



The Tewksbury Times

June 2026

A community newsletter for and about the residents of Tewksbury Township

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Ten Years at Whittemore: A Conversation with Executive Director Carolyn Thow



As Whittemore—Community, Culture & Conservation prepares to celebrate its 10-Year Anniversary, Executive Director Carolyn Thow reflects on a decade of growth, community building, and stewardship and shares a preview of the organization's upcoming gala, *Art of the Earth: A Culinary Canvas*.

"For me, Whittemore has always been about creating a place where people feel connected—to nature, to the arts, and to each other," says Thow. "Ten years ago, this was a vision rooted in preservation and community. Today, it has grown into a vibrant cultural destination that continues to evolve while staying true to those core values."

Over the past decade, Whittemore—Community, Culture & Conservation has stewarded more than 180 acres of preserved land and maintained 11 miles of walking trails. The property has become a welcoming space for exploration, reflection, and education, drawing more than 4,000 visitors annually. Beyond the landscape, Whittemore has expanded its offerings to include arts exhibitions, wellness programs, educational initiatives, garden concerts, culinary gatherings, and seasonal events that bring together people of all ages.

"We've always believed that conservation and culture go hand in hand," Thow explains. "You protect the land, and then you invite the community to experience it—through art, music, learning, and shared experiences. That's what makes Whittemore special."

This philosophy is at the heart of the organization's 10-Year Anniversary Gala, which will take place this season at Whittemore. The evening, titled *Art of the Earth: A Culinary Canvas*, is designed as an immersive outdoor experience celebrating nature, art, music, community and culinary creativity.

"The gala is really a reflection of everything Whittemore represents," says Thow. "Guests will experience the beauty of the landscape, artistic elements throughout the grounds, and a thoughtfully curated culinary evening and of course live music! We wanted it to feel organic, elegant, and deeply connected to the land."

The culinary component of the evening will be presented through Whittemore's signature Food Makes Friends series, known for intimate and engaging dining experiences. For the anniversary celebration, the menu will be inspired by the historic property and the book *Bird Haven Farm: The Story of an Original American Garden*, by Janet Mavee.

"That story resonates so strongly with Whittemore," Thow notes. "It reflects the heritage of the land and the idea that gardens, like communities, grow over time. The culinary experience will celebrate seasonal ingredients, regional inspiration, and the shared joy of gathering around food."

While the gala celebrates the past, Thow emphasizes that the evening is also about investing in Whittemore's future. Proceeds will support conservation efforts, arts programming, educational initiatives, and wellness experiences, as the organization enters its next decade.

"This milestone gives us an opportunity to reflect, but also to look ahead," she says. "We want to continue preserving open space, expanding educational opportunities, supporting artists, and creating meaningful experiences for our community. The next ten years are about deepening that impact."

Individual tickets for the 10-Year Anniversary Gala are available for \$225 per person. Guests may also participate through sponsorship opportunities or by making a tax-deductible donation to support Whittemore—Community, Culture & Conservation.

"As we celebrate this anniversary, I feel incredibly grateful," Thow added. "Whittemore exists because of the community - the supporters, volunteers, artists, educators, and visitors who believe in what this place represents. This gala is a celebration of all of them, and an invitation to be part of what comes next."



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Tewksbury Seniors

By Heather Ross

MAY 4TH: TEWKSBURY SENIOR CLUB FEATURES HOMETOWN GIRL ALISON JONES

Seniors gathered at the Oldwick Manor for our May 4th meeting, which featured Bingo with gifts by Joni Lauyer, sponsored by Rolling Hills and Hunterdon Care Centers; Carlos Crosbie's Book Corner; and talk on NO WATER, NO LIFE by Alison Jones, who grew up with fresh water streams in Tewksbury.

We first signed in, and signed up for the Township Senior Party May 15. Then we helped ourselves to abundant food choices brought by thoughtful club members, along with coffee by Janet Perini. Then Joni ran five hands of regular Bingo (no corners or T for Tewksbury this time) with generous prize selections. And Carlos Crosbie introduced his Book Corner, featuring a collection of books donated to us from Joanne at the Tewksbury Library, for which we are very grateful.

And then Alison Jones began her talk. She now lives in Vermont, but grew up with fresh water streams when she lived as an infant in "East Mountainville" on the corner of Guinea Hollow and Sawmill Roads in an historic stone house. Her family soon moved to "West Mountainville" to

Applewood farm on Water Street, where she lived until her marriage. She has made fresh water a mission with her program NO WATER, NO LIFE, and that is what she shared with us.

"There is a history of neglect with water," she declared, advising that "One in four have no access to clean water." Among the many slides she showed from around the world was one with African girls carrying water for families' use. "Carrying water keeps children from going to school," Alison advised. "And girls get diseases from carrying water. Some walk 1000 miles to go to a hospital in Africa for healing, sponsored by Oprah Winfrey," she concluded.

Climate change has led to water problems. And with less water, the population suffers. "With no water, there is no life—and no peace," Jones said. She encourages connections of human life with nature. This is a worldwide problem, but attention to the matter helps with solutions.



l-r: Alison Jones, speaker; Heather Ross, chair of Tewksbury Seniors; Jean Frankel, who now lives on Applewood Farm on Water Street where Alison grew up.

Our final meeting of the school year will again feature Bingo, Carlos' Book Corner, and a talk with slide show by Frank Greenagel. He will speak on The Greenagel Equations: Tools to Help Manage Life and Relationships. Don't miss it Monday, June 1st, 10:00AM–12:00PM, at the Oldwick Manor. Come early for food and conversation. We are off in the summer but will return Monday September 14th (late in the month due to Labor Day) with Carol Simon as Abigail Adams and more.



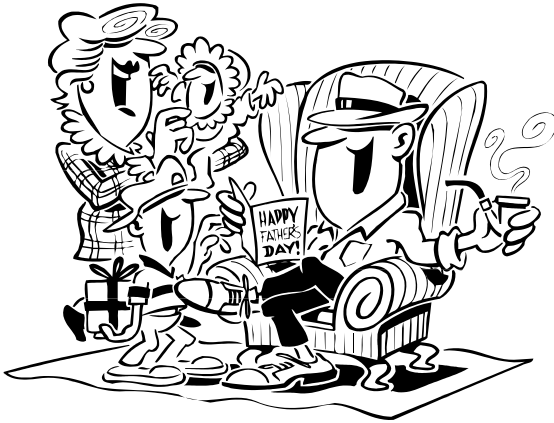
 **MOTHER
NATURE
APPROVED**



The group enjoyed Alison's slide show.

Happy Fathers Day

(June 21st. Don't forget!)



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Center for Great Expectations Readies for Mothers Day

Womans Club of Tewksbury Township (WCTT) members Noelle Batmanian, Heather Ross, and Amy Levin delivered cakes and flowers for the Adolescent Women's House and the Adult Women's House at The Center for Great Expectations (CGE) in Somerset, on May 7th. Each house was preparing to hold a private party on Mother's Day, where each woman would receive a plant, plus one for each house. With, of course, abundant cake with, flower decorations.



Noreen Whittemore (at right), of the Center for Great Expectations in Somerset, happily received cakes and flowers from (l-r) Noelle Batmanian, Heather Ross, & Amy Levin of the Woman's Club of Tewksbury Township.

The women at CGE are in treatment for drug and/or alcohol problems and are learning new life choices along with their counseling and education. Meanwhile, their children are in day care or school themselves, so mothers and children all learn. Children and staff also participate in the private parties.

Along with the flowers and cakes, the WCTT contingent left a card for each house with encouraging words for the women in treatment. They are making solid choices for themselves and for their children and families. WCTT salutes them and their counselors.





Friends Update

BREAKFAST UNIVERSITY SECOND SEMESTER

The first semester of NY Historical's Breakfast University was outstanding! We are delighted to continue with a spring/summer semester. The Friends will live stream the second program the series from New York Historical on **Monday, June 1st**, at 9:00AM, upstairs in our library. Some of the greatest history professors in the nation will present an original, provocative one-hour talk. A delicious light breakfast will be offered at 8:30AM. A non-refundable registration fee of \$30 covers three lectures.

For details, to print registration, or pay online go to www.tewksburylibraryfriends.org

THE LECTURES:

Monday, June 1st, 9:00AM

What Would The Founding Fathers Think of America Today?

Wendy Schiller, Brown University

Monday, July 13th, 9:00AM

Musical Masterpieces That Changed America

Anna Celenza, Johns Hopkins University

Monday, August 3rd, 9:00AM

Baseball's 10 Greatest Players and What They Mean to America

Vincent Cannato, University of Massachusetts, Boston

OUR MOMA BUSTRIP

The Friends bus to the Marcel Du Champ Exhibit at MoMA is filled!

...and Where Are We Going Next?

We're finalizing the details for our upcoming trip; it's going to be a winner!

Look for details and registration information in next month's newsletter.

WE'RE EAGER TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Friends work diligently to come up with new and exciting ideas for our bus trips; which serve as our primary "fun"-raisers for the library.

As we plan for upcoming trips we'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions. The Friends have sponsored 50+ bus trips and know there are numerous points of interest waiting to be explored. Please send your ideas to tewksburylibraryfriends@gmail.com

BOOKS WE LOVE REVIEWS

Adrienne's Pick

Circe, by Madeline Miller

I had long awaited the chance to read Madeline Miller's *Circe*, and I was so glad to finally dive into it over spring break. As a mythology enthusiast, this rendition of the Homeric tales from an alternative perspective did not disappoint.

The novel follows Circe, the misunderstood daughter of Helios who is banished to a remote island. In exile she finds freedom from the cruelty of her family and forges an identity of her own through her encounters with gods, monsters, and familiar legendary mortals.

I especially enjoyed how seamlessly Miller wove together Greek myths into a fresh story that felt both timeless and new. She gives voice to a character often pushed to the margins and turns her into someone vivid and complex. I appreciated how honestly she captured the chaos, sacrifice, and emotional dualities of motherhood. Thoughtful, immersive, and beautifully written, *Circe* is a book that lingers long after the final page.

RECENTLY FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS

The Friends have purchased both a six sided activity box (think STEM) and 4 colorful gel mats for toddlers to dance on, walk on, or crawl on while visiting the library. Come to our Children's Room on the second floor and see your donations being enjoyed.

Our Seed Give Away in April was a HUGE success- this year almost 200 flower, vegetable and herbs seeds packets were taken by our patrons. Happy Planting!

WE ALWAYS NEED YOU

If you like what the Friends bring to the library, please consider making a contribution, at www.TewksburyLibraryFriends.org.

The Friends



News from Your Library

COME WATCH A BOOK AT THE LIBRARY

- "Remarkably Bright Creatures," directed by Olivia Newman, Starring Sally Fields

Sunday, June 28th, 1-3:00PM. Conversation about the movie will follow. Movie treats provided by the Friends. Space is limited, call to reserve your space: 908-439-3761.

STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY

Leap into spring, with a story, a song, a craft, and a game all outdoors! Every Thursday morning at 10:00AM (barring a rain storm).

COMING THIS SUMMER:

- Kids Chess, Saturdays July 11- August 1, 11-12:00
- Sewing for Teens, Tuesday, July 14, 1:30-3:00
- Circuitry for Teens, Tuesday, July 21, 1:30-3:00

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- The Wool Keepers – every Tuesday 9:30AM–1:00PM
- Chair Yoga, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9:00–10:00AM (*Children's Room will be closed*)
- Canasta, Wednesdays at 12:00PM
- Tai Chi, Thursdays:
Returning Tai Chi members 9:00AM
Beginning Tai Chi students 10:00AM
- Mahjong every Friday from 12:30–3:00PM
- Teen Tech first Friday of the month, 3:00–5:00PM, available by appointment, just call!

Tewksbury Library Staff



THS Barn Tour

The 2026 Tewksbury Barn Tour, co-sponsored by the Tewksbury Historical Society and the Tewksbury Trail Association, takes place on Saturday, June 20th, 10:00AM–3:00PM, rain or shine.

This year marks the 14th Bi-Annual Tour showcasing five barns in the Township. From a large, multi-acre site to a small, compact home, the types of barns are varied. A farm which has been in the same family for generations features a multi-use barn. A dairy barn from Pennsylvania has been relocated for use as a horse barn. A relatively new barn, constructed in the past twenty years, sets at the end of a long, meandering driveway. At one location, there is a barn constructed by the Amish with access to a riding trail, a convenience for the owners. At another property, an old millstone marks the way to the barn.

Advance tickets are \$40 until 8:00PM June 18th, and \$50 on the day of the Tour. Tickets for children age 11-18 are \$5, and children 10 and under are free, both in-advance and on the day of the Tour. Tickets are limited and can be purchased on-line, at www.tewksburyhistory.net.

All tickets will be held for pick at Tewksbury Historical Society Headquarters, 60 Water St., Mountainville (Lebanon), NJ 08833 on June 20th, 10:00AM–1:00PM. 



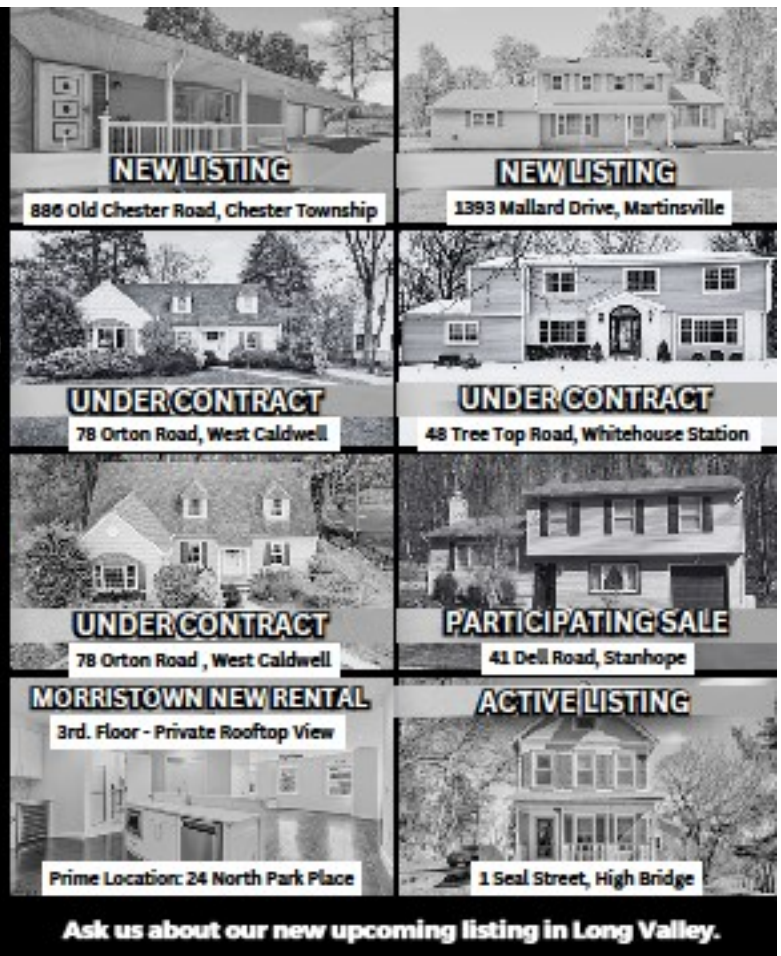
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News from the School

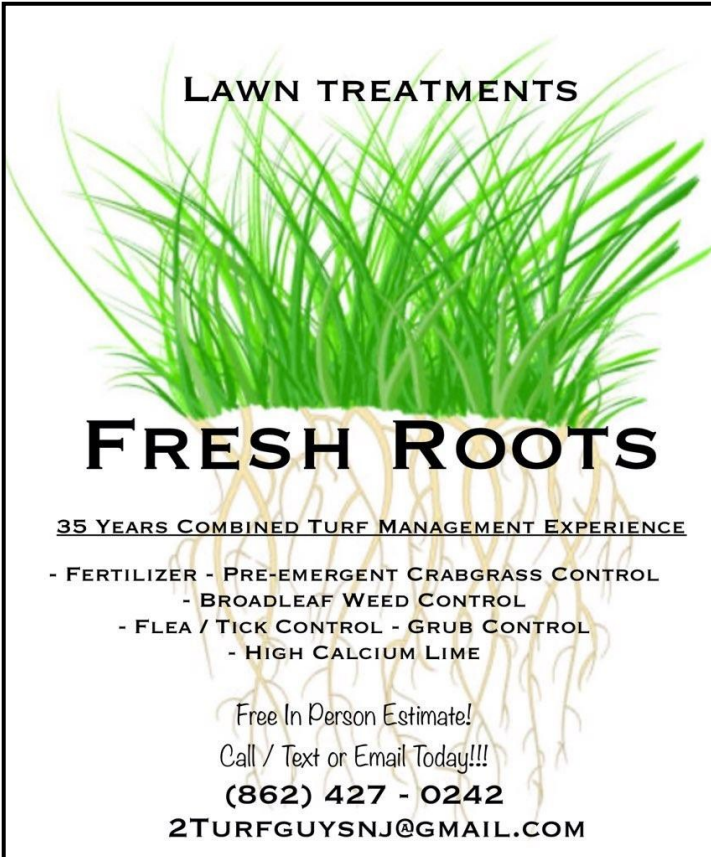
Beginning last fall, a group of Tewksbury Elementary School (TES) students has been reporting local news and town updates on their Instagram account. The group shares community and TES events, weather, sports, and other news.

To help these young reporters reach a wider audience, *The Tewksbury Times* is making space available for some of their reporting. The first offering follows, at right. We look forward to sharing some of their news, in future months. For more regular updates, you can follow the Tewks News Room Instagram page: @tewksnewsteam. 

School Budget Explained

The Tewksbury Township Board of Education and Administration have worked collaboratively to develop the 2026-2027 school budget. They have created a Budget Flyer to provide a clear and transparent overview of its key components.

The Flyer can be viewed online at this website: <http://bit.ly/4ueb2DR> 



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Tewks News Team Update

By Lily Smith

Hi Tewksbury! I'm Lily from the Tewks News Team and for our first newspaper article we wanted to talk about the new school budget changes because lots of people in town have been asking questions about it.

The school budget for next year is \$19.1 million. The flyer says the average family's taxes could go up about \$491 for the year, which is around \$41 more each month.

One big reason is because of the new school building projects that people voted yes for before. The schools received \$8.5 million in state aid to help pay for it, and will also get another \$572,000 in debt service aid this year.

Another reason is because health insurance became way more expensive this year. The flyer says it went up 23.5%, which is about \$920,000 more than last year.

The district said they are trying to save money in different ways too. Grades 7 and 8 are changing from four class sections to three because of enrollment numbers. They are also looking at staffing and might add activity fees for sports and clubs to help with costs.

The Board of Education also said they want to keep the schools strong, safe, and good for students while still being responsible with money. The district also got a "clean" audit result, which means the financial review went well.

Thanks for reading our first article for *The Tewksbury Times*! We're really excited to keep sharing school news and town updates from the kids' point of view.

Follow us on Instagram for more referendum updates, town events, neighbor spotlights, fun stories, and more! @TewksNewsTeam 

Zion Lutheran Church Events

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

From Memorial Day through Labor Day Zion's Sunday morning service is at 9:30AM, and there is no Sunday School. All are welcome!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT ZION

Vacation Bible School is coming on June 22nd-26th. This fun-filled week is for everyone between the ages of three through the completion of 5th grade. Sessions run from 9:30AM-12:15PM each day and are held at the Christian Education Building at 18 Miller Avenue. To register, visit the church website, at www.zionoldwick.com, or contact Zion's Parish Administrator at parishadministrator@zionoldwick.com.

BLOOD DRIVE

On July 28th Zion will sponsor a blood drive at the Christian Education Building from 12:30PM-6:30PM. Watch the church website for registration information to be posted in late June. 

Scenic Tewksbury

Can you identify this Tewksbury location?



Photo by Sandy Ross

Send your answer to editor@TewksburyConnect.org. We'll announce the location in the next issue of *The Times*, so everyone can visit this site. For a larger version, see [@sandyrossphotography](#), on Instagram.

Harold Wrede was first to identify last month's photo: the (former) Fairmount Methodist Church building, at the corner of Old Turnpike and Fairmount Roads. 

Open Letter from Eagle Scout

Dear Tewksbury Community,

As you may recall, my Eagle Scout Project focused on assisting Tewksbury First Aid and Rescue Squad in upgrading the Radio Repeater System to improve emergency radio coverage throughout the township. Through your incredible generosity, we raised over \$4,500 to provide the Squad with new radios, batteries, and chargers! With the help of Wireless Inc., along with Scout and Squad volunteers, we were able to successfully test and complete my Project. As a result, radio repeater coverage in Tewksbury increased from approximately 65% to nearly 95% of the township.

Recently, I have earned the rank of Eagle Scout in The Boy Scouts of America with Oldwick Troop 199. The leadership, service, and experiences gained through Scouting have helped me to receive a 3-year Army ROTC Scholarship at Duquesne University, where I will study Nursing.

I would like to sincerely thank my past Den Leaders, Pack Leaders, Assistant Scoutmasters, Scoutmaster, and my fellow Scouts for guiding and supporting me through my Scouting journey. In addition, I would like to thank the Tewksbury community, my teachers, friends, and especially my parents for their encouragement and support in helping me accomplish this milestone.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to my project and supported me along the way.

Yours in Scouting,

Drew Patykula 



Social Security & Medicare

There are a few recent announcements from Medicare to be aware of.

Starting in July, Medicare beneficiaries may be able to get a **GLP-1 prescription** for weight loss for \$50 a month. It is a notable shift for Medicare, which has long been barred from covering weight loss treatments.

The drugs, such as Wegovy and Zepbound, are effective but can be expensive without insurance coverage. They are available in injection or pill form. Even with discounts, current cash prices typically range from \$149 to \$699 per month.

2027 payments to insurers managing Medicare Advantage plans will increase by 2.48% on average. The increase in the payment is less than the inflation rate and far less than increases in medical spending. Insurers are expected both to raise rates and reduce coverage in 2027. Dr. Mehmet Oz, head of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, has aimed to cut federal health plan spending.

The Trump administration has ordered changes to the federal policy regarding Medicaid. In order to stay on **Medicaid significant new paperwork is required**. The Urban Institute published a study showing up to 10,000,000 people would lose coverage nationwide. Two-thirds of them are between ages 50 and 64, and 20% have a child under 14. This includes 350,000 New Jerseyans who could lose coverage due to this change. Most of those affected are self-employed. Governor Sherrill has proposed \$10M in her budget to help NJ residents with the additional paperwork required to keep their Medicaid.

Medicare has announced the **drugs being negotiated for reduced costs** beginning in 2027. This is the 3rd round of drug prices being reduced based on the Inflation Reduction Act of 2023. Around 2.3 Million Seniors spent \$15.2B annually on these drugs. Affected Seniors should save over \$8B annually. The drugs include Janumet, Tradjenta, Breo Ellipta, Linzess, Trelegy Ellipta, Ozempic, Rybelsus, Wegovy, Otezla, Xifaxan, Pomalyst, Ibrance, Ofev, Xtandi, Vraylar, Calquence, Austedo. 



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Hunterdon Health

Profiles in Community

By Yvonne Stecher

HAROLD WREDE

If you've admired the beautiful Zion Lutheran church, a particularly scenic road in town, or some of the historical society's significant buildings in Oldwick, then know that you have local history and car maven Harold Wrede to thank for his contributions to preservation work. A member of Zion Lutheran Church, the historical society, and then the scenic roads and bridges committee, Harold has long trained his careful and exacting eye on preserving, renovating, and protecting some of Tewksbury's treasures.

And while Harold, a native New Jersey, notes that he doesn't have generations of roots in the township, his personal history does go back to the WWII era, when he remembers driving up through Oldwick to his Great Uncle Julius Rohmann's farm on Fox Hill Road (now owned by the Clark family): "We would turn in on Wildwood, known for the nearby pig farms." From spring to fall, "We would go up for a weekend or even a week in the summer" to enjoy the farm's bounty during a time of food rationing. His uncle had dairy cows and chickens at a time when milk, butter, and eggs were hard to come by. "I remember corn fields and apple orchards... No electricity, no indoor plumbing." Gasoline and rubber tires were also rationed or not available—tires were recycled or retread—so his father had to be creative to enable those family trips, saving gas coupons by taking the bus to work.

After his uncle gave up the farm in 1947 [when Harold was 8], he didn't find himself back in the vicinity for many years. He left Mendham, his wife Martha's hometown, in 1985 for a new job in Gloucester, MA, and retiring in 2001, decided to move back to NJ. He was looking at property on Alder Creek Drive when he started to think, "Gosh, this is familiar territory." He called a cousin and found out he was within a stone's throw of childhood memories at his uncle's old farm and bought the property.

Once settled in, it was Martha who first sparked his community involvement through her membership in the Zion Lutheran church and then soon after in the historical society where he met local historian Shaun Van Doren. "Shaun asked me to help with the 2005 Tewksbury Township 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee," which oversaw a dinner, parade, and other activities. Later, Shaun also asked him to serve on the Scenic Roads Committee, which was eventually expanded to include historic bridges.

A self-described amateur carpenter with an engineering background [and bent], Harold soon found himself involved in multiple property projects. For Zion Lutheran's 300th anniversary in 2014, as a "labor of love" he meticulously researched and supervised the restoration of the 1747 church's interior and furnishings to what it would have looked like circa 1883, with rich red oak details and

stains. Piece by piece at his own expense, he would take antique furniture items from the church to his home workshop where he'd return them to their former glory and ultimately back to their church home. As a member of the historical society, he helped supervise the restoration of the Carriage House property on James Street and then did the same when the society bought what it intends as its future headquarters at 49 Old Turnpike. "I did a lot of woodwork that required quite some research" to make sure the building was restored to its 1890's period details.

The township's Scenic Roads Committee was established to help preserve about 50 of the township's byways. Eventually, historic bridges were added to its purview to protect some of the unique truss and stone arch bridges that criss-cross the township. This year we celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary of Independence, and thanks to that protection, Harold notes that some roads might still look very similar to how they did more than 100 years ago or in, a couple cases, maybe even as far back as 1776. In Harold's opinion, one of the most scenic roads in town is Fox Hill Road because "You have a gorgeous view of the entire valley down below." Palatine Road is also a pretty road not only because it is still natural and unpaved but includes a beautiful stone arch bridge, recently restored.

Harold says his historic interests arose out of the historical society's mission to "preserve, protect, and archive" some of the lovely historic aspects of our township, adding, "I hope to see that continue."

Thank you, Harold!



Blood Drive



Friday, June 19

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Tewksbury Rescue Station

163 Old Turnpike Rd.

(behind township admin. and DPW buildings)

Appointments Preferred
Walk-ins Welcome

To register, scan the QR or visit
<https://tinyurl.com/2vetduv8>





The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has recognized St. Luke's ahead of nationally renowned Mayo Clinic and Houston Methodist as the nation's three highest performing health systems for quality, safety and patient experience—affirming St. Luke's status as a leader among the largest and best-known health care providers in the country.



TLT Events

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY

June 6th, at 10:00AM. Come help us prepare the Matarazzo Preserve to welcome the public.

We're excited to include a permitted controlled burn on this day as well. We hope to see you there, we have much to accomplish to get our newest acquisition ready for everyone's enjoyment!

GRAND OPENING

Next up is the "Grand Opening" of our Matarazzo Preserve:

Sunday, June 28th, at 5:00PM.

RSVP to one or both and we'll see you on the trail!

Parking for both events will be at the eastern entrance of our Christmas Tree Farm Preserve:

50 Sawmill Road.

Please remember all our events are weather permitting. The best way to stay up to date is to sign up on our website and follow us on Instagram & Facebook: @tewksburylandtrust

For all things TLT, visit www.tewksburylandtrust.org or contact Gia-Raquel Esposito at gia-raquel@tewksburylandtrust.org



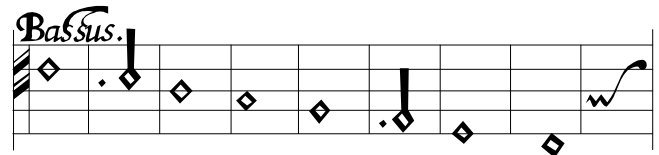
Shedfest is Coming

On **Saturday, June 7th**, join Raritan Headwaters for **Shedfest**, an outdoor music festival and fundraiser for Raritan Headwaters Association. The event will be held at Fairview Farm Wildlife Preserve, located at 2121 Larger Cross Road, Bedminster, NJ, from 1:00–6:00PM.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a fun afternoon listening to great local bands, including Toll Collectors Trio, Tim and Dani, and Nick Dunbar & Sad Cowboy. There will also be a variety of food trucks, and kids' activities. Bring the family and enjoy the outdoors at Raritan Headwaters' beautiful wildlife preserve.

Tickets are now available to purchase online, at www.raritanheadwaters.org/shedfest/. All proceeds from Shedfest benefit Raritan Headwaters' conservation mission and programs.

If you are interested in **volunteering** for this event, contact Debbie Newcomb at dnewcomb@raritanheadwaters.org.



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RHA Cleanup Volunteers Collect 21+ Tons of Trash

The rusted remains of a car. A battered, mud-covered hulk of a boat. A heavy metal plow attachment. A storage shed and a lawnmower, but not together. A dumpster stuck in the mud. A drone in its original case. A wild-life camera. Tires, mattresses, patio furniture, bikes, car parts, shopping carts, and kitchen cabinets.

These are among the unusual items found by volunteers during the 36th annual Stream Cleanup sponsored by the nonprofit Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) on Saturday, April 18th. More than 1,000 volunteers picked up over 21 tons of trash and litter at 72 streamside sites throughout Hunterdon, Somerset, and Morris counties.

"It's incredible what makes its way into the water and the flood plain," said Rachel Garcia, RHA's Water Resources Associate, who coordinated the cleanup. "Clearly, we had a lot of strong volunteers to be able to move those heavy items—we were lucky to have their help."

As in previous years, the event drew individuals, families, scout troops, and groups from local schools, churches, businesses, environmental commissions, and other civic organizations. For three hours, the volunteers fanned out on land along rivers, streams, ponds, lakes and reser-

voirs in the upper Raritan River watershed.

Mara Tippet, RHA's executive director, thanked the volunteers for making an immediate, positive impact on the health of the watershed. "It always amazes me how much can be accomplished in just one morning when everyone works together," she said.

"Everything dumped on the land eventually ends up in the water," Tippet noted. "The Stream Cleanup not only beautifies the watershed, but also helps protect aquatic life and the 1.8 million New Jerseyans who rely on the upper Raritan River for drinking water."

According to Garcia, more than 38,000 individual pieces of trash were picked up, most of them small. The most common finds were plastic wrappers (6,407), plastic bottles (6,151), cigarette butts (5,423), aluminum cans (4,200), and glass bottles (3,438). A total of 117 car and truck tires were removed.

To maintain year-to-year statistics, volunteer cleanup teams carefully logged each item picked up so it could be entered into RHA's Stream Cleanup database. The total weight of trash removed during this year's event – 42,662 pounds – was nearly double that of the year before.

"It's a huge amount," said Garcia. "A lot of that can be attributed to the addition of 10 new cleanup sites this year."



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Citizen Kid

By Kaitlyn Baker

ELLIE EMBERSIT AND LANDON LAMPARIELLO



For this month, I interviewed Ellie Embersit and Landon Lampariello. Both are 10 years old and enjoy playing lacrosse and basketball, as well as baking and reading. Ellie also loves playing field hockey and creating art.

Ellie and Landon are hosting a bake sale on **June 7th**, from 10:00AM–12:00PM, on Hell Mountain to raise money for camp scholarships for Haytown Nursery School's Summer Camp. Their goal for their second annual bake sale is to raise \$300, which will fund two scholarships—each covering a week of camp.

They were inspired to organize the event because they wanted to honor a family in the Haytown community and they love to bake. Some of the treats they'll be offering include a variety of cookies, such as cocoa cookies, as well as sourdough brownies. To spread the word, they've used social media and posted flyers around town.

Ellie shared that the hardest part of preparing for the bake sale was resisting the urge to eat what they made, while Landon said speaking with customers was the biggest challenge. Their advice? "If you have an idea, just do it."

Be sure to stop by on June 7th and support their efforts to raise camp scholarships! 

Who's Your Hero?

Do you know a special Tewksbury kid, or adult who is making a contribution to our community? We are always interested in suggestions of people to profile. Tewksbury Township has a long tradition of neighbors working to make life better for all of us, sometimes laboring in the background.

We want to find those people, and give them some well-deserved, sometimes overdue recognition, and you can help. Send us your suggestions by e-mail, to editor@TewksburyConnect.org 

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Whittemore CCC Events

JUNE AT WHITTEMORE

As Whittemore – Community, Culture & Conservation celebrates its 10th Anniversary, we are delighted to share our June lineup across our core platforms of Nature, The Arts, Wellness, and Education. We invite everyone to join us for a month of meaningful gatherings, inspiring experiences, and opportunities to connect with Whittemore's beautiful grounds and vibrant programming.

WHITTEMORE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA – JUNE 19TH

A special evening celebrating ten years of community, conservation, and culture, honoring all that Whittemore has built—and our exciting future. **RSVP by June 10th**

NATURE

- June 6th | 9:30AM Beekeeping Class.

Learn about the vital role of pollinators and the fascinating world of beekeeping.

- June 6th | 9:30AM Foraging Walk & Workshop

Explore Whittemore's landscape while discovering edible and medicinal plants found in our region.

THE ARTS – THEN & NOW GALLERY HOURS

As part of Whittemore's anniversary celebration, our THEN & NOW exhibition—beautifully installed by David Scott continues throughout June with special gallery hosts, artists:

- June 7th & 27th – Doris Ettlinger & Michael McFadden
- June 13th – Elie Porter Trubert
- June 20th – Penelope Ayers
- June 28th – Jim Irvine

WELLNESS

Whittemore's Wellness programming, supported by GLOW Yoga Center, features two special June events:

June 14th | 11:00AM

Dedication of the Whittemore Walking Meditation Labyrinth. Join Carl Klemme, Whittemore's Director of Wellness, for the dedication of our new Walking Meditation Labyrinth in Bluebird Field, with a ribbon-cutting led by Jim Mulder.

June 20th | 8:00PM

Summer Solstice Drum Circle at the Labyrinth Celebrate the season with an evening of rhythm, reflection, and community.

EDUCATION

Whittemore's Summer Nature Camp begins June 22nd, led by Program Coordinator Storie Crutchley. A few spots remain available for MUNCHKIN campers.

VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS & VISITING WHITTEMORE

Volunteer Saturdays continue weekly from 8:30 AM–12:00PM, offering opportunities to help maintain Whittemore's trails, gardens, and historic house. Volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves and water.

For event registration and updates, visit www.WhittemoreCCC.org.



BEGINNER IRISH DANCE CAMP

with TCRG Karen LaPointe



Join us in Lebanon at Broadway Bound Dance Center

Monday 6/15
Tuesday 6/16
Wednesday 6/17
Friday 6/19
5.30-6.30pm

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A great way to get moving & boost your cardio — have fun learning Irish dance with upbeat music!
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Summer Volunteers Needed at Mane Stream

Mane Stream is seeking volunteers to assist with Summer Camp, Adaptive Riding Lessons, and Therapy Sessions for children and adults with special needs. Volunteers age 14 or older are needed to groom and tack the horses and assist riders weekday mornings, afternoons, and Saturday mornings. Prior experience with horses is not necessary to become a volunteer. Volunteer a couple hours a week or several times a week. This is a great addition to a college resume, high school service requirement, or a rewarding activity for the newly retired.

After a 1-hour online orientation, volunteers will be scheduled for hands-on training to ensure the safety of all participants. The orientation provides an overview of the programs offered, and will explain the responsibilities of a Mane Stream volunteer. The hands-on training will go over grooming, tacking for both adaptive riding and therapy which is very different.

Register as soon as possible to get scheduled for the upcoming summer sessions. For more information or to register for orientation and training, visit the Mane Stream website and create your volunteer profile, at www.manestreamnj.org or phone volunteer coordinator, Emily De Jong, at 908-439-9636. 

Doug McCullough at Mane Stream Horse Show

A leading voice in global disability advocacy and best-selling author, Doug McCullough, is set for a poignant homecoming this spring. When the Mane Stream Annual Horse Show arrives at the historic United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation on Saturday, June 13, 2026, McCullough will host a special signing of his book, *A Billion People in the Shadows: The Ultimate 1-Hour Guide to Understanding Disability*.

This appearance brings his journey full circle, as he returns to the same legendary arena where he competed as a Mane Stream adaptive rider in 2002.

McCullough's bestselling book examines the profound impact of societal perceptions and the importance of embracing true inclusion. His work emphasizes that disability is a vibrant form of diversity that offers valuable perspectives to the world. Having Doug share these insights while current Mane Stream riders, alongside participants from partner programs, showcase their achievements in the same world-class arena used by Olympic champions, is expected to create an inspiring atmosphere for the entire community. 

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Our next deadline will be **June 15th**, for the **July** issue of *The Times*.

If there is an event that your organization needs to publicize, simply e-mail us all the details, to **editor@TewksburyConnect.org**, and we'll help spread the word. Also, let us know about note-worthy neighbors we should cover in our Profiles in Community or Citizen Kid columns, or other news you think we should cover.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION!

Tewksbury Connect is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and receives **no funding from the local government**. Your **tax-deductible** donation shows that you also support local community news. We are striving for 100% participation. Every donation—of whatever amount—helps. Community news requires community involvement. 

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The application for the Tewksbury Connect student scholarship is now available online, at www.TewksburyConnect.org/news. The scholarship recognizes a student who plans to pursue further education in communication or civics, and has made meaningful contributions to our community. Tewksbury Connect wants to encourage continued learning while honoring the values of service, leadership, and community involvement. 