



'Turfy' Brook Park Opens Three New Baseball Fields

By Cheryl Conway

One, two, three strikes they are out.... regarding three of the four grass fields that were just replaced by turf up at Turkey Brook Park in Budd Lake.

It is a home hitting year for the Mt. Olive Baseball & Softball Association which is not only ringing in its 50th anniversary but is celebrating three brand new pitches just completed on Wednesday, April 24, right before the opening day for the 2019 season. The official kick off with a parade and ceremony was held Monday, April 29, unveiling the turf fields to the community.

Wet, sippy fields causing cancellation of games are the thing in the past for baseball and softball in Mt. Olive now that three new turf fields are open, leaving players, coaches, parents and town leaders cheering from all sides.

"This is a huge deal for us," says Michael Mancini, *president of MOBSA*. This is "one of the greatest years to unveil these turf fields to our association and recreation. It's a tremendous honor to be part of it. This is one the greatest things we will see."

Now the teams have the opportunity to play games without any weather issues, adds Mancini.

"That park is the pride of this township," says Mancini, who helped with the design of the new fields. "I'm very proud of the project; I'm very proud of the outcome."

Mancini says the baseball association had been trying for the past four years to get the fields restored or replaced.

"We were losing too many games with wet weather," he says, and it "was overwhelming to get the fields ready."

Mt. Olive Twp. Mayor Rob Greenbaum says "the turf resolves the drainage issues. Baseball was losing a significant portion of their season as the fields often were unplayable. The fields were originally built on a rock ledge which didn't drain properly. After trying to fix the drainage which failed, we realized we needed to go in a different route."

Drainage was installed several years ago by Matt Calahan, he says.

Andrew A. Tatarenko, Mt. Olive Twp. business administrator, explains, "Over the past several years, due to the surface that the fields were constructed on, we had issues with flooding and the fields not draining properly. We've installed drainage in the past but were never able to fully correct the problem.

The flooding caused the MOBSA to often re-schedule and cancel playing time do the wet conditions.

"The new turf infields will help alleviate that problem making the fields more accessible to play," says Tatarenko. "All three fields were also re-designed to accommodate both softball and baseball, again increasing playability."

With MOBSA being a program run through recreation, the township split 50/50 the cost to replace the fields. Cost of the turf installation project was \$575K.

"The township is funding the project through the capital budget and taxes have not been impacted," says Tatarenko.

"We were under a very tight timeline to construct the new fields as we wanted them ready for the 2019 season," adds Tatarenko. "The project was approved in December 2018 and our staff working incredibly hard along with Mike Mancini to see the project through. Our finance department, public works and engineering team should all be commended, along with the mayor and council for giving us the resources to accomplish this project in under five months." Work on the fields began on March 15, says Mancini and was completed just in time for opening day at the ballpark.

Throughout Mt. Olive there are at least five other baseball and softball fields not including the school fields, says Mancini. These other fields are all grass fields and are located at Flanders Park, Dan Jordan Field in Flanders and the Arc Morris School, Flanders.

To help pay for the new turf fields, Mancini says MOBSA plans to continue its annual fundraiser, Charity Mania. Tied with the major league baseball season, each family is required to purchase four \$20 tickets to participate. Optional in past years, "this year it was mandatory," says Mancini. "This helped us raise the funds" to cover the annual cost to pay for the new fields.

Unveiling New Turf Fields

Originally set to be held Friday, April 26, opening day was moved to Monday, April 28, because of the inclement weather, says Mancini.

That evening, more than 400 players, 100 coaches and more than 800 family members came out for the parade and festivities.

The parade around the Turkey Brook Park loop was led by the Budd Lake and Flanders fire departments, Mt. Olive Twp. Police Department, and the ambulance services of Mt. Olive Twp., describes Mancini, and included members of the township council, business administrator, the mayor, Mancini and members of the MOBSA executive board.

"Also leading the parade was the mascot from the Somerset Patriots "SPARKEE" as MOBSA and the Somerset Patriots have an ongoing partnership for special events together," says Mancini.

"After the parade, all players, coaches, township dignitaries lined up on Field #2 for opening ceremonies which included, speeches, first pitches, the national anthem with the fire departments raising a huge flag over left field of field #2 as well as water spray show from those fire trucks during the anthem itself, and introduction of the sponsored teams," continues Mancini. Then "SPARKEE" led all the players in the YMCA dance at the end."

Timing was perfect.

“Although we played in some games,” on other fields this season, the first games on the new fields were held this past weekend.

“All three fields will be used then every day following that,” says Mancini.

With 41 organized teams for baseball and softball this year playing recreation and travel, Mancini says use of these turf fields will come in quite handy. This season, 500 boys and girls ages 4 to 18 have signed up to play.

The new turf fields, which will be used by players aged 4 to 12, “all have bleachers, batting cages, and concession stand,” notes Mancini.

“The turf fields have a very professional looking design with coach’s boxes and running lanes but also personalized with the MO logo on the field,” he says. “Two of the three turf fields at Turkey Brook have lights.”

Changes And Growth In MOBSA

In his 28th year with MOBSA, Mancini has seen a plethora of change and growth within the association.

“Just like anything else, growth has been amazing from the 90's,” says Mancini.

“When I first started, all we had as an association were the Dan Jordan Fields in Flanders and use of the school fields. Dan Jordan was used for just about everything within the association. Then once Turkey Brook Park was built in 2003, everything changed.

“Over time, the uniforms, the amount of children playing the game, and the additional fields were all a welcome change but for the better,” he says. “Even in the ages that we group the children in, back then the youngest players were six years old. Then about eight years ago we started inviting five years to participate. Then about three years, we started allowing four year olds to participate.

“We are governed by the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Organization which is a national program and as they make certain age changes, we are usually right in line with those changes as well,” explains Mancini.

“The game itself has changed too,” he continues. “There used to be one playing field distance for all children up to 12 years old, what is known as 46x60 (which is the pitching distance/base distance), and then one playing distance once you turned 13 years old, what is known as 60x90 (which is pitching distance base distance/ equivalent to the major league distances).

“That was a huge jump for any upcoming 13 year old to the all of a sudden play on the ‘big field,’” he says.

“Around 2005, they introduced an intermediate level for 11 and 12 year olds called 50x70,” continues Mancini. “This made the adjustment to the next level much more

acceptable and that too changed the landscape of youth baseball. The game is like the major leagues, only with 11 and 12 year olds playing, just like their peers.”

Golden Anniversary, Festivities Planned

Established in 1969, MOBSA is celebrating its 50th year anniversary.

Mancini says he is “very proud MOBSA has been around to 50 years.”

In recognition of this milestone, everyone will be wearing commemorative shirts this year with a 50th anniversary logo displayed on front.

“All players will have number 50 in gold on the back of their jersey,” honoring the 50th anniversary, says Mancini.

In addition, a 50th Anniversary Celebration is set for Saturday, June 22, at 4 p.m. at Turkey Brook Park. Festivities will include games, a dunk tank, slides, bouncy house, food, music and a live band. The event will be free to attend with food and drinks to purchase, says Mancini.

The anniversary is a testament to all those who have been involved with the program.

“We will bring back every player, all past presidents and board members,” of the association for this event, says Mancini whose dedication to MOBSA has not faltered.

Although his kids are grown and no longer play for the program, Mancini’s love for the game and coaching returns him to the pitch every year.

“I love the game; I love to coach and I love to see the kids having fun,” says Mancini who has been involved as a coach since 1991, before his own kids started to play. “My goal is to have them play the game that they love. I consider these 500 kids part of my own.”

Playing baseball was his dream “until reality struck,” says Mancini, who played catcher at Atlantic High School in Delray Beach, Fla., and was drafted out of high school to play for the Atlantic Braves Instructional League in West Palm Beach, Fla.

As a coach he was able to continue his passion with baseball.

Mancini’s three kids played from 1998 to 2018; his daughter played softball and two sons played baseball, with him coaching all three, he says.

“I started association without a kid and will leave it without a kid; I did it for the love,” concludes Mancini, who currently coaches Mt. Olive’s 12 yr. old travel baseball team.

Photo Gallery

Welcome readers to the 17th issue of Mt. Olive Online. Get MO news online today! Advertise with us!

Local Church Orchestrates First Music Festival

By Cheryl Conway

Come all 'ye music lovers on Saturday, June 15, to the first FlandersFest music festival.

Hosted by the United Presbyterian Church in Flanders, music will be ringing throughout the town from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The spacious, beautiful backyard of the church grounds will serve as the stage for all that is planned that day.

Open to the community, attendees can enjoy live music from a variety of performers, as well as vendors and appetizing delights from a mix of food trucks. The event hopes to bring the community together and attract new members.

"We are really trying to introduce ourselves to the neighbors," says Kathy Hinds Banfe, elder of Congregational Life & Fellowship at the church and convener of its marketing team. "This is our first shot at this. It's an outreach to show who we are."

By sprucing up the building, improving its signage, marketing, participating in more events and making use of its property, church leaders hope to raise awareness of the church.

"We are a good local church here," says Reverend Richard Oppelt, religious leader at United Presbyterian Church. While the church uses the "beautiful backyard" for the annual apple festival, Oppelt says the property should be used more frequently.

"It's definitely an underutilized open space piece of property," says Oppelt.

While brainstorming in January for ideas to raise awareness of the church, the marketing team thought of the music festival.

Having "a great band" perform at last year's apple festival got members talking "about using our incredible backyard for a music fest," says Banfe, church member for 19 years.

"Who does not enjoy music?" mentions Oppelt, adding that it is hard to tell how many will attend.

"The area is very busy any given weekend; figured we'd start it, plant the seed and see."

Scheduled to attend are three food trucks: Michel's Bistro; The Empanada Food Truck, Sauced & Rubbed, and there is a fourth one in the works. Ten vendors featuring jewelry, body products, cooking and clothing will also be on site, as well as a plethora of music offering a variety of genres.

Some of the performers include: The Mountain Revival Sunrise nine-piece band with rock style music, eclectic, Christian, blue grass, gospel variety; Atlantic Café Band with blues and rock; Katie and Paul duo with its coffee shop sound; the United Presbyterian Church Worship Band with new songs, rock-n-roll music from the 1970's, 1980's; Blame Doors duo with pop music; solo acts and a handful of others.

"We are a fun place," says Oppelt, with music always playing a part at the church.

"We are a very musical faith church," says Banfe, with many members involved in several choirs.

With "an incredible" music director, Oppelt adds, "You never know any given Sunday what music is going to be there." Whether it is the traditional choir, worship band, barber quartet, bell choir, ukulele group and even a kids' gazostra, music is everywhere at the church.

"It's a very good eclectic group," says Oppelt. "Weather permitting, have a nice afternoon with a variety of acts" at the upcoming FlandersFest. Come out "grab and empanada; just show up, bring a friend, pass the word," listen to some music and go on with the day.

Attendees are welcome to bring a lawn chair or blanket; the church will also provide some chairs.

Support Food Pantry And Stage Needed

Listening to the music is free but money is required for purchases from the food trucks and vendors. A voluntary \$5 donation will be requested with all proceeds going to the Deacon Food Pantry located at the church.

“We supplement the Mt. Olive Food Pantry,” explains Oppelt, which provides food baskets to those less fortunate on major holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

“This will help to get our coffers stocked up for a good cause,” says Oppelt. Also being accepted are donations of non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

Without extra funds or a platform for performances, FlandersFest event organizers are seeking the donation of a stage to feature the music acts; if not, several volunteer members have volunteered to provide wood and build a stage.

Membership & Other Involvements

“Small but mighty; small but active,” Oppelt says United Presbyterian Church currently has 250 members, sharing the building with Fun’n Friends Nursery School.

During the year, the church involves itself in many other community activities. This year, for the first time, it will be participating as a vendor in Mt. Olive’s 10th annual Fairy & Pirate Festival set for Saturday, May 18, at Turkey Brook Park.

The church will also be hosting its own movie night- A Night Under The Stars- with a movie shown on large screen and popcorn; will be working with Habitat For Humanity helping to build a home in Succasunna; and will provide a program through the Old Timers Society for caregivers on June 19 at 7 p.m.- Alzheimer 101, at its backyard pavilion with light refreshments.

“We are trying to get out more in the community to know we are here,” says Banfe.

The church’s largest annual event has been its Apple Fest and this year will mark its 20th year. Held every fourth Saturday in September, this year’s Apple Fest is set for Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Expected are 20 vendors with games, food, auction, bounce house, a fresh spread of fruits and vegetables from R & H Farms and more music.

Local Library News

Book Lovers Read Here

Stock up on books for summer at the upcoming Bag o' Books Sale at the Mt. Olive Public Library. On Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., stop by the MOPL in Flanders and fill up a whole bag of books for \$10. Buy a reusable bag for an extra \$2 to fill, or pay very low prices for just a few books.

This spring fundraiser is being sponsored by The Friends of the Mt. Olive Public Library and proceeds support the library. Enter through the rear of the library.

For more information, call 973-691-8686; visit www.mopl.org.

Make A Gift For Mother's Day At Library

The Mt. Olive Public Library plans to host an essential oils Mother's Day DIY workshop on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to noon, in the Gathering Room.

Come join Perri O'Flynn and make a special essential oil infused gift for that special woman! Also, learn what essential oils are and why to use them to enhance health and wellness. Light oil-infused snacks will be served.

Space is limited to 15 adults; registration required. Go to www.mopl.org to register.

Coding, Painting, Nature Walk & College Application Seminar

Middle school and high school students, ages 13 to 18, can visit the library on Sundays, May 5-June 2, at 1 p.m. for **Coding With Chris!** A four-week course, learn how to take coding to the next level by creating programmatic images and animations, practicing design, testing and iteration.

All ages and families can go on a **Nature Walk** on Tuesday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the director of the library and other bird enthusiasts in a nature walk around the library and learn about some of the local birds. Wear comfortable shoes and do not forget that bug spray.

Painting with Mom is set for Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m., for those aged 8 and up. Join Dorothy for a special Mother's Day paint night, learning how to paint a beautiful floral piece while having lots of fun!

College Application Seminar Offered -

Need help deciphering the college application process? The Mt. Olive Public Library plans to host a "Maximizing High School Potential and the College Application Process Seminar" on Saturday, May 11, at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Join Paul Kelly, a private guidance counselor from College Edge Counseling Services, for this free seminar to help middle school and high school students get a competitive advantage as they prepare for college.

Registration requested. Call 973-691-8686, ext. 106 or go to www.mopl.org to register.

A Fairy and Pirate Festival is set for Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Turkey Brook Park for activities along with the Recreation Department.

Interested in volunteering at the library this summer? Attend a mandatory informational meeting Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

Community Invited To Make Poppies

Flowers are sprouting everywhere this time of year and so too are poppy's with many more to bloom at the Interfaith Poppy Project next month.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is hosting the event at 154 Mountain Rd., Flanders, on Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., along with support by the All Veterans Alliance. Lunch will be provided.

"We will be making poppies for the NJ Gold Star Mothers," explains Charlie Uhrmann, founder of the All Veterans Memorial (AVM) at Turkey Brook Park, 30 Flanders Rd., Budd Lake.

"Come join the fellow women of your community as we put our hands to work sculpting clay poppies for mothers of war hero's this Memorial Day," as stated on the event flyer.

Also coming up next month are the following events sponsored by the AVM in preparation for Memorial Day.

AVM Spring Clean Up is set for Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the AVM.

Memorial Remembrance Day Ceremony is set for Monday, May 27, 10:30 a.m., at the AVM Ceremonial Grounds.

"The Memorial Remembrance Day Ceremony has become one of New Jersey's most memorable and cherished places to be, and this year will be no different," says Uhrmann.

“This will be an especially emotional observance as two families will be setting their fallen warrior’s service pavers in remembrance of their honorable service.”

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Community Awareness Night Set For MOHS

A Community Awareness Night is set to be presented by the Mt. Olive High School Class of 2019 on Tuesday, May 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at MOHS. The goal of the evening is to bring the community together by having students connect with local resource providers to spread awareness regarding health and wellness topics.

Admission is free and the event is open to all students, parents and community members.

Local Police Seek Support For Unity Tour

The Mt. Olive Police Department is looking for donations to support its upcoming Police Unity Tour. As participants since 2002, several members of the MOPD plan to take part on May 9 through May 12 and are seeking community support.

The Police Unity Tour, established in 1997, is a 300-mile bicycle ride from New Jersey to Washington D.C., which raises awareness and honors those law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

Since its establishment, the Police Unity Tour has donated nearly 16 million dollars to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (nleomf.com) based in Washington D.C., according to a support letter from the MOPD. Those donations have come directly from the fund raising efforts of local, state and federal law enforcement officers who are required to individually raise a minimum of \$1,950 to take part in the ride.

As with previous years, officers from the MOPD have primarily relied on the generous donations made by Mt. Olive businesses and community members to participate.

This year, four Mt. Olive officers- Chad Rossy, George Jadue, Christopher Saunders and Tyler Mullooly- will look to take part in the Police Unity Tour, which will be starting in East Hanover on May 9, and arrive in Washington D.C. on May 12.

"In order to reach our financial requirements for the ride, we are seeking donations from our local community members and businesses," the MOPD letter states. "Your donation to the Police Unity Tour is fully tax deductible (Tax ID #22-3530541) and most importantly greatly appreciated."

Additional information about the Police Unity Tour, and other fundraising efforts, can be found at www.facebook.com/teammountolive; or www.mopd.org.

Donation Checks should be made payable to: Police Unity Tour – Mount Olive, P.O. Box 134, Budd Lake, NJ 07828.

NEWS at local college and University

CCM Communication Students Network With Sports Executives

Nine communication students from County College of Morris (CCM) recently travelled to Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia to take part in the Business of Sports Media and Marketing night, hosted by the Phillies and Temple University's Fox School of Business.

The students' participation in the event was part of CCM's growing initiative to provide students with experiential learning opportunities, including networking and hands-on experiences, internships and apprenticeships.

The night began with a moderated question and answer session that featured executives from the Phillies, NBC Sports, NBC10 and Telemundo62. Phillies pitcher, David Robertson, also made an appearance to discuss his college and major league experience. The floor was then open to the audience, and two CCM students took the opportunity to ask questions.

Seven of the students on the fieldtrip were part of CCM's Sports Journalism course –a new communication class, taught by Professor John Soltes, that teaches students how to report, write and

edit sports-centered journalism articles.

During the networking hour, students were also able to hold the Phillies 1980 and 2008 World Series trophies, take a picture with Gary "Sarge" Matthews – the 1983 National League Championship Series MVP and Phillies Ambassador – and meet with personnel from various departments such as those who spearhead the Phillies intern program. After the networking session was finished, the students were able to watch the Phillies play against the New York Mets.

The Sports Journalism course will be offered again during the 2019-2020 academic year. To learn more about the Communication Program at CCM, visit <https://bit.ly/2XzJxoA/>.

Centenary University Honors Students At Leadership Awards Ceremony

Centenary University recognized more than 100 students at the annual Student Leadership Awards Ceremony recently. Held in the David and Carol Lackland Center, the event celebrates outstanding contributions to the university and surrounding community by students and campus organizations including First Year Leaders, Resident Assistants, the Student Government Association, the Educational Opportunity Program, Chi Sigma Alpha, and Changebuilders.

In addition to presenting the student awards, Centenary honored Dr. Lauren Bergey, as this year's Faculty Advisor of the Year. Bergey is an associate professor of biology and serves as director of the University's Honors Program.

"These honorees embody Centenary's goal to educate student leaders who strive to make a positive impact, on campus and in the local community," said Kerry Mullins, vice president for student life and dean of students. "We are extremely proud to celebrate their accomplishments at this annual event." Twenty-five students received top awards at the event.

CCM Offers Best Garden Ever

The Landscape and Horticultural Technology (LHT) Program at County College of Morris (CCM) in Randolph plans to hold its annual spring plant sale – Your Best Garden Ever! – for three days starting in early May.

The sale, which is open to the public, starts on Saturday, May 4, and runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the college's Titan Weekend celebrations marking CCM's 50th Anniversary. The sale continues on Monday, May 6, and Tuesday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sale takes place in the LHT greenhouses, located near Parking Lot 1 on CCM's Randolph campus, 214 Center Grove Road.

This year's offerings include annuals, perennials, herbs, hanging baskets and vegetables. Proceeds benefit LHT student activities. For more information, contact the LHT Program at 973-328-5363. To learn more about the LHT degree and certificate programs, visit <http://tinyurl.com/y82afr4y/>.

CCM To Hold Free Festival To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Come join County College of Morris (CCM) in Randolph for a free fun-filled festival as the college marks its 50th Anniversary with a birthday party for Titus the Titan, the CCM mascot.

The Titus the Titan Birthday Party takes place Saturday, May 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the CCM campus. Center Grove Road, Randolph.

Being held as part of the college's Titan Weekend, the birthday celebration will include planetarium shows, cupcake decorating, live music, a barbecue and a host of other birthday happenings for the young at heart. In addition, several academic showcases will be presented that day.

The Department of Landscape and Horticultural Technology (LHT) also will be holding its annual Spring Plant Sale in the greenhouses by its LHT building, across from Parking Lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Then on Sunday, May 5, the college will be holding the Titan Trot 5K on its campus. The USATF certified 5K run and fun walk begins at 9 a.m. The cost of registration is \$25. T-shirts will be provided to the first 200 registrants.

For more information, visit www.ccm.edu/titan-weekend/.

Law enforcement news

Mt. Olive Heroes Recognized At Annual Awards Ceremony

Some local heroes were honored on Friday, April 26, at the 47th annual Valor & Meritorious Awards Celebration.

Sponsored by the 200 Club of Morris County, the reception and ceremony was held at the Birchwood Manor in Whippany.

Among those honored, recognized and thanked for their service for their actions during a worst-case scenario were Mt. Olive's: Budd Lake Fire Co. #1; Flanders Fire & Rescue Co. #1; Mt. Olive Twp. Police Dept.; Mt. Olive Twp. Office of the Fire Marshal.

That worst case scenario occurred on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at approximately 10:20 a.m., when numerous 911 calls started to flood both the Mt. Olive Township Police Department's Dispatch Center and the Morris County Communications Division regarding a fully-loaded Paramus school bus of

children that had crashed and overturned on Interstate 80 in Mt. Olive Township. Children and adult chaperones were reportedly injured with some in critical condition. A Paramus student and teacher both died in the crash.

The Mt. Olive Township Police, EMS and fire agencies inclusive of the Budd Lake Fire Co. #1, Flanders Fire & Rescue Co. #1 and the Mt. Olive Township Office of the Fire Marshal, were immediately dispatched to the scene along with the New Jersey State Police. Simultaneously, Atlantic Ambulance Corporation, Saint Clare's Health EMS and the Morris County Office of Emergency Management were immediately dispatched to the scene as well.

"The Morris County Communications Division quickly activated the Morris County Mass Casualty Assets which included the numerous departments being honored here this evening," as stated in the award program. "What happened next was truly remarkable. Upon the arrival of the first units on-scene, the comprehensive scene size-up gave both dispatch centers and other response units enough information to immediately dispatch and ensure that we had enough ambulances and emergency response assets being requested to respond.

"The high level of responding assets was also achieved with assistance of our out-of-county partners in Sussex and Warren Counties who each sent ambulances to the scene as well," as stated in the award program. "Within the first seven minutes, the Mt. Olive Twp. Police Department along with the multiple fire and EMS agencies on scene, had the mangled and overturned bus cleared of all patients. The next significant challenge was the triage of 46 patients in a variety of medical conditions who were spread out along the grassy median and highway. This challenge was accomplished through a multi-agency, multi-discipline response, inclusive of two hospital-based response teams, to what many described as a "worst-day scenario."

"The successful outcomes were not the result of any one agency or any one individual. This was the result of one unified team of professionals from dispatch to police, EMS, fire, hospital-based BLS/ALS systems, emergency room staff, trauma teams, surgical staff, countless medical staff/departments, hospital patient liaison teams, human services and mental health teams, and the countless other professionals who played a part in the response as well as the recovery. May 17, 2018 was a difficult day for many, but was also a proud day for our Morris County EMS Police, Fire, OEM and the overall patient care continuum from dispatch, to the street, and ultimately to the hospital. This Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) was managed in a professional and exemplary manner, and every responder stepped up to the plate to do what was needed in order to save lives. We often say that we train for the day that we hope never happens, but in this case, it happened, and all of the responders involved in this incident should be extremely proud of the role they played, as well as the positive outcome."

Sheriff's Office Opens Drop Off Center For Hope

The Morris County Sheriff's Office in Morristown opened its door Monday, April 29, as a drop-in center – a beacon of hope - for people who are struggling with drug addiction and need guidance and support in accessing help.

Under the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI), launched April 3 by the Morris County Sheriff's Office, individuals seeking assistance for substance use dependency can walk into the Morris County Courthouse on Court Street in Morristown between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and state their request to a Sheriff's Officer.

In a compassionate and discreet way, individuals will be directed to a PAARI-trained Sheriff's Officer who will screen them. Based upon the screening, individuals will be connected with peer recovery specialists from Daytop-NJ, who will meet with them to discuss treatment and resource options. PAARI is a non-incarceration program designed to involve law enforcement officers in assisting people struggling with what can be an overwhelming path to recovery.

"The Morris County Sheriff's Office is committed to a guardian role of supporting people caught in the destructive trap of addiction," Morris County Sheriff James M. Gannon said.

upcoming events

Equine Therapy Services Offered To Veterans

Spring Reins of Life is offering services for veterans in New Jersey with PTSD. The Veterans Alliance is

funding this as a pilot experiment to see if equine therapy is an effective tool to help veterans towards a full recovery.

The VA is monitoring the results and is seeking as many veterans to participate.

This is a pilot to hopefully help local veterans immediately, and with success spread out across the country with more programs funded and more veterans with access to equine therapy, paid for by the VA.

The next group begins on Tuesday, May 7, and will meet eight weeks in a row in the evening for 90 minutes each week. Horses are in Three Bridges.

There is zero cost, only the commitment to attend and give the horses an honest try.

Spring Reins of Life is a 501c3 organization involving horses, humans and healing, serving N.J.'s combat veterans, at risk teens and bereaved children.

Visit www.springreinsoflife.org for more information.

Decade Long Festival With Fairies & Pirates Returns

Thanks to our sponsors Bright Horizons Family Solutions & Flanders Pediatrics Dentistry Turkey Brook Park will be turning it into a magical wonderland of games, rides and activities for the 10th year. Set for Saturday, May 18, celebrations will abound as fairies and pirates enter Turkey Brook Park! Festivities include face painting, pony rides, bounce houses, games, 40+ vendors, dancing, fairy hair and more. Attendees are encouraged to come in costume as flowers, wings, sparkles, eye patches and swords shall be plentiful!

The fair festivities will get under way at 10 a.m. and continue into the midafternoon sun ending at 2 p.m. Admission is free. Don't miss performances by Theater Dance, Dance expression & more beginning at 10:30 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

Michele's Bistro will have food for purchase. Philly Pretzel of Hackettstown will be onsite with specialty Fairy & Pirate pretzels. Marty's Ice cream will have frozen delights for all.

Thank you to the following sponsors & vendors:

ACRE Windows and Doors, Autosport Chevrolet,

Bath Fitter Hackettstown, Bright Horizons Family Solutions,

Cait's Paints, Circle lanes, Donna Does Nails, Dorsey & Semrau,

Dotdotsmile Danielle, EGLOBUS Inc., Flanders Martial Art,

Flanders Pediatric Dentistry, Fun Pony Parties, Girly Girl Bandz and bows, Keller Williams, Kidz Play

Ice, Martini Ice Cream

inc., Marty's Ice Cream,
Mary Kay, Michele's Bistro, Mt. Olive Public Library,
New York Life Insurance Company, Norwex, Origami Owl ,
Paparazzi Jewelry, Philly Pretzel of Hackettstown,
Play Well/matthew, ReMax Heritage Properties, Renewal By Anderson, Revive Studios, Revive Studios,
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