

**NEXT
CHAMBER
MEETING**

THURSDAY
JANUARY 28, 2021

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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MAYOR ACCEPTS OATH OF OFFICE AT ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING



David Barnett administers the Oath of Office to Mayor Chris Weber as his children Joshua, Jessica, Ashley and his wife Vanggie look on.

Just after noon on Friday, January 1st, 2021, Mayor Chris Weber took the Oath of Office administered by former Mayor David Barnett. Christopher Capodice accepts the "Certificate of Electors" from Township Clerk Linda Donnelly. Township Committeeman Christopher Capodice then took the Oath of Office which was administered by Peter Capodice while his wife held the Bible while his family looked on.

(continued on page 4)

TOWNSHIP ACCEPTS JCP&L DONATION



(l-r) Adam Lieb, Director of Recreation; Scott Seidel, Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management; Carol Bianchi, JCP&L Regional External Affairs; Brendan O'Reilly, Assistant Director of Recreation; and John Bussicula, Township Administrator.

Photo Credit: Maryellen Brennan (continued on page 10)

DOBBS AUTOBODY DONATES LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



(l to r) Robert Boettcher, Supervisor of Public Works; Adam Lieb, Director of Recreation; Mayor Chris Weber; Rochelle and Brad Denning.

Photo Credit: Daniel Hesse (continued on page 10)

FIRST AID SQUAD SWEARS IN NEW OFFICERS FOR 2021



Left to right, top to bottom:

Elizabeth J. Fritzen, President; Apu, Chief; Samantha Miller, First Lt. Terrence Rose, Vice President; Marla Napurano, Treasurer; Joe Voorhees, Supply Sgt. Jeff Shanes, Training Officer; Riya Gupta, Secretary; Jessica Miller, Second Lt. Aqeel Abbas, Deputy Chief; Samantha Knee, Corresponding Secretary; Brett Biebelberg, Trustee

At the January 12th meeting of the Township Committee, the Committeeswore in the officers of the Springfield First Aid Squad for 2021 via Zoom. Elizabeth J. Fritzen, President of the Springfield First Aid Squad made the following remarks

(cont on page 4)

SPRINGFIELD GIRL SCOUTS RUN FOOD DRIVE



The Springfield Girl Scouts have been serving lunch at St. John's in Elizabeth every December for the last 8 years. This year due to COVID, that was not possible so the Girls ran a food drive in town. A huge thank you to all our neighbors for contributing. Together we donated approximately 100 bags of groceries to the small food pantry at St. John's. The church tell us they are busier than ever and having a hard time keeping up with the demand.



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: Chris Weber

DEPUTY MAYOR: Alex Keiser

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Erica DuBois, Richard Huber
Christopher Capodice

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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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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Phone 973-912-2300 • Fax 973-376-0425



Message from the Mayor

Happy New Year Springfield!

I am honored beyond words to be selected as your Mayor of Springfield for 2021. We are starting the year running as we begin a complete refresh for Trivett Park. New swings, play area, and landscaping await you and your family. Our focus for this year is going to be the restoration of the health of our Township. Not only in us personally as the world makes major strides in its fight on Covid, but also in our town. We look forward to getting local business back to a regular schedule, completing outstanding projects on the

Morris Ave corridor and starting new ones, such as Saks. It's been years of hard work by so many people to get us to the point we are this year. I thank all of you who have had a part in making this happen for our historical town. It shows that there is a lot of love, caring and pride for Springfield. I look forward to an incredible year!

Peace and love to all!

Chris Weber, Mayor

HECHT FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Tips for Winter 2021

- Wear a scarf on cold days to keep your neck warm.
- Bend at the knees when shoveling snow.
- Make sure to exercise daily.
- Get adjusted regularly!



973.564.5885

hechtchiropractic.com

201 Mountain Ave

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 26 and February 9 and 23 at 7 pm

PLANNING BOARD

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

BOARD OF HEALTH

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm at the Firehouse

RENT LEVELING BOARD

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

RECREATION COUNCIL

Contact Recreation Department For Next Meeting Date and Time

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm at the Library

What's Happening **Springfield** Business Improvement District **Business Spotlights**



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Featured businesses for this month

24 HOUR FITNESS

75 Route 22 East - (973) 912-8677

A little fit goes a long way, when you manage to fit in your workout. At 24 Hour Fitness, we're here to provide the motivation you need to kick off the covers and kick into gear. We put opportunities and tools at your fingertips – such as studio and cycle classes, on-demand workouts, 24Life magazine and signature training programs – to get you started on the right track and keep you moving forward.
www.24hourfitness.com



TD PIZZA

222 Mountain Ave – 908-800-7080

Springfield's thriving pizza scene wouldn't be complete without a stop at TD. Super large slices and a thin crust are just the beginning! They offer a complete menu of classic Italian dishes like shrimp francese, chicken marsala, eggplant & chicken parm to name a few. Their hot and cold subs totally rock...and their pastas are prepared and presented perfectly. TD Pizza also delivers 7 days a week!



JENNY CRAIG WEIGHT LOSS CENTER

275 Route 22 - (973)-912-9151

No matter how you participate in Jenny Craig you will have a personal weight loss consultant handpicked to meet your unique needs. Your program will focus on the three cornerstones of your lifestyle change: Eat Well, Move More and Live Life. Millions of people have found success with Jenny's programs. With many ways to customize the experience we can help you develop a flexible plan that will help you reach your goals. Call today to set up a FREE consultation at Jenny Craig Springfield Center, and learn how to get started today.
www.JennyCraig.com



GREENDROP CHARITABLE DONATIONS

831 S. Springfield Ave – 888-944-3767

We convert lightly used clothing and household items into critical funds for great American charities. GreenDrop provides the most convenient way to donate gently used clothing and household goods to assist charitable programs for American Red Cross, Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Federation of the Blind, and other. When it is time to donate, you can bring your items to our convenient GreenDrop location – where a friendly attendant will remove them from your vehicle and provide a tax receipt from your selected charity – OR you can call 1-888-944-3767 to schedule a home pickup. Thank you for your generosity! www.Gogreendrop.com



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www.gospringfieldnj.com

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION

(continued from front page)
Photos by Jennifer Law

An Invocation by Father Joseph Barbone, Pastor, Saint James the Apostle Roman Catholic Church and an Inspirational Message for 2021 was read by Rev. Milton Hobbs, Pastor, The Antioch Baptist Church. Each Committee member made remarks, both about getting through 2020 and looking ahead to 2021. Working committees were formed and certain appointments were made. Everything is listed on our website under the Agenda.
At the conclusion of the meeting a Benediction was read by Rabbi Chaim Marcus, Congregation Israel of Springfield.



Springfield Township Committee (l to r) Erica Dubois, Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser, Mayor Chris Weber, Christopher Capodice and Richard Huber

PICTURED ON LEFT
Township Committeeman Christopher Capodice, Lisa Capodice, Madison Capodice and Judy and Peter Capodice (Front) Christopher Capodice, Jr.

PICTURED ON RIGHT
Peter Capodice administers the Oath of Office to Township Committee Member Elect Christopher Capodice while his wife Lisa holds the Bible and daughter Madison, Judy Capodice and son Christopher, Jr. watch the ceremony.



Linda Donnelly, Township Clerk, presents Certificate of Election to Township Committee Member Elect Christopher Capodice.



Mayor Weber (right) with David Barnett



Mayor Weber and Family, (l to r) Christopher, Joshua, Jessica, Mayor Weber, Ashley and Vanggie

FIRST AID SQUAD

(cont from front cover)

“I want to thank the Honorable Mayor and members of the Springfield Township Committee for this annual swearing in of the Squad’s new Officers each year and for recognizing our organization. We are humbled by your thoughts of us and your support.
The Springfield First Aid Squad has served the community with emergency medical services for over 70 years. This past year of course was a challenge for all of us.
First, let me speak about our members. When Springfield needed us, we were there. Our members put themselves on the front line of the COVID 19 pandemic for the residents of Springfield and all of Springfield.
During the Spring of 2020, the world changed. The Springfield First Aid Squad responded to over 140 COVID 19 related calls alone. We added additional crews to

be available for all of the COVID related emergencies as well as our routine calls; traffic accidents and medical, heart attacks and strokes. Our members never shirked their duties or responsibility even when they were at high risk with a pandemic raging.
In those months we almost doubled our one- year supply costs. We hunted like the rest of the world for PPE supplies andbargains were few! We added additional in house crews to be available for our uptick of call volume.
To continue to keep our residents and EMS providers safe, we have to aggressively maintain and exceed supply levels and staffing. The future of this virus is just unknown.
But do know that your First Aid Squad is prepared to be there for you!
Our members continue to amaze with their dedication!!
Thank you all once again for this great honor!"

The 2021 Officers are:

Executive Officers

- President
Elizabeth J. Fritzen
Vice President
Terrence Rose
Treasurer
Marla Napurano
Secretary
Riya Gupta
Corresponding Secretary
Samantha Knee
Operating Officers

Chief
Apu
Deputy Chief
Aqeel Abbas

- First Lieutenant
Samantha Miller
Second Lieutenant
Jessica Miller
Supply Sergeant
Joe Voorhees
Training Officer
Jeff Shanes
House Committee

Juliana Silva (-2022)
Elizabeth Giambattista (-2023)
Peter Shewitz (-2024)
David Maas (-2025)
Stuart Maslow (-2025)
Trustees

Martin Gornstein (-2023)
Brett Biebelberg (-2024)

<http://www.SpringfieldFAS.org/>
Providing Emergency Medical Services since 1949
Volunteers Needed - Donations Welcome!

PATRIOT PROFILES

Organizations and People that make a Difference in Springfield

By John Cottage Sr.



(l to r) Fire Chief Carlo Palumbo – Auxiliary Police Chief Angelo Palumbo

“A TALE OF TWO CHIEFS”

In Springfield, when you say Chief Palumbo you have to be more specific. Do you mean Fire Chief Carlo Palumbo or Auxiliary Police Chief Angelo Palumbo? Springfield is very lucky to have the Palumbo brothers in key leadership positions in Public Safety.

Fire Chief Carlo Palumbo has been part of the Springfield Fire Department since 1995 when he became a member of the volunteer group. After three years in that role, he became a member of the career department in 1998. In 2006 he was promoted to Fire Captain and served as a tour commander.

In 2012 he was promoted to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief where he managed the day-to-day operations. In 2014 Palumbo was promoted to his current position as Chief, where he has 25 Career Firefighters under his command as the Chief of Department. He holds an Associate’s Degree in Fire Technology and a Bachelor Degree in Fire Safety Administration.

Palumbo has had a distinguished career as a firefighter in Springfield. He was one of the initial waves of first responders to respond to New York on 9/11. Over his career, Palumbo has received several awards and citations including EMS Medal of Distinction from New Jersey State F.M.B.A. for his part in an emergency childbirth.

Carlo is very active in the community and in various fire-related organizations. He is a Trustee of Springfield HOPE and is on Union County College Advisory Committee for the Fire Science program.

In an exclusive interview with the Patriot Times, Carlo said “I believe strongly in being active as well as involved in community service. I feel it is imperative to continuously educate and work closely together with other agencies to ensure public safety”.

Angelo Palumbo has been a member of the Springfield Volunteer Auxiliary Police since 1991 and his celebrating his 30th year of service. After attending the Union County Auxiliary Police Academy, he was a patrolman working regular patrol shifts each month. Angelo was promoted to Sergeant in 2000, Lieutenant in 2002, Captain in 2008 and finally he became the fifth Chief in the history of the Auxiliary Police in 2012. In that capacity, he leads a group of around 20 volunteers who respond to Township emergencies 24/7.

During his years in the unit, he participated in major events such as hurricanes Floyd, Irene and Sandy, major blizzards, fires and major traffic incidents. He has logged over 4000 hours of volunteer service to the Township. On two occasions, in 1992 and 2014, he received the coveted Auxiliary Police Officer of the Year award for his outstanding service.

In an exclusive interview with the Patriot Times, Angelo said “I’ve totally enjoyed being a member of the Auxiliary Police helping the Township and giving back to the town I grew up in”.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Auxiliary Police should contact the Springfield Office of Emergency Management at 973-467-3388 or oemcoordinator@springfield-nj.us

WATER MAIN BREAK CLOSES MEISEL AVE.



A water main break in the area of Meisel Ave Park has closed Meisel Ave. to all traffic on January 12th.

Joseph
Cusano
& Co.

CPA, PC

Certified
Public
Accountant

Joseph Cusano, CPA
member of NJSCPA

joec@jccpapc.net

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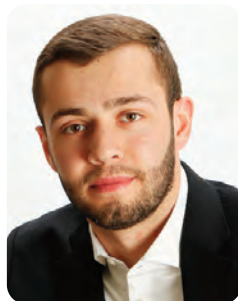


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SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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 survivalmode) and design. The young builders will learn many skills such as how to build shelter, findresources 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 inteams 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 courseor “Obby” and use the programming language called Lua to write scripts to take the game to ahigher level. By the end of the session the young designers will be able to challenge family andfriends 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.





SPRINGFIELD NJ BASEBALL LEAGUE

SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081
SPRING 2021 REGISTRATION*

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE at www.springfieldnjbaseballleague.com

SPRINGFIELD BASEBALL will continue to play with neighboring towns at the Minor and Major League levels. Minor and Major games typically take place during the week, allowing for Spring Travel to be played on the weekend. MORE DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED ON OUR WEBSITE AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

DIVISIONS:	GRADES:
A & AA LEAGUES (Clinics)	Pre-K (age 4 as of 5/1/2021) & Kindergarten
AAA LEAGUE	1st & 2nd Grade
MINOR LEAGUE	3rd & 4th Grade
MAJOR LEAGUE	5th & 6th Grade
PONY LEAGUE	7th & 8th Grade

PLEASE NOTE:

- If public health circumstances allow, pre-season evaluations may be scheduled for players 1st-6th grade to help ensure competitive and balanced teams are created.
- The SNJBL Board of Directors will have the flexibility to move players to appropriate divisions to address player welfare and competitive balance.
- If the recreation season cannot be played due to public health circumstances involving COVID-19, registration fees would be refunded.

REGISTRATION FEES AND DEADLINES:

REGISTRATION COMPLETED AND PAYMENT RECEIVED BY:	ALL LEAGUES
JANUARY 31, 2021	\$125 (EARLY BIRD FEE!)
FEBRUARY 28, 2021	\$150
AFTER FEBRUARY 28, 2021	\$175 (Requires board approval and subject to available roster positions)

GIRLS SOFTBALL - SPRING 2021



Who: Recreation girls softball leagues for Spring 2021 are open to students in Springfield schools in grades K-9. The following programs are offered: grade K clinic, grades 1-2 instructional league, grades 3-5 lower league, and grades 6-9 upper league (9th graders who do not play in high school).

Fees: Two separate registration fees: \$90 (grades K-9) payable to Township of Springfield AND \$70 (grades 1-9) payable to Springfield Girls Softball, Inc.

Registration: Online with a credit card at BOTH <https://register.communitypass.net/springfield> and <https://www.springfieldgirlssoftball.com>. Separate registration fees are required on BOTH websites.

Deadline: Friday, February 26, 2021. After the deadline, registrations will only be accepted if space is available on a team.

Refunds: No refunds after the child's registration has been completed. In the event of a season interruption or cancellation, every effort will be made to return unspent funds, but this is not guaranteed.

Includes: Uniform to keep (shirt, pants); loaned equipment (helmet, catcher's gear, bats, balls); league fee; hand sanitizer and wipes available; team thermometers.

Does Not Include: Personal protective equipment (e.g. masks); glove; cleats; end-of-season picnic (separate registration required); Storm spring, summer, and fall travel team registration fees; optional workout/clinic fees.

COVID-19: We are following preventive measures and requirements outlined in our Program Preparation Plan, NJ Department of Health, and USA Softball NJ District 2.

Storm Travel Teams: Registration in spring recreation softball leagues and minimum attendance required for tryouts for spring, summer, and fall teams.

Questions?: Daniel Hesse, Program Coordinator, Springfield Recreation Department, hesse@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227 Jen Cataldo, President, Springfield Girls Softball Inc., jencataldo@verizon.net



SPRINGFIELD RECREATION WINTER 2021 MULTI SPORTS CLASSES

HELD OUTDOORS AT CHISHOLM PARK

JAN 17-FEB 21
SUNDAY'S - 6 SESSIONS

Ages 7-8 years:
12:30 pm - 1:15pm

Ages 9-10 years:
1:30 pm - 2:15pm

Ages 11-14 years:
2:30 pm - 3:15pm

Registration Fee
\$95

Participants will play Soccer, Flag Football, Handball, Lacrosse and more throughout the program. Sessions will be 45 mins and follow CDC guidelines. This program takes place outdoors on a grass field. Participants should wear cleats.

CAMP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Professional Coaches
- Low group ratios
- Age appropriate equipment
- Skills & drills plus fun games

**AGES 7 - 14
ALL ABILITY
LEVELS**

Visit USsportsInstitute.com for full camp and class descriptions

LIMITED SPACE

REGISTRATION
Online or by phone. Register soon as these classes typically sell out!

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(866) 345 BALL



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.

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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



SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES JANUARY 2021

CALL (973) 912-2227 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tuesday, January 19 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am (RSVP)
 Wednesday, January 20 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)
 Thursday, January 21 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am (RSVP)
 Friday, January 22 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am,
 Pickleball @ 11:00 am-1:00 pm
 Monday, January 25 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)
 Tuesday, January 26 - Online Stretching with Ricci &
 Dan (Facebook), Bus trip to Livingston Mall @ 11:00 am (RSVP)
 Wednesday, January 27 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)
 Thursday, January 28 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am (RSVP),
 Zoom lecture on the Statue of Liberty @ 1:00 pm (RSVP)
 Friday, January 29 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am, Pickleball @
 11:00 am-1:00 pm

WEEKDAYS:

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

CALLING ON ALL BOYS AND GIRLS!

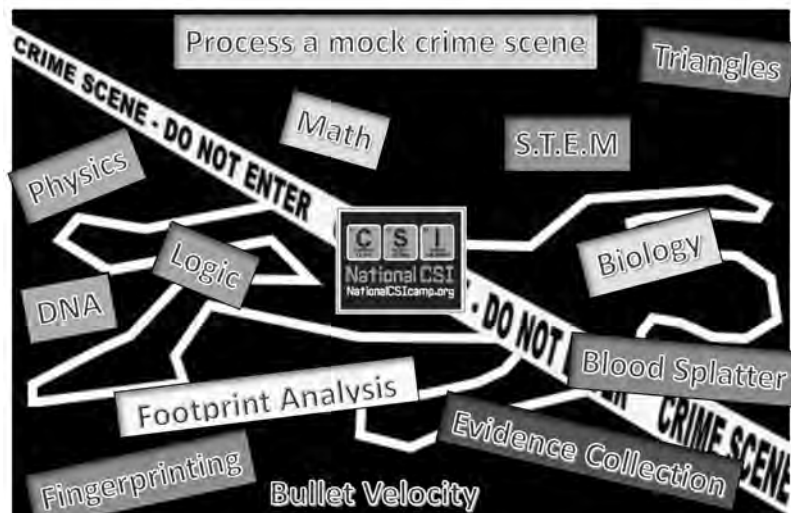
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**SPRING 2021 LACROSSE LEAGUES FOR
BOYS (GRADES 1-8) AND GIRLS (GRADES 3-8)**

Registration Open at
www.springfieldlaxnj.com

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!



ARBOR TERRACE SPONSORS SENIOR SNACKS AT CHISHOLM



(l to r) Margaret Bandrowski, Springfield Senior Citizens Club President; Ricci Rajoppi, Recreation Program Coordinator; Aranzullo; Adam Lieb, Director of Recreation; and Donald Wilkenfeld, Recreation Bus Driver.

On Wednesday, January 6, senior citizens who gathered at the Chisholm Community Center for bingo were treated to snacks and drinks courtesy of Arbor Terrace -- a private community nextdoor in Mountainside that offers assisted living, dementia/memory care, and a neighborhood devoted to socialization among residents with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Joan Aranzullo, Senior Care Counselor at Arbor Terrace, joined Springfield Recreation Department staff and the group of senior citizens to distribute the refreshments and tote bags, and talk about the living options that her community has to offer. Arbor Terrace can be reached at (908) 505-6115 with any questions, or interested senior citizens can view the website at www.arbormountainside.com.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT INTRODUCES ONLINE FITNESS DEMONSTRATIONS

The Springfield Recreation Department has introduced a new series of online fitness demonstrations with staff members Ricci Rajoppi and Daniel Hesse. The videos are posted regularly on Facebook at www.facebook.com/springfieldnjrec. The first video -- filmed at the Chisholm Community Center gymnasium on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 -- features Ricci guiding audience members through simple and effective stretching techniques that can be done from home. Ricci and Dan team up in the second video, which was posted on Thursday, December 24, 2020, for holiday stretching that can be done anytime. A third video is scheduled to be filmed and posted on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. All you need is a screen and a floor mat! Turn up the volume and keep your body moving this winter! Questions? Contact Ricci Rajoppi, Recreation Program Coordinator, at ricci.rajoppi@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.





Fire Chief's Column

Chief Carlo Palumbo

FIRE DEPARTMENT: IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK 2021

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent social distancing policies, the Springfield Fire Department would like to communicate to the public the adjustments in which we will be operating.

Emergency response will not change. Our station is fully staffed and able to respond to any emergencies that the community might face. Our first responders will be instituting enhanced personal protective equipment and procedures such as:

- Maintaining six feet of distance for initial assessment, when possible.
- Donning enhanced PPE on calls of suspected respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms.
- Placing mask on patient, when possible.
- An Isolation and Quarantine Contingency Plan has been established for the safety of Fire Department personnel.

Fire Inspections and Certificate of Smoke Detector Compliance for Home Sales protocols were modified

Altered protocols:

- Home Sale – Smoke Detector Compliance via signed notarized affidavit
- All Fire Protection reports will be reviewed remotely

Springfield Fire Headquarters is closed to the public

- Notices are posted on the front door of Headquarters, directing visitors to call the station to conduct business.
- All personnel, in the Headquarters and office positions, are practicing social distancing.
- Employees are encouraged to maintain the recommended 6-foot distance from one another.
- Conference calls or Zoom sessions are being used in place of in-person meetings.

Springfield Fire Department Headquarters remains operational during normal business hours. In light of the social distancing measures currently in place, please use the following methods to contact headquarters staff:

- SFD Headquarters line: (973) 912-2265

JCP&L DONATION

(continued from front page)

JCP&L provided the Township of Springfield with a \$500 donation originally earmarked toward the annual Tree Lighting event, but instead will be used to fund a town-wide event in 2021. In the interest of public health and safety, as a result of new statewide restrictions on outdoor gathering implemented to slow the spread and infection of COVID-19, the Tree Lighting was canceled earlier this month. The event was set to feature musical performances by Taye McQueen, Front & Center for Performing Arts, and Jonathan Dayton High School Jazz Ensemble. In its place, the Township Committee counted down to light the tree and offered holiday greetings in a small ceremony livestreamed on Facebook. JCP&L, one of several event sponsors, agreed to remain on board and financially contribute toward a future special event. On Wednesday, December 23, 2020, a check was presented to Township officials outside Town Hall.



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

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

SPRINGFIELD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM 2019 AND APPLIES FOR 2021

The Township recently received a \$10,000 New Jersey Emergency Management Agency Assistance grant previously awarded by the State of New Jersey Division of Law and Public Safety. The grant involved the submission of a detailed plan enhancing the Township's preparedness for responding to acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other catastrophic events. Very detailed documentation and reporting is required to qualify for these grants and Jennifer Sherman, the Office of Emergency Management's Administrative Assistant prepared the necessary documentation for review by the Office of Emergency Management Staff, Deputy Coordinators Apu Mullick, Frank Applegate, Sergeant Ryan Westover and Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Seidel. According to Seidel, "These submissions are very detailed and need to be submitted in a very specific manner or they get rejected. Jennifer has worked on these before and is very familiar with the requirements." The Township has already submitted its annual request for 2021's Grant.

Springfield Office of Emergency Management has also submitted their "HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2020 FOR SPRINGFIELD TO UNION COUNTY". The purpose of a mitigation plan is to rationalize the process of determining appropriate hazard mitigation actions. Hazard mitigation is often defined as actions taken to reduce the effects of natural hazards on a place and its population. Union County decided to develop the original 2010 Plan because of increasing awareness that natural hazards, especially flood and wind, have the potential to affect people, physical assets and operations in Union County. The 2015 Union County HMP update included a re-evaluation of the original hazards, the risk assessment, mitigation goals, strategies, and mitigation priorities. As part of the update process, these sections of the Plan were re-assessed to identify changes and updates that may have occurred since approval and adoption of the original Plan. This plan involves coordination within the Township with Police, Fire, First Aid Squad, Department of Public Works, Engineering, Building and other Departments to identify potential hazards.

10 READY-MADE TIPS YOU CAN USE TO PREPARE FOR DISASTER

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division in partnership with Region IV Individual and Community Preparedness for a webinar on how you can resolve to be ready in 10 steps on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2020 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET. This webinar will help you learn how you can prepare for any disaster.

Become more confident and less anxious in a disaster! In this presentation, we'll go over how you can effectively develop an individual emergency preparedness plan to ready yourself and your family. You'll learn what notifications you need, emergency supplies to have, how to develop a family communications plan and prepare for the unique needs of your household, and more.

Who should attend? The whole community – individuals and families, volunteer and faith-based organizations, local, state, federal government and private sector.

Link to register:

<https://fema.connectsolutions.com/tentipsdisasterprep/event/registration.html>

(Note Courtesy of FEMA)

DOBBS AUTOBODY

(continued from front page)

A small park at the corner of Mount View Road and Tree Top Drive is now home to the Township's newest Little Free Library. Donated by residents Brad and Rochelle Denning, owners of Dobbs Autobody in Springfield, the library was installed by the Department of Public Works in late-December. The library's inventory has been fully stocked thanks to the efforts of the Dennings and fellow Baltusrol Top Civic Association volunteer Tracy Biebelberg, who coordinated a book collection drive that will allow books to be constantly replenished in the library. The all-weather enclosed library unit joins a series of carefully-positioned benches that provide safe resting space for joggers, walkers, bicyclists, and neighborhood residents on one end of the mile-long road to the Baltusrol Top section of the Township.

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

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

The Board of Trustees of the Springfield Free Public Library will hold its January organizational virtual meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 21, 2021 via zoom. The link to attend this meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87970710749?pwd=TmJNamhRYWhLRUx0cEVzdmpscU9hdz09>

To access the meeting by telephone, dial 1 646 876 9923. When prompted for the meeting ID, enter 879 7071 0749 and then when prompted for the passcode enter 421211.

VIRTUAL CHAIR YOGA CONTINUES IN FEBRUARY

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: February 12th and 26th. 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.

REMOTE ASSIST

The Springfield Free Public Library is pleased to announce the availability of Remote Assist, emote Assist, a new technology that will enable librarians to provide direct assistance to patrons using the library's public computers while still allowing the librarians to continue to work from their own desks. The ability to provide socially distanced computer assistance offers peace of mind to both library patrons and staff members. While our librarians are happy to provide assistance with such tasks as filling out job applications and other online forms, online shopping and online banking, please keep in mind that it is outside the scope of the librarian's job to assume the entire responsibility for handling these tasks.

Limited indoor access to the library's public internet computers is available by appointment only to Springfield residents for a period of up to 60 minutes per day. Please note that library's restrooms are currently closed to the public and that printing and photocopying services are also not available.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 973 376-4930, ext. 221 during the library's current schedule of operation: Mondays & Thursdays, 12:00-7:30 pm; Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; and Saturdays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

VETERANS CORNER.....

By Gerry Gebauer

Last month I mentioned I made MARS calls back to the states. I used the MARS system while stationed in Vietnam. It apparently has been in use since the Korean War and is still in use in a limited manner. It was the cell phone of its day. If uses the HAM Radio system. If I remember right, I called from Vietnam to a HAM radio operator in the states who then connected me to my girlfriend in NYC. The connection was terrible and half the time the connection was lost but it was a connection, and it was great to hear her voice. On a more pertinent topic, I read where the VA is getting the COVID vaccine and will be calling veterans to arrange for the inoculation. This is another source for getting the vaccine. If you get a call from the VA be sure to answer it or you may lose your place in line. Happy New Year.

*Yes Gerry you remember correctly! MARS stands for Military Auxiliary Radio Service, and is operated by Ham Radio operators to this day. A ham operator in Vietnam, contacted one in the states, who was able to use their telephone to make the call and connect his radio to the "Bell" telephone system with a "phone patch". I'm sure it's hard for many people today to relate to not being in instant communication with someone--where off the grid was your normal state! Atmospheric and radio conditions affected communications and it would not always be clear, but it was contact! The **Military Auxiliary Radio System** is a civilian auxiliary program of the Department of Defense and is composed of licensed amateur (Ham) radio operators who are interested in assisting the military with communications on a word wide level when access to normal forms of communication are not available.*

Scott, W2FCC



Police Chief's Column

Chief John P. Cook

I would first like to wish all of the readers of the Springfield Patriot Times a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

The police department continues to deal with reports of incidents involving fraudulent activity targeting the public. While these scams may unfold in different ways, the end result is always the same – the perpetrators defraud the victims of their money. Luckily, many financial institutions will rectify fraudulent transactions, but full resolution of these situations can turn in to major hassles for victims. Thieves may attempt to use their victim's breached personal information to open unauthorized accounts or make fraudulent purchases for a long time after the initial fraud is detected.

One type of fraud that continues to occur frequently involves criminals utilizing their victims' stolen identities to open cellular phone accounts, then fraudulently purchasing high-end cellular phones and tablets through the accounts. These accounts are often created on the internet, and the phones and tablets are shipped to the victims' actual addresses. The criminals will closely watch the tracking information for the packages, and attempt to intercept the deliveries before the victims are able to retrieve the packages. In some cases, the criminals will fabricate false ID cards, displaying their photo along with the victim's personal information, and ask the delivery drivers to hand the packages over directly to them. Often times, if the criminals are successful in intercepting the packages, the victim will have no idea this type of fraud took place until they receive notification from a collections service or run a credit check. Luckily, most of the large mail and parcel services are now aware of these types of scams, and their employees are on the lookout for vehicles following them through their routes. However, some companies utilize smaller delivery operations, or subcontract their deliveries to smaller companies during times of high volume. Residents and business owners should be aware of any suspicious vehicles which are parked and occupied for extended periods during times when their mail or other packages are normally delivered, and contact the police department. It is a good idea to periodically run your credit report to verify your open accounts and check for any unauthorized activity. Many banks and credit card companies offer this to their clients free of charge, but if yours doesn't, don't worry -- everyone is entitled to one free copy of their credit report every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies (<https://www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/get-my-free-credit-report>).

Another scam that has sustained popularity involves individuals posing as social security agents who contact potential victims via telephone and falsely report that their social security numbers have been compromised. People that fall victim to these scams not only breach their personal information by providing it directly to these scammers over the phone, they are also defrauded out of thousands of dollars as the scammers direct them to purchase gift cards, bitcoin, or other electronic currency for payment of "fees" to resolve their accounts. Scammers will threaten their victims that US Marshalls or other law enforcement officials will show up at their residence and arrest them if the payments are not made within a certain time frame. According to the Social Security Administration, you will always receive prior notification by mail or telephone before a personal visit is made by one of their agents. You can call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to verify the identity of the Social Security employee who has contacted you.

Very few instances exist in which you may have to provide confidential personal information over the phone, text message, or email. You should take every precaution to safeguard your social security number, bank account numbers, credit/debit card numbers, and other personal identifying information. If something doesn't seem quite right, you should initiate contact with the company or agency directly by looking up the telephone numbers yourself, to verify the situation.

If you feel you may have fallen victim to one of these scams, contact the Police Department for assistance and for more information.



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