Springfield, New Jersey

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May 2021 • Issue #LXXI 071

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NEXT CHAMBER MEETING

THURSDAY MAY 27, 2021

8:30 am - 9:30 am

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FOR AGES TWELVE AND UP (SEE PAGES 10 AND 12)

INAUGURAL SPRINGFIELD FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS

By Rachel Gary



While this may not have been the first time food trucks have visited Springfield, the success of the inaugural Springfield Food Truck Festival demonstrated the town's hunger for this type of event. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Springfield and Jonathan Dayton High School PTSO, the Festival, which included 15 food trucks, a live band, a basket auction, and a 50/50 raffle, attracted more than 2,200 attendees throughout the day and surpassed expectations in funds raised that will benefit both organizations.

(continued on page 6)

ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING AT CHISHOLM COMMUNITY CENTER



(l to r) Margaret Don, Alyson Miller, Director of Recreation Adam Lieb and staff, Christopher Petrucelli, Brendan O'Reilly, Erin McNany, Fred Miceli, DPW, Twp. Clerk Linda Donnelly, Frank Bonavitacola, DPW

On Friday April 30th the Township held it's Arbor Day Tree Planting and tree seedling giveaway at Chisholm Community Center with the Springfield Township Committee, Springfield Environmental Commission, Green Team, Public Works, and NJ Tree Recovery Campaign.

(continued on page 8)

BLACK LIVES MATTER RALLY HELD ON APRIL 30TH

By Jayani Alles



Residents of Springfield marched from Veterans Memorial Park to Springfield Town Hall on Friday, April 30, declaring with one voice that "Black Lives Matter." (continued on page 6)

THREE PROCLAMATIONS ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY 11, TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Submitted by Maryellen Brennan



EMS Chief and OEM Deputy Coordinator Apu Mullick receives the Proclamation from Mayor Chris Weber

Three Proclamations were announced at the May 11th meeting of Springfield's Township Committee. Mayor Weber announced that May 16 - 22, 2021 is hereby proclaimed Emergency Medical Services Week. In addition, May 19, 2021 is proclaimed as Emergency Medical Services For Children Day. The final Proclamation, Black Lives Matter in Springfield. reaffirms the Township of Springfield's active role in challenging racism and it calls on residents to do the same. (additional photos on page 10)

Memorial Day Ceremony & Parade Monday May 31st, 10 am at Veterans Park

★ ★ SPRINGFIELD-HILLSIDE ELKS WILL HAVE HOT DOGS AT END OF PARADE ★ ★ ★



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

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Christopher Capodice

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Public Works Department	973-912-8483/2225
Recreation Department	
Recycling information	973-912-2222
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Township Administrator	973-912-2202
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Message from the Mayor

Happy May Springfield!

The Township and the Board of Education have been able to secure Dayton High School as a Rite Aid vaccination site for students aged 12 and up. Apu Mullick, who is our Chief of EMS and our Deputy Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management, is an amazing asset to Springfield. He is the one

who put this into motion. I could fill the entire page with what he does for us and still not be able to thank him enough. I'm so happy to see us working together with the Board of Education in the restoration of the health of our community. Great job B.O.E.!

May 9th - 15th is recognized as National Police Week. As you may have noticed, our officers have been very busy around town this spring. Lots of work being put in on pedestrian safety, distracted drivers, and community relations. Our Police Department, from the Officers, all the way to the Chief, you are all a credit to the profession. All departments should strive to have what we here in Springfield are fortunate to have as a Police Department.

Thank you to all our volunteers for planning our upcoming Memorial Day Parade. Geri Ann Kazimar and Linda Donnelly you always do an amazing job planning our parade. Looking forward to another great day!

We have started making plans for the return of our 4th of July celebration. We will be having a fireworks display!

Another busy month in town and Springfield is getting it done.

Peace and Love to all,

Chris Weber, Mayor

SPRNGFIELD AWARDED UNION COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT



(l to r) Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Union County Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri Mouded, Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser and Mayor Chris Weber

"Union County has awarded the Township of Springfield the \$60,000 Union County Infrastructure Grant. Union County Commissioners Bette Jane Kowalski and Kimberley Palmieri Mouded presented the award in person to Mayor Weber and Deputy Mayor Keiser on May 13th, right outside of Town Hall."

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

The next Household Hazardous Waste Program will be on Saturday, June 5th at Union County College located at 1033 Springfield Avenue in Cranford. The event will be held from 9 am to 2 pm.

Items for drop off include old pesticides & herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, oil-based paints and deck stain. Latex Paint/ Acrylic/Enamel (wall paint) is water-based and is NOT ACCEPTED. It should be dried out and discarded in with your regular garbage.

Please visit www.ucnj.org/recycling for more information or directions.

Please download the Recycle Coach app to get the latest information and reminders about county recycling events.

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 25 and Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 7 $\,\mathrm{pm}$

PLANNING BOARD

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

 $3 rd \ Tuesday, \, 6{:}30 \ pm$ at the Municipal Building

BOARD OF HEALTH

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm at the Firehouse

RENT LEVELING BOARD

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

RECREATION COUNCIL

Contact Recreation Department For Next Meeting Date and Time

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm at the Library



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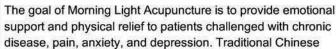
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Police Chief's Column Chief John P. Cook

Since May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, I would like to take this opportunity to share some motorcycle traffic safety tips with Springfield's Patriot Times readers. Motorcyclists are much more likely to be injured or killed than other motorists, and are more susceptible to being involved in crashes in general. According to the latest statistics from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, there were over 8.3 million motorcycles registered for road use in 2018, and many media outlets reported that sales of new motorcycles jumped during the COVID pandemic throughout 2020. Unfortunately, motorcycle crash fatalities either remain stable or increase year after year, with over 5,000 deaths reported nationwide according to the most recent figures. 85 of those deaths occurred in NJ. Over 2,000 motorcyclists are injured on NJ roads each year.

Many of the reported motorcycle crashes involve at least one other vehicle, of which more than half of these crashes occur at intersections, and more than two-thirds occur when the other vehicle's driver does not see the motorcycle. Considering this, drivers are urged to operate their vehicles with extra care during the summer months, and I offer the following information to motorists to help prevent motorcycle crashes:

- 1. **Be extra observant for motorcycles on the road.** Motorcycles are not as visible as cars or trucks, and can sometimes be hidden by traffic. Check your mirrors carefully before turning, changing lanes, and merging. Do not use hand-held electronic devices while driving!
- 2. Watch out when making left turns. Many crashes between cars and Motorcycles occur when a vehicle is turning left at an intersection. If you are preparing to cross traffic or turn left, take a second look for motorcycles.

VETERANS CORNER.....By Gerry Gebauer

It is May 1st so Memorial Day can't be far behind. Please join us on Monday May 31st at Veterans Park here in Springfield for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony. As in past years all Veterans will be recognized with a pin commemorating the event. I have heard a rumor that there will be a parade this year. So please come and join your fellow veterans and be recognized for your service.

On another topic, Governor Murphy has nominated Colonel Dr. Lisa Hou as the Adjutant General and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA). Colonel Hou will be the first female Adjutant General and the first Asian American in that position. She comes with an impressive resume especially in her medical field. She has served in Afghanistan as the Field Surgeon for Charlie company, 700th Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. She is also the Chair of the Army National Guard Medical Advisory Group. Good luck to you Colonel Hou. One question that bothers me, does one address a Colonel who is also an Adjutant General as Colonel Hou or General Hou? Don't think I will have to chose.



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- 3. Do not tailgate motorcycles. Leave plenty of space if you are following a motorcycle. Motorcycles require less stopping distance and are more maneu verable than cars.
- 4. Watch out for road hazards. While potholes, debris, or other road defects may not have any effect on your car, motorcycles must avoid these.
- 5. "Share the Road." Treat motorcyclists with the same respect and courtesy you afford to other motorists.

Motorcyclists must also do their part to stay safe on the roads. Fatality rates involving speeding and alcohol use are much higher for motorcyclists than for all other types of motor vehicle operators. We urge all motorcyclists to wear proper DOT-compliant helmets, operate their motorcycles safely and legally, and be extra observant in busy areas.

Over the past several years, three-wheeled vehicles have become much more popular and we regularly see them being driven in our area. These vehicles have enclosed or partially enclosed side-by-side seats with seatbelts, a steering wheel, and foot pedal controls. These vehicle are classified as "autocycles" by the NJ MVC, and have their own set of legal requirements. (Traditional three-wheeled motorcycles (trikes) have handlebars and motorcycle-style seating, and remain classified as motorcycles.) Currently in NJ, autocycles have their own type of license plate designation, and a motorcycle license endorsement is not required to operate one – just a valid basic driver license. All autocycle operators and passengers must wear seatbelts and helmets, and if the vehicle does not have a windscreen, goggles and a face shield must we worn as well. Most importantly, children who require child restraint systems are not permitted as autocycle passengers at any time. Please refer to the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission website for more information.

As a reminder, always obey posted speed limits, lane markings, and all other traffic control devices. If you have to make a call while driving, always use a hands-free device, and never text while driving. If you plan on drinking, always use a designated driver, ride share service, or car service – never get behind the wheel or handlebars if you've consumed alcohol. Help keep the roadways safe for everyone this summer.

STATE FARM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSIST® RETURNS FOR ITS TENTH YEAR WITH 25,000 GRANTS

State Farm Neighborhood Assist® Returns for its Tenth Year

Forty causes will each win a \$25,000 grant to assist their neighborhoods

Neighbors across the country will soon have an exciting opportunity to help change their communities for the better through State Farm Neighborhood Assist®. The program awards \$25,000 grants to 40 nonprofit organizations to help fund neighborhood improvement projects.

According to a recent State Farm research study, one-quarter of respondents say that they are "extremely" or "very" involved in trying to improve their neighborhood and six-in-ten are trying to improve their neighborhood in some capacity.

State Farm Neighborhood Assist can be a catalyst for that change. Here's how the program works:

Submission Phase: Starts June 2 and ends when 2,000 submissions are reached

Individuals can submit a cause at www.neighborhoodassist.com starting June 2. You can prepare now by going to the website and downloading the submission guide. We will accept the first 2,000 submissions. The State Farm Review Committee will then narrow the field to the Top 200 finalists using a scoring rubric.

VOTING PHASE: AUGUST 18-27

Ultimately, voters will decide which community improvement projects win big. The public will have a chance to vote 10 times a day, every day for 10 days, from August 18-27, for their favorite causes from the list of finalists. Voting will take place at www.neighborhoodassist.com.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED: SEPTEMBER 29

The 40 causes that receive the most votes will each win a \$25,000 grant. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, Sept. 29, at www.neighbor hood assist. com.

"State Farm is pleased to bring back Neighborhood Assist for its tenth year," said Rasheed Merritt, Assistant Vice President at State Farm. "This program is all about building stronger neighborhoods together."

Last year, 145,000 people cast 3.9 million votes in support of their favorite causes, selecting winners from small towns and big cities. Since the program began, more than 340 causes have received a total of \$9 million to enact change in their communities.

PATRIOT PROFILES

Organizations and People that make a Difference in Springfield

By John Cottage Sr.

SPRINGFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR TAMMY SHAW

On May 17th, the Springfield Free Public Library will welcome Tammy Shaw to the newly created position of Assistant Library Director. A resident

of Plainfield, Ms. Shaw comes to Springfield with an extensive Library background. Her more than 20 years of experience includes positions in circulation, adult services, reference and seven years as the Youth Services Manager in Bernardsville. In addition, she was the Library Director in Roselle for three years.

Ms. Shaw holds an MLIS with a concentration in Children's Librarianship from Rutgers University, an M. Ed. in Instructional Design and Educational Media from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a B.S. in Environmental Design from Cornell University. She also completed graduate coursework in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

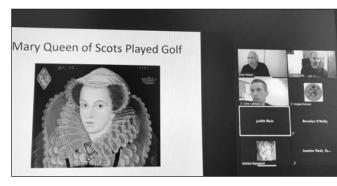
Ms. Shaw is the recipient of the NJLA Public Relations Award (2013), the NJLA Amy Jobs Partnership Award for Joint School and Library Program (2013), and the New Jersey State Library Best Practices in Early Literacy Award (2018). She has been a program presenter at the New Jersey Library Association Conference and at the New Jersey Library Association Youth Services Forum. She has served as the President of the Librarians of Union County Consortium (LUCC) Youth Services Section, 2008/9 and as the President of Librarians of Union County Consortium (LUCC), 2013.

In an exclusive interview with the Patriot Times, Ms. Shaw said "I am looking forward to coming to Spring-field, getting to know the community and working with all of the residents". We wish her well in her new position.

Coincidently, also on May 17th the Springfield Free Public Library will open for browsing by appointment, beginning 12:15 PM. They will begin taking reservations for browsing appointments at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 12. To make a reservation, please call 973 376-4930, ext. 221.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB HOST EVAN WEINER FOR "WOMEN IN SPORTS" ZOOM LECTURE

A virtual audience of Springfield senior citizens learned about "Women in Sports: Sexism & Racism" from author Evan Weiner yesterday, Tuesday, April 20, 2021.



In the monthly Zoom presentation provided by the Recreation Department and the Senior Citizens Club, Weiner's talk focused on women's progress in the historical, political, financial, and athletic world of sports. Figures discussed included, among many others, Ann Meyers, Bernice Gera, Althea Gibson, Wilma Rudolph, Billie Jean King, Kathrine Switzer, Patsy Mink, Nancy Lopez, Jennie Finch, Misty May-Treanor, Sheryl Swoopes, Brandi Chastain, Katie Ledecky, Lindsay Vohn, Danica Patrick, Megan Rapinoe, Martina Navratilova, Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Nadia Comaneci, the Battle of the Sexes, and the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Weiner is a speaker and author with a background in television and radio. His lectures blend historical insights and personal anecdotes. For information on future senior citizen programs at the Chisholm Community Center and on Zoom, contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

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TYLER KWINTA MAKING AN IMPACT AT D1 SACRED HEART

Tyler grew up in Springfield, New Jersey an attended Jonathan Dayton High School. He started playing volleyball in his middle school. Like many male youth volleyball players in New Jersey, he did not have a high school that had a boys volleyball program. So he looked for a club where he can play competively and continue to build his skills.

But Tyler landed first at AVVC, then Core and ended at Warren Six Pack. And he earned the right to play on some of the top club teams in NJ from the age 16 through 18. He was an outstanding player and received mentoring from numerous top level coaches who noticed his passion and perseverance. He quickly locked in on becoming a setter and loved being involved in every play as well as strategizing the offense and making quick decisions on the floor.

Tyler had a lot of things stacked against him. Typically less than 5% of high school aged student athletes will advance to play collegiately. And less than 2% will play at the Division 1 level. With no added exposure from a high school team.

He was given the opportunity to play at D1 Sacred Heart University. He had his first opportunity to play this season against 11th ranked Penn State. He posted 40 assists in the two day doubleheader as well as 9 digs and two kills. The. Pioneers took one set from the Nittany Lions, which doesn't happen often.

So the scene is set. We are not quite sure how the script is going to end for the sophomore. But we expect it to be one more chapter in Tyler's life that an overachievement will occur. Through strength, perseverance and leadership.

Go Pioneers.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS

(continued from front page)

Township residents and those from the surrounding towns flocked to the Jonathan Dayton High School to support the Rotary and JDHS PTSO, partake in some good food, and enjoy a nice day outdoors amongst friends. COVID-19 fatigue, virtual schooling, and overall lack of social interaction for the past 13 months contributed to the stellar turnout. The event, which was completely CDC-compliant, required attendees to have temperatures taken upon arrival, masks worn, and limited capacity within the gates. At times, the entrance line stretched from the high school's back parking lot down to Mountain Avenue. However, the line moved quickly, and those waiting were very understanding. And while in line, there was the opportunity to participate in the high-end Basket Auction, which included Apple products, Tiffany jewelry, and more than \$500 Gift Certificates to area restaurants as well as the 50/50 raffle (which ultimately paid out \$1,435 to one lucky winner).

The food trucks offered cuisines to suit everyone's tastes. Some trucks underestimated the support of the Springfield community, running out of
some items towards the end of the afternoon, a further indication of the event's success. Among the
top items offered to attendees were hot dogs,
shaved ice, pizza, ice cream, sliders, fries, sandwiches, empanadas, tamales, kettle corn, fresh
lemonade, smoked meats, wings, kabobs, rice balls,
fish & chips, brisket & pastrami, desserts, and so
much more. While eating, Pale Horse, a Springfield
hometown band who donated their services, entertained visitors. Between sets, a DJ kept the vibe

The Springfield Rotary Club and Jonathan Dayton HS PTSO shared the proceeds generated from

the Springfield Food Truck Festival. The funds raised will be used towards scholarships, school-related programming, including senior class activities, and other neighborhood outreach. The Rotary Club of Springfield has been a proud supporter of Jonathan Dayton High School, providing generous annual scholarships to graduating seniors.

An event of this magnitude takes a significant amount of planning and would not be possible if not for a dedicated committee and volunteers. Many thanks to all of those involved in this firsttime event, which included, but is not limited to: Co-Chairpersons of the event, Hope Rosenberg (VP, Springfield Rotary) and Rachel Gary (liaison for Dayton PTSO), Steve Wolcott (President, Dayton PTSO), Matt Clarke (Springfield BOE, Business Administrator/Board Secretary) and the entire Board of Education, Linda Donnelly (Springfield Township Clerk), Springfield Mayor Chris Weber (and the entire Township Council who were in attendance), Springfield DPW, Scott Seidel (Emergency Management Coordinator), Frank Applegate OEM Deputy Coordinator and the Springfield Auxiliary Police and CERT volunteers, Chief Cook (Springfield Police), Chief Palumbo (Springfield Fire), Apu Mullick, (COO, Springfield First Aid Squad and OEM Deputy Coordinator along with members of the Springfield First Aid Squad) and especially the over 100 Jonathan Dayton High School students and parent volunteers.

Springfield has shown its voracious appetite for events like the Springfield Food Truck Festival, so it is a safe bet that residents can expect bigger and better from the Rotary and the Jonathan Dayton PTSO for years to come.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

(continued from front page)

More than 75 people gathered on the lawn of town hall holding powerful signs that read "Say Their Names" and "I Can't Breathe." The rally was organized by the Springfield Unity Project, a non-profit grassroots organization committed to promoting positive change through education, to combat bias and social injustice, and to foster deeper and more meaningful understanding among diverse communities.

Several speakers including Jonathan Dayton High School sophomores Morghan Blair, Chidumebi Iherobiem and Esther Dewar who founded the first-ever Black Student Union powerfully recounted their personal experiences demanding systematic changes and encouraging everyone to help continue the fight for social justice.

"Being Black is not a crime. Being your race and your nationality and being proud of it is not a crime," said Morghan Blair.

Esther Dewar called on the schools to have better representation in its administration and on the board of education, particularly given the district's diverse student population.

(continued on page 8)

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.

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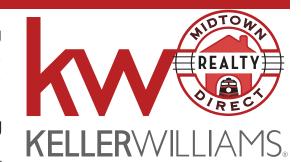
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ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING

(continued from front page)



(l to r) Linda Donnelly, Alyson Miller, resident, Frank Bonavitacola, Ken Peters, Adam Lieb

In the foreground is a planted White Oak tree- capable of living for centuries.

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." Nelson Henderson.





BLACK LIVES MATTER

(continued from page 6)

"This is why we created the Black Student Union to show others that we are here, that we are present and that we are not going anywhere," she said. "We want to educate everyone in Springfield as to why we as Black students and Black people are equal to others."

Sophomore Alex Jean-Baptiste called on leaders to make policy-changes and urged the crowd to guard against complacency. He urged adults to educate themselves and for young people to have tough conversations with their parents. "If you don't seek out the problem that you don't seek out the problem that you don't see directly, we as human beings convince ourselves that there is no problem," he said.

Anderson Blair, a 12-year resident of town who emceed the speaker portion of the rally said, "Have my back. "Make me feel safe. Come to my defense. Even if you don't agree with me, understand where I'm coming from, let me know that I matter. Because I do."

Say It Loud: Black Lives Matter in Springfield.



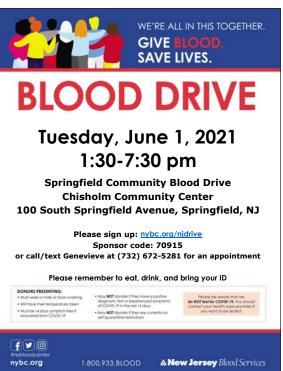
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COVID-19 Vaccinations

for those 12 years of age or older, that live or work in Springfield

Two doses required: Friday, May 21 & June 11



Sign up at: calendly.com/springfieldnj

SPRINGFIELD'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND RITE AID PHARMACY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS WILL BE OFFERED TO THOSE 12 YEARS OF AGE, OR OLDER

The Pfizer vaccine will be administered in two doses with the first administration on Friday, May 21, 2021, between 3 & 7 PM. The second dose is 21 days later on June 11 at the same time as the first appointment. Both will be given in the Main Gym of Jonathan Dayton High School. Appointments are required and can be made online via https://calendly.com/springfieldni

online via https://calendly.com/springfieldnj,
Springfield Mayor Chris Weber noted, "This is another important step in restoring the health of our township and our country and I am so thankful for everyone involved in making this happen. Providing this vaccine is a great example of the collaboration between our town and schools." Springfield Board of Education President Laura Gamarekian added, "During this challenging year, we have continued to work to support the health and safety of our students, staff, and community at large. We are grateful for the partnership with Rite Aid and the Township as we work together to provide vaccine access to our staff and students."

Face masks and a health screening form will be required before arriving to the school. Only the patient and a parent or guardian may enter to help ensure social distancing. The cost is covered either by your medical insurance or by a federal government program; there is no cost to the patient.

Questions can be directed to apu.mullick@springfield-nj.us or kelly@springfieldschools.com.



ADDITIONAL PROCLAMATIONS



EMS President Liz Fritzen addresses the Committee regarding EMS week.

SPRINGFIELD LINE WAS A W

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Scott Seidel,

Emergency Management Coordinator oemcoordinator@springfield-nj.us

GET VACCINATED!

All individuals who live, work, or study in New Jersey age 12 and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are available to all New Jerseyans regardless of their immigration or insurance status.

Please see notice on this page for signing up for Springfield's own Vaccine Clinic at the High School set for this Friday May 21st!

To find a vaccine, people can use New Jersey's Vaccine Appointment Finder (https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/finder) or call 855-568-0545 from 8 am to 8 pm. The hotline is available in more than 240 languages to answers questions about the vaccine. Individuals who are 65 or older can call a special senior hotline at 856-249-7007 from 8 am to 8 pm for vaccination scheduling support. People who are homebound may also request an in-home vaccination. (https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/testing-and-treatment/how-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine-if-im-homebound)

Walk-in vaccinations are available at all six vaccine mega-sites to all New Jerseyans age 16+ during select times. Appointments are not needed, and you do not need to be a resident of the county the site is located in. The six mega-sites include: Meadowlands Racetrack, Bergen County; Rockway Townsquare, Morris County; New Jersey Convention and Expo Center, Middlesex County; Rowan College of South Jersey, Gloucester County; Moorestown Mall, Burlington County; Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic County. View the walk-in vaccination schedule. (https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/where-how-and-when-can-i-get-vaccinated)

SPRINGFIELD TO PARTNER WITH MOUNTAIN VALLEY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Mountain Valley Emergency Communications Center (MVECC), a regional public safety answering point serving the communities of New Providence, Summit, and Millburn, New Jersey, announces the creation of a contract services agreement with Springfield Township, New Jersey to provide 9-1-1 services to all Springfield Township residents and businesses and emergency dispatching services for Springfield Fire Department and Springfield First Aid Squad.

On or about June 1, 2021, MVECC will begin answering all wireless and wireline 9-1-1 calls originating in Springfield Township. Through a contract services agreement, Springfield Township 9-1-1 calls for law enforcement assistance will be transferred directly to the Springfield Police Department, while calls for Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) assistance will be processed and dispatched by MVECC personnel. "MVECC is proud to be partnering with Springfield Township to provide essential 9-1-1 and emergency dispatching services to members of their community," MVECC Executive Director D. Jeremy DeMar, MA, CPE, ENP said. "As our public safety agencies already work together on a regular basis to support critical life saving and fire suppression efforts, having Springfield Township Fire and EMS resources dispatched by MVECC will only serve to improve the level of service residents receive, while enhancing the safety of first responders at an incident scene."

Scott Seidel, Springfield Township Emergency Management Coordinator, said "We are pleased to finally be able to utilize Mountain Valley Communications for our Fire & EMS dispatch services. We have been working on this project to enhance the safety of our residents and first responders for over two years and are pleased it is finally happening."

Geographically situated in Northern New Jersey, Springfield Township has a population of approximately 18,000 residents. With the transition to MVECC, Springfield Fire Department and Springfield First Aid Squad become the tenth and eleventh public safety entities respectively to join the emergency communications center since its establishment in 2014.



"In a show of support Mayor Chris Weber presents the "Black Lives Matter in Springfield" Proclamation to members of the Springfield Unity Project Board of Executives. (I to r) Marissa Horowitz, Andrea Blair, Jayani Alles, Marissa Ruggiero and Mayor Weber)

SPRINGFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AND GREEN TEAM DISTRIBUTES LED BULBS

Submitted by Maryellen Brennan







Bob Groder from the May 11th Township Committee Meeting with his Led bulbs



(l to r) Dora Vaynberg, Mauricia Cendana, Margaret Bandrowski (President, Springfield Senior Citizens Club), Natalie Hockstein

The Springfield Environmental Commission and Green Team distributed LED energy efficient light bulbs to residents at the May 11th Township Committee Meeting in order to promote energy savings and environmental stewardship. Seniors at the Chisholm Center also took advantage of the giveaway. There is a limited supply available in Town Hall Administration and at Chisholm. One per household please. Visit Springfield's website (www.springfield-nj.us) to get more information on maintaining and implementing environmentally sustainable practices to keep "Greening Springfield".



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the Springfield Fire Department will be supporting this nation-wide The Springfield campaign. Fire Department together with Members of the FMBA Local 57 have re-designed their traditional blue on-duty T-shirts with a green ribbon and the words "Mental Health Awareness" written across the back. For the month of May, the Firefighters will be wearing these shirts in support of Mental Health Awareness as part of

their on-duty station uniform.

Springfield Fire Department is committed to breaking down the stigma surrounding mental illnesses as well as showing others that they are not alone. We want to raise awareness as well as the importance of good mental health for everyone.

2020 and 2021 presented many challenges not only for First Responders, but for everyone across the Country. Early recognition can help to reduce the risk factors as well as understanding what treatments are available.

Research shows that ignoring symptoms could potentially be a loss of ten years in which intervention could improve an individual's mental health. Speaking out and sharing the challenges of mental illness can encourage others to recognize symptoms early and empower individuals to be agents in their own recovery. Building support from friends and family can reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness as it is crucial to recovery.

Identifying Mental Health early together with intervention and integrated services works and can help saves lives.

For more information on May is Mental Health Month and resources to help anyone who is struggling, please visit https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month.

DAYTON BULLDOGS' MIGNONE, CUNNINGHAM AND WADOWSKI EARN NJIIHL ICE HOCKEYALL-CONFERENCE RECOGNITION



(l to r) Cunningham and Mignone

The NJIIHL McMullen Conference recently released its 2020-2021 All-Conference recognitions, and three members the Jonathan Dayton High School Bulldogs ice hockey team were recognized for their achievements.

Senior Forward and Co-Captain Gary Mignone, Jr. of Springfield was named to the 1st Team All Conference. Senior Defenseman and Co-Captain Mark Cunningham of Springfield and Junior Forward Giuseppe Wadowski of Union received Honorable Mention recognitions.

Mignone has been a prolific scorer for Dayton with 46 goals and 31 assists during his high school career. He was on a pace to surpass the 100-point career mark if not for the cancellation of more than 3/4 of the season due to the pandemic. A 100-point career would have earned Gary recognition on the 100-point scorer banner hanging in the Dayton gym rafters. The last Dayton 100-point scorer was Rob Carroll in 2002-2006. Last season in his junior campaign, Mignone finished among the top five goal scorers in the entire state. He was touted by NJ.com as a "Top Player" and earned an All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Wadowski of Union High School has been a consistent scorer during his Dayton ice hockey career. He has steadily increased his production each of his first three seasons despite a late start in beginning his hockey career. The talented forward will surely continue to build on his already-impressive physical offensive play.

Springfield's Mignone and Cunningham have been good friends since meeting their first day in Pre-Kindergarten at Edward V. Walton School. They began playing ice hockey during their elementary school years, and have been teammates on several advanced club teams for the Cranford Hockey Club and Union Thunder organizations.



Scott F. Seidel
Broker

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ATTENTION SPRINGFIELD SENIORS!



Concert by Dave and Tom for Senior Citizens

We are delighted to announce that in-person meetings of the Springfield Senior Citizens Club at the Chisholm Center will resume on Thursday, June 17! The meeting will begin at 11 am and will feature a concert by Dave and Tom, Springfield residents whose Zoom performance was enjoyed by members during the pandemic. Current Covid restrictions will apply; masks will be required and attendance limited. You must be a member of the Springfield Senior Citizens Club to attend and registration is required. In addition to the entertainment, light refreshments will be served. We are excited to be able to have in-person gatherings again in addition to the bus trips and twice-weekly Bingo which have already been offered.

You can register by calling the Recreation Department at 973 912 2227. Deadline for registration is Friday, June 11. Attendance will be extremely limited - Don't miss out!



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM TO START FOR HOMEBOUND RESIDENTS

The Union County Board of Commissioners today announced the beginning of its Homebound Vaccination Program in an effort to vaccinate its residents who are unable to leave their homes.

"Our most vulnerable communities must not be left behind and the effort to vaccinate the homebound is critical to the success of overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic," said Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "This is a major step forward as we continue to build toward herd immunity in Union County."

Commissioner Sergio Granados, who is the Chairman of the County's Public Safety Committee which oversees the response to the pandemic, said: "I am excited to announce the homebound program. We have been working through our County's Human Services and Public Safety Department to develop this program and serve residents, beginning at age 18 and older. We won't stop until we vaccinate all of Union County's homebound residents who want a vaccination and who are among the most vulnerable to the virus."

The program will be administered through the County's Human Services Department. The nurse-led teams will begin vaccinating the homebound Wednesday (tomorrow) in three towns, Clark, Garwood and Cranford, and will move on to other towns after that. The County is partnering with the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, Holy Redeemer Visiting Nurses and Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey to offer the program.

The County has identified and targeted well over 2,000 residents through a number of resources in all 21 municipalities thus far, according to Human Services Director Debbie-Ann Anderson.

Residents who are homebound and wish to receive a COVID-19 vaccination may call the County's Division on Aging and Disability Resources at 1-888-280-8226 between the hours of 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Currently, the County will begin by offering the Moderna vaccination, and then transition into the Johnson and Johnson one-shot vaccination.

You are considered to be homebound (18 years and older) if any of the following categories apply:

- a) The person's doctor believes that their health or illness could get worse if they leave the home.
- b) The person requires the help of another person and/or medical equipment to leave the home, or finds it difficult to leave the home and typically cannot do so. c) The person is served by a home health care organization.
- d) The person is served by social services agencies (e.g. non-medical home care, Meals on Wheels, Community Action Programs, Paratransit services, etc.).
 - e) The person is physically or intellectually disabled.

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

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

WHEN CAN WE COME BACK INSIDE THE LIBRARY? A MESSAGE TO OUR PATRONS

When Can We Come Back Inside the Library?
A Message to Our Patrons

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues beyond the one-year mark, we know that many of you are anxious to get back inside the library for the purpose of browsing our shelves. With the number of COVID-19 cases in Union County finally starting to go down, we are almost ready to start setting up 30 minute appointments for residents of Springfield to come inside the library to browse, even as we continue to offer curbside pickup appointments for those who want them.

As long as conditions continue to improve, we are looking at a start date of Monday, May 17, for inside browsing; library staff will begin accepting appointments on Thursday, May 12, for 30-minute browsing sessions. Please note that the number of patrons allowed inside the library to browse at any one time will be kept to a limit of ten and that the following rules and conditions will apply;

Anyone ages 2 & up must wear a facemask that covers their mouth and nostrils during the entire time that they are inside the library; no exceptions will be made for vaccination status.

Temperatures will be taken upon entering the library; anyone with a temperature registering above 99.00 degrees Fahrenheit will be asked to leave.

Library patrons must maintain at least a six feet distance between themselves and other members of the public and library staff; social distancing is not required between members of the same household

Children under the age of 14 will not gain admittance to the library unless they are accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult.

Library restrooms will remain closed.

Toys, puzzles, games, puppets and computers will not be available for use in the children's department at the present time.

The library's photocopier, public printer and public fax machine will be available on a self-service basis only; please make sure to bring coins or small bills with you as the library may not have enough change on hand to provide change for anything larger than a \$5.00 bill.

We ask for your understanding in accepting these restrictions. The library is currently working with a reduced number of staff members as the result of requested cuts to scheduled hours as well as the resignations and retirements of several employees whose positions have remained vacant while the pandemic has continued. While somewhat mitigating the effects of recent cuts to the library's operating budget, the reduced number of staff members currently on our roster makes it difficult for the library to offer inside browsing access while also continuing to offer a robust curbside pickup service. We have started the hiring process and as our staffing levels increase, we will expand the number of hours that we will be able to welcome our patrons back inside our building.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Library Director Dale Spindel at dspindel@sfplnj.org or by calling 973 376-4930, ext. 227.

LIBRARIAN SUSAN TEGGE BROWNE RETIRED APRIL 30

The Springfield Free Public Library announces the retirement of Susan Tegge Browne, effective May 1, after 22 years of service. Sue, as she is known to everyone, has been the librarian in charge of Springfield's adult services department since 2007, but she began working at the Springfield Library as a reference librarian back in 1999. Among Sue's many, many



accomplishments have been the establishment and leadership of the library's "Really, Really Good Book Club" for the past 22 years, along with providing excellent stewardship of the library's long running foreign film series.

Sue will be remembered fondly by her many library patrons for her superior knowledge of the library's collection, her outstanding ability to answer reference questions, and her gift for being able to serve her patrons with a smile and a sense of real caring.

CHISHOLM PLAYGROUND CAMP RETURNS THIS SUMMER



Online-only registration is open for Chisholm Playground Camp at https:// register. communitypass.net/springfield. Operating primarily outdoors at Chisholm Park - with limited activities inside the Chisholm Community Center - camp features eight unique weeks from Monday, June 28, 2021-Friday, August 20, 2021, with a full daily schedule from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Camp is open to residents and non-residents entering Pre-K through 6th grades this fall. Directed by Recreation Assistant Erin McNany and staffed by counselors in high school and older, Chisholm Playground Camp includes playground time, sports, field and water activities, group games, quiet games, arts and crafts, theme days, | Fridays at the Springfield Community Pool, and much more! Fees are \$100 per week for resident campers and \$110 per week for non-resident campers. There is a 20% discount for Week #2 (camp is closed on Monday, July 5, 2021). Spots are extremely limited each week. A waitlist will be kept after all spots are filled. Campers must be potty-trained, and should bring a light snack and drink. Lunch time is not a part of camp. Chisholm Playground Camp follows a COVID-19 Operational Plan developed by the Springfield Recreation Department, as mandated by the New Jersey Department of Health. Questions? Contact Erin McNany, Camp Director, at erin.mcnany@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

Please Follow All COVID-19 Guidelines When Re-opening Your Business!



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SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT



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

SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES - MAY/JUNE 2021 CALL (973) 912-2227 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Monday, May 17 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm

Tuesday, May 18 - Zoom lecture by Kevin Woyce on "NYC Skyscrapers: 1870-1931" @ 1:00 pm (RSVP)

Wednesday, May 19 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm

Thursday, May 20 - Exercise class with Betsy @ 11:00 am,

Bus trip to the Menlo Park Mall @ 12:00 pm (RSVP)

Friday, May 21 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am, Pickleball @ 11:00 am

Monday, May 24 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm

Tuesday, May 25 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am

Wednesday, May 26 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm

Thursday, May 27 - Exercise class with Betsy @ 11:00 am

Friday, May 28 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am,

Pickleball @ 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday, June 1 - Conversations with Lori Barnett,

LCSW @ 1:00 pm (RSVP)

Wednesday, June 2 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm

Thursday, June 3 - Exercise class with Betsy @ 11:00 am

Friday, June 4 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am,

Pickleball @ 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Monday, June 7 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm

Tuesday, June 8 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am

Wednesday, June 9 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm

Thursday, June 10 - Exercise class with Betsy @ 11:00 am

Friday, June 11 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am,

Pickleball @ 11:00 am-1:00 pm

WEEKDAYS:

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

POOL OPENS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND POOL CAMP, SWIM TEAM, AND SWIM LESSONS AVAILABLE



The Summit Area YMCA operator of the Springfield Community Pool this summer - is readying the pool complex for a Memorial Day Weekend opening! Spots are still available for pool camp, swim team, swim lessons, and pool membership (residents and non-residents).

Get all of the details and register online at www.thesay.org/scp. See you at the pool!

SENIOR CITIZENS DINE AT RESERVOIR ON RECREATION BUS TRIP

Senior citizens enjoyed a bus trip to the Reservoir Restaurant in South Orange Village yester-



day, Thursday, April 15, 2021. The trip was chaperoned by Donald Wilkenfeld, Recreation Bus Driver, and followed COVID-19 protocols. To join future bus trips, contact the Springfield Recreation Departmentat at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

Summer 2021 @ Chisholm

Fashion First Workshops

No sewing experience needed!

HIGH TEA FASHION CAMP

Let's create a dress perfect for an elegant affair or a tea party! In this fun fashion camp, we will explore English tea fashion trends and design a dress and fascinator that would fit in perfectly with a royal tea event.

Co-Ed - Rising 5th-12th graders (ages 8-17) JUNE 28-JULY 2 1:00-4:00 pm - registration -

fashionfirstworkshops.com/events/summer-2021-fashion-campspringfield-high-tea-week

HAWAIIAN FASHION WEEK

Break out the hula skirts and put on your flower leis! It's time for a Hawaiian fashion week!

Co-Ed - Rising 3rd-5th graders (ages 8-10) **JULY 12-16** 1:00-4:00 pm - registration -

https://www.fashionfirstworkshops.com/events/summer-2021-fashion-campspringfield-hawaiian-fashion-week

Kiddies Kaleidoscope Making Memories

Children will have a blast learning through hands-on activities featuring experiments, curated books, and art while exploring lessons involving: Science, Math, Reading, Geography, Social Studies, History, Art and Music. RISING K-5TH GRADERS

Half Day Camps 1:00-4:00 pm JULY 19-23 I AUGUST 2-6
Full Day Camps 9:00 am-4:00 pm AUGUST 23-27 I AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 3
registration kiddieskaleidoscope.com



GOLF CAMP

TGA brings the golf course to you, making it convenient and affordable to learn and play golf in a fun and safe environment! Kid-friendly instructors help students develop golf skills and knowledge, while using golf to teach valuable lessons like honesty and sportsmanship.

AUGUST 9-13 1:00-3:30 pm Ages: 6-12

registration https://usme.playtga.com/pd/1048/golf-camp-springfield

built by me LEGO® WeDo Robotics and Coding

This fun, interactive camp will introduce young campers to coding and robotics using the LEGO® Education WeDo™ Robotics Construction Sets.
RISING 2ND-4TH GRADERS **JULY 6-9** (NO CAMP MONDAY JULY 5TH) 1:00-4:00 pm

Robotics with Mbot Robot

Young engineers will discover the basics of coding and robotics as they learn how to program the mBot robot to complete a variety of tasks, building and expanding their coding skills.

RISING 4TH-7TH GRADERS **AUGUST 16-20** 1:00-4:00 pm registration bbme.us/springfieldnj

US SPORTS

institute

MULTI-SPORTS CAMPS

Our flagship Multi-Sports Camp gives campers the opportunity to experience over 10 different sports across a fun-filled week of camp.

SOCCER LACROSSE BASKETBALL BASEBALL PILLO POLO & MORE! (Ages 5-11) AUGUST 23-27 9:00 am-12:00 pm

SOCCER CAMP

Our Soccer camp gives campers the opportunity to receive soccer instruction at a level that will both challenge them and ensure they have a fantastic experience at camp.

(Ages 5-11) AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 3 9:00 am-12:00 pm

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTM

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

US SPORTS Springfield Recreation 2021

All programs adhere to COVID-19 State and CDC guidelines. Visit our website for more program information.

ALL CLASSES HELD AT IRWIN PARK TENNIS COURTS



SUMMER CAMPS MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Aug 30th- Sep 3rd: 9:00 am-12:00 pm (Ages 5 -14)

SUMMER CLASSES

THURSDAYS 7/1 · 8/19

Tennis Squirts: 4:00-4:50 pm (Ages 3 - 5) FoundationTennis: 5:00-5:50 pm (Ages 5 - 8) Foundation Tennis: 6:00-6:50 pm (Ages 8 -10)

> **AGES 3 - 14 ALL ABILITY LEVELS**

Foundation Tennis: 7:00-7:50 pm (Ages 11-14)

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Professional Coaches
- Dri-Fit T-Shirt for every player
- Age appropriate equipment
- Skills & drills plus fun games

Registration Fee \$162

LIMITED SPACE

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

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www.facebook.com/i9sports

{Ages 5-7 5- 6:15pm} {Ages 8-10 6:30pm - 7:45pm}

i9 Sports and Springfield Recreation has partnered together to give you a Flag Football experience like no other! We will play a 7/ week season under the lights on Monday evenings during the Summer. Join us for a one of a kind Flag Football experience!

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.

US SPORTS institute

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION **SUMMER 2021**

All programs adhere to COVID-19 State and CDC guidelines.

SOCCER

CLASSES HELD OUTDOORS AT DENHAM PARK

8 Week Session **SATURDAYS JUNE 26 -AUGUST 21**

Registration Fee

\$162

Soccer Squirts: (Ages 3-4) 9 am - 9:50 am Parent & Me Squirts: (Ages 2-3) 10:00 am - 10:50 am Senior Soccer Squirts: (Ages 5-6) 11:00 am - 11:50 am

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

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

BOYS & GIRLS ALL ABILITIES:

2 TO 6 **YEARS OLDS**

CLASSES HELD OUTDOORS AT DENHAM PARK

8 Week Session **TUESDAYS JUNE 29 -AUGUST 18**

Registration Fee

\$162

T-ball Squirts: (Ages 3-4) 4 pm - 4:50 pm T-ball Squirts: (Ages 4-5) 5:00 pm - 5:50 pm Senior T-ball Squirts: (Ages 5-6) 6:00 pm - 6:50 pm

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

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

AGES 3 - 6 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!

USsportsInstitute.com (866) 345 BALL

RECREATION RUNNING CLUB OPENS SPRING SEASON



The Running Club, sponsored by the Springfield Recreation Department and coached by Mike Czech (pictured, rear), took off last month at Meisel Avenue Park. The co-ed program, offered to children in Kindergarten through 8th grades, meets twice weekly and focuses on proper stretching techniques, cardiovascular health, and endurance exercises. For more information, contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

The Springfield Recreation Department is a member of TryCAN, a multi-community collaboration that provides a variety of recreational programs for youth with special needs. For more information on program offerings or to register, please visit http://summitcommunityprograms.com/156.

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