

**NEXT
CHAMBER
MEETING**
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 23, 2020
8:30 am - 9:30 am
**CHECK OUR
WEBSITE FOR
UPDATED
INFO ON THE
ZOOM MEETING**

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

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SPRINGFIELD'S GRUSKIN GROUP TAKES HOME 29 DESIGN AWARDS FROM NJ AD CLUB CEREMONY



Gruskin Group™, the Springfield-based architecture and design firm, has earned 29 design awards – the most of any entrant – from the New Jersey Advertising Club. Awards include 16 first place, seven second place, and Best of Newspaper.

(continued on page 10)

TOWNSHIP PARKS TO RECEIVE ACCESSIBLE WALKWAY CONNECTIONS



In an effort to improve the connections between park entrances and playgrounds, the Springfield Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works are partnering to install new accessible walkways at the Township's many parks. During the ongoing project, some playground entry ramps may be relocated to facilitate shorter and more efficient connections, and some fencing and curb work will be necessary. New walkway connections have recently been installed at Chisholm, Irwin, and Laurel parks. Up next are Ruby, Charles Cohn Memorial, Denham, and Alvin parks, as well as the Pool playground. William Trivett Memorial Park will receive its walkway connection as part of the major renovation and relocation of the playground in early-2021. Other parks already have accessible connections between their entrances and the playgrounds, or will receive them to coincide with future projects. Funding to improve the accessibility for children and caregivers in wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, crutches, and motorized scooters has been provided by both the County of Union and the Township as part of the Kids Recreation Trust Fund grant award. Questions? Contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIGHTS TREE IN LIVESTREAM CEREMONY

The Mayor and Township Committee ushered in the holiday season and lit the tree at Town Hall in a ceremony that was livestreamed to Facebook on Wednesday night, December 2, 2020. The typical large-scale annual event was canceled a day before, in the interest of public health and safety, as a result of new statewide restrictions on outdoor gathering limits implemented to slow the spread and infection of COVID-19. In its place, Mayor Chris Capodice, Committeemen Alex Keiser and Richard Huber, Committeewoman Erica DuBois, Director of Recreation Adam Lieb, and Assistant Director of Recreation Brendan O'Reilly offered greetings to Springfield residents watching from home and counted down before Mayor Capodice flipped the switch to light the tree.



(continued on page 5)

RECREATION RUNNING CLUB CONTINUES THIS FALL



The popular Running Club, offered by the Springfield Recreation Department, is in full swing this fall with supervised running, stretching, agility drills, and injury prevention techniques shared by Coach Mike Czech with close to 40 children in grades K-8. The club meets outside the Chisholm Community Center on Monday afternoons. For information on future programs, contact Daniel Hesse, Recreation Program Coordinator, at daniel.hesse@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.



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
Chamber Co-Chairman: Mike Scalera
Networking Vice President: Elliot Merkin
Recording Secretary: Tracy Geyer

SPRINGFIELD, NJ

MAYOR: Christopher Capodice
DEPUTY MAYOR: Chris Weber

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Erica DuBois, Richard Huber
Alex Keiser

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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ADVERTISING & PRESS RELEASES

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-In-Chief

JOHN COTTAGE, SR. / ADAM LIEB, Assistant Editors
DIANE CARDINAL-SEIDEL, Guest Copy Editor
GENNIFER ABRAHAM, Director of Advertising
MARCELO MONTAGNA, Staff Photographer
APU MULLICK, Senior Website Editor
JESSE BROOME, Website Editor & Staff Reporter
JENNIFER SHERMAN - Staff Reporter

springfieldpatriot@spfld.com info@springfieldpatriot.com
Phone 973-912-2300 • Fax 973-376-0425



Message from the Mayor

Greetings!

We are certainly at the height of our holiday season! Even though this pandemic may not give us everything we would like, I hope you take a moment to appreciate all the joys in your lives!

Although the latest Executive orders did not allow us to hold our yearly holiday celebration on the lawn at town hall, I would like to thank the Recreation Department and our Department of Public Works for their help with our virtual

tree lighting. Also thanks to the Springfield BID for providing us some brand new holiday decorations that are displayed along Mountain Avenue.

Our DPW has completed their third and final sweep through town for leaf collection. They will continue to canvas the town as applicable. The dead stop for leaf pickup is December 31st.

COVID-19 numbers are continuing to rise to record levels. I would like to remind everyone to both wear masks and practice social distancing whenever and wherever possible.

Navigating through this pandemic, especially during the pandemic, can take a toll on your wellness and mental health. The NJ MentalHealthCares Help Line offers counseling, emotional support, information and assistance in helping to get behavioral health services needed by you or a loved one. To access emotional support from trained specialists, text "NJHOPE" to 51684 or call 866-202-HELP (4357) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

I want to thank the members of the community for putting their trust and faith in me to lead this year as Mayor of Springfield. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you in 2020. I am extremely honored and humbled by the support of the residents of Springfield in their confidence in me to continue working together for a greater Springfield!

Lastly, whatever you may celebrate, I would like to wish you, and your families, the best this holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

Be safe!

Mayor Christopher Capodice, Sr.

PET REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 4, 2021

It's that time of year again where renewals are coming up! Residents of the Township of Springfield who have either cats or dogs are required to register their new or existing pets (must provide proof of rabies, spay and/or neuter) for the year 2021. The registration process will begin Monday, January 4, 2021 until January 31, 2021. Any cats or dogs registered after January 31, 2021 will result in a late fee (an additional \$1 will be added for each month thereafter). Registration fees are \$10 for spayed/neutered (must show proof) and \$15 for non spayed/neutered. We accept cash (exact change) or check (made payable to "Township of Springfield") only. You may mail your application (see Township Website), proof of rabies, spay/neuter along with your payment to Town Hall at 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081 to the attention of Kristin Ragland or you may call to schedule an appointment (no walk-ins as we are closed to the public). Any submissions received before January 1, 2021 will not be processed until the New Year. We have transitioned over to a new licensing system (more information to follow). Tags and licenses will be mailed to the address given on the application. For more information please contact the Registrar, Kristin Ragland at 973-912-2285.

VETERANS CORNER.....

By Gerry Gebauer

In November we celebrated Veterans Day. The weather was threatening but the rain was timed perfect. Just as the ceremony ended, the rain started. On behalf of all veterans the American Legion would like to thank all who attended the ceremony. Our usual master of ceremony, Geri Kazimar, had to cancel her appearance on short notice. Linda Donnelly stepped in and handled the ceremony expertly. After the ceremony all veterans were invited to a socially distant lunch at the Elks Club in Springfield. There were numerous pictures of the ceremony posted online.

The American Legion has a new program which applies to all veteran organizations and that is the Buddy Check. It is simple to participate! All you should do, is call a veteran, buddy, and check how he or she is doing. I would ask all veterans that at this time of the year and under these trying conditions you check on a fellow buddy veteran. Come to think of it, this is a good idea for anyone you may know. Speaking of making calls, do any of you remember making MARS calls back to the states. Happy holidays and s better 2021.

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

Please check on the Township's website springfield-nj.us for the most current information.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 22 at 7 pm

Reorganization Virtual Meeting January 1, 2021 at Noon

The following meetings may not be held in December

Check the Township's website springfield-nj.us

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

2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm at the Library

Springfield

Business Improvement District

What's Happening



www.springfieldbid.com

Search "Springfield BID NJ" on facebook

Business Spotlights

Featured businesses for this month

SUPPORT SPRINGFIELD'S SMALL BUSINESSES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!!



SPRINGFIELD, NJ ONLINE MARKETPLACE

All Your Favorite Springfield Businesses
All In One Place...One Click Away!

Food & Drink, Beauty & Fitness, Retail & Services!

For a full list of Springfield, NJ businesses, go to:

www.gospringfieldnj.com

SUPER STUFFED BURGERS

529 S. Springfield Ave – 973-434-0677

Their name says it all! These are amazing burgers (and sides!) that are not only "super stuffed"...they're delicious! Unique is another word that's appropriate.

Their specialty burgers like the "Fantastic Mac N Cheese Burger" or "Nacho Libre Quesadilla Burger" are amazing...along with their burger bowls, hotdogs, tater tots, milkshakes and more! Check them out at their location or order through all major delivery services.



MR. HANDYMAN

499 Morris Ave – 908-795-3030

Mr. Handyman, a family-owned business, is your one stop shop for a wide range of home maintenance and repair solutions. No job is too small for our highly qualified, trusted and tenured technicians. Mr. Handyman service technicians are highly skilled craftsmen, so you know they will get the job done right the first time. We are licensed and insured so that you can be sure you are in good hands.



CRAB DU JOUR

205 Morris Ave - 973-939-6697

Our Cajun-inspired eatery is known for fresh seafood boils (made for sharing) and an array of signature house-blended sauces, to enhance the experience.

We offer everything from delicious starters like wings, po-boys, chicken tenders, and seafood favorites such as fried fish, shrimp, crab and oysters. Call for take-out, delivery and YUM!



STUDIO 240

240 Morris Ave – 973-218-6682

Let Studio 240 get you ready for that special occasion... or just to make you feel special. They offer all of the latest coloring, straightening and cutting techniques in a beautiful, intimate and totally relaxing hair studio. Indulge, pamper and enjoy!



In Springfield?



Then Get Everything Springfield!

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Events & Alerts, Deals & More





RECYCLING TIPS

Here is a way to save money, help the environment and reduce landfills. The local Repair Cafe in Summit is closed right now due to COVID but you can find help online to repair items that you may be able to fix rather than discard. Visit:

<https://mailchi.mp/repaircafe/u6scct7iu3?e=06913a234a>

<https://repaircafe.tv/events>

Here is another way to reduce our landfills:

UPS in Summit will take your clean boxes and packing material.

ALLEGED SHOPLIFTER FLEES POLICE BY CAR

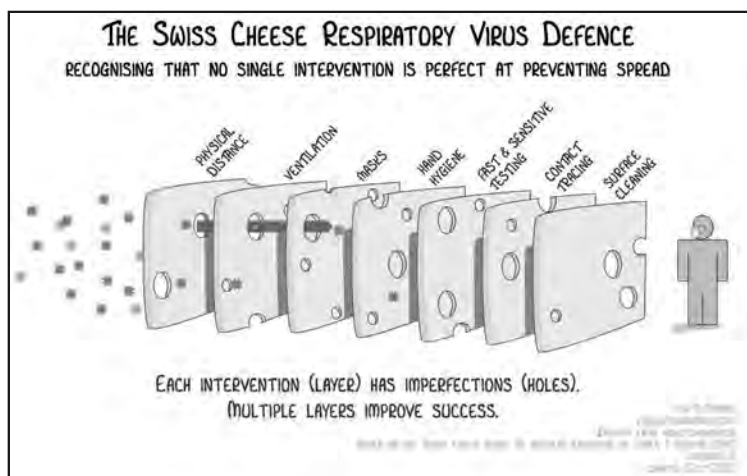
On Tuesday November 17, 2020 at 2:30 p.m Investigator Luis Brito responded to the Barnes and Noble store located at 240 Route 22 West for a follow up investigation. Upon his arrival he spoke to the manager about the past incident when he witnessed a shoplifting taking place. As he approached the suspect in the parking lot and identified himself as a Law Enforcement Officer the suspect attempted to enter his vehicle. As this took place Investigator Brito attempted to stop the male suspect who had placed the vehicle in drive. After multiple orders to stop and exit the vehicle the suspect took off pulling Investigator Brito along. Investigator Brito was struck in the hand by the vehicle as it pulled onto Route 22 West. Investigator Brito was able to provide surrounding units with a vehicle description along with the New Jersey registration. Officer Jose Agerlo spotted the vehicle exiting Route 22 West onto South Springfield Ave where he attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop. The vehicle eluded Officer Agerlo turning from South Springfield Ave onto Dundar Road and then onto Route 22 East. As this took place Investigator Brito was able to back up Officer Agerlo and a pursuit ensued. This pursuit continued onto the Garden State Parkway North where they soon entered Newark NJ. As Detective Foster Ziegler and Officer Brian Trotman made their way to the area the suspect vehicle came to a stop on Ricodo Street in Newark NJ. The suspect bailed out of the vehicle and attempted to flee the officers on foot. He was taken into custody in the rear yard of 13 Ricodo Street without further incident. Arrested was Guy Jenkins (10/29/1960) who was later charged with Aggravated Assault, eluding, resisting arrest and shoplifting. He was remanded to the Union County Jail pending Court.



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Scott Seidel, Emergency Management Coordinator
oemcoordinator@springfield-nj.us

The Springfield Office of Emergency Management wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. PLEASE keep your guard up--the vaccine is almost here but we still need to be vigilant, maintain social distancing and mask wearing and as hard as it will be, limit your family gatherings during the Holidays. If you receive the Mayor's email updates on COVID cases in Springfield, Springfield, you will see cases continue to rise so please, do all you can do to slow the spread! I found this chart helpful in illustrating how all the steps we can take work together--and I do like swiss cheese as well!



Fire Chief's Column

Chief Carlo Palumbo
HOLIDAY SAFETY

The winter holiday season is traditionally a festive and eventful time of year. Celebrations, family gatherings and visits from house guests traditionally increase in number during the season.

Unfortunately, statistics show that incidents of home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 30 percent of home fire and 38 percent of home fire deaths occur during the months of December, January, and February.

There are steps that can be taken to reduce the risks of death and injury from a home fire this holiday season. It is critical that families keep fire safety in mind while enjoying this festive, exciting and extremely busy time of year.

Take steps to protect your family and home from holiday season fires.

- Seasonal Fire Safety - There's no place like home for the holidays and no better place to implement good fire safety practices.

- Smoke Alarm Safety Tips - Smoke alarms save lives. Follow this simple guidance to ensure that your home is adequately protected by working, properly installed smoke alarms.

- Space Heater Safety - As the temperature drops during the winter holiday season, many families turn to space heater to help warm their homes. Many are unaware, however, that the risk of fire from space heaters is much greater than from central heating equipment.

- Holiday Cooking Safety - The kitchen is the heart of the home. It's where families gather to cook favorite recipes, share warm meals, and reconnect with each other, especially during the holidays. Unfortunately, it's also where two of every five reported home fires start.

- Holiday Decorating Safety - While decorative lights and other electrical decorations add to the splendor of the season, they can increase the risks of fire and electrical injuries if not used safely.

- Extension Cord Safety - While extension cords are a convenient way to supply power right where you need it for your holiday decorations, they can also create hazards if not used safely.

- Counterfeit Electrical Products - Unlike fake handbags, watches, or designer apparel, counterfeit electrical products pose significant safety hazards.

Be proactive and take steps to protect your family and home from holiday season fires.

- Make you check list and check it twice
- Stockings hung at least three feet from heat sources
- Purchase lights that bear the of a nationally recognized testing laboratory
- Keep your tree Hydrated
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Do not string more than three strands of incandescent lights
- Always turn off decorations before leaving your home

Emergency Preparedness Tips from FEMA

Put a FREEZE on Winter Holiday Fires

Did you know? As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes 1 in every 4 winter fires.

Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.

Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.

More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.

Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.

Think about using battery-operated flameless candles.

U.S. Fire Administration, NFPA

Springfield HOPE put the word out back in October when Dr Gary Hecht announced, at a chamber of commerce meeting, their upcoming gift card drive to replace the toy drive that was done in years past. \$10 cards were requested to Walmart, Target or Amazon. As usual the businesses and citizens of Springfield came through. Over \$2000 in \$10 gift cards were donated and distributed to more than 18 families. Amy Roselle, the coordinator of the program announced "More than 75 children received gifts that would have gone without this year". Our sincerest thanks go out to all that donated making this a successful program while keeping everyone safe.

LIBRARY BOARD TO MEET VIA ZOOM AT 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

The Board of Trustees of the Springfield Free Public Library will meet virtually via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 17. The link to access this meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85212712955?pwd=K0t4ZVJYQlg2OXdzNWs1ajA5bld2QT09>

This meeting can also be accessed by telephone by dialing 1 646 876 9923 and entering 852 1271 2955 when prompted for the meeting ID and then entering 202441 when prompted for the Passcode.

HECHT FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC CARE

2021

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201 Mountain Ave

973.564.5885

hechtchiropractic.com

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIGHTS TREE

(continued from front page)



The Township of Springfield and the Springfield Recreation Department would like to thank Springfield First Aid Squad members Apu Mullick and Joe and Tracey Voorhees for recording and photographing the ceremony, as well as the Springfield Department of Public Works for decorating the tree, grounds, and Town Hall facade. Sponsors for the cancelled event included Cardinal Land Properties, Shamir Montanez-Johnson Allstate Agency, and JCP&L. Originally scheduled to perform live were Taye McQueen, singer, actress, and Jonathan Dayton High School Class of 2011 graduate; students from Front & Center for Performing Arts of Springfield; and the Jonathan Dayton High School jazz ensemble. The Boy Scouts Troop #73 was planning to sell grave blankets and wreaths, but the public may now purchase them online at <https://troop-73-fundraising.square.site>. The Springfield Unity Project was also set to hold a food drive at the event, and Holy Cross Lutheran Church was scheduled to continue its annual coat drive. Despite the event cancellation, throughout the holiday season the public is invited to view the Town Hall light display, which features the 50-foot White Pine trimmed with over 1,200 bulbs. Questions? Contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.



Mike Scalera Insurance
Agency
401 Morris Ave
Springfield, NJ
973-564-7717

*Happy
Holidays!*

WARM WISHES
FROM THE SCALERA TEAM

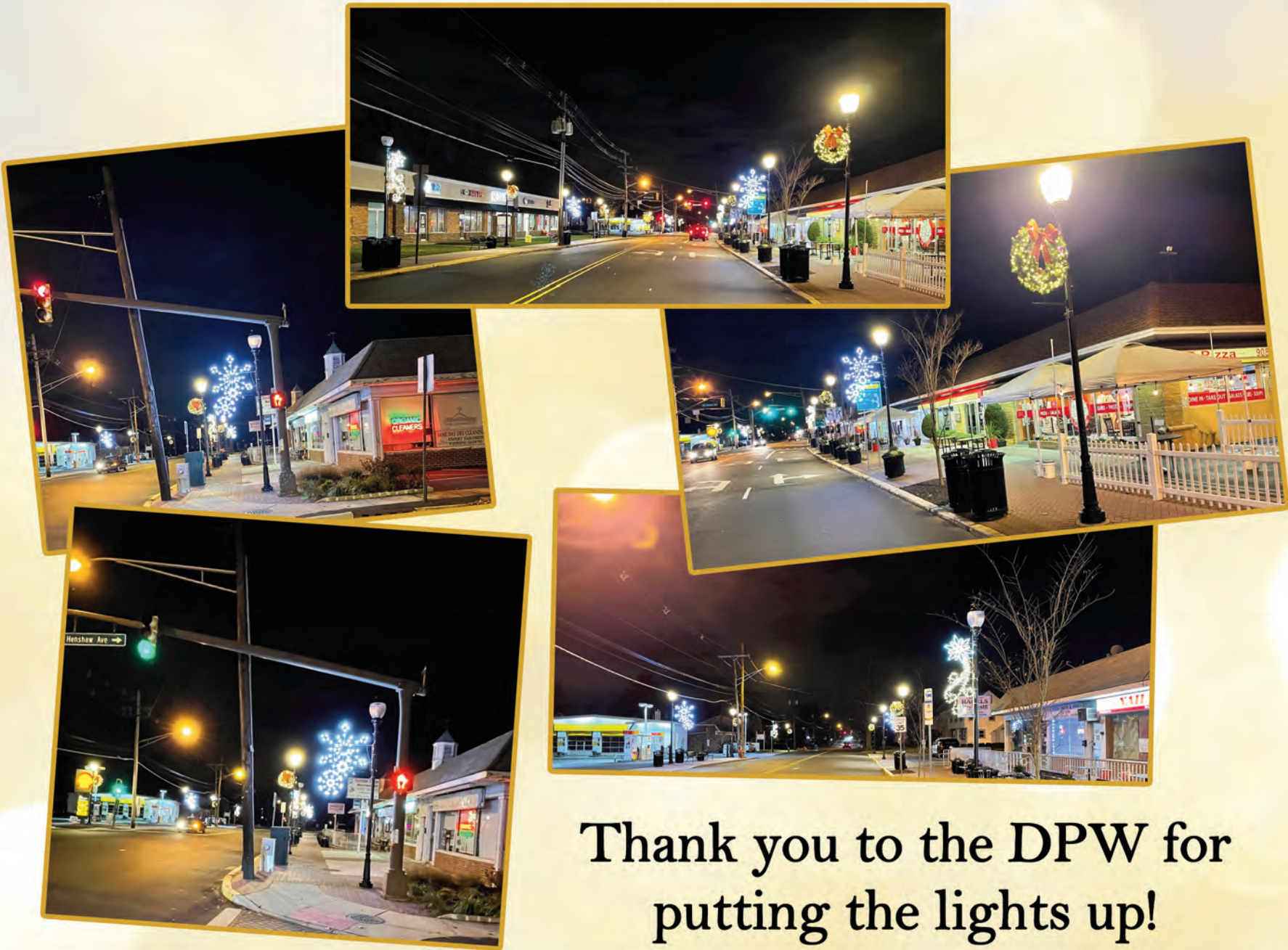
www.mikescalera.com



Business Improvement District

THE SPRINGFIELD BID WISHES YOU THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS

We wish you and your families health and happiness.
Please enjoy the holiday lights along Mountain Ave.



Thank you to the DPW for
putting the lights up!

Springfield BID Board of Directors 2020

Anthony Fonseca, Ken Gruskin, Paula Kaiser, Lee Kaswiner, Mel Kevoe, Beth Lippman,
Mark Montenero, Mike Scalera, Scott Seidel, Kevin Vitale, Chris Weber and Dana Zuber

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SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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



Virtual STEM Programs - Winter 2021

Minecraft Game Designer: Build Your World Grades 4 to 7

Tuesdays, 4:00pm - 5:30pm 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9 and 2/16

This program will teach students the fundamentals of Minecraft gameplay (creative and survival mode) and design. The young builders will learn many skills such as how to build shelter, find resources such as iron and diamonds, create tools, learn to farm, hunt monsters, and obtain armor. Throughout the program, students will have many opportunities to socialize and work together in teams to put in practice the skills learned. To take part in the program, you must have a Windows or Mac (not Chromebooks) with Webcam. Internet connection with access to Zoom. PC Java edition: Downloading Minecraft mc version:
<https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/download/>

Roblox Game Designer: Build Your Own Obby Grades 5 to 8

Tuesdays, 5:30pm - 7:00pm 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9 and 2/16

Our live coach will guide students in creating, designing and building their own obstacle course or "Obby" and use the programming language called Lua to write scripts to take the game to a higher level. By the end of the session the young designers will be able to challenge family and friends with an "Obby" of their own creation. To take part in the program, you must have a Windows or Mac (not Chromebooks) with Webcam. Internet connection with access to Zoom.

\$195/student
Limited space, 6 students max

Register online at:
<https://www.builtbyme.com/springfieldnj>

We help children grow into creators.



RENOVATION APPROVED FOR CHISHOLM SOFTBALL FIELD



The Chisholm Park upper softball field is getting a makeover. At its Tuesday, November 10, 2020, meeting, the Township Committee approved a resolution to award a contract for the field's renovation. The \$13,000 project includes the following work to be completed by Advanced Athletic Services of Allamuchy, New Jersey:

- layout correct field dimensions
- excavate and replace sod where infield meets outfield
- laser grade existing infield mix at consistent elevation
- spread new infield mix to achieve proposed finished grade
- grade and groom infield to a smooth finish
- spread infield conditioner

The eagerly-awaited project will address drainage and playability concerns that caused the frequent cancellation of softball activities after rainfall -- necessitating the complicated rescheduling of practices, scrimmages, games, and clinics for hundreds of Springfield and visiting softball players, coaches, officials, and families who use the field on a regular basis.

The Springfield Recreation Department partners with Springfield Girls Softball Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to provide year-round outdoor and indoor softball opportunities for children from pre-k through high school. Jen Cataldo, president of Springfield Girls Softball Inc., said, "The Springfield Girls Softball board and I are thrilled that the upper field project is approved and will be underway shortly. Anyone who has passed by that field days after a rain storm knows how dire it is to get it fixed. We are so grateful to the Springfield Township Committee and the Springfield Recreation Department for making this a priority for our girls. After witnessing our girls thrive playing amidst a pandemic this summer and fall, we realize how important it is for them to get back to doing what they love in a safe manner. It was devastating to lose our spring season this year, but the coming spring looks promising and having the field ready for play is truly a gift for the girls."

Adam Lieb, Director of Recreation, commented, "I'm excited about this project for many reasons. The upper softball field sits right outside my office and it's very frustrating to see the build-up of water almost every time it rains. Our Department of Public Works staff members do a terrific job removing the water and preparing the field, but we still lose a day or two. As a result, the softball program is inconvenienced, which affects many, many people." He continued, "The Township spends considerable funds every year to upgrade playgrounds, parks, fields, and the Chisholm Community Center. This project is a worthwhile use of our funds and efforts because it will benefit a popular and growing youth sports program."

The project is set to be completed in the first quarter of 2021, weather and contractor scheduling permitting. Questions? Contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.



IN-PERSON FITNESS CLASSES A HIGHLIGHT OF SENIOR CITIZEN CALENDAR

Springfield's senior citizens will be staying active at the Chisholm Community Center this December and January. The Springfield Recreation Department is offering a program calendar including rummikub, bingo, weekly fitness classes (see photo), daily exercise room, computer lab, bus trips, bus service three days per week, and new online cooking demonstrations and stretching classes! All programs and trips have COVID-19 safety protocols in place. The full calendar can be downloaded at www.springfield-nj.us/recreation or mailed to you upon request. Questions? Contact Ricci Rajoppi, Recreation Program Coordinator, at ricci.rajoppi@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

TRYCAN
KIDS HELPING KIDS

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://summitcommunityprograms.com/156>.

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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



SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2020

CALL (973) 912-2227 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Monday, December 14 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)
 Tuesday, December 15 - Bus trip to Central Farmers Market @ 11:00 am (RSVP)
 Wednesday, December 16 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP),
 Stretching on Facebook @ 11:30 am
 Thursday, December 17 - Exercise class @ 11:00 am (RSVP)
 Friday, December 18 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am
 Monday, December 21 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)
 Tuesday, December 22 - Holiday Cookie Demonstration on Facebook @ 11:30 am
 Wednesday, December 23 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)
 Wednesday, December 30 - Stretching on Facebook @ 11:30 am
 Thursday, December 31 - Exercise class @ 11:00 am (RSVP)

WEEKDAYS:

Computer Lab and Fitness Room @ 9:00 am-3:00 pm

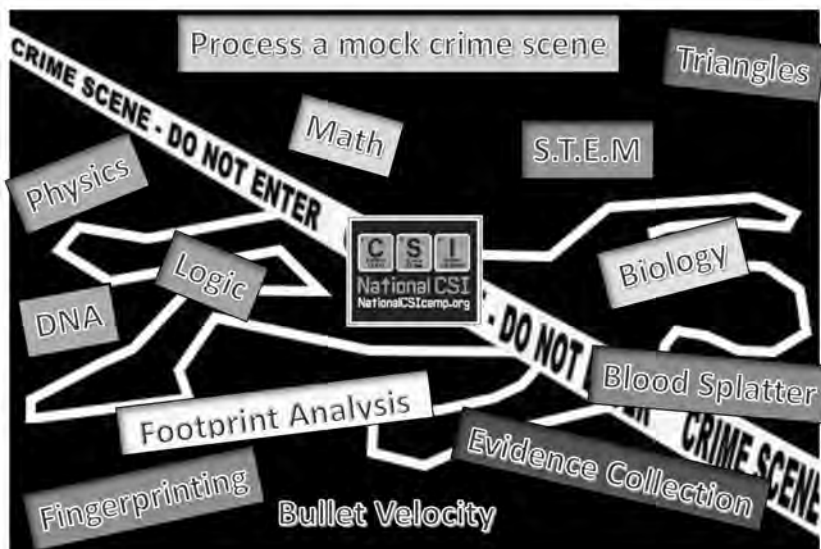


FREE SENIOR CITIZEN BUS SERVICE

Call the Springfield Recreation Department at (973) 912-2227 at least one day prior to your transportation request. This service is unavailable on municipal holidays and days of certain senior citizen bus trips.

Bus runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. The bus is equipped with a passenger lift for wheelchairs. Other riders should be able to board and depart the bus independently or with their aide.

7+ Hour S.T.E.M. Crime Scene Class for Students



2021 VIRTUAL CLASSES

S.T.E.M. principles relating to Forensics and solving Crime Scenes are explored. The presentation, labs and exercises will cover the following topics: Make a magnifying glass, take and identify and collect fingerprints, create and examine blood splatter patterns, identify an unknown power, chromatography, time-of-death exercises, cast footprints, and missing persons...Current or former law enforcement Detectives will be teaching this class.

For more information please scan the QR code or visit our website.

Who: Grades 6-12 **How:** via Zoom **Cost:** \$92
Dates: January 25th-29th (4:00-5:30 pm)
 or March 29th- April 2nd (10:00-11:30 am)
Hosted By: Springfield Recreation Department
Register Today: www.nationalCSIncamp.org



Check out all the SWAG you get when you sign up for this class!

CALLING ON ALL BOYS AND GIRLS!

SPRINGFIELD LACROSSE IS LOOKING FOR YOU!

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ON TWO FEET!

SPRING 2021 LACROSSE LEAGUES FOR BOYS (GRADES 1-8) AND GIRLS (GRADES 3-9)

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www.springfieldlaxnj.com

SENIOR CITIZENS ENJOY LUNCH TRIP TO STAR TAVERN



On Tuesday, November 10, a small group of Springfield senior citizens ventured to Star Tavern in Orange for a pizza lunch -- their first bus trip with the Springfield Recreation Department in nine months. COVID-19 health and safety protocols were required. The trip was chaperoned by Ricci Rajoppi and Daniel Hesse, recreation program coordinators, and Donald Wilkenfeld, recreation bus driver.

SPRINGFIELD GIRL SCOUT PRESENTS ON MENTAL HEALTH AND NATURE



On Saturday, December 5, Springfield Girl Scout Samantha Schornstein, a candidate for the Gold Award, led an online workshop on mental health awareness and the outdoors. The presentation was broadcast live on Zoom with the assistance of the Springfield Free Public Library. Schornstein spoke of the benefits of nature on mental health and promoted her labyrinth stone, bridge, and benches that are soon to be installed at Patriot Park off Wabeno Avenue. The

Morristown-Beard School senior has been guided by Library Director Dale Spindel and Director of Recreation Adam Lieb, both of whom attended the Zoom workshop (pictured) -- as well as Girl Scout leaders, fellow scouts, family members, craftsmen, donors, and volunteers. The Gold Award is the highest level of achievement that can be earned by a Girl Scout.



Police Chief's Column

Chief John P. Cook

Since winter is almost upon us, I thought this would be a good opportunity to remind residents and business owners of some of Springfield's ordinances and state laws our police officers enforce relating to winter weather.

- Parking on the street and in municipal lots is prohibited when the roadways and lots are snow-covered. Parked vehicles make it difficult for our plow crews to clear snow from the roads. If snow is forecast, please make arrangements to park your vehicles elsewhere.
- Snow must be cleared from fire lanes within 12 hours of daylight after the snow has fallen. Every second counts when we respond to emergency calls, and if the passage of emergency vehicles is obstructed by snow, someone's life could potentially be put at risk. Fire hydrants must also be kept clear from piled snow.
- Snow and ice must be cleared from sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow has fallen. Shoveled paths must be at least 24 inches wide, and icy sidewalks must be treated with sand or salt. Traveling in winter weather is more dangerous for everyone, particularly pedestrians. If sidewalks are impassable, pedestrians often resort to walking on plowed roads which puts them at risk for vehicles sliding into them. Please make sure your sidewalks are cleared properly.
- Once plowing of our roads has begun, it is prohibited for anyone to shovel, blow, or plow snow back onto a public street from private property. It is also prohibited for private plows to plow snow from a driveway across the width of the street to be piled along the opposite curb. Snow that remains as a result of this often turns into hazardous solid ice and is more difficult to be treated.
- All snow and ice must be removed from your vehicle before driving. This applies to ALL vehicles, no matter how small or large. Clearing a small portion of your windshield is not sufficient to safely operate a vehicle. The penalties are even steeper if snow or ice flies off of your vehicle and causes damage to other vehicles, or even worse, if someone is injured.
- "Warming up" and idling your vehicle for more than 3 minutes is against state law in NJ. While there are some exceptions, this applies to most passenger vehicles. In addition, township ordinance prohibits vehicles from idling more than 2 minutes on all municipal and school properties. Keep in mind that unattended running vehicles are easy targets for thieves, and it only takes seconds for someone to drive away with your car.

Also, please remember that driving in winter weather requires more concentration, and less speed. Motorists should travel much slower and be much more cautious than during normal driving conditions. Following distances should be increased, and distractions should be avoided.

On behalf of the entire Springfield Police Department, I wish all readers of the Springfield Patriot Times along with everyone in our community a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season, and a Happy New Year.



**ANYONE SEEKING
HELP CAN CALL
973-467-3388**

We need your donations as well!

Springfield HOPE is funded solely by your donations. We are a 501(c)3 not for profit corporation and 99% of your donated dollar will go to help someone in need in Springfield. The all volunteer Trustee Board administers the program by donating their time and office staff to keep HOPE going. Only filing fees and a small fee for our accountant are paid by HOPE. Please allow us to keep helping your neighbors and donate now. Checks can be mailed and made payable to Springfield HOPE, c/o Dr. Gary Hecht, 201 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081.

SDL PORTAL - Access Building Department Information Online

Springfield has launched SDL Portal, an online hub where residents, businesses and professionals can request inspections & access permit information 24/7.

SAVE TIME.

DO IT ONLINE.

- Visit sdl.town/springfield and creat an account
- Request inspections. User can view availability & submit their preferred inspection dates
- View the details & status of building permits
- Real Estate agents will no longer need to submit an OPRA request to access permit information

Visit: sdl.town/springfield

SPRINGFIELD'S GRUSKIN GROUP

(continued from front page)



(l to r) **Bob Lyons, Director of Marketing Services & Executive Director**
Kenneth Gruskin, Principal and **Jeff Barcan, Director of Creative Services**

"We are honored to be recognized by our peers; these awards celebrate our depth of experience and the passion we have for working in the advertising and marketing communications segments of our business," noted Jeff Barcan, Director of Creative Services, during the 52nd Annual Jersey Awards on November 11.

The ceremony occurred as a livestreamed, virtual event. Gruskin Creative, the in-house creative shop at Gruskin Group, garnered awards in categories ranging from poster design to video, vehicle wrap, photography, newspaper advertising and pro-bono. First place awards include work for the Lake George Arts Project, Kean University's Let's Charrette annual design competition, One Universe Energy, and Nest Easy.

"It is exciting for our talented design teams' work to be recognized across such diverse categories," said Kenneth Gruskin, Principal of Gruskin Group. "Whether it is a branding, environmental graphics, web, video or architecture project, as an integrated architecture and design firm, we approach design challenges by utilizing a spectrum of disciplines."

About Gruskin Group™

The Gruskin Group team builds unified brand experiences through architecture; brand development; visual communications; web/interactive; video; industrial design; interior design; strategic consulting; and sustainable design. Principal, Kenneth A. Gruskin, AIA, is a licensed architect in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

About Gruskin Creative™

Gruskin Group launched Gruskin Creative to target branding, advertising, graphic design, web and environmental graphic solutions opportunities. Gruskin Creative has consistently been recognized as a top branding, advertising and marketing communications firm in NJ. The team has received the most first and second place awards over the last 14 years when competing against other top firms in the NY and NJ area.

Gruskin Group is an Inc. 5000 Honoree and has been recognized by numerous industry publications, including Architectural Record's Top 300 Architecture Firms; Display and Design Ideas' (DDI) Top 20 Retail Design Firms; and Visual Merchandising and Store Design's (VMSD) Retail Design Firm Resource Guide. In addition, Gruskin Group has been named among the top 25 architectural firms in New Jersey (NJBIZ) and Commercial Construction & Renovation Magazine's list of top commercial architects. The team's award-winning work has been recognized by AIA, the Retail Design Institute, New York Ad Club, New Jersey Ad Club, ASID, Graphis, and the Association of Graphic Communications. For more information, go to www.gruskingroup.com / www.gruskincreative.com or follow us @gruskingroup on Twitter and LinkedIn.

thank you

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FIRST RESPONDERS, AND
ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

Springfield Free Public Library

66 Mountain Avenue
973-376-4930

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

CHAIR YOGA

Chair Yoga has always been one of our most popular adult programs at the Springfield Public Library. Sponsored for many years by the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library, it has continued to be available via Zoom, and is still taught by our popular yoga instructor, Tamara Tsoutsouris. Admission is free and all are welcome. The 45-minute sessions begin at 12:30 p.m. and will take place on the following Fridays: January 8th, 22nd and 29th.

Please email Adult Services Supervising Librarian Susan Tegge (stegge@sfplnj.org) who will provide you with the link and password that the instructor will use. Emails will be answered up to 23 hours prior to the Friday 12:30 pm-sessions.



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SPRINGFIELD HELPING SENIORS

**WORRIED ABOUT BEING EXPOSED TO COVID-19?
DO YOU NEED HELP MINIMIZING YOUR EXPOSURE?**
A group of neighbors has volunteered to do limited emergency grocery shopping and pick-up prescriptions for Springfield's elderly residents.

**TO REQUEST HELP
Call (973) 912-2227**

Or email recreation@springfield-nj.us
Please allow 48 hours for requests to be met.
Payment will be received by two methods only:
credit card on file at the store or a check to the volunteer after presentation of receipt for purchase

**NO CASH PAYMENT
NO EXCHANGE OF FUNDS WITHOUT A RECEIPT**
Volunteers are instructed to follow safety protocols.
Participants accept this help at their own risk.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:

please email helpspfseniors@gmail.com



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SPRINGFIELD AUXILIARY POLICE SERVE THE COMMUNITY

By: Sergeant Ryan Westover

Springfield Police Department /Emergency Management

Not many events or emergencies go by when the residents of Springfield Township aren't assisted by the Springfield Auxiliary Police. The Auxiliary Police are members of your community who have taken an oath to serve and protect this Township as a volunteer. These volunteers courageously show their commitment by going above and beyond for this community every day. Our Auxiliary Officers selflessly put this Township before their own families when major emergencies happen in town. The organization dates back to the 1950's and was re-organized in 1968 to better serve the community.

The Springfield Auxiliary Police is headed by Chief Angelo Palumbo and is one of the most visible departments of the Office of Emergency Management which is headed by Coordinator Scott Seidel. The unit consists of 17 men and women who have been trained at various Auxiliary Police Academies around the State of New Jersey. These Officers assist the Springfield Police Department by volunteering hours for daily patrol, special events or programs within the township, as well as aiding with traffic control during natural disasters, strong storms, flooding or power outages.

These Officers respond quickly at the sound of a text message or e-mail. During the Covid-19 pandemic, our Auxiliary Officers aided the community by delivering food to those in need. During major power outages they set up generators for residents who require power for 24/7 critical medical needs, provided traffic control at the County mobile COVID-19 test site when in town, and provided visibility in the streets during times of great concern and unknown. Our Auxiliary Officers have continued security checks of the various houses of worship, Historical sites, Township properties, and the Board of Education buildings. Our Township is lucky to have such dedicated volunteers.

Want to join or learn more about Emergency Management, our CERT Program or the Auxiliary Police?

Check our website at: <https://springfield-nj.us/departments/emergency-management/>



WE NEED YOU... Sign Up Now!

For more information and an application visit Springfield Emergency Management under Departments tab at

www.Springfield-nj.us or call 973-467-3388

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