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ISSUE 38 • NOVEMBER 2016

**WHRHS  
DRAMA DEPT  
PRESENTS  
'PETER PAN'**

**NOVEMBER  
17, 18 & 19**  
7 p.m.

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 19**  
2 pm matinee

**WHRHS  
Performing  
Arts Center**

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## 2016 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) continued its record of exceptional achievement by students in the National Merit Scholarship Program, seeing 10 students in the Class of 2017 named Semifinalists.

"The National Merit results are wonderful achievements for our students and the entire school community," said WHRHS Principal George Alexis. "With a sustained focus on inquiry and high expectations, we remain committed to helping all students actualize their potential."

Looking back over the previous two years, six WHRHS students earned the Semifinalist recognition in the Class of 2016, and 11 in the Class of 2015. All six Semifinalists in the Class of 2016 went on to be named Finalists, and in 2015 nine of the Semifinalists were subsequently named Finalists.

This year's nationwide 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists were named on Wednesday, Sept. 14, by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The students had achieved the honor based on their scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) taken by 1.6 million juniors last fall.

In addition to Semifinalists, National Merit also named 36 WHRHS students in a category just before semifinalist, recognized as "Commended."

The Class of 2017 WHRHS National Merit Semifinalists are: Karthik Irakam, Natalie Kim, Daniel Lee, Jonathan Rich, Caroline Rucker, Michelle Shui, Gavin Van Skiver, Nicole Wang, Jenny Yan, and Joyce Zhou.

The Class of 2017 Commended students are: Amrutha Ajjarapu, Alison M. Burman, Emily H. Chen, Sahil N. Deo, Jonathan Dong, Nicole M. Freire, Haley G. Frey, Rachel M. Han, Ang-Ting Ho, Amy X. Holz, Katrina N. Howard, Sonali A. Howe, Tea Kingley, Nicholas Kong, Annabel Kopell, Ryan M. Krakower, Kevin L. Lu, Lindsay C. Muller, Arielle E. Ostry, Vineet A. Parikh, Rachel S. Printz, Mary V. Rall, Thomas



(above) Ten Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students in the Class of 2017 have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. WHRHS Principal George Alexis, standing left, congratulates the semifinalists: (seated, l-r) Gavin Van Skiver of Warren Township, Daniel Lee of Watchung, Jenny Yan of Warren Township, and Michelle Shui of Green Brook Township; (standing, l-r) Caroline Rucker and Jonathan Rich of Warren Township, Joyce Zhou of Green Brook Township, and Natalie Kim, Nicole Wang and Karthik Irakam, all of Warren Township.

C. Ronan, Sarah M. Rosa, Sydney Roth, Rachel P. Sabnani, Joshua N. Schmidt, Kinnary H. Shah, Jeremiah I. Sullivan, Raymond S. Tang, Ethan Tu, Cidney L. Weng, Alexander B. Wu, Emily Yan, Brian H. Zeng, and Andrew H. Zheng.

The six Class of 2016 WHRHS National Merit Semifinalists are: Claire Yuxuan Chen, Kunwoo Park, Emily Kim, Isis Zhang, Eric Zhu and Henry Zhu.

The 11 Class of 2015 WHRHS National Semifinalists are: Gregory Carroll, Karen Chi, Joseph Da, Helen Dai, Chen Ding, Alex Duncan, Andre Gou, Kevin Guo, Stuart Ki, Sharon Liu, and Katie Mathison.

According to NMSC, about 90 percent of this year's Semifinalists are expected to be eventually named Finalists. The competition continues for this year's Semifinalists, with students required to submit a detailed application including academic record, records of school and community activity participation, employment records, lists of other honors and awards won, and indications of leadership skills. They must also take the SAT.

Finalists are vying for about 2,500 National Merit Scholarships, as well as about 1,000 scholarships awarded by businesses and corporations and some 4,000 scholarships from colleges and universities to students attending their colleges and universities.



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## PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com) or call 908-418-5586

## LEAF COLLECTION

The upcoming collection schedule can be accessed anytime, by calling (732) 968-1023 x 6689. It can also be found on the Township website, <http://www.greenbrooktwp.org/municipal-services/public-works/>, along with the listing of streets.

The program is for routine maintenance, not for lot clearing. Excessive piles will not be collected. Leaves may be bagged or raked to the curb line, but may not be placed in the street. Grass clippings are not collected. Branches should be stacked for easy chipping, all facing one direction. Stickers should be stacked separately. The Township does NOT collect root balls or stumps of any kind.

Leaf collection location and times are as follows; South of Route 22 - October 17, November 14; Side of the Mountain - October 31, November 21; Top of the Mountain - November 7, December 5. Leaves & Branches should be placed curbside – not in the street. Branches up to 6" diameter should be left whole and sticker bushes should be kept separate for maintenance requirements, large piles will not be accepted

Do not place pile leaves on the street for pick-up by the leaf vacuum, place curbside, as well as bagged leaves. Bags are available from local hardware store or from Town Hall Monday-

Friday, 8:30-4:00. No other yard debris is available only leaves.

Bagging leaves has several benefits to both the residents and the Township. Leaves in bags will not blow around during windy periods, therefore residents would not need to re-rake. Bagging leaves keeps the leaves out of the gutter/street, making the stormwater run-off more effective and making the streets more passable. Bagged leaves can be collected in any weather, unlike the leaf vacuum which only works on dry leaf piles. Our hope is that residents will try this method, making leaf collection go more smoothly for all.

Please do not place the leaves in the gutter. If there are no curbs, rake the leaves to the end of the grass. Do not include any branches, grass clippings, cans, bottles, or debris in the leaf piles. Foreign materials can cause damage to the equipment and injury to personnel. Leaves with twigs, branches, or other debris will not be collected and the homeowner will be responsible for disposal. Do not place leaves within 10' of any storm drain or fire hydrant. Do not park vehicles over leaf piles. This not only makes it impossible to pick up the leaves, it is a significant fire hazard. Do not place leaves curbside until one week before scheduled pickup. Leaves put out on or after your collection date will not be collected. If leaves are not collected, a tag will be left for the homeowner with the reason.

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## PARENTS HAVE A 'DAY IN THE LIFE' EXPERIENCE AT WHRHS

Parents of the more than 2,000 Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students experienced a micro-version of a day in the life of their son's or daughter's school day during the 2016 Back to School Night, Thursday, Oct. 6, at the school. For the convenience of parents who could not attend Thursday night's Back to School Night, from 7 to 9 p.m., an identical Back to School Day was offered on Monday morning, Oct. 10 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Following their child's typical school day, parents scurried through the school's sprawling educational plant, to meet the teachers and hear short presentations about a course's syllabus and expectations for the semester.

The school's Art Department posted student artwork throughout the school's entrance atrium. School sports teams and extracurricular activities presented information on bulletin boards. And school administrators, and teachers and student volunteers roamed hallways to answer questions about how to best get from one part of the school to another. The South Cafeteria included student and parent booster club representatives from a variety of sports and activities. They displayed information about their team or activity, and some sold school spirit apparel as fundraisers.

The student government's All Student Council, opened the school's "Spirit Store," where on Friday lunch periods and Friday afternoons, students can purchase apparel bearing the WHRHS logo, colors and nickname, "Warriors." Parents could purchase these items at Back To School Night, and could pick up a flier listing the school store's web address, [www.shop.mvpteamgear.com/Watchung-Hills-School-Store\\_c184.htm](http://www.shop.mvpteamgear.com/Watchung-Hills-School-Store_c184.htm), where they can purchase school apparel on-line anytime.

Among the fundraising items available by the Softball team was a WHRHS umbrella, suitable for watching any sport that persists and plays despite a little rain in the sky. The Softball team also offered hats, and a variety of shirts, and sweatshirts.

In addition to the Spirit Store and Softball Team, there were displays and students representing the Yearbook, the Chorus, the Script and Cue Dramatic Club, the Marching Band, and Lacrosse. The student who played Lacrosse also played Field Hockey, and could answer questions about both teams. The Chorus singers offered WHRHS dress ties. Script and Cue offered mini-cupcakes. The Marching Band offered cowbells



(above) Senior Allison Horvath of Warren Township, and Sophomore Elizabeth Chapleski of Green Brook Township represented the WHRHS Tri-M Music Honor Society and the WHRHS Chorus at the WHRHS Back To School Night, Thursday, Oct. 6. The annual Winter Choral Concert, which is open to the public, is at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16.

and multi-purpose rally towels.

Out in the entrance atrium, the Watchung Hills Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) had information about the PTO monthly meeting dates, a membership form, and a welcome letter from the PTO officers. This year's PTO officers are: President Danielle Heise, Vice Presidents Aparna Virmani and Barbara Boschen, Corresponding Secretary Jennie Renzo, Treasurers Emily Peng and Marjorie Lee, and Teacher Liaison Sean DiGiovanna.



(above) Student staffers presented information the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Yearbook at Back to School Night, Thursday, Oct. 6. They are, standing left, Sophomore Isha Kasu of Warren Township, standing right Senior McKenzie Schuyler of Green Brook Township, and seated, Senior Emily Yan of Warren. Schuyler and Yan are editors. They said the Yearbook is a year-long project that includes interim deadlines each quarter on the way to the final product at the end of the school year.

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## CARDINAL LANE REVISITED

Submitted by: Green Brook Historical Society



Last month we mentioned the many uses of Cardinal Lane over the years. First, one has to realize that Washington Avenue wasn't built until January, 1891. So to see the view from the Rock, Cardinal Lane was the primary route to the top of the mountain. As a reminder, Cardinal Lane was a name change around 1997.

In the 1700's and 1800's it was known as "The Path" on the maps of the times. Probably the first use was by the Native Americans in the area. There was a trail up the route of the current Warrenville Road, but that was much steeper and more difficult to climb than Cardinal Lane. Then there were the settlers in the 1700's. Game was plentiful up on the mountain and agriculture thrived in the Washington Valley below. This was the logical common way up to the mountain. In addition, in the mid 1700's the Vermeule brothers had accumulated 1,200 acres of land and established the self-contained village of the Blue Hills Plantation before General George's visit on June 13, 1777. "The Path" started at the Plantation and then up to the Rock on the crest of the Watchung, where Washington had watched the movements of the British forces on the plains

below.

Let's discuss the next use. In the 1850's the hill across from the Rock was the scene of political rallies and similar activities. Someone had the bright idea that the location would be perfect for a resort hotel. So a little before 1860 there was built a three-story hotel, complete with stable. The clientele was designed to be the rich from New York City and not necessarily area residents. City residents wanted the country air and the great view from the Rock. Guests would travel from NYC, usually by ferry, across to NJ, then by rail to the Plainfield Train Station. They would be picked up there by stagecoach and taken up the Path to the Rock and the Washington Rock Mountain House, as it was first called. If you were visiting the Rock in the afternoon, you would hear the clip-clop of the horses as the stage brought the guests up to the hotel along the Path from the afternoon train.

Come and join us at the Green Brook Historical Society on Thursday November 17th at 7:30 PM at the 1st floor conference meeting room in the Municipal Building. We'll show you that local history is anything but dull.

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## FOOD, FUN, AND CAMPING AT SCOUTING "WELCOME BACK" CARNIVAL

On September 10th, in the late summer heat, Green Brook Cub Scouts Pack 129 and Boy Scouts Troop 129 joined forces in hosting their annual "Welcome Back" carnival to start the 2016-2017 scouting year. Scouts and their family members enjoyed many games and activities as

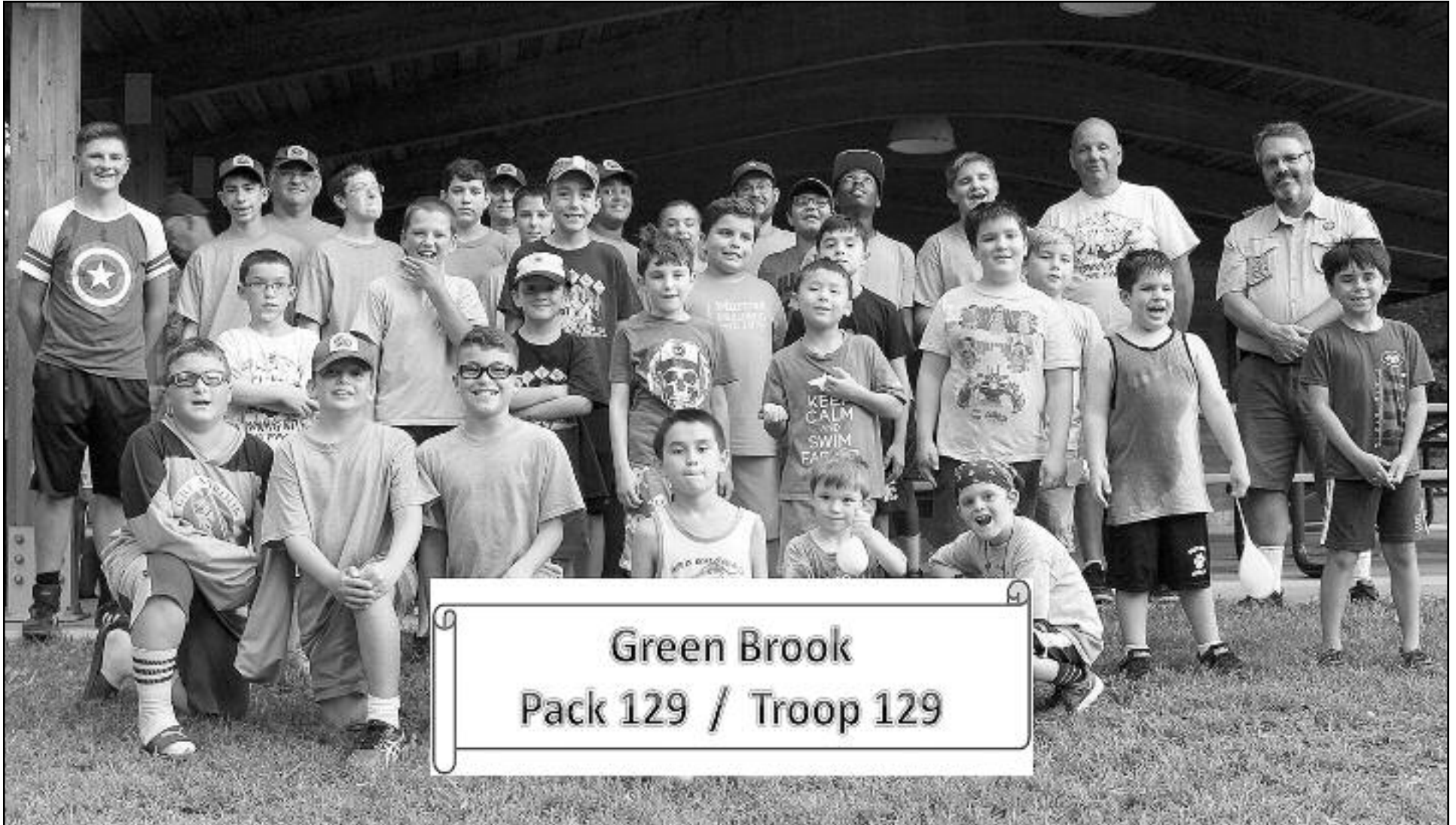
well as a BBQ. Many scouts remained after the festivities to participate in an outdoor movie and family overnight camping in the park.

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 contact

Brent Cheshire at [info@greenbrookpack129.org](mailto:info@greenbrookpack129.org).

Boy Scouts Troop 129, also based in Green Brook, is open to boys aged 11-18.

For information about Troop 129 you may contact John Schmitz at [jschmitz67@optimum.net](mailto:jschmitz67@optimum.net).



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(above) Special Services teacher  
Amita Lluveres

## WHRHS EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM

Reporting out from last summer's Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Extended School Year (E.S.Y.) program, WHRHS Special Services teacher Amita Lluveres says the response from 20 to 25 students to the proverbial start-of-school-year question, "What did you do over the summer?" is: An enviable list of memorable living/learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom.

"Every day, our students were greeted by our wonderful summer staff," Lluveres said. "Each day of the week had something special to offer. Our students looked forward to our daily lessons in a variety of subject areas such as Language Arts, Mathematics, Meal Planning, and Career Exploration. Students were given the chance to work collaboratively with a variety of peers throughout the summer days in the E.S.Y. program."

On Mondays, students had the opportunity to learn and practice skills in the classroom.

"They continued to develop their computational skills, including in personal budgeting, and were given the task to read and discuss the selected summer reading book. The book was, 'The BFG,' by Roald Dahl," she said. "We wanted to show our students the connection between print and electronic media simultaneous with the release in July of the feature film, 'The BFG,' directed by the legendary Steven Spielberg."

Tuesdays were devoted to going to the local ShopRite Supermarket in Stirling, where the students learned about and developed skills in going to the market. They experienced what it is like to purchase the necessary ingredients and food items to then cook meals on Thursdays in the program's kitchen.

"Meal planning is a major life lesson that we want our students to be prepared to do as they continue to grow into adulthood," Lluveres said. "By engaging in this activity every week, students gained the knowledge and skills to help them make smart choices when food shopping. Students not only located items on their list, but also compared prices and made decisions on which items were best to fit into a weekly

budget."

On Wednesdays, the program focused on educational trips to local businesses such as the Prestige Diner in New Providence and Norz Hill Farm and Market in Hillsborough Township.

"Other trips included Menlo Park Mall in Edison Township, as well as to Red Mill Historical Museum in Clinton, and the Somerset Patriots Stadium in Bridgewater Township," she said. "We wanted to give our students a summer full of great memories and a wide-variety of learning experiences."

"All the while," Lluveres said, "we were also working on communication skills, on skills necessary to build confidence in being independent, to better understand the value and the worth of things, and just to have an enjoyable summer."

On Fridays, the program went on recreational trips throughout the local community.

"We visited sites of interest such as Bowlmor in Green Brook Township and Bowcraft Amusement Park in Scotch Plains," said Lluveres. "We also had the opportunity to visit the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, an all-time favorite trip we all look forward to in the summer."

The E.S.Y Program was meant to help bridge the gap between the end of one school year in June and the start of the next school year in September, Lluveres said. The half-day program was offered five days a week, for six weeks, from July 1 to Aug. 12.

"Through the whole process," she said, "we had the support and assistance of the students' parents, the great cooperation of the staffs of the businesses and sites of interest that welcomed the students during their field trips, and the professionalism and education skills of her staff and volunteers. Among them are WHRHS Director of Special Services Marianne Sales, Jon Bedi, Stephen Eng, Andrew Tronzano, Jack Beckert, Erin Ferrara, Jane Giannelli, James Granuzzo, Patrick O'Halloran, Nurse Angela Valerio, and Student Volunteer Katie Holz. We also want to thank our substitute staff members: Carl Bird and James Hurley."

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## GREEN BROOK SCOUTS ARE "SCOUTING FOR FOOD"

Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129 and Cub Scout Pack 129 will be participating in the annual "Scouting for Food" event. The Scouts will be collecting non-perishable food products and personal care products which will be given to Fish Inc. - Dunellen Area, a non-profit food pantry serving Middlesex County and Green

Brook. The Scouts distributed Scouting for Food bags at the homes of Green Brook residents on November 5th. Residents are asked to leave donations outside of their doors no later than 9 am on November 19th for collection. Troop 129 thanks all Green Brook residents who participate in helping our neighbors in need.

## C - CERT MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Green Brook residents are welcome to attend the meetings of the CERT, Community Emergency Response Team. CERT normally meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the town hall conference room behind the courtroom at 7:30 p.m.

CERT assists local first responders in cases of emergencies. They might be called for various tasks such as, traffic assistance, sheltering or search & rescue. In order to become an official CERT member you will need to participate in a training program. Somerset County CERT will be offering the next training for certification starting in April. All supplies and training are provided free and include the following subjects: Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Medical Operations, Fire Suppression, Light Search and Rescue Operations, CERT Operations/Incident Command System, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism Awareness, and Disaster Simulation.

## ST. LUKE'S CHURCH 46TH ANNUAL COUNTRY STORE

The Women of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Dunellen will hold their 46th Annual Country Store and Church Bazaar in November. The store will be open on two days this year: Friday, November 11th from 6:00pm until 8:00pm and on Saturday, November 12th from 8:00am until 1:00pm. This annual event is a favorite with the Dunellen and surrounding area communities. It will feature Christmas items, handmade needlework, homemade baked goods, toys, books and gently used items for sale. All proceeds help to fund the work of the church.

The church is located 264 New Market Road, Dunellen, at the corner of Walnut Street, one block off Washington Ave. All are welcomed. For more information call 732-968-4447 or visit their website at [www.StLukes-Dunellen.org](http://www.StLukes-Dunellen.org).



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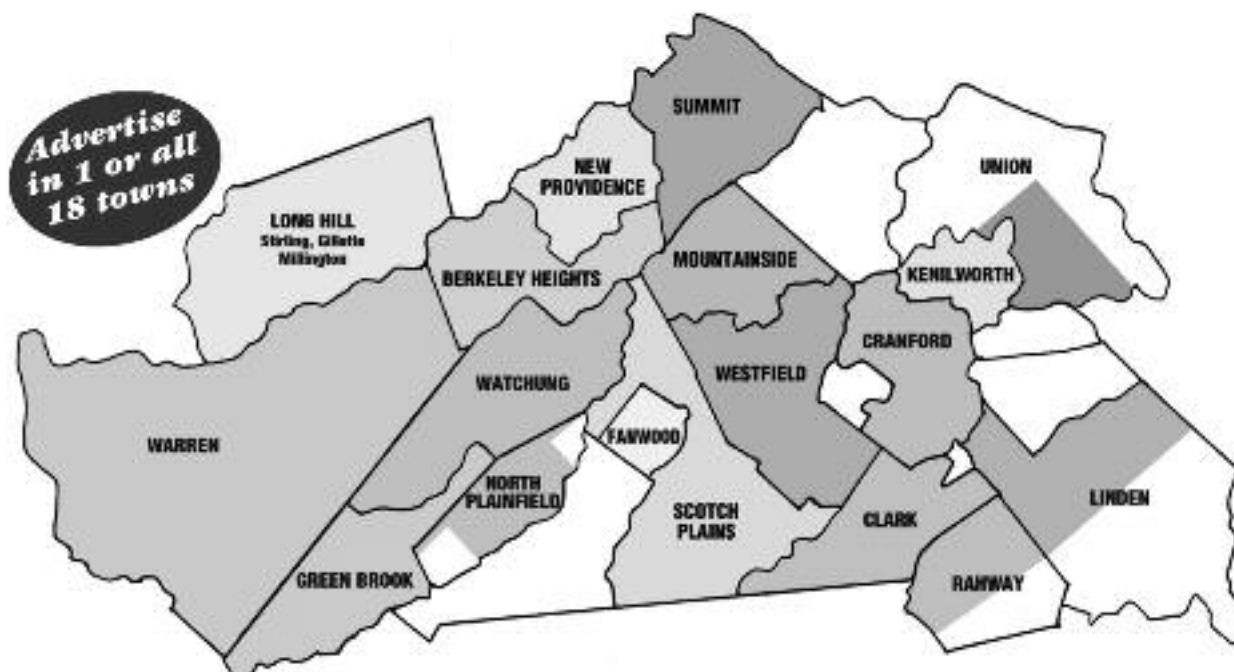
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The seventh annual Adopt-A-Family program will help provide Thanksgiving meals for needy families. The estimated cost of a Thanksgiving meal is \$40. Anyone wishing to donate may send a check to any of the following local programs:

- Food Bank Network of Somerset County, P.O. Box 149, Bound Brook, NJ 08805
- Franklin Township Food Bank, P.O. Box 333, Somerset, NJ 08875-0333
- Feeding Hands Inc., Emmanuel Church, 100 Grant Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876
- Hillsborough Food Pantry, Attn: Social Services Department, 379 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844
- North Plainfield FISH, Holy Cross Church, 40 Mercer Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
- Reformed Church of Bound Brook, P.O. Box 347, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880
- Samaritan Homeless Interim Program Inc. (SHIP), 87 E. High St., Somerville, NJ 08876

On the memo line of your check, write Adopt-A-Family and the name of the town where you wish your donation to go. If \$40 is difficult for you, any amount will be gratefully accepted. The Food Bank Network and SHIP serve residents throughout Somerset County; the Franklin, Hillsborough and North Plainfield programs primarily serve residents within those respective towns; Feeding Hands Inc. serves the Somerville area; and the Reformed Church serves both Bound Brook and South Bound Brook.

For more information, call the Food Bank Network at (732) 560-1813, the Franklin Township Food Bank at (732) 246-0009, Feeding Hands Inc. at (908) 397-6452, the Hillsborough Social Services Department at (908) 369-3880, North Plainfield FISH at (908) 561-9340, the Reformed Church of Bound Brook at (732) 356-9345 or SHIP at (908) 393-9545. Go to <http://bit.ly/2016AdoptFamily> to complete and print the donation form.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FALL LEAF CLEAN-UP HELP TO ELDERLY & DISABLED RESIDENTS

The Somerset County Office of Volunteer Services is seeking volunteers who are available in November to rake leaves for elderly and disabled homeowners around the county who have no other means to do yard work.

The annual leaf clean-up project will take place Saturday, Nov. 19. However, anyone who would like to help but cannot make it that day is welcome to schedule an alternative date.

For more information or to volunteer please call the Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 541-5715.

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