

Summit NJ Times

Published by Renna Media

Issue 4 • January 2016

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JANUARY 8, 2016
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THE EVENING THAT SPARC'LED

SPARC'ling Evening of Song Raises Over \$20,000 for Summit Performing Arts

Final numbers have been tallied, and over \$20,000 was raised for the performing arts programs in Summit public schools by SPARC, the Summit Performing Arts Resource Committee, at their 6th Annual SPARC'ling Evening of Song fall fundraiser at the Grand Summit Hotel.

Halloween meets the World Series was the theme of the night, as mask-wearing party guests bid on home-carved pumpkins and broke into a group rendition of Billy Joel's "Piano Man" right about the time that it was played at Citifield for Game 3 of the World Series.

Money raised by the event allows SPARC to help bridge the gap between funds budgeted by the school district and money actually needed for the schools to continue to stage Rising Star and Montclair State University award-winning productions such as Beauty and the Beast, 42nd Street, LCJSMS's five consecutive years of "Outstanding production of a Middle School Play," and Sweeney Todd which engage hundreds of students as cast, crew, and pit members.

SPARC, which is about to celebrate its 20 year anniversary of supporting performing arts in Summit, also promotes public speaking through the Speech and Debate program and TEDx; and dancers through the STEP team. Each year, SPARC recognizes student achievement with student scholarships. SPARC also funds theatrical productions at all five Summit public elementary schools.

This year, \$15,000 raised during the Reverse Auction will go toward the purchase of the rights for the SHS spring musical, "Mary Poppins" and the LCJSMS spring musical, "Hairspray." It will also pay for custom costumes for the Hairspray production.

The show was emceed by Former LCJSMS Principal Matt Block, who is now director of human resources for the district. He engaged the crowd immediately with his version of "SPARC'ling Tonight," based on "Comedy Tonight." "This was the perfect event for so many in Summit to show their support for Summit performing arts," Block said. "The venue was



(above) Master of Ceremonies Matt Block admires a pumpkin hand-carved by Noelle Gray and Stacy Beckett. This one sported an "07901" Summit theme, while others depicted various Broadway musicals. The pumpkins were used as centerpieces and raffled off to raise funds for SPARC.

top-notch, the piano sounded magnificent, and our singers and accompanists helped raise money for such an important cause. I had so much fun, and am thrilled to have been part of such a successful event!"

Special thanks to committee members Noelle Gray and Stacy Beckett who hand-carved over a dozen re-usable pumpkins with Broadway and Summit themes. The pumpkins were used as centerpieces for the tables, and were raffled off to lucky winners at the end of the evening, raising additional money for the SPARC coffers.

Paul Fessock, of World of Rock, donated the sound system services for the evening. Party Makeup for several on the committee was compliments of Privado Hair Design.

SPARC'ling Evening of Song was chaired by Angeli Breen, Chrissy Floegel and Melanie Wilson. Committee members include President Jean Marie Apruzzese, Stephanie Beardsley, Stacy Beckett, Vice-President Diane Carlson, Noelle Gray, Lopa Gupta, Treasurer Jesse Reyes, Fundraising Chair Nellie Stewart, Secretary Lucy Thompson, and Jennifer Vandersteen, as well as the many volunteers who helped throughout the evening.

(Continued on page 6)

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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

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PRIVADO HAIR SALON RELOCATES TO DOWNTOWN SUMMIT

On December 3, Privado Hair Salon celebrated its grand reopening after moving from their prior location on Park Avenue to 5 Beechwood Road in the heart of Summit's business district. Salon owner Miberly Cardenas is excited to become a part of the city's vibrant downtown. "I hope to be able to serve even more customers than before, she says. "Whether it is a commuter coming off the train, or a busy mom looking for a makeover, our full-scale salon will take care of all of their hair and makeup needs."

Privado offers a wide range of services including men's and women's haircuts, color, highlights, keratin, extensions, blowouts and more. In addition, Samantha Paige, who joined the salon's staff last year, is an expert makeup artist (she recently worked on a Miss USA photo shoot) and will perform makeup application for

regular clients, wedding parties, proms, and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

Since opening in 2010, Privado has enjoyed a growing list of loyal patrons from Summit and surrounding towns. Cardenas credits the salon's success to keeping client satisfaction as their number one priority. "Privado provides personalized service at fair prices. The small team of hair care professionals recognizes changes in your hair and determines how to best manage them – and you don't have to say a word," says long-time customer, Tena Lambrianakos.

Privado is open from 9 am to 6 pm Tuesday through Saturday. They will have extended hours on Thursdays until 9 pm. For more information, call (908) 273-2111 or visit the website www.privadohairsalon.com.



(above) Privado Salon owner Miberly Cardenas, along with members of the Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Ellen Dickson, and a team of the salon's hair stylists, celebrate at the ribbon cutting in front of Privado's new downtown Summit location on Beechwood Road.

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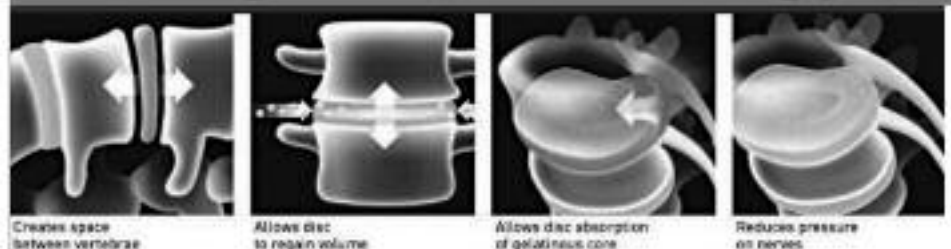
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hours of sleep per night during this time. One or two weeks
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- Kids for Kids Fine Arts Scholarship 2015
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Youth with special needs and those who could use just a little help and encouragement are welcome to now register for several programs being offered again this spring by Mountainside and several neighboring towns and coordinated by TryCAN.

Our experienced coaches and instructors and excited to return to help our youth develop skills that may allow them to pursue a sport or activity further or simply provide them with a meaningful recreation experience. These popular and affordable classes, open to both residents and nonresidents, also use the assistance of trained teen Peer Mentors from local middle and high schools to help participants fully participate in the classes, learn and have fun.

The classes are held at the Summit Community Center, 100 Morris Avenue. For a copy of the fall flyer with program description complete class dates and times, instructor information, pricing and registration information, contact summitcan@gmail.com or call Summit Department of Community Programs at 908-277-2932. You can also stop by the Summit Community Center to pick up a copy of the flyer, register or answer any questions.

TryCAN is a collaboration of several neighboring communities offering an array of recreation programs for children with special



TryCAN's mission is to help provide recreation programs and other services to youth with special needs and their families.

needs or those who need special accommodation. There are no non-resident fees involved and all welcome!

RECREATION CONTACTS

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Michael Butrico , Assistant Director

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(above) SPARC'ling Evening of Song co-chairs Chrissy Floegel, Melanie Wilson, and Angeli Breen don masks for the "Masquerade Party" theme. These three recently also co-chaired the lobby display and educational outreach program for the award-winning production of *Sweeney Todd* at Summit High School. They have already begun preparation for the same for this spring's production of *Mary Poppins*, which began with the recent "Let's Go Fly a Kite," day last month at Wilson Field.

SPARC'LED EVENING (Continued)

For several hours, graduates of Summit High School and current faculty dazzled the musical-loving crowd with Broadway favorites. Performers included:

Melanie Porras, Tim Lynch, Greg Archer, Dan Rufolo, Shabazz Green, Gillian Hassert, Wayne Mallette, Julian Gordon, Lulu Guerrero, Sebastian Madrigal, Keenan Buckley, and Matt McGinn. Piano accompanists included Yoav Efron, Jim Mion, and Julian Gordon.

Donors to the Silent Auction were Quartet Home Décor; Fidelity Title Company; Lorenz Fine Photography; Insiders Network to College; Charleston Shoe of Summit; LCJSMS Drama Club; Lucy Thompson; Fiorino Ristorante, SHS Drama Club; Jim Gordon; Hilltop Tutoring Center; Virginia Liberato, CWI.Design; Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre; Diane Gallo; PianoPiano; Momentum Cycling and Fitness; Strand Tennis; the Bar Method; Blank Rome, Jorge and Sons; Jodie Pelinsky; Peace and Paradise Jewelry; DVB NYC Laurel Elliott; Privado Hair Salon; Nancy Gorman; Hair Salon Body & Soul, the following families: Beckett, Jilla, Martin, Apruzzese, Mion, Cleaves,

Summers, Gray, and Gupta.

Advertisers in the evening's program were Virginia Liberato, CWI.Design; Hilltop Tutoring Center; Lois Schneider Realtor; Lucy Thompson, Keller Williams Realty; Mayor Ellen Dickson, Momentum Cycling & Fitness Studio; Mondo; Mondo; NYR Organic; Quartet Home Décor & More; Nora Radest for Mayor; Glisel Jimenez, State Farm; The Connection for Women and Families; and World of Rock.

Local realtor Lucy Thompson of Keller Williams Realty placed an ad in the program and donated to one of the silent auction basket items. Additionally, as SPARC board secretary, she was a volunteer for the event. "It is so important to support SPARC," she said. "SPARC makes a difference to the performing arts programs in all seven Summit public schools, not just the high school and middle school. SPARC enables a well-rounded arts education for all of our students."

For more information on SPARC, to get more involved, or to make a donation, visit www.SPARCsummit.org or contact Jean Marie Apruzzese at jmapruzzese@draadvisors.com.

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John Lucich is the HTC Academy Director and has been performing computer forensics for over 24 years. John is a retired state law enforcement officer from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, Organized Crime & Racketeering Bureau and a 14 year cyber crimes instructor at Sea Girt, NJ for the State Attorney General's Academy. John is also a technical expert for Fox News and CNN news networks and has made numerous TV appearances over the past seven years. He is currently the CEO & forensic lab director for eForensix, a computer forensic consulting company who has been engaged in notable cases throughout the United States.



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(above) One of the evening's highlights was the sing-along to "Piano Man," when party goers accompanied the talent to the Billy Joel classic just about the time it was sang at Citifield for the Mets vs. Kansas City Game 3. Jim Mion, one of the piano accompanists for the evening, also played the harmonica for this fun tune.

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CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SHARES THE LOVE AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas just became a lot brighter for 75 children living in a shelter in the Bronx, thanks to the youth of the Central Presbyterian Church in Summit.

The youth – all middle and high school students – reviewed gift requests from children in need and called on the Congregation to help make the Christmas wishes of those children come true through the church's Sharing Tree project. The Summit-area students publicized their effort, made ornaments with gifts requests for the congregation to fulfill, and conducted shopping trips using their own money to buy gifts, which they wrapped and readied for distribution.

Thanks to their hard work and Christmas spirit,

more than 250 gifts and grocery cards went to the Bronx shelter children and other people in need.

"We are blessed to have so many great young people here at Central Church who care about the community and each other. Youth at Central Church have a long tradition of caring for the community as an expression of their faith and their values," says Rev. Deborah Huggins, Associate Pastor at Central Church.

Central Presbyterian Church, located in Summit, NJ, has a long-standing tradition of Sharing Trees. Each year at Christmas, a truckload of gifts is sent to the Sarah Burke House, a high-security shelter for women and their children, and another to Central's sister church, Nuevas Fronteras (an outreach of the

Presbyterian Church of Plainfield), which serves many families on the edge of poverty. The remainder of the gifts is distributed to Summit families in need of help this Christmas due to illness and difficult circumstances.

Central Presbyterian Church, located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ, offers regular worship services on Sundays at 8:30 in the Chapel, 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and a non-traditional service, WAVE, at 11:15 a.m. in the Auditorium. Free Sunday child care is available from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4:00 (Family Worship with Christmas Pageant), 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight services. Learn more about Central at www.centralpres.org, or call 908.273.0441.



(above) Middle Schoolers from Central Church in Summit, NJ shop for Christmas gifts for children spending the holidays in shelters.

photo by: Central Church



(right) Central Church's Sharing Tree is now empty of gift-request ornaments, thanks to the efforts of the church's teenagers. More than 250 gifts were collected for those in need this holiday season. (photo credit: Central Church)

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ALEX & ANI IN WESTFIELD 'CHARMS' UNION COUNTY FOSTER KIDS

An unexpected collaboration may just rescue throngs of spouses and significant others from what-to-give-my-love woes this Valentine's Day. Breathe easy, folks: CASA of Union County and jeweler Alex & Ani in Westfield have a way for you to woo — and help foster children in your own community at the same time. If that doesn't score bonus points with your one-and-only, what will?

CASA of Union County, a non-profit that recruits, trains, supervises and supports community members to advocate for abused, neglected or abandoned children in foster care, will receive 15 percent of sales between 6 and 8 p.m. Monday, February 1, 2016, at a "Charmed by Charity" soiree in the popular jeweler's Westfield shop at 200 East Broad Street. Shoppers enjoy light refreshments and Alex & Ani's (+) energy punch, while CASA staffers on hand can offer more about the CASA experience and the need in our own community.

Known for its made-in-the-USA, stackable bangle bracelets with meaningful charms,



customers are encouraged to bring friends and loved ones along, and each find just the right combination of sentimental arm candy to gift to loved ones, teachers and graduates in June, birthdays and anniversaries anytime or, of course, simply keep and enjoy themselves. (Shhh. We won't tell.)

There are nearly 600 Union County children in foster care through no fault of their own, and each has a case pending in family court in Elizabeth. After completion of 30 hours of training in Westfield, CASAs are sworn in by a

Union County judge and empowered by court order to speak to all parties in the child's life - foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more. CASAs meet with their foster youth regularly and participate in quarterly court hearings to ensure the youth's needs are met and their best interests remain priority.

CASA currently has volunteers to serve just approximately one-quarter of the county's foster youth; its goal is to provide one advocate for every foster child. There are myriad ways to help make that a reality, and bringing friends, family and colleagues to shop the Alex & Ani event is an easy way, as all proceeds go toward funding trainings for members of the community to become sworn advocates and the voice for a foster child.

For event information, contact Gretchen at (908) 527-7047 or gboger@casaoofunioncounty.org. For details on becoming a CASA, contact Lisa at lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org or (908) 527-7048.

ADVOCATES NEEDED FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Each year, nearly 23,000 youth age out nationally; 450 right here in New Jersey. Data shows these kids often lack the necessary skills to live independently, resulting in 40 percent being homeless, 55 percent unemployed, 1 in 4 suffering with post-traumatic stress, 60 percent arrested and 71 percent experiencing unplanned pregnancies. These youth are twice as likely than non-foster kids to not earn a high school diploma or GED, and 25 percent earn a two- or four-year degree by the age of 24.

Will you be the voice for one of the nearly 600 Union County youth, ages 0-21, in foster care through no fault of their own? CASAs are sworn in by a judge and court-empowered to speak to all parties: foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more.

Join CASA's next training class, which kicks off Tuesday, March 1, 2016. CASA advocates for youth age 0-21. Those interested in working with youth 14-21 also undergo specialized Fostering Futures training, designed to equip volunteers with tools to guide teens toward a successful future on their own.

Learn more at information sessions in Westfield or Elizabeth:
6 p.m. Wednesdays,
Jan. 13, Jan. 25, Feb. 9, and Feb. 22
at the County Clerk's Building,
300 North Avenue East, in Westfield;
and 10 a.m. Fridays,
Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26
at the CASA office,
1143-45 E. Jersey St., 2nd Floor, in Elizabeth.
Contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org to RSVP for any information session, for the March 2016 training schedule, or any questions on CASA and claiming a seat in the next class!

3rd Annual

2016 White Castle



Munsee District

Boy Scout Chess Tournament

Saturday, February 27, 2016

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Sign-in/setup starts at 9:00 am

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COME LAUGH WITH PURPOSE AT SAGE

Beginning Thursday, January 7, 2016 from 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm, SAGE Eldercare will host Pradeep Nair, Laughter Consultant at HomeWell Senior Home Care of Morris County, for monthly programs on "Laughter Yoga." The sessions will take place on the first Thursday of each month.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the health benefits of laughter include short-term and long-term benefits, such as stress relief, immune system improvement, and pain alleviation. Laughter yoga, which has gained recent popularity, is a combination of deep yogic breathing and unconditional laughter that increases the oxygen and energy levels for participants.

"These sessions are bound to be fun and beneficial to attendees and you can attend them each month or whenever it suits your schedule," noted Stephanie Kresch, Director of Community Relations at SAGE Eldercare. "Mr. Nair was at

SAGE's adult day program and at an evening session earlier this year and the participants really enjoyed the class and the many benefits of this unique exercise, which elevates mood, improves health, gives you more energy, and builds a positive attitude."

Pradeep Nair has been doing research on happiness for the past fifteen years. Based on his research, he conducts activities and programs for older adults on the topics of laughter yoga and therapy, chair-based energization yoga, and brain yoga. He is the owner of HomeWell Senior Care in Parsippany, which provides home care services in Morris, Somerset, and Union Counties.

To register for the January 7 program on "Laughter Yoga," please call 908.598.5548 or email education@sageeldercare.org.

The monthly events, which are free and open to the public, will be held at 290 Broad Street, Summit, NJ.



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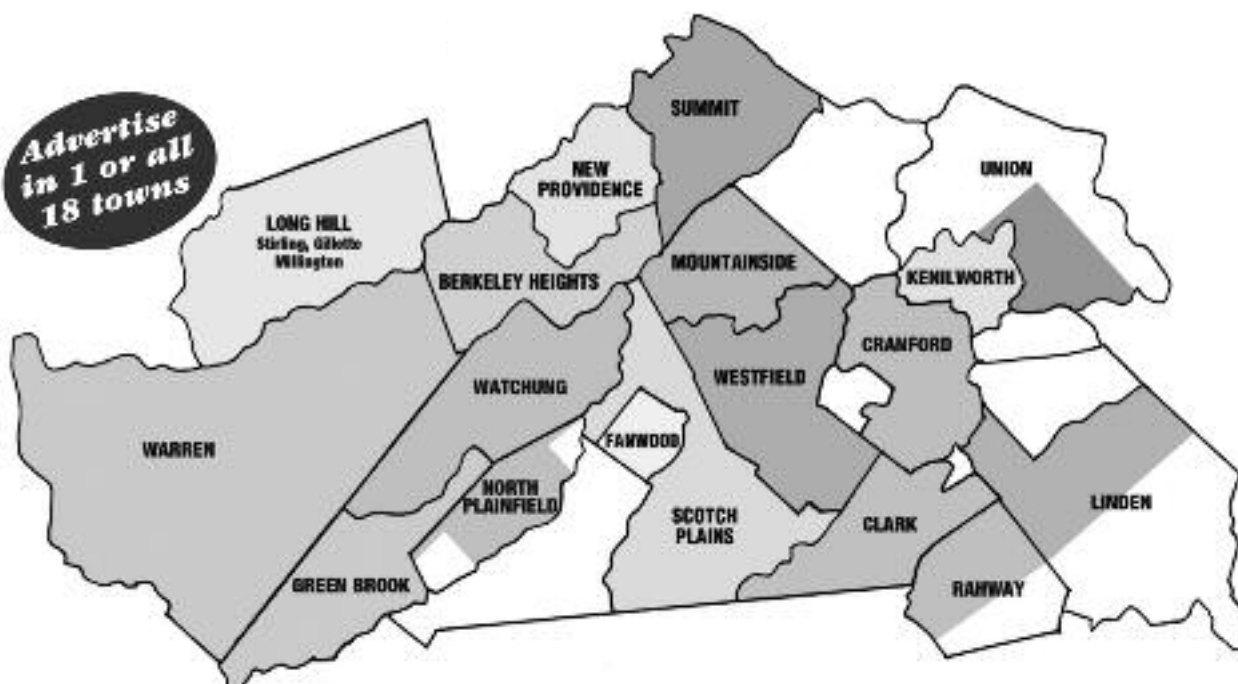
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SUBURBAN CHAMBER HOLIDAY NETWORKING PARTY INTRODUCES NEW OFFICERS

On Wednesday, December 16, The Suburban Chamber of Commerce directors along with their hosts, Rachel and Gary Kapner of Creative Wallcoverings & Interiors (CW&I), ended the year with a Holiday Party which was held at CW&I's 560 Central Avenue location in New Providence.

Attending this networking event were members and guests of the Chamber who enjoyed a night of delicious food and entertainment. A holiday spirit filled the air and attendees found it to be a perfect time to enjoy each other's company and just have fun.

During the evening, the Suburban Chamber of Commerce elected its 2016 Board of Directors and Officers. Outgoing Chair Kassandra Romas thanked the 2015 Directors and Officers for their service and the Chamber membership for their support. She discussed a series of accomplishments in 2015 including, among others, holding a service auction that raised funds

for the Chamber and the Summit Elks and rewriting the Chamber bylaws. She also introduced incoming Chair Michael Shapiro.

Shapiro, Founder and CEO of TAPinto.net, said he is looking forward to working with the 2016 Board and Officers and thanked Romas for her service. He recognized the incoming Vice-Chairs: Marcella Gencarelli of Peapack Gladstone Bank, representing Summit; Patricia Swan of Lantern Hill, representing New Providence; and Dr. Patrick Smith of Smith Chiropractic, representing Berkeley Heights. He also discussed his goals for the Chamber in 2016, including improving communication to members and to the public; strengthening relationships with the local governments in the three towns as well as with Summit Downtown Inc. and the New Providence Business & Professional Association; and making enhancements to the Chamber's First Friday events and its other networking events.



(above, l-r) Outgoing Board Chair, Kassandra Romas accepts plaque of appreciation from Incoming Board Chair, Michael Shapiro.



(above, l-r) Gary and Rachel Kapner of CW&I Creative Wallcoverings & Interiors hosted the Chamber Holiday Event.



Photos of this and other events can be found at www.rennamedia.com and on the Summit Times Facebook page. Feel free to "Like", "Tag", and "Share".

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The Suburban Chamber Of Commerce Foundation and The Summit Elks Lodge #1246 Are Teaming Up Once Again To Present

THE 2016 SUPERAUCTION SATURDAY

Saturday, February 6, 2016.

The purpose of the event is to raise funds for the scholarship program of the Elks Lodge and the Chamber Foundation, as well as the Chamber's Vest-A-Cop project.

Our scholarships have been provided to students in Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights since 1979, and the Vest-A-Cop project has provided the first bullet proof vest for each new officer in our three service communities of Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights since 1982.

This event cannot be a success without the support of our members.

Please consider a donation for the auction. We are looking for merchandise, services, event tickets, collectables, getaways...anything you think could raise funds at our event!

We hope you can also join us on the 6th and come ready to bid and support our community! Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased at suburbanchambers.org.

Last year, we were able to raise nearly \$10,000, this year we hope to double that!. With your help we can do this!



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