



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

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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-emergency).....	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:

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Message from the Mayor

As I sit and begin to write this message, I am super excited to just have come from the Grand Opening of Wawa’s 900th store right here in Springfield. What a great flagship enterprise to welcome visitors into our town. Also, exciting news from the owners of the Gomes property, by the time you are reading this, you’ll see activity around the site. Third, we are excited to host three drive-in movie dates this summer. For more information, please sign up with Boxcar at <https://www.boxcarapp.com/springfield-movies>. Lastly, the renovations to Ruby field have been completed, and both the baseball and softball seasons are set to go.

Governing during this pandemic is unlike any other time in history, the effects of which none of us could have anticipated. I am proud of the progress my fellow Township Committee Members and I have made. This month it was great for our community to once again come together to celebrate our diversity with a number of events including a Township vigil, the 2nd annual raising of our Pride Flag, and our first proclamation on Juneteenth. With Governor Murphy lifting the Stay At Home lockdown, we also have seen outdoor dining beginning to happen with local businesses in our town.

Additionally, we have replaced three police officers and one firefighter and also have accepted a donation of camera equipment in an ongoing effort to establish a television studio within our municipal building.

As you already may be aware, the Township of Springfield, in conjunction with Meet The Need (MTN), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization, will be holding a "Drive-Thru" pantry @ Jonathan Dayton High School for COVID-19 families in need, on Saturday, June 27th from 10:00am - 11:30am. Volunteers are needed, starting at 8 am, as well as donations. Contributions to MTN may be Tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. Donations can be made via CashApp using “\$mtnorginc”, Venmo using “@meettheneed”, or PayPal using mtnorganizationis@gmail.com Please leave remark “Go Bulldogs”. Lastly, you may also donate via GoFundMe using “MTN”

Tuesday, July 7th is Primary Election Day. Please remember to vote. If you have any questions regarding this year’s process and procedure, please go to unioncountyvotes.com or call (908) 527-4996

Finally, on behalf of the entire Township of Springfield, I would like to congratulate the Jonathan Dayton High School Class of 2020! Go Bulldogs!

Stay safe!

Mayor Christopher Capodice, Sr.

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY MESSAGE

The library’s building may be closed, but we’re working behind the scenes to keep our library patrons well informed and well read. If you’re not yet taking advantage of the many services we are still able to provide, you may want to check out one or more of the following:

Access to Hoopla, a digital repository of hundreds of thousands of e-books, e-audiobooks, plus downloadable movies, television shows and music. With your Springfield library card and PIN handy, registering for this service is a snap. Don’t yet have a library card? Just go to www.sfplnj.org to register for a temporary card. Can’t find your library card or forgot your PIN? Send an email to questions@sfplnj.org and someone from the staff will get back to you with the information you need. You can also check out the library’s Facebook page for recommendations from staff members regarding what to read, watch, or listen to next.

Looking for a different point of view than the same old local news? Go to www.sfplnj.org and click on “Resources” and use your library card and PIN to sign up for PressReader, to gain access to 7,000 newspapers and magazines from more than 120 countries and representing more than 60 languages. A free trial of this service through mid-May is being provided by Baker & Taylor, a major vendor that serves all types of libraries.

Finally have the time to research your family tree or start learning that foreign language you’ve always been interested in? Go to www.sfplnj.org and click on “Resources” and then click on online databases. Ancestry.com and Rosetta Stone are only two of the many fantastic databases that we have available to take you on an intellectual journey of your own choosing.

Need a stretch? Sign up for the library’s virtual chair yoga sessions offered on Fridays at 12:30. Contact Sue Tegge, our librarian in charge of adult services at stegge@sfplnj.org.

Need a smile? Join Children’s Librarian “Ms. Brie” for Mother Goose Group preschool story times; check the library’s Facebook page for times and dates. You can also check the library Facebook page for Ms. Brie’s “Middle Grade Madness” virtual book talks.

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

Due to the COVID-19 situation Meetings may be cancelled or held with public call in only. Please check on the Township's website springfield-nj.us for the most current information.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, June 23 at 7 pm

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, July 17 at 7 pm

The following meetings may not be held in May. 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

GO SPRINGFIELD!

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT GRANT

Springfield BID is dedicated to supporting independently owned Springfield businesses during this unprecedented time. The Springfield Community Partnership (BID) is working to help our local businesses devastated by the Coronavirus Crisis.

Local businesses are an important part of our community's identity. Whether it is the jobs you create, the uniqueness you add, or the services you provide, you are truly the heartbeat of our Community. Our Grant Program is another way we are looking to strengthen our community, one business at a time.

Who is eligible?

Businesses eligible to apply include:

- Retail –own or rent retail space in a commercial building located in Springfield:
 - Retailers, Restaurants/Café's, Fitness/Dance/Music Studios, Salons, Tutors, Dry Cleaners
- Must have opened your business in Springfield prior to March 16, 2020.
- Must guarantee that you will re-open your business within two weeks of being legally allowed to reopen by the State of New Jersey.

What it can be used for?

If you qualify, you can obtain a grant up to **\$1,500** to cover expenses that will be required for you to re-open your business forced to close due to the Covid-19 virus. This includes the following:

- Marketing Tools-Social Media, Website, On-line ordering Platforms or tools.
- Payment Platforms for accepting credit cards, ie: on-line and or Contactless payment tools
- Shipping/Delivery Platforms
- PPE equipment – ie: Masks, gloves, No-touch thermometers
- Equipment to re-fit stores for Social Distancing- ie: plexiglass dividers, barriers, floor decals
- Signage for revised services offered: curbside pick-up, delivery, etc.
- Advertising Campaigns: Springfield Patriot, Online Media, Social Media Ad Posts, etc.
- Replenishing inventory or pay for existing inventory due within 30 days of closing.
- Other expenses necessary for implementation to reopen your business and/or adjust your business model.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Each grant is for an amount up to \$1,500 and must be applied toward the criteria outlined above. Grants will be awarded until all funds have been used. Once the grantee has been notified and submitted payment information that meets compliance checks, we will process the payment.

The application deadline is June 30, 2020 so please apply now to be considered!

- The application is short. It will take about 10 minutes to complete.
- **All you will need is your business's W-9 form.**
- All Application questions must be answered in full.
- Application criteria must be met for grant approval.
- The Grant Review Committee must receive your application by the application deadline noted above to be considered.

For the printable Grant Application, go to: www.tiny.cc/sprgrant

Please email completed application to: Springfieldnjbid@gmail.com

(If you have any questions, please email them to our email address. Please type grant application url address above in all lower case)

SPRINGFIELD'S VIGIL *continued from front page - additional photos on page 10*



Police Chief's Column
- *Chief John P. Cook*

The members of the Springfield Police Department, along with the Union County Police Chiefs' Association, are deeply pained and distressed by the death of George Floyd. We are not only disturbed by the improper actions of the former officer charged with murder and manslaughter, but we are equally saddened, upset, and angered that the other three former officers present made no effort to prevent this tragic loss of life.

The reprehensible and deplorable actions of these officers are inconsistent with the values we, as law enforcement officers, believe in and uphold both on personal and professional levels. In addition, the actions of those four officers in Minneapolis are contrary to the practices which Springfield and Union County officers use while providing services and protection for our communities.

Union County's police officers receive continual training, especially in the areas most sensitive to law enforcement and the community. This includes extensive training in the proper use of force, substance abuse, implicit bias recognition, techniques for dealing with mentally ill individuals or those in crisis, and many other topics and issues that officers may encounter during their day-to-day interactions with members of our respective communities. This training serves to ensure our officers provide our community with a consistent, safe, and professional police response, no matter what type of call for service they are dealing with.

In addition, all Union County police agencies work under the guidance of the NJ Attorney General's Office on implementing and executing early warning systems that identify any potential problems with officers, such as use of force patterns, citizen complaints, police policy violations, and other 'red flag' performance indicators of misconduct, to ensure problematic behavior is rapidly addressed. All use of force incidents are documented, thoroughly investigated and then shared for review by the Union County Prosecutor's Office, establishing further transparency. Furthermore, the Springfield Police Department's accredited status through the NJ State Association of Chiefs' of Police verifies all of our policies and procedures align with current best practices and protocols, and ensures accountability.

The continued professionalism and respect for the communities that we serve will always be at the forefront of our duties and will continue to be our mission. We welcome citizen groups, Clergy and leaders of our communities to engage one another, as united together with understanding, we can overcome these difficult times.

*Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to
Mr. Floyd's family and friends.*

Chief John Cook



COORDINATOR'S CORNER
Scott Seidel,
Emergency Management Coordinator
oemcoordinator@springfield-nj.us

GET READY FOR SUMMER!

IF YOU ARE UNDER AN EXTREME HEAT WARNING:

- Avoid strenuous activities.
- Wear light clothing.
- Check on family members and neighbors.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- Never leave people or pets in a closed car.

Prepare NOW

Keep your home cool:

- Cover windows with drapes or shades.
- Weather-strip doors and windows.
- Use window reflectors, such as aluminum foil-covered card board, to reflect heat back outside.
- Add insulation to keep the heat out.
- Use attic fans to clear hot air.
- Install window air conditioners and insulate around them.
- Learn to recognize the signs of heat-related illness.

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 create 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

***** PRIMARY VOTE BY
MAIL ELECTION *****

There is an important Primary election coming up on July 7th, where we will be choosing our Party's leaders for President, US Senate, Congress, County Freeholders, and here locally, Township Committee, that will decide how we are going to address our future.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

The Chisholm Community Center is closed to the public until further notice. The Springfield Recreation Department is also closed to the public, but maintains regular weekday office hours of 8:00 am-4:00 pm for business to be conducted by mail, email, phone, fax, Community Pass online, and a lock-box outside the Chisholm front entrance. There are no in-person business transactions. The afterschool teen program in the Chisholm youth wing is closed during this period. Chisholm is closed to all weekday and weekend activities that had been previously scheduled. Senior citizen programs that have been previously scheduled are canceled or postponed. The senior citizen daily transportation service has been suspended. See page 10 for information on Springfield Helping Seniors, a new temporary program that matches senior citizen residents with community volunteers for limited grocery shopping and prescription pick-ups — all delivered to your doorstep. Questions? Contact the Springfield Recreation Department at (973) 912-2227 or recreation@springfield-nj.us. Visit us online at www.springfield-nj.us/recreation. Register and pay for programs online at <https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>.

Time for a haircut?

How about time for an ADJUSTMENT!

We're OPEN!

**Our office is ready to treat
you and your family safely
and with the same care as before.**

CALL TODAY!



201
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Appointments are NOW REQUIRED

WAWA'S 900TH STORE OPENS IN SPRINGFIELD



WAWA General Manager, Jenny Toldedo and a Store Associate present Sergeant Ryan Westover and Springfield HOPE Trustee Scott Seidel with a check for \$1000. Springfield HOPE was the Charity chosen by Springfield Police Chief John Cook, also a HOPE Trustee, as the local charity to receive the donation.



WAWA General Manager presents FMBA Local 57 President Tim Hydock with a check for \$1000. The Springfield FMBA was the Charity chosen by Springfield Fire Chief Carlo Palumbo to receive the donation.



WAWA Employees present giant Hoagie sandwiches to members of the Springfield Police & Fire Departments as part of their "Hoagies for Heroes" program.



Mayor Christopher Capodice dons his WAWA Uniform to begin work making sandwiches.

Wawa opened its 900th store on June 18th at 685 Morris Turnpike in Springfield. A Virtual Store Tour Video shows enhanced safety measures, Community Support, and a Salute to Everyday Heroes in Springfield, New Jersey and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7l2ZbiRH0U> &feature=youtu.be. and <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7256100>

Wawa's newest store will provide customers with access to necessary supplies, fuel and support during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. "At Wawa, our core purpose is to go beyond filling orders to fulfill lives, every day, and that has never been stronger than now as our 900 stores unite together to provide support in the form of food, fuel, food donations, funds and the one-of-a-kind Wawa experience that delivers care and hope no matter the circumstances," said Chris Gheysens, President & CEO, Wawa. "As a new store opens, we will continue to provide comfort and a sense of normalcy in the safest way possible, while listening to what our friends and neighbors need most throughout these challenging times." About Opening Day On Thursday, June 18, the new store will open to the public at 8:00 a.m. with an official ribbon cutting outside of the store with associates standing 6 feet apart to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The store will employ approximately (40) associates and provide with competitive pay, benefits and an opportunity to stock through the company's ESOP (Employee-Stock-Ownership-Plan) after completing one year of service. Led by Wawa General Manager, Jenny Toledo and Area Manager Dan Holland, the team is committed to maintaining a healthy and safe environment while working to meet the needs of customers.

The company will mark this official milestone by showcasing its community support through a virtual video experience shared through social media on opening day. Springfield Mayor Chris Capodice welcomed Wawa to the neighborhood by personally congratulating the team and building the first ceremonial hoagie!

Wawa launched its Lending a Helping Hoagie initiative which will donate \$1,000 from the new store's first week of sales to Community Food Bank of New Jersey to relieve hunger in the immediate area, demonstrating its commitment to serving others in need.

In recognition of Healthcare Heroes, The Wawa Foundation presents the Local Hero Award with a \$1,000 contribution to Overlook Medical center, part of Atlantic Health System to express our gratitude to their commitment to serving our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wawa acknowledged the local community first responders from Springfield Police Department and Springfield Fire Department including donations to local charities serving the community. Customers are encouraged to watch the opening day video posted today on Facebook and are invited to share what they're most excited about for a chance to win limited-edition Wawa Springfield, NJ T-shirts.

Wawa, Inc., a privately held company, began in 1803 as an iron foundry in New Jersey. Toward the end of the 19th Century, owner George Wood took an interest in dairy farming and the family began a small processing plant in Wawa, PA in 1902. The milk business was a huge success, due to its quality, cleanliness and "certified" process. As home delivery of milk declined in the early 1960s, Grahame Wood, George's grandson, opened the first Wawa Food Market in 1964 as an outlet for dairy products. Today, Wawa is your all day, every day stop for freshly prepared foods, beverages, coffee, fuel services and surcharge-free ATMs. Wawa stores are located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland,

Virginia, Florida and Washington, D.C. The stores offer a large fresh foodservice selection, including Wawa brands such as custom prepared hoagies, freshly-brewed coffee, hot breakfast sandwiches, specialty beverages and an assortment of soups, sides and snacks. About Wawa's Commitment to Safety Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Wawa stayed focused on serving as an essential provider as safely as possible. During that time, Wawa made several key changes to ensure it has the safest, most convenient store environment. The changes include launch of The Wawa Clean Force, a dedicated and trained sanitizing swat team working at each store every day with one job: keeping Wawa stores clean, sanitized and safe. Additional protections and policies include masks and gloves for all associates; clear plastic safety guards at check out and food-service counters; even more frequent hand washing standards; and wellness temperature checks for associates before each shift. For customers, social distancing with friendly visual markers and more hand-sanitizer stations have been added in common areas. In 2018, Wawa was recognized in Forbes as one of The Best Employers for New Grads and one of The Best Employers for Women, and as the Top-Rated Workplace for Veterans by Indeed. In 2019, Wawa was designated by Forbes as a Best Employer for Diversity.

keeping YOU informed!

a message from Springfield
Mayor Christopher Capodice, Sr.

HELP COVID-19 FAMILIES IN NEED

During this unprecedented time, the Township of Springfield is providing boxes of food for COVID families in need. Each box costs \$25 to build and will feed a family of four for about a week. Our goal is to feed 500 families via a "Drive-Thru" Food Pantry @ Jonathan Dayton High School on Saturday, June 27th from 10:00am - 11:30am.

Meet The Need (MTN) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Contributions to MTN may be Tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. Please check with your personal tax advisor regarding the deduction of your gift.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Saturday June 27th Assistance Needed Between 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Jonathan Dayton High School

Great for opportunity for Groups, Organizations, Community Service Hours!

**ANY TIME YOU CAN GIVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED!
HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!**

DONATIONS NEEDED:

We are currently looking for monetary donations, as we are working with a non-profit organization that will put together the packages for us, getting the food at a discounted rate. Information to donate is below:

Cash app- \$MTNORGINC

Venmo- @MEETTHENEED

PayPal - mynorganizationis@gmail.com

Please remark "Go Bulldogs" so it gets credited to us.

Any amount helps!

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!



Fire Chief's Column

Chief Carlo Palumbo

GRILLING FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Some of us will be starting up their barbeque grill for the season. Here are some tips to keep your barbeque fun and safe.

Each year, fire departments nationally respond to nearly 8,000 grill fires. Nearly 3,000 of those fires spread to a nearby structure – usually the house. Grill fires cause an annual average of 10 deaths, 120 reported injuries, and \$80 million in direct property damage. In half of the grill-related home fires, 86% of the time the fire started when either the flammable or combustible gas or liquid propane caught fire.

One-third of the structure fires involving grills started on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch, which is why for people living in multiple residential properties (multi-family homes, apartments and condominiums), open flame cooking devices are prohibited for use on balconies. Portable LP-gas grills are not to be stored indoors or within 5 feet of combustible portions of the building.

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces such as tents, they pose a fire hazard and a risk of exposing occupants to deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic. Grills should be positioned at least 5 feet away from siding, deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

- Keep, matches, lighters, and starter fluid out of the reach of children in a locked drawer or cabinet.

- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.

- Use long barbeque mitts and long-handled grilling tools to protect the chef from heat and flames when cooking.

- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

If your grill does catch fire, turn off the gas, do not pour water (or any other liquid!) on a grease fire, keep the lid closed to deprive the fire of oxygen, and call the fire department. We'll do our best to save your barbeque.

PATRIOT PROFILES

Organizations and People that make a Difference in Springfield

By John Cottage Sr.

CELEBRATE THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SPRINGFIELD

On June 23rd, the Township will celebrate the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Springfield, a key battle during the Revolutionary War. Called by some the turning point of the Revolution, it essentially ended British ambitions in New Jersey.



Back in 2005, the Township held a gala three day celebration on the 225th anniversary. A huge parade broadcast on cable TV, revolutionary reenactments at the High School, the display of the famous "Give 'em Watts, boys!" painting by John Ward Dunsmore at the Library and a talk by noted author Thomas Fleming who wrote The Forgotten Victory – the Battle for New Jersey, the story of the Battle of Springfield that was published in 1973. During that talk, Fleming said "Washington could have lost the Battle of Monmouth and still won the War for Independence. If he had lost the Battle of Springfield, he would have lost the war!"

During the height of the battle on June 23rd, Reverend James Caldwell took the old Watts Hymnals from the 1st Presbyterian Church, gave those to the troops for "wadding" and cartridge paper, shouting, "Give 'em Watts, Boys!" "Put Watts Into 'em, Boys!". Today, "Give 'em Watts, Boys!" is the Motto of Union County!

As the Crown forces retreated, Loyalists burnt Springfield to the ground, as they did Connecticut Farms which today is Union. Only 4 houses survived; 3 behind American lines to the South & West, and the historic "Cannonball" House, a British field hospital which was struck by an American 4 lb cannonball during the battle. (Today, it's owned and run by the Springfield Historical Society.)

It took 14 yrs. for the town to recover and formally incorporate in 1794.

Mark Hurwitz, Past Commander of the Brigade of the American Revolution and Springfield resident said "We must remember the true significance of Springfield to the Yorktown Campaign. In 1781, the Crown forces should have attacked Washington and Rochambeau Armies while on the march through NJ, as Washington had done to Clinton at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. Clinton didn't since he had been mauled at Springfield!"

In an exclusive interview with the Patriot Times, Margaret Bandrowski, President of the Springfield Historical Society said "We at the Historical Society were saddened that the annual School Tours for the Caldwell fourth graders were lost to the quarantine this spring, and that we will not be open to celebrate this significant anniversary. However, we are still working to preserve our township's story! We have recently repainted the rooms on the first floor of the Historic Cannon Ball House in colors that are not only accurate to the period but authentic to our House. We are in the process of repainting the public spaces on the second floor as well as rethinking our exhibit space and the new booklet about the Battle of Springfield is nearing completion. It is a lot of work but Springfield deserves it!"

2020 GRADUATION



(l to r) Township Committeewoman Erica DuBois, Springfield School Superintendent Mike Davino, Jonathan Dayton High School Principal Dr. Norman Francis, Dayton High School Vice Principal Ron Slate and Mayor Christopher Capodice.

SPRINGFIELD'S VIGIL *continued from front page*



Deanna DuBois, Carolyn Dorant-Smith, and Lillian Gabriel. All Springfield residents and are finishing their freshman years of high school. They partnered with Springfield unity Project and Antioch Baptist Church to bring our community together to acknowledge that black lives matter, and that their voices need to be heard in regards to injustices they face in our country. The event was peaceful, with a powerful moment of silence in which participants took a knee for eight minutes and forty six seconds to honor the life of George Floyd. *additional photos on page 10*



additional photos on page 10

SPRINGFIELD'S MEMORIAL DAY

continued from front page

While there was no traditional parade and no large crowds, on May 25th at 10 AM at Veteran's Park, the Township held its annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Initially, due to COVID-19, only a private service was planned pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order on Public gatherings. But right before Memorial Day (after the Patriot Times went to press) that plan was altered to allow for a public ceremony that featured social distancing with everyone wearing masks and conforming to the latest Executive Order from the Governor. Coordinated by Linda Donnelly and Geri Ann Kazimar, the program was Led by American Legion Post 228 Commander Gerry Gebauer, he tailored his remarks to the events of today. Gerry spoke of front-line workers and fox holes. The deceased veterans we honor today knew what it meant to be on the front lines. Many were in the front lines when they met their deaths. Being in the front line is to be the first to confront the enemy. Being on the front line meant to protect the soldiers that came behind. In battle it meant facing the enemy and possible death at any moment. For those in the front line of today's world it means civilians protecting our citizens from the enemy of the pandemic.

continued on page 13



more pictures on page 12

PRIDE MONTH

continued from front page



The flagpole at the softball fields was chosen because the American flag in the front of the Chisholm Community Center has been at half-staff in memory of lives lost to COVID-19 since March. To open the ceremony, Mayor Christopher Capodice announced the official proclamation designating Pride Month in Springfield, which the Township Committee issued earlier that week. It read in part: "The rainbow flag will be raised...in the month of June 2020, recognizing all LGBTQ residents whose influential and lasting contributions to our neighborhoods make the Township of Springfield a vibrant community in which to live, work, and visit; and that the Recreation Department is a Safe Space for LGBTQ young people in the community." Members of the Township Committee present also made remarks to recognize the occasion. In honor of Pride Month, the Recreation Department's logo was modified in rainbow colors. Due to the COVID-19 crisis and restrictions on sizes of outdoor gatherings, the flag raising event was scaled down from what was originally planned. A larger celebration may be scheduled in the fall.





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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**



SPRINGFIELD'S VIGIL *continued from page 8*



MAYOR'S UPDATE ON THE SPRINGFIELD POOL

I hope you and your families are staying healthy and enjoying the beautiful weather. As the summer is almost upon us, the status of the pool and camp has been on everyone's mind. On behalf of the Township Committee, I want to take this opportunity to provide an update.

At our Township Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, knowing what we knew at the time, we voted unanimously to not proceed with the 2020 summer operation of the Springfield Community Pool, Pool Day Camp, Swim Team, Swim Lessons, and Chisholm Playground Camp, in an effort to: 1) protect our residents, pool patrons, staff, and summer program participants from the spread and infection of COVID-19; 2) minimize the known and unknown health, safety, and facility risks of operating our pool and summer programs in the current climate; and 3) provide for the short and long term financial stability of the self-sustaining pool utility. Due to the uncertainty of both the COVID-19 health crisis and the state's reopening guidance, we did leave the door open to discuss this further.

As a prudent and cost-effective reaction to our decision, we moved to formally release our summer employees; refund registration fees; and pause our spending and operational planning. Last year, the Township had to cover the financial shortfalls of the pool with \$150,000 taken out of the Township's General Fund. Unfortunately, since the construction of the new pool house, the pool has not met a projected revenue since the 2018 calendar year. Due to the pandemic, it is projected that the pool would have a \$350,000 shortfall the Township would need to subsidize from the 2021 budget. We hope you can appreciate that we did not take on the further financial burden of planning for a pool and camp season that, at the time, was still a major uncertainty due to the state's guidance. Since then, we have been pivoting to exploring exciting alternative summer experiences such as drive-in movies, expanded outdoor dining, virtual camp options, and late-summer sports clinics, as well as town-wide food drives and senior citizen shopping services to help our most vulnerable residents.

Fast forward to Monday, June 8, 2020, Governor Murphy released an Executive Order that permitted public and private outdoor pools to open as of Monday, June 22, 2020, with strict modifications. The state Department of Health released the new required standards a few days later. These include: 50% capacity, which amounts to approximately 250 people, including staff. Also, social distancing inside the water and on the grounds with face coverings outside of the pool. Additional requirements include limiting occupancy in showers and locker rooms, hiring of new COVID-19 ambassadors to enforce social distancing, screening employees for temperatures and other symptoms of illness, staggering entry and exit points, purchasing new signage and cleaning supplies, establishing an outdoor emergency care facility for COVID-19 prevention and mitigation, enhancing cleaning and disinfecting procedures, providing sanitizer stations throughout the grounds, prohibiting sharing of lounge chairs, turning off the baby pool sprinklers, and encouraging mask wearing in many situations.

We would not shy away from following state-mandated guidance, or from providing quality and affordable services and amenities to our residents. But doing so after one month of moving in a different direction -- and already late in the summer planning process -- leaves us faced with both the uncertainty of membership and camp enrollment and statewide health fluctuations; and the certainty of a major financial deficit in the hundreds of thousands of dollars even if we open the pool and camp. The Springfield Community Pool depends on revenue gained from pool membership, camp registrations, concession operator, private usage contracts, and party rentals. We do not believe it is in the best interest of the Township, or the pool, to shift what would be a sizable deficit to pool members and camp families in the form of significant fee hikes in an uncertain 2021 and beyond, or to regular taxpayers whose property taxes would likely have to cover this deficit in 2021.

I am pleased to report that the Business Administrator and the Director of Recreation have been having conversations with third-parties about the possibility of surveying residents and implementing their camp programs and/or operating the pool at less financial risk to the Township and in less time in the midst of the current COVID-19 crisis. As soon as we have more information on potential developments, I will share them with you.

Until then, I wish you and your families continued health and safety.

***Congratulations to all of our graduates!
I hope to see you at our upcoming drive-in movies and
dining outdoors at our restaurants!***

Stay safe!
-- Mayor Christopher Capodice, Sr.

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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



THREE DRIVE-IN MOVIES COMING TO SPRINGFIELD THIS SUMMER



A classic drive-in movie experience is being paired with a modern high-tech twist for a summer of entertainment in Springfield! The Springfield Recreation Department has teamed up with local company Boxcar to bring three drive-in movies to the township.

On Wednesday, July 8; Thursday, July 23; and Thursday, August 13, the parking lot at the Springfield Community Pool will be transformed into a socially-distant outdoor movie theater -- complete with a jumbo screen, FM audio transmission, and food delivery.

Movie titles, screening times, food options, and reservation fees will be announced soon. To be the first to receive details and payment information, interested Springfield residents must sign up with Boxcar at <https://www.boxcarapp.com/springfield-movies>. Each movie will have limited spots available that are first-come first-served and subject to advance reservation only through Boxcar. Boxcar is partnering with local restaurants to offer pre-paid food and drinks delivered directly to your car. Moviegoers must remain in their cars for the duration of the event, and no lawn chairs or blankets are allowed. According to Director of Recreation Adam Lieb, "This summer is going to look a little different in Springfield, but we didn't want it to be any less exciting. These three drive-in movies will bring the community together in a socially distant way, provide for a fun family-oriented experience, and encourage pride in our township." Boxcar is a Chatham-based integrated commuting company that specializes in on-demand train station parking, luxury motor coach service to Manhattan, grocery delivery, drive-in movies, car detailing, landscaping, and outdoor pools. Questions? Contact the Springfield Recreation Department at (973) 912-2227 or recreation@springfield-nj.us.



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Kids virtual Martial Arts classes! Starting July 2020!

Tuesdays 1pm ages 3-6 and 1:30pm ages 7-11

Learn basic techniques while having fun and developing confidence, reflexes and self discipline as well as stress relief!



\$99 for 4 sessions plus a uniform!
Sign up today! (Contact instructor Andrew 908-256-0906 to pay by phone) or email ukfspringfield@gmail.com
usakaratefitness.com

Co sponsored by SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Hey Springfield Parents, what are your plans this summer?



Now Enrolling
On-Demand and Live Classes
For Summer

Young Rembrandts is excited to provide exclusive ONLINE courses to keep the kids creative at home.

ON-DEMAND CLASSES- Register as usual and we'll deliver your lesson right to your inbox - no schedule, no restrictions just complete the drawing when convenient!

LIVE CLASSES- Join class at a specific time to work with our teachers for individualized instruction. Your child will be able to ask questions and get real-time guidance on their artwork.

Check out all our lesson and workshop options and enroll today!

• Preschool Drawing • Elementary Drawing • Cartooning •
• Junior Workshops • Elementary Workshops • Pastel Workshops •

Register Now!

<https://www.youngrembrandts.com/middlesex-union/view-classes-enroll/>



STAY TUNED!
Youth Football &
Cheerleading Registration



If you have any questions about any of our programs, please contact the Springfield Recreation Department at (973) 912-2227 or Recreation@Springfield-NJ.US

Pool Party Room Rental Available
for Springfield and out-of-town
residents and businesses.
Fees vary from \$200-\$500.

Call to learn about serving beer and wine!



Party room and kitchen available
at the Chisholm Community
Center for your next event.
Cost to Springfield residents is
only \$225 for up to four hours.

CALL RECREATION DEPARTMENT (973) 912-2227

VETERANS CORNER

By Gerry Gebauer

This article is for post 9/11 veterans. Veterans are used to being mentored. From drill instructors to non-commissioned officers who trained us. Now there is a mentoring program for veterans who have been discharged. The American Corporate Partners, ACP, offers a complete virtual 1 on 1 mentoring program to assist veterans with career development, networking and general mentorship. Takes an hour a month for 12 months. Veterans can ask about business development and entrepreneurship on Advisor Net The mentors can be people like Rupert Murdoch or George Oliver, the Chairman of the Board of Bloomberg. Visit www.ACP-USA.org to learn more.

MEMORIAL DAY continued from page 8



WE NEED YOU...
Sign Up Now!
CLASSES START FALL 2020

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



PLEASE APPLY BY JUNE 30, 2020.
For more information and an application visit Springfield Emergency Management under Departments tab at
www.Springfield-nj.us or call 973-467-3388

- PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT -
ALCOHOL AWARENESS
ALCOHOL EFFECTS ON THE BODY

Drinking too much on a single occasion or over time can take a serious toll on your health. Here's how alcohol can affect your body:

BRAIN

Alcohol interferes with the brain's communication pathways. Change mood and behavior, and make it harder to think clearly and move with coordination.

HEART

CARDIOMYOPATHY: stretching and drooping of heart muscle
ARRHYTHMIA: irregular heart beat
STROKE - HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

LIVER

INFLAMMATION:
STEATOSIS OR FATTY LIVER
ALCOHOLIC HEPATITIS
FIBROSIS - CIRRHOSIS

CANCER

The more alcohol a person drinks particularly the more alcohol a person drinks regularly over time the higher his or her risk of developing an alcohol associated cancer.

Which are the following :

HEAD AND NECK CANCER
ESOPHAGEAL CANCER
LIVER CANCER - BREAST CANCER
COLORECTAL CANCER

PANCREAS

Produce toxic substances that can eventually lead to pancreatitis, dangerous inflammation and swelling of the blood vessels and prevent proper digestion

IMMUNE SYSTEM

Drinking too much can weaken your immune system, making your body a much easier target for disease.

MASK UP!



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
Wear a mask, especially within six feet of others, including on:



Trails • Paths • Parking Lots



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**UNFORTUNATELY,
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NO FIREWORKS ON
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THIS YEAR**

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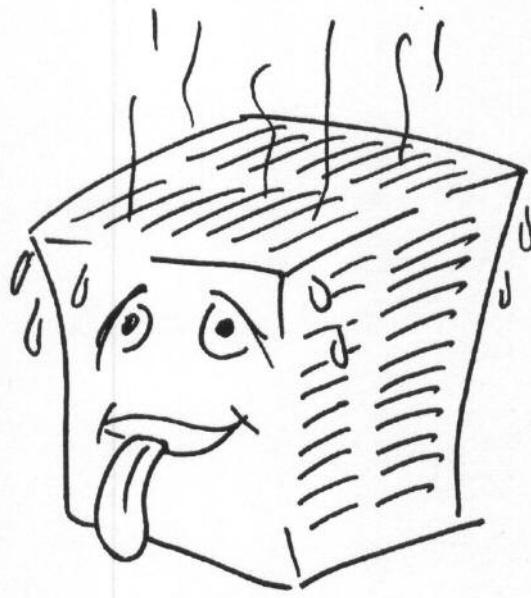
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SPRINGFIELD'S MEMORIAL DAY

continued from page 8

A fox hole represents a place for shelter to protect us from the enemy, from danger. For the deceased soldiers we honor today getting out of their fox holes meant going forward toward the enemy. Going toward more danger and possible death. Many a soldier we honor today died after getting out of their foxhole. For those today, a fox hole represents our homes or apartments. In leaving our fox holes we feel a sense of relief, joy and a hope that the danger is over.

On Memorial Day, we are here to thank our fallen veterans who were on the front line in years past and gave their life for their country. We thank them all who left their fox holes to go to the front line. In remembering them, it also gives us an opportunity to remember those today who left their fox holes and went forward to the front lines which were in hospitals, an EMS or fire rescue and lost their lives helping their fellow citizens. Take a moment or two to remember their sacrifice for us all. Gerry gave a special thanks to Springfield front line workers. The Springfield Police Department, Fire Department and especially the Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad of which he is a proud member. He then gave the invocation.

Gerry had triple duty in also introducing this year's Grand Marshall, Sam Furner, Chaplain for Post #228. Sam entered the Army in 1953 with the expectation of going to Korea. As luck would have it, the war was ending so Sam was sent to Germany. He was discharged in 1955. Sam moved to Springfield in 1970 and has been a resident ever since. His children also live in town. Sam is a vital member of the American Legion Post and serves as their Chaplain. The Post is happy to honor him today.

The Ceremony continued with comments on the day by Mayor Christopher Capodice. The ceremony had all the trappings of past years. A crowd of approximately 50 residents along with 20 veterans were in attendance along with all 5 members of the Township Committee were in attendance. Marc Krauss laid the POW-MIA Flag and placed the memorial wreath. Veteran Ernie Della Sala played God Bless America and Taps on his saxophone and Catie Hodic sang stirring renditions of both the National Anthem and "I'm proud to be an American". Linda Jurczak did a reading during the ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony The Auxiliary Police Color Guard fired a 3 shot rifle volley. Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce Co-chairman Mike Scalera broadcast the event on Facebook live where it can be viewed on their Facebook page. A copy of the Memorial Day Ceremony Program Booklet is attached as well on our website.



*Anyone seeking help or assistance from
Springfield H.O.P.E. may contact any of
the Trustees at 973-467-3388 or reach out
to Dr. Gary Hecht - speakingdocs@aol.com
Scott Seidel - scottseidel@gmail.com*

*You will be contacted promptly.
All requests for donations and assistance
will be kept strictly confidential.*

**Anyone wanting to make a donation
to Springfield H.O.P.E. may do so
by contacting HOPE at:
973-467-3388
or mailing a check to:
Springfield H.O.P.E.
C/O Springfield OEM
200 Mountain Ave.
Springfield NJ 07081**

thank you

**HEALTHCARE WORKERS
FIRST RESPONDERS
ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

**GOVERNOR MURPHY ANNOUNCED NEW JERSEY TO ENTER
STAGE TWO OF RESTART AND RECOVERY ON JUNE 15TH**

- Outdoor Dining and Indoor, Non-Essential Retail Allowed as of June 15th
- Hair Salons and Barber Shops May Reopen on June 22nd

STAGE 2 PROTOCOLS:

Restrictions are relaxed on activities that can be easily safeguarded. Phased-in businesses and activities, with adherence to safeguarding and modification guidelines, include:

- Outdoor dining (beginning on June 15th)
- Limited in-person retail (beginning on June 15th)
- Hair salons and barber shops (beginning on June 22nd)
- Youth summer programs (beginning on July 6th)
- In-person clinical research/labs
- Limited fitness/gyms
- Limited in-person government services (e.g. – Motor Vehicle Commission)
- Museums/libraries

All workers who can work from home should continue to work from home.

Precautions that apply across all stages include:

Clinically high-risk individuals who can stay at home should continue to do so. All residents and businesses should follow state and federal safeguarding guidelines:

- * Wash hands
- * Wear masks in public
- * Respect social distancing
- * Minimize gatherings
- * Disinfect workplace and businesses
- * Minimize gatherings
- * No mass gatherings

New Jersey will move toward subsequent stages based on data that demonstrates improvements in public health and the capacity to safeguard the public, including:

- Sustained improvements in public health indicators, including new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, individuals in intensive care, and ventilator use;
- Substantial increase in testing and contact tracing capacity;
- Sufficient resilience in New Jersey’s health care system to include adequate bed capacity, ventilators, personal protective equipment, and workforce;
- Widespread safeguarding of workplaces;
- Widespread safeguarding and capacity of child care, schools, and mass transit;
- Continued public compliance.

Additionally, a special ruling by the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) will temporarily permit establishments with liquor licenses to expand their licensed premises into outdoor areas that are either contiguous or non-contiguous to their permanently licensed premises. Establishments may apply through the POSSE ABC Online Licensing system, and if approved will be issued a temporary permit effective on June 15th that will run until November 14, 2020. ABC will not take action on any application until it receives an endorsement or approval by the appropriate governing body officials, and it is the responsibility of the licensee to comply with local ordinances and site plan requirements.

Furthermore, Governor Murphy and Superintendent of the State Police Colonel Patrick Callahan announced on June 19th that indoor portions of retail shopping malls to reopen to members of the public, effective at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, June 29.

“Malls are an undeniable part of New Jersey culture, and we want these businesses to get back up and running in a safe, responsible manner,” said Governor Murphy. “To keep our restart moving in the right direction, we ask New Jerseyans who wish to head out to the mall or any public setting to do so safely.”

Retail businesses located in the interior of shopping malls are permitted to reopen to the public, as long as they comply with the requirements contained in Executive Order No. 122. Restaurants within the interior of a retail shopping mall are restricted to offering takeout and delivery services, except that they may also provide in-person service at outdoor areas outside the shopping mall pursuant to Executive Order No. 150.

Retail kiosks located within malls may operate subject to the applicable requirements contained in Executive Order No. 122, and must ensure that customers remain six feet apart at all times.

All areas with communal seating shall be removed or cordoned off. Isolated seats or benches available for individual use may be accessible, in order to provide customers with a place to rest.

The following services or areas shall be closed at all indoor shopping malls:

- Valet parking;
- Vending machines;
- Stroller rentals; and
- Any type of communal play area.

Businesses located within the indoor portions of retail shopping malls that remain closed to the public by any Executive Order, such as entertainment and recreational businesses including gyms, fitness centers, movie theaters, amusement parks, water parks, and arcades, shall remain closed.

**If public health indicators, safeguarding, or compliance worsen on a sustained basis,
New Jersey will be prepared to move back to more restrictive stages as well.**

**THE SPRINGFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
AND THE SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL
SOCIETY WORKING TOGETHER TO
PRESERVE DOCUMENTS**

The Springfield Free Public Library and the Springfield Historical Society are working together to collect, organize and preserve documents and other items that will serve as a record of the experiences of Springfield Township residents during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. All members of the community are welcome to participate. Items that can be submitted include written descriptions, personal reflections, poetry, video, music, photographs and other types of visual art. Submissions by children and teens are especially encouraged. Submissions should be sent to questions@sfplnj.org. A special section of the library’s webpage will be set up to serve as a digital archive for the items received.

Writing on any aspect of the pandemic are welcome, but library staff members have offered some sample topics in case a little help is needed to get started.

- Do you know anyone who survived the coronavirus?
- What are your recollections of their recovery?
- How much does the prospect of infection worry you?
- Do you think society’s reaction has been appropriate?
- Have you started to use technology in different ways?
- Have you experienced digital burnout?
- What are some of the things that you are finding yourself missing most at this time?
- How has the cancellation of special events like graduations, birthday parties, or summer camp affected you?

- How have your food shopping, cooking and eating habits changed during this time?
- Do you have a particular recipe that you would like to share?
- How has homeschooling affected your family dynamic?
- If you are a college student, how does online instruction compare to the college classroom experience?
- Is your pet behaving differently during this time?
- For Kids: Explain coronavirus and quarantine in your own words or with a poem or picture.
- For more information, please contact Library Director Dale Spindel at dspindel@sfplnj.org.

**THE SPRINGFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY’S
2020 SUMMER READING**

Begins on Monday, June 22 & ends at midnight on Saturday, August 22

Summer is here, and you know what that means: summer reading! This summer will be a little different due to COVID-19. The Springfield Free Public Library will host this year’s summer reading virtually. The New Jersey State Library has given us access to READSquared, an online platform that will allow our patrons to log their reading, earn points, and enter for a chance to win the grand prize raffle drawing!

Registration begins Monday, June 22. Our summer reading is divided into 3 different programs depending on your age/grade. To register and learn more about each program, please visit <http://springfieldlibrary.readsquared.com/> or visit our website at www.sfplnj.org.

**Springfield Free
Public Library**
66 Mountain Avenue
973-376-4930

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

**A MESSAGE FROM SPRINGFIELD'S
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR
DALE SPINDEL**

As many of you already know, Governor Murphy has given the go ahead to libraries in New Jersey to begin offering contactless pick up of library materials as long as certain safety provisions have been put into place. We have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure that this can be accomplished as quickly as possible.

The first stage of our reopening plan is to initiate the return of library materials that were checked out prior to March 14 when the library first closed. Because there are currently more than 5,000 items checked out, the outdoor book and media drops are not sufficient to handle the large volume of items coming back. We have determined that the safest way to handle the return of these items is by setting up large bins in the library's front lobby for items to be dropped in. In accordance with the recommended safety guidelines of the American Library Association, returned materials will then be quarantined for 72 hours before library staff members can begin checking them in.

Items are going to be returned to the library on a scale that we have never experienced before. Therefore, we are asking our library patrons to help us by following the schedule set out below, based on the first letter of your last name:

A-E	Monday, June 22
F-K	Tuesday, June 23
L-R	Wednesday, June 24
S-Z	Thursday, June 25

The library lobby will remain open on each of these days from 10 AM to 6:00 PM. Other than the front lobby, no other areas of the library, including library restrooms, will be open to the public.

The library's outdoor book and media drops will continue to be closed 24/7 for at least the next two weeks. Please do not leave items you wish to return outside the front door or next to or on top of the outdoor drops.

Library fines incurred for any date after March 12 will be removed from your account without penalty.

Once we have the majority of our items returned, checked in, and reshelfed, we will be ready to meet the challenges of providing contactless pick up of library materials in a way that is both safe and fair but also within the limitations of social distancing requirements that we will be following.

We also know that communication with our patrons during this transitional time is extremely important, so you can expect to receive a progress report from me no later than June 25.

On behalf of the library staff, I want to say that we all miss you and are looking forward to seeing you again, even if it's only from behind a mask or on the other side of the window.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the return of any library materials you currently have out, you can contact me at dspindel@sfplnj.org and I will be happy to work with you.

Please stay safe and well!



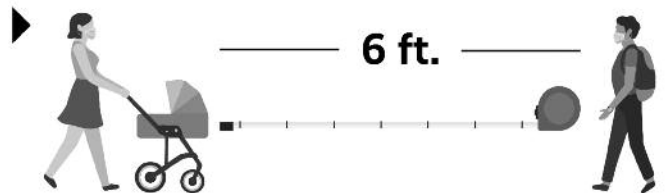
**ANYONE SEEKING
HELP CAN CALL
973-467-3388**

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.

Tips for Physical Distancing In Parks

Know what 6 feet looks like. Lay measuring tape on the ground. It's the distance of a surfboard, long yoga mat or adult bike.



Do not use playgrounds or other frequently touched surfaces.

Go by yourself or those you live with. Strongly consider the use of a face covering.



Avoid crowded areas. If a space cannot be enjoyed safely, go home or discover a new park in your community.



For more resources on how to use parks safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit: nrpa.org/Coronavirus

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