

NEXT CHAMBER MEETING

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 28, 2021

8:30 am - 9:30 am

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFO ON THE MEETING

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

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www.springfieldpatriot.com/application

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SPRINGFIELD UNITY PROJECT HELD ITS SECOND ANNUAL 'DAVID MITCHELL COMMUNITY DAY' TO HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS



Community Day Organizer, Anderson Blair welcomes everyone with Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser (left) and Mayor Chris Weber (right)



(l to r) Sydney Blair, Morghan Blair, Wendy Jones, Ann Gilson, and Andrea Blair

On Saturday, September 25th the Springfield Unity Project (S.U.P.) held its second annual 'David Mitchell Community Day' to honor our First Responders. David Mitchell was a life long Springfield resident who loved his town, his classic cars and the first responders who keep our town safe. David's fight with cancer ended recently and being that he was a founding member of S.U.P. it was only fitting to honor his commitment to the Springfield Unity Project by naming this event after him.

(continued on page 6)

ARTDU FENCING CLUB OPENS IN SPRINGFIELD



(l to r) Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Co-Chair Mike Scalera, Micah Upshaw, Aidan Haley, Coach Sarah Glassman, Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Co-Chair Scott Seidel, Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser, Owner Somari Tounkara, Mayor Chris Weber, Owner & Coach Sekou Tounkara, Jonah, Tyler & Kaiden Shum, David & Thomas Braizinha, Maggie Liu, Aisha Ravi & Friends.

(story on page 5)

ZFEMA DISASTER SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE TEAMS COME TO SPRINGFIELD



FEMA DSA Teams came to Springfield the week of October 4th. They started walking the various flood impacted neighborhoods the following week. Their Mission Essential Tasks are to Assess, Inform and Report (AIR), Registration Intake, Survivor Case Update and make Inquiries.

(continued on page 4)

CONGRATULATIONS TO LONG TIME SPRINGFIELD RESIDENT BOB MANN

By Chris Weber



(story on page 5)

SPRINGFIELD NEWEST POLICE OFFICER STEPHEN BRATSCH TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Photo by Diane Sherry



Chief of Police John Cook holds the Bible as Mayor Chris Weber administers the Oath of Office to Springfield Police Officer Stephen Bratsch

Chief John Cook commented to the Patriot Times Officer Bratsch was a Graduate of Jonathan Dayton High School class of 2012. He attended Union County College for Criminal Justice and was a Springfield Auxiliary Police Officer from 2014-2017. He graduated Passaic County Police Academy for Special Police Officers (SLEO II) in August 2020.

Veterans Day ceremony will be on November 11 11 am at Veterans Park.

FARMERS MARKET

MONDAYS

11am-6pm

July 12 to October 25

"Jersey Fresh" fruits & vegetables, specialty foods, baked goods and more!



66 Mountain Ave.
(Springfield Public Library)




For more information please call 973.912.2202



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 October Springfield,

Fall season is here. We have completed all of the street cleanup from Tropical Storm Ida. As of this writing, it is estimated the Township DPW has removed over 7,000 yards of debris from the streets. There is still have much work to do. The Library, our DPW building, and the Township buildings are next in line to be repaired. FEMA has responded to Springfield. They are out walking, going door to door, to assist homeowners with their damages.

On the lighter side of Township information, the Chamber of Commerce Street Festival and Car Show and the St. James Fair were held last week.

Please remember that you are allowed to start placing leaves curbside for pickup, starting the week of October 25th. DPW will be starting the pickups shortly after.

Halloween is here. The whole town is excited to have this fun day back for all to enjoy. Be sure to look at the Department of Recreation events calendar for our Halloween Spooktacular held on Saturday October 30th at the Chisholm Center. (See ad on Page 6) Also, drivers please be careful for the Trick or Treaters walking around. Kids get excited and might not be paying as much attention as they should. It's up to everyone on the road to be extra vigilant for everyone's safety.

Please remember to Vote on Nov 2nd. It is a right that so many fought so bravely to have. Sadly, certain parts of this world still don't get to have their voices heard. Make sure you honor them all by casting your vote.

Enjoy the cool weather and I must admit, this year, I too have joined the Pumpkin Spice crowd. I can't stop drinking that coffee!

Peace, love and happiness,

Chris Weber, Mayor



EARLY VOTING

New Jersey has joined other states in initiating Early Voting beginning in the November General Election.

Voters now will have three ways to vote:

- 1. Early voting at various locations around the county between October 23 -31
- 2. Vote by Mail
- 3. Voting at their regular polling place on Election Day.

For questions on Vote-by-Mail or Election Day Voting please go to the General Election site www.unioncountyvotes.com

Form to Opt-out from receiving Vote by Mail Ballots

Please print and sign this document and mail or e-mail to:
Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk - Email: ucvote@ucnj.org
Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad Street, Room 113, Elizabeth, NJ 07201-2299

2021 General Election Early Voting Schedule

Date	Start Time	End Time
Saturday, October 23	10 am	8 pm
Sunday, October 24	10 am	6 pm
Monday, October 25	10 am	8 pm
Tuesday, October 26	10 am	8 pm
Wednesday, October 27	10 am	8 pm
Thursday, October 28	10 am	8 pm
Friday, October 29	10 am	8 pm
Saturday, October 30	10 am	8 pm
Sunday, October 31	10 am	6 pm

The secure ballot drop boxes are under 24/7 camera surveillance. Ballots will be picked up on a daily basis by a bipartisan team of Union County Board of Elections Employees!

Springfield Location
Chisholm Community Center
100 South Springfield Avenue

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 26
Tuesday, November 9 and 23^a
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
3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm at the Library

Springfield

Business Improvement District

What's Happening



www.springfieldbid.com

Search "Springfield BID NJ" on facebook

Business Spotlights

Featured businesses for this month

\$25 Gift Cards For Only \$15

OCT 15 TO OCT 29

* While supplies last! Limit of two per customer per business please.

Fall Gift Card Program

40% OFF

\$25 GIFT CARDS/CERTIFICATES

For details and a full list of participating Springfield businesses, visit:

www.gospringfieldnj.com/events-1

30 BURGERS

200 US 22 West – 973-343-5680

30 Burgers is a gourmet Fresh NEVER Frozen burger experience where each burger is cooked to order. We use Certified Angus Beef. Along with our beef burgers, we also have chicken, tilapia, turkey and multiple vegetarian and vegan burgers available. We also offer Lettuce wrap/burgers. Our Kati Rolla is extremely popular along with our wings and hot dogs and our shakes are amazing. We also offer 3 different kinds of fries: plain, seasoned and masala. Just like our stores in East Brunswick and Rutherford, due to high demand, we will have a dedicated Halal grill to serve a Halal version of our food as well. For online pick up orders: www.30BurgersSF.com We're also on Doordash, Grubhub and UberEats for deliveries. www.facebook.com/30BurgersSF Follow us on IG: 30BurgersSF



DETAILING WORLD NJ

901 Mountain Ave – 908-998-9690

This new store features every (EVERY!) product and tool you'll need to keep your car clean and looking like new! It is our goal to be your #1 source for professional auto detailing supplies, detailing equipment and car care accessories. Started by professional auto detailers and car enthusiasts for professionals as well as do it yourselfers, we pride ourselves in offering the industry's best products at a competitive price. www.Detailingworldnj.com



SPRINGFIELD ORTHODONTICS

173 Mountain Ave – 973-379-3803

At Springfield Orthodontics, and our Invisalign® - certified orthodontists, Dr. Lee Kaswimer, Dr. Brett Handsman and Dr. Dana Silagi and their wonderful staff work hard to create beautiful smiles. Our practice serves all ages including traditional metal braces, clear braces and Invisalign clear aligners. www.springfieldorthodontics.net



DOBBS AUTOBODY

23 Springfield Ave – 973-376-3535

Dobbs Autobody is a family-owned business which has been serving the community for over six decades. Brad Denning took over the business twenty years ago and has continued to build one of the finest reputations in collision repair services in the area. He has aligned Dobbs with the most popular and highest-end auto manufacturers and has earned certifications from automotive industry groups I-Car and Assured Performance Network. Ongoing training gives Dobbs technicians the highest level of expertise in the industry which they put to use on our state-of-the-art equipment and technology. www.dobbsauto.com



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SUPPORT OUR TEXAS SISTERS RALLY

By Wendy Jones

(Photos by Alyson Miller)



Alyson Miller holding Pro Roe 1973 sign



On Saturday, October 2, a rally was held in Springfield, organized by Wendy Jones, to Support Our Texas Sisters suffering under the recent Texas law banning most legal abortions. The rally was one of 660 coordinated nationwide by womens march .com to fight for Abortion Justice.

ILLEGAL ABORTION STORIES AND A CALL TO ACTION

Over 100 people gathered on the Town Hall lawn to hear the words of the women, families, and doctors who were affected by illegal abortions before the passage of Roe v. Wade in 1973. Springfield residents Andrea Blair, Morghan Blair, Sydney Blair, Ann Gilson, and Wendy Jones read these moving testimonies from The Worst of Times by Patricia G. Miller, available as a used book from Thrift Books. At the program's close, Kaitlyn Wojtowicz, Vice President of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey, urged attendees to text RFA to 22422 to their New Jersey State legislators to support the Reproductive Freedom Act. Jones read a request for donations from New Jersey Abortion Access Fund, www.njaaf.org/donate, an organization that provides partial funding for those seeking abortions in New Jersey. Finally, Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser reminded attendees that all must also support those in the other states passing laws to deny people Abortion Justice.

FEMA DISASTER

(continued from front page)



The DSA teams canvased and walked through impacted neighborhoods, distributed informational flyers, and helped survivors in various ways.

- Assisted survivors to register for FEMA assistance.
- Checking the status of an application already in the system and can make minor changes to applications.
- Made calls to faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, private sector (businesses) and public libraries that may have the capability to distribute disaster-related information to survivors in the impacted counties.

Information provided by the teams are tailored to the individual survivor's needs and may include information on making temporary repairs to a disaster-damaged house, pay for another short-term place to live while permanent repairs are made and/or help with serious, disaster-related needs not covered by other programs.

DSA teams were easily be identified by their federal photo identification and FEMA clothing. New Jersey residents are reminded to ask for official photo identification before sharing personal information.

The teams are following CDC safety guidelines for COVID-19 including social distancing and use of protective equipment.

Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator Apu Mullick noted the following after a mid week meeting with FEMA:

* Just because you have FEMA-backed flood insurance does not mean you are registered for disaster assistance. You will still have to do that separately, if necessary.

* If FEMA refers you to the SBA for a low-interest loan, don't get scared by the "Small Business Administration." You don't have to be a business. They are just the ones that know how to administer loans so they help FEMA with loans for individuals. The disaster assistance loan process is also supposed to be easier than a regular SBA loan, and a much lower interest rate than a financing repairs with a credit card.

* If you still have expenses after insurance, FEMA assistance, etc., make sure you save your receipts and consult with your tax advisor. It may be deductible when filing your income tax return.

* While the closest Disaster Recovery Center to us is in Cranford or Union, you can go to any FEMA

* DRC so if there is a location closer to work or school, maybe that's a better option.

220 Walnut Ave, Cranford, NJ 07016

Currently Monday to Saturday, 8 AM to 5 PM

333 Russell Street, Vauxhall, NJ 07088

Currently Monday to Saturday, 8 AM to 6 PM

<https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/sfc/servlet.shepherd/version/download/068t000000VDMYKAAX>

* Whether you are getting FEMA assistance or not, you can consult with their hazard mitigation specialists to see if there are simple things you can do during your repairs to help minimize damage in the future.

* Register for "Individual Assistance" before November 6th. It is better to register and not need it than to find out six months later that insurance will not cover all of your expenses and you are left holding the bag.

* DisasterAssistance.gov or call 1-800-621-3362 (TTY 1-800-462-7585)



Fire Chief's Column

Chief Carlo Palumbo

PREVENT THE UNTHINKABLE.

A Parents' Guide to Fire Safety for Babies and Toddlers

New parents and others who care for babies and small children need to pay special attention to fire safety. Children under age 5 are twice more likely to die in a fire than adults. In fact, toddlers (age 3 to 4) actually cause a large number of home fires by playing with lighters and matches. And when fire breaks out, babies and toddlers can't escape without your help.

When fire breaks out, you have only seconds to escape its heat, black smoke and deadly gases. Working smoke alarms help you get out in time. Smoke alarms save lives.

- If you keep the door to your infant's room closed, keep a working smoke alarm inside the room and use a baby monitor so that you can hear the alarm sound.
- As soon as you know children are ready, familiarize them with the sound of your smoke alarms and teach them how to escape.
- Figure out the best way for you to help babies and toddlers get out. We suggest keeping a baby harness near the crib, to carry the baby and leave your hands free for another child.
- Have older children practice crawling, touching doors, or going to the window.
- Keep home exits clear of toys and debris.
- Have a safe meeting place outside the home and teach children never to go back inside. Make your home safer by storing matches, lighters, and other fire-starters away from children. Children do not understand the dangers of fire.
- Calmly but firmly explain to your child that matches and lighters are tools for adults to use carefully.
- Teach young children to tell an adult if they see matches or lighters.
- Always store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Purchase only child-resistant lighters. Remember: no lighter is child proof!
- Never use lighters or matches for amusement. Children may imitate what you do.
- Always supervise young children closely.



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ARTDU FENCING CLUB

(continued from front page)

On Wednesday October 6th yet another new business opened in Springfield. Since 2019, over 100 new businesses have opened in town. On hand to help cut the ribbon were Mayor Chris Weber, Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser, Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Co-Chairs Scott Seidel and Mike Scalera.

ArtDu Fencing is an Elite fencing club that works with students of all ages from 4+ to Adults in all three weapons: Epee, Foil & Sabre. Their goal is to prepare athletes to be physically and mentally ready for all challenges in life including fencing. They strive for their students to go beyond their own reach and re-imagine the path to their dreams. They design programs for everyone: beginners, intermediate, elite, and veterans to attain their goals. With the combination of Coach Sekou's & Coach Sarah Glassman's fencing experience along with Somari Tounkara's entrepreneurial skills, they have developed a fencing club that will enrich young athletes with the necessary skills they will need in the platform of life. They all have a passion to work with children in mentoring and training.

Coach and Owner Sekou is a certified FIE "Federation of International Escrime" Master Coach in Epee, Saber, and Foil. Originally from Dakar, Senegal, he had the lucky chance to start fencing at a young age. Between sports and education, he made his way to the international level. Traveling around the world and learning different styles of fencing. Sekou participated in many international competitions and training camps around the world. He loves working and mentoring young kids to reach their highest level. His experience is as the Head Coach at ArtDu Fencing, Head Epee coach at West Point Academy, NY, Head Epee Coach at New Jersey Fencing Alliance and he coached at Columbia High School, Oratory Prep, and Kent Place School. He is also Senegal National Team Coach Junior and Cadet as well as a USA Fencing Referee for NCAA and local competitions.

Coach Sarah Glassman started fencing as a young teenager and quickly picked up a love for fencing and its finesse. As she got older and while in college, Sarah started training children and other students in the sport as well as compete at a club level. After starting her career in education, Sarah became the head coach for Oratory Preparatory School Fencing Team and took the boys Sabre qualified to Squad States. She takes a holistic approach to coaching and makes sure to emphasize the importance of conditioning and strength training along with footwork and weapon. Trained in Coach Foil & Sabre, Oratory Prep Head Fencing Coach since 2017, Sabre Coach at Earlham College (2005-2009) and Varsity Fencer for Columbia High School (2001-2005).

Owner Somari Tounkara originally from Trinidad & Tobago came to the United States at a young age and grew up in New Jersey. She graduated from Rutgers's University and went on to work in the corporate world as an IT Specialist and Project Manager. She also managed to own and operate her own restaurant at one time in Montclair, NJ.

SPRINGFIELD RESIDENT BOB MANN (continued from front page)

On Oct. 10th at the Amica Newport Marathon in Newport, Rhode Island, Bob became one of newest members of Marathon runners who have run a full 26.2 mile race in each of the 50 states. Bob's first race was in Chicago on Oct 9th, 2005. Every year since, he has tried to visit as many states as possible to enter into a full marathon. 16 years later and 1 day before his 50th birthday, he completed the full circuit of all 50 states. He ran an outstanding race, finishing the marathon in 4:40:24. Bob had a great cheering section with many friends who drove up to see the race. We know wife Margaret, daughter Jillian, mom Delores are super proud of you!

Public Health
Prevent Promote Protect

Protect Yourself From the Flu this Season!

Now is the time to protect you and your family from Flu for Flu season. Flu vaccination prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor's visits each year.

- What: Flu Vaccine Clinic for Springfield Residents including children 5 years of age and older as well as adults
- When: Tuesday, October 26th from 4:00pm - 6:30pm
- Where: Chisholm Community Center 100 S. Springfield Ave, Springfield

Free of charge for Residents.
If you have traditional Medicare, please bring your card at time of visit.
 Masking & social distancing required. Register at <https://calendly.com/localhealthdepartmentflu-clinics/springfield-flu-clinic?month=2021-10&date=2021-10-26>
 Questions? call the Public Health Nursing Division at 973-680-4058

ERROR IN SEPTEMBER PATRIOT
AN OLD RECYCLING TIP ARTICLE WAS INADVERTENTLY PRINTED IN OUR SEPTEMBER 2021 ISSUE. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THIS ARTICLE WAS INFORMING THE PUBLIC THAT SUMMIT'S REPAIR CAFE IS CLOSED WHEN IT WAS NOT. THERE ARE REPAIR OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT SUMMIT'S NEXT REPAIR CAFE EVENT IS TO BE EXPECTED IN MARCH 2022
Sorry For Any Inconvenience This Error Has Caused!



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SECOND ANNUAL 'DAVID MITCHELL COMMUNITY DAY'
(continued from front page)



David's brother, Kevin, spoke at Community Day and donated a tapestry to the township that displayed an image of David. Springfield pride was on display as township residents, teenage band "Twice Heard" and DJ "J-Dub" rocked the crowd with a variety of music. Mayor Weber and Deputy Mayor Keiser addressed the crowd with remarks about David and to thank our first responders.



HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Saturday, October 30, 2021
Chisholm Park @ 12:30 pm
(Winners @ 1:30 pm | Concert @ 1:45 pm)
Costume Contest | Photo Ring Roamer
Glazed & Confused Donuts Truck
Red Ribbon Week Giveaways | Halloween Games
Interactive Halloween Concert by Monster Mash Trio


Co-Sponsors:









Costume contest registration and free donuts at:
<https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>

SEE IT, REPORT IT!





Spotted Lanternfly

What to do:
If you see egg masses, scrape them off, double bag and throw away.
You can also place the eggs into alcohol, bleach or hand sanitizer to kill them.







Collect a specimen:
Specimens of any life stage can be turned in to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's lab for verification.

Take a picture:
With your GPS function turned on your smartphone or a camera with GPS, take a photograph of ANY life stage (including egg masses).

Submit picture to: SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov

Report a site:
If you can't take a specimen or photograph, call and leave a message detailing the sighting location/address and your contact information.

NJ Spotted Lanternfly Hotline at 1-833-223-2840 (BADBUG0)



SPRINGFIELD UNITY PROJECT
& ANTIOCH CDC

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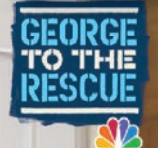
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BELLS ACROSS AMERICA CELEBRATION FOR CONSTITUTION WEEK

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, petitioned the U.S. Congress to dedicate September 17-23 of each year to the commemoration of Constitution Week. Congress adopted the resolution, and on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into Public Law #915.

Members of the Church and Cannon Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, met in front of the Springfield Fire Department on September 17, 2021 to participate in Bells Across America. Bells Across America is an annual celebration of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Participants gather to ring bells, much as the church bells of Philadelphia rang out when the U.S. Constitution was first signed at 4 pm on September 17, 1787. Vice Regent, Heather Sanford, read Mayor Weber's Constitution Week Proclamation. State Treasurer, Linda Jurczak, led the recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution. At 4 pm, a bell was rung 13 times – one for each state that ratified the Constitution.

"There are two documents of paramount importance to American history: the Declaration of Independence, which forged our national identity, and the United States Constitution, which set forth the framework for the federal government that functions to this day," says DAR President General Denise Doring VanBuren. "While Independence Day is a well-recognized and beloved national holiday, few people know about Constitution Week, an annual commemoration of the living document that upholds and protects the freedoms central to our American way of life."

By fostering knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Constitution and the inalienable rights it affords to all Americans, DAR helps to keep alive the memory of the men and women who secured our nation's foundational liberties.

One of the largest patriotic women's organizations in the world, DAR has more than 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters. DAR members promote historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more. Any woman 18 or older who can prove direct lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. For more information, visit www.dar.org. To join Springfield's Church and Cannon Chapter, email cacnjdar@gmail.com for details.



Police Chief's Column for readers of the Patriot Times

Chief John P. Cook

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Since Halloween is right around the corner, I thought it would be best to utilize this month's column to remind readers of the Springfield Patriot Times about the importance of staying safe while enjoying Halloween festivities. I encourage all community members to follow the safety tips below to help make sure everyone has a safe and pleasant time on Halloween.

To help protect our entire community, any homeowners who are not feeling well or who have had contact with a sick person should not participate in any way and should avoid contact with others. Any child who is not feeling well or has had contact with a sick person also should not participate in any way and should avoid contact with others.

The trick-or-treating experience these last two years is a bit different due to the continued pandemic situation. Some residents may opt not to participate at all in handing out candy to trick-or-treaters, which is understandable. Others may opt to use 'candy chutes' for contactless candy disbursement, and others may just leave a bowl of candy out for trick-or-treaters to help themselves. As a general rule, homes not participating at all will leave their outside lights off, which should be a sign for trick-or-treaters to avoid approaching them. For participating homes, with outside lights turned on, trick-or-treaters should collect their treats in whatever manner the homeowner prefers, but both the homeowners and trick-or-treaters should always try to maintain social distancing and avoid/minimize personal contact as much as possible. Trick-or-treating in large groups should be avoided, but even with smaller groups, social distancing measures should be practiced as much as possible.

Parents should always accompany young children while they are trick-or-treating. Older children may be able to go by themselves, but they should always stay in a group with friends, use a pre-planned route, and have an agreed time to 'check in' with their family. Also, having a flashlight, glow stick, cell phone, and possibly even a first aid kit is a good idea while trick-or-treating. Costumes should be bright and contain reflective strips, and should be made of flame-retardant material. Long trailing fabric could pose a tripping hazard or even a fire hazard, as some people use candles in jack-o-lanterns. Make sure that any costumes with masks do not limit a child's ability to see ahead of them and all around them. Also, toy guns may look real in the dark, so costumes should not contain toy weapons of any kind.

While trick-or-treating, children should never be allowed to enter a person's home, unless it is a very close friend or relative. Parents should inspect all candy their children receive, and discard any unwrapped items or treats that look questionable. Children should not be allowed to eat any treat that hasn't been checked first. Any candy that appears to have been tampered with should be reported to the police department immediately.

Trick-or-treaters should respect their neighborhoods. Although it may seem like fun, 'mischief' such as smashing pumpkins, 'egging', and spray painting are all illegal activities that damage a person's property and could subject you to summonses, fines, and other serious penalties. Parents should remind their children to be thoughtful of others when taking candy left at a front door and to not deliberately damage or take any items such as decorations from homes along their trick or treating route.

Drivers should be extra careful and cautious when heading out on Halloween, and expect to contend with large groups of children racing from house to house for treats. Drivers must remember that children will be excited and may be less cautious while walking. They should anticipate children crossing the streets randomly, and possibly darting out from between parked vehicles. Before dusk and all evening, drivers should proceed slowly and with lights on in order to see children in costumes. Cell phone use by drivers, unless using hands-free equipment, is illegal as it is a major distraction under normal driving circumstances and drivers need to be even more diligent in paying extra attention on Halloween. Officers will also be paying extra attention for distracted drivers and will be strictly enforcing violations.

For those of you who won't be venturing out for trick-or-treating, and if you anticipate children coming to your home, please do not use external decorations that are illuminated with candles, especially at your front door or along paths on which children would walk. Glow sticks or battery operated candles are much safer alternatives. Also, keep in mind that household pets may become irritated from the added excitement of children coming and going, so care should be taken to keep pets in a safe and secure area while you answer the door. (Also remember to secure the candy treats in your home so your pets cannot get at them as many types of Halloween treats can be poisonous to cats and dogs if eaten).

For added safety, there will be an increased police presence throughout the town, especially in residential areas. Police officers will be patrolling in both marked and unmarked police vehicles, but all officers will wear full police uniforms for safety reasons. If you see anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, don't hesitate to call the police department or flag down a passing police officer to report it.

By simply understanding and following these suggested safety tips you can help in making Halloween both a fun and safe experience for our community.



Police Chief's Column for readers of the Patriot Times

Chief John P. Cook

In late September your Police Department held a few Pedestrian Crossing enforcement details at various locations in Town and we had advised that we would be doing this by posting on our Facebook page.

There were numerous summonses issued as well as warnings given.

I had read some social media postings about this event after it had taken place. Some person criticized the program by making a statement similar to the effect of, "as soon as a pedestrian's foot hits the road, the driver has to slam on their brakes. Doesn't sound like the safest way of doing things".

And there are always those who were stopped who say, "I was nowhere near the crosswalk but got pulled over anyway".

There are obvious reasons as to why such "safety details" are run by police departments throughout NJ as well as across the nation. In fact, in Springfield, we have had several serious pedestrian-involved crashes over the last several months, some very recently. Improving pedestrian safety continues to be a priority of our police department, and initiatives such as these are an important part of this.

These "safety details" are very precise and comply with State law and are based on guidelines set by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and New Jersey Division of Traffic Safety.

Based upon a roadway's posted speed, visible markers are set at a precise distance prior to a crosswalk. These distances are based upon mathematical formulas that determine the safe stopping distance at a particular speed for a vehicle.

The "pedestrian/officer" crossing has a clear site line to the marker and will not begin to cross a roadway in a crosswalk if a vehicle has already passed the marker

and is within the marker and the nearest crosswalk line.

Our "safety details" are also at times monitored and/or assisted by personnel from AAA Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operations.

I feel the need to bring this information to you, the readers of the *Patriot Times*, so that perhaps there will be a better understanding of why and how these "safety details" are run. It is not to interrupt your day but to help everyone have a better day, especially our pedestrians and to possibly enlighten those who continue to make such erroneous statements as listed above.

The following information will hopefully be helpful in understanding State laws regarding vehicle/pedestrian traffic.

Motorists must come to a complete stop and remain stopped when a pedestrian is crossing in a marked crosswalk. This includes motorists who are making turns while pedestrians are crossing.

Marked crosswalks are designated with painted lines and/or stripes, and have yellow warning signs posted as motorists approach.

Marked crosswalks can be within intersections controlled with traffic signals, uncontrolled intersections, or mid-block. Crosswalks can also be unmarked, which include all intersections of streets normally considered to represent crosswalks but are not physically painted or striped. At these intersections with unmarked crosswalks, motorists must yield to the right-of-way of pedestrians and allow them to cross, but pedestrians must first wait for an adequate break in traffic that will allow them to cross safely before leaving the curb.

Pedestrians are reminded to cross only where legally permitted. At intersections with traffic signals, pedestrians must follow the signal, and cross only when the "WALK" symbol is displayed. If an intersection is not equipped with pedestrian signals, pedestrians should cross with the green light. At uncontrolled intersections or at mid-block crosswalks, pedestrians must remember to cross only when there is an appropriate gap in traffic. Pedestrians should never suddenly leave the curb and begin crossing into the path of a vehicle that is so close it would be impossible for the driver to stop or yield.

Pedestrians should always be alert and wear bright reflective clothing (especially if walking at night or early morning).

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

Please check our website for updates www.sfplnj.org

THE SPRINGFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTINUES TO BE CLOSED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FLOODING CAUSED BY TROPICAL STORM IDA

All Springfield residents with a valid library card may continue to use their cards at any of the other 19 public libraries located in Union County, as well as at any of the additional 27 member libraries in the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium (LMxAC). Go to www.lmxac.org and click on "Member Libraries" for the complete list of 34 member libraries.

Springfield residents without a current library card may register for a temporary card online at www.sfplnj.org by clicking on the link for temporary card registration that is featured on the webpage photo stream. Once you have at least a temporary library card, you can also download e-books, e-audiobooks, movies, music and more through ELibraryNJ and Hoopla. In addition, you will also have access Brainfuse (live online tutoring, a writing lab, SAT help and much more), LinkedIn-Learning and a variety of other online databases that can be accessed directly from the library's website.

The library also continues to offer virtual programs for kids, teens and grownups. Go to our website at www.sfplnj.org and check the calendar for the latest offerings.

Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to move forward on the remediation of the library building and that we are doing so in a way that will safeguard the health and wellbeing of both our library patrons and staff members. Except for a small area inside the Palmer Museum, the entire floor space of the library was covered with floodwater that reached a height of as much as three inches in different areas around the building. While the books were mostly spared direct contact with floodwaters - and while we were able to move a great deal of furniture out of the most badly affected areas - some of the larger pieces of furniture that we were not able to move did suffer some damage.

On the positive side, most of the library's furniture was not damaged and we are looking forward to starting the restoration process. Because the library building is owned by the Township, we are awaiting further guidance from Town Hall with regard to our next steps. Please rest assured that the library will most definitely reopen and that when we do, we will be back better than ever.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at dspindel@sfplnj.org if you have any questions.

Dale Spindel, Library Director Springfield Free Public Library

FEMA COMES TO SPRINGFIELD

Photo by Jennifer Sherman



On Tuesday, October 5th, representatives from FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) came to Town Hall to meet with residents affected by Tropical Storm Ida. Over 40 residents showed up to find out what type of assistance was available and how to apply for it. After Mayor Chris Weber introduced the FEMA personnel, FEMA noted a Disaster Recovery Center was just opened in Cranford at the Cranford Community Center as well. Residents who were not able to attend the meeting at Town Hall can get the same assistance at the DRC six days a week. The most important thing noted was to register with FEMA. If you don't register, we don't know you need help. Registering can be done online by going to <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/> and entering your zip code. You must sign up before the November 4th deadline. The meeting went on for almost 3 hours with everyone getting personal attention from FEMA. FEMA will spend the week of October 11th taking a firsthand look at the damage and contacting residents in affected neighborhoods.

Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser and Springfield Emergency Management staff members were on hand as well.



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SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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



SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021

CALL (973) 912-2227 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tuesday, October 19 - Computer training with Linda @ 10:00 am,
Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am, Mahjong @ 12:00 pm
Wednesday, October 20 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm
Thursday, October 21 - Exercise class with Betsy @ 11:00 am
Friday, October 22 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am,
Bus trip to Longhorn Steakhouse @ 12:00 pm (RSVP)
Monday, October 25 - Exercise class with Betsy @ 10:30 am,
Bingo @ 12:30 pm
Tuesday, October 26 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am,
Mahjong @ 12:00 pm
Wednesday, October 27 - Bus trip to Whole Foods and
Target @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)
Thursday, October 28 - Club meeting @ 11:00 am (RSVP)
Friday, October 29 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am
Monday, November 1 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm
Tuesday, November 2 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am,
Presentation on safe medication use @ 12:00 pm, Mahjong @ 12:00 pm
Wednesday, November 3 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm
Thursday, November 4 - Exercise class with Betsy @ 11:00 am
Friday, November 5 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am
Monday, November 8 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm
Tuesday, November 9 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am,
Mahjong @ 12:00 pm
Wednesday, November 10 - Exercise class with Betsy @ 11:00 am,
Bingo @ 12:30 pm
Thursday, November 11 - Chisholm closed (Veterans' Day)
Friday, November 12 - Bus trip to Bridgewater Mall @ 10:00 am (RSVP),
Rummikub @ 11:00 am

WEEKDAYS:

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

LOCAL BUS SERVICE: Weekdays @ 9:00 am-3:00 pm

PICKLEBALL: Postponed until further notice

2021-2022 MEN'S 35+ BASKETBALL

WHO: Men age 35+ who reside in Springfield
(and non-residents who previously enrolled)

WHAT: Non-competitive pick-up games

WHERE/WHEN: Jonathan Dayton High School
(east gym), Wednesdays @ 7:00-9:00 pm

Florence Gaudineer Middle School
(girl's gym), Sundays @ 8:00-10:00 am

COST: \$25 (resident new player), \$12.50
(2019-2020 resident player), \$37.50 (2019-2020 non-resident player)

REGISTER: Online only at <https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>
Visa, Mastercard, and Discover accepted (\$0 processing fee).


INCLUDED: Apparel item, balls

NOT INCLUDED: Personal protective equipment (e.g. masks)

COVID-19: Masks must be worn inside school buildings when not
actively playing basketball.

REFUNDS: No refunds after registration is completed.

QUESTIONS: (973) 912-2227 or recreation@springfield-nj.us



SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

WINTER CONDITIONING

November-December 2021
Six Mondays @ 4:30-5:30 pm
Chisholm Community Center
Grades 3-9
\$100 per child

[HTTPS://REGISTER.COMMUNITYPASS.NET/SPRINGFIELD](https://register.communitypass.net/springfield)

TRYCAN KIDS HELPING KIDS

The Springfield Recreation Department is a member of TryCAN, a multi-community
collaboration that provides a variety of recreational programs for youth with special needs.

For more information on program offerings or to
register, please visit <http://summitcommunityprograms.com/156>

SPRINGFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS VISIT VERONA PARK



Tuesday, October 5, 2021, was a perfect day for antiquing and a nature stroll! Springfield senior citizens browsed at Noel's Place, an antique store on Bloomfield Avenue, and then ventured across the street to the walking trails of Verona Park, part of the Essex County Park System. For information on future senior citizen bus trips, contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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



SPRINGFIELD RECREATION STREET HOCKEY MEN 18+ FALL 2021

Join us for outdoor pick-up games!

MONDAYS @ 7:00-9:00 PM
HOCKEY COURT AT POOL COMPLEX
\$25 PER PLAYER

Details and online registration at
<https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>
(973) 912-2227 or recreation@springfield-nj.us



ARBOR TERRACE SPONSORS DONUTS AND VACCINE CARD HOLDERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AT CHISHOLM



(l to r) Brendan O'Reilly, Assistant Director of Recreation;
Ilene Wilkenfeld, Recreation Program Coordinator; Adam Lieb,
Director of Recreation; and Joan Aranzullo, Senior Care Counselor

Arbor Terrace Mountainside sponsored donuts and coffee for senior citizens who gathered at the Chisholm Community Center today, Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Senior citizens also received COVID-19 vaccine card holders. Arbor Terrace is a private community in Mountainside on the Springfield border 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, continued her monthly tradition of visiting Chisholm to greet the crowd and talk about the living options that her community has to offer. Arbor Terrace can be reached at (908) 505-6115 with any questions.

Interested senior citizens view the website at <http://www.arbor-mountainside.com>.

FLAG CHEERLEADING OPENS SEASON



The Springfield Recreation Department's popular flag cheerleading program opened its fall season last month with 30 children practicing dance routines and cheers at Chisholm Park. The squad performs weekly at the Pool Field during flag football games run by i9 Sports of Union County in partnership with the Springfield Recreation Department. Flag cheerleading is led by volunteer coaches Luciana Mullman, Kristen Gersh, and Wendy Garrod.



Fashion First Workshops

Fall Fashion 2021 SEWING CLASSES WITH SPRINGFIELD RECREATION

WEDNESDAYS FOR 5 WEEKS:
OCT 27TH, NOV 10TH, 17TH, DECEMBER 1ST, & 8TH
(DECEMBER 15TH AS A MAKE UP WEATHER DAY)
CHISHOLM COMMUNITY CENTER

ALL LEVELS CLASS
AGES 7-15/ GRADES 2ND-10TH
4:30-6:00 PM - FEE: \$195
MIN. STUDENTS: 6 - MAX STUDENTS: 12

DESIGN AND CREATE THE CLASSIC PAJAMA PANTS!

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A CLASSIC SILHOUETTE!

SIGN UP AT [FASHIONFIRSTWORKSHOPS.COM](https://fashionfirstworkshops.com)
RENEE@FASHIONFIRSTWORKSHOPS.COM OR 908-578-8561



HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR SET FOR OCTOBER 30 - PRE-REGISTRATION OPEN

Springfield Recreation Department's annual Halloween Spooktacular is coming up on Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 12:30-2:30 pm, at Chisholm Park (100 South Springfield Avenue). New for 2021: The first 200 individuals to pre-register on Community Pass will receive a free basket of freshly-made warm donuts from the Glazed & Confused Donuts Truck! Children are invited to dress up and show off their scariest and most original costumes at the costume contest. Pre-registration is required on Community Pass. Prizes will be awarded at 1:30 pm. The popular photo ring roamer is back to photograph everyone and send pictures to your email or phone. Stay for spooky and fun Halloween lawn games! Plus, plenty of free Red Ribbon Week goodies will be given away. At 1:45 pm, join us for the Monster Mash Trio Interactive Halloween Concert. Event sponsorship has been generously provided by Cardinal Land Properties, Mike Scalera State Farm, and Keller Williams Mid-Town Direct Realty. Pre-register for the costume contest and donuts at <https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>. Questions? Contact Brendan O'Reilly, Assistant Director of Recreation, at brendan.oreilly@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.



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 Monday - Friday from 9:00 am-3:00 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.

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