

Berkeley Heights

COMMUNITY NEWS NJ

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**THE FEAST OF
OUR LADY OF
MT. CARMEL**

JULY 13-16, 2016

6 p.m. – 11 p.m.

More details on
page 8

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BERKELEY HEIGHTS REDEDICATION CEREMONY

By: *Edir Coronado*

A dreary weather forecast, full of thunder and rain predictions forced Berkeley Heights Township to reschedule the unveiling and re-dedication of Veterans Memorial Park, organized by the Berkeley Heights Memorial Park Renewal Committee, from Memorial Day to June 4th. The feeling of patriotism and pride still lingered as members of the community gathered for this special occasion to pay tribute to fallen veterans.

The ceremony began with Berkeley Heights Troop 368 leading the crowd with the pledge of allegiance. Then Dennis Ryan, the Memorial Day Parade Chairman, got the crowd involved in singing the Nation Anthem.

The renewal ceremony was sponsored by the Berkeley Heights VFW post 6259 and as Ryan introduced this year’s Grand Marshal a somber tone emerged. CPL Vito Mondelli Junior, born and raised in Berkeley Heights, trained in Camp Legune, served in Japan, had passed away after he was given the honor of Grand Marshall. CPL Mondelli battled for the new renewal project and never had a chance to see the new monument, but was comforted by his friend’s assurance that the project would be completed. To accept the honor on his behalf was Trent Fettes, last year’s Grand Marshal.

Afterwards the names of all active duty member’ were read outloud for all to hear and recognize. Joe Plolincki , father of Matthew Plolincki, active duty service member currently on deployment, was then called up to unveil the newest memorial.

Keeping with the flow of honoring veterans and service members of those who passed away and are currently serving, the Westminster Presbyterian Church presented the Quilt of Valor to Retired Chief Butler, 96, of the United States Navy.

The ceremony continued with the committee reading the names of



(above) Members of the Hickory Tree Chorus Sweet Adelines International sang ‘This is my Country’ and ‘God Bless America’.

Berkeley heights residents who passed away during WWII and members of the VFW Post 6259 who died during the last year. The ceremonial Wreath placement then commenced, led by post 6259.

The event gathered a large amount of people, who the committee acknowledged and were grateful for, both for their attendance at the ceremony and the contributions made towards the memorial. The revamping of Veteran’s Memorial Park was truly a community effort, with the town Rotary Club donating monies, to the high school and middle school students raising awareness. Senator Menendez donated a flag, which was flown over the White House, and was hoisted at the Park during the ceremony.

The Ceremony ended with members of the Hickory Tree Chorus Sweet Adelines International singing ‘This is my Country’ and ‘God Bless America’.



(above) During the ceremony the names were read of Berkeley Heights residents who passed away during WWII and members of the VFW Post 6259 who died during past last year.

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4TH ANNUAL BIKERS FOR BROOKE RIDE

By: Edir Coronado

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On June 12, 2016 hundreds of bikers gathered at the New Providence Community Pool parking lot, to register and cruise through town and the surrounding communities. These biker enthusiasts revved up their engines and toured through each town, escorted by the Blue Knights NJ VIII Honor Guard for the Bikers for Brooke Ride. This annual event was founded four years ago by the Brooke Healey foundation in memory of Brooke Healey, who was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma(DIPG).

The bike ride lasted just over 2 hours and ended at the Mount Carmel Hall in Berkeley Heights, NJ, where catered BBQ, live Music, and games were available. The BBQ acts as a fundraising tool. According to staff at the Brooke Healey Foundation, the annual event would not be possible without the Mount Carmel Society.

According to the Brooke Healey foundation "DIPG is an inoperable, very aggressive tumor in the middle of the brain stem." Brooke sadly passed away on January 14, 2013, from DIPG.

Part of the Brooke Healey Foundation's mission is to raise awareness, and this event accomplished its goal and in addition, raised

much needed funds for research and assistance to families in need, dealing with DIPG. Since its conception The Brooke Healey Foundation has raised over \$600,000 and as a member of the DIPG collaborative, "a collection of foundations with the common interest of inspiring research into the cure of DIPG with the belief that through a cure for DIPG, significant advances in other cancer research will be made," according to the DIPG.org, The Brooke Healey Foundation has influence where the money is allocated in terms of research.

While the Brooke Healey Foundation started locally and is based out of New Providence it now has, through the DIPG Collaborative, a national reach.z

The foundation holds 3 major fundraising events annually. Their next event is a golf outing to be held at New Jersey National Golf Club on August 22nd, 2016.

While the Brooke Healey Foundation has gained major grounds raising funds and awareness for DIPG research, they believe their work will not be completed until they've accomplish their ultimate goal, a cure for DIPG.



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BERKELEY HEIGHTS 13TH ANNUAL RUBBER DUCKY RACE AND FESTIVAL

On a weather-perfect Saturday afternoon, thousands of "adopted" rubber duckies raced breathlessly down the Passaic River for prizes on June 11th, as the Berkeley Heights Rotary Club celebrated their 13th Annual Rubber Ducky Race & Festival at the Passaic River Park in Berkeley Heights.

Drawing a crowd of over a thousand spectators and participants, this event has become an annual mainstay for Berkeley Heights and neighboring

townships. Admission, as always, was free. In addition to the famous race, guests enjoyed displays and booths from commercial exhibitors including the Chimney Rock Inn, eMedical Urgent Care, Master Kim's Talium Taekwondo, Power Home Remodeling, and Tri-State Improvements/Gutter Protection Co.

Not-for-profit local groups represented were the Berkeley Heights Library, Volunteer Rescue Squad, and YMCA. Hot pizza and hand-made

sandwiches this year came from Clemente's Pizza. This event also offered a "dunk tank" and games for kids from two to ninety-two. The "bounce house" was donated once again by the Taylor Rental owner and past Rotary Club President, Paul Neuwirth. Music and announcements were provided by teen "DJ Infinite." The Berkeley Heights Fire department brought one of their bigger firefighting trucks, which kids could climb on and "inspect" close-up. The BH Police Department provided personal on-site safety.

This event directly benefitted Berkeley Heights Boy Scout Troops 68 and 368, and Cub Scout Pack 368; Millington Troop 56, New Providence Senior Citizens, and the Suburban Chambers of Commerce. Net funds generated by this event are also used by the Berkeley Heights Rotary Club throughout the coming year for the benefit of in-town organizations such as the Volunteer Rescue Squad, Police Department, and the Memorial Park Renewal Committee. Funds from this event also underwrite the scholarships the Rotary Club gives to graduating Governor Livingston High School students, the Berkeley Heights Educational Foundation, and student dictionaries for every Berkeley Heights third-grader. The Rotary Club also contributes directly to community service projects undertaken by local Scouts in their quest for Eagle Scout—the nationally recognized highest rank in Boy Scouting.

Top prize for the fastest duck this year was a Weber Spirit gas grill. Other top prizes included gift cards to Delicious Heights Restaurant, Trap Rock Restaurant, and the Chimney Rock Inn.



(above) Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Berkeley Heights Community News page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share".



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Ten dogs found their forever homes at Home for Good Dog Rescue's Grand Re-opening event on June 18th. The celebration welcomed the public to the Berkeley Heights-based non-profit organization's newly renovated retail shoppe and grooming space located at 465 Springfield Ave. in Berkeley Heights, NJ.

"We are very happy with the turnout we received for our rescues today," Public Relations and Social Media Coordinator Matt Holowienka said. "Our dogs deserve loving homes, and we are thrilled to have been a part of those special moments where families and rescues come together for the first time."

That week alone, 25 rescue dogs found homes through Home For Good. Among them, dogs named Minnie, Saranac, Travis, Walt, Jilly, Belle, Rose, Dunkel, Jewels, and Emmett were adopted at the event itself.

"Through the generosity of an anonymous benefactor, we were able to revamp our facility, which now hosts a designated area for adoption 'meet and greets,' in addition to offering professional dog grooming and all the pet essentials you could need for your forever friend," Donation Manager Abbe Fried said.

Attendees at the Grand Re-opening event enjoyed a 10 percent discount on all pet products at the Home for Good retail shoppe and a special discount off their first appointment with the organization's professional groomer, who was onsite from noon onward on June 18 offering dog nail trims.



Visit www.HomeforGoodDogs.org to learn more about the organization's services and upcoming events or to apply for adoption.

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Adults - Budweiser Beer Girls will be present in the Beer Garden with give aways!

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

JULY 13 -16, 2016

FEAST DAY - JULY 16

8:00 am - Processional parade through Berkeley Heights with the statue of the Blessed Mother

The members of the Mt. Carmel Society convene at Little Flower Church, on Plainfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights dressed in their "marching attire" and sashes designating their membership. The Virgin Mary is decorated with beautiful flowers and white ribbons as she's carefully prepared to travel her journey through town. A band providing Italian/American music leads the traditional route through designated areas. Along the way, the band and members stop in the streets to allow those to pay tribute. To honor the Blessed Mother, many will pin money on the white ribbons she adorns. The funds collected during the parade are later removed and donated to the Little Flower Church. In keeping with tradition, each donor is provided with a Mt. Carmel scapular. The travel route is followed each year with designated stops at the homes of previous members. This is done to respect the family, remember loved ones and to honor the tradition. All are welcome to join in the procession and are asked to meet at Little Flower Church on July 16 at 8am est. After the procession, a mass is held at Little Flower Church. After church, for those who participated in the parade, a free picnic lunch for all is held at Peppertown Park on Plainfield

11:00 pm - Fireworks Extravaganza (RAIN OR SHINE).

Fairgrounds open at 6 pm. All parking is off site on July 16. Fireworks are provided by the world famous Garden State Fireworks/Santore Family.

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Online ticket sales end 9pm on 7/16.

All payments are made through paypal.

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CAP has an after school youth program that operates year-round for students 12 to 18-years-old, and provides after school program educational opportunities that are not traditionally taught in schools. These topics include but are not limited to: Aerospace,

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For more information, please contact Ceti Vergara at 908-789-6416, (ceti.vergara@njwg.cap.gov) or Sachin Adbe at 862-345-6736, (sachin.adbe@njwg.cap.gov).



(above l-r) Cadets Young, Vergara, Mena, 1st Lieutenant Adbe, Mrs. Mena, Mr. Mena, and Mr. Young.



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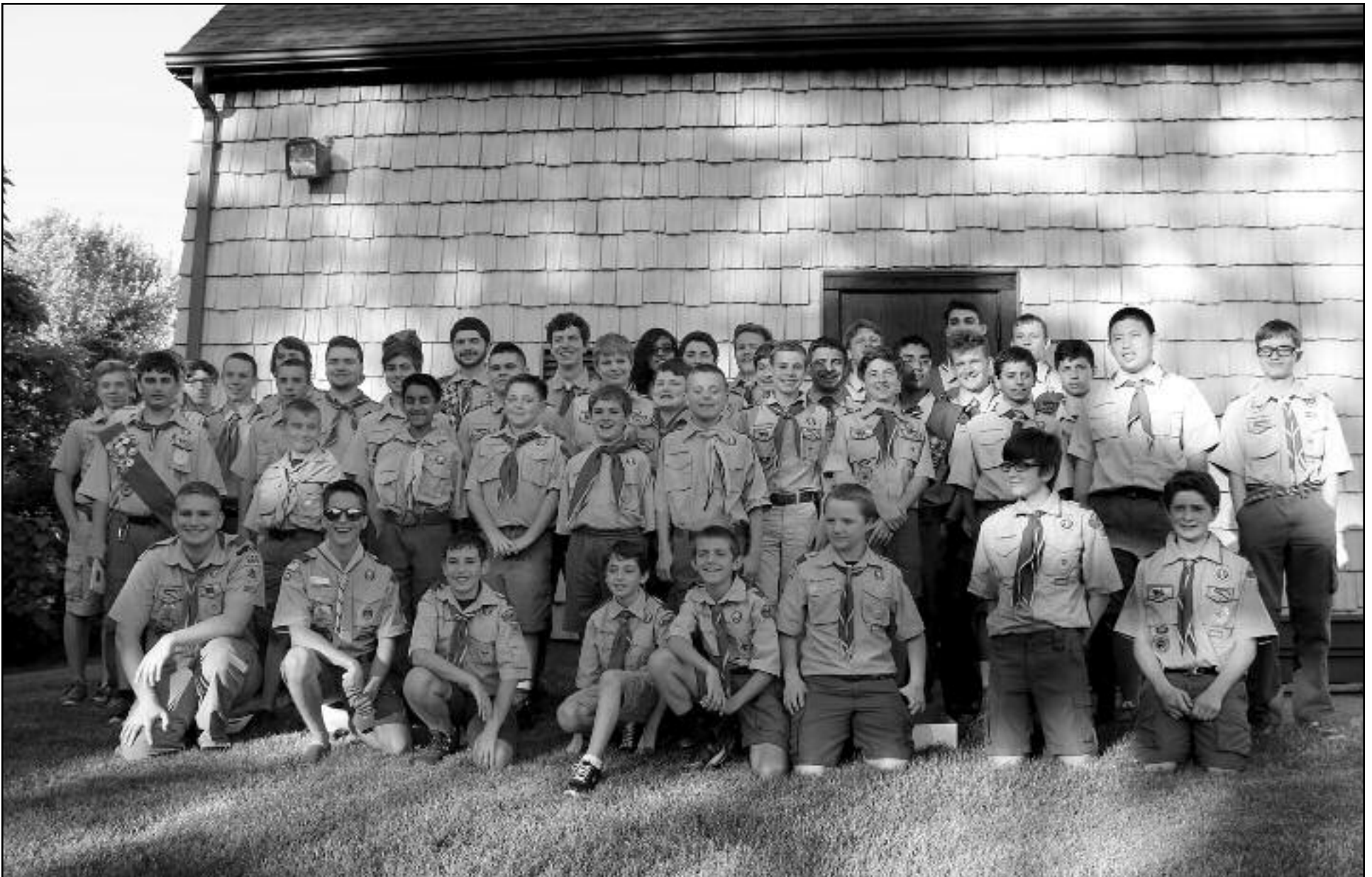
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A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A BOY SCOUT TROOP

By: Vishal Agnihotri

Since its inception one hundred years ago, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has earned a reputation for building character, physical fitness and good citizenship in boys. Few will argue with the importance of teaching values and responsibility to our children - not only right from wrong, but specific, affirmative values such as fairness, courage, honor, and respect for others. Beginning with the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the Boy Scouts of America program is infused with character-building activities that allow youth to apply abstract principles to daily living situations. The Boy Scouts develop future leaders through a variety of programs, such as annual jamborees, community service projects, merit badges and outdoor adventures. This year-round program boasts a long list of prestigious alumni, including United States congressmen, governors, presidents and astronauts.

Young men ages 11 through 17 experience dramatic physical and emotional growth. Scouting offers them opportunities to channel that into outdoor adventures from weekend-long camping trips to summer camp, which the boys themselves plan and carry out. The highlight of the year for more experienced Scouts in Troop 368 is a trip rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon! This trip, voted for by Scouts, has been in preparation for over a year, with Scouts participating in fundraisers to offset the cost of the event, and in taking part in preparatory trips that included hiking, backpacking, and whitewater rafting. High adventure trips like these forge memories to last a lifetime.

Scouting teaches skills that help youth develop into quality citizens. Troop 368 enhanced our local community through 10 community service projects over the last year, giving back over 300 hours of service, including supporting the Rotary Club, feeding the homeless, and helping set up a holiday homeless shelter at the Little Flower Church, as well as helping the YMCA's Mother's Day fundraiser for LIVESTRONG, and the Relay for Life cancer research fundraiser. Outside of this, four Eagle Scouts left a lasting legacy in our community through their Eagle projects: Mark Trella built a number of birdhouses at Snyder Park, Devon McLean repaved the walkway leading to the flagpole at Mountain Park School, and Peter Illis and Andrew Stecher built improvements that supported the theater and music programs at Governor Livingston High School.

Scouting trains leaders by being a boy-led, boy-run organization, and in this way Scouts learn interpersonal and management skills that serve them

well in college and later life. Scouts are also required to expand their physical and intellectual horizons by earning a number of merit badges in topics as diverse as American Business to Woodwork, from Scuba diving to Veterinary Medicine to Plumbing. The 73 Scouts in Troop 368 earned a total of 283 merit badges in the last 12 months. As an example, in order to advance in rank, a Scout must earn the First Aid Merit Badge, in which a Scout learns the prevention, symptoms and initial care for a whole host of conditions, such as dehydration, hypothermia, broken bones, shock, heatstroke and frostbite. He must also explain how to provide medical assistance in a variety of scenarios like being on the open water or a wilderness camping trip, while staying safe himself.

Scouts advance through specific achievement milestones signified by Rank. A fundamental purpose of advancement is the self-confidence a young man acquires from his participation in a troop. Scouts of Troop 368 have achieved 49 rank advancements over the past year, and is proud to see four of its Scouts achieve the coveted Eagle Scout rank this past year.

If you are interested in joining Troop 368, please reach out to the Troop Scoutmaster, Howard Lee at scoutmaster@bhtroop368.com.



(above l-r) Eagle Scouts Andrew Stecher, Mark Trella, Peter Illis, Devon McLean with adult leaders, Thomas Beke and Joe Allegra.

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