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## RESIDENT RYAN BONK ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT RANK

In scouting, only 4% of overall boy achieve the rank of Eagle Scout (other statistics show 6%). Even though the percentage has been trending upward over the years, the award is still incredibly rare, making the Eagle Scout rank quite a significant accomplishment in a boy scout's life.

Ryan Bonk, a scout from Troop 177 in Mountainside, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and was formally recognized by Mayor Paul Mirabelli at the Mountainside Borough Council meeting on December 29, 2015. The mayor read aloud the proclamation recognizing Ryan's accomplishment and his Eagle Scout Project. Ryan received a copy of the proclamation commemorating his achievement.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. A scout must earn 21 merit badges; plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to the community; and demonstrate that he has lived by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in his daily life.

Ryan earned 33 Merit badges and completed his service project at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit, New Jersey.

The Reeves-Reed Arboretum, listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, has been a site of architectural, botanical, and historical significance since the American Revolution, and fosters a deep appreciation of nature and history. To support this mission, Ryan's service project aided the Arboretum in improving trail accessibility, thus assisting more visitors to safely and comfortably explore the



(above, r-l) Mayor Paul Mirabelli handing a copy of the proclamation to Ryan Bonk commemorating his rank as Eagle Scout at Mountainside Borough Hall.

grounds.

Ryan fundraised for project materials with the help of local businesses. Working with his friends, family, and Boy Scouts from his Troop, he renovated a trail at the Arboretum, which involved adjusting trail size and terrain. The existing wooden stairs, which were rotted, dilapidated and inaccessible required to be dug out and disposed of. They were replaced with new sturdy stairs in order to improve the ease of hiking and trail safety. Ryan also designed, built, and installed benches along the Arboretum trail system. A total of 193 man-hours were spent on this project.

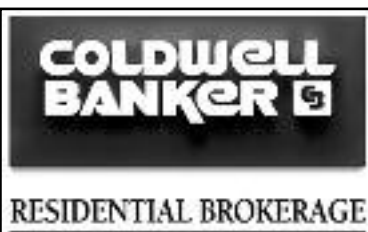
Ryan greatly appreciated the assistance of fellow Troop 177 scouts and everyone who helped him in his service project. He also is thankful for the support of the Troop 177 leaders. He is greatly indebted to Mr. Brian Kinney, Saverio Zipeto and local business such as Westfield Lumber & Home Center, Barbera & Barbera, Zappia's Delicatessen, Village Trattoria, Doria Pizzeria, Joe's Pizzeria, Vittoria Ristorante, and IRIS, LLC.

Ryan's Eagle Court of Honor will be conducted in the summer, where he will be further recognized by Troop 177, his family and friends for achieving this special status in scouting. Ryan is currently a freshman at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, majoring in Chemical Engineering.



(above) Eagle Scout Ryan Bonk (3rd from right) with members of troop 177 who attended the Mountainside Borough Council meeting just to be there for Ryan's special recognition.

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# PTA 30TH ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS! ATTEND, SPONSOR,  
AND SUPPORT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18**

## SHACKAMAXON COUNTRY CLUB | SCOTCH PLAINS

Mountainside View is published by Renna Media. 2,800 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Mountainside.

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### PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

*Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.*

**Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email Lori Theiss at [lori@rennamedia.com](mailto:lori@rennamedia.com)**

Mountainside View is online at [www.rennamedia.com](http://www.rennamedia.com) like us on [facebook.com/Mountainside View](https://www.facebook.com/MountainsideView)

The Mountainside PTA is excited to announce and invite all those within the Mountainside school and business community to attend and celebrate 30 years of fundraising success, made possible through your generosity and continued commitment to supporting Mountainside's public school children.

In honor of the 30th Anniversary of the Spring Fundraiser, we'll roll out the red carpet with a new and exciting venue to host an evening of camaraderie and community. Join us for dinner and the opportunity to leave a winner – through the Tricky Tray with excellent prize baskets, bidding on fantastic silent auction items, and participating in a special 30th Anniversary Raffle for a true 'red carpet experience' – all efforts designed to raise funds in support of programs and services dedicated to the children the PTA serves. Tickets will go on sale in February. Please contact Danielle at [danielle070806@yahoo.com](mailto:danielle070806@yahoo.com)

to purchase.

If you are a business member of our community, there are exciting ways for you to partner with the PTA and sponsor or advertise at this event. The PTA is committed to making your participation a visible and worthwhile opportunity, reaching more than 300 community members at the event, and many more prior through social media. Space is limited - if you are interested, please contact Lili DeVita at 908.405.6703.

We would like to assist our dedicated basket volunteers by asking for "complete" family/friend baskets (valued at \$50 or more) by February 15 and receive 5 additional grand prize tickets.

For basket ideas go to our Amazon wish list. Link: [amzn.com/w/R8QVLW6PBQ5N](http://amzn.com/w/R8QVLW6PBQ5N) any questions contact Dana Liloia, [danaliloia@yahoo.com](mailto:danaliloia@yahoo.com)



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## GIRL SCOUTS' "ADOPT-A-FIRE-HYDRANT" PROJECT AIDS FIREFIGHTERS DURING SNOW STORMS

It began as a project to earn their Girl Scout Silver Award, but the more 13-year-old twin sisters Jill and Allie Zimmermann of Mountainside spoke to local volunteer firefighters they realized the importance of their endeavors, the girls decided to continue their work. The girls' project was to ask residents to join the "Adopt-a-Fire-Hydrant" program by committing to shovel out the fire hydrants on or near their properties following a snow storm.

"We have a fire hydrant in front of our house and we always shoveled it out when it snowed. However, often when riding through town, we'd see those fire hydrant markers sticking out of the snow with the hydrant buried," explained Jill. "Allie and I then decided to take this on as our project."

What really convinced the girls that this was a great project was a meeting they had with Firefighter Samantha Grindlinger of the Mountainside Volunteer Fire Department. "She emphasized how important it was for firefighters to have immediate access to the hydrant in the event of a fire and how many times through the years they've come across snowed in hydrants. We knew this was a good project that not only could earn us our Silver Award, but could also save lives and property in the case of a winter fire," Allie noted.

The Cadette Scouts got a map from the Fire Department showing where the hydrants were located and then verified the names and addresses of the property owners at those sites from the Town Hall Tax Office. They reached out by mail to those residents and were able to secure a 35 percent adoption rate.

"We were aware of the fact that some homeowners, whether because of age or disability, would be unable to participate in the program so we asked them if they could ask their neighbor to make the commitment. The project was met with enthusiasm from most people because they realized the importance of having immediate access to a hydrant in case of a fire,"

Jill said.

Allie noted that because of the warm start to this winter, people might not be thinking about shoveling out fire hydrants, but she doesn't expect the warm weather to last and believes the snow will come. "We want to increase our data base of people committed to keeping the hydrants open and accessible to the firefighters. They respond to fires all times of day and night and they cannot do their jobs without quick and easy access to water. It takes between seven and 10 minutes to dig out a fire hydrant buried in snow. Those minutes can save lives and property," she explained.

Prior to the start of the project, the girls attended a meeting of the Mayor and Council to explain their project. Once they received the approval of the town officials, they were able to secure a grant from the Watts Foundation to cover the costs of the initial mailings. "We'd like to thank everyone who helped us get this project off the ground. It turned out to be a great community effort," Jill and Allie agreed.

Those participating in the program receive a personalized color Certificate of Adoption. Anyone willing to participate in "adopting" those fire hydrants that are still not accounted for can contact the scouts at [yourfirehydrant@gmail.com](mailto:yourfirehydrant@gmail.com) for more information and to join.



(above) Emily Liu (shown) is participating to help Melody who is fighting Ependymoma brain cancer for the past 3 years.

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# THE MOUNTAINSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Mountainside Public Library is located at 1 Constitution Plaza, Mountainside, NJ.  
To register for these programs, stop into the library or call 908-233-0115.

## FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH EVENTS

On February 9, 6:30 PM

we will feature the drama '71. A young British soldier is accidentally abandoned by his unit following a riot on the streets of Belfast in 1971.

Unable to tell friend from foe, and increasingly wary of his own comrades, he must survive the night alone and find his way to safety through a disorienting, alien and deadly landscape (PG-13).

on February 16, 6:00 PM

Seabiscuit is our feature film. An entrepreneur, a blind boxer turned jockey and a trainer combine to lead an unlikely thoroughbred race horse to a series of victories that inspire depression era America. (PG-13).

On February 23, 6:30 PM

our offering will be the 1995 romantic comedy An American President. When President Andrew Shepherd falls in love with Sydney Wade, an environmental lobbyist, he must overcome obstacles not faced by average citizens: he must contend with approval ratings, an inquiring press and an aggressive political opponent just to go on a date! Stars Michael Douglas, Annette Bening and Martin Sheen (PG-13).

### Brown Bag Academy.

Mondays at 1:15 PM

Our popular Great Courses series continues with "A History of European Art". This course will end on February 29, so start cramming for finals! A new Great Course will be selected then. Feel free to bring your lunch; coffee, tea and cookies will be served for desert!

### "Opera on Film Series"

Friday, February 12 at 1:00 PM.

Friday Operas on Film series, sponsored by the T. Robel Hill Foundation and presented by Mena Clemson. The Pearl Fishers by Georges Bizet will be presented this month. This recording, performed at the Teatro La Fenice di Venezia and conducted by Marcello Viotti in 2004, stars Annick Massis and Yasu Nakajima.

### "Saturday Musical Getaways"

Saturday, February 13 at 2:00 PM.

Come hear the City Winds Trio, a professional chamber group consisting of flute, oboe and bassoon, perform Ragtime music from composers Scott Joplin and Charles Lucky Roberts. City Winds Trio educates young children through their program Musical Innovations, an educational program that introduces young children to classical music and the instruments found within an orchestra. This program will include live music, movement games, introduction to rhythms and a chance to try a percussion instrument yourself!

### "Guided Meditation for Inner Peace"

Thursday, February 18 at 7:30 PM.

Join us every month as we explore and experience the most talked about evidence based meditation techniques for inner peace, overall well-being and stress reduction. This month Sally Younghans will be teaching a self-guided meditation technique using visualization and prompts.

### "The 15 Minute Child Break"

Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 PM.

Bill Lillis, from Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey, will be presenting a substance abuse prevention parent education program. The 15 Minute Child Break is a one-hour, interactive, multimedia presentation, based on current research, that will inform, encourage and empower parents, educators and care givers to effectively communicate with children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Topics include effects of specific drugs, strengthening parental skills, influence of media and pop culture and utilizing teachable moments.

### "From Footlights to Flashlights"

Saturday, March 5 at 2:00 PM.

Local high school English teacher and Mountainside native, Gwyn English Nielson will present readings from her new book of conceptual plays that reach and teach teens. Student actors will present three scenes from her book. Signed copies of her book will be available for purchase.



**Mountainside PAL Annual Skate Night**

**Come join the Mountainside PAL for a FREE\* night of roller skating and good times**

Open to all Mountainside and Berkeley Heights Residents

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual PAL Roller Skate Night**

**When:** Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Time:** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm  
**Place:** Florham Park Roller Rink  
**Cost:** FREE (free entrance fee and free skate rental)\*  
**Address:** 192 Ridgedale Avenue  
 Florham Park, NJ  
**Phone:** (973) 377-0465  
**Directions:** [www.myrink.com](http://www.myrink.com)

Children must be accompanied by an adult!  
Helmets are suggested

Mountainside PAL always welcomes new volunteers who can contribute fresh ideas and have a dedication to our youth. Volunteers are needed to keep our programs moving forward.

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# DEERFIELD SCHOOL SPIRIT NIGHT

Friday January 22nd was a fun-filled night of excitement as Deerfield had its annual Spirit Night. The Deerfield Girls and Boys Basketball teams played against Cranford that evening, Girls' Game 6pm and Boys' Game 7:30pm.

The gym and school were decorated with posters. The festivities included the Mountainside PAL cheerleaders, the Deerfield pep band, the Deerfield chorus, food sales (pizza, pretzels, candy, chips, bake sale) and a 50/50 raffle! PTA Spirit Wear was available for purchase as well as Valentines from the Student Council. Teachers

from the Mountainside Education Association also had fun items for purchase as well. And the cast was there from the Deerfield 2016 spring production of Shrek.

Each 8th grade boy and girl were called into the court and received a token from the coach. It was a great community event.

The girls won in a close game, 41-40. The girls 8th graders are:

Olivia Ciccimarra, Jillian Meltzer, Ava Messler, Paige Phillips, Jessie Roland and Sabrina Ruban, and the Coach is Mr. Worswick.



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## LOCAL TALENT PARTICIPATES IN FASHION WEEK



(above) Emily Liu is participating to help Melody who is fighting Ependymoma brain cancer for the past 3 years.

Emily Liu of Mountainside was recently selected to participate in the 2016 NJ Fashion Week for a cause that will take place on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Newark, NJ. Liu is age 10 and attends 4th grade at Deerfield School in Mountainside, NJ. She enjoys arts and crafts, modeling and outdoor activities.

Liu learned of her acceptance into this year's event when the casting directors announced their selections in NY/NJ. The show will unveil males and females, children and young models of the future. Casting Directors will be at hand searching for new talent. Participants will have the opportunity to be exposed to the super scouts of the modeling/acting industry, and top line designers in the fashion business. Ages range from 3 years old up to 65 years young.

The event will benefit Melody, an aspiring La Crème Model/Actress who has been fighting Ependymoma brain cancer for over three years. This event is sponsored by La Crème Modeling/Acting of Mountainside, NJ as well as local businesses in an effort to keep youth away from drugs. Casting is now open. No experience necessary.

Community businesses, organizations, and private individuals will assist this model in participating in this year's fashion week by becoming an official sponsor. Through sponsorship, each participant will receive all the necessary training, rehearsals, and financial support allowing participants to become very confident and well-prepared for this year's event. The event is also a great opportunity for the members to make new friends and to trigger social presentation by developing their self-esteem as well as giving them public exposure.

Any business, organization, or private individual who may be interested in becoming a sponsor to Emily Liu may contact the La Crème Modeling/Acting Show Coordinator at (908) 688-4411.

## HETFIELD HOUSE TO HOST COLONIAL DINNER

Grab your partner, call your friends and make plans to attend an "authentic" 18th Century 5-course Colonial Dinner at 7pm on Friday, February 26 (snow date 2/28). Held at Mountainside's historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, the event is a fund raiser for the Mountainside Restoration Committee with a portion of the proceeds going to the restoration and maintenance of the historic Hetfield and Levi Cory houses.

The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House and Levi Cory House are located at Constitution Plaza adjacent to the Mountainside Library.

(right) A colonial cooking demonstration will take place in the colonial hearth in the circa 1760 original kitchen in Mountainside's Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. On February 26th, the Hetfield House will host a Colonial Dinner evening featuring an authentic 18th Century 5-course meal served by costumed volunteers.

Constitution Plaza is the first right off Birch Hill Road which is off New Providence Road near the Mountainside Volunteer Fire House. The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a committee of volunteers governed by the Borough of Mountainside whose purpose is to restore and maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House and the Levi Cory House and collect and save historic information and items from destruction. To make a reservation, for information or to donate funds, please call (908)789-9420; or, go to: [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org)



## GIRLS 6-8TH DEERFIELD BASKETBALL TEAM



## BOYS 6-8TH DEERFIELD BASKETBALL TEAM



**3rd Annual 2016 White Castle**

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**Saturday, February 27, 2016**  
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# DEERFIELD SCHOOL'S NEW MEDIA CENTER

*Among other referendum project updates...*

Wednesday, January 20 the newly renovated Deerfield School Media Center in Mountainside had its Grand Opening. The ribbon cutting took place in the morning and in the evening the Mountainside community was invited to an open house. The media center is part of a three year 19 million dollar referendum project, 40% of which was offset by State ROD grants.

The media center contains five new instructional spaces, including a children's reading room, a state of the art technology lab, and traditional classroom space. All the rooms have wireless internet access that is compatible with the one to one Chromebook program. In addition there is a handicapped accessible bathroom and rear entrance. The media center will be available for use by the community after school hours and in the evenings.

In addition to the media center, both Deerfield and Beechwood have already seen many improvements and upgrades in the last year. Both schools now have new fully insulated roofs (with 30 year warranties), new roof gutters and leaders, new rooftop HVAC units (7 at Deerfield and 11 at Beechwood), a new phone system, new IP security cameras, and a complete replacement of the network infrastructure including a new fiber optic connection between the schools. The internet speeds to the internal servers in both buildings have increased fivefold.

Beechwood now has a new web based energy management program and new gymnasium lighting. Deerfield now has 8 new boys/girls bathrooms, 12 new roof top exhaust fans, a



*(above l-r), 6th grader Madison Duca, 7th grader Ethan Proper, and 8th grader J.J. Post cutting the ribbon for the official opening of the Deerfield Media Center.*

renovated front entrance and front offices, and brand new boys and girls locker rooms in the gym. Deerfield School is now completely asbestos free with the exception of a few classrooms to be completed in the summer of 2016.

Among the remaining projects in process this year are the installation of new exterior classroom and hallway doors (Deerfield), the card swipe access system (both schools), and window replacement at Deerfield. In the summer of 2016, the corridors at Deerfield will be upgraded. The HVAC unit ventilators, including a web based energy management system, will be replaced at both schools.



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