



World Renown Muralist Creates Masterpiece At AVM

By Cheryl Conway

Many have probably walked by it a dozen times but fail to realize or take notice the work of art behind that wall.

Next time while visiting Turkey Brook Park in Budd Lake- whether at a soccer game or baseball game, playing on the Mt. Playmore playground, cooling off at the Splash Pad, taking a walk, riding a bike or better yet attending the upcoming Remembrance Day Ceremony set for Monday, May 27, visit the All Veterans Memorial and check out the latest addition- The POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall, located on the backside of the Liberty Wall.

Built to honor and remember the POW/MIA and PTSD warriors, the POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall features a one-of-a-kind mural designed by remarkable world-renowned mural artist Doron Viner. Completed about a year ago in April 2018, the mural designs were created by AVM Founder and President Charlie Wood Uhrmann, who then sought out the finest muralist she could find to complete this element of her memorial site.

"After speaking to him for the first time, I could feel his passion not only to the project, but for our nation," says Uhrmann. His story is a great one. He was very persistent in offering his services."

When Uhrmann posted a search for an artist capable of outdoor mural painting on the Thumbtack Website, Viner responded within minutes of the posting.

"Viner was eager to donate his talent to paint the mural as part of a fulfillment to renew his United States on an Exceptional Talent Visa," she explains. "Viner lives in New York, served in the Israeli Army which is mandatory for all men in Israel."

The POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance wall was built on the backside of the Liberty Wall, which displays the first ten Amendments of the original Bill of Rights and the three branches of government, explains Uhrmann.

Uhrmann sponsored the wall along with Peter King, an attorney and AVM board member; Quikrete Concrete of Flanders; and The Meier Stone Company.

"The uniquely designed 70 ft. remembrance wall displays three prison cells," explains Uhrmann.

"The first cell depicts the agony of a POW. The second cell symbolizes the MIA warriors that never returned. The third cell, which was added by the AVM Board of Directors to be included with the POW/MIA is the PTSD."

Uhrmann and the AVM board members could not have been more wowed by the completed work of art and even recognized Viner by presenting him with a letter of acknowledgement and commendation in February.

Viner, who owns WorldWide Murals based in Israel, also received Meritorious awards from the All Veterans Memorial, the Morris County American Legion, the

Wharton American Legion Post 91, and the All Veterans Alliance, for his local masterpiece.

"The most critical focal point of the project was a 6' x 65' deeply pitted concrete wall that would feature a compelling mural that would capture the pure essence of war suffrage," Uhrmann wrote in a commendation letter recognizing Viner. "More critical than the design itself, was the search for an artist who possessed an interpretive artistic talent and ability to embellish the overall design if needed. This was an exceptionally difficult project that required an exceptional skill set.

"Doron Viner was the first to respond to our detailed posting," she writes. "Though he fulfilled all of our requirements and provided several professional references that praised Mr. Viner's remarkable talent, we were taken by his offer to donate his services. Though his offer was extremely attractive, it was his gesture to show his appreciation to the nation and our service members that caught our attention. In addition to his talent, Mr. Viner's honesty and passion left us with little debate as to who we would entrust with this extremely important addition to the park.

"It was an honor and privilege to work alongside one of the most talented and passionate artists I have ever had the pleasure to work with," writes Uhrmann. "Mr. Viner's genuine love for our country and the All Veterans Memorial was obvious as we watched him share his 'proud moment' and excitement with his family and friends. Not only are we grateful for Mr. Viner's generous gift of the meaningful masterpiece that will touch thousands of lives for many years to come, but his daily display of unwavering love and dedication to his family and core values."

Meet The Muralist

Like a vine, Viner's work grows on all who take notice. From 2015-2016, Viner volunteered for two series as the main artist of the television show "Extreme Makeover," a show that helps unfortunate people to rebuild houses.

"Viner turns a simple empty room into an astonishing muraled room," as it states on his website. His "unique talent enables him to create the perfect real life 3-dimensional mural. Forming the ideal setting and atmosphere everywhere." The 43-year old has painted most of his life.

"When I was young I painted," says Viner. When his mom saw his talent, she took him for lessons.

"I saw that I had fun and decided to make it a career," says Viner. He started with air brush, "then went to murals to create as many walls as possible and as big as they can get."

He says one of his murals is featured in the "Guinness Book of World Records" noted as the largest mural by one man. The four-mile long mural is the landscape of Venice, Italy and hangs inside a mall in Hod HaSharon, Israel. It took him one year to complete back in 2015.

Born in Israel, Viner moved to the United States with his family when he was 10 years old. Living in New York City, Viner attended La Guardia High School in Manhattan and expanded his skills in art.

When he turned 18, he decided to return to Israel for three years to serve in the Israeli Army as a paratrooper.

After his service, he created his company WorldWide Murals in 2000, working as a muralist for the past 20 years.

"Israel didn't have a lot of mural artists," says Viner. "I brought murals into Israel," and "in time got very famous." He did art shows and his work hit Google. "Over the years, using the skills and techniques he acquired by painting graffiti on walls of the city streets, he created fabulous murals using the airbrush," as stated on his website. "His work soon spread, painting murals all over, at stores, firms, companies, hotels, corporation and theme parks," as stated on his website. Two years ago, he decided to move back to New York with his family- a wife and three daughters ages 4, 6 and 8. Living in the U.S. on a Visa, Viner also brought his WorldWide Murals company, restarting it in the U.S. in 2017.

"To live there it's incredible," Viner says about Israel; but for work and talent America is the place to be. Most of the winners for the Olympics are American. Israel is a small county; America is big; I decided to go big. That's why I came here. I saw a talent; I'm one of them. I wanted to expand.

"When I got here, I did many works, was on CBS," he says, and worked on the memorial site in N.Y.

Some of his clients include Mastercard, Nestle, Coca-Cola, Leonardo club hotels, King City amusement park, Dan Panorama hotels, Fattal hotels and many more.

"I do a lot of amusement parks, restaurants, malls," says Viner, adding that he does "all kinds of murals; whatever people ask, I do; whatever makes people happy."

No matter the project, perfection is always his goal.

"Sometimes other artists work with me," he says, but they "must be very talented to work with me. I always love it when it's perfection."

His strongest ones are those that are very emotional, like the AVM POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall.

He learned about the need for a muralist at the AVM on the internet, he says. "I told her [Charlie] I was a soldier in the army. She liked the whole package about me for the project."

As someone who fought in the army, the AVM mural project was an important one for Viner to complete.

"The army is part of me," says Viner. "I understand the people who were there. You got to honor them, in any country." Now that he is here, he says he needs 'to honor the people in this country."

While he gets paid for his work, Viner decided to complete the POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall mural as a volunteer without any compensation.

"It was something extraordinary," says Viner. "This work I decided to go do; it's for my achievement, my personal achievement."

To paint his murals, Viner uses regular wall paint and works with a pistol gun or air brush. "That makes it more extraordinary," says Viner. "It makes the mural more alive."

The POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall took Viner two weeks to complete. He met with Uhrmann to think about "how to make it extraordinary; to have veterans see it and the emotions in that memorial site." They decided to depict soldiers who were tortured to show what they went through, he says.

To prepare, Viner had to research American wars "to determine how to get the right picture for the project," says Viner. He says he "did research and understanding and I built up my own sketch.

"I think I did a good job," says Viner. "Charlie did a fabulous job. It's one of the beautiful memorial sites I've ever seen. Charlie is an extraordinary person. She

does it to the fullest; an amazing person, amazing talent.”

His love for painting shines through with every stroke.

“I love the outcome,” says Viner. “I love creating for others to enjoy. I love to see how it affects people. I love when they come and see and say ‘wow.’ Once you paint big, once you see they are painting huge, it’s extraordinary. It’s not something you see every day.”

Whether it is for a private home or a large project, Viner paints murals for residents and commercial clients.

“I love big,” says Viner. “I love making people smile, whether it’s one person or 10,000 people.”

Go to www.worldwidemuralart.com or call 917-669-7300 for more information on WorldWide Murals.

Save The Date

The AVM's POW/MIA/PTSD ceremonial ground is one of the official sites for the National POW/MIA Vigil Ceremony.

The vigil ceremonial site addition provides N.J. veterans a place to conduct memorial services for fallen warriors and serve as an official place to host the annual National POW/MIA Remembrance Vigil.

"Mark your calendar" for Friday, September 20 to attend this year’s event planned by the All Veterans Alliance and Morris County American Legion.

“More than 400 bags of concrete were stacked five courses high to depict a sandbag wall,” says Uhrmann, and was donated by Quikrete in Flanders, to be used as

seating for reflection or during the vigils.

“A large steal world globe was specifically created by artist Rick Wittrig of Firepit Art located in Tennessee in honor of our POW/MIA's missing all over the world,” she continues.

“The Globe will be used only during the National Vigil Ceremony which is typically held annually the third week of September,” she concludes.

The All Veterans Memorial (AVM) is a registered 501 (c) 3 organization that has provided a variety of outreach services to active and retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces for more than 12 years. In addition to support services, we have developed an exclusive

veteran's park that provides a venue for formal military events, while delivering a unique educational denotation of our nation's rich history for the public.

Photo Gallery

Welcome readers to the 19th issue of Mt. Olive Online. Get MO news online today! Advertise with us!

Halted Traffic Talk Detours To Other Wawa Concerns

By Cheryl Conway

Discussion regarding traffic came to a standstill at the last Mt. Olive Planning Board meeting but talk about other concerns regarding construction of a new Wawa flowed well into the night.

Planning Board members heard continued testimony on Thursday, May 9, for construction of a Wawa and service station where Herold's Landscaping currently exists. About 50 residents attended the Planning Board meeting held at the Mt. Olive Twp. Municipal Building at 7 p.m. in hopes for answers or solutions regarding traffic and safety, but instead heard testimony regarding other concerns such as signage, lighting, buffers and steep slopes.

"In a holding pattern with traffic," Planning Board Chair Howie Weiss, led the applicant and board to discuss other concerns. He redirected discussion regarding traffic and safety at that congested intersection to the next public meeting in June in hopes to hear back from the state and county on their suggestions and feedback.

The board and applicant agreed to reconvene on June 13, at 7:45 p.m., to continue the hearing for the Wawa with hopes "to wrap it up," said Hackettstown Attorney Michael Selvaggi, representing the developer HSC Flanders, LLC., to build the convenience store.

The applicant first presented to the board and about 150 concerned residents at the Feb. 21 Mt. Olive Twp. Planning Board meeting its plan to build a 24-hour 4,736 sq. ft. Wawa with a five-pump fueling gas station on the six acre property of Herold's Landscaping located at 194 Rt. 206 south.

Situated at the corner of Flanders-Netcong Rd., many residents have addressed concerns regarding congestion and safety at that intersection. At the February planning board meeting, Mt. Olive Police Sgt. Eric Anthony offered recommendations to improving that area regarding traffic.

Since Route 206 is a state highway and Flanders-Netcong Rd. is a county road, the township does not have jurisdiction to make any improvements without approval from N.J. State Department of Transportation and the Morris County Engineer.

Walter Lublanecki, traffic consultant for the Mt. Olive Planning Board, provided a summary on what has transpired since the February meeting. He said there were two major meetings since, one with the NJDOT on April 11, and the other with the Morris County Engineer's Office on April 2.

"We wanted to get their opinion and go over our concerns," said Lublanecki.

Lublanecki then issued a report on April 29, "which was more of a summary," to go over the meeting with the state and county and provided that to Dolan & Dean Consulting Engineers in Somerville, representing engineers for the Wawa application.

Dolan & Dean then provided a response letter either agreeing or addressing points, said Lublanecki.

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Some of the points raised with the state included allowing a left turn into the Wawa from Route 206 north; more striping to improve viewing; widening Flanders-Drakestown Rd. with three lanes; and the township looking into widening Main St. to allow for a left turn and a thru lane, explained Lublanecki. Lublanecki said the county "did say verbally" of its interest in helping the township with that widening and that the improvements would be put on their calendar.

One of the major concerns is the driveway on Flanders-Netcong Rd. into the proposed Wawa, said Lublanecki.

Right now that intersection is a problem; "It would get worse," he said. It "will be the county's call" if the left turn into the Wawa will be prohibited or not.

"We are looking at allowing it with some signing to prevent backup into the driveway," said Lublanecki, to prevent a situation of gridlock. The county is supportive of a "do not block intersection" sign or signs or LED flashing lights, which are very visible to drivers on the street.

There was also some discussion with Anthony regarding some police enforcement to prevent back-flow at that intersection, but again access of that driveway on what will be allowable will be up to the county, stressed Lublanecki.

Site lines will have to be addressed with the applicant and the county engineer.

Another issue discussed with the county is truck restrictions; whether to prohibit trucks from driving on Flanders-Netcong Rd. to make deliveries to the Wawa.

Signs will have to be clearly visible to prevent trucks from exiting the Wawa on the driveway to Flanders-Netcong Rd. as well as turning left onto Rt. 206 out of the Wawa. Trucks will be allowed to only turn right, drive south on Rt. 206 and then U-turn at Flanders-Bartley Rd. to head back north on Rt. 206, explained Lublanecki.

The "most important" item discussed with the NJDOT was the narrowness of that intersection of Rt. 206 in the northbound direction, as Anthony pointed out at the February meeting.

"You're almost in some kind of thrill ride there," said Lublanecki, while waiting to make a left turn at that light onto Flanders-Netcong Rd. "It's very uncomfortable."

The idea is to put a 10 ft. shoulder with a five ft. striped median, he said, which would involve taking up a little land by the Wawa for widening purposes.

The applicant is supportive of working with all three parties, township, county and state to come up with a viable plan.

Gary Dean, a professional transportation engineer of Dolan & Dean Consulting Engineers who is representing Wawa in regard to traffic, acknowledges that there has been a traffic problem at that intersection for decades.

"We have the support of the DOT and county and township to make this a workable plan," said Dean, to continue to work with these agencies "to make these improvements a reality.

Without an approved site plan the applicant said, "I think it's a little premature to discuss signage." Weiss invited the public to ask questions regarding traffic but agreed "We don't have jurisdiction, we don't have an answer."

Despite the lack of answers, residents lined up to address concerns.

Flanders-Netcong Rd. resident Heather Carlton said "As a resident of that road I want to be able to ask honest questions; I heard a little premature, with all that said, why are we doing this tonight?" Since this a conditional application, "If traffic flow becomes an issue we need to say 'no' to this application."

Selvaggi responded "This board is at the mercy of the county and the state. What has to happen, you have to trust Mr. Lublanecki. He's trumping a lot of your concerns."

Carlton said, "the left-hand turn lane is not going to stop the current traffic problem."

Dean responded, "the improvements will have a positive effect."

Another resident, Judith Hutchkins, who lives near the high school, said "I'm very much in favor" of a Wawa "but the intersection is a no brainer, it needs to be improved. The intersection will hopefully be upgraded by Wawa's expense which will be millions of dollars and not affect taxpayers."

She questioned what the plan will be for those driving down Flanders-Netcong Rd. "Is there a long-range plan to open up and go through Gold Mine Rd.?"

Weiss responded to that question and said opening a road will have to go to council for consideration. Another resident questioned whether there have been any studies on how the increase traffic flow on Flanders- Netcong Rd. will affect those driving on Main Street, especially drivers trying to turn left onto Rt. 206 south.

She also questioned whether drivers, who cannot make a left onto Rt. 206 south because of too much traffic, will pull into the Wawa just so they can U-turn in order to turn onto Rt. 206 south.

Other issues raised were in regard to striping, delayed lights and effects on other businesses on Rt. 206 with drivers not wanting to stop in because of traffic.

Dean's response was "our hands are tied until the county acquires right of way."

He says "we are proposing to make it better;" it's already backed up. "I'm not here to argue or design what is not unsafe."

Other Issues With Wawa

John Madden Jr., planning engineer for the proposed Flanders Wawa, testified on signage. Two freestanding signs have been requested by the applicant, one which is 20 ft., which would be 5 ft. over the township's regulation of 15 ft. signs.

"The Wawa is the first opportunity for fuel, food, coffee," Madden said. His comment led to some disagreement. Planning Board Member Brian Schaechter said, "No it's not."

Madden continued with other justification for a larger sign such as alerting drivers to its late hours, better visualization to its gas prices and just improved visibility so customers know the driveway location to avoid passing it.

"Before you get to the light, 206 curves, until you get to the light, you're not going to see the sign," said Madden, and thus miss the "opportunity for food and fuel up ahead. The sign does become an important cue for up ahead. Height gives you greater sight."

Madden also pointed out that Wawa is proposing a "much more attractive sign" then the Herold's sign.

He also proposed a second 8 ft. free-standing sign to provide "safety benefits" and help customers

know where the driveway is.

"A sign is warranted at that driveway," said Madden.

This request also faced some disagreement by the planning board. Weiss said "who's going to see an 8 ft. sign. I don't see any relevance about seeing the sign on Flanders-Netcong Rd. You're not going to see it."

Schaechter argued that Exxon has only one sign and so does the dental office and that a second sign is unnecessary.

"Can you put an enter and exit sign rather than a Wawa sign?" suggested Schaechter. "You don't need an 8 ft. sign because emergency squad will not know where the Wawa is," Schaechter said with sarcasm. "They will know where the Wawa is."

Mt. Olive Director of Planning Chuck McGroarty said "that's our ordinance" regarding 20 ft. signs. Although he did not want to argue 5 more feet, he did point out that three trees block the Herold's sign "but you can still see the 14 ft. sign." He said he did not see how anyone would miss a 15 ft. sign. "We as motorists know where to get gas," said McGroarty. "For those not around here, they are not going to care about price for gas. I don't know why we need a 20 ft. sign when a 15 ft. sign works with Herold's."

Buffers of deciduous trees was another issue raised to provide visual and audio screening to neighbors.

In agreement, Selvaggi said "We don't care we will put the buffering in; we will be here all night."

By the end of the meeting, the applicant agreed to a 15 ft. sign and two 4.1 sq. ft. exit/enter signs at the driveway on Flanders-Netcong Rd.

Another professional engineer for the applicant, Matt Sharo of Dynamic World spoke about the lighting. For safety reasons, proposed will be 3.1-4 ft. candles on the paved area of the property that is non-reflective.

The public was invited to pose questions which included the type of lighting, amount of spillover, type of buffering, height of evergreens.

Buffer requires a minimum width of 25 feet and variety of plantings, said McGroarty.

Madden suggested deciduous trees and shrubs and ground cover.

"I think it should look more natural," said Madden, "to provide a complete screen so it looks good," as well as some native plants to attract bees, butterflies, insects.

"I think this will make it a better landscape," said Madden.

Moment of Silence

At the beginning of the meeting, the planning board held a moment of silence for Gene Buczynski, longtime engineer to the Mt. Olive Planning Board, who died unexpectedly on April 18 at the age of 69.

Weiss said this was "the first meeting since Gene died. For 37 years Gene served the public," and was "perhaps the most professional person. Gene's loss came as a tremendous surprise to us; he sat with us and guided us and was a true friend."

Planning Board Member David Scapicchio added, "We've always appreciated Gene's professionalism. He had a history in Mt. Olive that's going to be missed."

Weiss announced the Mt. Olive Twp. Council's plans to pass a resolution recognizing Buczynski and idea to name a ballfield after him.

Local Library News

Library Looking For Volunteers!

Attention 7-12 graders! Looking for volunteer hours at the library this summer? Come to the mandatory Teen Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on May 20 at 7 p.m. More details will be given that night. Sign ups will be open online on May 28 at 4 p.m.

AVM Hosts Upcoming Remembrance Day Ceremony

The AVM has been organizing the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the AVM since 2007. Ceremony is set for Monday, May 27.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., festivities will be held at the AVM Ceremonial Grounds at 30 Flanders Rd., Budd Lake, at the top loop of Turkey Brook Park. This year's ceremony is being brought to the community

by the All Veterans Alliance and Morris County American Legion.

Some highlights will include a bagpipe procession; Mt. Olive High School Air Force JROTC and band; "The National Anthem" sung by MOMS teacher Caren Kennedy; setting of service pavers to honor William A. DeLucchi and Corey Edwin Garver; keynote speaker by Brigadier General Frank Dulfer, retired from N.J. National Guard; placement of Memorial Wreaths; placement of Purple Heart Wreath by Gold Star Mothers; and encampment by BSA Troop 249.

The AVM is a non-profit organization, and with private funds, built the ceremonial complex to conduct and observe military events for the community and military families to congregate. Observed on the last Monday of May since 1968, Memorial Day is a federal holiday celebrated in the United States to remember and honor persons who have died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

How To Explain Memorial Day Etiquette To Kids

What exactly is Memorial Day etiquette? Before you head out this year to the parade or celebration in your town, take a few moments to understand the expected way to behave so you can be certain your children understand. My father retired from the Navy so [Memorial Day](#) in our home has always been a very important holiday. We attend the parade each year, followed by the ceremony in our local cemetery. Then we all return home for a barbecue and fun with friends and family. No matter how you celebrate Memorial Day, there are a few things to understand first.

Years ago, when my kids marched in the Memorial Day parade, I remember watching the Memorial Day ceremony at our local cemetery. There were two children there that were about five years old jumping from gravestone to gravestone and no one stopped them. Several adults had set their soda cans on top of the headstones while they talked to each other. Very few people were paying attention to the military and clergy that were speaking. It broke my heart to see this kind of disrespect on such an important day. While children may not fully understand the concept of war, they can understand that Memorial Day is the day set aside for us to remember those that died to protect our country.

Give Thanks

Memorial Day was established to give thanks and remember those that died in service to our country. Picnics and parades and visiting with family are great fun, but please remember the real reason you have the day off work and school. Take a few moments graveside to show respect to those that have fallen. Brush the leaves from their graves. Place a small flag near their headstone. You can buy packages of small flags at your dollar store. Be sure to remove them after Memorial Day is over to avoid them being damaged by the weather.

Remember Silence

Please remember the moment of silence at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day. Since the year 2000 when the National Moment of Remembrance Resolution passed, at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day, all Americans...

NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE RESOLUTION PASSED, AT 3 P.M. ON MEMORIAL DAY, ALL AMERICANS ARE

asked to observe a moment of remembrance and respect by pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence. Talk to your kids about the Memorial Day history.

Not A Toy

The Flag is not a toy. Please do not use the flag as a blanket, towel or article of clothing. You shouldn't sit on it or wrap yourself up in it. It should NEVER touch the ground – not even [the little ones](#) from the dollar store.

Show Respect

Show respect at the cemetery. Regardless of your religion or beliefs, the cemetery is not a playground. Please do not allow your children to sit on, jump on, climb on or play on the gravestones. Don't let them run through the cemetery or disrupt the service in any way. Don't put your plates or beverages on the gravestones or disturb any flowers or decorations left at the graveside. If you're sitting in your car to watch the ceremony, turn off the radio.

Color Guard

When the Color Guard is getting ready to walk by, stand up, stop talking, and remove your hat. The Color Guard are the soldiers who are holding the guns and flags in the parade in case you weren't sure. Please be sure your children understand this as well. There should be no screaming or fooling around during the few moments it takes for them to walk by. This same Memorial Day etiquette holds true during the playing of our National Anthem. Please place your hand on your heart, or if you are in uniform, salute the flag.

Please take a few minutes to talk to your children about Memorial Day etiquette. If they don't understand what's expected of them, there is no way that they can teach the next generation how to show respect on this important day. Save the fun and games for after the parade or ceremony, and please remember the real reason we have that Monday off from work and school. Everyone should remember the Memorial Day meaning behind the day.

[Article by Ellen Christian](#), a busy mom of a 20-year-old son and 25-year-old daughter who owns five blogs and is addicted to social media. Email info@confessionsofanover-workedmom.com to chat.

SANDY'S WINE & SPIRITS

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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.

NEWS AT COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS

MO Teens Light Up At Morris County Teen Festival

The arts are alive in Morris County!

County College of Morris (CCM) in Randolph hosted the 39th annual Morris County Teen Arts Festival on Friday, May 17. More than 1,500 students and a staff of 40 professional artists participated in performances, critiquing seminars and workshops in every discipline. The festival disciplines included art, dance, design, drama, graphic design, music, music recording, musical theater, photography, video and writing.

The focus of the Teen Arts Festival is not on competition but a celebration. The goals of the activities are to help students develop perceptual, intellectual, social and technical skills; gain cultural awareness and understanding; develop personal cultural and aesthetic values; and learn self-discipline, critical thinking and problem solving through analyzing, interpreting and making assessments.

Funding of the event was made possible in part by grants from Morris Arts through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, a gift from the Mayo Performing Arts Center and contributions from Home Depot.

Pictured above: Mt. Olive Middle School Jazz Band perform "Topsy" and "Blues Walk" in CCM's Dragonetti Auditorium at the Morris County Teen Arts Festival.

7th Grade Mt. Olive Middle School student Marco DeLeon playing the upright bass at the Morris County Teen Arts Festival.

CCM Lady Titans Softball Team Advances To Nationals

The County College of Morris (CCM) Women's Softball Team won the Divisional Championship Tournament on Saturday, May 11, beating Mercyhurst College in the final two games of the tournament. As a result, the Lady Titans now will travel to Mississippi to compete in the National Junior College World Series Tournament.

The tournament is set to be held in Clinton, Miss., from May 22 to May 25. This will be the first time since 1991 that the Lady Titans Softball Team has participated in a national tournament. The team is also the Region XIX Champions for 2019.

"Coach Greg Wardlow and his team have worked very hard with our students and our Lady Titans have shown tremendous dedication to excellence throughout the year," said Dr. Anthony J. Iacono, president of CCM. "I am very proud of each of them and how they have represented CCM. Watching our students excel on and off the field always makes me CCM proud as I am sure it does for the entire CCM family."

During this season, the Lady Titans helped celebrate Wardlow's 400th win since joining the team in 2005. His coaching background includes 25 years as player/manager for the Kings Athletic Club of Central Jersey, a highly successful men's softball team. Wardlow also served as head coach of the 18U Old Bridge Knights, winning two Central Jersey championships in the New York /New Jersey travel league.

CCM participates in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIX. For the Spring 2019 season, the current record for the Lady Titans is 42-10. The team also won the Garden State Athletic Conference championship for 2019.

To learn more about the CCM softball program, visit www.ccm.edu/athletics/softball/.

The CCM Women's Softball Team's promotional video at <https://youtu.be/3yQRTaROGlC> also highlights the benefit of being on the team – the camaraderie.

CCM Cooks Up Culinary Course For Disabled Adults

County College of Morris (CCM) in Randolph is launching the Culinary Opportunity Program (COP) for Adults with Developmental Disabilities, starting on May 20, as an eight-week term leading to a certificate of completion.

COP is designed to provide adults with developmental disabilities with the training and qualifications to work in a range of food production environments, including restaurants, cafeterias and specialty shops such as ice cream stores. COP courses take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The total cost is \$1,998, payable over two sessions at \$999 each. CCM will offer the program every eight weeks. The first group starts May 20 and runs through July 22. Each COP session is limited to eight students. Registration is now taking place for the first program.

The Department of Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts at CCM developed the program in response to a growing need to provide adults with developmental disabilities with greater opportunities, notes Dr. Anthony J. Iacono, president of CCM.

“As a community college, our mission is to serve the entire community,” says Iacono. “This program will provide critical training for adults with developmental disabilities, who have aged out of the K-12 system, with a pathway for continued success.”

Students in the program will take four courses: Serv-Safe Food Handling, Cooking Traditions, Modern Cooking and Hospitality Work Experience. When possible, students also will take part in a 40-hour work opportunity.

Those accepted into the program will need to purchase a uniform and meet certain requirements, such as possessing a willingness to learn about and use commercial kitchen equipment, including mixers, gas stoves, convection ovens and dishwashers.

COP is being offered through the Center for Workforce Development at CCM. For more information and to apply, visit www.ccm.edu/workforce/cop/

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