

# Berkeley Heights

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## SIX POLICE CHIEFS DELIVER MEALS ON WHEELS

Across the nation during the month of March, local officials are taking part in Meals on Wheels America campaign to raise awareness for isolation and poor nutrition among older Americans. Five police chiefs and one lieutenant from Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, New Providence, Summit, and Springfield gathered together at SAGE Eldercare on March 16 to deliver meals to residents in their respective towns.

"It is our 50th anniversary this year and is vitally important to the people we serve that law enforcement officials meet these individuals," stated Marianne Kranz, Director of Meals on Wheels for SAGE. "The relationship and communication between local police departments and a community-based organization such as SAGE is critical so that older residents are looked after and protected. The annual "March For Meals" campaign established by Meals on Wheels America provides a great opportunity for us to enlist the help of local officials by visiting older residents, listening to their concerns and getting to know their circumstances.

In addition to local police chiefs, SAGE has enlisted the involvement of local elected officials, EMTs, and community groups. "It is vital for these decision-makers within the communities we serve to have an understanding of the homebound residents in their towns – often times, our volunteers are the only people checking in on them," added Kranz.

About fifteen times a year, SAGE has to turn to the police to do welfare checks on clients who don't respond, and about five times a year, a SAGE Meals on Wheels volunteer calls 911 when finding a client in need of immediate professional and/or medical assistance.

"Not only does SAGE rely on us to check on the safety and wellness of our older residents, but we also rely on SAGE's professional staff when we find someone who needs their assistance and services. Our partnership ensures that isolated older residents are getting the help they need," noted New Providence Police Chief Anthony D.



(above, l-r) New Providence Police Chief Anthony D. Buccelli, Jr., Berkeley Heights Police Chief John DiPasquale, Summit Police Chief Robert Weck, Mountainside Police Chief Allan V. Attanasio, Mountainside Lieutenant Tom Murphy, and Springfield Police Chief John Cook. They delivered meals to older residents in the area on March 16 as part of the Meals on Wheels America's "March For Meals" annual campaign, which is coordinated by SAGE Eldercare in Summit.

Buccelli, Jr.

For more information on the Meals on Wheels program, or if you would like to become a volunteer for SAGE Eldercare, please contact Marianne Kranz at 908.273.5554.

For the past 60 years, SAGE Eldercare has been helping make the communities it serves an amazing place to age. The organization provides a wide array of information, support, and services designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. From helping with errands, to exercise classes, community programs, and home health care, SAGE's expertise helps older adults remain independent in their own homes. SAGE is committed to being the leading provider of programs and services to meet the changing needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers throughout Union, Essex, Morris, and Somerset Counties. For more information, please call 908.273.5550 or visit [www.sageeldercare.org](http://www.sageeldercare.org).

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## GL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PREPARES TO SET SAIL

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Recently, high school senior Kelly McLoughlin visited her former teacher, Ms. Naftalis, at Thomas P. Hughes Elementary School and gave a very special environmental presentation to her class. Kelly's lesson was on ecological health, ocean currents, and satellite tracking. While these topics do not normally grab the attention of young scholars, these students were all ears. This was due to the exciting visual Kelly brought with her, an Ocean Drifter.

The Ocean Drifter, which Kelly built, is a device that tracks offshore currents and sends back GPS data for analysis. Since the beginning of the school year, Kelly has been working on this project in her Environmental Science class. With the help of her teacher, Lara Mendenhall, she conducted original research on the topics and developed a grant proposal for the materials. With the support of the Berkeley Heights Educational Foundation and several teachers throughout the district, Kelly was able to purchase the necessary material she needed and construct the Drifter.

Kelly not only educated the students at Hughes

School, but actually had them help complete the project. The Drifter includes four sail-like canvas fins that help capture the currents and propel the device forward. Kelly had Ms. Naftalis' students decorate these canvas fins, thereby incorporating art into the STEM-base project. Kelly plans to launch the Ocean Drifter in April after she presents at the March 31st Board of Education Meeting.



(above) Kelly explains what the Drifter is.

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(above) Students holding up their decorated fins as part of lesson.



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## FIVE GL STUDENTS ADVANCE INTO FINAL IN MEGA MATH CHALLENGE

More than 425 high school students will receive scholarships for their models of new approaches to car sharing and driving technology; top prize decisions to be made on April 25

Automakers are investing millions in developing new technologies to meet the demands of consumers who want the benefits of using a private car without the costs and responsibilities of owning one. The rapidly-changing landscape of the automotive industry, in which automakers are transforming themselves from car builders into "mobility companies," was the focus of this year's Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge, an annual applied math contest in which high school students use mathematical modeling to devise solutions to relevant everyday issues.

Working in teams, students used publicly available information and data on consumer driving habits and emerging automotive industry technologies to build mathematical models categorizing the car usage habits of drivers in the US. They then used their models to evaluate car-sharing business options, taking into account new

technologies that are close to entering the mainstream including self-driving cars and vehicles that run entirely on alternative fuel or renewable energy, and then predicted which option would garner the most participation in a given city.

"The car-sharing market is about to be completely transformed as new technologies emerge," says Karen Bliss, assistant professor of applied mathematics at Virginia Military Institute and M3 Challenge director of contention judging. "It's exciting to see how students think about how these changes will affect the way we live our lives, and to do so through the lens of mathematical modeling, where they can quantify those changes and make predictions. We had a big job in front of us this year as we narrowed the field down to the top papers. This year's question didn't lead to just one type of mathematical model, so the judges had to really dig into the students' models and discern the merits of each."

Of the 1,084 solution submissions, just 174 advanced to the second round of judging that took place this past weekend in Philadelphia, where judges identified 90 teams that will receive

a share of the \$150,000 in scholarship prizes offered by The Moody's Foundation, the contest sponsor.

The top six teams (below) will square off against one another on Monday, April 25, in the final phase of judging at Moody's Corporation headquarters in Manhattan where they will present their findings to, and answer questions from, a panel of professional applied mathematician judges to determine the final rank order.

The top six awards, ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000, will go to the Finalist teams, one of which is:

Governor Livingston HS (Team # 7497),

Coach: Steven Hess

Students: Niyant Narang, Gianna Miggins, Michael Wu, Anna Song, Alexander Ju

Six additional teams, whose papers underwent in-depth discussion by judges but missed making it into the top six, will be recognized with Semi-Finalist Team Prizes of \$1,500 each.

Teams representing an additional 78 schools will be awarded Honorable Mention Team Prizes of \$1,000 each for noteworthy solutions.

Organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), M3 Challenge gives high school students the opportunity to answer broad questions by applying mathematics and quantifying the related variables, and encourages them to study and pursue careers in science and math. The Challenge is free, requiring only accessibility to the Internet.

To view the complete problem statement and for more information about the Challenge, visit [m3challenge.siam.org](http://m3challenge.siam.org).

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## BERKELEY HEIGHTS FRESHMAN FROM MOUNT SAINT MARY'S NAMED FINALIST IN "TEENS LOOK AT LIFE" ARTS CONTEST

Brianna Hunt of Berkeley Heights and Grace Schleck of Metuchen, freshmen studying at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung designed two billboards for the Diocesan Respect Life "Teens Look at Life" Arts Contest and they have been named finalists.

"All entries were of excellent quality, making the selection of the finalists very difficult," said Angela Marshall, coordinator for the Diocese of Metuchen's Respect For Life program. "Being chosen as a finalist is a great accomplishment."

Brianna and Grace will be recognized during a special Mass on May 10, followed by an awards luncheon at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway.

Mount Saint Mary Academy is a Catholic, independent school which provides an exemplary college preparatory education for young women in grades 9 through 12. Founded in 1908 as a sponsored work of the Sisters of Mercy, the Mount remains committed to challenging each

student to develop her fullest potential in a Christian atmosphere of love and caring.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Michelle H. Daino, Director of Communications at 908.757.0108, ext. 4549 or email at [mdaino@mountsaintmary.org](mailto:mdaino@mountsaintmary.org).

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(above, l-r) Theology teachers Madeline Soccodato and Susan Choma are pictured with their students Brianna Hunt, center (left) and Grace Schleck, center (right).

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