

Summit NJ Times

Published by Renna Media

Issue 12 • September 2016

**SUBURBAN
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COMMERCE
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NETWORKING
BREAKFAST**

**OCTOBER 7, 2016
8:00-9:30am**

**THE GRAND SUMMIT
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SEVEN RESIDENTS SWORN IN AS FOSTER CHILD ADVOCATES

Union County Superior Court Judge Daniel R. Lindemann recently administered oaths to 16 Union County residents - among them Vanessa Chivers, Tracy Forsyth, Cynthia Galligan, Bev Luehs, Erica Sack, Ellen Moore and Kristin Sanborn of Summit - to serve as extra eyes and ears for Family Court judges on cases involving abused, neglected or abandoned children currently in foster care. This marks the 30th training class since Court Appointed Special Advocates of Union County began in 2005. A 17th volunteer was sworn in at a later date.

The new CASA volunteers completed 30 hours of training over six weeks. After performing the oath, Judge Lindemann stepped off the bench and thanked each advocate for committing to serve children in need of a voice. A member of the nonprofit's board participated, and each new advocate was provided a commemorative pin and certificate. During a celebratory luncheon that followed, advocates were matched to their new case. Before starting that work, though, they observed court proceedings to see other CASA volunteers in action. Already, most are in the trenches, working their cases and making inroads for their assigned youth.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds and experiences make

successful advocates, and this class is no exception: Ages range from 33 to 80 and include parents, empty-nesters and non-parents; careers include health professionals, school personnel, attorneys and stay-at-home parents. Several experienced abuse in their own childhoods, and one was a CASA years ago who returned to help another child now that her schedule allowed. Most have no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate both in the community and court to ensure their youth's needs are met and time in care is as short as possible. There are 600 Union County children in foster care; CASA of Union County advocates for approximately one-quarter of those and its mission is to provide an advocate for every child that needs one.

The next training class kicks off Sept. 27 in Westfield. For details on that training class, or other ways to help stand up for foster children, contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org.

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(above) Shown with CASA of Union County's Interim Director Lori Morris, far left, is the newest graduating class of volunteer advocates, Team 30. From left are Vanessa Chivers, Summit; Susan Boykin, Scotch Plains; Cynthia Galligan, Summit; Linda Fuller, Berkeley Heights; Delores Perkins, Roselle; Caroline Parker, Elizabeth; Erica Sack, Summit; Sharyn Perlstein, Springfield; Kristin Sanborn, Summit; Anne Koons, Westfield; Nicole DellaVecchia, Cranford; Tracy Forsyth, Summit; Janice Fusaro, Westfield; Lorraine Loza, Kenilworth; and Bev Luehs and Ellen Moore, Summit. Not shown: Tawana Love of Linden, sworn in at a later date.

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WHITMAN TO SPEAK IN SUMMIT

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Editor@rennamedia.com



Christine Todd Whitman, former Governor of New Jersey and current president of the Whitman Strategy Group (WSG), will speak on Friday morning, September 16, in Lile Hall of Christ Church, 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit.

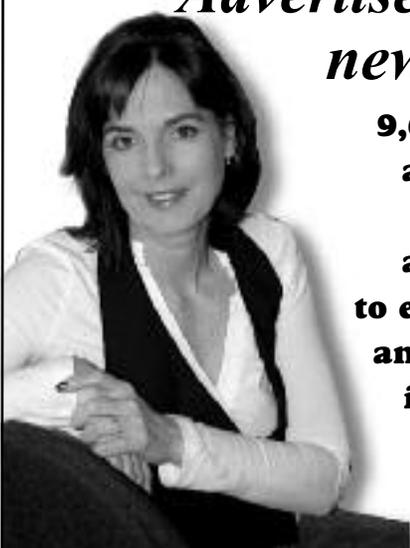
The event, a Book Review Breakfast which is being sponsored by the Summit College Club, will include a continental breakfast and last from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Both the refreshments and talk are free and open to the public. Parking is

available in the nearby St. John's Church parking lot and on the street. No reservations are necessary, but all seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Governor Whitman will discuss her book, *It's My Party, Too: The Battle for the Heart of the GOP and the Future of America*. Governor Whitman's innovative ideas for renewing the Republican Party are perhaps now more relevant than ever.

The Summit College Club is a branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), which promotes equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Since 1936, the Summit College Club has provided over one million dollars in scholarships and fellowships locally and nationally for deserving women.

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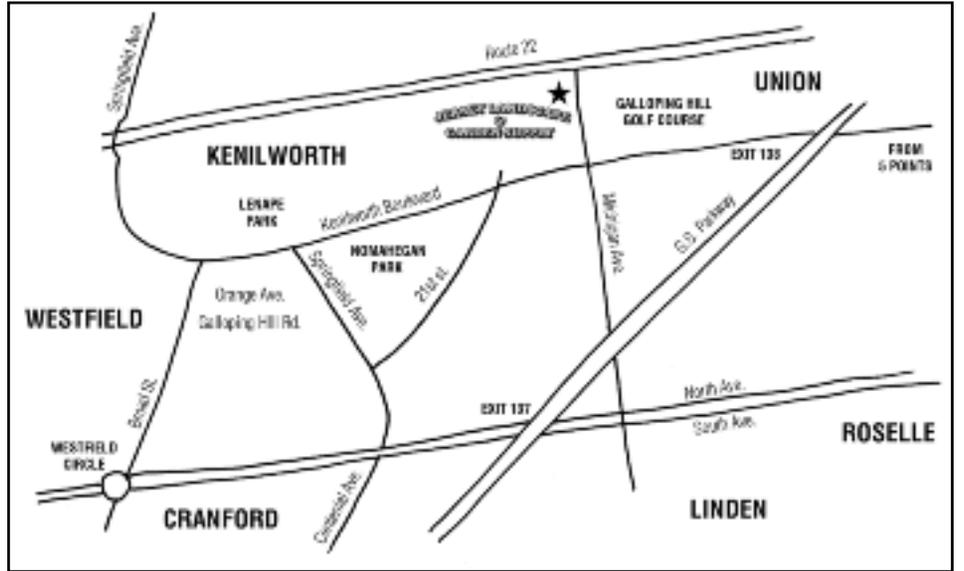
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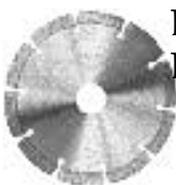


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WHEN IT COMES TO PREVENTING SUICIDE, YOU MATTER!

11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Summit NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale. Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomeinspectiontraps.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 3006. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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This report is courtesy of All Towne Realty Realtor. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2014

September is Suicide Prevention Month. It's a time when organizations, communities and individuals throughout the nation will bring attention to how each of us can be a part of the solution to end suicide. Can you image feeling so hopeless that you'd consider taking your own life? For some what feels unthinkable is optional, and the experience often goes unnoticed and unaddressed. The unfortunate reality is that suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in America; occurs every 12.3 minutes; and, takes the life of approximately 117 individuals on any given day. Those who complete suicide most often suffered in silence and were desperate to end their emotional pain. Experts believe that people don't really want to die, but in a moment choose a permanent solution to solve a temporary problem that felt overwhelming. However, suicide can be prevented and help is available. Therefore, our challenge as a society, neighborhood, family member, friend or concerned individual is to be educated about suicide prevention, and prepared to take action in the event that we find ourselves in the difficult position to assist someone in distress.

It's important to know that we should always take a person serious whenever they suggest they no longer want to live. Also, we must understand that age, ethnicity, gender or economic status does not protect a person from experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviors. It is always right to tell somebody who can partner with you to keep the person safe whether that be a parent, spouse/partner, adult sibling, teacher, doctor or police officer to name a few. Finally, in a crisis immediately call 911 or the National Suicide

Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

There are many opportunities to learn more and equip ourselves with helpful information. A few resources to assist us in our efforts to obtain important knowledge includes: 1) New Jersey Hopeline at 1-855-654-6735 or www.njhopeline.com - includes a live chat option; and, 2) National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org). The list is not exhaustive nor intended to exclude a host of organizations that are invaluable in the effort to prevent suicide. It's simply a beginning step that each of us can take. Suicide prevention is everyone's business. So, speak up, speak out, and speak often because you matter!

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Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm
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POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS BIGGEST NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVER

The Summit Police Department hosted its National Night Out celebration at the Village Green in Summit on Tuesday, August 2nd. The annual community event, held in conjunction with National Night Out events across the country, celebrates law enforcement and the community partnering to build strong relationships of friendship and collaboration.

The Summit Police Department worked closely with other law enforcement agencies, the U.S. military, and community organizations to grow this year's National Night Out into the largest ever held in Summit and to what some officials are calling the biggest in the State of New Jersey.

The evening began with remarks from the City's Chief of Police, Robert K. Weck, and a moving "Blessing of the Badges Ceremony" led by Rev. Greg Davis and the Department's Chaplain, Sgt. Ron Martin. During the ceremony, police officers from Summit, Union County, and Federal agencies, along with the Summit Fire Department and Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad, knelt before the grandstand to pray for strength in continuing their work to keep Summit, the State, and the Country safe.

New to this year's Night Out was a landing of the New Jersey State Police's Aviation Unit helicopter. The chopper made the surprise visit on a landing zone which was specially constructed on the Village Green.

"I am very proud of Summit's National Night Out," said Chief Weck. "Our Department strives to build dynamic relationships with the members of our community and this night highlights the success of those efforts. The growth of our



National Night Out to include State, County, Federal, and Military agencies highlights that the positive influence of our outreach extends even beyond our City's own borders."

Other notable displays featured the U.S. Coast Guard, Army National Guard, FBI, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Union County SWAT Team, Union County Bomb Squad, and NJ Transit Police. A live concert was also performed by Summit's World of Rock Band.

"Dunk a Cop for a Cause" also returned to this year's Night Out. Attendees were able to purchase tickets to "dunk a cop" in a dunk tank to raise money for the Ride-4-Avi Foundation. The charity works to support Avi Akian, a Summit teenager, who is affected by a rare neurodegenerative disease called ataxia-

telangiectasia (A-T).

"I am very grateful to all who helped make this night possible," Chief Weck said, "especially the Mayor and City Administration, the Summit Fire Department, and our Community Policing Unit. Special thanks go to Judith Josephs, David Guida, and their team at the Department of Community Programs who have invested so much time in helping us grow Summit's National Night Out to the hallmark event it has become."

For more information about the Summit Police Department's community outreach initiatives, please visit www.cityofsummit.org, follow the Department on Facebook @summitpd, or on Instagram @summitpd. For scheduling and to contact the Community Policing Unit, call 908-273-0051.

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CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF SUMMIT AWARDS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Three graduating seniors of Summit High School, Ife Campbell, Aila Poticano and Gabriel Ribeiro have been awarded the 2016 Christ Child Society of Summit Scholarship. The Scholarship is awarded to Summit students who have displayed academic achievement, and worked or volunteered with children.

Ife, Aila and Gabriel were chosen from among

twenty-eight applicants because of their dedication to succeed in school, their independent spirit, and their work with children. Ife Campbell will attend the University of New Haven in Connecticut and plans to major in Forensic Psychology/Criminology. Gabriel Ribeiro will attend The College of New Jersey and will major in Biology and Chemistry and Aila Poticano will

attend Rutgers University and will major in Biology/ Kinesiology.

The Summit Chapter of the Christ Child Society is a non-denominational not-for-profit organization and provides aid and supplies to at-risk children in Summit and neighboring towns. The Christ Child Society helps build better communities by partnering with others to serve children and families in need. In addition to the Annual Scholarship, members assemble and deliver layettes (essential bundles of clothing) to newborns at local hospitals, and partners with Bridges Outreach to run an annual school supplies drive that provides essential supplies for elementary, middle and high school children in Summit. The Christ Child Society of Summit is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



(above l-r) Lori White, Christ Child Society Co-President, Maura Perier Christ Child Society Scholarship Committee Chair, Christ Child Society Scholarship Recipients, Ife Campbell, Gabriel Ribeiro and Aila Poticano, Christ Child Society Scholarship Committee members, Leslie Drummond and Allison Lees. Scholarship Committee members not pictured: Bev Luehs and Jackie McCarthy-Browne.

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ATTORNEY SETTLES HOME EXPLOSION LITIGATION FOR \$975,000.00

Berkeley Heights attorney David C. Bendush announced the settlement this week of a lawsuit arising from a home explosion in Hunterdon County in September of 2014. The blast was caused by a contractor who was converting the home of his clients, from oil to natural gas. The clients were in the home with their infant daughter at the time of the explosion and fire. Davis Heating and Cooling had recently installed gas lines inside the home, and the time of the blast was attempting without success to purge the new gas lines. Large amounts of natural gas were caused to accumulate inside the basement until the gas exploded, nearly levelling the structure and knocking the clients to the ground where they stood. Mr. Bendush litigated the liability issues aggressively, and attained the unusual result of summary judgment for plaintiff on liability based on the legal doctrine of res ipsa loquitor. The defense had little choice but to settle quickly and on favorable terms, in order to avoid a trial.

The initial blast lifted the house off the foundation, blew out windows and doors, and started a fire. Although the clients were tossed about by the initial blast, they sustained no serious or lasting physical injuries, other than emotional distress. Other losses claimed included lost time from work, loss of use of their family home, and damage to portions of a comic book collection which had been stored in the basement. Evidence demonstrated that many original rare and valuable comic books and other collectibles were either partially or totally damaged in the fire.

This litigation was also unique because the homeowners insurance carrier asserted a lien of \$715,000.00 for the damages paid out on behalf of the insured (to demolish and rebuild the house, etc.), and that lien was reduced significantly with the carrier receiving \$287,500.00 of the overall settlement, leaving the balance to compensate the homeowners for emotional distress and other losses.

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MANY HELPING HANDS WILL BE INVOLVED IN SUMMIT'S PARK LINE CREATION

By: Edir Coronado

Discussions over the proposed Summit Park Line, a green space that would connect various locations throughout the city by cycling or walking, have been in progress for the past two and a half years. Dr. Robert Rubino, Summit council president and visionary for this project, has been reaching out to the public in order to harness the support needed to get this project off the ground. Dr. Rubino has encouraged discussion of the Park Line at council meetings. Other community outreach opportunities included tables at the Farmer's Market to provide information, and even going door-to-door throughout Summit to bring the information directly to the public.

Dr. Rubino's investment into this project is concentrated; he and his team have done the homework to ensure there are no roadblocks along the way that might hinder the project's progress. The team has met with the city's planning board, the environmental commission, and they have even ventured outside of the city limits to Union County government and Senator Corey Booker to get their input and support. The desired support has been achieved, and the outreach efforts produced letters of support from Senator Thomas Kean and Corey Booker, as well as, energized the county freeholders to pay a visit to Summit to survey the projected area for the Park Line. All of this support is not limited to just public officials, members of the community and elected officials alike seem to be thrilled with the idea of taking unused land around the city and transforming it into green space.

One of Dr. Rubino's main goals with the Park Line is to get people in the city of Summit to be more active outside, which currently is difficult because of the limited access to the county park within the city, Briant Park, and other places such as the Aquatic Center. Professor Charles Brown of Rutgers University performed a study and found that Briant Park was being underused. When Professor Brown and his graduate

students learned of the Park Line project, they agreed with the concept.

The timeline for development of the Park Line is being set in stages to maintain affordability and receive community input as well as donations.

The money being raised for the Park Line is through the use of private donations. Dr. Rubino's plans to first create a rail trail and envisions that over time, as members of the community begin to see the Parkline's development and practicality, more members of the community will make the effort to contribute to its evolution.

As difficult and time consuming as it was to plan, raise funds, and perform community outreach, Dr. Rubino acknowledged that the most problematic hurdle was gaining the license for the access of the land, which was acquired from the state in July.

The first part of the Park Line to be developed, which is in discussion, is creating, approximately, a 2-mile walkway by Overlook Hospital, where the Cardiac Rehab Center is located. Dr. Rubino hopes that those patients could use that walkway to take a walk and stretch their legs. It also creates an easier path for pedestrians from Morris Avenue to Broad Street, who currently have to walk down the hill, cross over, then walk back up the hill.

Dr. Rubin was raised in Summit and has seen the town develop and its green space diminish, when the opportunity arose to add more green to his city he took to the challenge. Dr. Rubino sees this project as a way to not only bring non-vehicular mobility access throughout the city, but as a way to bring the community together. Many helping hands will be involved in the Park Line's creation and through this project Dr. Rubino feels the community will be unified on different levels.

For more information please visit the Summit Park Line Foundation website at www.summitparkline.org.



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SUMMIT'S SCHEMP HONORED BY OVERLOOK FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AS VOLUNTEER EMT

The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad's David Schempp is the local winner of a 2016 EMT Excellence Award from Overlook Medical Center. The award was presented at a dinner at Berkeley Plaza by the squad's chief, Kari Phair.

Phair told of how Schempp, "like many others, showed up at our door after Sept. 11 trying to figure out what he could do to help." She said the new volunteer thought maybe he could assist with the landscaping or lawn mowing at the squad's Elm Street headquarters, but when he was asked "to ride the ambulance, he thought, 'Cool. That sounds like fun.'" Fifteen years later, he rides a weekly 12-hour shift and a weekend shift every month.

She described Schempp as "a very active member of the squad" whose volunteering exceeds the minimum of 48 hours each month and whose service includes participation on a variety of committees. Since Schempp earned his EMT certification, Phair said she has had "the opportunity to respond to emergencies with Dave, allowing for first-hand experience in observing him provide patient care, take the initiative and improve his first aid skills."

Schempp, according to Phair, is a "true asset" to the Summit squad, not only volunteering to cover open shifts but also helping out with transports within and outside of New Jersey. The crew chief on the Thursday day shift, he has held many offices at the squad and has chaired numerous committees.

"One that really stands out for us," Phair said, "is the grants committee. Dave has worked tirelessly to get us all kinds of grants to fund various equipment and training we need to keep



(above) Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad member David Schempp is the city's winner of this year's EMT Excellence Award, presented by Overlook Medical Center at a dinner at Berkeley Plaza in Berkeley Heights. Schempp received his plaque from Kari Phair, the squad's chief.

up with the ever-changing EMS standards. To date, Dave has raised just under \$600,000 in grant money for the squad." Phair noted that the Summit squad recently raised \$4 million to construct a new headquarters, and, "We couldn't have done it without him."

She said Schempp takes great interest in sharing his enthusiasm for the rescue squad with its younger members, "teaching them not only squad stuff," but also challenging them to be better people, to take on more responsibility and to become better leaders.

SHARING THE LIGHT

As part of the community September 11th memorial, the City of Summit is asking Summit's children to help us support Summit's first responders by donating children's books for our Night Light Bags.

The Memorial will feature:

- Art Displays
- Service of Remembrance
- Music by Summit children
- Night Light Bags: A service project to aid our first responders when they find children in difficult situations

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A blanket, book, stuffed animal and glow stick will be added to each tote bag so that children in Summit facing difficult situations will know that light shines in the darkness. Join us for the service and then help package the Night Light Bags on September 11th, at 9:00 a.m. on the Village Green.

First responders gave everything 15 years ago. We will honor them by supporting our current first responders.

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ANNUAL BARK-A-QUE TO FIND RESCUE DOGS FOREVER HOMES

Non-profit organization Home for Good Dog Rescue will launch its Sixth Annual “Bark-a-Que,” a celebration of the 4,500 dogs the organization has rescued since its inception in 2010, on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 11 AM to 4 PM on the Village Green in Summit, NJ.

The event, which is open to the public, features food and merchandise vendors, family activities, dog contests, including the annual Mr. and Mrs. Bark-a-Que Costume Contest, on-site prizes and raffles, and live music by New York-based rock, funk, and soul band Deep C Revival.

“The support of our local community is really what allows us to keep doing what we do,” Rich Errico, Home for Good’s co-founder and treasurer, said. “And for the past six years, this fun-filled day has been our way of welcoming all our friends and neighbors back to celebrate the successes they helped create!”

For families seeking to welcome a dog of their very own into their homes, the annual Bark-a-Que also hosts Home for Good’s largest adoption event of the year, with last year’s festivities

placing nearly 30 dogs in loving permanent households.

“It’s always so wonderful to see our dogs go home with families who really love them,” volunteer Anna Newmark said. “After working with so many of these pups and getting to see their journeys, I always look forward to seeing Bark-a-Que create so many more happy endings!”

Along with inviting the local community and potential adopters for a day of family fun, Bark-a-Que also reunites Home for Good’s southern and local foster families with the dogs they looked after prior to adoption.

“Our foster program is truly our cornerstone,” Foster Coordinator Susan Strell explained. “Many of these families have welcomed tens or even hundreds of dogs into their lives, and seeing them reconnect with those animals after they’ve grown so much is truly a sight to behold!”

The 100-percent foster-based Home for Good Dog Rescue is committed to rescuing dogs from high kill shelters throughout South Carolina and

Georgia. Once rescued, all dogs stay in southern foster homes until they are transported to New Jersey for adoption.

For more information on Home for Good Dog Rescue, the Sixth, Annual Bark-a-Que, to see available dogs, or to apply for adoption, visit www.HomeforGoodDogs.org.



TheEmmaTeam.com

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THE SEAN REILLY TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FUND

The Sean Reilly Traumatic Brain Injury Fund will host its annual Golf Outing on September 13, 2016 at Morris County Country Club. Interested golfers can access the website at www.seanreillytbfund.org for registration information.

This year's event includes an expanded golf outing raffle, featuring some of the tri-state's premier golf clubs! Can't make it? Go on the website or to the Facebook page for your chance to win! Not a golfer?? Do the same and sign up to join us for post tournament cocktails and dinner - or to make a donation!

Since its inception in 2009, The Sean Reilly

TBI Fund has been a major source of funding for the needs of New Jersey's minimally conscious TBI patients and their families, providing desperately needed equipment and therapies not covered by insurance or public funding. Eye tracking machines enable patients to communicate for the first time since their injuries; tilt tables enable full body physical therapy and have been shown to improve arousal and awareness; customized wheelchairs insure comfort; the wheelchair adaptive van has allowed families to finally visit with their loved ones at home - away from the hospital. Additionally, therapists report progress in patients from music, massage and other therapies subsidized by Sean's Fund.

Susan and Bill Reilly, of Summit, experienced firsthand all of the challenges and pitfalls associated with funding and reimbursement for TBI related healthcare during the 5 years their son, Sean, survived in a minimally conscious

state from a TBI. The Reillys became determined to create a foundation that would address and bridge the funding shortfalls that prevent care and opportunities for improvement. Their struggle was featured in the HBO special, 'Coma'.

Seven years later, The Sean Reilly TBI Fund has dispersed over half a million dollars for equipment, supplemental therapies and family support, targeting New Jersey's leading TBI rehabilitation centers such as the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute's Center for Head Injuries, especially its Extended Recovery Unit in Edison, New Jersey. The Fund also partners with the Brain Injury Alliance of NJ.

The Board of Sean's Fund thanks the growing community of supporters who help make a difference - we need you and are so appreciative that you are helping to keep the mission alive! Hope you can join us at the outing 'Fore' recovery!!!



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TMC'S BOUTIQUE OPENS IN NEW PROVIDENCE

TMC's Boutique, formally located in Stirling, NJ for 6 1/2 years, has brought her unique store to New Providence and invites the public to celebrate a grand opening on September 17th at 2 p.m. Located on 1259 Springfield Avenue.

TMC was created by Linda Tribuna because being an artist herself she wanted to create a unique store selling the beautiful work of both local and national artists. Since Linda was part of many art shows she asked artists she met through

the years to sell in her store. During her time in the Stirling location she sold the work of over 20 local and 10 U.S. artists.

Now here in New Providence, with a much larger location, Linda is representing 13 additional artists bringing her total to 30+ local and 10 national artists. TMC's Boutique carries jewelry, handbags, frames, knitwear, bottle holders, bottle openers, lighted glass boxes, pottery and so much more!

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Caregiver Support Group for Spouses

Monday, September 12 (meets seven times)

A new, seven-session support group for caregivers will be led by licensed clinical social worker and InfoCare Manager Kathy Larkin. The groups will cover topics such as coping with caregiver emotions and managing stress, navigating care options, and defining our roles as caregivers. Pre-registration is required for this free group. Dates for this group are: September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 7, November 21, and December 5, 2-3:30 pm, Monday, September 12 (meets seven times)

Caregiver Support Group for Adult Children

Dates for this group are:

September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 7, November 21, and December 5, 7-8:30 pm, Tuesday, September 13 (meets 10 times)
A new, seven-session support group for caregivers will be led by licensed clinical social worker and InfoCare Manager Kathy Larkin. The groups will cover topics such as coping with caregiver emotions and managing stress, navigating care options, and defining our roles as caregivers.

Pre-registration is required for this free group.

Total Brain Health Memory Classes

Wednesday, September 14

Total Brain Healthy, a leading provider of memory and brain fitness training programs, will offer a series of training classes beginning September 13. Led by Dr. Jill Smith, licensed clinical psychologist, the classes are designed to teach how memory works and why we forget, plus simple and effective strategies for improving retention. Cost is \$50 for the series.

Walking Wisdom and Pedestrian Safety Tips

1-2 pm, Wednesday, September 21

In this free presentation, Judy Bortman of TransOptions will highlight practical walking tips and ways to be an alert, visible, and safe pedestrian.

Take a Stand to Prevent Falls

10 am – 12:30 pm, Thursday, September 22

Part of Fall Prevention Awareness Day, this free program will include blood pressure and bone density testing, and balance assessments. Led by Overlook Medical Center's physical therapy department, the program will also feature a display of medical alert devices and more.

Spend-A-Day Open House

2 – 3:30 pm, Tuesday, September 27 (meets monthly)

What is an adult day program? What activities will my loved one participate in? Is my loved one appropriate? Come find out the answers to these questions and more as we celebrate National Adult Day Services Week. Staff will be available for tours and entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

Alzheimer's New Jersey Caregivers Support Group

10 – 11 am on the fourth Tuesday of the month

Wednesday, September 28

These monthly meetings provide an opportunity for family members and caregivers to discuss the frustrations and trials of caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease with others who understand. Led by Deanna Butters, Spend-A-Day Director at SAGE Eldercare, the group provides caregivers with emotional and educational support.

Immunizations to Keep Adults Healthy

1 – 2 pm.

Walgreens Pharmacist Prapti Bhatt will discuss important immunizations that adults need to prevent becoming infected with vaccine-preventable diseases. The discussion will include information about vaccines the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Food and Drug Administration recommend for older adults such as flu, pneumonia, tetanus, and shingles. SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad Street, Summit.

To register or for more information, please call 908.598.5509 or email klarkin@sageeldercare.org



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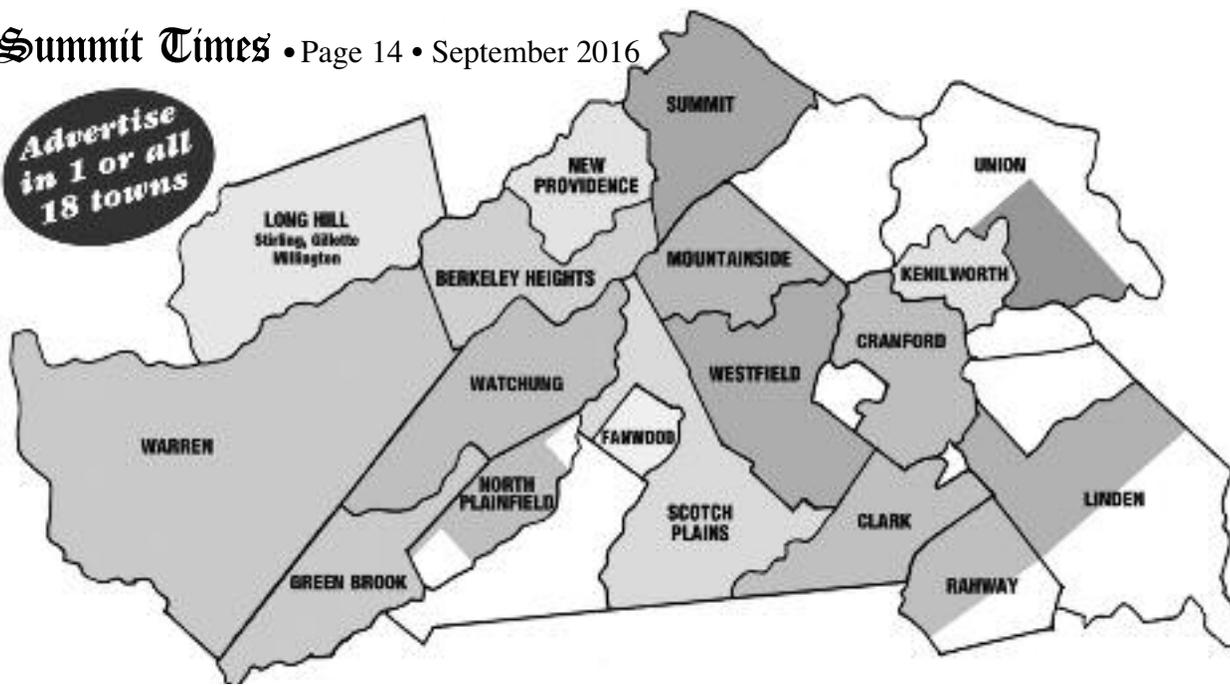
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Summit residents needed to serve as advocates

Just as the kids head back to school, you may find yourself with more free time — and thrilled at the possibilities! How about changing the life of an area foster child? Train in Westfield later this month with like-minded locals and enjoy a light dinner, guest speakers and a team of trainers that equip you with all the tools needed to become a successful Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. While many Summit students happily settle into school routines, buoyed by active parents readying for Back to School Night, there are foster youth without that support system who face educational challenges. Your commitment to their success helps ensure access to an education that meets their specialized needs:

Five-year-old Samantha is severely autistic and almost completely nonverbal. Due to excessive violence in the family home, a concerned neighbor called for help and, after investigation, Samantha was removed from her parents' care and placed in foster care. Although primarily nonverbal, the two phrases Samantha does say graphically depict the violence she witnessed at home and confirm the trauma she endured. Since entering care, it has become clear Samantha also is a victim of educational neglect. At age three, Samantha was entitled to an Individualized Education Plan from the Department of Education to ensure continued in-home speech and behavioral services to move her toward enrollment in a half-day educational program. Unfortunately, Samantha's parents neglected to utilize these services and she is now two years behind others her age! A CASA volunteer can advocate for Samantha's

educational rights and needed services, among other things, and make recommendations to the family court judge that will ensure her best interests remain prioritized.

CASA of Union County is seeking Summit residents to be the voice for one of the nearly 600 Union County youth, ages 0-21, in foster care through no fault of their own, as there are currently only enough volunteers to serve one-third of those youth. Trained CASA volunteers are sworn in by a judge and empowered to speak to foster parents, teachers, doctors, lawyers, tutors, therapists and more. They visit the youth regularly, incorporate findings into court reports and attend court hearings quarterly, working to ensure best interests are considered and a safe and permanent home is secured as quickly as possible. Although not required, there is a particular need for advocates who speak Spanish.

Fall training kicks off Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016 and includes 10 sessions over several weeks. A swearing-in at the Union County Courthouse by a family court judge and luncheon follows. Training is 6 to 9 p.m. at the County Clerk Building, 300 North Avenue East in Westfield, across from the diner. A light dinner is provided.

Attend an information session to learn more:

Evening sessions are Tuesday, Sept. 6 and Wednesday, Sept. 21

at the County Clerk Building in Westfield;

morning sessions are 10 a.m. Sept. 9

and Sept. 23 at CASA's offices, 1143-45 East Jersey Street in Elizabeth.

Summit residents are encouraged

to contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048

or lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org

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