram), presentations, and a community bond referendum information forum. ###

Having an Affair?

If your organization is having an event that is open to the public, we can help you tell "everybody" about it. Simply provide the following event details: name, date, times, cost, brief explanation of program features, etc., along with contact information. Send these details at least 45 days prior to the event to: fritz@hasbrouckheights.com or drop them off at: **The Gazette Newspaper**, 345 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. ###

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Super Bowl LVIII February 11 Football Party Tips

Super Bowl LVIII will be the 58th Super Bowl and the 54th modern-era National Football League (NFL) championship. The game is scheduled to be played on February 11, 2024, at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada. Kickoff is at 6:30 EST.

Super Bowl LVIII will be televised by CBS, streamed on Paramount+, alternatively broadcast on youth-oriented sister network Nickelodeon, and, for the first time, televised on the Spanish-language network, Univision.

It will also be the first simulcast of a Super Bowl since the very first Super Bowl.

Bowl to be broadcast under the new 11-year NFL television contract, which begins a new four-year rotation between CBS, Fox, NBC, and ABC/ ESPN. For the first time, it will be televised on the Spanishlanguage network Univision. Westwood One holds the national radio rights to the game.

Pregame: Country music singer, Reba McEntire, will perform the "National Anthem." Rapper Post Malone will perform "America the Beautiful." R&B singer, Andra Day will perform, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The halftime show: On September 24, 2023, it was an-It will be the first Super nounced that American R&B singer, Usher, will headline the Super Bowl LVIII Halftime Show.

Super Bowl 2024 ticket prices typically range anywhere from \$4,000 in the upper deck to \$60,000 for Super Bowl VIP ticket packages including box seating. The average ticket price is usually around \$7,000. Other price-upon-request luxury ticket packages are available. Tickets are also currently available via Stubhub, Vivid Seats, SeatGeek, and Ticketmaster.

The first game was played in 1967 with the NFL's Green Bay Packers defeating the AFL's Kansas City Chiefs at Los Angeles Memorial Coli-

No matter which teams are playing, you should get the gang together, stock your fridge with all the food and drink that matter, and set up the television just right in order to appreciate America's most watched sports event.

- Without proper decorations, your Bowl bash will be incomplete. Put up banners of the competing teams on your wall or hang streamers bearing the team colors. Get Super Bowl paper plates, tablecloths and other decorative things.
- Next to the excitement of the game itself, your party will be most remembered for the food provided. Your decorations may be great, but if the snacks and main dishes aren't hits, no one will be pleased.

The main meal should be tasty, simple and filling.

- Make it easy and cater your party. Check out the menus at Hasbrouck Heights Pizza and J&S Pork Store. Order in advance since Super Bowl Sunday is one of the busiest nights for delivery-based restaurants.
- Set up the food in an assembly line so that everyone can customize their own dinner. Stick to a buffet set-up in order to ease serving and eating. That way, everyone can enjoy the food while watching the game, and most importantly, you can too.
- If you want to impress, have a Super Bowl cake.
- To make clean up easier, use plastic cups, plates and utensils. Of course, napkins should be readily available so that, in the event of a spill, help is close by.
- Keep the beer in a cooler close by so you don't have to run to the fridge. Have plenty of soft drinks and water on hand for the designated drivers.
- Avoid offering hard liquor on Super Bowl Sunday. Football is a sport that begs for beer.
- Keep radios and even small televisions set up around the house so that wanderers and

those serving food don't miss a single down. You can even put one in the john if your guests are real football fanatics.

- It's always fun to mix in a little video game action on Super Bowl Sunday. If the halftime show is dull, set up your Playstation or Xbox, and play football. Select the teams that are actually playing in the the Super Bowl and square off for some extra fun.
- Some people like to add to the entertainment by organizing betting pools. Ideally, these games are done in a way that even the guests who don't know a thing about football can join in.

For instance, you can bet on who will score the next touchdown, what the score at the end of each quarter will be or even who'll win the coin toss. Make charts or grids so that the wagers are clear and keep the pot low so that no one blows their wallet.

- Invest in a few foam "bad-call bricks" to throw at the TV so your guests can express their feelings about the refs without doing damage to your house.
- If it's a real manly, pokernight type night, pass cigars around. Make sure there are enough chairs for everyone to sit on. Provide a side room for those who came for the food and atmosphere, and not the actual game.
- Think ahead and place garbage cans around your place so that wherever your guests are, they can find a place for their trash ###

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Little Ferry Fire Department 2024 Officers Take Oath

LFFD Officers' right to left: Year 2023 Chief John C. Schwedhelm, Year 2024 Chief Leo A. Morolla, Deputy Chief Anthony DiBlasio, Battalion Chief Marty A. Loesner, H&L Co. #1 Captain Kyle O'Keefe, Hose Co. No. 1 Captain Gian Carlo Mosquera, Lieutenant H&L Co. #1 Matthew Cordasco, Lieutenant Hose Co. #1 Andrew Lavenziano. *Provided by Brian Busico*. ###

2024 Carlstadt Fire Department Officers Installed









On January 6, 2024, the Carlstadt Fire Department installed their officers for 2024. They are: Chief of Department Robert Ruff, Jr., Assistant Chief James Schmidt, Deputy Chief Jay Murphy, Battalion Chief Walter Stankiewicz III. The out-going Chief is John J. Harr. The President of the Board of Fire Officers is Robert Brown. **Bergen Engine Co. #1:** Captain Steven Lahulier, Lt. Stephen Capuano. **Engine Co. #2:** Captain Anthony Silleto III, 1st Lt. John Sanzari, III, 2nd Michael Bolwell. **Engine Co. #3:** Captain Joseph Taylor, Jr., 1st Lt. Brian Cervasio, 2nd Lt. Gabriel Rodriguez. **Ladder Co. 1:** Captain Bartlomie Pachucki, 1st Lt. David Llewellyn, 2nd Lt. Jason Roughgarden. **Rescue Co. 5:** Captain Joseph Biggy Jr., 1st Lt. Jarrett Milligan, 2nd Lt. Mark Dunn, Jr. The Department was organized in 1872. *Photo by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###*



The Wood-Ridge Fire Department held their annual Santa Around Town on December 23, 2023. Photo by Dennis Kronyak, Sr. ###

WRFD 2024 Installation Dinner



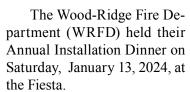












Welcoming remarks were made by Masters of Ceremonies WRFD Ex-Chief Ronald Phillips Sr. and Firefighter Philip Miuccio.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Second Assistant Chief Nicholas Meglio, followed by a moment of silence. The Invocation and Benediction was given by WRFD Chaplain, Deacon Nick Valdez. There was the introduction of Officers. The Oath of Office was administered by Mayor Paul Sarlo.

The 2024 Officers are: Chief of Department Kevin Cribben, First Assistant Chief Justin Berta, Second Assistant Chief Nicholas Meglio, Captain Frederick Dressel V, Lieutenant Liam Maloney, Lieutenant Michael Cribben, Lieutenant Mateusz Czwakiel, Recording Secretary Thomas Bischoff, Jr., Corresponding Secretary Nicholas Fallon, Treasurer Ronald Phillips Sr.

Remarks were made by Commissioner Philip Romero. Ex-Chief Ken Schulz reflected on his tour of duty, and Mayor Paul Sarlo expressed his appreciation of the Department. Chief Cribben made comments. Presentations were made. The traditional toast was made by Ex-Chief Ronald Phillips Sr. ###













On December 16, 2023, the Carlstadt Fire Department held their **Annual Santa Around Town**. This year they were joined by the Carlstadt Mayor and Council who provided a float for the event. *Photos by Dennis Kronyak Sr.* ###





Mid-Bergen Rotary Club Annual Toy Drive event was held on December 13, 2023. Every guest brought a gift or two to benefit Tomorrows Children's Fund in Hackensack Hospital Cancer Unit. *Provided by Aida Castro*. ###



Moonachie Seniors held their Christmas Party on December 13, 2023 at the Graycliff in Moonachie. On December 20, 2023, students from the Robert L. Craig Elementary School came to the Moonachie Senior Center and sang Christmas Songs. *Provided by Maria Detellio.* ###











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On Sunday, January 7, 2024, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wallington held the Solemn Closing of the 40 Hours Parish Devotion. The parish family welcomed Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, Auxiliary Bishops Most Reverend Manuel A. Cruz and Most Reverend Gregory J. Studerus to celebrate the evening of prayer. Photo by Carol Kosior. ###

Pray for Peace



L-R Sitting: Kathy Stopherd, Leslie Beck & Gerry Primiano. L-R Standing: Jane Virone, Stacey Martin, Rosemary Kuruc, Evelyn Spath-Mercado, Sara Cohen, Annmarie Landrigan, Fran Sorrentino, Mary Rose Hakansson, Lorrie Sharon, Kathy Boyd-Zollo, Vanessa Warner, Rosemary Caulk, Colette Marino, Pat Korab, Rose Marie Woodruff, Geri Lewis, Kanta Tailor, Pat Ferro, Laura O'Connor and Wanda Estevez. *Photos and story provided by L. Beck.* ###



The Woman's Club of Rutherford prepared 52 Blizzard Bags containing a full meal and treats for homebound older adults as a backup during inclement weather for the Meals on Wheels food delivery service.

The project was funded by the Club's fundraising efforts. L-R: Rosemary Caulk, Kathy Boyz-Zollo, Lorrie Sharon, Vanessa Warner, Colette Marino and Kathy Stopherd. ###

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The Woman's Club of Rutherford supports the Center for Hope and Safety. Sara Cohen and Cherie Moss delivered 11 boxes and 7 bags (about \$2,000 worth) of hygiene products, toiletries, etc., to the Center of Hope & Safety. They also dropped off their Club donation check of \$120, which was raised by its Domestic Violence Awareness Walk in October. Provided by L. Beck. ###





HH Leisure Club Senior Moments

The Leisure Club of Hasbrouck Heights held its first meeting on January 10, 2024 at the Senior Center. There were two presentations: Operation K9 Beethoven, a therapy dog and emotional support dog program; www.operationk-9beethoven.com.

The Hasbrouck Heights Police Department presentation was on senior frauds and scams. Both programs were well received by the 75 members who attended.

The Club would like to invite any individual who resides in Hasbrouck Heights or was

a former resident to join. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Senior Center. The cost is \$15 dollars per year. There are no meetings in July and August.

The next meeting will be on February 14 at 12 p.m. The presentation will be The Blue Chip Chorus who will provide singing of Valentine and Patriotic songs.

On March 13: there will be a presentation on George Washington in New Jersey given by Pat Schuber. Come on out and enjoy! Provided by Cynthia Sonzogni. ###

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Artful Thinking

By Artie Maglionico • Lodi Historian

February 2024

Hey folks, don't look now but its February already. The fading echoes of Christmas can still be heard while we mourn over the loss of our beloved Christmas tree. By now no one is wishing us a Happy New Year while all signs point to the coming of Valentine's Day. Also, in case you haven't noticed there is an increase in daylight.

Meanwhile, to steal a line from a George Harrison song off of the Sergeant Pepper album "Life goes on within you or without you." In other words let's make 2024 the best year of our lives. So with that having been said let's get on with it shall we?

Of course the marquee for the month of February boasts, you guessed it, Valentine's Day. By now Florists and Choc-

olatiers are anticipating the arrival of those souls practicing the centuries old art of romance. As for me, I'm still practicing and, as yet, need,room for improvement.

Oh! By the way folks those signs asking people to pick up after their dogs? They aren't working. Anyway where was I?

Ah yes Valentine's Day. It's not a holiday unless it falls on the weekend. Unlike St. Patrick's Day, it's not a month long celebration. Valentine's Day doesn't have the staying power of Halloween or its own season like Christmas that begins in July and ends on December 25th.

Valentine's Day is a one shot deal. There is no making up for it the day after. If you mess it up you have to suffer the consequences for an entire year and are reminded of it each time you see a heart shaped

figure.

That's probably what makes that day so stressful. It's only one day but could turn out to be the longest day of your life or, if you play it right, could be the luckiest. Love comes when the mind is left unattended and the heart thinks for itself. That's my Valentine's Day message for 2024.

So what else is going on folks? I trust that you enjoyed my two part Christmas story. (December Gazette Newspaper, page 16). Yes I admit the story was a bit of an emotional roller coaster ride that had you laughing one minute and crying the next or vice versa. It took a while to get to the ending but hopefully it was worth the wait. Was it a true story? I don't know since I wasn't there at the time. Don't ask my cousin Anthony either since he was with me at the time.

Any way folks that about does it for the month of February. Soon we'll be nurturing thoughts of spring which I'll be talking about in the March issue. For now have a happy and romantic Valentine's Day. ###

About Leap Year

Thursday, February 29.

Generally, a leap year happens every four years, which, thankfully, is a relatively simple pattern to remember. However, there is a little more to it than that.

One orbit of Earth around the Sun takes approximately 365.25 days—a little more than our Gregorian calendar's nice, round number of 365. Because the calendar does not account for the extra quarter of a day that the Earth requires to complete its orbit around the Sun, it doesn't completely align with the solar year.

Because of this .25 difference, our calendar gradually gets out of sync with the seasons. Adding an extra day, aka a "leap day," to the calendar every four years brings the calendar in line and, therefore, realigns it with the seasons.

Without leap days, the calendar would be off by 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds more each year.

After 100 years, the seasons would be off by 25 days! Eventually, the months we call February and March would feel like summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

The extra leap day adjusts this drift, but it's not a perfect match: Adding a leap day every four years over compensates by a few extra seconds each leap year, adding up to about three extra days every 10,000 years.

What Is a Leap Day? And a Leapling?

Ages ago, Leap Day was known as "Ladies Day" or "Ladies' Privilege," as it was the one day when women were free to propose to men. Today, Sadie Hawkins Day sometimes applies to February 29 (leap day), based on this older tradi-

According to folklore, the weather always changes on Friday in a leap year.

- "Leap year was ne'er a good sheep year" (old proverb)
- Are Leap Years Bad Luck? Many feel that to be born on Leap Day, thereby becoming a "leapling," is a sign of good luck.
- We do know that during leap years: Rome burned (64), and the Titanic sank (1912).

Also, in leap years:

- The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts
- Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity (1752),
- Gold was discovered in California (1848). ###

Full Snow Moon



Moon."









Feb 19 Feb 24 The February full moon will appear on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 7:30 a.m. EST. It is called the "Full Snow

It's easy enough to recognize why February's full Moon is commonly called the "Snow Moon." Depending on location and climate conditions, February can be one of the snowiest months of the year. This is especially true throughout the Ohio River Valley in the eastern and central US, as well as in the coastal Pacific Northwest.

Similar chilly names are also common. The Mahican tribe of the northeastern US and into Wisconsin, for example, clarify that this is the "Deep Snow Moon" while the Oneida tribe of upstate New York and the Great Lakes region call this the "Midwinter

In some Celtic histories, February's full Moon is referred to as the "Ice Moon." In Maine, the Abenaki tribe calls this Moon "Makes Branches Fall In Pieces Moon," which is exactly what can happen when ice builds up on tree limbs. The Lakota of the northern plains have a similar name for February's full Moon, "When Trees Crack Because of Cold Moon."

Furthermore, at this midwinter point without many other strongly distinguishing characteristics—no plants to harvest, no new plants blooming-snow can be the most prominent trait of the month.

On average, February is the United States' snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service. In the 1760s, Captain Jonathan Carver, who had visited with the Naudowessie (Dakota), wrote that the name used for this period was the Snow Moon, "because more

snow commonly falls during this month than any other in the winter."

After months of winter weather, February can be a month of low food supplies with no new plants to replenish supplies. Harsh weather conditions made hunting difficult.

Because of this, the February full Moon has several names that refer to hunger or scarcity, including the simple "Hunger Moon" or "Hungry Moon" from the Cherokee tribe of North Carolina. The Cherokee also refer to this Moon as the "Bone Moon" or "Bony Moon" for late winter weight loss or needing to utilize bones as a food source when other foods have become scarce.

The Native American Indians of the northern and eastern United States kept track of the seasons by giving a name to each recurring full moon. European settlers followed the custom. ###

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Let's Go Traveling!

By Rick Ardis

Palm Springs

Recently, I was honored to travel on Alaska Airlines inaugural non-stop flight from JFK to Palm Springs. The invitation for my first visit to the area was issued by Visit Greater Palm Springs, the tourist office for the region. This trip included a group of travel advisors and meeting planners to familiarize ourselves with the destination.

Palm Springs, in the Sonoran Desert, is the anchor and most well-known of the nine cities of the Coachella Valley in Southern California's Riverside County.

It is particularly noted for its mid-century modern architecture, with many restored homes from the 1950s and 1960s. The quaint downtown is walkable and features eclectic shopping, dining, and entertainment.

Other communities of the valley are Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, and the eponymous Coachella. These cities are more suburban, and car focused.

The original inhabitants were Cahuilla Indians who were drawn to the area over 2,000 years ago due to abundance of shade and water. The valley was once part of a vast inland sea leaving an easily accessible water table despite the desert appearance. Agriculture is a major economic force in the valley. Among the crops produced are eggplant, artichokes, bell peppers, onions, dates, and various citrus.

During my trip, the group visited Aziz Farms, a family-owned pesticide-free sustainable farm. It offers field trips for students to experience agriculture and is a location for parties and events. Here we enjoyed a farm to fork dinner in the fields.

Tourism began to take hold in the early 20th century. Several resort hotels opened during this period. The La Quinta Resort & Club opened in 1926 at the foot of the Santa Rosa Mountains. This Hilton

affiliated resort remains a 796unit casita-style lodging featuring 41 pools and 53 whirlpool spas. Palm Springs' popularity exploded during the Golden Age of Hollywood when actors were required to be close enough to the studios to return quickly if needed. Being less than 120 miles away fulfilled this need perfectly. During this period, many celebrities had built homes in the valley. Some of these homes are even available for rent. These include the homes of Merv Griffin, Elizabeth Taylor, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, and Dinah Shore. The group I traveled with was treated to a poolside dinner at Dinah's estate which is now owned by Leonardo Di Caprio.

There are many resort-style hotels with golf courses spread throughout the valley including the Renaissance Esmeralda, J. W. Marriott, Hyatt Regency, and Ritz-Carlton. One of the newest offerings is the Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort & Spa in Indian Wells. This is the first in an expected chain of hotels in conjunction with the fashion designer.

More modest lodgings from each of the popular chains are easily found. In Palm Springs proper there are many boutique accommodations providing an intimate, relaxed locale. Some of these options are beautifully reimagined hotels from another era, while others are brand new like the soon to open Thompson of the Hyatt family.

Activities flourish yearround in the Coachella Valley. Indio is the "City of Festivals" with the renowned Coachella Music Festival and its country cousin, Stagecoach, the Riverside County Fair, and the National Date Festival. Indian Wells is home to BNP Paribas

Open tennis tournament and the Indian Wells Arts Festival. Cathedral City has a hot air balloon festival. Rancho Mirage's El Paseo is known as the Rodeo Drive of the Desert for those inclined to shop. Red Jeep Tours features trips out to the San Andreas Fault and

other areas of the valley including Joshua Tree National Park.

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway at Mount Jacinto State Park is the world's largest rotating aerial tramway. The mountain's peak is filled with hiking trails and dining with a view.

Golf abounds with over 100 courses throughout the valley. The Acrisure Arena opened in 2022 in nearby Thousand Palms bringing the Coachella Valley Firebirds of the American Hockey League to town. BMW Performance Driving School is in an area of the valley known as Thermal. The Palm Springs Surf Club is now open allowing visitors to surf in the desert. It is an expansion of a former water park and provides a day at the beach in this land-locked locale.

For those looking for wellness treatments, they are easily found throughout the area. The resort hotels each offer spa options. The city of Desert Hot Springs has 20 resorts with mineral water spas. The Spa at Séc-he is the original hot mineral spring and is operated by the Agua Caliente band of Indians. It is in the heart of Palm Springs next to the casino. There are also other tribal gaming locations in the valley.

Palm Springs is also a popular destination for the LGBTQ+ community with a Pride event in early November. There are also resorts, restaurants, and clubs catering to their clientele with a welcoming attitude. If a brash drag brunch is to your liking, there are several choices along Palm Canyon Drive.

Culinary options abound throughout the area with long-standing locations like Melvyn's at the Ingleside Estate, The Colony Club, and Lord Fletcher's. Each of these had been frequented by Frank Sinatra, Liberace, Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Lucille Ball and others. Newer restaurants include FARM, Trio, Spencer's, Cheeky's, and Boozehounds. For those wanting a taste of home, Sherman's Deli & Bakery was featured on Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives. New on the scene is Canopy Wine Bar, which was recently opened by Phil Barrood, Jr. of Hillsborough, New Jersey with several colleagues. Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley will surprise the first-time visitor. It is an easy addition to a trip to the Los Angeles or San Diego areas, but an outstanding destination on its own.

Rick Ardis is the owner of Ardis Travel -- established in 1981. 201-939-9135 • www. ardistravel.com • rick@ardistravel.com ###

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Selling Your Home is a Cooperative Effort

Having a great listing agent is one of the key components to getting your home sold in the shortest delay, with the least hassle and at the best possible price. But still, your agent can't do it all – your help is needed. In this piece we want to point out how you can help your agent help you!

Ideally, you will have an open, honest relationship with your listing agent. But even with that, there are some things your agent might be reluctant to tell you. I've quizzed a number of our office associates on the subject. Whether to spare your feelings or because he/ she assumes you already know, here are a few things they say your listing agent wishes you knew...

• "Your stuff is lovely but..." While your home might be beautifully decorated, it could look too much like your home to be perceived/imagined as becoming the buyer's.

• Clutter, in particular - it can make a home feel cramped and leave a bad first impression. Said our agent of nearly 20 years, Kate P.: "If you're going to be moving anyway, it makes sense to start packing and putting a lot of your current belongings in storage. You don't have to pay to have your home staged, but if you don't subscribe to the concept of 'less is more', then you're going to pay when it comes time to sell."

• "You need to fix a few things!" Seasoned agent Tom C. wants clients to know they might have to spend a few bucks to make their house look its best: "Replace the trim the dog scratched up. Clean the scuff marks off the walls. Power-wash the algae off the vinyl siding," he says.

"To you, it's totally normal because you've lived with these issues for years. To buyers, these will look like expensive repairs, which means they'll lowball you. Or not make an offer at all, because your house needs a lot of work." Even if it actually doesn't.

• "Be nice: Don't Overprice!" While listing your home at a high price and then coming down as necessary seems like the best way to avoid leaving any money on the table you could actually be shooting yourself in the foot.

"If you over price your home, buyers may not catch that, but buyers' agents will." points out rising agent Raquel K. "When a home is overpriced, buyer's agents will either avoid bringing their buyers or, worse yet, they will use it as an example to sell another property: 'See how much nicer this one is for the price than the last one we saw?""

"Cleanliness Counts!" Do people really not clean their house before it's shown to potential buyers? Yep. Longtime associate Michelle T. says things like a greasy stove, dust on the floors or furniture, and unkempt bathroom fixtures like the shower, sinks and toilets are noticed most during a showing.

And top producer Tom adds "The kitchen and the bathroom are the two main areas where cleanliness - or lack thereof – is most obvious. (You did want to sell this house, right?)"

• "Selling your Home isn't a Spectator Sport" "Some sellers don't realize hiring a real estate agent doesn't mean they get to sit back with a beer and watch the home sale unfold," says listing pro Joan S. "Selling a home is a team effort even when you hire a great real estate agent.

If you can keep your home clean and tidy and arrange for someone to dog sit during showings, I can be 100% focused on selling your home for top dollar. That cooperation and partnership makes it much easier for all of us in the business to do a good job for you."

After all, we have your best interests at heart!

Thinking of buying or selling? For expert guidance, contact Mary Ellen Courtney, Broker-Manager at Terrie O'Connor Realtors' Gateway Group, 201-288-0004. She and her professional team work hard to insure maximum results with minimum stress!

About Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday

This year, Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras is celebrated on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent, a period for fasting. Also known as Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

It is also known as Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, and features large festivals and celebrations across the United States. The Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, Louisiana, is typical of the masquerades and dancing in the streets that take place in other parts of the United States before the long Lenten fast. Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 14, 2024. ###

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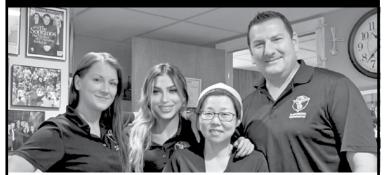


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Footnotes

By Dr. Kenya Lazovik, DPM

Smoking's Dual Assault: On Your Heart and Feet

In a bid to safeguard overall health, including the wellbeing of your heart and feet, our paramount advice to smoking patients remains unequivocal: Ouit. As February marks American Heart Month, the North Jersey Foot and Ankle team underscores the perilous repercussions of smoking, emphasizing that every cigarette smoked heightens the risk of severe health complications.

Shockingly, cigarette smoking alone accounts for approximately one in every five annual deaths in the United States, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Impacting Your Heart

The pernicious chemicals inherent in tobacco take a toll on both your blood cells and the functioning and structure of your heart. When combined



Enjoy Meeting People? Become a Volunteer!

The Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum at Teterboro Airport is seeking Volunteers who enjoy meeting people.

There are 3 different Volunteer activities to choose from, tour guides, maintenance people to work on projects and new displays and computer associates to work in our rich library. We offer flexible hours and free training and support.

Visit www.njahof.org and check out the self guided tour of our Museum. For additional information, call Ralph at 201-288-6344 or email: ralph.villecca@njahof.org ###

with other risk factors such as hypertension or obesity, smoking compounds the peril. Over time, a litany of health complications may ensue, including:

- Chest pain
- Heart attack
- Heart failure
- Premature death

Impacting Your Feet

Smoking exacts a heavy toll on your feet through its detrimental effects on circulation and the onset of Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD). Diminished circulation restricts the vital flow of oxygen-rich blood throughout your entire body, including your lower extremities. This impairment in circulation becomes even more critical for individuals

with diabetes, as it significantly hampers wound healing.

Meanwhile, PAD, a condition characterized by arterial plaque buildup, disrupts the normal blood flow to the head, organs, and limbs, causing persistent leg and foot pain.

Today, we fervently advocate for the cessation of smoking. Regardless of your smoking history, researchers unanimously attest that quitting will dramatically enhance your overall health. We stand ready to assist you in your journey towards a smoke-free life, with the ultimate goal of minimizing harm to your entire body, especially your precious feet and ankles.

For further information about ankle fractures and sprains or other foot and ankle problems, contact Dr. Lazovik, Dr. Dayana Sawh or Dr. Rana Moses at North Jersey Foot & Ankle Center at 862-233-8438. www.NJfootandankle.com ###



Filling You In

By Jeffrey E. Mason, DMD, FAGD.

The Link Between Oral **Health and Overall** Health

Oral health means more than just an attractive smile. Poor oral health and untreated oral diseases and conditions can have a significant impact on quality of life. And in many cases, the condition of the mouth mirrors the condition of the body as a whole. Recent reports indicate a relationship between periodontal (gum) disease and stroke, heart disease and preterm low-birth-weight babies. Likewise, more than 90 percent of all systemic diseases have oral manifestations, meaning your dentist may be the first health care provider to diagnose a health problem.

Researchers are finding possible links between periodontal (gum) infections and other diseases throughout the body. Current studies sug-

gest that there may be a link between gum disease and cardiovascular disease. In fact, some research suggests that gum disease may be a more serious risk factor for heart disease than high blood pressure (hypertension), smoking, high cholesterol, gender and age. Studies suggest that people who have gum disease seem to be at a higher risk for heart attacks, although no one is certain how this relationship works. Your oral health affects your overall health, but studies that will find exactly why these problems are linked are still underway.

Ref: Academy of General Dentistry, Reviewed: January

Dr. Jeffrey Mason is a cosmetic and general dentist at 232 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. 201-288-4447, www.DrJeffreyMason.com

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Bergen County Cooperative Library System • https://www.bccls.org/ 77 Libraries have over 600,000 registered cardholders and circulate over 12,000,000 items annually

Wallington

Wallington JFK Memorial Library, 92 Hathaway St. Wallington, NJ 07057. 973-471-1692. www.wallingtonpubliclibrary.org Registration required for all programs unless stated.

The Library will be closed February 19, 2024.

- Adult Craft: Painted Mandala Hearts. Monday, February 5, at 1 p.m. We'll be painting mandala patterns onto rocks! A calm and sweet art piece that can be made to decorate your home or a personal space. Registration required.
- Appy Hour Drop-in App Support. Monday, February 6, between 1 and 3 p.m. to learn about 3 important Library apps: BCCLS, Libby, and Hoopla. No appointment necessary!
- Scrabble Club. Thursday - February 8, 2024 at 6 p.m. Registration preferred.
- · Playdough Playtime. Friday, February 9, 10:30 a.m. Children ages 2-5, come have fun playing with playdough with your friends!
- Children's Yoga Class. Friday, February 9 at 4 p.m. Be sure to bring some water and

Lodi

Memorial Library

• Chair Yoga. A six-week

yoga class for people experi-

encing joint pain and stiffness.

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be on Fridays 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Class dates are February 2 & 9.

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cert featuring songs of the early

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Registration is required.

• Meditation. Priti Dhari-

less stated.

a yoga mat or towel with you! Open to ages 6-12. Registration is required.

- Monday Afternoon Book Club. Monday, February 12, 2024 at 2 p.m. We'll be reading "The Blossom Sisters" by Fern Michaels. Copies are available at the front desk. New members are welcome!
- Navigating College Admissions. Tuesday, February 13 at 7 p.m. Join us for a Zoom presentation to help families understand and navigate college admissions. Learn about the admissions cycle, trends, and more. Virtual program. Registration is required.
- Music with Miss Nita. Wednesday, Februry 14 at 1 p.m. Join Miss Nita for singing, dancing, and more! Open to children ages 0-5 and caregivers.
- Children's Pajama Storytime. Thursday, February 15, at 5 p.m. Come in your pajamas, listen to a story, and then do a fun craft!
- Coloring Therapy for Adults. Wednesday, February 21, at 3 p.m. Adults of all ages, a chill time: think calming tunes, tea, and coloring pages and books ready for you to color with and zone out. Drop-in anytime from 3 to 5 p.m. Sup-

plies are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you like. BYOM (Bring Your Own Mug) to make things extra cozy. Registration is encouraged.

- "Beyond the Bookshelf" Book Club. Thursday, February 22 at 6 p.m. Open to adults and older teens. February we will be discussing the riveting and intimate memoir "Crying in H Mart" by Michelle Zauner. Stop by to pick up a copy or check out Libby for a digital version.
- Bright and Early Storytime. Friday, February 23, at 11 a.m. Start your day off on the right foot by listening to a fun story and doing puzzles. Open to ages 5 years and younger.
- Keep Calm and Puzzle On. Monday, February 26, at 4:30 p.m. Join us for a cozy and relaxing puzzle event!
- Adult Craft: Egg Carton Flowers. February 28 at 6 p.m. Craft a bouquet of flowers from egg cartons! We'll provide all the materials, but feel free to bring your own natural egg carton if you feel so inclined!
- Children's Take Home Craft Kits will be available the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month! Grab one while supplies

Joseph and Tammy Conti, Joey Bart, Jack Sepede, and Artie Maglionico.

Lodi Memorial Library, • Tuesday Night Book Club. Tuesday, February 13, One Memorial Drive, Lodi, NJ 07644. 973-365-4044. http:// 2024, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. February's book is "Lessons in lodi.bccls.org/ Registration Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus required for all programs un-400 pages

> • Semi-Monthly Movie. Afternoon movies twice a month. Our Black History Month Movie Series will feature "Till" on February 14 at 1 p.m. and "One Night in Miami" on February 28 at 1 p.m.

> • Adult Crafts. February's craft will be block printed kitchen towels. Craft will be held in-person on Wednesday, February 21 at 1:30 p.m. Registration required. Call the Library to reserve your spot -973-365-4044 ext 2.

> • Color Your Stress Away. Friday, February 9, 2:30 p.m. A coloring club for adults on the 2nd Friday of each month. A relaxing hour of coloring, complete with meditative music and refreshments. Materials provided, but feel free to bring your own crayons or colored

• Creative Writing Club

Thursday, February 29, 1 p.m. Bring your creative juices to our writing club. Each month will feature a new prompt for our writing session. Attendees are also welcome to share works in progress

- Adult Coloring Pages, Mazes and Community Puzzle. Always available for adults. Come to the Library to de-stress with our free coloring materials, fun mazes, and beautiful puzzles. ###
- Anime Club. Grades 6-12. In-person, Wednesday, February 7, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Watch a movie, get some snacks, and make a craft. Registration required.
- Lodi Game Club. All ages (12 and under must be accompanied by an adult). Join us for all kinds of games every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. No registration necessary.
- High School Hang-out. Grades 9-12. Every Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the conference room for games, movies, and other fun activities.
- Grab & Go Craft. Grades Pre K - 2. A new grab & go project will be available each Monday! While supplies last. No registration.
- Legos. All ages. Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Children's Room. Make your own creations with Legos. No registration necessary.

• Storytime. Every Tuesday and Friday at 11 a.m. No registration necessary. ###

Carlstadt **Public Library**

Carlstadt Library, 420 Hackensack Street, Carlstadt, NJ 07072. 201-438-8866, Handicap accessible. carlstadt. bccls.org or www.carlstadtlibrary.org Registration required unless noted.

- Bingocize. Designed to benefit older adults who want to improve their balance, flexibility and strength while socializing and meeting new friends on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. through March 8.
- Beginner Yoga with Onika. Mondays, February 5, 12, and 26 at 10:15 a.m. Bring a yoga mat. Register for each session.
- Movie Madness. "P.S. I Love You" on Tuesday, February 6, 1 p.m. or Wednesday, February 7, 6 p.m. Seating is limited.
- Chocolate and Coffee **Tasting.** Learn the histories of chocolate and coffee and how to pair them to enhance their flavors on Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m. All materials will be supplied. Space is limited and registration is required.
- Valentine's Day Cupcake Decorating. On Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m. attend a cupcake decorating class with Stephanie from Steph's Baking Boutique. Learn how to decorate cupcakes like a pro and leave with some delicious treats to enjoy. All materials will be supplied.
- Cook the Books! Cookbook Club. Meet on Wednesday, February 21, 7 p.m. This month's club pick is "Milk Street Simple" by Christopher Kimball. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk. Space is limited and registration is
- Crafts for Crafters -Thank-You Cards. Attend a greeting card workshop to create three customized thank-you cards on Tuesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. All materials will be supplied. Space is limited and registration is required.
- Zentangle Virtual **Craft.** Tuesday, February 27, 7 p.m., attend a virtual Zentangle workshop with certified art teacher, Mimi Topping. Create a one-of-a-kind art piece to enjoy. All materials will be supplied. Registration is required and a Zoom link will be sent upon registration.
- · As the Page Turns -Adult Book Club.T he "Fountains of Silence" by Ruta Sepetys, Wednesday, Febru-

Support Local **Journalism**

- ary 28 7 p.m. New members are always welcome! Copies are available at the Circulation Desk, on Hoopla and Libby!
- Storytime at the Library. Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 11 a.m. for ages 6 months to 5 years.
- Music with Miss Nita. Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, at 10:15 and 11 a.m. Babies, toddlers and preschool children will enjoy songs, rhymes, movement and instrument play.
- Little Bookworms: Yoga Storytime. Babies and toddlers ages 18 months to 5 years old on Tuesdays, February 13 and 27 at 10:30 a.m. Explore a world of stories along with baby-centered yoga poses.
- LEGO Brixology. Children in Grades 3-6, Thursdays, February 15 and 22 at 4 p.m. to attend hands-on LEGO engineering workshops, with Mad Science. The first workshop will focus on bridge building and the second workshop will be focused on machines. Space is limited and registration is required.###
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. The Carlstadt Library has launched an initiative to encourage families to read 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.

Reading together creates lifelong memories and helps develop pre-literacy skills. Children who are read to at an early age have larger vocabularies and are more successful in school.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a fun, free way to start your child on the path to success! Children from birth to 5 years old can participate. Stop by the Children's Department to register, pick up the program packet, and check out some books. Happy reading! ###

Little Ferry Free Public Library

Little Ferry Free Public Library, 239 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, NJ 07643. 201-641-3721. lifycirc@bccls.org Hours: Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Adult Programs

- Friday Afternoon at the Movies! Noon.
- February 2, "What's Up Doc (1972)
- February 9, "Serendipity" (2001)
 - February 16, "Elf" (2003)
- February 23, "Quiet on the Western Front (2022)
- Adult Book Club. Join the Little Ferry Free Public Library Book Club which takes place every month. Every Book Club meeting is bright and lively February 26 at 2 p.m. (Book title to be announced...).

Public Library

Rutherford **Public Library**

Rutherford Public Library, 150 Park Avenue, Rutherford NJ. 201-939-8600. rutherfordlibrary.org, facebook. com/rutherfordpubliclibrary and twitter@Rutherford_pl.

Hours: Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m, Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Library will be closed on Monday, February 19.

The following programs require registration. Visit rutherfordlibrary.org/events

- Foundations of Creative Writing. This 6-week virtual course is designed to outline the components of the 3 major genres (Fiction, Poetry, and Nonfiction), as well as writing strategies (images, energy, tension, and form). No previous creative writing experience necessary. For adults. Participants will receive feedback. Course runs to February 24 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Adapting Small Farm Methods to a Backyard Garden. Interested in growing your own fruits and vegetables? Join us for a presentation from Bracco Farms about how to get started, strategies for adapting small farm methods to backyards, and Q&A. Monday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- Mandala Painting Class. Use different tools and techniques to create a mandala painting on a canvas. Adults only. Wednesday, February 28
- •Financial Aid: The Art of the Appeal. Colleges are more willing to say "yes" to appeals for more financial aid and scholarship money for new and returning students. Get detailed guidance on how to appeal for more financial aid and how to improve the likelihood of a successful appeal. Thursday, February 22, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

• Library Mini Golf. The Friends of the Library are again transforming the Rutherford Library into a miniature golf course! Tickets available at rutherfordlibrary.org/friends/ Friday, March 1, 6 to 9 p.m. \$25/person, adults only. Includes snacks and beverages. Saturday, March 2, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., \$10/family; \$3/ individual. Timed admissions.

• Rutherford Library Foundation Gala. The Library will celebrate 130 years on Saturday, March 23, at Il Villagio. Tickets are on sale through the Library's website and main desk.

Children's Department

 Yoga with Miss Bhavna will be offered for children ages 5-12 on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. during February. Children may sign up for one or several sessions.

Teen Department

The Teen Department regularly offers service hours, crafts, and social time for teens. Fantasy Map Makers meets on Wednesday, February 14 at 3 p.m. The Teen Advisory Board meets once a month. This group of regular Library patrons contributes to programming, teen engagement, and plans for the Teen Lounge.

• Virtual Author Talks.

Three New York Times bestselling authors:

- Tessa Bailey, Thursday, February 8 at 8 p.m, rom-com author of "Fangirl Down";
- Jason Mott, Tuesday, February 20 at 4 p.m. on his award-winning novel "Hell of a Book";
- Kim Scott, Wednesday, February 28 at 2 p.m., "Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity."

Each talk features the opportunity to participate in author Q&A or pre-submit questions during registration! https://libraryc.org/rutherford-

Little Ferry Children's Programs Grades 5 and up. Storytime with Cynthia.

A lively 30-minute combination of books, movement activities and songs best enjoyed by families with their children. May also include activities, such as crafts, storytelling, poetry, riddles, and more. Registration required. February 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 10:30 a.m. for ages birth and up.

 Coding for Kids with Incodenito. Learn Python, an easy to understand high level programming language used in the real world for applications in data science. Also please feel free to ask other tech questions! Laptops will not be provided, please bring your own device! Registration required. Febru-

- ary 5, 12, 19, 26 at 5:30 p.m. for
- Crafts with Sue. Come check out our fun monthly craft on Saturday morning! Crafts are for children ages K and up, please register beforehand! February 3 at 11 a.m.
- Read to Blossom. For little ones just starting to read or for children that would like to practice reading please read to Blossom! Blossom is a sweet, friendly Golden doodle doggy who would love to hear stories read to her. Registration is required. February 15 and 29 at 3:30 p.m. for grades Pre-K and up.
- * Note: during the winter, programs may change or possibly be cancelled due to inclement weather. Call the Library ahead of time. ###

library/upcoming While these talks are best experienced live, past Author Talks can also be accessed here. While these talks are best experienced live, past Author Talks can be accessed here. https://libraryc. org/rutherfordlibrary/archive

Regular Features

Monday Night Book **Group** meets on February 26 at 6:30 p.m, Cook-a-Book Club will share recipes from "30 Minute Prep" by Robin Miller on Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. Spice Club will meet on February 20 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to cook with mustard seeds, Read 'Em & Eat Book Club will meet February 28 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt, and YA Teen Book Talk meets, and most Wednesdays, we feature Story Time with Miss Jane at 10:30 a m.

- Virtual Mindfulness & On-Demand Yoga.Miranda Lee of Find That Pause will lead virtual mindfulness sessions Fridays at 9:15 a.m. February's theme is The Power of Rest. Rutherford Library patrons can enjoy yoga, meditation, even story time 24/7, anywhere with an internet connection, via Bold Yoga and the Bendy Bookworm. This video database has classes for all ages, time frames, and experience levels. If interested, send an email to reference@ rutherford.bccls.org with your name and Library card number.
- Creativebug Live Craft Classes and How-to Videos. Patrons can now access thousands of how-to videos for all crafts, live classes on seasonal crafts, and more at creativebug. Visit our website to get started.
- Grab & Go Doorside **Pickup.** Order books from the BCCLS catalog at www.bccls. org or submit a Grab & Go form (from our website) for either the adult or children's collection! If you don't have access to a computer, call 201-939-8600.
- ESL In-Person and Virtual Classes. In-person ESL meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Virtual ESL classes are held Mondays through Thursdays. Registration for inperson classes must be done in person at the circulation desk.
- Monthly Movie. The Friends of the Library will be showing "A Thousand and One" (Rated R) on Tuesday, February 27 at 6 p.m.. Event is free. Light refreshments will be served.
- Tech Tutor. Our tech librarian will be available by appointment for tech help or lessons. To make an appointment, fill out our online form or email marion.johnson@ rutherford.bccls.org. ###

Hasbrouck Heights Free Public Library

Hasbrouck Heights Free Public Library, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. 201-288-0488, http:// hasbrouckheightslibrary.org.

The Library's winter hours of operation are as follows: Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Return Library materials in our book box at the rear of the Municipal Building. Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Any child under the age of 9 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

The Library Board and Administration are asking for your support to help maintain the role of the Library for its traditional purpose (to do homework, research, use of the computers, or reading) after school.

2024 Membership Drive

The Friends of the Library Membership Drive is presently taking place. Please be on the lookout for membership renewal information or consider signing up to become a Friend and make a difference! For details, inquire at the Front Desk on your next visit.

• SAVE the Date. Taste of Hasbrouck Heights & Friends - Wednesday, April 24 at the Fiesta. More details to come.

For CHILDREN

- Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Friday, March 8, 6:30 to 7 p.m.; pick up animals on Saturday, between 10:30 a.m. to noon. Bring a stuffed friend on Friday evening and leave them for a night of fun. Come back the next morning to pick them up and see what adventures they had over breakfast. Seating is limited.
- Winter Reading Challenge Continues! throughout the month. Kids, tweens, and teens can log their reading with the chance to earn prizes! Visit hhlibrary.readsquared.com for details. Last day to log reading is Friday, March 1.
- Take Your Child to the Library Day. Saturday, February 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This international initiative encourages families to take their children to their Library. Stop by for craft stations, family LEGO building, a Library scavenger hunt, and Library card sign-up and book checkout incentives.
- Lunar New Year Program with Author Hui Li. Monday, February 5, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Journey into the world of Chinese characters through the pages of the picture book "SCROLL." Discover the tradi-

tions of Lunar New Year. Learn the art of drawing Chinese calligraphy. A limited number of author-signed SCROLL copies will be available.

- Percy Jackson's Half-Birthday at Camp Half-Blood. Friday, February 16, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Join the Son of Poseidon on his quest to celebrate his half-birthday! Create a mythological craft and complete challenges only a demi-god can win! Best for elementary grades and up.
- Leap Year Craft: It's Out of this World! Thursday, February 29, 4 to 5 p.m. for ages 5 and up. Celebrate leap day with an earth and sun STEM craft. Best for elementary grades and up.
- Read-to-a-Dog. Thursday, February 1, 6 to 7 p.m. Oscar is ready to listen! Come get some reading practice in.
- Lego Club. Wednesdays, February 7 & 21, 4 to 5 p.m. All builders are invited!
- February Story & Craft with the HH Junior Women's Club. Saturday, February 10, 11 a.m. Join the HH JWC for a story and craft at the Library! All families are welcome.
- Game Lounge Tournaments: Super Smash Bros. -Tuesday, February 13, 3:30 to 5 p.m. (best for ages 8 and up)

Mario Kart - Thursday, February 22, 3:30 to 5 p.m. (best for ages 6 and up)

- Saturday and Evening Story Times. Saturday, February 17, 11 a.m. and Tuesday, February 27, 6 p.m.
- Winter Break Movie for **Kids:** "Elemental" (rated PG) Tuesday, February 20, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Snacks provided.

For TEENS

- Let's Make: Anti-Valentine's Day Chocolate Fondue Monday, February 12, 4:30-5:30 p.m. for Grades 5 and up
- Teen Book Club. Monday, February 26, 5 p.m. Join us once-a-month for book chat, activities, snacks, and more. This month we're reading "Every Day" by David Levithan.

For ADULTS

- Friday Movie Matinee: "Respect." Friday, February 9, 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments provided.
- Crafts-to-Share Club. Tuesday, February 13, 6 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, February 28, 1 to 3 p.m. In-person and on Zoom by request.
- Adult Book Club. 4th Tuesday of every month, In-Person & via Zoom at 7 p.m., February 27, "Carnegie's Maid" by Marie Benedict.
- English Conversation **Practice Group.** Intermediate Level or above. No Drop-Ins. Must apply before attending. Mondays and Saturdays available. ###



larm

At about 5:40 a.m., Monday January 8, 2024, a gasoline tanker truck overturned after colliding with another vehicle on Route 17 North near the jug handle in Hasbrouck Heights (HH). Observers said the tanker hit the barrier, slid along the divider, flipped over and exploded on impact on Route 17 North, creating a "ball of fire" with flames engulfing the dealership's 20 cars and building. Flames shot up 100 feet into the early morning sky.

Firefighters were on the scene within minutes. Hasbrouck Heights Fire Chief Michael Greco established incident command.

Heights Engine 2 pulled up on Route 17 South, connected to a hydrant and immediately put their deck gun (water cannon, 1,000 gallons a minute, GPM outflow and can shoot out over 200 feet) into service to attack the fire and protect the north exposure of the Extra Space Storage facility.

Wood-Ridge Fire Department responded with one ladder and one engine. Engine 901 was positioned on Rt. 17 North, established a 5" supply line and was directed to protect the south side exposure of Durante Rentals using a deck gun.

Wood-Ridge Ladder 904 was positioned on Route 17 South, was fed by WR Engine 901 and fixed its aerial pipe on the main body of the fire at 700 GPM.

Hasbrouck Heights Ladder and Hackensack Ladder were positioned on Rt. 17 North to fight the main fire and protect the Extra Space Storage northern exposure. They were supplied by Little Ferry and Carlstadt Engines.

The third point of attack was from Industrial Avenue utilizing Saddle Brook Tower Ladder (shooting water across the Pascack Valley railroad tracks and Riser Ditch) and was fed by Rutherford Engine.

The combined operation pumped and estimated 4,000 GPM. Note: there is a 36" water main running along Rt. 17 South.

A foam task force was requested from Garfield.

After the main body of fire was knocked down, multiple hand lines were deployed using Moonachie, Carlstadt, East Rutherford and Lodi Fire Departments.

PSE&G was able to shut off the gas line feeding the fire.

Once the exposures were protected, the fire was declared under control in under an hour.

Clean-up continued until about mid-afternoon,

Incredibly, the tanker truck driver and the driver in the other vehicle, were able to escape the inferno. They were both treated for minor injuries at Hackensack Medical Center.

Route 17 commuters were

stuck with nowhere to go for up to two hours during the morning rush hour as power lines were ripped down and shut down both sides of the highway.

The southbound lanes of Route 17 reopened around 10 a.m. Only the two left-hand lanes of Rt. 17 North were eventually re-opened. The right-hand lane and shoulder were closed as utility crews worked through the night to repair and replace structures damaged by the fire.

The 6:21 a.m. NJ Transit train to Hoboken on the Pascack Valley Line was forced to stop on the tracks due to the fire and eventually resumed rail service in both directions.

down two runways because of and Holy Name EMS.

The fire toasted the electronic bill board on Rt. 17 North.

Investigators are following up additional details.

HH Fire Chief Michael Greco stated, "It's amazing that we did not have one injury, and nobody was killed."

It is estimated that 100+ worked the scene, mostly volunteers. Mutual Aid assisting Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department with the prolonged operation included: Wood-Ridge, Little Ferry, Hackensack, Carlstadt, Moonachie, Rutherford, Saddle Brook, East Rutherford, Lodi, Lyndhurst, North Arlington, Garfield, Maywood, Rochelle Park, Teterboro Airport shut Paramus, Hackensack EMS

NJ DOT re-routed traffic.

Bergen County Sheriff's Office, Hasbrouck Heights Police and Wood-Ridge Police assisted with traffic.

Hasbrouck Heights DPW and NJ DOT salted the roads because of ice from the water. Bergen County Hazardous Materials and DEP were on site because of gasoline that went into the storm drains. An outside contractor was called for environmental clean-up.

The 5th Alarm was Mutual Aid covering HHFD headquarters during the event. PSE&G and Veolia Water assisted in the restoration of electric, gas and water.

This event represended South Bergen Mutual Aid Association at its finest. Page 22 photos by Justin Derevyanik.







Early morning scenes. Page 23 photos by Tony Greco ###



Welcome Nicholas RF/MAX #

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Drawing upon my educational and professional background in technology and project management, I have developed exceptional attention to detail, analytical thinking, and a

problem-solving mindset. My real estate experience in both New Jersey and New York provides important market knowledge to better help my clients navigate the ever-changing housing market. Always focused on tailoring a personalized strategy to deliver the best results, I pride myself in doing whatever it takes to deliver my clients the home that best suits their needs. For all your real estate needs and a seamless home buying, selling, and renting experience; please give me a call at 856-534-7185.

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TERRIE (CONNOR REALTORS GATEWAY GROUP

Terrie O'Connor, Broker President, and Mary Ellen Courtney, Broker/Manager of Terrie O'Connor Realtors—The Gateway Group welcome Elizabeth Bucceri and Saeeda Ismailzadah as Sales Associates in our Hasbrouck Heights office.

Elizabeth Bucceri finds joy in handing over house keys to a new homeowner, helping them transition into a new home, or helping them sell their current one. Elizabeth with her husband, a Marine veteran and dedicated police officer, and daughter live in East Rutherford. She started a Military Family Support Group of Carlstadt, is on the committee for A Touch of Football for Crohn's and Colitis at MetLife Stadium, and is an active member of Church Alive, her parish in Lyndhurst, NJ.

Saeeda Ismailzadah, a true lover of homes and architecture, is a dedicated real estate professional. She is passionate about helping people find their perfect homes. Saeeda is married with three children, and has deep roots in Lodi. Raised in Kabul, Afghanistan, she connects with a diverse range of clients and understands their unique real estate needs. Saeeda speaks five languages: Persian, English, Ozbek, Pashto, and



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