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SCOUTS VISIT WASHINGTON CROSSING

Cub Scout Pack 23

As the United States of America celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding, Boy Scout Troop 23 experienced an inspiring 4-day trip to Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania over the Memorial Day Weekend. Fifteen Scouts and 8 adult leaders stayed in a cabin at Ockanickon Scout Reservation, and ventured from there to Washington Crossing Historic Park. There, they learned how General George Washington ferried 2,400 Colonial troops across the ice-filled Delaware River in the dark on Christmas and marched to Trenton, where they routed the British army. Troop 23 visited historic sites and hiked 5 miles along the Delaware Canal Towpath, qualifying for the Washington Crossing Historic Trail patch and medal.

On Sunday, they visited the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, where they saw an eclectic assemblage of artifacts from pre-industrial American life. Thanks to fundraising and donations, the Scouts and leaders were able to eat in local restaurants to allow more time at the historic sites. Troop 23 thanks all of its supporters who help make these meaningful experiences possible.

Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church of Elizabeth, welcomes any boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade to join them on upcoming camping trips and hikes, as well as a week-long summer camp in July.

Contact Scoutmaster Dan Bernier at 908-451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com for more details.

(above) Boy Scout Troop 23 visited the Washington Crossing Historic Park in Pennsylvania on Memorial Day weekend.

Courtesy Photo

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ELIZABETH, NJ

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MACNAMARA AND MORAN CONTRIBUTE TO A NEW BOOK ON THE JOY OF THEATRE

As summer began, a new book that celebrates the joy of watching or participating in theatre productions made its debut. "Marquee Moments" is a new book by Dr. Phillip Sprayberry that features reflections of some 40 different theatre artists about their experiences as actors, theatregoers, directors, and staff spanning both amateur and professional theatre. "To be clear," writes Sprayberry in his introduction, "these essayists are by people who love the theatre, wanted to share some vivid memories of their special moments, and have recorded them for you to enjoy as well."

The anthology is divided into five segments: "From the Start" (first experiences in theatre), "From the Seat" (audience recollections), "From the Stage" (acting memories), "From the Staff" (front-of-house, backstage), and "From the Rest" (other memories of theatre). It features varied, accessible stories, including memories of directing children's shows, a "Les Miserables" tour stop in San Francisco during the 1989 earthquake, a front-of-house confrontation, and a personal history told through viewings of "A Little Night Music".

Two local Union County natives are among those represented in the collection. Deirdre Louise MacNamara, originally from the Elmora section of Elizabeth, and currently a NYC-based playwright, contributed "To the Stage", about why she fell in love with theatre, and "What A Way to Spend the Day!" dealing with the magic of theatre. Maurice J. Moran of Rahway contributed "R&G Are Dead" about his life-long love of this alternate version of Hamlet; "Showstoppers" about personally experiencing moments of exactly that; and "Show Beginners" about why he spent 37 years of his life directing educational theatre.

(above, l-r) Lead author Phillip Sprayberry, with contributors Deirdre Louise MacNamara and Maurice J. Moran at the book launch held in early June.

Courtesy photos

The book is available from Amazon and B&N online in paperback or eBook editions. It is also on sale at Here's the Story bookstore in Union.

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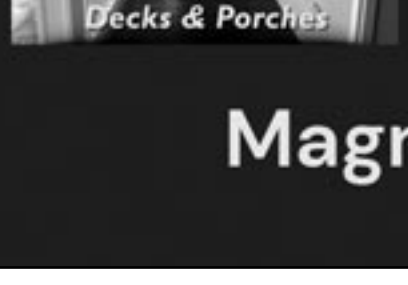

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CUB SCOUTS VISIT THE GREAT SWAMP

Cub Scout Pack 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth, visited the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County on Saturday, May 16. The Cub Scouts started their trip by walking two boardwalk trails to bird blinds at the Wildlife Observation Center. The Cubs used binoculars to look for birds at the blind, saw a robin feeding its chicks, watched turtles basking in the sun, and learned to identify several trees, bushes and other plants along their walk. They learned that you can make birch beer from black birch trees.

Pack 23's next stop in the Great Swamp was the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, where the Cubs saw exhibits about wildlife and habitat and visited the gift shop. The Scouts ate their lunch at a pavilion behind the Visitor Center, with chimney swifts flying overhead.

Then Pack 23 drove to its final stop of the day – the Raptor Trust. Located on the southern border of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Raptor Trust is a private, volunteer-staffed hospital and rehabilitation center for injured and orphaned birds. The Cub Scouts strolled the grounds, where many hawks, owls, and even bald eagles are housed in enclosed pens.

Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 have served the youth of St. Genevieve's parish and the surrounding area for over 60 years. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.

(above) Lions, Tigers and Bears, Oh My! The Cub Scouts of Pack 23 visited the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and took a picture with a black bear in the Visitor Center.

Courtesy Photo

COOL ARTS SHOW OPEN THRU AUGUST 21ST

(above) Frankie, Zachary and Michael were intrigued by the many artifacts on display in the Mercer Museum.

The Elizabeth Arts Council, in collaboration with the Elizabeth Public Library, is proud to present Cool Arts in July & August. A mixed media art show featuring local historic elements. Attending this all-member exhibition is a wonderful way to support local artists.

The exhibition will be on display from July 23, 2026 trru August 21st at the Elizabeth Public Library in the 3rd floor gallery, located at 11 South Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ. Free parking is available in the library's large parking lot. Call the Library for operating hours 908-354-6060 or check the website: elizpl.org.

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

A public opening reception will take place on Thursday, August 6th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. This event offers community members the opportunity to meet the artists, discuss the inspiration behind the collection, and enjoy light refreshments.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS & EXHIBIT

Featured artists in this exceptional show include: Ray Horner, Kai Buro, Marge Picard, Shez Maloney, and Daphnie Manzione. The collection includes oil and acrylic paintings, abstract art, commercial art, sculptures, photography, collage, and mixed media art. Many of our members are lifelong artists with distinguished reputations, and you may acquire artwork and commissions by contacting the artists directly.

JOIN THE ELIZABETH ARTS COUNCIL

The Elizabeth Arts Council is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting local and regional artists by providing opportunities to show, demonstrate, and sell their work. We invite artists and art enthusiasts to join our mission of fostering creative connections within the community. To learn more about membership or to get involved, please email Daphnie Manzione: Daphnie@godaphers.com

7TH GRADE INITIATIVE AT YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA

Registration opens August 15th for the 2026-2027 7th Grade Initiative at The Gateway Family YMCA. Students entering 7th Grade are invited to visit the YMCA and join for free with proof of grade and a guardian's signature. Registration is available in person at The Gateway Family YMCA – Elizabeth Branch - 135 Madison Avenue in Elizabeth, Five Points Branch -201 Tucker Avenue in Union, Rahway Branch – 1564 Irving Street in Rahway and Wellness Center Branch – 1000 Galloping Hill Rd in Union.

As part of the NJ YMCA 7th Grade Initiative, a state-wide strategy designed to support and encourage teens to maintain a healthy lifestyle, The Gateway Family YMCA offers a complimentary membership for all 7th Grade Students, including activities for mentorship, volunteerism and wellness. Additional program opportunities include group exercise, strength training, basketball, pickleball, soccer, swimming, esports, STEAM, virtual YMCA360 and a variety of events specifically created based on their interests and feedback.

The goal of the 7th Grade Initiative is to increase physical activity and support teens in the development of lifetime healthy habits, volunteerism and leadership skills while providing a safe and supportive environment with supportive role models at the YMCA.

"Sports become more competitive entering the teen years, and there is a chance of becoming sedentary. The Y is here to provide activity, socialization, leadership skills, and staff role models to encourage healthy habits to last a lifetime," stated Susan Butler, Senior Director of Community Wellness, The Gateway Family YMCA.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA has been proudly

serving Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County, for 126 years.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA's 7th Grade Initiative, visit www.tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch at 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch at 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch at 732-388-0057 or Wellness Center Branch at 908-349-9622.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 23 HOSTS TROOP 56 FOR PIONEERING DEMO

Boy Scout Troop 23 of Elizabeth recently hosted scouts and leaders from Troop 56 of Roselle Park at one of their weekly troop meetings. Working as one team, the scouts of both troops operated a hand-cranked rope machine to twist strands of sisal twine into a 10-foot long piece of rope, and thereby completing a requirement for the Pioneering Merit Badge.

(above) Scouts of Troop 23, Elizabeth and Troop 56, Roselle Park recently worked together to twist sisal twine into rope.

Courtesy Photo

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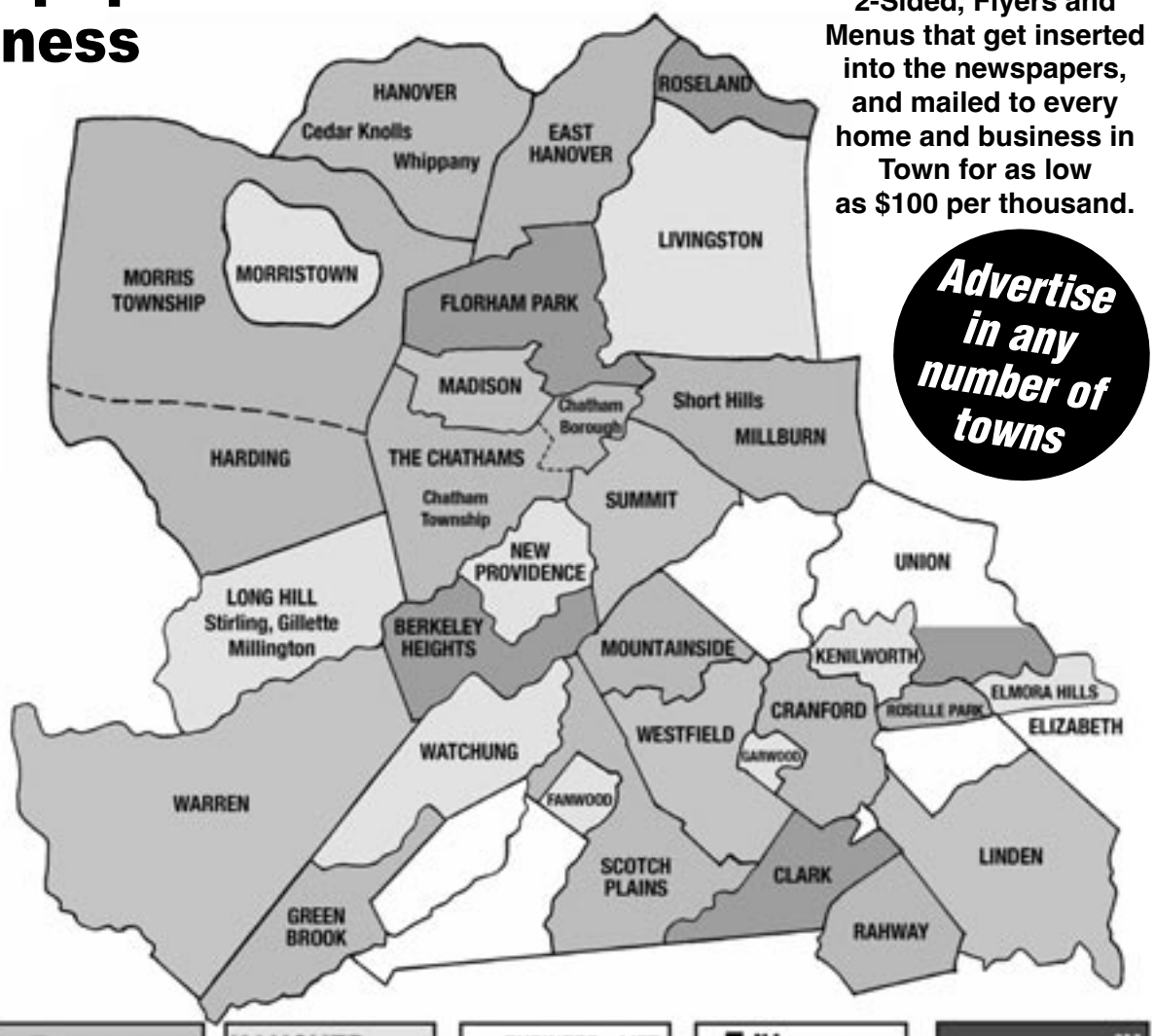

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2 Units	6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
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ADULT PROGRAMS

Elmora Book Sale

Saturday, August 1st to Saturday, August 8th
Book Sale Hours: Monday to Thursday 10-7pm; Friday 10-5pm; Saturday 10-1pm
Book Sale Prices: Price Range: 0.50¢-$5.00;
FinalDay 08/08: Bag of Books $10
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The Rummikub Club

Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 10 am
Join us for a friendly game!
Beginners are welcome!
Every Monday from 12 pm - 2 pm
All Mahjong lovers are welcome to play in the library. A minimum of 4 players is required.
Ages: 18+

Adult English Book Club

Tuesday, August 4 at 11 am
Join our Book Club meeting and engage in a lively discussion about our latest book.

Crochet with Sol

Tuesday, August 4, 11, & 18 at 12 pm
Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get started.

Zumba Gold

Tuesday, August 11, 18, & 25,
Thursday, August 13, 20, & 27, and
Monday, August 17, 24, & 31, at 9 am
Add fitness to your daily routine through the joy of dance! Walk-ins are welcome.

Adult Bingo

Tuesday, August 11 & 25 at 11 am
Join us at the Elmora Branch Library for a fun-filled game of Bingo!

Creative Knots with Pamela

Thursday, August 13, 20, & 27 at 10 am
Discover macrame to create unique handcrafted pieces for your home and wardrobe. Bring your own yarn

Literacy NJ (ESL)

Thursday, August 13, 20, & 27
from 6 pm to 7:15 pm
Practice speaking English in a friendly and relaxed environment! Gain confidence, improve your vocabulary, and meet new people while enjoying fun, everyday conversations.

Dario's Art Workshop

Saturday, August 15, from 10 am to 12 pm
Join us for a creative Saturday morning at Elmora with a canvas and acrylic paint. Registration is required, and space is limited to 15 participants.

Stitch & Mending

Tuesday, August 18 at 10 am
and Wednesday, August 19 at 5 pm
Come to Elmora Library to mend your clothing. Bring the article you need help with, and assistance will be provided.

Organize Your Future with Sandra

Monday, August 24 at 10:30 am
Learn why organizing is important, and the steps you can take to transform your future self.

The Edible Book Club

Wednesday, August 26 at 1 pm
Welcome to The Edible Book Club, where each month, we explore a cookbook and bring its recipes to life. Join us to share experiences and enjoy delicious food. Come for the books and stay for the bites!

Spanish Book Club for Adults

Wednesday, August 26 at 2 pm
Join Martha as she hosts a monthly book discussion for Spanish-speaking adults!

Enchanted Pages Book Club

Thursday, August 27 at 4 pm
Join our Enchanted Pages Book Club for magical stories, wonders, and fun chats with great vibes. This month's pick is "Dungeon Crawler Carl" by Matthew Dinniman

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Storytime at Green Acres Park

Saturday, August 8 at 11 am
Located on 169 Bellevue St, Elizabeth, NJ.
Join Ms. Martha for storytime and craft.

Junior Chess Club (Ages: 7-12)

Tuesday, August 11, 18, & 25 at 2 pm and
Friday, August 14, 21, & 28 at 4 pm
Don't miss out on our Chess Club for Kids! We welcome beginners!

Around the World Adventure

Wednesday, August 12 at 4:30 pm
Come celebrate cultures from around the world! Children are welcome to wear traditional clothing, bring a food item or cultural object to share, and learn about different countries and traditions.

Toddlers World

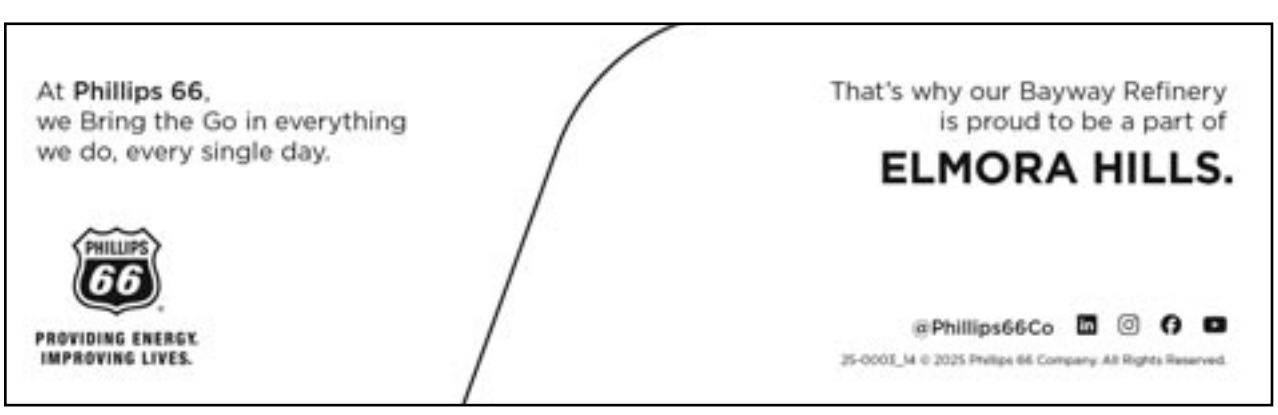
Friday, August 14 & 28 at 11 am
An hour of fun stories, songs to sing, music, and playtime.

Back to School Scavenger Hunt

Monday, August 17 to Saturday, August 22
Can you find all the images hidden in the Children's area? Get a small prize from our treasure chest when you complete the hunt!

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, August 22 at 12 pm
Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ
Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, and crafts with LOADS of fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family. FREE PIZZA!!!



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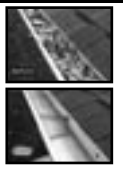

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