

Published by the Township of Springfield in cooperation with the Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce

www.springfieldpatriot.com

JANUARY 2014 · Issue #35

www.springfield-nj.us

NEXT CHAMBER MEETING

THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2014

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 nonmembers are invited to Chamber meetings. Free coffee and donuts are served.

BECOME A MEMBER

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ANNUAL RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

On January 2, at 2 pm, the Township of Springfield held its annual re-organizational meeting. Typically, many Township appointments are for a one year term, so each year individuals are appointed or re-appointed to their positions. The agenda, put together by Township Clerk Linda Donnelly, moved along quickly and the meeting wrapped up in about an hour. Afterwards, a celebration party was held at the Chisholm Community Center for everyone.



Mayor Richard Huber takes the oath of office from Union County Clerk, The Honorable Joanne Rajoppi, a former Springfield Mayor herself. Mayor Huber's wife Ginnie Huber holds the bible while children and grandchild look on.



Township Clerk Linda Donnelly administers the Oath of Office to Jerry Fernandez with his wife, Carmela and sons Alexander. Christian and Robert by his side.

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS

On Friday December 20, from 4 to 6 pm, Springfield HOPE "wrapped up" their annual Toy Drive by having Santa pose for photos with children (and Adults!!) at the Springfield Firehouse. One of the first to arrive to see Santa and donate toys to HOPE was the Glazner family. Families struggling financially this year were able to come by that week and pick up toys for the children and anyone with children was able to come by and pose with Santa and receive their photograph with him as well. They could email their photo, text, post on Facebook and several other means of circulating their photo to their friends and family from the photographers printer. Thousands of Toys were donated by Township residents. This year Springfield Fire Captain Marc Corea and Springfield Fire Chief James Sanford provided the venue as the project has outgrown Dr. Hecht's Office in the old train station across the street. Pictures of Santa were taken by Howard Schram of Step it Up Events.



(1 to r) Springfield HOPE Trustee Scott Seidel, Springfield Firefighter Sal Cocuzza, Santa, Fire Chief James Sanford and Springfield HOPE Trustee Dr. Gary Hecht.



(l to r) Traci Glazner and daughter Faye, Max and Ben Glazner, all pose with Santa after making a donation of Toys to Springfield HOPE.



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

Co-Chairman: Scott Seidel and Patrick Paolella Networking Vice President: Elliot Merkin Recording Secretary: Tracy Geyer

SPRINGFIELD, NJ

MAYOR: Richard Huber
DEPUTY MAYOR: David Barnett
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Ziad Shehady
Jerry Fernandez
Margaret Bandrowski

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

All Emergencies	
(Police, Fire, Ambulance)	9-1-1
Police (Nonemergency)	
Fire (Non-emergrncy)	973-912-2265
Board of Education	973-376-1025
Construction Office	973-912-2220
Court	973-912-2213
Emergency Management	
Department	
Engineering Department	
Finance Department	973-912-2279
Fire Prevention Office	
Health Department	
Library	
Office of the Mayor	973912-2285
Public Works Department	
Recreation Department	
Recycling information	973-912-2222
Tax Assessor	973-912-2207
Tax Collector	973-912-2204/05
Township Administrator	973-912-2202
Township Clerk	
Vital Statistics/Registrar	973-912-2285
Zoning Office	

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Inquires concerning advertising and submissions of press releases can be made to The Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce

via email or fax to: SCOTT SEIDEL, Editor

JOHN COTTAGE, Sr., Assistant Editor PATRICK PAOLELLA, Director of Advertising info@springfieldpatriot.com Phone 973-912-2300 • Fax 973-376-0425

Message from the Mayor



First I would like to congratulate Mr. Jerry Fernandez and welcome you to the 2014 Springfield Township Committee. Forty years ago my wife Ginnie and I decided to move to Springfield and begin raising our family here. We choose Springfield because of the beautiful charm, excellent schools, and wonderful people that truly make Springfield a great town. I have shared so many wonderful memories here in Springfield that I do not think I would ever be able to call any other place home. The memories I have made here with my family or the countless friendships I have developed here in

Springfield are what truly have touched my heart. With all these wonderful memories, I do have one bad memory and that was the division of town when the talk of closing one elementary school arose many years ago. I saw how this incident divided our wonderful town. Having experienced this once, I am asking my fellow members of the township committee to not be divided, to unite to do what we feel is best for the town, not what our party feels is best, but do what our heart tells us. As I serve this year as mayor, I do not want it to be about what did I do, but rather what we did do as a Township Committee to make this town a wonderful place to live. One person is not going to make this town, rather 5 people working with the townspeople's best interest at heart is what is going to truly make this a magnificent year. In closing I would like to thank my wife Ginnie for all her support. Also I would like to thank my children and their families for everything they have done for me. Finally I would like to thank you, the people of Springfield, for putting your faith and trust in me to continue to make Springfield a great place to live.

Richard Huber, Mayor 2014

DECEMBER 2013 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE RECAP

During the month of December, our regular schedule was altered with legislative meetings on the first and third Tuesdays (rather than the second and fourth Tuesdays). Also, our workshop meeting was consolidated at the beginning of the Tuesday, December 3rd legislative meeting, which immediately followed. During the workshop meeting, we discussed the monthly reports from our administrator, police and fire chiefs, emergency management, public works, recreation, and engineering. As this was an abbreviated meeting, there was limited discussion in contrast to most of our previous workshop meetings. We also reminded the public about the upcoming Chisholm Center Senior Wing grand opening on December 12th.

The first legislative meeting of December was held on Tuesday, the 3rd. This was one of the most abbreviated meetings of the year as often happens during the holiday season (especially since the previous legislative meeting was during the prior week). We approved resolutions accepting grant money for police armor and internal line item transfers in the municipal budget (a formality requiring township committee approval with zero effect on taxpayers' wallets). Additionally, we approved payroll and vendor bills for the previous two week period, approved the minutes of a prior township committee meeting, approved tax appeal refunds and overpayments, and other day to day necessities in order to allow the township employees to keep the township of Springfield running smoothly.

Before our last meeting of the year, on December 12th, the township committee proudly opened the Chisholm Center Senior Wing. We welcomed a record number of seniors and were entertained by the Jonathan Dayton chorus in addition to welcoming remarks by the mayor, members of the township committee, our resident county freeholder, and the township administrator.

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TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Monday, January 13, 7:30 p.m., workshop, Fire Department Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, Municipal Building Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting,

Municipal Building **PLANNING BOARD** 1st Wednesday, 7:30

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT 4th Wednesday, 7:30

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

RENT LEVELING BOARD last Thursday of month, 7 p.m. All of the above meet in Municipal Building.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. - Sarah Bailey Civic Center

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m. – Annex

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 3rd Thursday, 7:30 in Library

THE BID AT WORK

Facebook.com/Springfieldnewjersey www.springfieldbid.com

BID Annual Report for 2013

The BID Board of Directors had a very busy, productive year in moving towards meeting our goals.

In 2013 the BID did the following:

REDEVELOPMENT

- Hired a Redevelopment Attorney to facilitate redeveloping Morris Avenue.
 - o We held a meeting for property owners located in the Redevelopment Zone to discuss the plans and the process.
 - o Met with the largest property owner on Morris Avenue and developed a concept plan to redevelop his properties.
 - o Met with the Township Committee to present the concept plan and to have them put in place the resolution needed to move forward.
 - o The Township and the property owner are developing an agreement for redevelop ment of his property.
 - o We met with a second property owner who had plans to redevelop his properties. He will be signing an agreement with the town so he can move forward on redeveloping his property.

MARKETING

Marketing Promotions:

- Hired MyTown Marketing to do the following to help retain existing businesses succeed and bring in new businesses:
- We developed a SOCIAL MEDIA PLAN that included*
 - -Maintenance of the "SpringfieldNewJesey" facebook page
 - -Facebook page Twitter page
- -Regularly scheduled postings to Facebook & Twitter pages
 - *Monthly prize drawings/give-aways from Springfield businesses
 - *Professional services "FYI's" and sponsored give-aways
- *Promoting individual food, retail, beauty & service businesses
- *Promoting town-wide "business-driven" events
- *Promoting town events
- -Maintenance of Constant Contact** email program

We Held quarterly themed programs that included:

- -Reaching-out, buy-in & sign-up of participating businesses
- -Working closely with participating businesses on ways to "double up" on
- event-driven traffic with "comeback coupons" & other promotions
- -Designing and printing "comeback coupons /promotions" (if needed) at a
- -Management of cross-promotional elements

-posters, flyers, emails & social postings-Distribution of cross-promotional elements

We promoted marketing options to businesses, which included sharing ideas & promotions to help them market their own businesses.

SPRINGFIELD APP

The BID worked to develop a Springfield APP. It will be the Source for what's happening in Springfield, NJ that keeps you connected in just one touch. The Springfield, NJ Business Improvement District (BID) App is FREE to download! The APP includes:

Directory - Find just what you're looking for under any category - Restaurants, Shops, and Service Providers - Everything!

Parking - Find parking downtown easily with this great tool.

Events - $\bar{K}eep$ in touch with what's going on around town.

Deals - Get great deals and coupons and local business offerings.

Alerts - Don't miss important town notifications and announcements. Allow push notifications to keep you up-to-date with the latest. Connect - Comment on events and photos and share them with your friends when you connect through Facebook and Twitter.

JAZZ CONCERTS

The BID hosted three Jazz Concerts this past summer. Even though it we had to deal with the hottest night of the summer and thunder storms, many people showed up to listen to music on Morris Ave and Center Street and at 201 Mountain Ave.

Visual Improvement Committee

The BID is worked with the Township Committee and the Planning Board to help make Springfield a business friendly community. We proposed changes for getting business permits that was adopted by the Town and facilitated them changing the onerous process.

Municipal Parking Lots

A BID committee reviewed the Municipal Parking Lot fees. The committee compared the existing fees to surrounding towns and what they charge. The committee recommended keeping the fees as they presently are, \$.50 per hour at lots 2 & 3 and \$1.00 at lot 1. The committee suggested keeping free parking after 6:00pm, during the Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays and on Sundays.

The committee also recommended that the Township Committee review the fees charged to businesses for employee parking. The committee felt that it is important that employees not park on the street, but park in the parking lots in the rear of stores.

Township Works with BID to Receive \$90,000 in Local Demonstration Project Grant Monies

The Township of Springfield working with the Springfield Business Improvement District proposed to the State, as the local demonstration project, the development of a comprehensive strategic transportation plan to underpin and

enhance the revitalization process of the local retail and commercial districts. Springfield was notified last month that they were selected to receive this grant and implementation of this project has begun.

This Local Demonstration Project consisted of a visioning exercise to adopt "walkable downtown" ideas to land in Springfield, which generally includes the redevelopment area as well as commercially used or zoned lands along Morris Avenue, Springfield Avenue and Main Street. The LDP project was done in conjunction with the Township's ongoing redevelopment plan process and will result in recommendations that address mitigation of the auto-oriented nature of the area, bus route and stop locations, increasing the footprint of the downtown, environmental issues (such as the presence of flood prone areas), and integration of the arts. The team held an open house for anyone interested in participating in the process. Many people came and provided information to help the Team make informative recommendations. The Plan will build upon the market analysis and retail assessment previously commissioned by the Springfield Business Improvement District and completed by the JGSC Group. The NJ TRANSIT Bus Planning Unit is involved with this project due to the significant presence of busses in the Study Area and NJDOT will be involved due to the presence of State roads. The objective is to create a Vision Plan that the Township can use in its preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for the Study Area (currently underway) and that addresses concerns regarding walkability, bikeability, bus routes, and flooding.

For 2014 we are planning to work on the following:

- Continue to Facilitate Reinvestment of Morris Ave. (Downtown Area)
- Continue to help our businesses market themselves and help drive consumers into Springfield.
- The BID's VIC Committee will finalize Welcome to Springfield and directional signage for the Town. We are hoping to help direct visitors to our shopping districts, Township buildings and historical sites. We will work on a plan for design and location of these signs to implement in 2014.
- The BID will be mailing a Springfield Business Directory to all residents and businesses in 2014.
- We will continue to develop the Springfield APP
- We will begin to develop a plan to improve the streetscape on Mountain Avenue and maintain the sidewalks in the business districts.
- We will focus on helping our Professional businesses to market themselves by offering to create 30-second videos to post on Facebook and websites. We will also provide four meet and greets to help our professionals network their businesses.

Have a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!
Board of Directors, Springfield
Community Partnership



TAXPAYER REMINDER:

PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE 2/1/14.
GRACE PERIOD END 2/10/14.
YOU CAN PAY YOUR TAXES ONLINE
AT WWW.SPRINGFIELD-NJ.US OR HAVE
THE TAX OFFICE AUTOMATICALLY
DEBIT YOUR TAX PAYMENT EACH
TAX QUARTER.

CALL US AT 973-912-2204

LESS EXPENSIVE ELECTRIC FOR RESIDENTS THROUGH ENERGY AGGREGATION – UPDATE

The Township Committee voted to authorize the purchase of less expensive electricity through an auction process under a state law called Energy Aggregation. The Township hired Jersey Energy Group (JEG) to act as an energy aggregator to establish an Energy Aggregation program to purchase electricity for residential and non-residential customers in Springfield. The bulk or aggregated price for the customer base in Springfield "will increase the likelihood of lower electricity rates" according to the state law.

JEG will conduct an on-line reverse auction on January 28, 2014 to seek an energy provider for Springfield. If the rates are less than JCP&L's current rates, JEG will recommend a particular Third Party Supplier (TPS) and contract terms to the Township Committee. If the governing body approves JEG's recommendation, the next step is for JEG to submit the draft Third Party Supplier agreement to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and State Office of Rate Counsel for the mandatory 15-day review and comment period. Once a contract is signed, JCP&L has 10 days to send specific account information for all residential customers in Springfield to the Third Party Supplier.

The winning supplier will send a letter to every household explaining the Energy Aggregation program, the new rate, terms and the opt-out process. It is important to note that, while state law requires a 30-day opt-out period, JEG will allow residents to come and go as they please, essentially the opt-out period is for the life of the contract.

It is anticipated the new rates will go into effect on or about April 15, 2014.

JEG will ensure a thorough and comprehensive outreach program and another Town Hall meeting to inform and educate Springfield's electric customers of the new rates and contract terms.

In the event Third Party Supplier responses are not advantageous to the Township, JEG will recommend holding-off until market conditions improve.

Please continue to read the Springfield Patriot newspaper, the Township home page, http://www.springfield-nj.us or Township FB page for updates.

GIVE US YOUR SUGGESTIONS

The Township is always looking for ways how we can be more effective in our operations and better serve our residents, at the lowest possible cost. Getting your feedback is one way we can be responsive to your concerns and suggestions. While we can guarantee we can satisfy all your requests, we still would like to hear from you. Tell us your suggestions, advice and what is important to you.

Give us a shout at suggestions @springfield-nj.us

COLD WEATHER TIPS

Some common-sense cold weather tips include:

- Make sure your home is properly insulated to preserve heat. Inspect doors and windows and apply caulk or weather-stripping where necessary to keep cold air out. Close drapes, blinds and garage doors to retain heat and keep cold air out.
- Keep extra blankets or sleeping bags for each person inside your home. Dress in layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen when utilizing a fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Never use a gas stove, charcoal grill or lantern intended for outdoor use inside your home as deadly carbon monoxide gas could build up.
- Maintain a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food. Convenience foods that do not require cooking are good to have on hand.
- Avoid frozen pipes by opening faucets and maintaining a constant drip, or wrap pipes in insulation or layers of newspapers.
- Use care when burning candles, especially around children or pets; open flames are a dangerous fire hazard.
- Charge electronic devices such as cell phones, laptops and tablet computers.

- Keep a flashlight, portable radio and extra batteries handy in the event a power interruption occurs.
- Never use a portable generator inside the house or a closed garage in the event of a power outage. Ensure the proper generator is selected and installed by a qualified electrician. When operating a generator, the power coming into the home should always be disconnected. Otherwise, power from the generator could be sent back onto the utility lines, creating a hazardous situation for utility workers.

HELPING NEW RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS NAVIGATE SPRINGFIELD BETTER

At the request of the Springfield Improvement Team, new residents and business will have a reference guide to Springfield. This "Welcome to Springfield Guide" is intended to help them get familiar with the operations of the Township government. Funding for the mailing and production of this Guide was provided by Investors Bank of Springfield.

The Guide is available on the Township website at http://www.springfield-nj.us. Look for the image on the home page on the upper right side, click on it



Care about Springfield? Join the Springfield CERT Team

To find out more about CERT and how you can help Springfield, contact the Springfield Office of Emergency Management. Supply your name, address, phone and number, and email address.

Springfield Office of Emergency Management 200 Mountain Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081 Phone: 973-467-3388 oemcoordinator@springfield-

ni.us



Fire Department 2013 Run Totals

The 2013 Fire Department run totals were 3% lower than 2012. However, the total fires were 70% higher than 2012. The increased fires were primarily contributed to human factors, such as unattended cooking, discarded cigarettes and negligence. False alarms declined for the second consecutive year by 27%. This reduction can be attributed to improved fire prevention inspections and fire code compliance. First Responder

Medical Calls were 11% higher than 2012. Firefighter injuries were

Total 2013 Incidents - 1,584

Residential Fires - 16 Commercial Fires - 3 Brush Fires - 11 Other Fires - 10 First Responder Medical – 663 False Alarms - 258 Mutual Aid Given - 36

Vehicle Fires – 11 Hazardous Materials - 71 Hazardous Conditions - 62 Service Calls – 443

Civilian Fire Injuries - 1 Civilian Fire Deaths - 0 Firefighter Injuries - 8 Firefighter Deaths - 0

Center for a large mulch pile burning. Engine 4 and Foam Tender responded on mutual aid assignment into Clark for a building fire involving flammable liquids. Engine 4 responded on a medical service call for a worker who nearly amputated an arm. On two occasions, all units responded to the high school for fires caused by welding at

the facade restoration site. Both incidents were quickly contained without injury or prolonged class disruption. The contractor was cited under fire code and the fire department monitored the subsequent welding.

In 2013, Fire Prevention Code Enforcement Life Hazard Use inspection activity met the NJ Division of Fire Safety requirement for providing a yearly periodic inspection to all LHUs. The number of life hazard certificates of compliance increased by 61% which indicates risk reduction

The Springfield Fire Department will continue to work to make 2014 safer than the last. We will use this incident data to improve our community outreach messages. Please remember that fire safety is everyone's job.

mainly strains/sprains and remain even with eight incidents. There was one civilian fire injury caused during an oven fire. Please continue read my Patriot Times articles and follow us at Facebook.com/SpringfieldFireDepartment throughout the year for fire safety tips to help us reduce these types of fires in 2014

Some notable incidents in 2013: Engine 3 and Foam Tender responded on a mutual aid assignment into Rahway for a building fire involving flammable liquids. Truck 1 responded on a mutual aid assignment into Mountainside for a house fire. All units responded to a Troy Drive apartment for a kitchen fire. Fire was contained to room of origin. Truck 1 responded on a mutual aid assignment into Mountainside for a house fire in blizzard-like conditions. Engine 4 and Foam Tender responded on a mutual assignment to Port Elizabeth for a shipping container fire involving chemicals. Police, Fire and the First Aid Squad performed CPR with defibrillation to revive a 34 year old man. All units responded to a building fire caused by a fallen electrical utility line. Engine 4 responded to a residence for carbon monoxide alarm and found a malfunctioning hot water heater. One resident was treated for CO exposure. All units responded to the Union County Recycling

Total 2013 Fire Prevention Code Enforcement Inspections – 1,815

Life Hazard Uses – 154 Initial Inspections - 171 Re-Inspections - 434 Certificates of Compliance - 179 Non-Life Hazard Uses- 753 Initial Inspections - 566 Re-Inspections - 513 Certificates of Compliance - 504 Complaints Investigated - 131 Permits Issued - 48



HELP YOUR BONES!

Project Healthy Bones is a preventive, 24-week, osteoporosis exercise class for men and women. Trained peer leaders instruct the classes in how to use weights and do balance and flexibility exercises in this valuable and fun program. The exercises and education help people to become more healthy and strong as they prevent further bone loss. Residents of Madison, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and Springfield are invited to the program. Healthy Bones requires a twenty-four week commitment and interested persons should register only if they will be able to attend most

Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00p.m. at the Senior Center in Chatham Township beginning with an introductory session on January 29. All people who wish to come to the classes must first sign up by calling the Madison Health Department at 973-593-3079x 1 or 2 by January 24. Class size is limited and on a first-come, first served basis. Please do not call the Senior Center.

Physician's permission will be necessary to participate; forms for this purpose will be sent upon acceptance to the course.

Project Healthy Bones is sponsored by the Health Departments and Senior Centers of the host communities, administered by the Arthritis Center of Morristown Medical Center and coordinated by the Madison Health Department and NORWESCAP/RSVP of Morris County.

Martin Luther King Day Vigil For Peace & Understanding

Monday, January 20, 2014: 12 PM The Chamber (2nd Floor) of Town Hall Sponsored by the Springfield Interfaith Clergy Association & The Township Committee

ALL ARE WELCOME

Shared Words of Prayer & Reflection Shared Songs of Joy & Hope Greetings from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change Township of Springfield Proclamation

Let the dream continue...

MAYOR AMLEN "MUGGED!"



(l to r) Township Committeeman Ziad Shehady and David Barnett, Deputy Mayor Richard Huber, Mayor David Amlen, and Township Committeewoman Margaret Bandrowski

Mayor David Amlen was presented with a plaque at his last township committee meeting as mayor on December 17. Mayor Amlen was thanked for his service during three years on the committee and his major achievements as Mayor and his fellow Democratic committee members voiced their appreciation for his collegial style. Following township custom, Amlen was "mugged": presented with a huge, candy-filled mug with the township logo on it, a much honored tradition among employees!



Springfield Firefighter and HOPE Toy Program liaison, Fire Captain Marc Corea poses with Santa





Township Clerk Linda Donnelly poses with Jerry Fernnadez and his family after administering his oath of office for the Township Committee.

JERRY COMMENTED TO THE PATRIOT:

"I would like to thank everyone for attending today.

(Tom Kean, and all the elected officials, clergy, volunteers and town employees.)

I would like to thank my wife and children for allowing me the time it takes to serve our community, without that understanding I would not be here today.

To my parents and brother thank you for your support and working those extra hours as I attend work in Springfield. Thank you to our Town Clerk Linda Donnelly for swearing me in. Thank you to Diane Stampoulos my running mate for her great showing on her first time out and her hard work. Thank you to the countless supporters, who donated time and money, placed signs, got out the votes and worked hard to spread my message to other voters and helped in winning this election, to give me the opportunity to work for Springfield. I am truly blessed to have such great friends.

For those who may not have voted for me, I hope that by hard work, I gain your trust and earn your respect as your committeeman working for you.

Having won elections and lost elections, I truly appreciate the honor it is to serve as a committeeman in Springfield. One of the many things I have learned when serving Springfield, is that it takes every person on this committee to work together to make progress in Springfield.

We may be voted in as Democrats or Republicans, but the most important thing is that we are residents of Springfield first. We all care greatly about the town we call home. In order to make progress we must not forget that. We must work together, respect each other and trust each other in making the right decisions for Springfield. Though I do not expect us to always agree on that path to progress. I hope we will debate our ideas respectfully, and with open minds and be willing to find the compromise that good leaders find when leading.

I will work tirelessly for the residents of Springfield. I will be having open office hours this Sunday from 1-3 pm. in town hall. I hope as a committee we will work together on projects like our town pool, having open government by asking our Planning boards and Zoning boards to broadcast their meeting on our public access channel. Work together to control our expenses. We should hear our residents concerns and be proactive to all the issues affecting all our residents

I look forward to working with all the members on this Committee over the next 3 years and expect great things for our community.

Thank you all, may you all have a happy and healthy New Year. God bless America and may God bless Springfield."

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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 MONDAY, JANUARY 20 IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.

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

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Youth Stages of Princeton presents Drama Classes at Library:

Drama classes for students in grades 2, 3, and 4 will be held at Springfield Free Public Library in January and February. These will take place on Mondays, Jan. 6, 13, and 27 and Feb. 3, 10, and 24.

Pre-registration for attendance is required for this 6-week course. There is a limited sign-up. Youth Stages gives a chance for students to learn about great literature, bring historical figures to life, all while participating in a theater experience.

Mother Goose Group for babies, toddlers and preschoolers with caregiver, on selected mornings @ 10:30 am: Thursday Jan 2, Tuesday Jan 7, Friday Jan 10, Tuesday Jan 14, Friday Jan 17, Wednesday Jan 22, Friday Jan 24, Thursday Jan 30

Friday Storycraft Drop in @ 4pm in January, for ages 3 to 7. A story and a simple craft.

Tuesday Crafts in January Drop in @ 3:45 for Grades 1 to 4.

Wednesday Board Game Bonanza Drop in @ 3:45 to 5:00pm All ages, preschoolers with caregivers especially welcome to play Candy Land, Scrabble Junior, Chutes and Ladders, Sorry!, UNO, CONNECT 4 and more!

Let's Play Chess! For Kids ages 6 to 11. Games begin @ 4pm. Meet new friends over this challenging and fun game. Students should be able to play independently.

Springfield Free Public Library

66 Mountain Avenue, Springfield • 973-376-4930

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

Math Homework Help Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Please bring your homework and textbook.

Bedtime Math Party! Saturday January 18 @ 3 to 4pm for ages 5 to 9. Get introduced to America's newest, amazingly fun math incentive, solving zany math puzzlers, putting together large tangrams, and finishing up making large dominos and matching them up! Parents, please pre-register your child (the program is limited to 20) and plan to attend the program, too.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 PM

The Benchmark Project – A Program Concerning Our Constitution, Government And The Judiciary. The Aim Is To Foster A Better Understanding Of Civics And, In Particular, Our Courts.

Fridays, January 17th and 24th, 12:30 pm Chair yoga with Pamela Nixon.

Sunday, January 26th, 2:00 pm Concert - "Mostly Motown" with Rhonda Denet.

Sunday, February 2nd, 2:00 pm Piano Recital – Ben Cooper.

DISCUSSIONS AND WRITING

Thursday, January16th, 10:15 am Great Books Discussion - Edward Gibbon: "The Rise and Fall of Roman Empire". Wednesday, February 5th, 7:00 pm "Topics of Interest" with Bobby Fewell.

Thursday, February 6th, 7:00 pm (Really Good) Book Discussion – "Flight Behavior" by Barbara Kingsolver.

FILMS

Monday, January 6th, 1:00 Pm Lunchtime Film –

The First Film In The New "Science Fiction Classics" Series. (Title To Be Announced At A Later Date)

Tuesday, January 21st, 1:00 pm Lunchtime Film - SCIENCE FICTION CLASSICS: MGM first big-budget science fiction film. The story set in 23 rd century when humans travel to distant planets and interact with other civilizations, 1956.

Wednesday, January 23rd, 1:00pm & 7:00 pm Documentary "Chasing Ice": The story of one man's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of climate change.

Monday, February 3rd, 1:00 pm Lunchtime Film - SCIENCE FICTION CLASSICS: Grant Williams stars as a man who becomes a worldwide phenomenon after a cloud of radiation and insecticide causes him to gradually shrink, 1957...

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, February 5th – April 9th FREE AARP Tax Assistance Program – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM

INSTRUCTION

Every Tuesday And Thursday One-To-One Computer Training By Appointment 10:30 Am – 12:00 PM

Monday, October 28rd, 10:00 AM Knits Wits Knitting Group Every Thursday At 7:00 PM00 Chess Club

CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY



The First Annual Public Chanukah Menorah Lighting Ceremony sponsored by the Jewish Learning Center was held on Sunday, December 1 with over 150 Springfielders in attendance along with members of the Springfield's Police, Auxiliary Police and Fire Departments & Township Committee. The event marked celebration of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights.

The event was hosted by Rabbi Mendy & Aidella Blesofsky of the Jewish Learning Center of Springfied and they encouraged the guests to keep the miracle of Chanukah

alive today by performing "Mitzvahs" or good deeds for others. Mayor David Amlen wished all a Happy Chanukah & Deputy Mayor Richard Huber was honored to light the Shamash candle. Following the lighting, traditional latkes, donuts, chocolate coins and beverages were served, much to the delight of children who had an opportunity to sing "The Dreidel Song".

The rabbi commented "I am very happy with the turnout and God willing, this is the first of many annual celebrations."



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SPRINGFIELD PBA LOCAL 76 DONATED TOYS AND GIFT CARDS

Springfield PBA Local 76 donated Toys and Gift cards to children in need in Springfield once again this year. Springfield HOPE sponsors the Toys for Springfield Kids campaign each year and the Police Officers of the Springfield Police Department brought over bags of Toys to add to those already received.

(1 to r) Officer Frank Cuhna, Sergeant Steve Hollyfield Officer Mike Wlazlo, Springfield HOPE Trustee Scott Seidel, and Lieutenant Mike Mcnany, (kneeling) HOPE Trustee Dr. Gary Hecht



Police Chief's Column

Chief John P. Cook

BE SURE YOUR BURGLAR ALARMS ARE REGISTERED

The Springfield Police Department wants to remind all residents and businesses that utilize burglar alarm systems that all such alarms, by township ordinance, must be registered with the police department. The alarm registration process is an annual requirement and persons or businesses having alarms must re-register by January 15th of each year. One of the more frequent demands for police service involves the need for police personnel to respond to all activated alarms and as such the annual registration of alarms is vital so residents and businesses can be contacted when any problems are encountered with the alarm system such as repetitive false alarms or improper audible sirens or bells.

The false alarms still require police response as the reason for the alarm activation cannot be determined until police officers investigate the condition of the alarmed property. Accordingly, there is a monetary penalty for frequent false alarms as well as for the failure to initially register or

annually re-register an alarm.

Residents and businesses should be aware that more than three (3) false alarms that occur with any 3-month calendar period will result in the issuance of a township ordinance summons. As it is understandable that there will be times a resident or business owner may inadvertently activate their alarm system, the alarm ordinance takes this into account and the alarm activation will not be deemed to be a false alarm if the resident or business employee immediately contacts police headquarters to report the accidental alarm activation so police response can be canceled.

The alarm ordinance specifically aims to standardize the types of alarm systems that are allowable so that alarm activations, especially repetitive false alarms, are not ongoing, disruptive to neighbors or an increasing demand for police services.

For alarm registration application forms, re-registration forms or information persons may go to the police department records unit located on the second floor of the township municipal building. The records unit can also be contacted directly at (973) 912-2229 and the necessary forms can be requested to be sent via email.

Please remember that when the ownership of a house changes a new owner who opts to retain and use an existing alarm system must register this alarm in their name.

Bank Robbery At Investor's Bank

On Wednesday 12/18/2013 at 12:48 pm, the Springfield Police Department was contacted by the Investor's Savings Bank in Springfield reporting that a bank robbery had just occurred. The bank is located at 193 Morris Avenue which is at the intersection of Linden Avenue and on the northside of the town along the border with the Township of Millburn.

A lone male had entered the bank, grabbed a deposit slip from a counter in the lobby area and walked up to a teller window placing the deposit slip and a handwritten note in front of the teller. The note indicated the suspect had a bomb on and demanded money be placed in a plastic bag he handed to the teller. The suspect fled the bank and was gone prior to the police arrival.

No individuals inside of the bank were injured during this robbery and aside from the note, no weapon was shown.

An search of the area conducted by police officers from Springfield and Millburn failed to locate the suspect but detectives are viewing surveillance footage from many external cameras at businesses and the adjacent General Greene Shopping Center located near the bank.

The suspect is described as a black male approximately mid 30's to early 40's in age. He was described as being about 6'3 in height and weighing 200-220. Suspect was cleanshaven.

Clothing description was a black pull over crew neck sweatshirt, a black knit winter type watch cap and faded or stone washed color denim jeans. The suspect did not wear any mask during the robbery.

The amount of money taken is not being disclosed.

Anyone with information or who happened to be in the area and may have observed the suspect running from the bank are asked to contact the Springfield Police Department at (973) 376-0400.

Springfield Police Arrest Bank Robbery Suspect

On 12/26/2013 Springfield police detectives arrested Avery Spotswood, age 43 of Newark, and charged him with the robbery at the Investor's Savings Bank in Springfield that was committed on 12/18/2013. Police also arrested Quiama Harris, age 29 of Newark, charging her with aiding Spotswood in the 12/18/2013 robbery.

Detective Sergeant Stephen Studlack and Detective James Mirabile had reviewed surveillance photos from areas surrounding the bank including photos of a vehicle belonging to Harris. After the detectives learned of an identical bank robbery taking place in Parsippany on 12/23/2013 the shared information found the same male actor had entered both banks using a note threatening the possession of a bomb to steal money and in the Parsippany crime Harris was also observed at the bank.

On 12/26/2013 police detectives and the FBI sought out and interviewed Harris resulting in her arrest. Spotswood was arrested later in the evening. Spotswood was charged with the 1st degree crime of Robbery and the 2nd de-

gree crime of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery and his bail was set at \$150,000 and Harris was charged with the 2nd degree crime of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery and her bail was set at \$50,000.

As both subjects were also charged with the Parsippany bank robbery and were incarcerated in the Morris County Jail the tentative court date for the two in Union County Superior Court has been set for 01/08/2014.

COMMITTEE RECAP continued from page 2

The second legislative meeting of December was held on Tuesday, the 17th. We adopted an ordinance disbanding the Springfield Improvement Team (SIT) and effectively rescinding the ordinance which originally established the SIT in 2012. This was done under direction and guidance of the members of this group due to the vagueness and rigidness of the original ordinance. As previously reported, the membership of the SIT will continue to help the township (as they had prior to the original ordinance) including both the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day parades and for that the township is grateful. We approved resolutions establishing preferred pricing for certain items with Somerset County, professional services contracts with Appraisal Consultants and Florio & Kenny LLP, and promotions of members of the department of public works, fire and police departments. We also confirmed our municipal prosecutors and public defenders rates of pay, re-established the green team (part of the governor's checklist to maintain our state aid to offset property tax increases), extended our contract with Palumbo & Renaud, awarded contracts to Jo-Med Contracting for Mount View Road (approved earlier this year) and Ormsby Painting for town hall renovations, and approved additional alterations for the Chisholm Center. We also approved payroll and vendor bills for the previous two week period, approved the hiring and rates of pay for seasonal recreational employees, approved the minutes of a prior township committee meeting, and other day to day necessities in order to allow the township employees to keep the township of Springfield running smoothly as always. This was also Mayor David Amlen's last meeting and there were many parting well wishes from both members of the committee as well as the public. In keeping with Springfield tradition, Mayor Amlen was "mugged" by Deputy Mayor Richard Huber and the rest of the township committee (don't worry, no harm was inflicted, just a plaque and an oversized coffee mug containing lots of chocolates!).

The township committee wishes everyone a very happy new year! The easiest ways to contact us are either at our regularly scheduled meetings: every second and fourth Tuesday each month at the Main Court Room in Town Hall, and also every Monday before the second Tuesday (not necessarily the second Monday) each month at the Office of Emergency Management Meeting Room in the Fire House; via each of our township email addresses: Richard.Huber@springfield-nj.us, David.Barnett@springfield-nj.us, Margaret. Bandrowski@springfield-nj.us, Jerry.Fernandez@springfield-nj.us, and Ziad. Shehady@springfield-nj.us, or via



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Plainfield	Neighborhood Health Services 1700 - 58 Myrtle Avenue	Yes	908-753-6401
Rahway	Robert Wood Johnson Univ. Hospital 865 Stone Street	Yes	732-499-6082

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ELITE FITNESS OPENS FOR BUSINESS!!



(l to r) Elite Fitness Employee, Brett Cadena, Owner, Steve Ondish, Mike Scalera, Chairman of the Springfield BID, Chris Paradise (client) and Dave Walsh, Elite Fitness Employee

Owner Steve Ondish commented to the Patriot, "I couldn't be happier to be back in my home town of Springfield". Elite fitness has been in business for 22 years. We are a personal and sports training facility that works one on one with people of all ages. We train kids from ages 8-18 for speed, agility, flexibility, strength and weight loss in sport specific and health & fitness scenarios. We also work with adults of all ages for weight loss, health, fitness, and injury prevention. We have a full cardio room that is open for all our members to use regularly and the most qualified staff in the area.

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDWARD V. WALTON SCHOOL 601 MOUNTAIN AVENUE SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07081

Registration for children eligible for the 2014-2015 Pre-Kindergarten program in the Springfield Public Schools, as well as for those children eligible for Kindergarten, First and Second Grades in September 2014, who are **NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED** in the Edward V. Walton School Pre-Kindergarten Program will be held on the following days:

PREKINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	LAST NAME	
DATE	BEGINNING WITH	TIMES
January 14, 2014 Tuesday	A-G	10:00-11:00 AM or 1:45-2:45 PM
January 15, 2014 Wedneso	day H-O	10:00-11:00 AM or 1:45-2:45 PM
January 16, 2014 Thursda	y 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 are requested 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, 2014. Children entering Kindergarten must reach their fifth birthday on or before December 1, 2014. Parents/guardians need to bring the following materials to registration:

- * Child's Orginal Birth Certificate
- * Current Immunization Records
- * 4 Proofs of Residency
 Tax Bill or Lease
 NJ Driver's License
 Utility bill, bank statement, etc.

Some registration forms are located on our website at $\underline{\text{http://www.springfieldschools.com/evw}}$. 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 <u>and</u> ALL FOUR (4) proofs of residency are submitted at the time of registration.

ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE WINNERS









Raffles were sold at the Springfield Street Fair and by Springfield Rotary club members to benefit the Rotary Donation Fund. The proceeds from the raffle is distributed to a variety of causes throughout Union County including the Springfield Rotary Scholarship fund. This fund benefits the students of Jonathan Dayton H.S. which helps students toward college expenses.

The following were the 5 winners of the raffle: FIRST PLACE: Michael Pressman, Watchung, SECOND PLACE: Dr. Lewis Zemsky, Westfield; THIRD PLACE: Dr. Seth Hammer, Watchung; FOURTH PLACE: Peter Costello, Scotch Plains and FIFTH PLACE: Lloyd Grossman, Springfield. Michael Pressman donated a portion of his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund.

NEWLY RENOVATED "SENIOR" WING OPENS

On December 12, 2013 the Township Officially opened the newly renovated "Senior" wing of the Chisholm Community Center. The Seniors have moved from the Sarah Bailey Civic Center to the Chisholm Center which contains many new amenities and more space for programs.



(l to r) Deputy Mayor Rich Huber, Committeewoman Margaret Bandrowski, Recreation Director Mike Tennaro,
Union County Freeholder Bruce Bergen, Senior Program Coordinator Pat Imbriale,
Mayor Amlen, Committeemen David Barnett and Ziad Shehady

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD SPONSORES CARRIAGE RIDE

On the evening of Wednesday, December 11 the Rotary Club of Springfield took part in the town's cerebration of the lighting of the town tree. For the past few years the town has had a horse and carriage ride sponsored by the local Rotary club. Several members were present for the tree lighting; Michael Scalera, from State Farm Insurance, Bart Frankel, Joseph Cappa, Attorney, and Melvin Kevoe from Mack Camera. It was a great night for all!

Happy Holidays from the Rotary Club of Springfield.

ROTARY CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD ASSISTS AT HILLSIDE FOOD BANK

On November 19, 2013 members of the Spring-field Rotary Club spent several hours at the Hillside Food Bank in addition to non-Rotarian volunteers. Food was sorted out for the ongoing Back Pack Program which serves to benefit those children in schools who struggle to be fed properly over the weekends. The volunteers also assisted with packaging food for the holiday baskets.

The Hillside Food Bank is one of the main distributers of food throughout the state of N.J. to other food banks.

SPRINGFIELD ROTARY CLUB DICTIONARY PROJECT

On November 14, 2013 several members of the Springfield Rotary Club visited Sandmeier School, James Caldwell Elementary and St. James School to distribute dictionaries to the 3rd graders. Each student was very excited to receive his or her personal dictionary. The Springfield Rotary Club has been active in this project of which Rotary clubs throughout the U.S. is involved.



Springfield H.O.P.E. – or Helping Other People Endure – was created to enable residents, businesses and visitors to town to help individuals and families cope with extraordinary circumstances or simply just the holiday season. Anyone wanting to make a donation to

Anyone wanting to make a donation to Springfield H.O.P.E. may do so by calling 973-467-3388 or mailing a check to

Springfield H.O.P.E.

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201 Mountain Ave., Springfield NJ 07081 Anyone seeking help or assistance from Springfield H.O.P.E. may call 973-467-3388.

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MAYOR AMLEN WELCOMES THE CROWD TO THE ANNUAL TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR



(l to r) Deputy Mayor Rich Huber, Committeewoman Margaret Bandrowski, Mayor Amlen, Committeemen David Barnett and Ziad Shehady and Recreation Director Mike Tennaro.

Postponed due to weather from the 10th, everything went perfectly for the Tree lighting on a on a cold but clear Wednesday night, December 11, 2013 according to Township Recreation Director Mike Tennaro. Tennaro commented "In addition to Santa arriving by Firetruck and Police Escort to greet the crowds, there was a petting zoo sponsored by the Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce, hay ride, crafts and treats and hot chocolate and donuts, supplied by the Springfield FMBA Local 57 were served at the Springfield Aid Squad. I'd like to thank all who helped make this possible, including all our sponsors, namely, The Township Committee, Public Works, Police and Fire Departments, First Aid Squad, FMBA Local 57, Emergency Management, Rotary Club, Delightful Cake Creations, JMK BMW, McLynn's, Autoland, Springfield BID and Chamber of Commerce.



Santa discusses the naughty and nice list with the Mayor!

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Congratulations to all students at Saint James the Apostle School who made the Honor Roll for the First Trimester:

FIRST HONORS:

Grade 8 - Ian Ellmer, Camille Martinez

Grade 7 - Daniel Malave

Grade 6 - Mikaela Criscuolo, Christina Tillinghast

Grade 5 - Jacob Cordeiro, Samuel Ilagan, Adelina Pinho

Grade 4 - Sophia Ilagan, Kennedy Kwinta, Grace Roethlin

SECOND HONORS:

Grade 8 - Lucia Alaimo, Arthur Anigbogu, Alyssa Carbonell, Sherilynn Garcia, Gabriella Musico, Thea Stratman-Olibrice

Grade 7 - Kevin Duffy, Kendall Ellmer, Tyler Kwinta, James McElroy, Elisa Neri, Carl Sanciangco

Grade 6 - Luke Bernstein, Rianna Cordeiro, Jocelyn Duallo, Kayla Flowers, Alexandra Gaston, Kyle Roethlin, Kenneth Taylor, Madison Wright

Grade 5 - Zakilya Brown, Thomas Burgess, Joseph Cangiano, Jason Chacon, Patricia Falar, Ryan Fischer, Andre Lissinna, Gianna Melegh, Roselyn Ortiz, Alexandra Pinho, Isabella Robledo, Sean Valente

Grade 4 - Nicholas Battista, Robert Gore, Christopher Lopez, Jonathan Malave, Benedict Martinez, Goda Pocius, Steven Rotolo, Braeh Simon

HONORABLE MENTION:

Grade 8 - Blake Matthews, Andrew Prescott Grade 7 - Robert Dubon, Maura Duffy, Cassandra Garcia, Shane Williamson Grade 6 - Deraje Agbaosi, Grace Fischer, John McElroy, Rachelle Montilus

Grade 5 - Chad Lohier, Nicholas Musico,

Daniella Rosero

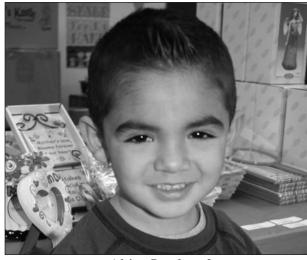
Grade 4 – Ethan Veloso

During the Holiday Boutique, students had the opportunity to shop for their families. They had a great time making their own selections as the PTA volunteers assisted them during the shopping time.



Jen and Tracy- co-chairs of the event

The Winter Sing Along was a great hit! Families came and joined their children to sing various holiday and seasonal songs. The excitement and joy filled the room.



Adrian Bernknopf

WALTON SCHOOL HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG



Carly Sokol- 5



David Klein and family- 4



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Michael and Carmen Ranieri Residents of Springfield, NJ



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







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