Green Brook Gazette

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ISSUE 21 • JUNE 2015

Green Brook
Cultural Heritage
and Historic
Preservation
Committee and
The Green Brook
Historical Society
meeting:

3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:30 pm

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ARTS FESTIVAL SHOWCASED STUDENTS' TALENTS

By Denis J. Kelly

The Open House of the 15th annual student Spring Arts Festival, on Tuesday, May 12, showcased the contributions of many of this year's 1,671 participating students, including the art pieces and performances in wood working, jewelry, pottery, graphic design, photography, drawing, painting and fine arts artists, as well as musicians and singers.

Artwork was on display throughout the school's atrium entrance and the hallways up near the Performing Arts Center, instrumental, choral, and theater arts and arts studios.

And, performances featuring student singers and musicians in individual performances, in duets, and in various combinations and small groups, received enthusiastic receptions for several hours in the Performing Arts Center.

The full concert spring performances by the music department will be held during the first week of June, the instrumental performance will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 3, and the choral performance will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, June 5.

The Arts Festival Film presentations and Theater performances were held on Wednesday, May 13, generated films being shown in the South Auditorium, and a Theater performances, featuring student work on stage and behind the scenes in production, were held in Room 94.

Various iterations of student achievement in dance were presented Thursday, May 14, through Saturday, May 16, in the Performing Arts Center.

"Our students' work shows imagination, creativity, and an emerging, often acquired, sense of technique, all of which are a reflection on the commitment and professionalism of our Arts staff," said Brad Commerford, supervisor for Arts and World Languages.



(above) Senior Sydney Foster of Green Brook Township stands next to her photography and colored pencil entries at the open house for the Student Art Festival. Foster, who plans to attend Pace University, New York City, said she has already taken some classes there as a high school student.

HEALTH COMMISSION ANNOUNCES POOL SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Spring is here, summer is coming, and that means pool season is imminent. Are you protected? Last year Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission launched a residential pool safety campaign in order to help local pool owners take steps to protect their pool from the conditions that contribute to injury or death.

The program provides a free on-site consultation to inform and educate homeowners in the communities of Bound Brook, Green Brook, South Bound Brook, Warren, and Watchung regarding essential code requirements and safety equipment for residential pools. All in-ground pools, and above ground pools with a depth of two feet or more are eligible.

The purpose of the Commission's free consultation is to

inform and educate. Other than the checklist, the Commission will not make any other report or take any enforcement action. "We really want homeowners to take advantage of this program. Pools are great places for fun and relaxation on those hot summer days, but they can be deadly, especially for children," Riley said.

Now is the time homeowners are opening or thinking about opening their pools and so it is a perfect time to schedule an appointment for a consultation. Call the Commission at 732-968-5151, or by visiting the Commission offices located in the Green Brook Municipal Building at 111 Greenbrook Road. You can also email the Commission at mbrhc@middlebrookhealth.org. We baby proof our homes, shouldn't we child proof our pools?



Green Brook, Gazette

On-line at RennaMedia.com

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Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations
who are interested
in submitting
content can
email Lynn Sjurset
at
lynn@rennamedia.com.

GIRL SCOUTS HONOR GB POLICE DURING LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION WEEK

Submitted by April Larsen



(above) Girl Scout Troop 65023 recently learned how the Green Brook Police force interacts with the community. On May 18 Officer Larry Goldstein visited IEF school and presented to the troop. The Girl Scouts donated a case of cookies to the police department as part of their Gift of Caring.











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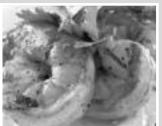
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COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Denis J. Kelly

'Coffee with the Superintendent' session provides parent 'two-way dialogue' about homework and grades, and feedback about what is 'making a difference' for their children.

About 30 parents provided feedback to Watchung Hills Regional High School Superintendent Elizabeth Jewett on the school's plan to codify school-wide policies on grading, homework, and academic integrity, during an ideas-sharing discussion Thursday, April 2, at the school.

"Coffee with the Superintendent" is a program instituted by Jewett to meet with parents/community members several times over the course of the year as a vehicle to learn more

about the school district, gather information on how groups of people think about a topic, provide insight into traditions and widely held beliefs, improve the planning and design of new programs, and most importantly create a safe environment where people can share in positive suggestions on improving the overall education at Watchung Hills Regional HighSchool.

"The 'Coffee with the Superintendent' initiative set out with a goal of fostering healthy two-way dialogue from school to home," Jewett said. "With the implementation of a district strategic plan, one can only surmise that the best is yet to come."



(above) Five students who are on the Watchung Hills Regional High School Robotics Team, from left, Seniors Arthur Bisci and Andrew Tu of Warren Township, Junior Claire Barrameda of Watchung, and Seniors Nicholas Di Paolo and Jordan Gittleman of Warren Township are among the hundreds of students who have made extra-curricular activities important parts of their success at Watchung Hills. One of the positives about Watchung Hills mentioned by parents at the "Coffee with the Superintendent" session on Thursday, April 2, were the many student clubs, activities, community awareness efforts, and non-athletic teams, such as the Math teams and the Robotics Team. They provide smaller "niche" identities with which students can make the school's enrollment size seem smaller and more manageable, parents said. Likewise, teacher interest, field trips and curriculum-supporting extra-curricular activities were mentioned by parents as helping to augment and broaden understanding of classroom learning.



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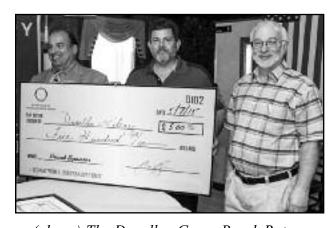
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DUNELLEN-GREEN BROOK ROTARY CLUB



(above) The Dunellen Green Brook Rotary
Club President Joe Spera (center) and William
Robins (right) recently presented Samuel
Latini, Dunellen Library Director with a
donation for the library. The donation will help
fund an area in the library that provides
secondary education materials, along with
other library needs.



(above, l-r): Sam Latini and Club President Joseph Spera, displaying the award. The Dunellen Greenbrook Rotary Club received the Care and Share Award this year from the district for providing hot chocolate, donuts, and funding for the Holiday tree lighting at Washington Park.

AN ANNIVERSARY TO BE REMEMBERED

Submitted by Jim Koch, Green Brook Cultural Heritage & Historical Committee

Well we have about reached summer and the warmer weather. It is also the 238th anniversary of the day that General George Washington first encountered Washington Rock. He was led to that place up upon the mountain where he could watch the movements of the British forces upon the Plains below.

It was a rather warm June 13th day when General George wandered into the farmyard of Jonah Vail at what is known today as 288 Greenbrook Road. George that morning had moved his 8,398 soldiers to the south side of the First Watchung Mountain to observe the substantially superior forces commanded by General Howe of the British, camped around New Brunswick.

Edward FitzRandolph had guided the General up to the location we all now know as Washington Rock. The Rock would be utilized as a lookout point from June 13th of 1777 until July 2, 1777 when Washington moved his forces again to protect our Capitol of Philadelphia.

EAT MEET CONNECT NETWORKING EVENT

Submitted by Mr. Armand Lamberti

On Thursday, May 14, the Green Brook Education and Athletic Foundation (GBEAF) held the first in what may become an annual or possibly semi-annual Food Tasting and Over one-hundred Networking Event. professionals from central New Jersey converged on the Green Brook Middle School from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in order to make connections and sample foods in an "EAT. MEET. CONNECT" format. Seven food vendors provided samples: Olive Garden, Buffalo Wild Wings, Moe's, Ashia Oriental Restaurant, Aida's Asian Cuisine, Tim Kerwin's, and Malaysian Kitchen USA. Additional businesses such as Sarizer Motors and Pilates Design Studio in Watchung set up stands and received valuable exposure for their products and services. There were silent auctions and business card drawings as well, with all proceeds benefitting the GBEAF.





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SEVEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED FOR **ALL-STATE SCHOLASTIC MUSIC GROUPS**

By Denis J. Kelly

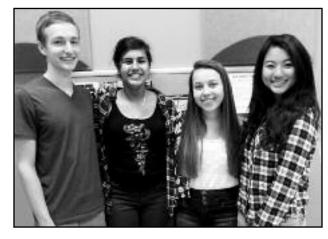
Seven Watchung Hills Regional High School Women's Chorus 2. students, four who sing in choral groups and three who play in instrumental groups, have been selected for All-State scholastic instrumental or choral groups.

Selection for All-State musical groups is highly selective, according to Watchung Hills music teachers, with as many as 1,100 students auditioning for 250 slots in the case of vocal music, and in instrumental music, scores of students statewide auditioning for only a handful or fewer positions for a particular instrument, depending on the instrument.

The Instrumental Music teacher is David Udell. The Vocal Music teacher is Angela DiIorio Bird.

Being selected for choral groups are: Sophomore Veronica Mu of Warren Township, a soprano, who was selected for the New Jersey All-State Mixed Chorus. She was also one of the Top 10 Sopranos in the state and is now eligible for All-Eastern Choir 4, a competitive choir of the top singers from the entire east coast United States; and Junior Ryan Prestera of Long Hill Township, a bass, who was selected for the New Jersey All-State Mixed Chorus 3; and Junior Krishti Bhaumik of Green Brook Township, a soprano, who was selected for the New Jersey All-State Women's Chorus; and Sophomore Allison Horvath of Warren Township, a soprano, who was selected for the New Jersey All-State

The All-State Band performed in February. Performances for All-State orchestra and choral groups will take place next school year.



(above) Four students from Watchung Hills Regional High School have been selected for All-State choral groups. From left, are: Junior Ryan Prestera of Stirling, a bass, who was selected for the New Jersey All-State Mixed Chorus 3; Junior Krishti Bhaumik of Green Brook Township, a soprano, who was selected for the New Jersey All-State Women's Chorus;

Sophomore Allison Horvath of Warren Township, a soprano, who was selected for the New Jersey All-State Women's Chorus 2; and Sophomore Veronica Mu of Warren Township, a soprano, who was selected for the New Jersey

FORMER RESIDENT GRADUATES AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Maria DePasque-Asherman

Former Green Brook resident, Melanie Asherman, graduated from American University, School of Communications, Washington, DC with double honors on May 9th 2015. She earned a BA in Film and Media Arts, cum laude with a 3.77 GPA and completed a University capstone for Honors Communications. Melanie is currently working full time as a Production Designer for the public relations firm, APCO Worldwide, Washington, DC.



(above) Melanie Asherman

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