

Published by the Township of Springfield in cooperation with the Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce

www.springfieldpatriot.com

March 2021 · Issue #LXIX 069

www.springfield-nj.us

NEXT CHAMBER MEETING

THURSDAY MARCH 25, 2021

8:30 am - 9:30 am

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ZOOM MEETING

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GROUNDBREAKING AT THE METROPOLITAN, THE FORMER SAKS PROPERTY



On Tuesday, Febraury 23 at around 1 pm, Garden Homes held a groundbreaking ceremony with Township Officials and the property owners. Scott Loventhal, Managing Member of the development team for Garden Homes made the following comments:

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

SPRINGFIELD TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW FIRETRUCK



On Wednesday morning, February 24th, a brand new 2020 Pierce Velocity Firetruck arrived in Springfield after making the long journey to town from Appleton, Wisconsin. According to Fire Chief Carlo Palumbo: "This will be the First Due Engine replacing one over 23 years old. It has the latest updated equipment including air bags and door locks--yes door locks!" Chief Palumbo said "We are moving with the times and Public safety is a top priority in town. I am grateful for the allocation of funds for this vehicle which cost approximately \$750,000 and has been budgeted over a 5 year period. It also has a new feature that will alert drivers in cars via an app like Waze that there is a firetruck up ahead at an accident. We hope to have it in service by the end of today."

"GIVE 'EM WATTS BOYS"



Mayor Chris Weber, Clara Harelik, former Mayor, Attorney and Spokesperson for The Project, John Cook, Chief of Police and Vice President of the Springfield Historical Society, Scott Seidel, Former Chairman of the 225th Battle of Springfield Committee standing next to the sculpture just prior to it being raised into place. (story on page 4)

SPRINGFIELD HIRES FIRST FEMALE FIREFIGHTER



Mayor Weber administers the Oath of Office to Stephanie Bagniewski. On right is her father Ed, a retired Fire Captain from Harrison, and her brother Michael, a Lieutenant in the Cranford Fire Department holding the Bible.

At the February 23, 2021 Township Committee meeting Spring-field appointer their first female firefighter. Chief Carlo Palumbo commented to the Patriot Times "Stephanie Bagniewski is the first female firefighter hired in the Township of Springfield. She graduated from Cranford High School and later received a Bachelor Degree in Biology from Marywood University.

Firefighter Bagniewski graduated from Union County Fire Academy in 2017 where she was awarded the Battalion Chief Ken Nocera Memorial Award for maintaining the highest GPA in her graduating class. She will be training straight days over the next several weeks until she is assigned to a Tour. She got right to work on Wednesday helping to outfit the newly arrived Firetruck!"

(additional photo on page 6)

DON AUER RECOGNIZED FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION



(l to r) Mayor Chris Weber, Vetertans Gerry Gebauer, Don Auer and Dave Penna.

At the March 9th Township Committee meeting, Don Auer was presented with a certificate from the National Headquarters of the American Legion recognizing his 50 years of membership in American Legion Post 228 Spri0ngfield. Over those 50 years Don has held almost every leadership position in the Post from Commander to Vice Commander to Finance Officer. Current Commander Gerry Gebauer thanked Don for his dedication to the Post and for providing him with guidance in managing the Post. Not only in the Post but also in the First Presbyterian Church, Don has stepped forward to be a leader.



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

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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

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SPRINGFIELD, NJ

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Vital Statistics/Registrar	973-912-2285
Zoning Office	973-232-4449

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Message from the Mayor

Happy March my Springfield friends,

We have started March in the most unbelievable way. After decades of zero progress, we had our long anticipated ground breaking at the Saks property. Garden Homes is eager to get to work and we in Springfield are excited to see this project come together.

The Larkin building is bringing beautiful change to the appearance of Morris Avenue every day. A frieze of the "Battle of Springfield" will be anchoring the corner of Morris Ave and Church Mall. We are proud of the history of Springfield

and want everyone to be part of it.

The Gomes project is going to be putting their steel up in the middle of March. We are all looking forward to seeing this building finally go up.

We have started repair on upper Chisholm Field for the start of softball season. Chisholm will have some of the nicest softball fields in the area. Ruby Field is getting its final touches and will be ready for baseball's opening day. It finally looks like a baseball field after many years. Our Dayton teams will be proud to play there.

Finally, we are preparing the pool for its re-opening on Memorial Day Weekend!

It's great to see our town has weathered the storm and we are slowly getting back to normal!

Peace and love to all,

Chris Weber, Mayor

GROUNDBREAKING

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)



Mayor Chris Weber and Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser prepare to help with the ground breaking.

"I would like to welcome everyone here today and thank you all for coming. Between the pandemic and the difficult weather, you all joining us is greatly appreciated. My name is Scott Loventhal and I am with Garden homes Development and the Managing Member of the development team responsible for The Metropolitan. I am joined here today by my partners Zygi Wilf, Jonathan Wilf, Brett Tanzman and several other executives and staff from our Garden Homes Team responsible for the development, construction and management of this projects. GH has a long history in Springfield and Millburn.

- While I generally like to look forward and not back, the long history of this site warrants taking a moment to look back.
- Saks opened in the late 1950's and served as an anchor for the Upper Millburn Ave Business District

which is shared by commercial and residential uses of both Millburn and Springfield.

- Saks followed the trend of many downtown Dept stores and moved to short hills mall in the mid 1990's.
- For the past 25 years the uses proposed for this site collided with the interests of both Springfield and Millburn until the proposed Springfield Redevelopment Plan for a primarily multi-family development with some limited commercial space finally took shape in 2018/19. This plan aligned with the interests of both communities and the cooperative effort of local leadership in Springfield and Millburn led to us being here today for this groundbreaking.
- We at GHD are confident that the development of these rental residences which includes 233 apartments (which includes 41 apartments offered as affordable housing) 47 townhomes and 5200 sq. ft. of complimentary commercial space will be a catalyst to restoring the vibrancy that has been missing from this business district for past 25 years.
- Provide a housing choice that doesn't presently exist in this market.
- Safe pedestrian connectivity to the commercial uses and transit options.
- Walking wallets to frequent the shops, services and restaurants on upper Millburn Ave.

I would like to welcome Mayor Chris Weber of Springfield who has a few words and then in the interest of keeping everyone dry and warm, we will put a ceremonial shovel in the ground and then knock a portion of the building down."

Both Mayor Chris Weber and Deputy Mayor Alex Keiser commented on what a great project this will be for Springfield and how the Town has waited decades foot this project to be able to proceed which will change and help shape the face of Springfield for the better.

Everyone then grabbed a shovel and a hardhat and got started, although the backhoe really did the work!

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 23, April 13 and 27 at 7 pm

PLANNING BOARD

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

BOARD OF HEALTH

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm at the Firehouse

RENT LEVELING BOARD

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

RECREATION COUNCIL

Contact Recreation Department For Next Meeting Date and Time

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm at the Library



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901 Mountain Ave - 973-924-2007

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DR. DAVID PALOMBI – CHIROPRACTOR

266 Morris Avenue - 973-376-6363

Dr. Palombi has been providing chiropractic care in the Springfield area for over 30 years now. He treats injuries from



auto accidents, sports injuries, slip and falls as well as "I woke up with new pain". He incorporates exercise, diet planning and nutritional counseling with his services. He also performs CDL medical exams for all types of commercial drivers licenses. Dr. Palombi participates in almost every insurance plan, has evening hours and Saturdays by appointment. He is the proud father of triplets and is an avid golfer. Call today for relief!

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"GIVE 'EM WATTS BOYS"

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Photos by Jenn Law



On Wednesday, March 10, the giant 6000 pound "Give 'Em Watts Boys" sculpture was lifted into place at the corner of Morris and Mountain Avenues onto the newly constructed building facade. The building will be named soon and will contain the word "Victory" to honor the famous Battle of Springfield. For now it will be referred to as "the Victory project". One of the first buildings to progress to this stage in Springfield's downtown redevelopment, this building will feature residential units upstairs and some retail businesses on the first floor. Clara Harelik, former Mayor, attorney and spokesperson for the project commented to the Patriot: "This beautiful, new mixed use building, which sits at the gateway to the downtown area, symbolizes both Springfield's future and its past. The famous Battle of Springfield, a turning point in the American Revolution, has been referred to by some historians as "The Forgotten Victory". Placing this "Give 'Em Watts Boys" sculpture on this new building will ensure that this significant part of our Town's history and America's history is never forgotten.' Charlie Larkin, the owner of the project was very pleased to see this pivotal part of Springfield history being immortalized on the building today. Charlie noted to the Patriot: "What makes this even more special is that the sculpture depicts a scene from the Battle of Springfield in 1780 that occurred just a few feet away in front of the Presbyterian Church." The image is courtesy of the Fraunces Tavern Museum in NYC

One business owner who will be a tenant at the site and will be moving his Springfield headquarters to this location was on hand as well, Lucas Wolf of Wolf Premier Properties was excited to see the sculpture being put in place and is looking forward to opening his new office in the late spring at the building.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Springfield Free Public Library will take place virtually via zoom at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 18. The link to attend this meeting is:https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87885811910?pwd=VWxCcm 5veXZTVHFENXE4Tmo2eGRvUT09. The meeting can also be attended via dial in telephone by calling 1 646 876 9923 and then entering the meeting ID 878 8581 1910 and then entering 028684 when prompted for the passcode.



Knowing what to do in the event of a fire is particularly important for older adults. At age 65, people are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires compared to the population at large. And with our numbers growing every year in the United States and Canada, adults age 65 and older make up about 12 percent of the population. It's essential to take the necessary steps to stay safe.

SAFETY TIPS

To increase fire safety for older adults **KEEP IT LOW**

If you don't live in an apartment building, consider sleeping in a room on the ground floor in order to make emergency escape easier. Make sure that smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping room and outside any sleeping areas. Have a telephone installed where you sleep in case of emergency. When looking for an apartment or high-rise home, look for one with an automatic sprinkler system. Sprinklers can extinguish a home fire in less time that it takes for the fire department to arrive.

SOUND THE ALARM

The majority of fatal fires occur when people are sleeping, and because smoke can put you into a deeper sleep rather than waking you, it's important to have a mechanical early warning of a fire to ensure that you wake up. If anyone in your

household is deaf or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.

DO THE DRILL

Conduct your own, or participate in, regular fire drills to make sure you know what to do in the event of a home fire. If you or someone you live with cannot escape alone, designate a member of the household to assist, and decide on backups in case the designee isn't home. Fire drills are also a good opportunity to make sure that everyone is able to hear and respond to smoke alarms.

OPEN UP

Make sure that you are able to open all doors and windows in your home. Locks and pins should open easily from inside. Some apartments and high-rise buildings have windows designed not to open. If you have security bars on doors or windows, they should have emergency r lease devices inside so that they can be opened easily. These devices won't compromise your safety, but they will enable you to open the window from inside in the event of a fire. Check to be sure that windows haven't been sealed shut with paint or nailed shut; if they have, arrange for someone to break the seals all around your home or remove the nails.

STAY CONNECTED

Keep a telephone nearby, along with eme gency phone numbers so that you can communicate with emergency personnel if you're trapped in your room by fire or smoke.

"KEEPING IT SHARP" VIRTUAL ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT GROUP IS BACK!

The Springfield Free Public Library is once again pleased to partner with the Alzheimers Association Greater North Jersey Chapter for the return of virtual meetings of "Keeping it Sharp: A Discussion Group for Older Folks and the People Who Love Them" via zoom from 6:30 to 7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 14. Subsequent sessions will be held on the second Wednesday evening of every month. All sessions will be conducted by a trained facilitator from the Alzheimers Association Greater North Jersey Chapter. Participation in this group will offer caregivers the opportunity to build a support system with other people who understand the challenges they are dealing with; it will also serve as a forum for exchanging practical information and learning about community resources.

To register, please contact Library Director Dale Spindel at dspindel@sfplnj.org

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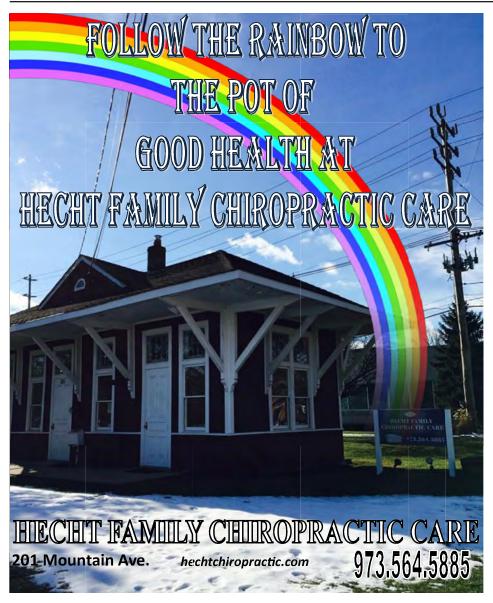


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FEMALE FIREFIGHTER

(additional from front page)



Township Committeewoman Erica Dubois, Township Committeeman Christopher Capodice, Firefighter Stephanie Bagniewski, Mayor Chris Weber, Fire Chief Carlo Palumbo and Stephanie's father Ed Bagniewski (far right).

VETERANS CORNER......By Gerry Gebauer

Some time back I wrote about the VA setting dates to giver the COVID-19 vaccine to veterans. I received a call recently from the VA stating that they had certain time available for me to come in. I already had my two shots, but I told them that I knew of a veteran who needed to get the first shot. I gave them his contact information and within the week he had an appointed time a Lyons Hospital. He is the second veteran from our Post to get his vaccine shot at Lyons. I stated in my last article that if the VA calls be sure to answer the phone and I say it again when the VA calls be sure to pick up the phone. VA services are being done in person again.



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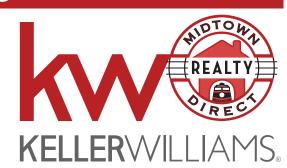




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PATRIOT PROFILES

Organizations and People that make a Difference in Springfield

By John Cottage Sr.

MEET ROBERT BOETTCHER, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Robert Boettcher has been the Superintendent of the Township's Public Works Department since 2015. In that capacity, as a Township Department head, he oversees a staff of twenty one full time and eight part time employees.

However, his involvement with the Township goes back all the way to the early 1970s.

It was in the early 70's that, as a teenager, that he spent his summers at the Springfield Community Pool working in the Maintenance Department. Then in 1978, Robert became a full time employee of the Township as a Laborer in Public Works. In 1987 Robert was promoted to Equip-

ment Operator and in 1995 he became Foreman of Public Works.

Working for Public Works for all these years was not new to the Boettcher family. Robert's dad, Sylvester Boettcher, retired in the late 1990s as the Superintendent of Public Works after an outstanding 41 year career with the Township. Robert truly followed in his dad's footsteps.

In addition to heading up Public Works, since 2015, Robert serves as the Township's recycling Coordinator. He is also very involved in the annual Arbor Day celebration, the Clean Communities initiative and provides invaluable assistance to both the 4th of July Committee and well as the annual Street Fair Committee to help make those Township events the success they have been.

Among the extensive responsibilities of Public Works Department is coordinating garbage collection, snow removal, taking care of the town's parks, a tree replacement program that includes a complete inventory of all township trees and public street renovation. The Department publishes an annual Services Brochure which has a wealth of information for Township residents. Copies can be picked up in any town building, viewed on town web at www. springfieldnj.us/departments/public-works/ or by calling DPW who will assist residents in obtaining one.

In an exclusive interview with the Patriot Times, Robert said "I'm fortunate that my career allows me to serve in the community in which I live, watch Springfield flourish over the years, make people's lives better and know that I have played a small part of that".

SCREAM TRUCKS ARE COMING TO TOWN!





Scott Seidel and Mike Scalera sampling the ice cream.

What's Scream Truck? Well we had to know, so Chamber of Commerce Co-Chairs Scott Seidel and Mike Scalera headed out in search of them. We found them at their new Springfield headquarters at 30 Hillside Ave. It's a new business concept where you sign up at www.screamtruck.com, then they text you when the truck is coming to your Springfield neighborhood. Simply "Reply Y" to their text, place your soft serve ice cream order online and they prepare it right in front of your house later that day. Founded by long-time New Jersey resident Eric Murphy, they also do private parties with fully customized LED TV screens, custom menus and any type of music from their on-board sound system. Check out their website at www.screamtruck.com to book your next special event! Mike and I were treated to a couple samples directly from the truck. Mike of course had the "Mike's the Man" and I tried some vanilla and chocolate twist with chocolate sprinkles. We can report it was delicious. This new business will be doing a grand opening and ribbon cutting this spring so stay tuned—we'll try and leave some ice cream for you!

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

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

REMOTE ASSIST

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

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

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



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SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT



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SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES - MARCH 2021 CALL (973) 912-2227 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wednesday, March 17 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP) Thursday, March 18 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am (RSVP) Friday, March 19 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am, Pickleball @ 11:00 am Monday, March 22 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)

Tuesday, March 23 - Bus trip to Jersey Gardens Outlets @ 10:30 am (RSVP)

Wednesday, March 24 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)

Thursday, March 25 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am (RSVP) Friday, March 26 - Rummikub @ 11:00 am,

Pickleball @ 11:00 am-1:00 pm

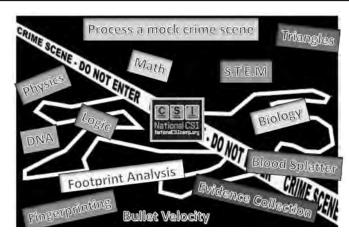
Monday, March 29 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)

Tuesday, March 30 - Exercise class with Liz @ 11:00 am (RSVP) Wednesday, March 31 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm (RSVP)

WEEKDAYS:

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

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



2021 VIRTUAL CLASSES

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

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

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



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

DAVE & TOM ENTERTAIN SENIOR CITIZENS ON ZOOM

Springfield musicians Dave & Tom entertained local senior citizens on Thursday, February 25, 2021, in a private concert on Zoom!

Old favorites like Chuck Berry, The Searchers, The Everly Brothers, Bob Dylan, and the Beatles were paired with original songs soon to be released! For information on future senior citizens programs both at the Chisholm Community Center and on Zoom, contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

US SPORTS

Springfield Recreation 2021

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SOCCER SQUIRTS

CLASSES HELD OUTDOORS AT DENHAM PARK

8 Week Session SATURDAYS APRIL 17 -JUNE 12 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:

Registration Fee \$162

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

BOYS & GIRLS ALL ABILITIES: 2 TO 6 YEARS OLDS

SCHOOL'S OUT SPRING CAMP

CLASSES HELD AT CHISHOLM PARK

MULTI SPORTS CAMP: Ages 5 - 11

MARCH 29 -APRIL 2 9AM - 12PM

Registration Fee \$175

This program gives children the opportunity to play 8 exciting sports in an action packed week. Participants will learn many skills in sports such as Soccer, Lacrosse, Flag Football and much more. A great way to spend spring vacation!

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

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

AGES
5 - 11
ALL
ABILITY
LEVELS

SPORTS SQUIRTS CLASSES

CLASSES HELD OUTDOORS AT DENHAM PARK

5 Week Session SATURDAYS APRIL 18 -JUNE 13

Registration Fee

^{\$}162

T-ball Squirts: (Ages 3-4) 9 am - 9:50 am Parent & Me T-ball: (Ages 2-3) 10:00 am - 10:50 am Multi Sports Squirts: (Ages 3-4) 11:00 am - 11:50 am

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

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

AGES
2 - 4
ALL
ABILITY
LEVELS

LIMITED SPACE

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

USsportsInstitute.com (866) 345 BALL

STREET HOCKEY MEN 18+ SPRING 2021

MONDAYS @ 7:00 - 9:00 PM POOL COMPLEX HOCKEY COURT \$20 PER PLAYER

DETAILS AND ONLINE REGISTRATION AT HTTPS://REGISTER.COMMUNITYPASS.NET/SPRINGFIELD

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



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



SPRING CLASSES

THURSDAYS 4/22 · 6/10

Tennis Squirts: 4:00-4:50 pm (Ages 3 -5) Foundation Tennis: 5:00-5:50 pm (Ages 5 -8) Foundation Tennis: 6:00-6:50 pm (Ages 8 -10) DevelopmentTennis: 7:00-7:50 pm (Ages 11-14)

SUNDAYS 4/18 · 6/13

Foundation Tennis: 9:00-9:50 am (Ages 5 -8) Foundation Tennis: 10:00-10:50 am (Ages 8 -10) Foundation Tennis: 11: 00-11:50 am (Ages 11 -14) Squirts Tennis: 12:00-12:50 pm (Ages 3 -5)

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) 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

AGES 3 - 14 ALL ABILITY LEVELS

Registration Fee \$162

LIMITED SPACE

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

USsportsInstitute.com (866) 345 BALL



Virtual STEM Programs - Spring 2021

Be the Game Designer with Scratch MIT - Level 1 Grades 3-5

Tuesdays, 4:00pm - 5:30 pm 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11 and 5/18

Roblox Game Designer: Build Your Own City Grades 4-7

Wednesdays, 4:00pm - 5:30 pm 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12 and 5/219

Virtual Robotics with VEX Robotics (No Robot Needed) Grades 4-7

Mondays, 4:00pm - 5:30pm 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10 and 5/17

\$195/student

Limited space, 6 students max

Register online at:

https://www.builtbyme.com/springfieldnj

We help children grow into creators.



SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT & LACROSSE CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD



LACROSSE CLINICS PRE K-1ST SPRING '21 Starting in April

SUNDAYS 10:00 - 11:00 am **Chisholm Park**

DETAILS AND ONLINE REGISTRATION AT https://register.community.net/springfield



Police Chief's Column

Chief John P. Cook

PHONY IRS SCAMS CONTINUE TO TARGET RESIDENTS

Despite the many warnings law enforcement agencies, news outlets, and other consumer groups issue, IRS scams continue to occur, and people continue to be victimized by the criminals who orchestrate these crimes. I hope the following information will help all readers of the Springfield Patriot Times identify these schemes, and I ask that you share this information with friends and family members to help prevent them from being victimized as well.

IRS Telephone Scam

Fraudsters, claiming to be agents with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or U.S. Treasury Department, will make random phone calls to people and "inform" them that they owe taxes or some other type of fine. Victims will be threatened with arrest, deportation, or other legal actions unless they immediately pay a specified amount of money. On some occasions, the caller may even say that officers from the Springfield Police Department are on the way to arrest the victim.

If a victim agrees to make the immediate payment for the back taxes and/or fines, the caller will require the payment to be made with pre-paid type of debit card (such as Green Dot Visa, I-Tunes Card, etc.) or by wiring the money directly (Western Union, Money Gram, etc.) With the pre-paid cards, fraudsters can retrieve the funds by merely having the victim read off certain numbers from the rear of the card. Sometimes, fraudsters will even direct victims to the nearest business where the cards or money-wire facilities are available

Fraudsters are beginning to use computerized robo-calls to increase the amount of people targeted. Automated phone recordings purporting to be messages from the IRS, indicating there are problems with your taxes or recently filed tax returns, are becoming more common. The messages contain call-back numbers which will then directly connect the victim with the actual fraudsters. If you listen closely to these calls, you may notice the person speaking has a foreign accent, uses incorrect words or phrases, or has incorrect sentence structure, as many of these scammers operate from overseas.

IRS Email Scam

Fraudsters will send very authentic looking e-mails, purporting to be from the IRS, "notifying" you of a problem with your taxes. These emails may even contain the actual logos for the U.S. Treasury Department or IRS within the e-mail. Victims will be prompted to click on a link to get the "full information" about the problem.

These bogus links will take the victim to websites which contain fraudulent payment

prompts and blank fields to input credit card, bank, and other protected personal information. Fraudsters will use these fake websites to steal your identity information, and possibly infect your computer with viruses or other types of ransom-ware programs.

IRS False Tax Return Scam

Another scam that occurs this time of year involves fraudsters utilizing your identity information to file fraudulent tax returns. The fraudulent returns will contain your true personal information, but will utilize a different address for the refund payment.

Once the IRS processes multiple return documents with the same Social Security

Number used, they will contact you via US Mail, or sometimes by phone.

However, real agents from the IRS will understand if you question the legitimacy of the call, and will instead direct you to initiate contact yourself by visiting their real website at www.IRS.gov. They will not ask for any personal information or account numbers

IMPORTANT TIPS TO REMEMBER.....
• The IRS will not contact you by telephone to request an immediate payment for back taxes, unfiled returns, or any other penalties. The IRS uses the US Mail as the primary method of contact.

• Do not click on links in e-mails purporting to be from the IRS in which you are asked to make some type of immediate payment. Write down the information from the e-mail and initiate contact with the IRS yourself by visiting www.IRS.gov, or by finding the telephone number for your nearest IRS field office.

• The IRS, like any other agency that has the power to seek the issuance of a warrant for your arrest, will never call you in advance to inform you of a warrant AND agree to dismiss a warrant in lieu of some type of monetary payment. If an actual warrant is issued for your arrest, you may be able to post bail, but you will first be arrested. Any telephone caller who suggests you can make a payment as a way to avoid being arrested is a fraud.

If you receive one of these communications and are unsure if it is legitimate, please call the Springfield Police Department before you give out any personal information, agree to transfer money, or make any payment. We can help you determine if the correspondence is real or a fraud, and prevent you from becoming another victim.

TRYCAN

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.

PROUD MEMBER & SUPPORTER OF THE SPRINGFIELD PATRIOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





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