Green Brook Gazette

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ISSUE 23 • AUGUST 2015

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

3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:30 pm

GREEN BROOK TOWN HALL

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SOMERSET HOME HONORS COMMUNITY LEADERS

Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children (somersethome.org), a nonprofit agency that provides abused, neglected, homeless, and runaway youth throughout New Jersey with housing, a stable environment, and supportive services, recently hosted its 1st Annual Spark! Gala: A Hopeful Future for Youth". The event, which was held at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park, raised more than \$60,000 to support Somerset Home's programs and services including temporary housing, arts and recreation, combatting human trafficking, counseling, life skills training, and more. Since 1970, over 7,000 youth have benefitted from the organization's work.

The evening included a cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner, and an awards ceremony. The 2015 Spark! honorees included: Ethicon, part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Corporate Partners); Raymond Fantuzzi, Jr. (Community Leader); the Renaissance at Raritan Valley Women's Club (Community Partner); and Dr. Gregory Hirsch and Joy Mathiowdis (Dedicated Volunteers). Two of the agency's former residents served as keynote speakers and gave powerful accounts of how Somerset Home made a difference in their lives. The Lisa A. Warren Scholarship was awarded to a Somerset Home client who will be continuing his education. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. was the Gold Sponsor and Old Republic Construction Program Group was the Bronze Sponsor for the Gala.

"Our very first Spark! Gala was a tremendous success", said David Walker, executive director of Somerset Home and a Green Brook resident. "The inaugural event recognized individuals, companies, and organizations who have given their time and support to continue our organization's mission. Money raised will help us continue to be at the forefront of issues such as youth aging out and human trafficking that impact vulnerable youth each day. Congratulations to our outstanding gala planning committee on a job well done and thank you to our friends, supporters, and the greater community for helping us provide brighter futures for youth.



(above l-r) Stephanie Durant (Gala co-chair), Dr. Gregory Hirsch (Gala honoree), Joel Brown (Gala co-chair), Claire Calandra (board president), and David Walker (executive director).



(above) David Walker, executive director of Somerset Home and Green Brook resident.

ABOUT SOMERSET HOME

Somerset Home, incorporated in 1970, is dedicated to meeting the needs of abused and neglected youth. The agency provides seven programs for adolescents and their families: Brahma House crisis intervention center; Passages, My Place and Whitney House transitional-living programs; Pathways independent-living skills program; Street Smart street outreach; and Bridge House supportive housing for homeless young adults.

Somerset Home's residential programs and one of the Street Smart street outreach offices are located in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Satellite offices in East Orange, Hackensack and Morristown provide street outreach services to six northern and central New Jersey counties (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, and Union). Visit online at somersethome.org.

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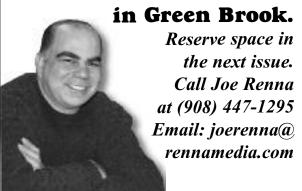
Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

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AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

Grandparent and Me Day

Monday, August 3 - 10:30 am

Spend time with your great-grand or grand children, aged 5-18, playing some competitive Minute To Win It Games. After the fun is over, we will enjoy fresh grilled burgers, beef and vegetarian, and hot dogs. Preregistration is required by Wednesday, July 29.

Warrenbrook Book Club

Tuesday, August 4 - 1:30-3:00 pm

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," - Join the Warrenbrook Book Club to discuss The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon. Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

Nutrition Bingo

Friday, August 7 - 10:30 am

Join Surbhi Girdhar, from Somerset Valley Rehabilitation Center for a nutritionally educational game of Bingo.

Lunch & a Movie:

Monday, August 10 - 10:30 am

"The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," Maggie Smith continues her serial scene-stealing in this strident, over-plotty sequel to the 2012 hit about a group of aging British ex-pats who move into a charming Jaipur inn to reinvent their golden years. The "Second Best" installment finds Smith's character, Mrs. Donnelly, and her Marigold co-manager Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel), on a quest to find corporate underwriting for their next adventure in elder-hostelry. Will Magda (Celia Imrie) finally settle down with one of her two affluent, affectionate suitors? Will Norman and Carol (Ronald Pickup and Diana Hardcastle) finally get the hang of monogamy? Will Doug (Bill Nighly) and Evelyn (Judi Dench) stop hemming and having and hook up already? This fine ensemble of actors enlivens even those low stakes with honesty, vulnerability and welcome doses of sex appeal- which also goes for newcomer Richard Gere, who exudes easy, spontaneous warmth as a last-minute Marigold guest.

FREE Bone Density Health Screenings

Wednesday, August 12 – 10:15 am with Tara Gunther, BSN, RN, BC, Saint Peter's University Hospital Community Mobile Health Services, - Please call (908) 753-9440 to schedule your FREE 10minute appointment.

"From Shakespeare to Sunset Boulevard: History of Broadway Musical"

Monday, August 17 – 10:30 am

by Dr. Robert Butts, Montclair State University, Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey, - While history books date the beginning of the Broadway musical sometime around

1900, the roots of musical theatre can be traced to Shakespearean times through ballad operas, musical plays and the operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan. New York in the early 20th century became the center for American Musical Theatre with the work of George M. Cohan, Florenz Ziegfeld, Irving Berlin and the legendary stars of the stage. The early musical was a mix of story, character, dance, comedy and some with some landmarks shows that pointed the way to the contemporary stylerealized in full by Rodgers and Hammerstein with Oklahoma, a show that launched what is called the Golden Age of the Musical. Following the turbulent times of the 1960's, the musical went into a period of decline, but was quickly brought back to life with the work of Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Weber and has remained one of the major forms of creative entertainment.

PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT THE SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER IN BASKING RIDGE

Art 4 All Workshop:

Friday, August 21 - 10:30 am

Creating an Amphora Vase with Mixed Media by Barbara Gerson, Art 4 All,- Today we will take a special trip to the Senior Wellness Center for an exciting Art 4 All Program. Using elliptical perspective, we will create an amphora vase (one with two handles and a band of decorative design or story) using both pastels and markers. To complete, we will create painted 3D flowers to fill our vase with color and dimension. Seating is limited. Reservations are required by August 14.

"Medicare and Medications Made Affordable" Monday, August 24 – 10:30 am

by Laurie Roome, Eldercare Educator, Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services. Are you finding it difficult to pay for your prescriptions, healthcare insurance premiums and co-pays? If so, this program is for you! Learn the basics of Medicare and how you can get the most out of your Medicare dollars. Discover the best options for you and cost-saving programs for which you may be eligible.

Medicare & Enrollment Event

Friday, August 28 - 10:00 am

with Laurie Roome, Eldercare Educator, Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services. Laurie will be available to answer any of your questions and assist you in filling out applications for the programs for which you may qualify. Call (908) 753-9440 to schedule your personal appointment.

"That Sousa Sound"Monday,

August 31 - 10:30 am

by George Marriner Maull, Artistic Director of the Discovery Orchestra. Explore John Phillip Sousa's famous, distinctly American-sounding march, "Thunder March." Join us as we go through the blueprint of this famous drum and bugle piece.





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WATCHUNG HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL'S 58TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Some 555 students from Warren Township, Watchung, Long Hill Township and Green Brook Township received diplomas on Wednesday morning, June 24, at the 58th Annual Commencement at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Under bright sunny skies, and with temperatures in the high 80s, family and friends filled the stands of Tozier Stadium to witness the graduates, with the girls dressed in white gowns and boys in gold, process in under a canopy of brown and gold balloons, the school's colors,



to occupy seats on the football field. They walked behind school administrators, board of education members and faculty members, many of who wore gowns bearing academic colors earned from their own college and post-graduate graduations.

The school's Concert Band, under the direction of Music teacher David Udell, who, himself, is retiring this year, played "Pomp & Circumstance." The Senior Choral Group, under the direction of Music teacher Angela DiIorio Bird, herself a graduate of Watchung Hills, sang the National Anthem.

commencement, all fondly remembering their time at Watchung Hills, and encouraging their fellow graduates to seek and conquer new challenges, be leaders, and never forget their home, Watchung Hills. The student speakers were: Joseph Pecoraro, the president of the All Student Council, who also led the Salute to the Flag; Katherine Schechter, president of the Class of 2015; Joseph Da, who presented the Salutatory address; and Christina Liao, who presented the Valedictory address.

Also speaking at the graduation were: Principal George Alexis; Superintendent Elizabeth Jewett; and Watchung Hills Regional High School Vice President Dr. Gregory Przybylski. They echoed the sentiments of the student speakers.

"Dream big and aim to do good," said Alexis. "Examine the world with a critical eye and ask the right questions. Be brave and creative, empathetic and kind, authentic and resilient. As you become our newest alumni, the world and your place in it changes inevitably. The river continues to flow, but one constant remains: This is your school and you have a home at Watchung Hills."

Jewett reminded all who gathered on graduation day that the day also belongs to the parents, family and teachers who have contributed to the individual and collective successes of the Class of 2015.

Przybylski recalled how at the very start of Four students made remarks at the school, students learn the basic building blocks, the "ABCs." At their graduation from high school, and now as young adults, he urged the members of the Class of 2015 to still remember their ABCs, which he suggested stand for the building blocks for success: "Advocacy," "Bravery," and "Compassion."

> After the official ceremonies, graduates, families, faculty and school officials lingered on the field and later, met up back in school, to take photos, sign yearbooks, say goodbyes, and head out to family parties.

> Later, many of the graduates attended the annual Project Graduation party at the FunPlex in Mount Laurel, organized by the 2015 Project Graduation Committee. The commencement booklets included the names of some 176 families and nearly 70 businesses and community organizations who had supported the Project Graduation effort.





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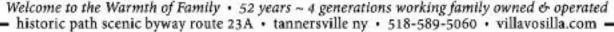














(above, l-r) Darlene Connors, a member of the Green Brook Township Board of Education, greets her daughter, Shannon, after graduation at Watchung Hills Regional High School, Wednesday, June 24.



(above, r-l) Green Brook Township Board of Education member Maria Picirrilli greets her son, Andrew, who graduated after she presented him with his diploma at the Watchung Hills Regional High School graduation.



(above, l-r) Many graduating seniors at the Watchung Hills Regional High School graduation on June 24 decorated their caps with indications of where they plan to attend college. Gabby Salazar of Green Brook Township plans to attend Penn State University, and Maggie Klaas of Green Brook Township who plans to attend James Madison University.



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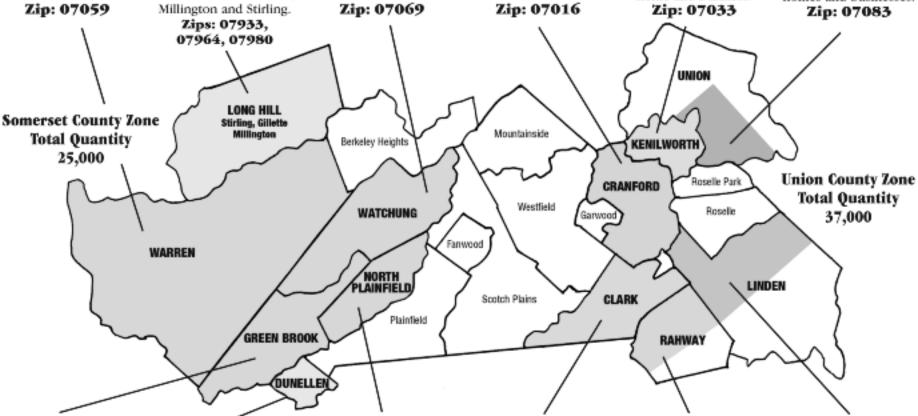
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CUB SCOUTS DO THEIR PART IN KEEPING GREEN BROOK CLEAN

A hallmark of Scouting is community service. Cub Scouts Pack 129 demonstrated this on June 25th by performing a cleanup of the grounds surrounding the Green Brook dog park.

Cub Scouts Pack 129, based in Green Brook, is open to all boys aged 7-10 (grades 1-5). For information about Pack 129 you may visit http://pack129greenbrook.scoutlander.com

(left) Adult leaders and Cub Scouts from Pack 129

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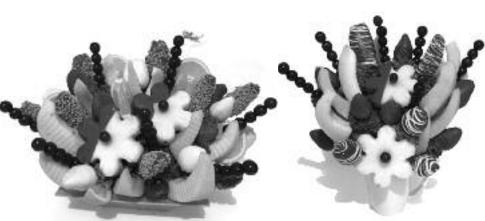
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