

**NEXT
CHAMBER
MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 23, 2016**

**8:30 am - 9:30 am
Emergency
Management Office
Top Floor of the Fire House
In the Joseph Pepe III
Memorial Training Room
200 Mountain Ave.**

Members and non-members are invited to Chamber meetings. Free coffee and donuts are served.

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CERT TEAM ATTENDS "ROAD E O" IN SOUTH JERSEY



Springfield OEM CERT members Karen Bonacorda, Craig Abrams, Jim Bonacorda and Jim Sedlak in front of Springfield's CERT Trailer.

On October 15th members of Springfield's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) along with OEM Deputy Coordinator Wally Schultz attended a CERT Statewide Trailer Mobilization / ROAD-EO sponsored by the NJ State Police at their division headquarters

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FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSONS RECOGNIZED



(l to r) Scott Seidel, Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce Chairman, Gennifer, Robert and Xavier Abraham, Festival Chairpersons and Mayor Jerry Fernandez

At the October 13th Township Committee meeting, the Township and Chamber of Commerce presented the Abrahams with a Special Recognition award for their work in running the Town's annual Festival. In an interview with the Patriot Times, Gennifer Abraham said: "Bobby and I consider ourselves lucky to be a part of the annual fall festival and to have the support of the chamber to make an event the whole town can be proud of."



(l to r) Mayor Jerry Fernandez, Committeewoman Geri Ann Bujnowski and son Tyler Bujnowski

GRAND OPENING OF ECHO PLAZA CLEANERS



Congratulations to owner Ann Tarantino and the new Echo Plaza Cleaners family on the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Springfield's newest business! (l to r) Springfield Business Improvement District Chairman Mike Scalera, Paul Tarantino, Jackie Laguardia, Bevy Tarantino, Deputy Mayor Diane Stampoulos (fifth from right), Ana de Torres, Alex Ostolaza, Business Administrator Ziad Shehady and Gene Jannoti.

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOLS CHIEF NAMED UNION COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR



Springfield Schools Superintendent Michael A. Davino is available to comment on Education-Related Issues.

On October 3, 2016, Michael A. Davino, Chief Education Officer, Springfield Public Schools, was selected the 2017 Union County Superintendent of the Year.

In making the nomination, the Union County Affiliate President Dr. Danny Robertozzi, Chief Education Officer, Linden, said, "Mike Davino is the consummate teacher and educational leader. He believes that the educational environment must be student-centered. He has created an environment in his district where children are more actively involved in their learning through the use of a technology one-to-one initiative."

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GERI ANN BUJNOWSKI SWORN IN TO TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

At the October 13 Township Committee meeting, Geri Ann Bujnowski was sworn in to take the seat vacated by Ziad Shehady, who was recently appointed Township Business Administrator. Geri Ann Bujnowski was just appointed to finish out Shehady's term which expires on December 31, 2017. She is originally from Bayonne and has been married for 31 years to her husband Mark. They have two sons Brandon and Tyler and have lived in Springfield for the last 24 years. She is an active member of St. James the Apostle Church, serving as a lector as well as teaching 6th grade religious education.

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RICH HUBER AND ERICA DUBOIS WIN SEATS ON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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The Patriot Times is published by the Township of Springfield in cooperation with the Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce.

Over seven thousand newspapers are printed monthly and distributed free to every postal patron in Springfield.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

SPRINGFIELD PATRIOT Chamber of Commerce

Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce
1 Cornell Parkway, Springfield, NJ 07081
973-912-2300

Chairman: Scott Seidel
Networking Vice President: Elliot Merkin
Recording Secretary: Tracy Geyer

SPRINGFIELD, NJ

MAYOR: Jerry Fernandez

DEPUTY MAYOR: Diane Stampoulos

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Richard Huber
Maria Vassallo
Geri Ann Bujnowski

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

All Emergencies	
(Police, Fire, Ambulance).....	9-1-1
Police (Nonemergency)	973-376-0400
Fire (Non-emergncy).....	973-912-2265
Board of Education.....	973-376-1025
Construction Office	973-912-2220
Court.....	973-912-2213
Emergency Management	
Department	973-376-1058
Engineering Department	973-912-2219
Finance Department	973-912-2279
Fire Prevention Office	973- 376-1740
Health Department	973-593-3079
Library	973-376-4930
Office of the Mayor	973-912-2285
Public Works Department	973-912-8483/2225
Recreation Department.....	973-912-2227
Recycling information	973-912-2222
Tax Assessor	973-912-2207
Tax Collector	973-912-2204/05
Township Administrator.	973-912-2202
Township Clerk.....	973-912-2201
Vital Statistics/Registrar	973-912-2285
Zoning Office	973-232-4449

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Message from the Mayor

Dear Springfield Residents,

I would like to start by thanking everyone who came out to vote this year. Obvious it was an important election. I would like to congratulate Rich and Erica on being elected to next year's Committee. I would also like to thank Victoria and Kristen for running. It is never easy to take the leap to run for office, and they did it with class.

After every Presidential election we talk about being united as a country again. It seems for the last 10 years the division in our country continues to grow worse and worse. I would like to propose a Charter Study for next year, to look into the possibility of changing our form of government. I would like to see the end of Party Politics on at the local level and allow the elections to be non-partisan. It is my feeling that we can make changes, for example not having an election every year, slowing down our government, and perhaps allowing the residents of Springfield to choose their own Mayor instead of allowing the Committee to choose your Mayor. All this of course would be voted on by you, the residents of Springfield. Unifying our country starts at the local level, and I hope we can move forward working together, having respectful debates and finding compromises in our disagreements. One thing I am sure about, unifying our country has to start on the local level.

A few announcement- The County of Union is preparing to do major construction on the Mountain Avenue bridge located by Jonathan Dayton High School. This work was originally intended to begin August 1 and end September 9 but due to the Transportation Trust Fund shutdown order, work was stopped. The County wishes to complete this project as soon as possible and has scheduled the work to begin November 14. The road will be closed from November 14 to December 30. The exact map with detour information is on our town website. We apologize for the inconvenience but appreciate your understanding of the need to complete this major infrastructure improvement.

Springfield Interfaith Clergy Association and the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Counsel invite you to an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 21st, 7 p.m., Temple Sha'arey Shalom. There will be a collection of contributions of packaged goods for NJ Food Bank and monetary donations for the First Aid Squad.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. We should all take that day to stop for a minute and give thanks for all that we are blessed to have. And as I come close to the end of my run on the committee, I would like to give thank you for allowing me to serve my community for so long, and I give thanks to my wonderful family.

If anyone would like to speak with me, feel free to call me at 908 868-0898 or email me at jerry.fernandez@springfield-nj.gov.

Mayor Jerry Fernandez

MOUNTAIN AVENUE BRIDGE CLOSURE

The County of Union is preparing to do major construction on the Mountain Avenue bridge located by Jonathan Dayton High School. This work was originally intended to begin August 1 and end September 9 but due to the Transportation Trust Fund shutdown order, work was stopped. The County wishes to complete this project as soon as possible and has scheduled the work to begin November 14. The road will be closed from November 14 to December 30. The detour plan they have prepared is below and PDF version is available for download. We apologize for the inconvenience but appreciate your understanding of the need to complete this major infrastructure improvement. Click this link for the map: <http://springfield-nj.us/news/mountain-avenue-bridge-closure>.

GERI ANN BUJNOWSKI

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Geri has been active in the town for many years, since her children were in school. Along with her neighbors, she has been instrumental in the formation of Tulip Park. She was an elected member of the Charter Study Commission in Town as well as the Chairwoman of the Springfield Improvement Team. The team worked during Superstorm Sandy to coordinate volunteers to help during those weeks. She is also Vice President of the Women's Club at the Springfield Hillside Elks Lodge, where she is involved in charitable activities.

No stranger to helping out in Town, she is currently the Coordinator for the Veterans Day and Memorial Day Ceremonies in Town. She has worked at Area Rentals for the last 23 years renting construction equipment, as well as handling the accounting portion of the business. When interviewed by the Patriot Times, she said "It is an honor to be chosen to be a member of the Township Committee. I have heard from so many people in town that have supported me and expressed their confidence in me. I want them and you to know that I will work hard to prove I am worthy of it. One thing about me is that I am frugal and that I will be as cheap with your money as I am with mine."

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 22, 7 pm

Tuesday, December 13, 7 pm

Tuesday, December 27, 7 pm

PLANNING BOARD

1st Wednesday, 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

3rd Tuesday, 6:30 pm at the Municipal Building

BOARD OF HEALTH

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm at the Firehouse

RENT LEVELING BOARD

Last Thursday of month, 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building

RECREATION COUNCIL

Contact Recreation Department For Next Meeting Date and Time

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

3rd Monday, 7:00 pm at the Chisholm Community Center

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

3rd Thursday, 7:30 pm at the Library

Springfield

Business Improvement District

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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Dainty Salon
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Details Salon
Dr. David Palombi - Chiropractor
Empire Medical Associates
Evergreen Gourmet Deli
Fortunoff Backyard Store
Front & Center for Performing Arts
Glamorous Smile Dental Spa
Golden Hands Spa
Gold Valley Supermarket
Grooming By Brandy
The Hair Bar

Hammer Dental Associates
Hecht Family Chiropractic Care
Jack Zuber, DDS
Jennifer Springfield Day Spa
Jenny Craig
JX Jewelry Exchange
Kris's Barbershop
Little Details
Mack Retail Camera
Magical Scissors
Mariyln's Hair Design
McLynn's
Mera Painting
Moroccan Kebab
NBD Fitness
NYSC
Outback Steakhouse
Picante The Taste of Mexico
Prima Pizza
Primo Hoagies

Rye Deli
Salon Bangles
Salon Frasca
Scotty's Pub & Comedy Cove
Second Childhood
Serenity Therapeutic Massage
Signature Realty NJ
Smilow Family Dentistry
Sofia's
Springfield Orthodontics
State Farm - Mike Scalera
Stew Leonard's Wines
Sudz & Dudz Laundromat
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Thai Amarin Restaurant
Toms Pizza
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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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SPRINGFIELD SCHOOLS CHIEF

continued from front page

The 2017 Union County Superintendent of the Year Davino said, "It is an honor for me to have my colleagues select me to represent them in this prestigious award process."

Technology and Curriculum integration initiatives, a hallmark of Davino's instructional leadership, afford the students of Springfield several unique and innovative programs. His leadership provided the foundation of the first one-to-one laptop program in a middle school within New Jersey. The National School Boards Association ranked the Springfield district the first in their Digital District Survey for small districts. Under his tutelage, the academic programs of the Jonathan Dayton High School have been enhanced and the advanced placement offerings have increased significantly. Both of these improvements have contributed to school's higher student academic performance. New Jersey Monthly Magazine recognized the high school as one of the top 75 high schools in the state. In addition, Newsweek Magazine ranked the high school as one of the nation's top high schools.

The selection process for the 2017 Superintendent of the Year begins with a request of each of New Jersey's 21 counties to nominate a candidate to be considered as the New Jersey's Superintendent of the Year. The selection criteria recommends each County Superintendent of the Year should have a minimum of five-years experience as a chief school administrator, a record of service with their county affiliate and NJASA, and a distinguished record as an educator.

This is the ninth year of NJASA's process to name selected individuals who will serve as the county's nominee to compete for the position of one of three New Jersey Regional Superintendents of the Year and the possibility of being chosen the New Jersey Superintendent of the Year nominee, who then competes for the 2017 National AASA Superintendent of the Year title.

A committee of NJASA Past Presidents will select the 2017 New Jersey Superintendent of the Year. The program, established in 1988 and sponsored by Aramark, VALIC, and AASA, is open to all public school superintendents in the United States and overseas.

The selection qualifications for the State and National Superintendent of the Year include: meeting the needs of their students, demonstrated communication strength, a commitment to professional development and growth, and significant community involvement. Additionally, at the state and regional levels, NJASA has a fifth qualification that addresses service to the Association.

AASA will announce the National Superintendent of the Year at its Annual Conference on Education in March 2017. The recipient of this prestigious honor will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for a student at the high school where the superintendent graduated.

WOMEN'S HEALTH SCREENING

Women due for a gynecological check-up are invited to sign up for an appointment with the Madison Health Department. The check-ups are open to all women who live in Madison, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and Springfield, including nannies and other household employees and those without health insurance coverage. The screening will be held at the Madison Health Department located in the Civic Center, 28 Walnut Street, Madison on Monday November 21, 2016 starting at 9:30 am. Appointments are necessary and may be made by calling 973-593-3079 ext.1 beginning immediately. A \$25.00 fee may apply if a Pap test is indicated. This comprehensive check-up for women will include manual breast and pelvic exams, colo-rectal exams, blood pressure checks and education on the technique of monthly breast self-examination for each participant. Dr. Rohini Jobanputra will determine with each woman if a Pap test is advisable for her.

Women are often the caregivers for their spouses, children and parents and forget to focus on their own health. Research shows that when women take care of themselves, the health of their family improves. When women take even the simplest steps to improve their health, the results can be significant and everyone will benefit.

The Madison Health Department encourages women to sign up for the screening and also to pass the word along to other resident women who may not know about this service. Call the Madison Health Dept. (973-593-3079 ext.1) for an appointment for yourself or a loved one. Participants should have their physician's name and address ready when they call.



Fire Chief's Column

Chief Carlo Palumbo

THE DANGERS OF TURKEY FRYERS

Hot oil may splash or spill during the cooking. Contact between hot oil and skin could result in serious injury.

- A hot oil spill can happen with fryers designed for outdoor use using a stand. The fryer could tip over or collapse, causing the hot oil to spill. Newer countertop units using a solid base appear to reduce this risk. NFPA does not believe the risks of either type of turkey fryer to be acceptable because of the large amount of hot oil involved and the speed and severity of burns.
- In deep frying, oil is heated to temperatures of 350° Fahrenheit or more. Cooking oil is combustible. If it is heated above its cooking temperature, its vapors can ignite.
- Propane-fired turkey fryers must be used outdoors. They are very popular for Thanksgiving. Many parts of the country may have rain or snow at this time of year. If rain or snow hits the hot cooking oil, the oil may splatter or turn to steam, leading to burns.
- Turkeys must be completely thawed before placing in the fryer, because a partially thawed turkey will cause the oil to splatter causing serious burns.
- The fryers use a lot of oil, about five gallons. Considering the size and weight of the turkey, extreme caution must be taken when placing and removing the turkey from the fryer to be sure it is not dropped back into the fryer, splattering the oil on the chef.

SAFETY

NFPA discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that cook the turkey in hot oil. The use of turkey fryers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries and the destruction of property.

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE SCHOOL'S RECENT FAMILY BOWLING AFTERNOON A SCHOOL TRADITION!



Springfield - It may be a little early for turkeys, but some were spotted at Saint James the Apostle School's 8th Annual Family Bowling Afternoon at Linden Lanes in Linden. The event, sponsored by the Home & School Association, kicked off the school year and provided the opportunity for over 130 faculty, students, and their family members representing grades PreK-3 through Grade 8 to gather for an afternoon of fun and fellowship, along with an abundance of strikes, spares, and even some of those turkeys!

"ROAD E O"

continued from front page

in West Trenton. It was a day of refresher demonstrations, hands on training, and networking with the other 120 towns in New Jersey who were awarded a utility trailer by NJ OEM. There were hundreds of CERT members from throughout the State who attended this event. The ROAD-EO also acted as a mock deployment exercise for the CERTs.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Springfield CERT can call the Office of Emergency Management at (973) 376-1058, or log onto Springfield's website at Springfield-nj.us and click on the Emergency Management tab under Departments. More information and an application can be found by clicking on "forms" toward the bottom of the page. The training class will be starting shortly.

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Registration is upcoming for children eligible for the 2017-2018 Pre-Kindergarten program in the Springfield Public Schools, as well as for those children eligible for Kindergarten, First and Second Grades in September 2017, who are **NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED** in the Edward V. Walton School.

**PREKINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION FOR THE SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

DATE	LAST NAME BEGINNING WITH	TIMES
January 10, 2017 Tuesday	A-G	10:00-11:00 AM or 1:45-2:45 PM
January 11, 2017 Wednesday	H-O	10:00-11:00 AM or 1:45-2:45 PM
January 12, 2017 Thursday	P-Z	10:00-11:00 AM or 1:45-2:45 PM

Registration will be held at Edward V. Walton School, 601 Mountain Avenue, Springfield. Parents will need to call the school at 973-376-1304, if necessary, to schedule an alternate registration session.

To be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten, a child must be a Springfield resident, and be four years old on or before December 1, 2017. Children entering Kindergarten must reach their fifth birthday on or before December 1, 2017. Parents/guardians need to bring the following materials to registration:

- * **Child's Proof of Age (ex Original Birth Certificate or Passport)**
- * **Current Immunization Records**
- * **4 Proofs of Residency (originals and a set of copies)**
Tax Bill or Lease
Current Utility bills, bank statement, etc.

Some registration forms are located on our website at <http://www.springfield-schools.com/evw> . The link is located on the left side under Registration Forms.

Note: Your child's registration will be officially processed if BOTH age appropriate vaccines and ALL FOUR (4) proofs of residency are submitted at the time of registration.

SAINT JAMES SUMDOG MATH SUPERSTARS



(l to r) Julia Landicho (4th), Jorge Cubero (2nd), Tierney Vesey (3rd), Katherine Pascuite (6th), Ethan Pinho (1st) and Katrina Yapczenski (20th).

Students at Saint James the Apostle School in Springfield recently participated in Sumdog's online math competition for Union County. Six students placed in the top 20 overall and Saint James took the top four spots!

Sumdog's free online math contests are a great way to motivate students by practicing math skills while playing fun, math-related games against friends, classmates, or students from around the world. To participate, students played online math games, any time during the contest week. Scores are based on accuracy, and the questions adapt to each student's level - so everyone has an even chance of winning.

**JORDAN HARMS RAISES FUNDS IN HONOR
OF HER TEMPLE, SHA'AREY SHALOM**



Eighth grader Jordan Harms (third from the left in the front row) formed TEAM ROCKSTAR in memory of her best friend Molly Greenwald. She named her team ROCKSTAR because that is what she called Molly while she fought cancer. "She fought like a rockstar and never let it bother her" is how Jordan describes her friend. TEAM ROCKSTAR raised over \$3,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Light the Night Walk on Oct. 22, 2016.

Jordan created TEAM ROCKSTAR as her bat mitzvah project last year. She continues to raise money for LLS by holding bake sales in the Sha'arey Shalom Religious School. Jordan explains, "This was my mitzvah project last year, but for me fundraising for LLS is a year-round project."

DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL MAKES HISTORY!!!



History will be made this Spring (2017) as Jonathan Dayton rolls out its first lacrosse team EVER!!! That's right; lacrosse at Dayton is coming this Spring (2017)!

The Lacrosse Club of Springfield, in cooperation with the Springfield Recreation Department, has been growing and building its youth program for the last four years and for the 2nd year in a row has had over 100 Springfield boys competing in Lacrosse from 3rd – 8th grade with additional clinics for younger children. Last season also marked the first year of having a girl's lacrosse team in Springfield.

Members of the Lacrosse Club have been attending school board meetings for the last few years recommending that we start a lacrosse program at Dayton. After 4 years of showing growth, Mr. Davino (superintendent) and Lance Jacobs (athletic director) have shared their positive support for the program and a commitment to adopt it this Spring at Dayton.

Due to a new board policy, the Lacrosse Club of Springfield will be 100% responsible for funding Dayton's new Lacrosse program. As with any new sport, the startup costs are high, which makes fundraising and donations more important than ever. The lacrosse club of Springfield is working on multiple fundraisers to reach their goal of \$25,000 by this January 2017. If anyone is interested in donating to our first Dayton Lacrosse team in history, please visit our website Springfieldlaxnj.com. Any donations large or small can move us closer to our goal. Our site has a donation button on the home page for credit card donations. If you need more information about donating, please contact Jeff Kaesshaefer at 732-642-5954. The Lacrosse Club of Springfield is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) which allows for tax deductions.

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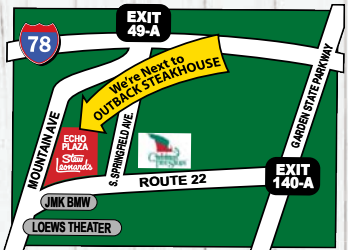
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- JACK DANIELS 1.75Lt..... **SALE \$44.09**
- BACARDI Light 1.75Lt..... **SALE \$19.19**
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- TITO'S Vodka 1.75Lt..... **SALE \$29.09**
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- JOHNNIE WALKER
Black 1.75Lt..... **SALE \$59.09**
- KETEL ONE 1.75Lt..... **SALE \$39.09**
- ROMANA Sambucca 750ml... **SALE \$24.09**
- CASA NOBLE Tequila Blanco
750ml **SALE \$34.09**

SAVE BIG on LIQUOR



Beer Sale

- SIERRA NEVADA
12 pk bottles **\$14.99**
- FAT TIRE
6 pk bottles **\$8.99**
- MICHELOB Ultra
12 pk bottles **\$12.99**
- FONDERS All Day IPA
15 pack cans **\$16.99**
- VICTORY Golden Monkey
6 pk bottles **\$10.99**
- BLUE MOON
12 pk bottles **\$14.99**
- COORS Light
30 pk cans **\$21.10**
- HEINEKEN
loose bottles **\$26.10**
- STELLA ARTOIS
12 pk bottles **\$14.99**
- MODELO Especial
12 pk cans **\$12.99**



SPRINGFIELD, NJ
901 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
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We're between Route 22 and Mountain
Ave. in Echo Plaza, next to Outback.
Only 4 miles west of the Garden State
Parkway and three miles south of I-78.

Follow
us on...



HOURS: MONDAY - SATURDAY 9 TO 9
SUNDAY 12 TO 6

EFFECTIVE THRU NOVEMBER 30, 2016



Stew Leonard's Wines & Spirits
Independently owned and operated.
Not a cooperative buying group and not
part of the Stew Leonard's food chain.

SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT VISITS SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE SCHOOL



Saint James the Apostle School had some very special guests come and visit... the Springfield Fire Department. In preparation for Fire Prevention Week, the PreK and Kindergarten classes met with Captain Pagnotta and two Springfield firefighters. Students watched and listened attentively as the firemen explained what their job is like, how they use their equipment, how the fire pump truck works and how to stay safe. Thank you Springfield Fire Department for all you do for the community!

Joseph Cusano & Co.
CPA, PC

Certified
Public
Accountant

Joseph Cusano, CPA
member of NJSCPA & AICPA

joec@jccpapc.net

- ✓ TAX PREPARATION - Individuals, Businesses, Estates
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Springfield, NJ 07081
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Fax: (908) 789-3326



CERT members show off their trailers at the "ROAD EO".

ZIAD SHEHADY APPOINTED NEW BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR



Ziad Shehady was appointed as the new Township Business Administrator, at the September 13th Township Committee meeting. Shehady served as a member of the Township Committee for almost 8 years. During his tenure, he was the Mayor for 2 terms and most recently the Deputy Mayor. He resigned from the Township Committee before being

selected by the Township Committee as full-time Administrator. Shehady, a resident of Springfield for nearly 20 years and a Captain in the New Jersey Army National Guard, is looking forward to tackling the issues that affect running the business known as "Springfield". When reached for comment by the Patriot Times, Shehady said, "I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to continue serving Springfield in this new capacity. This gives me a chance to dedicate more time and energy to the community. I appreciate the trust and confidence placed in me by the Township Committee and I look forward to continuing to work with our Town Hall team." Shehady highlighted one of his top priorities, "I plan to focus on economic revitalization and downtown redevelopment. The impact to the township from a successful downtown is tremendous – it will be a positive for quality of life, real estate value, and the tax base. There are a lot of moving parts and it requires persistence and determination. My goal is to see it through to completion."

SPRINGFIELD GIRL SCOUTS COMMUNITY BONFIRE NOVEMBER 2

Photos By Marcelo Montagna



The Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce Festival Chairpersons make a donation to the Springfield First Aid Squad and the Springfield Auxiliary Police for their help with the Festival. (l to r) Mayor Jerry Fernandez, Springfield First Aid Squad Vice President and Crew Chief Apu Mullick, Festival Chairpersons Gennifer, Robert and Xavier Abraham, Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator Wally Schultz and Chamber of Commerce Chairman Scott Seidel.

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

www.springfield-nj.us/recreation • www.facebook.com/springfieldnjrec

RICH HUBER AND ERICA DUBOIS WIN

Rich Huber retains his seat and Erica Dubois will be sworn in to the Township Committee at the reorganizational meeting held in January.

VOTING COUNTS: Rich Huber: 3,755 Erica DuBois: 3,621
(Without mail-in ballots) Kristen Labazzo: 2,864 Victoria Sarracino: 2,908

In an exclusive interview with the Patriot Times, Rich Huber said: "Thanks to all the people of Springfield who supported Erica & I. Now we need to continue to work together for the best interests of Springfield. We want the residents to know that when we make a decision we're going to make them based on what we feel is best for ALL the residents not just one group."

In an exclusive interview with the Patriot Times, Erica told us: "Thank you! I just wanted to thank everyone in the township who supported me over the last two years because this is been two years in the making. I want to thank my husband and daughters for giving up their time throughout this process and always supporting me even when I came up short last year. I think the joy on their faces on election night this year was worth all of the hard work. I want to thank Rich for his support and invaluable guidance throughout the campaign. There were so many people helping with the campaign that I don't want to single any one person out. To the people who mentored me over the last two years, basically show me the ropes in regards to campaigning, acted as a sounding board for ideas, pound the pavement and knocked on doors, and to those residents that we supported our campaign with signs on your property I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. I take this job very seriously and I will represent you to the best of my abilities. I want to congratulate Kristen and Victoria on a great race, I know what it feels like to put your heart and soul into this whole process and have it end a different way than you hoped. I know it's not just about the candidates running, but their families also. I hope to see them run again down the line. I'm excited to start my term and help in any way possible, to continue moving Springfield forward in a positive way.

Sweet Samantha
DECORATING AND BAKING CLASS!

Join Sweet Samantha for an incredible learning experience (Ages 8+) All about Baking and Decorating! 6 Weeks of Hands on projects, including Emoji theme cakes, Sushi Cookies, Doggie Cupcakes, Pokémon, Scratch Baking, Candy Making and more!

Each week, students will complete and take home a tasty and fabulous treat!

Thursday evenings 6-7:30 pm, At the Springfield Chisholm Community Center, 100 South Springfield Ave, Springfield NJ 07081

Class Dates: 11/8, 11/10, 11/17, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

* Please contact Samantha for pricing information if you missed the first few classes, any questions and to register at: samillynn9@aol.com
www.sweet-samantha.com - 973-445-1620

Samantha has been a two time FOOD NETWORK competitor on "Sweet Genius" and "Cake Wars" - Specializing in Artistic cakes, and baking, Samantha's work has been featured in many national magazines, print and blogs. She is also a Springfield mom herself and loves to teach all ages how to bake & decorate!



SENIORS VISIT NEWARK MUSEUM

Friday, November 4t, 20 senior citizens visited the famed Newark Museum in New Jersey's largest city. Current special exhibitions viewed by the participants included: "Newark: Maker City," "Newark Stories: Four Newarkers Who Made a Difference," "Modern Heroics: 75 Years of African-American Expressionism," and "Monkeys and Mountains: Landscapes of Asia." The bus trip was sponsored by the Springfield Recreation Department and chaperoned by program coordinator Sara Keffer and senior citizen bus driver Tony Losito.



SENIOR CITIZEN BUS SERVICE

The Springfield Recreation Department offers FREE weekday morning bus transportation for senior citizen residents to locations within the township – such as the grocery store, doctors, gym, meetings, library, post office, and more! The bus service runs from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. The bus is equipped with a passenger lift for wheelchairs. Other riders should be able to board and depart the bus independently.

Please call (973) 912-2227 between 8:00-9:00 am on the morning of your transportation need.

Bus service is unavailable on municipal holidays and days of certain bus trips.

FREE TEEN DROP-IN

Who: Springfield residents in 6th-12th grades
What: Basketball, volleyball, lounge games, TV, quiet study supervised by Recreation Department staff
Where: Chisholm Community Center, 100 South Springfield Avenue
When: Monday-Friday (closed on municipal holidays)
Time: 2:30 - 8:00 pm (school year)
How: Handbook, registration form, photo ID
Contact: (973) 912-2227, recreation@springfield-nj.us
Web: www.springfield-nj.us/recreation
www.facebook.com/springfieldnjrec



The Springfield Recreation Department is a member of TryCAN, a multi-community collaboration that provides a variety of recreational programs for youth with special needs.
For more information on program offerings or to register, please visit http://cityofsummit.org/trycan.

Springfield Recreation Department Bus Trip

Sands Casino

Casino, Restaurants, Outlet Shopping

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Bus will depart the Chisholm Community Center at 10:00 am
Bus will depart the Sands Casino at approximately 4:00 pm

\$25 – Springfield residents and Senior Citizens Club members
\$35 – non-residents and non-club members

Payment due by Wednesday, November 23, 2016
Seats are limited, and first-come first-served. No refunds.

Make checks payable to: Springfield Recreation Department
Return form and check to: Chisholm Community Center, 100 South Springfield Avenue
Includes: Round-trip coach bus transportation, driver gratuity, chaperone, morning snack, \$20 slot free play (photo ID required), \$5 food coupon. Questions: (973) 912-2227

Bus Trip to Sands Casino – Wednesday, November 30, 2016 (one form per person)

Name: _____
Street Address: _____ Town _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email Address: _____
Need bus to Chisholm? Yes ___ No ___ (We are unable to transport you home.)
Emergency contact name and phone number: _____
Enclosed is my check payable to Springfield Recreation Department for \$ _____

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

www.springfield-nj.us/recreation • www.facebook.com/springfieldnjrec

WINTER CONDITIONING

Winter 2016-2017 Grades 2-8

Athletes need to spend time conditioning. Winter is the perfect time to start!

Physical fitness training is an important life lesson for all children and young athletes. The program demonstrates how to safely gain strength for sports, prevent injury, stretch properly, and have fun! Athletes who desire more speed and want to gain an advantage will benefit! This co-ed program is open to Springfield residents and children in Springfield schools. A minimum of eight children are required for the program. No refunds are provided after the program has begun.

Location:
Chisholm Community Center,
2nd Floor Fitness Studio

Weekday: Friday

Time: 4:30-5:30 pm

Session 1: December 2nd-
January 20th (no class on
December 23rd or
December 30th)

Session 2:
January 27th-March 3rd

Cost: \$60 per session
(payable to Township of Springfield)
Includes: Professional coaching instruction,
training apparel item

Register by mail or in person at the
Springfield Recreation Department.
Or register online with a credit card at
<https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>
(\$3 convenience fee is charged per
transaction when using a credit card)

Chisholm Community Center
100 South Springfield Avenue
(973) 912-2227
Monday-Friday @ 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Questions? Contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us.

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION WINTER SPORTS CLASSES 2016-2017 In association with US Sports Institute

Register today:

- Winter Registration Open
- Schedules Listed Online
- Weekly Classes & Schools Out Camps
- Look Out for our New Programs

Camp & Class Details:

- Ages 2 to 8
- All Abilities. Boys & Girls
- Daytime & Evening Programs
- School Vacation Camps

Dates: Mondays, November 21-December 19 **Location:** Chisholm Community Center **Price:** \$105

TOTAL SPORTS SQUIRTS: T-Ball, flag-football,
soccer & much more! **Ages:** 3 4 yrs
Times: 3:30pm 4:30pm

TOTAL SPORTS SQUIRTS: T-Ball, flag-football,
soccer & much more! **Ages:** 4 5 yrs
Times: 4:30pm 5:30pm

TOTAL SPORTS-SENIOR SQUIRTS: Play up to 6
different sports! **Ages:** 6 8 yrs
Times: 5:30pm 6:30pm

Weather: We try not to cancel programs, but sometimes Mother Nature just gets in our way! In this case, please visit our website where we post the most up to date information regarding rain outs, snow or heat advisory cancellations.

Just log onto www.UsSportsInstitute.com,
click the Parents Menu at the top, click Weather Alerts
and look for your town and class.

Specific program details can be found online at www.UsSportsInstitute.com

Winter Weekly Classes: January to March

Dates: Saturdays, January 14-March 4 **Location:** Chisholm Community Center **Price:** \$159

TOTAL SPORTS SQUIRTS: T-Ball, flag-football,
soccer & much more! **Ages:** 3 5 yrs
Times: 9:30am 10:30am / 10:30am 11:30am

TOTAL SPORTS-SENIOR SQUIRTS: Play up to 6
different sports! **Ages:** 5 6 yrs
Times: 11:30am 12:30pm

Winter Weekly Classes: January to March

Dates: Mondays, January 16—March 6
Location: Chisholm Community Center
Price: \$159

TOTAL SPORTS SQUIRTS: T-Ball, flag-football,
soccer & much more! **Ages:** 3 5 yrs
Times: 4:30pm—5:30pm

PARENT & ME-SPORTS: With a little help, children play up to 6 sports **Ages:** 2 3 yrs
Times: 3:30pm 4:15pm

Township of Springfield

Recreation Department

Holiday Celebration

2016

Wednesday, December 7th @ 5:00-8:00 pm

(rain/snow date Thursday, December 8th)

Town Hall Lawn, North and South Trivett Avenues

Free Festivities Include:

Tree Lighting, Pictures with Santa Claus
Winter Wonderland Band, Petting Zoo
Strolling Snowman, Live Ice Carving
Stilt Walking Toy Soldier
Candy Bounce House
Carriage Rides, Treats and Hot Drinks

The Recreation Department would like to thank the following for their participation:
Township Committee, Administrator, Clerk, Public Works Dept., Police Dept., Fire Dept.,
First Aid Squad, Business Improvement District, FMBA Local #57, Municipal Alliance,
Jonathan Dayton Alternative's Club, Patriot Chamber of Commerce,
Office of Emergency Management, Auxiliary Police, Rotary Club.
Springfield H.O.P.E. will be collecting new unwrapped toys and Barnes & Noble gift cards.
Holy Cross Lutheran Church will be collecting coats and non-perishable food.

Questions? (973) 912-2227 or recreation@springfield-nj.us

Visit us on the web at www.springfield-nj.us/recreation

Inclement weather? Please call after noon on Wednesday, December 7th.



The Springfield Recreation Department is excited to partner with TGA of Union County to offer indoor youth tennis and golf lessons and clinics this winter (ages 6-11).

More information and online registration is available at:
<http://playtga.com/unioncounty>.

MEN'S OPEN PLAY 35+ BASKETBALL

This is a non-competitive program for players ages 35 and older.

Basketball will be held on most Wednesdays at Jonathan Dayton High School from 7:00-9:00 pm
and on most Sundays at Florence Gaudineer Middle School from 8:00-10:00 am.
You will be notified in advance of gym closures due to school events or holidays.

PROGRAM RUNS SEPTEMBER 2016 - AUGUST 2017

Open to Springfield residents and non-residents who were previously enrolled.

Register in person or by mail to: Springfield Recreation Department, Chisholm Community Center
100 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081 • (973) 912-2227 office (973) 912-8584 fax
recreation@springfield-nj.us www.springfield-nj.us/recreation

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

www.springfield-nj.us/recreation • www.facebook.com/springfieldnjrec

SPRINGFIELD RECEIVES COUNTY GRANTS OF \$75,000 FOR CHISHOLM PARK LIGHTS AND \$5,000 FOR TREES



(l to r) Bette Jane Kowalski, Bruce Bergen, Heather Re, Adam Lieb, Sam Mardini, Robert Boettcher, Linda Carter, and Sergio Granados

On Thursday, October 13, Assistant Director of Recreation Heather Re, Director of Recreation Adam Lieb, Director of Engineering Sam Mardini, and Supervisor of Public Works Robert Boettcher were presented with a \$75,000 grant from the Union County Kids Recreation Trust Fund and a \$5,000 grant from Greening Union County. Springfield’s ceremonial checks were awarded at the meeting of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders by Freeholder Chairman Bruce Bergen, Freeholder Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, and Freeholders Linda Carter and Bette Jane Kowalski. Springfield’s capital improvement budget is matching the Kids Recreation Trust Fund grant to finance permanent field lights at Chisholm Park. The project will illuminate two girl’s softball fields, one overlaid multi-purpose field, and the children’s playground for nighttime sports activities and special events. Matching grants from the Kids Recreation Trust Fund are distributed to municipalities across Union County that are looking to upgrade or build recreational facilities for children and families. The Greening Union County program helps local governments offset the cost of planting trees through matching grants.



The event was presented by Mike Byrne’s All Star Productions, and featured a live band and sit-down lunch. The bus trip was sponsored by the Springfield Recreation Department and chaperoned by program coordinator Sara Keffer (pictured, left), and senior citizen bus driver Tony Losito.

SENIORS CELEBRATE OKTOBERFEST IN SPRING LAKE

Thursday, October 13, 20 senior citizens traveled to Doolan’s Shore Club in Spring Lake for a celebration of Oktoberfest.



FLAG CHEERLEADERS CONCLUDE SEASON

On Sunday, October 30th, after the flag football Super Bowl at Jonathan Dayton High School, the flag cheerleaders gathered in the cafeteria to celebrate a successful season. Close to 40 cheerleaders in Kindergarten through 2nd grades were coached through weekly practices and games by Carrie Santangelo, Tara Segro, and Michelle Freitas, and volunteer Ashley Campos (pictured rear, left to right). Flag cheerleading was sponsored by the Springfield Recreation Department. Flag football was co-sponsored by Springfield Jr. Dawgs Football.

WINNERS OF THE HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST SPONSORED BY THE SPRINGFIELD PATRIOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Pictured below with Adam Lieb, Director of Recreation and Heather Re, Assistant Director of Recreation



Infant-Pre K: Sophia Lozano, Xavier Abraham



2nd-3rd: Geneva Ellis



K-1st: Adia Roberts-Moore

4th-5th: Kamila Jimenez, Daniel Moctezuma



6th-8th: Grace Valentin, Kevin Jimenez



INTERESTED IN SCRAPBOOKING?
The Recreation Department hosts a scrapbooking meet-up at Chisholm Community Center one Saturday per month. If you are interested in learning more about the art and hobby of scrapbooking, or want to bring your own supplies to the meet-up and have company to scrapbook with, contact the Recreation Department at (973) 912-2227 or recreation@springfield-nj.us for more information.

Happy Thanksgiving

Springfield Free Public Library

66 Mountain Avenue,
Springfield • 973-376-4930

Check Library website for
regular MGG schedule:
www.sfplnj.org

REGULAR LIBRARY HOURS
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
TUESDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
SUNDAY 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AND WILL
BE CLOSING AT 5:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 23 IN OBSERVANCE
OF THANKSGIVING.

Our programs are free and open to the public,
no matter what town or county you live in!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Pre-school children, babies and infants may participate in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, a grass roots program individual to each library. Register your child at the Youth Services Desk and get your first log. After each completed log of 100 books, the child will be awarded a small prize. Participants must be residents of Springfield, and library cardholders. Parents may use an APP to log books!

Mother Goose Group @ 10:30 selected days -- Babies, toddlers and preschoolers w/ caregiver. Drop in and stay for a while in our bright Children's Room! Tuesday Nov 15, Friday Nov 18 @ 4:00pm, Tuesday Nov 22, Friday Nov 25 @ 11am, Wed Nov 30

Campfire Stories 7pm Thursday November 17 Join Ms. Kathy around a cozy campfire fire for great stories and a sweet treat! Wear your PJs if you like and bring your Teddy. One of our most popular programs for kids of all ages!

PJ Storytime Mondays @ 7pm 21, 28. Enjoy some stories with Miss Debbie. All ages.

Wii Games for ages 6 to 11 – Wednesdays @ 4:00p-5:00pm. Drop in. Ages 9 and under need to have a parent present in the library.

Math Help continues on Wednesdays @ 4pm. Bring your homework, no Help on Nov 23.

LEGO Bonanza Tues Nov 8 @ 2:00-4:00 pm. School is closed! Stop by and create something extraordinary!

Fall Craft for ages 4 to 8 Mondays Nov 21 & 28 @ 4pm.

Black Friday Nov 25 @ 2pm Walter C. presents The Amazing Superheroes of New Jersey Family program suitable for K – 5. You will be amazed!

Teens & Tweens

Grades 6 and up. If you enjoy your library, here is a chance to get involved and make a difference! As part of the Teen Advisory Group, you'll have an opportunity to create programs for teens, help out with kids programs, and earn volunteer service hours for doing so. Email Alice @ achunn@sfplnj.org

org or stop by the Youth Services desk. November 14 at 6:00-7:00pm.

Teens & Tweens Edible Craft Wed Nov 23 @ 3pm. We're making chocolate Turkey favors. Grade 5 and up.

SPECIAL EVENTS

November 7th thru December 8
Art show: Paintings by Cheryl Rosen.

December 11th thru January 13
Drawings and paintings by Richard Gessner.

Saturday, November 19, 10:30 am
"Everyone is Doing It" - premier screening of the video PSA (Public Service Announcement) produced by the library's Teen Film Club.

Sunday, November 20, 2:00 pm Concert - "Belle Tones" trio. Music from the 20's thru the 80's.

Sunday, December 11, 2:00 pm
Piano Concert by Sophia Agranovich.

LECTURES

Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 pm "The Trial of Socrates" - lecture by Abbot Gorin sponsored by Brooklyn College Alumni Association.

DISCUSSIONS and WRITING

Thursdays, November 17, December 1 and 15
Short Story class. 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 17, 10:00 am
Great Books: "The Lifted Vail" by George Eliot.

Thursday, December 1, 7:00 pm
Really Good Book discussion: "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante.

Thursday, December 8
Memoir Writing Group 10:15 am

Thursday, December 15, 10:00 am
Great Books: "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" by Mark Twain.

FILMS

Monday, November 21, 1:00 pm
Lunchtime Film Series: "Saving Mr. Banks", 2013.

Monday, December 5, 1:00 pm Lunchtime Film Series: "Bridge of Spies", 2015.

Thursday, December 8, 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
International Film: "Dark Horse", 2015.

HOBBIES AND INFORMATION

Every Monday at 7:00 pm
Scrabble - Bring a friend or meet new opponents!

Every Thursday at 7:00 pm Chess club

Every Wednesday, 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm
Mahjong Club.

Every Wednesday, 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm Bridge Club.

INSTRUCTION

Every Tuesday and Thursday
One-to-One Computer Training
BY APPOINTMENT 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Every Monday from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
"Drop-in Technical Help (Nooks, Kindles, Androids, iPads, Phones and more), no appointment necessary.

Every Tuesday, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm Mahjong class.

Every Monday, 7:00 pm Canasta Instructions.

TOYS FOR SPRINGFIELD KIDS

SPRINGFIELD H.O.P.E.
SPRINGFIELD FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Springfield H.O.P.E. and the Springfield Fire Department have joined forces again this year for another Toys for Springfield Kids campaign. Please donate a NEW UNWRAPPED TOY in one of our collection boxes located at Hecht Chiropractic, The Springfield Fire Department, in the schools, and throughout town in our boxes with the Toys for Springfield Kids label on them. Additional locations will be listed on our website, www.springfieldhope.com. Financial donations are also appreciated. Please make checks payable to Springfield H.O.P.E and drop off or mail to Hecht Family Chiropractic Care, LLC, 201 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081. Toys are needed for children up to the age of 15. Older kids will receive a gift card, and distribution will be to the town's needy. The drive will run from Monday, November 7 through Friday, December 16, 2016.

For information, please e-mail
Dr. Gary Hecht
of Springfield Hope
at toys@springfieldhope.com.

(Springfield HOPE is a 501(c)3 not for profit corporation)

YOUTH FILM CLUB PROJECT DEBUTS AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016 AT THE SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

This event will be held at Springfield Public Library and will feature a PSA video project by our student participants.

Kidz Rule Inc. held its first Youth Film Club at Springfield Library just before the summer of 2016. Over a period of 6 weeks, students in grades 6 - 8 learned principal skills in filmmaking. They also participated in the making of an original PSA, encouraging peers to say no to drugs. You can view that project here: "Better Things To Do!"

The current 6 week session began in September with new students as well as a few returning. They are excitedly working on our new PSA project on the topic of peer pressure. We hope you will schedule in your calendar to be in attendance for their project debut. Feel free to bring family members and other guests to support the ongoing positive efforts of our Springfield youth and teens.

For more information about Kidz Rule Inc. visit our website: www.kidzrulenetwork.com.

And, please like us on facebook for news updates, as well as resourceful posts that benefit families with young children through teenage: facebook.com/kidzrulenetwork.

You can also subscribe to our positive and family friendly video content on youtube: youtube.com/user/KidzRuleNet.

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the neighborhood.

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James Fitzsimmons, LUTCF
973-379-1666

223 Mountain Ave
Springfield NJ 07081
jfitzsimmons@allstate.com



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196630

Classes Start February 4th, 2017
APPLY NOW!

**Springfield
Auxiliary
Police
Volunteers
Needed**



We Need You!

For almost 50 years, the Springfield Auxiliary Police have served as an immediately available source of manpower to augment the services of the Springfield Police Department during Emergencies.

**SPRINGFIELD
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**



For more information and an application visit
Springfield Emergency Management under Departments tab at
www.Springfield-nj.us or call **973-467-3388**

www.springfieldhope.com

Anyone seeking help or assistance from
Springfield H.O.P.E. may call 973-467-3388

Springfield Patriot Chamber Of Commerce



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Broker
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Police Chief's Column

Chief John P. Cook

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the holidays nearing, readers of the Springfield Patriot Times, both residents and business owners alike are preparing for the holiday season and tending to their holiday shopping. Unfortunately thieves are also busily out “shopping” during the months of November and December by looking to see what they can steal from you.

As many persons will favor paying for their holiday gifts by using cash instead of credit or debit cards, shoppers should be careful when they are receiving money from banks or via accessing an ATM machine. Money received should be immediately put out of sight before exiting the bank branch or ATM machine location.

Women should hold onto a purse when in stores, such as supermarkets, and not leave the handbag unattended in a cart while walking up and down an aisle. If at all possible store coupons should be kept in a separate billfold type wallet. This can be left open in the upper part of a cart while a wallet containing currency, credit cards or checks can be safely kept on your person and not in the cart. Thieves will look for an unattended cart with a handbag or wallet in same and will watch the intended victim and snatch the wallet when the person is busy looking at or removing items from a shelf.

Handbags should NEVER be worn with the strap across the chest. Some thieves will drive up to a victim walking in a parking lot where driver will feign asking for directions. This is done to draw the victim closer so the thief can grab onto the handbag strap and rapidly speed away. If this is done while holding onto a handbag, the bag is gone, but if the bag is worn with the strap across your chest, the victim will most likely be dragged by the speeding car before the handbag strap eventually gives way and breaks.

As handbag thefts or purse snatches increase during the holiday shopping time, your bag should not contain anything that cannot be replaced. Identification and other documents such as checks or credit cards can be replaced but forms of identification such as your Social Security card should be left at home since thieves who obtain this can easily use your identity information to commit various types of Identity Theft related frauds.

Readers of my column in the Springfield Patriot Times should remember that the theft of smart phones has greatly increased throughout the country and many thieves will merely walk up and grab a phone from your hand and may even assault you to get the phone. As more persons are afoot in store parking lots during the holiday season, people should be careful when walking through parking lots and wait until entering their car to make a call.

Shoppers should park their cars in the main well lit sections of a parking lot and should make sure to close all windows and lock all car doors. Any shopping bags from other stores should be placed in the trunk or in the rear of an SUV or van where it is not readily visible to thieves who will walk amongst cars in the lot looking for packages to steal. Do not leave packages inside your car overnight in your driveway and instead bring them into your home to store.

Remember to always retrieve your credit or debit card from the cashier after making any purchase. During the rush of holiday shopping it may be inadvertently left behind at the register or deliberately retained by a dishonest employee, especially when businesses hire many temporary holiday employees. If you later discover that your credit or debit card was not returned, do not waste time attempting to contact the store to see if your card was located or can be tracked down. Instead immediately contact the issuing bank for your credit or debit card to report it as lost so any unauthorized use can be quickly prevented.

Businesses should increase the amount of times that monies are removed from a cash register drawer and make additional bank drops if necessary so no large amounts of money are left in the business overnight or in the cash register drawers. The bank drop should be done by multiple employees together and the times should be staggered on a daily basis so as to prevent thieves from watching a business to set up a theft.

As many residents will order holiday gifts on-line in the months leading up to the month of December thieves will drive around residential areas looking for unattended FedEx, UPS or US Mail packages lying by the front doors of homes. Residents need to look into tracking the delivery date for their anticipated package. If they will not be at home they should see if a trusted neighbor could retrieve and hold onto their packages until they return, or possibly request the package deliverer leave any parcels at either a side or rear door of their house. Residents should be alert for slow moving vehicles they see driving through their neighborhood where the vehicle occupants remove packages left at the front door of a home and they should immediately call the police.

Residents who go away for the holidays should remember to cancel their mail delivery and any newspaper delivery and should do everything possible to make their house look as if it is occupied. Interior lights on timers and external lights that are motion activated can greatly reduce the appearance that no one is home. In addition, a neighbor or family member can be asked to park a car in your driveway if your driveway is empty and to keep an eye on your home while you are away.

Scammers know that everyone wishes that they had more disposable income to use on holiday shopping and this will usually mean that con artists will increase their letters, e-mails or telephone calls that fraudulently claim that the targeted victim has won some type of lottery or monetary prize. To easily recognize these scams all you need to know is that anytime you are contacted and told that you're a “winner” you have won nothing if the caller informs you that you have to pay fees of some sort to collect your prize.

During the holiday season the Springfield Police will have officers in both marked and unmarked vehicles patrolling residential and shopping areas in town in order to make the holidays safe for residents, merchants and shoppers alike while doing their best to deter thieves and the thieves' holiday shopping schemes.

These suggested tips may aid in you and your family having both a happy and a safe holiday season this year.

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My name is Richie and I have to tell you I am a big fan of trucks! Having the pleasure of owning a trucking company, hauling cars enables me to not only test drive my favorite vehicles, but to buy them too! I have visited Autoland twice in the past two years and purchased two cars from them. I had a smooth deal not once, but twice! When I purchased my '12 Toyota Rock Edition Tundra from Autoland, I was probably a salesman's worst nightmare - I wanted it all and within days it was all there! Autoland even came to my house and hand delivered special mats, rain guards, and all the rest of the goodies I wanted. I could not have been served any better!

- Richie, Springfield NJ



I would like to express my complete satisfaction with regard to buying my two vehicles from Autoland in Springfield, NJ. From the minute I stepped into the showroom to the time I drove out with the vehicles, the staff had been courteous, informative and non-aggressive in their approach. The salesmen took the time to go over every detail with regard to the purchase. Being a business owner in Union and personally servicing the public for 15 years, I noticed the complete professionalism of the staff at Autoland and I would recommend this dealership to anyone looking to purchase a vehicle with complete confidence. Thank you to the staff at Autoland!

- Michael and Carmen Ranieri,
Residents of Springfield, NJ



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