



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: Christopher Capodice

DEPUTY MAYOR: Chris Weber

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Erica DuBois, Richard Huber
Alex Keiser

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

All Emergencies (Police, Fire, Ambulance).....	9-1-1
Police (Nonemergency)	973-376-0400
Fire (Non-emergency).....	973-912-2265
Board of Education.....	973-376-1025
Construction Office	973-912-2220
Court.....	973-912-2213
Emergency Management Department	973-376-1058
Engineering Department	973-912-2219
Finance Department	973-912-2279
Fire Prevention Office	973- 376-1740
Health Department	973-593-3079
Library	973-376-4930
Office of the Mayor	973-912-2285
Public Works Department	973-912-8483/2225
Recreation Department.....	973-912-2227
Recycling information	973-912-2222
Tax Assessor	973-912-2207
Tax Collector	973-912-2204/05
Township Administrator.	973-912-2202
Township Clerk.....	973-912-2201
Vital Statistics/Registrar	973-912-2285
Zoning Office	973-232-4449

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ADVERTISING & PRESS RELEASES

Inquires concerning advertising and submissions of press releases can be made to The Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce via email or fax to:

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springfieldpatriot@spfld.com info@springfieldpatriot.com
Phone 973-912-2300 • Fax 973-376-0425



Message from the Mayor

Greetings!

Welcome to Fall! I am happy to report continual progress in our downtown redevelopment projects. Gomes completed the demolition of houses on Center Street and has installed footings. The goal is to get steel up before the weather turns. The Larkin project continues to move as joists continue to be placed at the upper levels of the construction site.

The Millburn Board of Adjustment voted unanimously to Approve 92 Millburn Avenue's Preliminary and Final Site Plan, previously known as the Saks Property.

This mixed-use project called, The Metropolitan, will consist of 47 townhomes, 223 multi-residential units, and approximately 5, 000 square feet of first floor, street level retail. Also included is a state-of-the-art fitness center with a swimming pool and an onsite parking garage. Residents will enjoy a large 12,000 square-foot green space.

All of you should have received your vote by mail ballot. Feel free to drop your ballot off at the Union County Board of Elections Ballot Drop Box, located behind Chisholm Community Center. It is monitored 24/7 and is emptied by the Union County Election Office daily. For more information, or you have a question, contact the Union County Clerk's Office at ucvote@ucnj.org or 908-527-4996. Please don't forget to vote. Your voice is your vote.

Lastly, Halloween is at the end of the month and we encourage all participants to wear masks, social distance when applicable, and follow all Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Please note, we will not be closing Tooker Avenue this year. Our continued vigilance is critical to ensure we do not have an influx of infected persons. Masks are still a vital part of our daily routine. We must continue to take every precaution we can to ensure that we are all protected.

Stay safe!

Mayor Christopher Capodice, Sr.

BATTLE OF SPRINGFIELD 240TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION NOW AVAILABLE

By Marc Krauss

The Springfield Historical Society has just released their updated booklet version of the Battle of Springfield which was first published in 1955. The original publication was written to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Battle of Springfield and was written by Mario Charles Diedrich, and illustrated by William Nickel, with photographs by Robert Jones. The original publications was reprinted in 1980 to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the battle.

The new updated version is published 65 years after the original, during the 240th Anniversary year of the battle with many new features. Besides correcting a few historical inaccuracies in the original text, many new photographs have been added. Something of interest are the claims submitted by Springfield residents of items pillaged by the British, the importance of the battle and the story of the Continental Soldier statue at the 1st Presbyterian Church on Morris Ave.

Margaret Bandrowski, President of Springfield Historical Society stated, "Updating this publication has been a labor of love. I'm grateful for all those who contributed their assistance in updating this publication."

Anyone who would like a copy can send \$5.00 plus \$2.00 for S&H to: Springfield Historical Society C/O Margaret Bandrowski, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081

All proceeds go to the Springfield Historical Society a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is a 100% volunteer run. Publication of this anniversary edition was made possible in part by a HEART Grant from Union County.

★ ★ HELP AMERICA VOTE ★ ★

Amid COVID-19, America is facing a critical shortage of poll workers. Even as many states expand access to vote-by-mail and absentee voting options, millions of Americans – especially voters with disabilities and those who lack reliable mail service – will continue to rely on in-person voting to cast a ballot.

Most poll workers have traditionally been over the age of 61, making them especially vulnerable to complications if they contract COVID-19. This has resulted in a critical need for poll workers who are willing and able to assist with the administration of in-person voting on and before Election Day.

Poll workers are critical to the success of an election. Having an adequate number of poll workers to staff polling places on and before Election Day can ensure voters receive the assistance they need at the polls and can help provide a positive and smooth voting experience for all. By signing up to be a poll worker, you can Help America Vote.

Contact Information

Phone: (908) 527-4120
Email: pollworker@ucnj.org
Office Address: 271 N. Broad St.,
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

Voter Registration Requirements

You must be registered to vote in Union County to work on Election Day

Hours and Compensation

Start Time: 5:15 AM • End Time: 8:30 PM
Compensation: \$150.00 to \$200.00
You must work the full day.

Work Requirements

Minimum Age: 16-year-old students who are U.S. citizens and state residents
You must attend a training session.
Training Details: In person training is recommended and is held in the month prior to elections. Poll workers must complete training every two years.

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Regular Meetings

Tuesdays, October 27, November 10 and 24 at 7 pm
The following meetings may not be held in October
Check the Township's website springfield-nj.us

PLANNING BOARD

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

BOARD OF HEALTH

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm at the Firehouse

RENT LEVELING BOARD

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

RECREATION COUNCIL

Contact Recreation Department For Next Meeting Date and Time

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm at the Library

Springfield

Business Improvement District

What's Happening

Business Spotlights



www.springfieldbid.com

Search "Springfield BID NJ" on facebook

FOOD CRAWL

Monday's-Thursday's, Nov 9-19, 2020

EAT, COLLECT STAMPS & WIN PRIZES!



Your Passport to Springfield

GRAND PRIZE

(2) \$250

VISA GIFT CARDS (2 WINNERS)

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973-379-3803 / www.springfieldorthodontics.net

For a details, go to

www.facebook.com/SpringfieldNewJersey

Featured businesses for this month

HALO ROASTERS

228 Mountain Ave – 973-218-6633

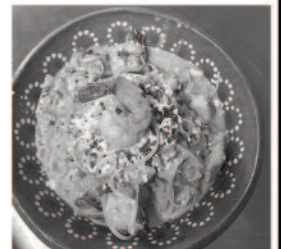
Halo offers the finest artisan coffees, teas, pastries, whole and vegetarian foods. Their knowledgeable Baristas aspire to create a reputation for quality and consistency of product and service. Sit back, relax, sip...and enjoy!



TIERRA DEL SOL

242 Morris Ave – 973-218-6349

The Springfield food scene just got a whole lot more interesting with Tierra Del Sol's authentic Mexican dishes. They open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and feature taco's, nachos, burritos, tostadas, fajitas and so much more.



MAGICAL SCISSORS

221 Morris Ave – 973-467-1541

Magical Scissors is a full-service beauty salon dedicated to providing high customer satisfaction by rendering excellent service. Their cut and color specialists are ready to make you look your best for a special occasion or just because you're looking to feel special.



UPHOLSTERY UNLIMITED INNOVATION

236 Morris Avenue – 908-342-6183

Creativity, selection and craftsmanship prevail at Upholstery Unlimited Innovation. From chairs and sofas to cushions and throw pillows to window treatments, wood refinishing and custom woodwork...and everything in between, their design consultants and craftspeople will make any project a beautiful success. Their fair pricing and on-time delivery are icing on your home decorating cake! <http://upholsteryun.startlogic.com>



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TWO CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH ROBBERY AT AUTO DEALERSHIP

Essex County resident Kareem O. Spann and Middlesex County resident Christopher B. Phillips have been arrested and charged in connection with a coordinated robbery of \$20,000 in cash that took place at a Springfield car dealership earlier this year, acting Union County Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo and Springfield Police Chief John Cook jointly announced Tuesday.

Spann, 42, of Orange, and Phillips, 33, of Dunellen, are both charged with second-degree robbery and second-degree conspiracy to commit robbery.

At approximately 2:10 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2020, members of the Springfield Police Department responded to the 21st Century Auto Group on U.S. Route 22 East in Springfield on a report of a robbery that had just taken place, according to Union County Assistant Prosecutor Peter DeRose, Supervisor of the Prosecutor's Office's Major Crimes Division.

An investigation spearheaded by Springfield Police Department Detective John Patrick and assisted by members of the Major Crimes Division's Intelligence-Driven Prosecution Unit revealed that on the day of the robbery, Phillips, a salesperson at the car dealership, had been speaking with two prospective customers who were in possession of \$20,000 in cash. A masked man later identified as Spann then approached those customers in the rear of the dealership, wrestled the bag containing the cash away from them, and sped away in a white Cadillac sedan.

Following the execution of a search warrant and a communications data warrant for the cell phones of both Phillips and Spann, the investigation revealed that the two men had been in constant contact during the time immediately before and after the robbery took place. Location data from Spann's phone also showed the device in the area of the robbery at the time of the robbery, then leaving and returning to his municipality of residence.

Phillips was arrested in Green Brook and Spann was arrested in Orange without incident on Thursday, October 1, and both were lodged in the Union County Jail pending a first appearance and detention hearing scheduled to take place in Superior Court. The Cadillac believed to be used during the robbery was also recovered on Wallace Street in Orange, and following the execution of a search warrant, it was towed from the scene to be searched.

Convictions on second-degree criminal charges are commonly punishable by 5 to 10 years in state prison. These criminal charges are mere accusations. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.



Fire Chief's Column

Chief Carlo Palumbo

PREVENT HOME FIRES

Home fires are preventable! The following are simple steps that each of us can take to prevent a tragedy.

COOKING

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of 3 feet around the stove.
- Position barbecue grills at least 10 feet away from siding and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

SMOKING

- Smoke outside and completely stub out butts in an ashtray or a can filled with sand.
- Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used, even if it is turned off. Oxygen can be explosive and makes fire burn hotter and faster.
- Be alert - don't smoke in bed! If you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, put your cigarette out first.

ELECTRICAL AND APPLIANCE SAFETY

- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

- Keep combustible objects at least three feet away from portable heating devices.
- Buy only heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Check to make the portable heater has a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over.
- Only use crystal clear K-1 kerosene in kerosene heaters. Never overfill it. Use the heater in a well-ventilated room.

FIREPLACES AND WOODSTOVES

- Inspect and clean woodstove pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions.
- Use a fireplace screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed.

CHILDREN

- Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children unattended near operating stoves or burning candles, even for a short time.

MORE PREVENTION TIPS

- Never use stove range or oven to heat your home.
- Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from heat sources.
- Portable generators should NEVER be used indoors and should only be refueled outdoors or in well ventilated areas.

CHECKOUT LIMITS AND MUSEUM PASSES

Beginning Tuesday, October 6, patrons were allowed to have 15 simultaneous checkouts on their accounts, with 2 picture books continuing to be the equivalent on one item.

Museum pass reminders:

The opening of the Newark Museum has been postponed until sometime in early November.

The library will continue to charge a fine of \$10 per day for museum passes that are returned late even though other library fines are being waived at the present time.

The library will continue to charge a replacement fee for lost museum passes. It is the patron's responsibility and not the responsibility of library staff members to contact the museums to find out information regarding museum hours, restrictions due to COVID-19, etc.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, museum passes must be returned to one of the library's outdoor book drops at the present time.



SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC WORKS

Robert Boettcher, Director of Public Works

MULCH DELIVERY AND PICKUP

The Springfield Department of Public Works has long provided free mulch (shredded wood, double hammer-milled, medium textured, hardwood) for Springfield residents to pick-up at the municipal pool parking lot for their gardens. We are pleased to announce the launch of a new mulch delivery service in response to requests by residents. Residential delivery of mulch is available. Residents can order up to 5 cubic yards for a \$50 delivery charge to homes located in Springfield that have a driveway on which to dump the material. Orders can only be taken online and payment is only accepted by credit card. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee any specific delivery time but delivery will occur within 48 hours of an order being placed, and only between the hours of 7:30 am and 3 pm. Monday through Friday. Mulch will be dumped at the furthest end of the driveway (closest to the home and away from the street). Mulch will not be dumped on lawns so as to avoid damaging your lawn from the truck driving on it.

Commercial Pickup is also now available, while supplies last. Commercial purchase is only available by contractor pickup at 44 Morrison Rd. Public works will not deliver commercially. Mulch pickup is \$15 per yard. Orders can only be taken online and payment is only accepted by credit card. All trucks will be loaded by a loader and by a Public Works Equipment Operator. Contractors will be called by DPW staff to arrange pickup times.

If you would like to cancel your order, you must do so by speaking directly with a representative of the DPW at 973-912-8483. Cancellations will not be accepted after-hours, by email, or by voice message. This service is only available while mulch supplies last.

LEAF COLLECTION NOVEMBER 2ND - DECEMBER 31ST, 2020

Residents on Township roads may start placing leaves in the street on October 19th. Loose or in bags, NO plastic bags will be picked up.

Make sure your landscaper knows that only grass and leaves will be collected curbside. No branches.

Make sure no branches or sticks are placed at the curb they will not be picked up.

Branches can now be brought to the Recycling Convenience Center at the pool. Leaves, grass, and branches are allowed to be placed in the proper marked bins. 44 Morrison Road

Make sure not to place leaves closer than 10 feet from any storm drains or catch basin (NJDEP Stormwater Regulation)

Residents residing on Union County roads can find their leaf schedule at <http://ucnj.org/engineering-public-works-facilities-management/leaf-removal-schedule/or> Call 908-789-3660

SPRINGFIELD HELPING SENIORS

**WORRIED ABOUT BEING EXPOSED TO COVID-19?
DO YOU NEED HELP MINIMIZING YOUR EXPOSURE?**
A group of neighbors has volunteered to do limited emergency grocery shopping and pick-up prescriptions for Springfield's elderly residents.

**TO REQUEST HELP
Call (973) 912-2227**

Or email recreation@springfield-nj.us

Please allow 48 hours for requests to be met.

Payment will be received by two methods only:
credit card on file at the store or a check to the volunteer after presentation of receipt for purchase

**NO CASH PAYMENT
NO EXCHANGE OF FUNDS WITHOUT A RECEIPT**

Volunteers are instructed to follow safety protocols.

Participants accept this help at their own risk.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:

please email helpspfseniors@gmail.com



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Scott Seidel,

Emergency Management Coordinator
oemcoordinator@springfield-nj.us

AMATEUR "HAM" RADIO FOR EMERGENCY MANAGERS

Thursday, October 22, 2020 from 3 PM – 4 PM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar on how an amateur radio can be a useful tool before, during and after disasters.

Amateur or "HAM" radio has proven to be indispensable in the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Katrina, Michael and Maria. Historically, amateur radio has been a valuable resource in the Response and Recovery phases of many disasters, providing expedient communications when standard public safety and commercial telecommunications infrastructure has been severely impacted or completely overwhelmed. This webinar will provide guidance to Emergency Managers on establishing a viable, NIMS compliant, AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communications) program as part of your Emergency Operation Plan. Learn how to add the ready resource of amateur radio as a component to your ESF-2.

Who should attend? Whole community with a particular emphasis on Local, State, and Federal Emergency Managers, CERT Program Leaders, Health Departments, and NGO's.

Link to register: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/amateurradio/event/registration.html>

YOU ARE THE HELP UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2020 from 12 PM – 1:30 PM ET

Thursday November 5, 2020 from 5 PM – 6:30 PM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar on how you can be the help until help arrives.

Life-threatening emergencies can happen fast and emergency responders aren't always nearby. You may be able to save a life by taking simple actions immediately. The Until Help Arrives program teaches basic skills to help keep people alive and safe until professional help arrives. Learn five simple steps that may save a life.

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

Link to register (10/29): <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/uhaoct/event/registration.html>

Link to register (11/5): <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/uhanov/event/registration.html>

COVID-19 MASK CONSIDERATIONS

Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 from 2:30pm – 4:00 PM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar on face mask guidance and specific considerations for people with disabilities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing a face mask as an important way to slow the spread of COVID-19. There are many masks to choose from and Duke University has recently developed a low-cost technique for the measurement of face mask efficacy for filtering droplets emitted during speech. This webinar will describe the set-up of this technique, preliminary results from a range of commonly available face mask types, and the potential of this technology as a demonstration and testing method for the community. This webinar will discuss when to wear a face mask, reasons why a person with a disability might not be able to wear a face mask, and the legal rights a person has under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Nothing in the webinar is intended to be implied as legal advice, but rather just general guidance.

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

Link to register: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/maskguidancecovid19/event/registration.html>



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

PATRIOT PROFILES

Organizations and People that make a Difference in Springfield

By John Cottage Sr.

MEET POLICE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN JON RACHEL



Springfield Police Department Captain Jon Rachel is a 16 year veteran of the Department who has had a diverse career in law enforcement.

After graduating from Rutgers University, Rachel attended Alternate Route Police Training at the John Stamler Academy in the summer of 2003 and graduated that December. In January 2004, he was appointed to the Springfield Police Department as a Patrolman where he spent his first 3 years. In December of 2006 he became the Department's Traffic Officer in the Special Services unit and an investigative officer in the Detective Bureau. While in that role, he led the effort for the Department to receive State Accreditation – the first time in the Department's history. The accreditation was successfully renewed in 2014 and 2017. He also had oversight responsibilities for the school crossing guards, all of the Department's

technical infrastructure and conducted numerous traffic studies for the Township.

In November of 2014, Rachel returned to the patrol division when he was promoted to Sergeant. After eight months back in patrol, he returned to the Special Services unit as Sergeant and became the supervisor of a number of units including the Police Records Bureau and Special Officers as well as a firearms and radar instructor.

In December of 2017 Rachel was promoted to Lieutenant in the Detective Bureau and had oversight responsibilities for both the Detective Bureau as well as the Special Services Unit. He also served as the Department's Public Information Officer. In April of 2019, he was promoted to his current position of Captain.

In these various roles, he was very instrumental over the years in leading Police Department activities during hurricanes Irene and Sandy, the 2016 PGA Golf Tournament at Baltusrol as well as local emergencies including major traffic accidents, fires and homicides. He helped establish the first National Night Out program which is now held every August at Meisel Ave Park.

He has received numerous awards including The Township Administrator Recognition Award in 2011 and the Police Department Director's Award also in 2011.

Rachel and his wife Anicel are proud parents of 10 year old twins.

In an exclusive interview with the Patriot Times, Captain Rachel said "It's been an honor and a privilege to have served our community over these years, and to have been part of such a great organization. I look forward to continuing working in partnership with our community; and along with all of our excellent police officers and public safety volunteers, to do our part in keeping Springfield a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community."



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VETERANS CORNER.....By Gerry Gebauer

For all veterans there is an important vote coming in this November's election and that is Proposition #2 on the ballot. It is the question to amend the New Jersey Constitution to extend the \$250 property tax deduction to all veterans. Up to now New Jersey only allowed the deduction for Veterans who served during war time. A yes vote would extend that credit to all veterans. If you believe a veteran, is a veteran, no matter when he or she served then I urge you to vote yes. The American Legion and other veteran organizations are in favor of this proposal. The yes vote would also extend the 100% property deduction to certain disabled veterans who did not serve in times of war. On another topic your veteran organizations are starting to open their posts to limited use. Meetings can be held again, and the bars are open, but in limited capacity. Springfield Post 228 American Legion has started to hold meetings. Our meeting room is big enough so we can be ten feet apart. You can speak to a Legion Member on Veterans Day November 11 at 11:00 am at Veterans Park. Come join our organization. Come join us in remembrance of Veterans Day a Springfield Veterans Park.

SPRINGFIELD UNITY PROJECT EVENT



DJ, Joey Villacis of Xclusive Entertainment

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JOSHUA SMILOW, D.M.D.
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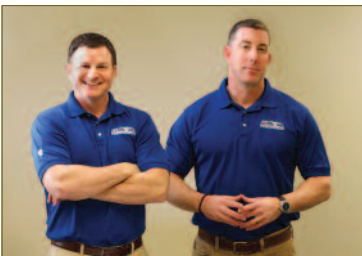
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KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS
MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES



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NJDCA 13VH07755300



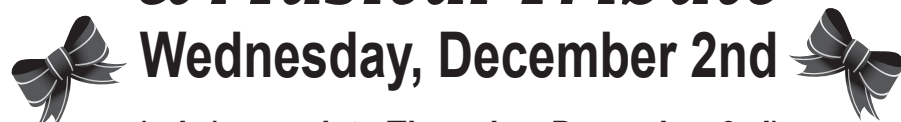
SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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

Township of Springfield Recreation Department



2020 Tree Lighting & Musical Tribute



(rain/snow date Thursday, December 3rd)

Town Hall Lawn, Time To Be Announced

SENIOR CITIZEN BUS SERVICE RESUMES

After a six-month closure, senior citizen bus service within Springfield resumed as of Wednesday, October 14, 2020, with changes designed to reduce the risk, exposure, and spread of COVID-19. Administered by the Springfield Recreation Department, the complimentary bus service is available to Springfield residents ages 55+ on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, for rides within the township from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. In consultation with the Bloomfield Health Department, which is contracted to provide services to Springfield, several COVID-19 modifications were implemented, such as: new plexiglass driver shield, face mask requirement, driver and rider temperature checks, daily sanitization of the bus, reduced passenger capacity, physical seat distancing, and availability of hand sanitizer. The senior citizen bus is equipped with a wheelchair lift. Other riders should be able to board and depart the bus via the entry stairs, either independently or with an aide. The driver cannot carry packages. Senior citizens are encouraged to use the bus service for trips to grocery stores and pharmacies, doctors and physical therapists, banks, the Chisholm Community Center, Town Hall, Library, Post Office, and other local destinations. The bus service is not available on weekends, Tuesdays, Thursdays, or municipal holidays, or due to extreme weather conditions or maintenance issues. To make a reservation at least one day prior to your ride, contact Ricci Rajoppi, Recreation Program Coordinator, or any member of the Recreation Department staff, at (973) 912-2227, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 am-4:00 pm. You may also leave a voicemail during non-business hours.

RECREATION RUNNING CLUB OPENS FALL SEASON



The Running Club, sponsored by the Springfield Recreation Department and coached by Mike Czech (pictured, left), began session 1 on Monday, September 14, 2020, at Meisel Avenue Park, with a record of close to 60 runners. The co-ed program -- offered to children in Kindergarten through 8th grades -- meets outdoors weekly and focuses on proper stretching techniques, cardiovascular health, and endurance exercises. State-mandated COVID-19 procedures are followed. For more information on the upcoming session 2, contact Daniel Hesse, Recreation Program Coordinator, at daniel.hesse@springfield-nj.us, or register online at <https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>.

SPIRITED START FOR RECREATION FLAG CHEERLEADING



Over 40 energetic and spirited flag cheerleaders in grades K-2 opened the fall season in early-September. The cheerleaders learn cheers on Thursday afternoons at Chisholm Park and then perform during the flag football games on Monday nights at the Pool Field. Coached by Luciana Mullman, Wendy Garrod, and Kristen Gersh, the Springfield Recreation Department's popular program purchased custom shirts, masks, and bows to outfit the participants. State-mandated COVID-19 procedures are followed. For more information on flag cheerleading and other youth sports, contact Daniel Hesse, Recreation Program Coordinator, at daniel.hesse@springfield-nj.us.



RECREATION TO HOST COACH CLINIC

New youth sports coaches are invited to attend a S.A.F.E.T.Y. Coach Clinic, sponsored by the Youth Sports Research Council (YSRC) at Rutgers University -- a requirement for volunteering in Springfield's youth sports programs. The clinic will be held on Monday, December 7, 2020, from 6:00-9:00 pm, and costs \$35 per person.

It will be held either at the Chisholm Community Center or virtually, so attendees should at least be prepared to log in from an off-site computer. The clinic provides partial civil immunity to volunteer coaches under the state's Little League Law, and covers topics such as minimizing risk to young athletes, fundamental coaching concepts, legal and psychological aspects of coaching, conditioning techniques, and a first aid overview. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Brendan O'Reilly, Assistant Director of Recreation, at brendan.oreilly@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS RETURN TO CHISHOLM



Springfield Recreation Department staff began to welcome back senior citizens for limited and modified programs at the Chisholm Community Center the week of October 5, including Shape UP!, taught by longtime instructor Betsy Rauch.

The weekly class, free to Springfield residents ages 55+, has shifted to an outdoor location at Chisholm Park to better accommodate physical distancing and air circulation during the group exercise classes under state-mandated COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. Senior citizens have also begun to gather inside Chisholm for card games, pickleball, and the fitness room, among other programs, under strict capacity limits and online registration procedures. For more information, please contact Ricci Rajoppi, Recreation Program Coordinator, at ricci.rajoppi@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

SPRINGFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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



REGISTER FOR HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR COSTUME CONTEST AND MAGIC SHOW

Springfield Recreation Department's Halloween Spooktacular will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 1:00-2:30 pm, outside at Chisholm Park (100 South Springfield Avenue). Rain date is Sunday, October 25, 2020. Children are invited to dress up and show off their scariest and most original costumes at the annual Costume Contest and stay for the spooky and fun Halloween Magic Show by Brian Richards. A new photo ring roamer will be on hand to photograph everyone and will send pictures to your email or text for posting on social media or sharing with your families. Plus, plenty of free Red Ribbon Week goodies will be given away. Physical distancing, required face masks, and outdoor gathering limits will be enforced. Pre-register for the Costume Contest at <https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>. Questions? Contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227.

SPRINGFIELD  **RECREATION**

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR



Saturday, October 24, 2020
Rain Date: Sunday, October 25, 2020
Chisholm Park @ 1:00-2:30 pm

Costume Contest | Photo Ring Roamer
 Red Ribbon Week Giveaways
 Halloween Magic Show by Brian Richards

CO-SPONSORS:





Free! Pre-register children at:
<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>.

RUNNING CLUB

FALL 2020 • Grades K-8th

Our co-ed Running Club with Coach Mike Czech helps improve your child's speed and agility!

Physical fitness training is an important life lesson for all children and young athletes. In the Running Club, children learn to run faster over short distances. Agility drills and injury prevention techniques will also be covered, as well as an introduction to endurance running. The Running Club is open to Springfield residents and children in a school in Springfield.

A minimum number of children is required. In the event of inclement weather, every effort will be made to reschedule outdoor classes. Join us!



SESSION 2

Mondays from
November 9th-December 14th, at
Meisel Avenue Park
Grades K-2nd @ 4:30-5:00 pm
Grades 3rd-8th @ 5:00-6:00 pm

Fee: \$85 per session (payable to Township of Springfield)

Includes: Professional coaching instruction, keepsake apparel item, hand sanitizer

Does Not Include: Personal protective equipment (e.g. masks), sneakers

Refunds: No refunds within two weeks of each session start. Prior to that, refunds are subject to \$15 administrative fee, per Ordinance. In the event of a session interruption or cancellation, every effort will be made to return uncommitted funds.

Online Registration Only: Pay with a Visa, Mastercard, or Discover (\$0 processing fee) at <https://register.communitypass.net/springfield>

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

Questions?: Contact Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-2227. • Like us on Facebook @springfieldnjrec

SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

CALL (973) 912-2227 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Monday, October 19 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm
 Tuesday, October 20 - Cards @ 11:30 am
 Wednesday, October 21 - Pickleball @ 10:00 am-12:00 pm
 (registered participants only)
 Thursday, October 22 - Exercise class @ 11:00 am
 (registered participants only), Flu clinic @ 3:00-6:00 pm (appointments only)
 Friday, October 23 - Cards @ 1:00 pm
 Monday, October 26 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm
 Tuesday, October 27 - Cards @ 11:30 am
 Wednesday, October 28 - Pickleball @ 10:00 am-12:00 pm
 (registered participants only)
 Thursday, October 29 - Exercise class @ 11:00 am
 (registered participants only)
 Friday, October 30 - Cards @ 1:00 pm
 Monday, November 2 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm
 Wednesday, November 4 - Cards @ 11:30 am, Blood Drive @ 2:00 pm-8:00 pm
 Thursday, November 5 - Exercise class @ 11:00 am
 (registered participants only)
 Friday, November 6 - Cards @ 1:00 pm
 Monday, November 9 - Bingo @ 12:30 pm
 Tuesday, November 10 - Cards @ 11:30 am, Pickleball @ 10:00 am-12:00 pm
 (registered participants only)
 Thursday, November 12 - Exercise class @ 11:00 am
 (registered participants only)
 Friday, November 13 - Cards @ 1:00 pm

WEEKDAYS:

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

"LOVE, SIMON"

(continued from front page)



Adam Lieb, Director of Recreation

After a welcome by Adam Lieb, Director of Recreation, students from Springfield's Front & Center for Performing Arts performed Steven Schwartz's "Beautiful City," led by co-owners Renee Celeste and Julie Lira. The crowd then heard remarks from Deputy Mayor Chris Weber and Township Committeewoman Erica DuBois. To close the program, Brendan O'Reilly, Assistant Director of Recreation, introduced Union County Freeholder Rebecca Williams, who addressed the audience and promoted Queer Power Hours -- a series of Wednesday evening conversations with local LGBTQ advocates, community leaders, and allies, that is sponsored by the Union County Office of LGBTQ Affairs.

Township Clerk Linda Donnelly was in attendance, as was local resident and New York Life agent Elvira Chaush who distributed literature on her agency's insurance options specially designed for the LGBT community. Throughout the event, state crowd capacity limits and physical distancing were enforced. Masks were required and hand sanitizer was available on the field, bathroom usage was provided inside the Chisholm Community Center.

"Love, Simon" was directed by Greg Berlanti based on Rebecca Albertalli's book. The movie stars Nick Robinson, Jessica Garner, and Josh Duhamel, and has become a favorite of the GLBTQ community for its sensitive, humorous, and sharp portrayal of coming out, blackmail, and high school friendships. A sequel television series, "Love, Victor" debuted on Hulu in July.

Event assistance was provided by the Township Committee, Offices of Administration and Clerk, Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, Auxiliary Police, and First Aid Squad. Questions? Contact the Springfield Recreation Department at recreation@springfield-nj.us or (973) 912-222. Find them on the web at www.springfield-nj.us/recreation and www.facebook.com/springfieldnjrec.



Chris Weber, Deputy Mayor



Erica DuBois, Township Committeewoman



Rebecca Williams, Union County Freeholder



Brendan O'Reilly, Assistant Director of Recreation



Elvira Chaush of New York Life Insurance Company



Police Chief's Column

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 must 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 must not participate in any way and should avoid contact with others. It may seem like a 'bummer' to miss out on Halloween, but it is much more important to maintain public health and prevent the spread of the virus than to go trick-or-treating. Halloween will come around again next year, and hopefully, this health crisis will be well behind us by then.

That being said, this year, the trick-or-treating experience is going to be a bit different due to the ongoing 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 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.

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

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

SPRINGFIELD LIBRARY OFFERS VIRTUAL FOREIGN FILM SERIES W/LECTURES AND DISCUSSION

The Springfield Free Public Library has found a way to continue its annual foreign film series, even as the COVID-19 pandemic keeps us from meeting in person inside the library. In a slight departure from its usual format, the library has scheduled virtual lectures by Gerard Amsellem, an artist, educator and filmmaker who has made the study of international films his passion. Scheduled for 7:00 pm one Thursday evening a month from September through December, the series will cover the following topics:

November 12 – German Cinema, with a specific focus on the 2005 film *Sophie Scholl*

December 10 – New Zealand Cinema, with a specific focus on the 2002 film *Whale Rider*

Although the library will not be able to provide in-house screenings of these movies due to the current pandemic, Springfield Library patrons have free access to all four of these films through the library's participation in Hoopla. People interested in viewing these films are encouraged to watch them in advance of each of the scheduled programs and there are no limits on the number of library patrons who are able to view the film through the library's Hoopla account at any one time. For library patrons who already have a library card but are not yet registered with Hoopla, registration can be accomplished within about thirty seconds by going to <https://www.hoopladigital.com/> and then clicking on the link to get started. If you are not already registered as a patron at the Springfield Free Public Library, you must first go to www.springfieldpublic-library.com where you will see a link on the picture stream that will get you started with a temporary library card.

These films are accessible through Hoopla to residents of other communities that belong to the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium (LMxAC). In addition to Springfield, other libraries in Union County that are members of LMxAC include Elizabeth, Kenilworth, Plainfield, Roselle and Roselle Park. Residents of other communities may check with their libraries to see if these films are available for viewing through digital or streaming services or in DVD format.

The zoom link for the September 24 program is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89515113472?pwd=STJqNDIKZH03YkxwM2RnRlliUjFrUT09>

The links for the subsequent programs in the series will be publicized during the week before each session.

Each of the four sessions that Mr. Amsellem will present will cover the history of cinema in the country being spotlighted, followed by a discussion of the film itself, including the background of the director. This will be followed by a question and answer session with those in attendance.

Raised in France, Gerard Amsellem moved to the United States in 1982 after having studied painting at the University of Paris and after having earned Master's Degrees in both French Literature and Art History. He then studied film at the Tisch School at New York University. He is passionate about getting people to understand film as an art form and teaching them how to "read" a film. His non-profit organization, New Wave

Productions (www.NewWaveProductions.org), focuses on art history and film.

This program is made possible by funding from the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Funding is also provided by a generous donation from the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library.

For more information, please contact Library Director Dale Spindel at dspindel@sfplnj.org.

LMxAC CONTINUES THE AUTHORS AT HOME VIRTUAL PROGRAM SERIES

LMxAC continues the Authors At Home Virtual Program Series developed by its member libraries. As we offer limited services during and after quarantine, member libraries are combining their resources for these virtual programs that will be available to all and will also contribute to the varied online content that libraries are creating.

On Tuesday, October 13, at 7:30 p.m., New Jersey author Alex Bernstein will present a discussion of his writing process. Q & A session to follow. An eBook version of *Miserable Love Stories* is available on hoopla digital.

Alex Bernstein is the award-winning author of *Miserable Adventure Stories*, *Miserable Holiday Stories*, and *Plrknb*. His work has appeared at McSweeney's, NewPopLit, The Big Jewel, The American Bystander, Yankee Pot Roast, Swink, Litro, Back Hair Advocate, Corvus, BlueprintReview, Hobo Pancakes, Gi60, The Rumpus, The Legendary, MonkeyBicycle, and PopImage, among numerous others. Registration for this free event is required. A link to the registration form, as well as information about this series, can be found on the ExploreLMxAC website: <https://explorelmxac.org/authors-at-home>

The consortium currently consists of libraries in Carteret, Dunellen, East Brunswick, Edison, Elizabeth, Jamesburg, Kenilworth, Keyport, Long Branch, Matawan Aberdeen, Metuchen, Middlesex, Middlesex County College, Milltown, Monroe, New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Old Bridge, Perth Amboy, Piscataway, Plainfield, Plainsboro, Red Bank, Roselle, Roselle Park, Sayreville, South Amboy, South Brunswick, South Plainfield, South River, Spotswood, and Springfield. Working together and sharing both technology and collections, LMxAC is a prime example of shared services among many municipalities that is benefiting residents throughout those central New Jersey communities.

SPRINGFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY RESTARTS MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

The library is once again making its passes to the Storm King Outdoor Sculpture Garden, Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, and the Morris Museum available for loan. Passes may be borrowed by Springfield residents only ages 18 and over only. - It is the responsibility of library patrons interested in borrowing these passes to check with the respective institutions regarding hours of operation and any other policy changes that are in effect due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is anticipated that the Newark Museum will reopen in mid-November; the library's pass to the Newark Museum will become available to borrow once their reopening has been confirmed. It is anticipated that the Frick Collection will not reopen to the public before the end of the year.

The passes will be checked out to patrons through the normal curbside pickup procedure for a one week period. Because of the pandemic, the museum passes must be returned only to one of the library's outdoor book and AV drops. Although the library is not currently charging late fines on items checked out after July 1, the \$10 per day late fee for museum passes will remain in effect as

will the replacement charges for any passes that are lost or otherwise not returned.

Please note that Grounds for Sculpture discontinued its library pass program in 2019 and that we no longer have these passes available to loan to our patrons.

The library's museum pass program is made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library.

Questions about the museum pass program can be sent to Library Director Dale Spindel at dspindel@sfplnj.org.

"KEEPING IT SHARP" VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMERS

The Springfield Free Public Library continues to partner with the Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey chapter, to present "Keeping it Sharp!" from 6:30 to 7:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month.

Coping with dementia during the COVID-19 pandemic presents its own unique challenges, and the Alzheimer's Association is here to help. Join us from the comfort of your home by phone or computer. For login details, please contact Library Director Dale Spindel at dspindel@sfplnj.org.

Participation in this program is free and open to all members of the general public.



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FREE RABIES CLINIC

The Township of Springfield will be offering their annual free rabies clinic on Saturday, December 12, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Chisholm Community Center (100 South Springfield Avenue). Residents may also register their new or existing pets (must provide proof of rabies, spay and/or neuter) for the year 2021 at the clinic. Registration fees are \$10 for spayed/neutered (must show proof) and \$15 for non spayed/neutered. We accept cash (exact change) or check (made payable to 'Township of Springfield') only. Any cats or dogs registered after January 31, 2021 will result in a late fee (an additional \$1 will be added for each month thereafter). For more information please contact the Registrar, Kristin Ragland at 973-912-2285. All dogs must be on a leash and cats in a kennel.

NO MASK, NO ENTRY. PLEASE FOLLOW
SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES.

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