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ISSUE 41 • JANUARY 2017

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MEYERSVILLE TREE LIGHTING

The annual Meyersville Tree Lighting was held on Sunday, December 4th on the Meyersville Circle. Santa was there, and Garden State Fireworks launched a fireworks show as the tree

was lit. This event is run by the Meyersville Tree Lighting Committee headed by Victoria Perillo of Meyersville. The Recreation Department also assists with the event.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Long Hill Leader page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share."

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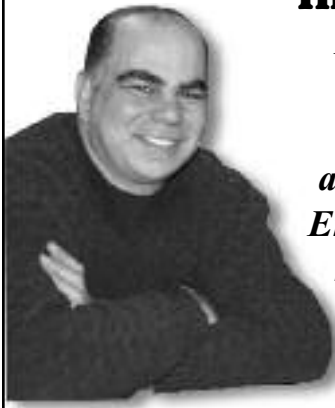
PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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
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or call 908-418-5586*

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FRIENDS OF LIBRARY PRESENTS MAH JONGG

Friends of Long Hill Township Library • 917 Valley Road/Gillette, NJ 908-647-2088

If this looks like Greek to you.....then it's about time you come and learn the real truth!!! The Friends of the Long Hill Township Library will be offering beginning Mah Jongg lessons on Saturdays January 7, 14, 21, from 10:00 am to Noon; for a total fee of \$25.00.

Mah Jongg is not as complicated as it looks, and most Mah Jongg players will agree it is worth the effort. It truly will open many doors of camaraderie, mental stimulation and hours of fun! This can easily become addictive, a life time pursuit for all ages - plus, it is becoming so

popular, that you can find players just about anywhere you travel! Please join us---- and don't feel intimidated! Sign up at the front library desk. Payment will be due at our first lesson. We will be using outdated cards to learn from. You should however, purchase your own 2016/2017 card from: National MahJongg League, inc./250 West 57th Street/New York, New York 10107/ 212 246 3052--\$9.00 (large print is available) The cards are good for a year with the change over date in March.

		9								
Suits	Dots									
	Bambo									
	Charac ters									



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Mini Movers Camp (Ages 3-6): July 25-28, 10-12PM

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Advanced Ballet Summer Intensive (Ages 11 & up):
July 11-15, 4-8PM

Advanced Contemporary Intensive (Ages 11 & up):
August 1-5, 4-8PM

Senior Reach Intensive (Ages 11-18): August 8-12, 5-8PM

Ballet Company Nutcracker Intensive : August 15-19, 5-8PM

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2014 Honda PILOT EX BUY FOR \$24,588 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, V6, 4X4. Stk#162079A. 35,415 miles	2014 ACURA RDX BUY FOR \$24,988 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, V6, All Wheel Drive. Stk#16654. 34,368 miles	2013 Toyota HIGHLANDER SE BUY FOR \$25,477 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, V-6, 4X4. Stk#161665A. 23,363 miles	2013 Acura MDX BUY FOR \$25,577 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, V6, 4X4. Stk#16503. 23,670 miles	2014 Honda PILOT EX-L BUY FOR \$28,188 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, V6, 4X4. Stk#162140A. 42,844 miles

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THE STIRLING ELKS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Stirling Elks Special Children's Committee sponsors several functions a year for special children and adults. On Sunday, December 13th, they hosted their annual holiday party for special children and children of lodge members and friends. There were about 85 in attendance and fun was had by all. Santa paid a visit and there were many smiling faces.

The Stirling Elks Lodge is made up of men and women from Long Hill Township and other surrounding towns who are citizens of the United States, at least 21 years old and who

believe in God. There are many Elks programs that benefit special needs children, scholarships, scouting, athletic teams, veterans, youth activities and patriotic programs.

In addition to hosting several annual events the Elks sponsors special needs children to attend Elks Camp Moore in the summertime at no cost to the parents.

For further information about the Stirling Elks, the Special Children's Committee, or Elks Camp Moore, please call Pat Mocarski at (908) 647-1437.



(above l-r) Erik Miller,
 Santa and George Hoehn.



(above l-r) Cyndi Baretto, Stephanie Ridilla
 and Pat Mocarski.

2017 NJ Summer Camp Fairs

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Dinner 3:30pm - 10:00pm

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Lunch 11am - 3:30pm

Adult\$7.99
Kids 7-10\$5.99
Kids 3-6\$3.99
2 & Under.....FREE!

Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm

Adult\$11.59
Kids 7-10\$6.99
Kids 3-6\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!

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(above) Mr and Mrs. Claus, William, Bob and Katie Walto.

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Santa had many helpers on December 3, 2016 to set up, cook, serve and clean up at St Vincent de Paul Parish Breakfast with Santa. After a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice (donated by Stirling ShopRite) and hot chocolate (donated by Starbucks), Mrs. Claus read to the children and finally Santa arrived! Proceeds will benefit the Christmas Giving Tree ministries including: Catholic Charities, St. Agnes Church, St. Mary Church, Family Promise, and Bridges Outreach.



(above) Anne O'Mullan, Emma Goodbody, Brady Marshall, Thomas Baeyens, John Dec, Abby O'Mullan, Chloe Apuzzo, Katie Walto.

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Candace K.

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MILLINGTON FIRE COMPANY HOSTS ANNUAL KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Friday December 16th, Millington Volunteer Fire Company hosted their 68th annual kids' Christmas Party at the firehouse. Around 75 children from town along with their parents enjoyed crafts, cookies, hot chocolate and entertainment by Great Scott. Children and

parents had a fabulous time with Great Scott and his magic show.

"It's fascinating to see the little kids from all around town come here and to think that one day some of them might be future members, said Captain Anthony DeBiasse. I certainly remember

coming to the parties as a young boy and hoping that I could be part of Millington's finest when I was old enough."

The evening was concluded by a visit from Santa who arrived to the firehouse in a fire truck escorted by two real firefighters. All children had an opportunity to sit with Santa to tell him their special wish while the parents took pictures.

The Millington Volunteer Fire Company is located on 1891 Long Hill Road in Millington and welcomes new members at all times. For more information call (908) 647-5882 or stop by any Thursday evening.



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UPCOMING RED CROSS CLASSES

Upcoming Red Cross classes offered by Township of Long Hill Recreation (Class Sizes Limited; register early):

First Aid:

Fri., 1/27, 6pm – 9pm

Fri., 2/24, 6pm – 9pm

Lay Responder CPR/AED, Adult & Pediatric:

Fri., 2/3, 6pm – 9pm

Classes are held at the Long Hill First Aid Squad Bldg. Classes are made possible by the collaborative efforts of the Long Hill First Aid Squad and the Long Hill Parks & Recreation Department. Class Cost: \$22 per participant.

Registration on www.longhillnj.gov

Community Pass, select Winter 2017,

or contact:

908.647.8000 x219, eMail:

UMPIRE CERTIFICATION CLASS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY

ASA/USA Softball NJ District 2 will hold its umpire certification class in Cranford beginning in mid-January 2017. The class costs \$75, and will run from 6-8 weeks, including both classroom and gym training.

Once certified, you will be eligible to umpire any of the thousands of the games ASA/USA Softball NJ hosts throughout the state, including the 3,500 games hosted by District 2 in and

around Union County.

Please contact District 2 Commissioner Keith Hoffman at khoffcran@aol.com, 908-463-3960 with interest.

ASA/USA Softball is the largest and oldest softball organization in the world, and is the official sponsoring organization for Team U.S.A., the women who will represent our country in Softball at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.



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2017

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Someone will celebrate an engagement
Someone will celebrate a promotion
Someone will celebrate a team victory
Someone will celebrate a graduation
Someone will celebrate an accomplishment

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BLOOD RESERVES CHALLENGED BY PATIENT DEMAND

O-Negative Blood a Constant Challenge

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center (NYBC) is asking for help to maintain an adequate supply of all blood types, but especially O-negative – the “universal” blood which can be transfused into anyone in an emergency. In addition, hundreds of additional blood drives need to be scheduled to meet projected hospital demand. Current inventory of several blood types is running below the desired target level.

“It’s simple: hospital patient demand for blood often outpaces our best efforts to recruit donors and schedule blood drives,” said NYBC Executive Director of Donor Recruitment Andrea Cefarelli. “There are always reasons but we have to overcome that for the sake of hospital patients who need us.”

“This is one of the toughest times of the year,” Cefarelli added. “We’re asking for our dedicated supporters to roll up their sleeves to make sure we’re able to provide our hospital partners with whatever they need to take care of their patients.”

Blood products have a short shelf life – from five to 42 days, so constant replenishment is necessary. Each and every day there are patients who depend on the transfusion of red blood cells, platelets and plasma to stay alive. But blood and blood products can’t be manufactured. They can only come from volunteer blood donors who take an hour to attend a blood drive or visit a donor center.

January donor drives to be conducted at the

Scotch Plains Donor Center, 2279 South Ave, Scotch Plains:

Wednesday, January 11, 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Friday, January 13, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 14, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sunday, January 15, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

To donate blood or for information on how to organize a blood drive Please call Toll Free: 1-800-933-2566 Visit: www.nybloodcenter.org. If you cannot donate but still wish to participate in bringing crucial blood products to patients in need, please ask someone to donate for you, or consider volunteering at a local blood drive.

Any company, community organization, place of worship, or individual may host a blood drive. NYBC also offers special community service scholarships for students who organize community blood drives during summer months. Blood donors receive free mini-medical exams on site including information about their temperature, blood pressure and hematocrit level.

Eligible donors include those people at least age 16 (with parental permission or consent), who weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, are in good health and meet all Food & Drug Administration and NY or NJ State Department of Health donor criteria. People over 75 may donate with a doctor's note.

About New York Blood Center

Established in 1964, New York Blood Center (NYBC) is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the country. Each year, NYBC provides approximately one million blood products to nearly 200 hospitals in the Northeast. NYBC also provides a wide array of transfusion-related medical services. NYBC is also home to the world’s largest public cord blood bank, which provides stem cells for transplant in many countries, and a renowned research institute, which – among other milestones -- developed the Hepatitis B vaccine and innovative blood purification technology.

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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 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 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 Merit 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.



(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: From left, seated, Gavin Van Skiver of Warren Township, Daniel Lee of Watchung, Jenny Yan of Warren Township, and Michelle Shui of Green Brook Township; and standing, from left, 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.

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Future Leaders Forum



Led by Michael Chu, 3rd degree blackbelt, more than 10-time National Karate Champion, effective and successful business leader and motivational speaker.



 **Monday January 9th 6:30 - 8 pm**

 **Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette
630 Valley Road
(908) 647-4194**

ADMISSION IS
FREE
BUT REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED AT:
karate4peace.com

The event is open to all Long Hill area students and young adults ages 12-25, who are interested in increasing their confidence, academic performance, and self-discipline, and who aspire to become great leaders.



FREE FUTURE LEADERS FORUM

A Future Leaders Forum will be held on Monday, January 9th from 6:30-8:30pm at Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette. The forum will be led by Soo Bahk Do Youth Instructor Michael Chu, a 3rd degree blackbelt, National Karate Champion, successful business leader and motivational speaker. "Michael really effectively connects to this age group and has been a driving force in encouraging and motivating our young adults to achieve their potential," said Program Director Michelle Cavett. The event will consist of discussion and interaction, as well as physical activity, all centered on leadership development. Participants should wear loose fitting clothing and bring a bottle of water.

The event is free and open to all area students 12-25 years of age, but registration at www.karate4peace.com is required. For additional information, or to arrange a Future Leaders Forum specifically for your group, email info@karate4peace.com or contact Cavett at (908)647-4194.



LONG HILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Long Hill Chamber of Commerce will hold its Winter Networking Event on Tuesday, January 31st from 5:30-7pm hosted by Angie's Deli, 606 Valley Road in Gillette. The event is free and open to all area business owners and operators.

"This is a great way to connect with other business owners in the area and create opportunities to increase exposure and revenues. We will be doing 'speed networking' again since it was so popular at our Fall Event", said Long Hill Chamber President Michelle Cavett of Soo Bahk Do Karate of Gillette.

Refreshments will be served. For more information or to join the Chamber contact Cavett at (908)647-4194 or email www.karate4peace.com.

Long Hill Chamber of Commerce MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ANNUAL DUES:

- Long Hil Business - \$100
- Long Hill Resident with Business out side Long Hill - \$100
- Business and Resident outside Long Hill - \$125

Make checks payable to:
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PO Box 111 • Stirling, NJ 07980
908-647-2900

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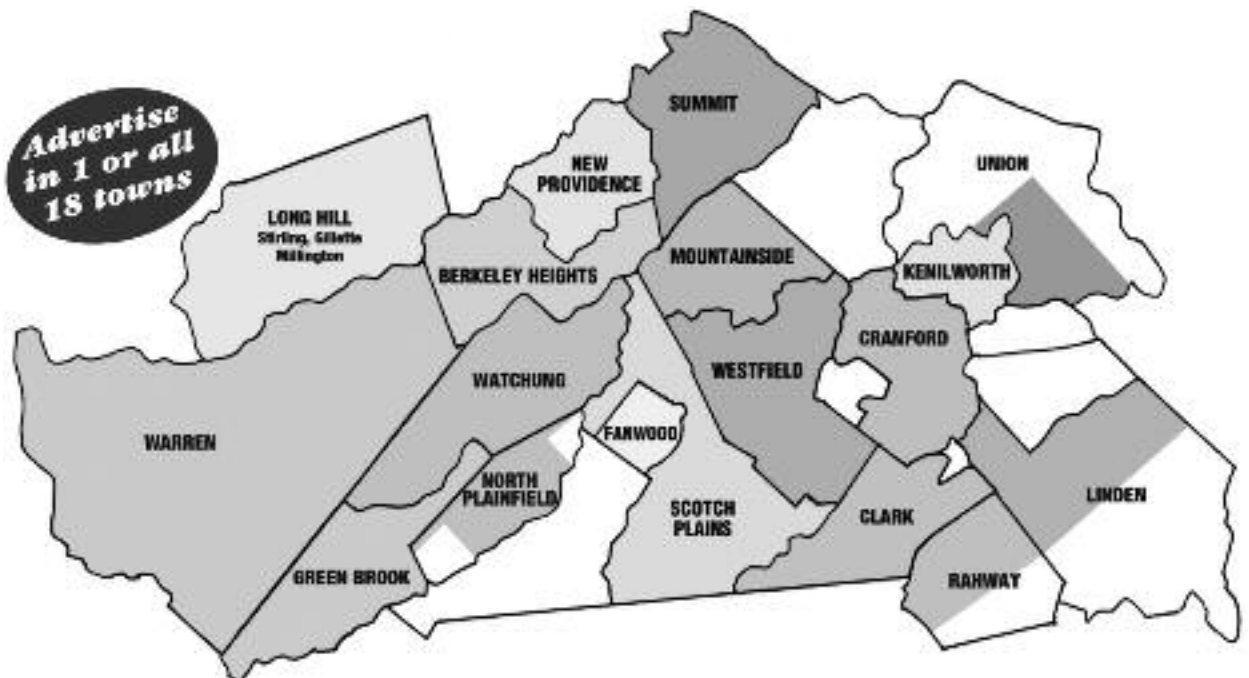
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