

CLIFTON



Free, Please Take One




Back to
School
with...
 **Jenna**
Alnatur

Marge
Beissel

Gabriella
Labocki

Diego
Rodriguez

Simon
Deossa

RICHARD CHUN TAEKWONDO HQ
리차드 킴 태권도 본부
제나 알나투르
JENNA ALNATUR



CORBO
JEWELERS

A New Chapter Begins!
See The News Page 19!

JUST LISTED



📍 15 Lawrence Ct, Clifton NJ 07013

Listed For \$699,000



📍 137 Hueimmer Terr, Clifton NJ 07013

Listed For \$699,000



📍 83 Larkspur Lane, Clifton NJ 07013

Listed For \$799,000



📍 338 Mt Prospect Ave, Clifton NJ 07012

Listed For \$699,000

Mahmoud Ijbara
Licensed Real Estate Broker
M: 646.764.9599 | O: 973.333.2959
mahmoud@gildrealty.com
www.cliftonsold.com
1221 Van Houten Ave, Clifton NJ 07013

Gild REALTY



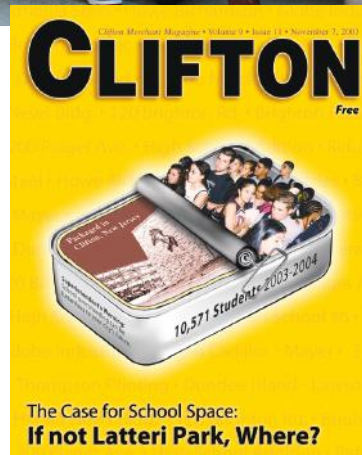


From the Editor,
Tom Hawrylko, Sr.

MAPLE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



Clifton's third middle school has become a reality. Located on the Valley Rd. campus of the former Paul VI High School, it's officially the Maple Valley Middle School. For this school year, this group of 30 team members, (photo taken on Sept. 2—a prep day—thus the casual attire) led by Principal Rob Bertolini and Administrative Intern Danielle Jeffers, will instruct some 200 6th graders. Within a year, the census will be about 650 students in grades 6, 7 and 8.



Our 2003 cover illustrates how the bumpy journey started. In 2001, volunteers on the BOE-appointed Community Advisory Board considered 18 sites where an appropriately-sized middle school could be built. They reported their findings in 2003, among them the Paul VI site and the BOE-owned Latteri Park. Some 22 years of obfuscation, referendums and perseverance led us to the journey's end, a place where new stories begin.

Congrats to all who made this happen.

Clifton Merchant Magazine **CLIFTON** TOM•A•HAWK PROMOTIONS

1288 Main Avenue, Downtown Clifton, NJ 07011
973-253-4400 • tomhawrylko@gmail.com
turn our pages at cliftonmagazine.com

© 2025 Tomahawk Promotions

follow us on:   @cliftonmagazine

14,000 Magazines

are distributed to hundreds of
Clifton Merchants on the first
Friday of every month.

Subscribe

\$60 per year or \$90 for two
Call 973-253-4400

Contributing Writers

Ariana Puzzo, Joe Hawrylko,
Irene Jarosewich, Tom Szieber,
Jay Levin, Michael C. Gabriele,
Jack DeVries, Patricia Alex

Editor & Publisher
Tom Hawrylko, Sr.

Art Director
Ken Peterson

**Associate Editor &
Social Media Mgr.**
Ariana Puzzo

Business Mgr.
Irene Kulyk

Graphic Design Intern
Michael Shimabukuro



...SAY HI TO MARGE

All Stories by Ariana Puzzo

Margaret Beissel has a city full of children and is thrilled whenever they find the time to come home to say hi to mom. Or, in this case, “Marge”.

On Sept. 3, Beissel marked 50 years as a Clifton School Traffic Guard. And while Beissel is no amateur when it comes to making sure that others slow down for children and pedestrians, it is full speed ahead for the lifelong Cliftonite. “As long as God lets me do it, I’m going to do it,” said Beissel, 72, about the job.

That means you’ll be able to find her at her post when school reopens for students the following day on Sept. 4. Beissel’s post for the past six years is Van Houten Ave. and Kathryn St., putting her at a drop-off and dismissal epicenter for at least two, but sometimes three, different schools.

Whether it’s kids walking to School 2 for the first time, older middle schoolers walking down from Woodrow Wilson Middle School, or Mustangs feeling their first taste of independence behind the wheel at CHS — Beissel has seen it all and then some.

Even on the harder days when impatient parents or everyday drivers are passing by, Beissel’s sense of humor is well intact. “I’ve known what ‘the bird’ looks like since I started this job,” said Beissel, coyly. “They give me the bird, I give them a smile.”

Signal Change

Those colorful encounters are the exception, not the rule. Beissel is immensely grateful for her years crossing kind-hearted generations of Mustangs in her hometown.

The Athenia resident grew up in Botany. Beissel (née Zayatz) and siblings Susan (CHS 1968) and Michael (CHS 1974) grew up with parents and CHS alums George and Helen (Koromhas) Zayatz. The kids attended School 12, like their father, and Christopher Columbus Junior High.

Beissel graduated with the Class of 1970 and married her husband, James, three years later, with whom she recently celebrated 52 years of marriage. For seven years before becoming a traffic guard, Beissel worked as a waitress in Pop’s Diner on Central and Clifton Ave.

“I became friendly with a crossing guard who stood out there,” said Beissel. She was the one who told Beissel, still a newlywed, about the flexible work hours. “She said, ‘This would be a good job for you’, so I took it and I love it.”

After watching a video and doing 20 hours of training with a police officer, Beissel’s first post was at Clifton and Lexington Ave. That first year was remarkable for a few reasons. It wasn’t just because 1975 marked the end of the Vietnam War with the Fall of Saigon and it wasn’t that gas cost 53 cents — though that is definitely impressive.



Circa 1976 Clifton Crossing Guards, back row left: Margaret Beissel, Barbara Noonan, Bernice Laugel, Tillie Seyka, Bernice Marshall, Terry Wiese, Irene Adams, Betty Young, Louise Schneider, Grace Rutt, Irene Adams. Second row from top: Niesje Kelley, Reggie DeBernardo, Betty Bakula, Betty Crawford, Audrey Verhagen, Kathy Opthof, Josephine Fusco, Irene Chuzak, Pat Belanger, Gertrude Rastatter. Third row: Evelyn Kopetz, Mary Wojick, Marge Kovacovich, Bernice Marshall, Gladys Gilligan, Beverly Kocsis, Iringad Lotz, Kitty Buchar, Rose Opalka, Eva Feakes. Fourth row: Ann Czarnecki, Ann Mae Holley, Marie Werner, Jackie Tauriello, Dora Hart, Mary Vanderberg, Norma Agnoli. Front: Lt. Richard Hornby, Helen Bay, Charlett Hackett, Lorraine Markatich, Ana Rose LoPinto, Sophie Pawlowski, Mae Kacck, Linda Evans, Nellie Carlucci, Vivian Zane.

As Frankie Valli crooned “My Eyes Adored You” to the next generation of hopeless romantics, the day that Beissel will never forget was her first day of training.

“Officer Russell Banta was training me when a car came from Passaic and made a left-hand turn onto Clifton Ave.,” said Beissel. “There used to be old green control boxes on the sidewalk, and the driver wiped it right out.”

“The guy went too wide,” she added, “and I was left there for three days with no traffic lights.” Beissel worked that post for 12 years before moving on to Acker-

SAVE MONEY WITH
\$Affordable\$
ALL EXTERIOR & INTERIOR RENOVATIONS

ROOFING
SIDING
WINDOWS
KITCHENS
BATHROOMS
BASEMENTS

Affordable HOME SERVICES
THE FEDERLE FAMILY
 Providing Quality Workmanship, Honesty & Integrity Since 1947
973-473-4830
 affordablehomeservicesnj.com
 140 Arlington Ave, Clifton, NJ 07011

Loan Programs for Every Budget
NO-INTEREST FINANCING

Same Day Appointments Available





...SAY HI TO MARGE

man Ave. and Cutler St. by the since-closed St. Cyril's school for eight years. Next was crossing for School 11 at Lakeview and Merselis Ave. for 15 years, working outside the former CHS Annex for eight years, and then her current post near CHS for almost seven years.

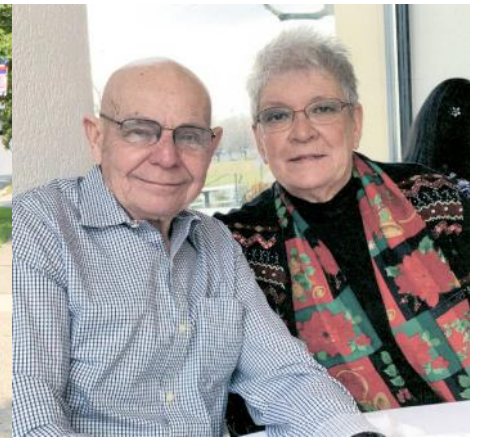
She has done a few other calculations during her moments of reflection. Beissel has worked for the City of Clifton under five mayors, eight police chiefs, 10 city managers, and 13 supervisors.

Her current boss is Sergeant Derek Fogg, who was awarded the Passaic County John Samra Memorial Traffic Officer of the Year Award for 2023.

"All of my bosses were fabulous," said Beissel without any hesitation.

Always Alert

Beissel's block was quiet when we spoke with her on a late morning in early August. But it wouldn't be long until she was leaving even earlier in the day for her duties.



At left, Marge and Sgt. Derek Fogg. Above, James and Marge.

She is one of 55 traffic guards around a city that introduced civilian Crossing Guards in 1953, the year after Beissel was born. They were formed and formally known as the Clifton Special Policewomen's Organization at a time when there were no female police officers.

Fast-forward several decades and Beissel would become the President of the Clifton School Traffic Guards in 1989, which is a title that she still holds today. She's also a shop steward in CWA Local 1032, a union that the traffic guards got about 30 years ago to support them with their contract negotiations.

PRIMARY CARE | URGENT | WEIGHT LOSS

MUJTABA CLINIC



859 Clifton Ave
973-200-2430
www.mujtabaclinic.com



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

25th Anniversary *Celebration & Fundraiser*

FOR THE

CLIFTON ARTS CENTER

Join us to celebrate
25 years of the Arts
in Clifton and a
thank you to the
contributions of
Arts Center
volunteers and
supporters!



Featuring a performance by Swingman & the Misfit Mutts

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH - 2PM

UPPER MONTCLAIR COUNTRY CLUB

177 HEPBURN ROAD, CLIFTON, NJ

TICKETS: \$80

Gift
baskets
and cash
raffle!

TICKETS INCLUDE 3 COURSE BUFFET LUNCH,
GIFT BASKETS AND CASH RAFFLE
CASH BAR AVAILABLE



PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE OR VIA CHECK

CHECKS PAYABLE TO CLIFTON ARTS CENTER, INC.

PO BOX 1125, BLOOMFIELD NJ 07003

TICKET ORDER FORM AVAILABLE ONLINE

Purchase
tickets by
Oct. 1st

WWW.CLIFTONARTSCENTER.ORG

Coordinated by Clifton Arts Center, Inc., the 501c3 nonprofit organization
that supports the Arts Center



...SAY HI TO MARGE

That union support is essential because, contrary to the belief of some, the job isn't for the faint of heart. Beissel's daily weekday mornings begin at 6:30 am and last until 8 am at CHS.

"Then wherever the sergeant needs me to cover, I go," said Beissel. "A police officer is stationed at a post until I get there to cover it. I do that from 8 to 9:15 am."

Her afternoon shift includes returning to the high school from 1:30 to 2:50 pm and then 3:15 to 4:05 pm for the elementary-aged students.

Retention is an issue with younger guards, but those interested can complete an application at cliftonnj.org by selecting "Applications and Forms" and then choosing "Personnel". The starting rate is \$16 per hour and up to \$24 per hour. Residents must live in Passaic or Essex Counties.

Like many city employees, Beissel is all-too-familiar with people "knocking crossing guards" and perhaps not understanding the scope of what they do to keep our community and children safe.

"Come on out," she encouraged. "I welcome anyone to stand with me on a day and see what my job entails."

And she's not ashamed to say that she takes an old-school approach. She stands closer to the Richfield side of her post so that she is more visible, especially if cars are parked nearby. She's also always dressed immaculately in her uniform, ensuring that she represents herself with the respect owed to the individuals who wear it.

"My eyes are all over, because they have to be," said Beissel. "And I have made a lot of friends and know a lot of people. I never thought that I'd make a career out of it, but I love the kids and love yacking with people or waving."

Some familiar faces have included Corey Genardi of C. Genardi Contracting, Inc. and his three daughters, all of whom she crossed; Mustang Band Director Bryan Stepneski, and Board of Education incumbent and newcomer Mark Bruniak and Alias Ragsale, respectively.

As former president and vice president of the Clifton Student Union, Ragsdale and classmate Jada Witter (CHS 2024) visited Beissel's post to give her a gift on behalf of the student group.

And never let it be said that Beissel isn't prepared if the weather turns. "I bring my own shovel and salt and clear my path half the time," she laughed. "I'm prepared for anything like a Girl Scout, though I never was [one]."



The rookie Crossing Guard Marge Beissel in 1975 and with Abraham and Bernadette Fragosa in 1982.

All Are Welcome

Kids returning as adults is ultimately what it's all about.

"The kids all come back and, when they see me, they stop and say hi," said Beissel. "That's what the job is. The kids. Not having children of my own, this was my thing."

One of the things that keeps it exciting is when she gets a visitor and sees a look of amazement on their face when she remembers them and even their family members.

"If any children remember me as their crossing guard," she said. "I would love it if they would stop by and say hi." Even if she isn't able to talk, Beissel will always wave. And animals are welcome, too.

"I've crossed ducks. I have dog biscuits in my pocket," she laughed. "One black dog would sit there and wait until I came over and fed him. Some dogs pull their owners in my direction and their owners will be like, 'No, she's busy.'"

On a recent afternoon going through her scrapbook, Beissel found a newspaper clipping from Nov. 21, 1979 that featured seven-year-old Stacey Katz, who was at the time a professional model with the Ford Agency.

"I hear she is a Clifton School teacher now, but I don't know her last name and I'd love to give her this newspaper," said Beissel. She asked if Stacey reads this story, to stop by her post in front of Richfield Farms. If she happens to time it just right, maybe there'll be other familiar faces.

Because Marge Beissel will always make the time. And, God willing, she is not going anywhere.

"My husband knew that he could never take me out of Clifton," said Beissel. "If it were up to him, I'd be out in the woods. He knows how much my job means to me."



Dr. Dena Constandelis



Dr. Teddy Constandelis

CONSTANDELIS

DENTAL

EST. 1983

A Family Legacy Continues

Dr. Dena Takes Over Her Dad's Clifton Practice

COMFORTS AND AMENITIES

Ergonomic Chairs in treatment rooms

Newly renovated reception area

Ceiling TV's with Netflix and Hulu

Beverage station with water, soft drinks, hot cocoa, and more!

Dr. Theodore "Teddy" Constandelis is excited to pass the torch to his daughter to run the practice he established 45 years ago! Dr. Dena Constandelis has followed in his footsteps and is now running the practice. "She grew up watching me take care of some of the same patients that she is now caring for," he said recently. "It's a whole new generation for patients and their families. They couldn't be in better hands, than my daughter!"

Schedule your visit with Dr. Dena

Call Now: 973-684-1078

465 Valley Rd, Clifton

constandelisdental.com

Mon & Tues: 9am - 5pm • Wed: 1pm - 7pm
Thurs: Closed • Every other Fri & Sat: 9am - 2pm

**Better Results, Faster Treatment,
Top Rated Care. Limited time offer!**



**All Inclusive Invisalign Treatment
for just \$3,495**

New patients only. Must be 20 years of age or older.
Offer valid for 2 weeks after initial free consult.



Whether she's earning black belts or preparing legal briefs, Jenna Alnatur is not your typical rising senior. Her star is rising and those around her have taken notice.

By Ariana Puzzo

The CHS Mock Trial President was chosen by American Legion Auxiliary members as the sole representative of CHS at the Girls New Jersey American Legion Auxiliary and elected this year as the Jersey Girls State Governor, potentially the first in Passaic County to achieve the title.

But it's not just her mind that's sharp. Alnatur has trained in taekwondo for 13 years and is a second-degree black belt. She is an instructor at her father Tarek's Elite Child Development Academy and Taekwondo, located at 347 East Railway Ave., Paterson.

She is a multiple national taekwondo champion in her youth division in the Junior Taekwondo Championship, competing in Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Utah. Fostering an exceptional dedication and drive from the age of 3 is what laid the groundwork. "It was so big in our family and the thing that we all did together," said

Alnatur, 16. "I looked up to my older brother, Yousef, in a sense, because he was in older kid classes. I kept aspiring to that and seeing him in harder classes made me want to catch up to him."

Alnatur was about five years old during her first competition and said there were four different competition categories. Her specialities were sparring and board breaking. Sparring was "the most daunting thing" since it puts you face-to-face with another person.

"I fell in love with the art of board breaking, because at the end of the day, it's just you," she said. "There is no pressure of having to read somebody or react to someone's moves. But I did do better in sparring. I felt the pressure and it made me want to train more to succeed in it."

Little did she know, verbal sparring would be the very thing that further put her on the map ...

Carving Out Her Path

Alnatur is the second child of parents Tarek and Suhair's four children. Her siblings are Yousef (CHS 2023), Jad (CHS 2028), and Deanna (CHS 2029).

The Class of 2026 Mustang grew up attending School 11 and WWMS — and she's not entirely unfamiliar with the spotlight. Alnatur was 9 when she premiered on the sixth season of the Food Network's Kids Baking Championship. She was the youngest competitor and placed eighth after making it through five of the 10 episodes. Alnatur vividly remembers the interview process and "feeling so euphoric. I didn't know how to act. I was so jittery and excited; I would say anything," laughed Alnatur. "That was funny."

She still loves baking in her free time, but now she has added cooking into her pastimes. Alnatur will cook full "traditional ethnic meals" and then end with dessert. "I always liked making cakes. I still do that more," she said. "I definitely enjoy making knafeh."

Which is all the more impressive given her busy schedule. Although she has taken a step back from competing in taekwondo tournaments, the senior is committed to helping train others. And that involves showing her students, typically ages 3 to 14, what it means to put in the work.

Alnatur spent eight years training for her first-degree black belt that she received when she was aged 11. It took another two years of training to achieve her second-degree status at age 13.



Jenna Alnatur on the 2019 Food Network Championship.

As a go-getter, she's eager to get her third-degree soon and anticipates that she'll "level out" at the fourth-degree.

"I would always feel compelled to perform," she said. "I don't know that I would do heavy training later on in life, but I think I'd always like to teach it."

Alnatur identified the martial art as a mind game. There were two years when she was training and taking multiple classes on a daily basis. Separately, her father Tarek is fifth-degree, Yousef is also second-degree, Deanna is first-degree, and Jad is climbing the ranks as a blue belt.

"Watching all four of my kids earn their degrees and carve out their own paths has been pure joy," said proud dad Tarek. "Success is so much sweeter when it's



ELEVATING THE WAY YOU LIVE AT HOME



HOME CARE SERVICES

- ☒ Hourly Home Health Aide
- ☒ 24/7 Live In Care
- ☒ Respite or relief for families
- ☒ DDD Services
- ☒ Rehabilitation and Therapy
- ☒ Private Duty Nursing



HOSPICE SERVICES

- ☒ RN and physician visits
- ☒ Certified Home Health Aide support
- ☒ Emotional, Spiritual and Grief Counseling
- ☒ Medications and Medical equipment (hospital bed, oxygen, etc.)
- ☒ Bereavement services for loved ones (13 months post-loss)



DAY HABILITATION

- ☒ Community & Social Skills
- ☒ Recreational Activities
- ☒ Critical Thinking Development
- ☒ Rehab & Speech Therapy
- ☒ Job & Career Education
- ☒ Arts & Crafts Activities

One Company + Multiple Specializations = One Phone Call

 (973) 244-2480

We accept most major insurances

 www.faithcareus.com



Alnatur family: Deanna, Yousef, Jenna, parents Suhair and Tarek, and Jad.



rooted in passion, purpose, and intentionality. I call it life by design.” Alnatur’s advice to others is not to overthink their actions or training. “I think it would psych me out more than going through the motions,” said Alnatur. “Remember that at the height of it, the more you train the more comfortable you feel. Even though it is very tiring, it’ll pay off. That was my motivation.”

Leading Through Opportunity

Taking her first steps into the legal world came later for Alnatur. In fact, medicine was her first interest in elementary school. Middle school was when she first expressed an interest in law and re-considered applying to PCTI, because she started to think about whether she really saw herself pursuing a medical career.

Fast-forward to high school, Alnatur became president of CHS’ Mock Trial team starting in the spring of her sophomore year. She knew that she wanted to join the club once she arrived at CHS and looked for flyers to get in contact with the leaders.

Her first meeting and try-out was “very daunting”, noting it’s much easier to speak or write about the law once you understand the material. She credited the help of the team’s president Patrisia Baroud (CHS 2024) and how that support prepared her as an attorney for her first competition when there was an unexpected opening.

“That’s rare for a freshman,” said Alnatur. “I had an opportunity from the get-go that gave me more of an opportunity to learn than others may have had.”

One Mock Trial career highlight was when they won the Yale competition in September, 2023. It was the first competition that her team won and was “such a big accomplishment. We knew that we were doing well, but we didn’t know where we fell rank-rise. We were all flabbergasted and couldn’t comprehend it,” she chuckled.

Other results from that competition were Alnatur winning the #1 Attorney Award and another witness winning an award. “We had never won that much,” she said in awe. “I don’t think that we even knew how to comprehend how much we won in that competition.”

Stepping into the familiar role for one final time, Alnatur is eager to build the team and train new members so there is longevity beyond the graduating seasoned individuals.

“When I leave high school, I want to leave something behind for the team to build off of,” said Alnatur. “Even if it means taking a step back and doing a lot of training so the competitions we do can be done really well.”

The seemingly natural leader encouraged newcomers to join their ranks, emphasizing that they will never know what they’re capable of bringing to the team until they try out for it.

It’s about tailoring the experience to your own interests.

“I knew that I was outgoing, and there are witnesses in Mock Trial, and I never thought of myself as the acting type, but I got to embody someone else,” she said. “People perceive it as needing to know the law, but a lot of kids from the Drama Club fell in love with Mock Trial from the drama point of view.”

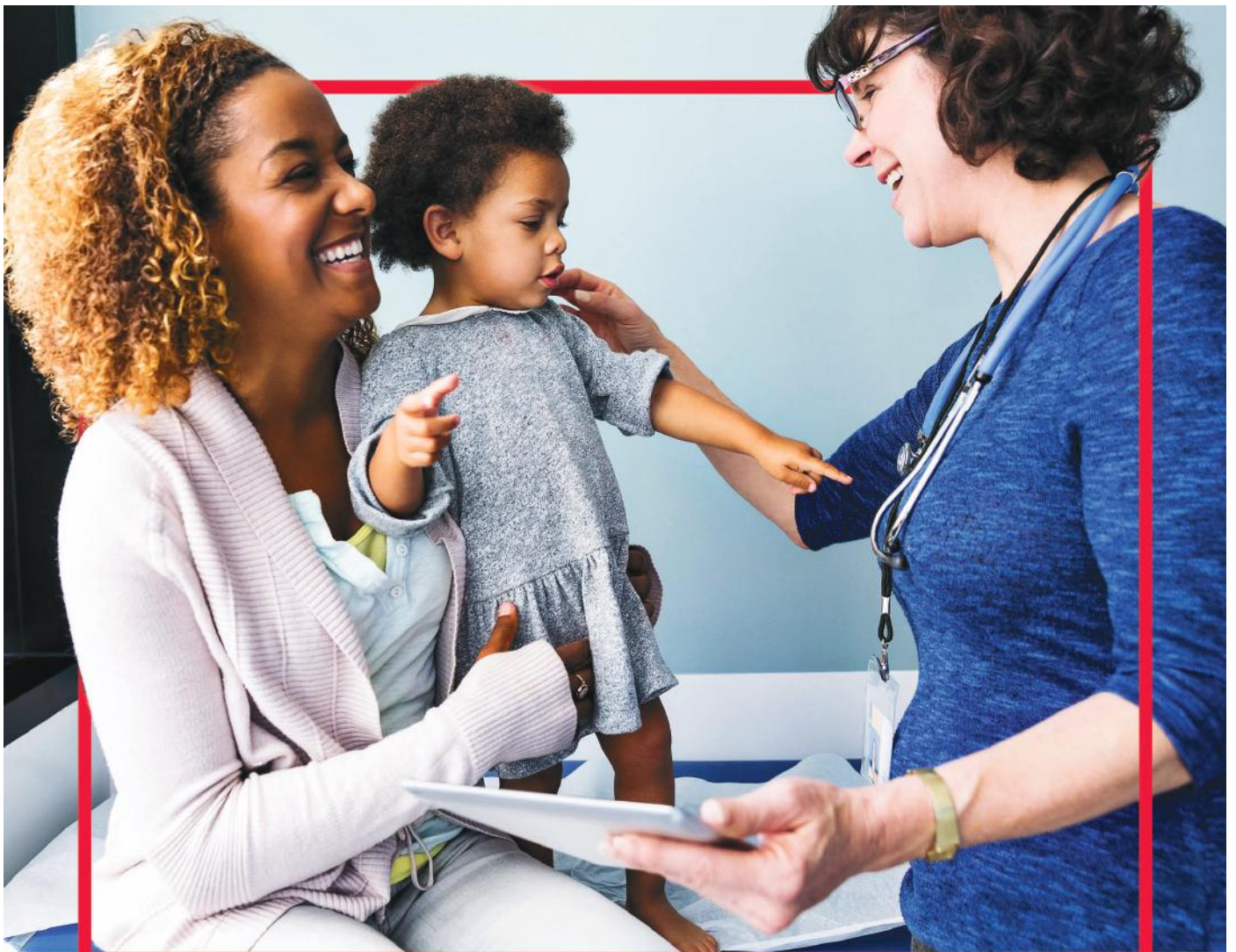
The experience taught Alnatur patience and a new form of discipline. She learned to balance taking AP classes with committing two hours of practice at school, then reading the law and a case for another three to four hours at night.

“It’s so performative. You need to keep a jury and a judge engaged,” explained Alnatur. “They’re not going to listen unless you’re entertaining them. It is also not just about knowing what you are saying but also knowing how you are going to say it.”

As for getting the answer right and knowing everything, Alnatur discovered that learning more is what shows you how much knowledge there still is to gain.

“Even now after winning competitions, I still feel like this legal world is kind of foreign to me,” she said. “It can get very frustrating when you’re learning something and realize there’s so much out there that I don’t know.”

“But it’s about giving yourself some grace,” continued Alnatur. “That is something that I have learned while being on the team.”



Quality care that's close to home.

Looking for world-class doctors who offer a wide range of services right in your backyard? Summit Health provides convenient access to a lifetime of quality care. Make an appointment by calling 844-764-6784 for orthopedics or 973-587-8000 for all other specialties.

One more reason to go with Summit Health.

Visit summithealth.com/clifton today.





Her Future Aspirations

College is in Alnatur's not-so-distant future and, wherever she ends up going, she'll study International Relations with a plan to take that and apply it to a future in law school.

Alnatur's interests lie specifically with international or corporate law. She ended the month of July by attending her second Mock Trial World Championship in Atlanta, before flying directly from Atlanta to Cape Town, South Africa. She interned at Straughan Inc., a boutique law firm that specializes in property law and conveyancing, until Aug. 9.

While in Atlanta, the Mock Trial World Championship consisted of 40 competitors and was open to students worldwide. Alnatur saw a former teammate, Veronica David (CHS 2025), and noted there were fewer international students involved in this year's championship.

"[The Championship] was really good. I got an honorable mention and won the Nobility Award," said Alnatur. "We had to vote for who's the most engaging, who was really nice, and who was overall a good competitor outside of competition. I was so surprised that I won it and was definitely not expecting it," she continued. "It's the only award that competitors are the deciding factor on."

Her experience in Cape Town was also memorable. It led her to discovering how different South African law is from U.S. law. Alnatur was also given the chance to do some legal research and write a few documents.

"I definitely want to make sure that I study abroad," said Alnatur. "Before, I had the idea in my head. But after really working in another country, it was such an experience and widened my perspective. It's so gorgeous there."

"If you're going around the world, it should definitely be one of your spots to visit," she said. Laughing, she added, "My mom, grandma, and sister came with me. They did all of the cool stuff while I was working."

While reflecting on the mentors and guidance that led to where she is today, Alnatur mentioned another family member — her father—who has always set high expectations. "When I was in the school for taekwondo, I didn't see him as my dad," said Alnatur. "Being my dad did not work to my advantage. He was harder on me. But him putting pressure on me and keeping an eye on me made me aspire to do better and practice more."

Her religious identity is a source of stability and comfort. Her faith is "the one thing in my life that is the most stable" and she can lean on her religion for comfort more than anything else on difficult days. "Anything in life is going to be hard, so choose your hard," Alnatur advised. "It can be done and, if anyone can do it, it's going to be you, because it's your dream. You have to aspire to it."



*It was the worst
day we have
ever seen, but it
brought out the
best in all of us.*



Friend &
Wenzel, LLC

Areas of practice:

Planning, Zoning & Real Estate

975 Clifton Avenue, Clifton • 973-779-4290

General Legal Practice

Gerald G. Friend & Joseph Wenzel, Managing Partner

When you come to the Street Fair, celebrate the life of our sister, aunt and street fair organizer Valerie Grabowski, who passed on May 28, 2024. We dedicate the Clifton Street Fair to Valerie's vision, positivity and memory.



23rd
Annual

Athenia Business Association
presents a

Clifton Street Fair

on Van Houten Ave.
Sunday, September 21st

FOOD • VENDORS • RIDES FOR CHILDREN

2:00 P.M. Performance by

CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANG MARCHING BAND

-  **MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATION 12:30 PM**
by Clifton Martial Arts Academy
- **GENOVESE DANCE ALLIANCE 2:30 PM** dance performance
- **CLASSIC CAR SHOW**
sponsored by Shook Funeral Home



**Monster Trucks
Stock Car
Racing**

Live Entertainment by...

Swingman & The Misfit Mutts Band
and **Gladys & The Powertones**



All Vendors Welcome

Call 973-202-8578 / 201-410-1686



11:00 am to 5:00 pm • Clifton, NJ



HIGH STEP TO SUCCESS

Long after she raises her baton and high-steps for the final time, Drum Majorette Gabriella Labocki is certain she'll hold onto that sense of Mustang Marching Band community.

"I'm friends with people in the band that I wouldn't have met otherwise," said Labocki, 17. "I know that I'm going to carry these friendships even after high school and the band is all over."

Labocki is CHS' Drum Majorette for the 2025-26 academic year and began her fourth year as a Marching Mustang during band camp last month. Speaking in the second week of August, with less than a week until band camp began, Labocki was ready and spirited.

"I'm honestly so excited, because being the drum major or majorette is so much more than the performance aspect of it," said Labocki. "You set the tone for the band." It is certainly a résumé builder — and a big baton to carry.

"If you don't have energy or discipline when you come in, what sort of tone are you setting?" she continued. "It is a good mindset to have going into the season that I will be a big example to the underclassmen and the rest of the band. I have to remember that."

NOC Autobody

**Collision Repair
Paint & Refinishing
Telep Towing**

574 Van Houten Ave., Clifton
Auto Body & Collision 973-594-1005
Telep Towing 973-779-0283
www.nocautobody.com



- Free Pick-up & Delivery
- Insurance Claims Assistance
- Car Rental Assistance
- Custom Body Mods & Paint
- Bumper Refurbishment
- Lease Return Refurbishment
- Limited Lifetime Warranty



Odette, Noelani, Noel, Noel Sr., & Olivia Coronel

Boys & Girls Club of Clifton

CAR, TRUCK & MOTORCYCLE SHOW!

Sunday September 14, 2025
9am-4pm

Rain Date:
9/28



1255 Broad Street  Clifton, NJ 07013

OPEN TO CARS, TRUCKS & MOTORCYCLES OF ALL YEARS

FREE SPECTATOR ADMISSION
VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE

Food  Drinks  Prizes  50/50

Registration:

Pre-Show: \$15

before 9/12

Day of Show: \$20

Over 75 Trophies!

Door Prizes

T-Shirts

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

www.CliftonCarShow.com

OVER 400 CARS, TRUCKS & MOTORCYCLES



Drea De Luca



HIGH STEP TO SUCCESS

Labocki is the middle child of Thomas and Maggie Labocki. Her older brother is Jason (CHS 2024) and younger brother is Joshua, who has entered the fourth grade at School 13.

The senior, who grew up attending School 13 and WWMS, first developed an interest in the band when she was in third grade. She was at the All-City Concert with her family to see her brother Jason perform when the Marching Band “came crashing in.”

“I knew that I wanted to do that as well,” said Labocki.

Leading for Others

Welcoming upperclassmen and a series of unforgettable experiences have made Labocki’s band years memorable.

She had the opportunity to travel to New Orleans with the Marching Band, open the Sesame Street Learn & Play in American Dream, and go with the Wind Ensemble for their first time to the New Jersey Band Festival.

Although her family is musically inclined, Labocki is the first one to pursue it in high school. Her earlier years were spent playing the flute and then piccolo for the Marching Band. It was during her sophomore year that she began taking Drum Major clinics before she tried out for the role.

Finding out that she would be the next Drum Major

on the day of tryouts, after competing against two of her peers, was surreal.

“I thought, ‘Wow, I finally got it. All of my hard work paid off,’” recalled Labocki. “Because it is a lot of work. It was two years of dedication and you really have to be passionate about it. I was glad that I put in enough hard work that it paid off and I actually got the title.”

Delivering discipline and a sense of camaraderie are two things that she hopes to bring in her leadership capacity. As someone who found it helpful to start high school with 60 new friends, she wants the underclassmen especially to feel that she is there to support them.

“I don’t want to be a dictator,” she joked. “I’ll be bringing discipline and energy and hoping that the rest of the band will see that.”

Labocki is currently in the Early Childhood and Human Development Academy. She expressed an interest in teaching and studying psychology, possibly becoming a counselor like her mother. The colleges on her radar include Kean University, Rutgers, or William Paterson.

And she has no shortage of influences whose steps she hopes to follow in the meantime.

“My grandma, Ella Labocki, is a leader in our family, but she is also very kind and selfless,” said Labocki. “As I’m stepping into a leadership role, it’s inspiring to see that you can be a leader but also put others before yourself and be selfless like she is.”



ELITE GROWTH

SPEAKING, COACHING, TRAINING

The Maxwell Method

Professional Development

Maxwell Speaking Club

Life & Business Coaching

Leadership Assessments

As an Executive Director with the John Maxwell Leadership Certified Team, I provide leadership and professional development training, coaching and speaking.

TarekAlnatur.com • 201-321-2855





Michael, Kevin, Stacey and Stephen.



CORBO
JEWELERS

Continuing a Legacy of Fine Jewellery

Great news! Corbo Jewelers is here to stay!

You may have heard that after 73 years of serving our Clifton community, Corbo Jewelers was planning to close its doors. However, we are thrilled to share that brothers Stephen and Michael Corbo have retired, and that Kevin Brito and Stacey Corbo will continue the Corbo tradition of exceptional jewelry and outstanding service.

A New Chapter Begins

The store has been completely renovated with a fresh, elegant look while maintaining the warm, personalized experience you've come to expect from Corbo Jewelers. We've updated our showroom to create an even more inviting space for you to explore our collection of fine jewelry.

You're Invited: Our Legacy Sale

To celebrate this new beginning and thank our loyal customers, we're hosting a special Legacy Sale: Up to 40% OFF any in-stock item for returning customers!

This is our way of expressing gratitude for your years of support and welcoming you back to the newly revitalized Corbo Jewelers.

Come See Us

We invite you to visit our beautifully renovated store and experience the next chapter of Corbo Jewelers. Whether you're looking for that perfect gift, a meaningful piece to mark a special occasion, or simply want to say hello. Our doors are open and we're excited to welcome you back.

The same quality, craftsmanship, and personalized service you've always trusted—now with a fresh new look and renewed commitment to excellence.

Warmest regards,
Kevin and Stacey

Corbo Jewelers, Styertowne Shopping Center

1055 Bloomfield Ave, Clifton NJ 07012

973-777-1635 • Tues. to Fri. 10 to 6 • Sat. til 4

Learn about us: corbojewelers.com

Browse our showcase: corbo.jewelersshowcase.com

The grass doesn't grow under Jack Niedzialek's feet. When we last spoke to the sophomore, he had traveled over 7,000 miles with his mother and sister to volunteer with IHOPE, a nonprofit organization providing free medical services in a comprehensive medical camp in Kenya.

As a non-medical volunteer, he saw firsthand the need for IHOPE's services. And he's already thinking about his own future and what that might look like in the medical profession.

"I definitely know that I want to become a surgeon," said Niedzialek, 15. "It's open-ended [for the type], but I would definitely want to be a surgeon in one area, like for the brain or heart."

Niedzialek kept busy this past summer with that goal in mind. He volunteered at Valley Hospital in Paramus — his mother, Margaret, also works there as a nurse case manager



— and went to the Boston Leadership Institute's "Biomedical & Surgical Research" program.

"I had the opportunity to learn how to tie surgical knots during the first few days of the program and focused on the body systems and specific surgical procedures," said Niedzialek.

They also performed a mock gastric bypass procedure and did cataract surgery of a cow eye, which made him realize that he "didn't have a bad stomach for it like some people would."

"This program challenged me to think outside of the box and to think like a surgeon, using active recall and preparing for the future pre-med track and residency," said Niedzialek. "It is one of the best summer programs that I've been to."

He also participated in Harvard University Ventures — Tech Summer Program of 2025, where high schoolers interacted with industry professionals and interned at prestigious companies. The six-week program let students develop their tech and entrepreneurship skills.

Niedzialek is eager to return to CHS' Academic Decathlon team. He joined the team last year and hopes to gain a starting spot. Perhaps, one day, even become captain.

"It's just cool to dive in and learn new stuff, because a lot of the stuff on the tests, I had no idea about," said Niedzialek. "If you enjoy your time while learning, I find that it's easier to remember it. I was able to remember a lot and learn a lot."

Niedzialek grew up in our city, attending School 2 and WWMS, with parents Rafal (CHS 1995) and Margaret. His younger sister, Olivia, is entering eighth grade at WWMS.

His parents, who introduced him to medicine, are his greatest influences. He encouraged any students interested in joining ACADECA, or any other activity, to reach out to people.

"A lot of people will do a lot of great things for you if you're kind and reach out," said Niedzialek. "[Knowing] that is definitely one of the differences that has helped me a lot."



832 Clifton Ave., Clifton ☎ 973.365.0220  Find us on facebook
Shop Hours: Tues. 9-5, Wed. 9-8, Thurs. 9-8, Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-3



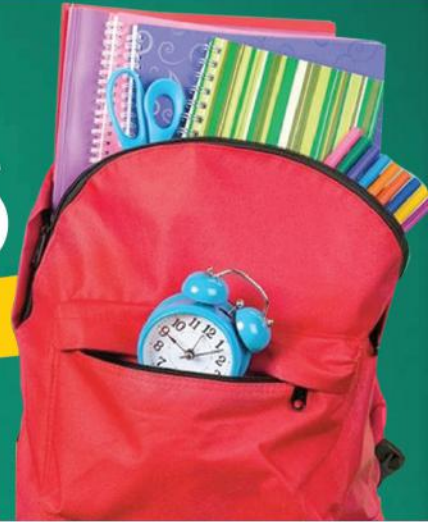
Paulison Avenue
7 am to 11 pm
7 Days a Week

ShopRite

503 Paulison Ave., (973) 471-0868

BACK 2 SCHOOL LOW PRICES

From School Supplies to Healthy Lunches & Snacks...



back-to-school
SAVINGS!

Grab & Go Breakfast
Juices & Protein Bars
Fruit & Yogurt
Healthy Chips
Sandwich Meats
Handwipes & Napkins
Lunch Boxes
Notebooks & Bags
Crayons & Markers
Pens & Pencils
Folders & Binders
School Night Meals

FOR TEACHERS & PARENTS





A World of Kindness

Diego Rodriguez loves helping others thrive, especially his classmates.

The sophomore joined the Global Mentor Program and became a Superintendent Ambassador in his freshman year, and he's eager to continue in the leadership roles. As a global mentor, he supports his peers who are new to the country and to CHS.

Whether that involves helping them adapt to using Google Chromebooks or finding classrooms, he strives to always be accessible.

"I enjoy guiding the students in the school. That makes me happy, because I like to help other people," said Rodriguez, 16. "I gained a lot of responsibility and leadership ... [but] I am very outgoing and comfortable [in these roles]."

Rodriguez attended CCMS after emigrating with his mother, Claudia, from Colombia in May of 2023. He learned

about the Global Mentors after he joined the Superintendent Ambassadors.

That role has given him the opportunity to pitch specific-themed days during Spirit Week, such as wearing your favorite soccer T-shirt and favorite sport T-shirt. He's excited to dedicate more time this year and pitch new ideas, including introducing more sports for the winter months.

"I'm the eyes of the superintendent with other students," said Rodriguez. "We tell him the things that the school needs or ideas that we have to make the school better."

Speaking in mid-August, Rodriguez had plans to try out for the Boys Soccer team. In the spirit of doing for others, Rodriguez expressed an interest in a career as either an anesthesiologist or an engineer. His mother, Claudia, is his greatest inspiration.

"She's a very good person," he said, "and she inspires me to do my best in everything."

Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA)

A federal tax-advantaged educational savings program, the Coverdell ESA funds education expenses – not retirement.

**NEW
HIGHER RATE
5.50%***

- ✓ Allows for after-tax contributions of up to \$2000 per child annually.
- ✓ Interest on contributions grows tax-free.
- ✓ Account must be established before child turns 18. Deposits can be made until age 18.
- ✓ Withdrawals can be made until age 30 for qualified educational expenses.
- ✓ By age 30 unused funds can be transferred to a younger family member's Coverdell account.
- ✓ No annual maintenance fee.
- ✓ If used for qualified education expenses, distribution can be tax-free. Income limits apply.



*FIRST YEAR RATE. MINIMUM GUARANTEED RATE 2%.
RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES.



STAND WITH UKRAINE

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

2200 ROUTE 10, PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054 • 800-253-9862 • WWW.UNAINC.ORG



SUNDAY
12-6PM

SEPTEMBER 21

y **100**

**ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

Ukrainian Festival

HOLY ASCENSION CATHEDRAL
635 BROAD STREET CLIFTON, NJ

ARTS & CRAFTS / UKRAINIAN VENDORS
HOME-MADE UKRAINIAN FOOD



**STAGE
PERFORMANCES**



**FACEBOOK.COM/
CLIFTONORTHODOXCATHEDRAL**

UKRCOC.ORG



ON THE PITCH...

to Colleges and Universities

Mustang athletes know how to dream big and work hard, and senior midfielder Simon Deossa is eager to achieve all of his goals.

Deossa led the charge on the pitch for Mustang Soccer last season. His titles included Regional All-American, 1st Team All-State (All Groups) honors, and he dominated every major award list. Deossa is now in the running for the 2025 Preseason North Jersey Player of the Year Award.

"This is a tremendous honor and a reflection of his hard work and leadership," said Coach Stan Lembryk. "The true strength of our program lies in the selflessness of our athletes. Individual recognition is always celebrated, but the focus remains on team success."

"One player's achievement is shared by all," Lembryk continued, "and Simon embodies that spirit. He is not only an elite scorer but also a selfless teammate and a natural



Mr. Cupcakes

1216 Van Houten Ave.
973.859.0180
www.mrcupcakes.com

Other Locations:

Paramus Park Mall
684 Lafayette Ave, Hawthorne
515 Brick Blvd, Brick

Clifton Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 8am-7pm
Sat: 9am-5pm Sun: 9am-3pm

Easy & Profitable Fundraising for Schools, Sports and more

Earn two gift cards for organizer and highest selling student

Schedule your fundraiser at:
fundraising@mrcupcakes.com



leader who elevates everyone around him.”

Deossa and his dedicated teammates have all shown enthusiasm for the new season and exhibit a confidence for what they can accomplish together.

“I’ve been looking forward to my senior year since the moment that I joined the program as a freshman,” said Deossa. “I have had the privilege of learning from incredible upperclassmen who showed us what it truly means to be part of this team.”

Deossa credited these players for passing down values, a strong work ethic, and a sense of “pride that defines our program.”

“It is an honor to be nominated for Preseason Player of the Year. However, without the help of our coaching staff, teammates, and all of Clifton, I wouldn’t be here,” acknowledged Deossa. “Our goal every year since I was a freshman is always to win it all. Nothing changes that mentality, and we are determined to be back on top this season.”

Superintendent Dr. Danny Robertozzi spoke highly of the district-wide extracurricular programs. He lauded their “vital role in providing a world-class educational experience for every child.”

“Our athletic programs cultivate responsibility, time management, and leadership skills,” said Robertozzi. “The social and emotional competencies that are gained through team-building experiences benefit students both in the classroom and on the field.”

CHS Athletic Director Tom Mullahey echoed a similar sentiment.

“Reaching milestones like multiple championships and over 300 career wins doesn’t happen by chance. It’s the result of commitment from our coaches, student-athletes, and community,” said Mullahey. “Simon’s prestigious nomination entering this season is yet another example of the caliber of talent and character that we are fortunate to support in Clifton.”

From county dominance to statewide recognition, and from individual accolades to a strong college pipeline, Mustang Soccer is writing a blueprint for athletic excellence.

Fourteen Mustangs are currently playing collegiately, which is confirmation of the program’s lasting impact. These athletes include:

- Duke University: Eryk Dymora • Rutgers University: Amer Lukovic
- Loyola University: Steven Ozga • Tiffin University: Edward Peralta
- Montclair State University: Danny Tobon
- Drew University: Vitalii Datsyk, Alex Fiedoruk,
Cameron Zutic, Wiktor Kiszkiel
- Ramapo College: Dylan Perez, Sebastian Perez,
Omar Flores, Axel Gonzalez, Elias Aguilar

LET’S KEEP IT LOCAL

We’re proud to sponsor the Downtown Clifton Farmers Market. We are committed to serving communities in New Jersey through financial services that enrich the lives of all of our neighbors.

Stop by our Clifton Branch at 1133 Main Avenue.

 **ALMA BANK**



almabank.com / 718.267.ALMA (2562)
13 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS IN NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY & LONG ISLAND

Three Cheers for Clifton

Yogi Berra was onto something when he said the classic quote: “Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical.” But the Mustang Cheerleading squad is in a league of their own when it comes to navigating the rigors of the sport — and cheerleading is, in fact, a sport.

The 2025-2026 squad co-captains are Amilia Betances, London Jenkins, and Brianna Thieu. While sitting down for a video conference interview mid-August, the three seniors discussed their experiences on the team and their plans for the upcoming season.

First and foremost, it’s all about unity.

“I want to make sure that we’re all a team and one big happy family, because without that there is basically no team,” explained Jenkins, 16.

Betances and Thieu agreed with her. All three girls put in their years on the team to support that perspective. Betances and Jenkins’ cheered with the Clifton Junior Mustangs and both became co-captains in eighth grade. Jenkins also participated in the Meadowland Starz cheer program.

Betances, who joined the CHS team as a freshman, and Jenkins, who joined as a sophomore, are both main bases and tumblers. Thieu had a slightly different experience by joining the team with no prior experience but a whole lot of dedication. She’s a flyer who started out cheering for JV Football before moving up to join the others in Varsity her first year.

Although it’s Jenkins and Thieu’s first year at the helm, Betances is in her second year as the captain and is eager to do it differently this year.

“I want to switch it up and leave a legacy for Clifton Cheer,” said Betances, 17. “In years past, with all the sports, there’ve always been cliques and one teammate that doesn’t feel like they belong.”

“I want everybody on the team to find their voice,” she continued, “find their place, and feel confident in what they’re doing.”



Cheer co-captains, from left, Brianna Thieu, Amilia Betances, and London Jenkins.

Record-Breaking Aspirations

Whether you’re supporting a stunt with your feet firmly on the ground or executing a trick mid-air, cheering is not for the faint of heart.

“The sport is harsh on the mind and physically,” said Betances. “With the team and coach’s help, it makes the journey a lot easier. You’re not just flipping girls or yourself or learning to jump.”

Thieu admitted that she was initially surprised by how many aspects there were to staying in top shape. It’s a lot of running — the squad is expected to start running miles in August — and there are plenty of exercise and stretching videos. But weight room sessions start even earlier in July, running for an hour several days out of the week.

At the end of August, they are expected to be able to run two miles. The squad is also expected to run for eight minutes before practices to improve and maintain their stamina. The Varsity and JV squads have 35 members this year — with 21 on Varsity and 14 on JV.

“Having a good group of people to help me through the

season [makes a big difference],” said Thieu, 17. “We talk to each other about how we’re feeling, because we’re all going through the same things and doing the same routine.”

Committing to their schedule also affects other areas of their lives. The student-athletes need to find a sport-school-life balance to avoid burning out mid-season. Football for the cheerleaders runs from the end of August to the end of October, unless they reach the playoffs in November.

Next, they pivot into competition and choreography season from late October until the State Championships in February. The squad became three-time consecutive New Jersey State Champions this past February.

“Obviously, we want to be four-time champions,” said Thieu about their goals for the upcoming season. “People might say, ‘Cheer is not sport, you guys don’t do anything’, but who else has this title?”

All told, practices typically run from 3:30-5:30 pm during football season and then an extra half hour during competition season. Varsity and JV have identical training and conditioning, but the JV squad also focuses on cheering for CHS Basketball beginning in February around the same time that Varsity Cheer ends their season.

BLACK MOLD?

Black Mold & Flood Remediation Services

Clean-up to Insurance Claims.

Tomahawk Does It All!



TOMAHAWK
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Tom Hawrylko Jr.

862-703-0873

tomahawkproservices.com

IICRC CERTIFIED • FULLY INSURED



Find us on
Facebook



EFFECTIVE 10/07/2024

WATCH YOUR MONEY **GROW!**

LONG-TERM ANNUITIES

9 YEAR

8.00%*

4.00% renewal rate

7 YEAR

7.00%*

3.75% renewal rate

5 YEAR

6.00%*

3.50% renewal rate

* FIRST YEAR RATE. MINIMUM GUARANTEED RATE 2%.

IMMEDIATE ANNUITY 4.00%**

** LIFE OPTION, OR FIXED PERIOD OF 10 YEARS OR LONGER.

MULTI-YEAR GUARANTEED ANNUITY (MYGA)

3-YEAR

5.00%

5-YEAR

4.50%

RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES.



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

2200 ROUTE 10, PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054 • 800-253-9862 • INFO@UNAINC.ORG • WWW.UNAINC.ORG



STAND WITH UKRAINE

Three Cheers for Clifton

"I get a massage sometimes during the competition season. My muscles hurt, so I tell my mom to come stretch my back," laughed Jenkins. "If we have an off-day, I'm taking it and will be lying in my bed."

Complementary Leadership

Learning about themselves as team players and as leaders is also part of the deal.

For Betances, she has found a "sense of self" while on the Cheer squad and has become more open-minded. She credited mentors like Camila Vasquez (CHS 2023), a former captain who is now on the coaching staff, and Coach Gina Fersini, who actively encouraged her to become "a better version of myself."

Jenkins acknowledged that, as teenagers, having "bad days" is often part of living life. Spending years on the squad has helped her remain composed on these tougher days so that it gets done and is done well.

"I'm 100% serious about what I do. I'm not a quitter and don't like to be mad all the time," said Jenkins. "If you don't control that, it won't be a bad season but you won't have as much fun." Jenkins additionally acknowledged Coach Sarah Post for pushing her last year when she was juggling a lot and stated that, without her, she does not think that she'd "be in the right mental state."



**Come Celebrate
St. Nicholas Ukrainian
Catholic School's
85th Jubilee
On October 5th**

Whether you once wore our uniform, sent your children here, taught in our classrooms, or would like to join the celebration, your presence would make it complete.

For invitation details

- scan the QR code **or**
- access <https://qrco.de/bg4LaZ> **or**
- send your name and address to SNUCS85Jubilee@gmail.com to have invitation mailed to you



Rounding out the trio, Thieu found enduring value in patience when it comes to situations and interactions with other people. Cheer has allowed her to come out of her shell and speak with new squad members.

"Coach Fersini really guided me through this whole process. I've always looked up to her and she's just a great role model," said Thieu. "She pushed me to where I am, and I would not be the flyer that I am today without her."

Betances and Thieu went through Clifton Public Schools. Betances went to School 4 and CCMS. Thieu attended School 16 and then WWMS, which is where Jenkins went in middle school after moving from New York.

The excitement of becoming captains this year was unanimous, but so is the respect that the three seniors have for their fellow leaders. Thieu admires how Betances and Jenkins are "so committed and dedicated to the sport" with "energy and passion that goes unmatched."

When Jenkins considers what she admires, she values Betances as a "natural-born leader" who always provides constructive guidance. Jenkins "loves every single part" of Thieu, who she described as "such a bundle of joy."

Betances found a way to perfectly summarize what makes them work as a unit. "We all have the qualities of being a captain," she said. "London is the type of person to be the motivator. Bri is soft-spoken, but she can also be stern and put her foot down. They're very understanding and sweet souls. Being a leader with them has been a breeze."

New Menu
A New Chef
Damiano Rosella

Amore

The New Amore Ristorante
140 Rifle Camp Rd. 973-925-5600
WOODLAND PARK amoreristorantewp.com

The advertisement features a collage of food images including clams, a dish with green beans and white sauce, a swan-shaped dessert, and fried calamari. A photo of Chef Damiano Rosella is also included.

BANK WITH **NOVA**



MOBILE

ONLINE

PERSONAL

**30-YEAR FIXED
MORTGAGE
6.500% APR***

HELOC
PRIME RATE MINUS 1.00%*
NO CLOSING COSTS

**3-MONTH
CD SPECIAL**

**IRA CD
4.375% APY***

**REGULAR CD
4.125% APY***

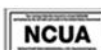
*Effective June 25, 2025 and are subject to change without notice.



Main Office:
851 Allwood Road,
Clifton, NJ 07012
973-471-0700

Botany Branch:
237 Dayton Ave.,
Clifton, NJ 07011
973-772-0620

 facebook.com/NOVAFCU



www.novafcu.com

SCHOLASTICS AND SPORTS

Aidan Romero is all business. The senior two-way lineman is so on the football field, as well as when it comes to his career pursuits. “I am going to study finance or business [in college],” Romero said. “I want to work on Wall Street when I graduate and trade stocks—basically, I want to be a stockbroker.”

A success as an athlete and in the classroom, Romero’s interest in working in the finance industry was birthed by time spent with his father, Anthony. Anthony also manages his own investments, which inspired his son to focus on money—both as a career path and as a goal.

“I have been watching my dad trade stocks a little bit, and it’s pretty interesting,” Romero said. “That’s where all the money is.”

With an offer from Sacred Heart and interest from the likes of Monmouth, Fordham, New Hampshire and Maine, Romero will certainly have the academic credentials. His path to such a strong roster of suitors began at home, where his parents—Anthony and Lisa, a teacher at Montclair High School, preached that school came first.

If Romero didn’t commit to his studies, he wouldn’t have been allowed to put on pads. He did, of course, putting together an exemplary high school résumé as a student-athlete.

On the field this fall, Romero will suit up at left tackle on offense after playing the right side in 2024. He’ll again play defensive tackle, as well. He will likely play center at the collegiate level.

As a senior, Romero has taken on a leadership role with an improving but young team. He frequently stays with younger players after practice to help them fine-tune their technique. He is optimistic about the 2025 season, especially thanks to the progression of several of his compatriots on the offensive line.

“I definitely think [Romero’s progression as a leader] is headed in the right direction,” said Clifton head football coach Ralph Cinque. “I want to see the consistency. I want it every play. I want him to be able to pick up his



fellow linemen. I want him to tell those guys, ‘We are in this together,’ because if he doesn’t finger point and he picks [his teammates] up, then everyone else is going to keep picking each other up. That is what I’ve been seeing so far in this camp.”

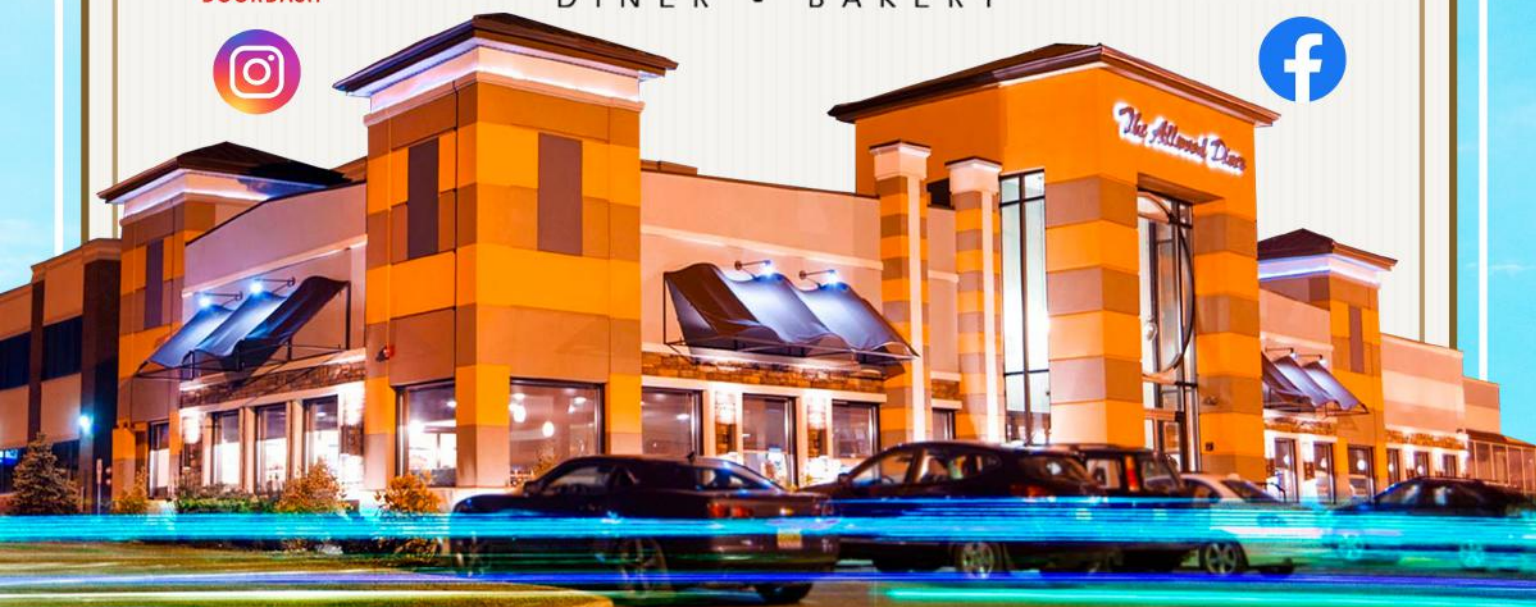
Soon, Romero will choose his next academic home and prepare for the grind of collegiate sports and a challenging course load. But first, he is set on leading the Mustangs back to the state playoffs—and he believes his team is up to the task of getting there.

“I am super excited for this year, definitely,” Romero said. “I think our senior leadership is so much better this year, and our young guys are super involved. Everyone is bought in this year. I think we can win five or six games and then, after that, anything can happen. That’s all we need is a shot.”

Start With Lunch or Dinner



Save Room For Dessert!



913 Allwood Rd. Clifton • theallwooddiner.com • 973-365-2575

Sky's THE LIMIT

Acclimating to a new environment is not an unfamiliar task for Amilcar Raymundo Rivera. He did it when he emigrated from El Salvador and he'll do it again when he enlists in the US Air Force.

"I want to be an international pilot someday," said Rivera, 18. "It's the one goal that I want to achieve after high school."

The idea took shape in his freshman year, but he didn't think that it would be possible. Until he received encouragement from teachers who inspire him, including Fotini Kotrotsios, Matthew Stuart, and Luke Walsh.

"They said that I can, and now I believe that I can do it," said Rivera.

Entering his senior year, Rivera will be that source of encouragement for other students. It is his second year as a mentor in the Global Mentor Program. He is eager to make new students feel as comfortable at CHS as his mentor did when he arrived three years ago.

"She was Colombian and was the one who showed me everything in school," recalled Rivera. "I found it interesting that we can do a lot of things in school and that the school involves people in its activities."

Rivera and his mother, Maria, immigrated to the U.S. earlier that year and he attended CCMS for the final six months of eighth grade. Now in the Global Mentor Program, he realized that he would need to dedicate himself to learning English so that he could help other students.

Students in the program speak many languages, including English, Arabic, and Portuguese, and act as advisors to new students. It might mean showing them where their classes are located, or finding an adult that they can talk with for further assistance.

"I help the Spanish speakers, but I'm kind of shy sometimes," said Rivera. "When I started doing it, I had to talk to their teachers to explain that they are new and sometimes translated to them."

"That was sometimes hard, because I was scared of speaking English and making mistakes," he continued. "But now, I feel more free. I have more confidence."

The seasoned mentors have also created a group chat to



talk to the new mentors. It gives them an opportunity to instruct them further on how to work with and be kind to new students.

Rivera is also president of the Latin Dance Club and is excited to take classes like French and Fashion Design this year. He spent this past July as part of a program called Project Adelante, offered at Kean University.

It is described online as "an innovative pre-college program, designed to reduce the high school dropout rate among Latino students." Rivera and the other students did a presentation about art and music. So, what's his song of the summer?

"'Creep' by Radiohead," he laughed.

Rivera's hope for his fellow students is that they realize "they don't have anything to be afraid of" and that there are many people who will be eager to help them adjust to life as a Mustang. That realization is what made all the difference to him.

"I was scared of learning English when I started learning it in my country. It was hard ... and I didn't like English at that time," said Rivera. "But when I got here, I started practicing and the teachers here were so good and nice. They don't discriminate."

Rivera is looking forward to seeing what's next for him and his peers.

"High school is not just a place to go to study," said Rivera. "It's a place to build your future."



CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Employment Opportunities

The Clifton Public School District is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- ✓ Elementary School Teaching
- ✓ High School Teaching
- ✓ Lunch Aides and Kindergarten Aides
- ✓ Maintenance/Custodial
- ✓ Middle School Teaching
- ✓ Preschool
- ✓ Special Education
- ✓ Student Support Services
- ✓ Substitute Teachers
- ✓ Substitute Paraprofessionals
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Volunteers

Apply today at <https://www.applitrack.com/cliftonschools/>

**Competitive
Pay Rates!**

Clifton Public Schools
745 Clifton Avenue
Clifton, NJ 07013
www.clifton.k12.nj.us

Phone: 973-594-4195
E-mail: hr@cliftonschoools.net

Applitrack



FETTE AUTO GROUP

BEST PRICES!

YOUR

BEST LEASES!

BEST RATES!

BACK TO SCHOOL

RIDE AWAITS



0% APR



on Select Models
at Fette Ford,
Kia & Infiniti

Come in today and experience the thrill of the drive! Test drive your favorite vehicle and find the perfect fit for your lifestyle.

Fette



INFINITI
EMPOWER THE DRIVE™

**USED CAR
SUPERSTORE**

JUNCTION RT 46 & RT 3 • CLIFTON, NJ

FETTE AUTO GROUP



OUR PRE-OWNED USED CAR
SUPER STORE LOCATED IN OUR
INFINITI DEALERSHIP



OVER 300 PRE-OWNED VEHICLES
ALL MAKES, ALL MODELS! With Vehicles under \$20,000!

FACTORY ORDER YOUR VEHICLE YOUR WAY!
TOP DOLLAR PAID FOR YOUR TRADE IN!
SHOP FROM HOME WITH FETTE DIRECT
FINANCE CENTER TO HELP GET YOU INTO
YOUR NEXT VEHICLE.

POWER UP YOUR BUSINESS WITH
OUR COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LINEUP

Fette 5 STAR PROMISE! EXPERTS IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION



habla español. Permítanos ayudarle con todo lo que necesite.

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS!
Contact our Service Department at: 862-416-1048

JUNCTION RT 46 & RT 3 • CLIFTON, NJ
FORD & KIA: 973.779.7000 • INFINITI: 973.743.3100

SALES: Mon-Thurs: 9am-7pm, Fri: 9am-6pm, Sat: 9am-6pm • SERVICE: Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-7pm, Fri: 7:30am-6pm, Sat: 7am-3pm

FetteAuto.com

IT'S BETTER AT FETTE!



MUSTANG

Sports Stories by Tom Szieber

SPORTS

There's no question about it—the first decade of the Ralph Cinque era of Clifton football was a huge success. The last two seasons, though, were far more challenging than the first eight.

After going 51-31-1 with two sectional finals appearances and a North II, Group V title between 2015 and 2022, the Mustangs have won just six of their last 19 games—their worst two-year stretch since 2014 and 2015, when they went 5-14-1.

It's a trend Cinque believes the Mustangs can reverse in year 11.

"I think we can be a 5-3 team and make the playoffs," Cinque said. "My eyes tell me we are better. We look better and we are out to prove that we are better than we were last year."

If Cinque's eyes are telling him the truth and the Mustangs are, in fact, moving back up, it will likely be because of their experienced running back corps and talented offensive line.

Senior Joe Dumeng and junior Euriel Watt combined for 881 yards on the ground last season, but will need to increase that production now that they are known commodities and the focal points of the Clifton offense. Both look

MUSTANG SPORTS FOOTBALL

Aug 28	Ridgewood	7pm
Sep 5	@Eastside	6:30pm
Sep 12	@Passaic	7pm
Sep 19	Morristown	7pm
Oct 3	@Bayonne	6:30pm
Oct 11	@Morris Knolls	1pm
Oct 17	PCTI	7pm
Oct 24	East Orange	7pm

Senior Mustangs, standing from left: Cadan Wrenn, Marek Dlugopolski, Thomas Baumann, Aidan Romero, Joel Vera, Alejandro Castano. Kneeling: Michael Torres, Anderson Azanedo, Aiden Hussey, Joseph Dumeng, Johnathan Olegario, Christopher Voit, Bruce Valladares.

stronger and more athletic than in 2024 and could surprise the North Jersey football community.

Senior left tackle Aidan Romero will lead the Clifton O-line, having already established himself as one of Passaic County's best in the trenches.

"I just want to see all that work that he's put in this offseason play out on the field," Cinque said. "I want him to put North Jersey on alert."

Romero will line up alongside talented sophomore left guard Jayson Perez, who has impressed Cinque with his tenacity and physicality. Senior Bruce Valladares will play center, while junior Jayden Walker and sophomore Shkamb Gjemo will start at right guard and right tackle, respectively. When Clifton deploys a tight end, it will be sophomore Jaeden Washington.

Clifton will use a two-quarterback system, with junior Messiah Campbell and sophomore Ryan Sisco both seeing

time under center. Both are athletic and possess high football IQs, and they should be able to keep defenses off balance.


They'll have weapons on the outside, with junior Jayden Mouzone, senior Aiden Hussey, and junior Aaden Nolan comprising a solid wide receiver group.

On defense, the Mustangs should be strong up front, with a burly and athletic defensive line consisting of Romero and Perez at tackle and senior Michael Torres on the edge. Junior defensive end Isiah Best will also see significant time when Clifton plays with four down linemen.

Dumeng (weak side) and senior Thomas Baumann (strong side) will line up at inside linebacker, while Washington and junior Yandel Nina will man the outside. Mouzone and Hussey will be the Mustangs' corners, with junior Jarrett Rodriguez at strong safety and Watt at free safety.



Senior Marek Dlugopolski returns to kick following a solid junior year. Baumann will handle punting duties. Mouzone, Hussey, and Watt are the team's primary kick returners, with Mouzone the deep man on punts.

"Last year, we just tried to take teams by surprise," Cinque said. "But last year was an anomaly. We weren't in games. We will be in those games again this year. With that said, obviously, words are just words and we need to get out there and prove ourselves. I expect us to do that."



Blesing Floors for 46 Years

OWNER JOHN BLESING

**BLESING'S
HARDWOOD
FLOORING**
*The Fine Art
Of Wood Flooring*

- Refinishing Classic Hardwood Floors
- Installation of New Wood Floors or Vinyl Floors
- In Home Shopping
- Showroom by Appointment

13 Sebago St. (just off Van Houten Ave.) Clifton, NJ 07013
(973) 471-7171 • www.blesingsflooring.com

Trusted • Dependable • Experienced

Fresh Bread, Warm Welcome



Nuttigrain BREAD

Croissants CHOCOLATE PLAIN ALMOND SWEET CHEESE



FRESH BAKED GOODS

FRANCESCA'S BAKERY

SINCE 2009

Closed Monday • Tues. - Sat.: 6:30am - 7:30pm Sun.: 7am - 3pm

70 MARKET ST, CLIFTON • 973-955-4458



Varsity Cheer front from left: Kylee Ocasio, Emily Fantry, London Jenkins, Amilia Betances, Brianna Thieu, Jaliyah Reyes, Lidia Canova. Middle: Bianca Alcantara, Sydney Krawiec, Melenny Inoa, Alissa Roman, Mikaylah Foreman, Allison Mendez, Isabel Romero. Top: Jazlyn Lazu, Sebastian Camacho, Zoe Bodden, Olivia Erszkowicz, Lila De Venio, Julia Szurlej, Briana Zalawadia.

The Mustang Cheer team has some 35 athletes this season. Pictured above are the 21 on Varsity who practices with the 14 on JV, which includes both female and male students, ranging from freshmen to seniors.

Since July, Coach Gina Fersini and her assistants Laura Tunnell, Jonathan Paradiso and Camila Vasquez, have been putting both newcomers and returning players through preseason training. This includes stunt clinics, regular practices and tumbling sessions.

"While the team loves bringing spirit to Friday night football games, their biggest focus is on preparing for competition season," said Fersini, who is also a School 11 kindergarten teacher. "The athletes are eager to showcase their skills and dedication as the season unfolds. We are what it is all about when it comes to Mustang Pride."

**FRESH SALADS, GREAT SANDWICHES
& SO MUCH MORE**

HENRY'S
DELICATESSEN
CATERERS
EST. 1922

Many Healthy Options

- Breakfast & Lunch Specials
- Premium Breakfast Buffet
- Salads, Soups, Wraps & Fresh Fruits
- Deluxe Hot & Cold Buffet
- Finger Sandwich Platters
- Party Subs (3ft & 6ft)
- Sloppy Joes & Sandwich Platters

WE DELIVER
\$15 Minimum Order

Hours: Mon-Fri:
5:30 am - 7 pm
Sat: 6 am - 5 pm
Sun: 6 am - 4 pm

New Jersey Lottery
Give Your Dreams A Chance

1224 Van Houten Ave. 973-473-1118 • Fax: 973-458-0755



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF CLIFTON**

Dive In!

Swim, Grow, and Learn from the Best

Expert swim programs for all ages, from **Mom & Tot to Youth and Adult Lessons, Lap Swim, Wet Class,** and our record breaking **Seahawks Swim Team.** Affordable, skilled coaches, and a supportive community. Dive in and reach your best!

Why Choose Us

- 75+ years of trusted teaching
- Supportive environment tailored to each learner
- Programs for all ages – from tots to adults
- All at an affordable price!

Scan for full info &
registration →

or visit bgccifton.org/aquatics




**Youth & Adult
Swim Lessons**



**Seahawks
Swim Team**



**Lap Swim &
Wet Class**

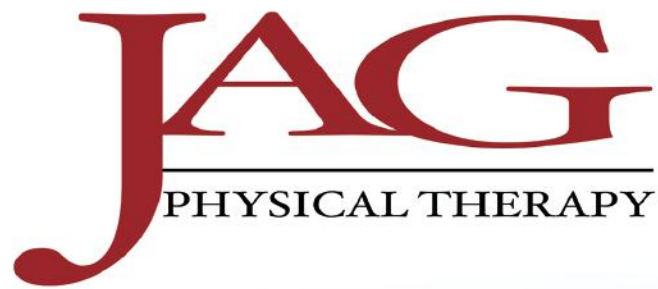
 Aquatics Office: 973-773-0966 x135

 181 Colfax Ave, Clifton, NJ 07013



Here are some of the Marching Mustang seniors photographed at band camp during mid-August: Top left photo: Francheska Hernandez Brea, Trinity West, Gabriella Labocki, Anna Monaghan, Jayme Ditren. Above front from left: Justin Hernandez, Nicholas Guardia, Brian Franco. Rear: Alyssia Vazquez, Jonuel Baez, Nicholas Nores, Michelle Moreno. Below left: Valerie Jimenez, Sebastian Abarca, Daureen Neptune. Rear: Olivia Weglinski, Hailey DeSaro, Emma Howard, Jordan Kulesa.

High stepping and a team of great musicians, the 87th edition of Clifton's Mustang Marching Band has been hard at work since the start of Band Camp on Aug. 18. Director Bryan Stepneski noted in addition to performances at every varsity football game, the Marching Mustangs will perform at the North Jersey Band Festival on Oct. 26, the West Milford Tattoo on Nov. 15, and Under the Lights, a season finale at Clifton Stadium on Nov. 26.



Get Back The Life **YOU LOVE!**

PROUD TO SERVE AS YOUR TRUSTED,
IN-NETWORK REHABILITATION PROVIDER

CLIFTON
50 MOUNT
PROSPECT AVE
SUITE 207
(P) 201-464-4749

Proud Supporter of the
Clifton Mustangs

Best of luck this season!



SCAN HERE



TO BOOK AN
APPOINTMENT

NEW JERSEY • NEW YORK • PENNSYLVANIA

JAGPT.COM





From rear left: Fozildzhon Khaidarov, Brian Arotoma, Wilson Estrella, Marko Rivas, Mykola Datsyk, Simon Deossa, Garland Collins, Yared Sanchez, Lucas Cheb, Oliver Quintana. Middle: Xavier Ortiz, David Marmolejo, Jaedin Lozada, Omar Baker, Arhy Martinez, Volodymyr Reveha, Samandar Khamrakulov, Samuel Buitrago, Samuel Espinosa, Daniel Ramirez-Barragan. Front: Jason Caceras, JP Carvajal, Justin Marshall, Tarik Pesocan, Emre Pesocan, Aiden Masri, Thiago Ovalle, Jordan Mazzo, Dominic Yang, Myan White, Nazar Romanyslyn.

Clifton boys soccer is primed to contend for championships in 2025, but what else is new?

The 24-time Passaic County champion Mustangs are deep, talented and hungry for a sectional championship a year after falling to Ridgewood in the North I, Group IV final, and have the horses to finish the job this time around.

Still, head coach Stan Lembryk is not taking anything for granted. “It’s always new, because no matter what, we have different kids,” Lembryk said. “No matter what, we don’t know where challenges come out of either. We expect that we will compete for all the trophies, but again, it’s always a challenge.”

Perhaps so, but Clifton is in great shape with forward Simon Deossa back for his senior year. A valuable hold-up player, Deossa is physically strong

MUSTANG SPORTS		
BOYS SOCCER		
Sep 4	Eastside	4:30pm
Sep 8	@Wayne Hills	4:15pm
Sep 11	Bergen Tech	4:30pm
Sep 16	Passaic	4:30pm
Sep 18	@JFK	4:15pm
Sep 25	PCTI	4:15pm
Sep 27	@No. Valley	1pm
Sep 30	@Eastside	4:15pm
Oct 3	Columbia	7pm
Oct 7	@Bergen Tech	4:15pm
Oct 9	@Passaic	4:30pm
Oct 14	JFK	7pm
Oct 21	Bergen Cath.	4:15pm
Oct 28	@PCTI	4:15pm
Oct 30	Hackensack	4:15pm

and adept at grabbing second-chance opportunities. He led the Mustangs in points (42) and goals (16) in 2024 and made the All-Passaic County first team.

“From the attacking point of view, he is our big gun,” Lembryk said. “But I feel we have a lot of guys that can contribute. I am really excited about that. I feel we have more guys who can contribute than last year.”

The offensive group also includes the likes of fast wing players JP Carvajal and Sammy Buitrago, both seniors. Seniors Marko Rivas—a big, physical presence with great feet—and Oliver Quintana—a lefty kicker who is good off the dribble—will be major pieces of the attack, as well.

The midfield features versatile junior Aiden Masri, who started as a sophomore, junior Emre Pescocan, and seniors Danny Ramirez-Barragan and Sammy Espinosa.

Senior defender Mykola Datsyk is back a year after earning first team All-Passaic honors, to be joined by the likes of seniors Tarek Pescocan, Lucas Chen and Brian Arotoma, junior Evan Sheply and sophomore Omar Baker.

The Mustangs may be as deep as anyone around at goalkeeper, with junior Robbie Nissen and sophomore Thiago Ovalle back and able of making any save. Both played at the varsity level last year. Senior Garland Collins is a capable third hand in the goal.

The Mustangs seem to make new stars all the time, as evidenced by the 16 alumni playing in the college ranks this fall.

With more likely to emerge in 2025, Clifton (17-3-2 last season) will enter the fall as favorites to win a third-straight county crown, as well make a run at the section.

"We feel very good," Lembryk said. "I think we've done more in [our first] six practices than we have in the past. The team has been really sharp with everything we have asked them to do. They have done a good job of applying everything we asked them apply. We have been going hard for the last six days. The kids are selfless. They are all together and they get it."

Education & Safety Go Hand in Hand!

CALL MR. & MRS. REAL ESTATE



A Husband and Wife Team... Must be a Dream!

Rickey Di Maria
Broker/Owner
973-714-9606

Rickey@RickeyDiMaria.com

Joseph Siano
Licensed NJ
Real Estate Agent
973-563-1449

JosephSianoJr@gmail.com

JK REALTY
NEW JERSEY LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER
WWW.JKREALTY.COM
973-472-7000
270 Colfax Ave, Clifton, NJ 07013

WWW.JKREALTY.COM

973-472-7000



A TASTE OF CLIFTON

Food & Wine Festival

10/27/2025
6:30pm - 9:30pm
Boys & Girls Club
181 Colfax Ave

Contact Maura Holden at
mholden@bgccifton.org
or 973-773-0966 x155

\$40 by 9/29 | \$50 by 10/26

\$60 at the door | \$400 Table of 10



Scan for
tickets
and
sponsorships

Corradino & Papa, LLC
A Personal Injury Law Firm

SHARP

GARDEN STATE
Honda
CLIFTON • PASSAIC

ShopRite

CLIFTON NJ
WINE & SPIRITS

kearnybank.

CRUNCH

FAST PROMISED
FP





The third year at the helm of a sports program is always a big one. Amanda Gryszkin is there, and she wants to see progress from Clifton girls soccer in 2025.

“My expectations are to be way better than last year, to be in games,” said Gryszkin, who heads into the season with a 12-23-1 record since taking over from former coach Konrad Kruczek. “Late in the season last year, we had a lot of close games and we lost those games, but [our players] are determined not to let it happen this year.”

To achieve different results, Clifton will lean heavily on senior midfielder Zaina Aburomi. A second team All-Passaic County honoree last year, she is capable of contributing on both sides of the field. Now a four-year starter, she has emerged as a leader and her performance will directly impact the team’s level of success.

Sophomore Abby Rascher is a field general who finished second in points for Clifton in 2024. A more vocal leader than a year ago, she will be a major contributor in the midfield, as well.

The rest of the position group is dominated by underclassmen. Sophomore Julia Zybura saw minutes last year and understands the speed and physicality of the varsity game. Freshman Nadine Millet and senior Kiara Carrera will compete for time as the fourth starter, with sophomore Valerie Vasquez also in the rotation.

MUSTANG SPORTS GIRLS SOCCER

Sep 6	@W Milford	10am
Sep 9	Wayne Hills	4:15pm
Sep 11	@Bergen Tech	4:15pm
Sep 13	Cedar Grove	11am
Sep 16	@Passaic	4:30pm
Sep 25	@PCTI	4:15pm
Sep 27	@TBA	10am
Sep 30	Mt St Dominic	4pm
Oct 7	Bergen Tech	4:30pm
Oct 9	Passaic	6:30pm
Oct 14	@Cranford	4pm
Oct 16	@Pequannock	4pm
Oct 21	@Immac. Heart	4:15pm
Oct 23	@Nutley	4pm
Oct 28	PCTI	4:15pm
Oct 30	@Hackensack	4:15pm

Front from left: Jaide Diaz, Ingrid Ortiz, Addy O’Leary, Elsa Schimpf, Melissa Garth, Valerie Vasquez, Kiara Carrera, Jenna Alawi. Standing: Ally Prawetz, Natyra Gjemo, Zaina Aburomi, Julia Zybura, Sam Petruno, Julia Grabowski, Abby Rascher, Nicole Velasquez, Mallory Nicol, Sophia Fischer, Kristaine Bermeo, Isabella DeVita, Gianna Colon.

Offensively, junior Melissa Garth is back after leading Clifton in both points (22) and goals (9) last season. She will play alongside sophomore Mallory Nicol, with junior Addison O’Leary also in the picture.

Senior Jenna Alawi and sophomore Elsa Schimpf will lead the Mustangs on defense—though the latter is versatile and may see time in the midfield. Freshman Allison Prawetz, sophomore Julia Grabowski, junior Nicole Velasquez, and seniors Sam Petruno and Ingrid Ortiz are all vying for time.

Senior Gianna Colon will be back in goal for Clifton. She will be backed up by freshman Sophia Fischer.

The Mustangs seem to have pieces in place to make a significant jump this season. Of last year’s starters, Clifton graduated just two. If they can weather the to-be-expected growing pains that can affect an underclassman-laden squad, they may find themselves back in playoff contention.

“I like what I see this year,” Gryszkin said. “These girls were kind of thrown into the fire last year. No one had varsity experience and they had to figure it out and play together. But this year, I like what I see.”

PARAMUS CATHOLIC

OPEN HOUSE - WEDNESDAY
SEPT. 24, 2025 6-8PM
REGISTER TODAY



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE

425 PARAMUS ROAD, PARAMUS, NJ 07652
WWW.PARAMUSCATHOLIC.COM



Varsity players standing from left: Sydney Reeb, Valeria Veliz, Sofia Palacio, Scarlett Vasquez, Yashira Lopez, Abigail McCoy, Michaela Mercado, Andrea Cedeno, Emma Bitar. Kneeling from left: Lesly Rivas, Karolina Ferrada, Jenna Alnatur, Gabriella Esperancilla, Gia Delgado, Mikaella Francisco, Rachel Flete, Zorianna Hoholuk.

Progress has been steady for Clifton girls volleyball under third-year head coach Steven Alvarado. The Mustangs went just 7-17 in his first season but improved by four games, to 11-13, in 2024.

Now, Clifton is hopeful that it can take that next leap and become contenders in Passaic County once again.

“It is more wins than last year,” Alvarado said regarding his goal for his team in 2025. “We want to continue to keep taking those steps forward. That is what we are hoping for this year, to make a better run in the counties. I am very optimistic, because we are a bit more experienced this year. We can definitely have a better season than last year.”

Senior Mikaella Francisco will again lead Clifton’s offense a year after recording a team-high 153 kills. An outside hitter, Francisco is capable of scoring on any possession, but she’s also an outstanding defender, as shown by her 133 digs in 2024.

She will get scoring support from senior outside hitter Michaela Mercado—a middle blocker last year. Sliding into Mercado’s former spot will be Junior Andrea Cedeno. Sophomore Abigail McCoy and junior Natalie Vasquez will rotate into the second middle slot.

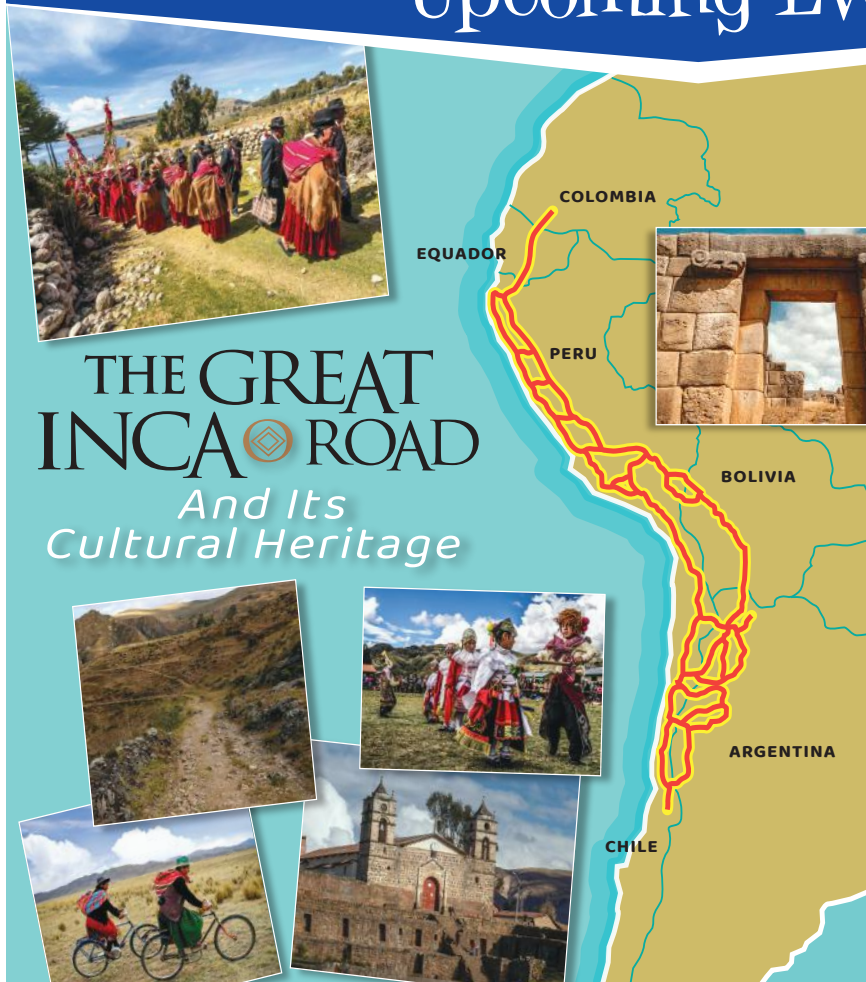
Valeria Veliz and Jenna Alnatur, both seniors, will split time on the right side, while senior Karolina Ferrada will play setter. The Mustangs’ other contributors will include the likes of senior defensive specialist Gabriella Esperancilla (who could also see time at libero), sophomore libero Yashira Lopez and junior defensive specialist/setter Zorianna Hoholuk.

MUSTANG SPORTS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Sep 5	@Mt St Dominic	4pm
Sep 6	TBA	9am
Sep 8	Wayne Hills	4:15pm
Sep 10	@Passaic	4:30pm
Sep 12	Eastside	4:30pm
Sep 15	@PCTI	4:15pm
Sep 17	@Paramus	4:15pm
Sep 19	JFK	4:15pm
Sep 25	@DePaul Catholic	4pm
Sep 26	@Verona	4pm
Sep 27	@East. Christian	10am
Sep 29	@Bergen Tech	4:15pm
Oct 3	Passaic	4:30pm
Oct 6	@Eastside	4:15pm
Oct 10	Cedar Grove	4pm
Oct 14	Wayne Valley	4:15pm
Oct 16	PCTI	4:15pm
Oct 17	Nutley	4pm
Oct 21	@JFK	4pm
Oct 23	@Hackensack	4:15pm
Oct 24	Jefferson Twp	4:15pm
Oct 28	Bergen Tech	4:30pm
Oct 30	@Montclair	4pm

CLIFTON ARTS CENTER

Upcoming Events



THE GREAT INCA ROAD

And Its Cultural Heritage

COME CELEBRATE
Hispanic Heritage Month

ART EXHIBIT • Open to the public

Sept. 17th thru Oct. 25th, 2025

Wednesdays thru Saturdays • 1pm till 4pm



www.cliftonartscenter.org
www.cliftonnj.org



Consulate General
of Peru in Paterson

MEET & GREET Reception

Saturday, Sept 20th
1pm till 4pm



Arts Adventures Storytime & More

For children ages 1 thru 5

**Sept. 18th, 25th,
Oct. 9th and 16th**

9:30 am until 10:15 am
Residents **\$50** all 4 Sessions
Non-Residents **\$53**

Fall In Love with Art

Classes for kids ages 7 thru 12
Each week students will learn
about an artist and create work
influenced by the artist's style
and technique

**Sept. 18th, 25th,
Oct. 9th and 16th**

6pm until 7pm
Residents **\$100** Non-Res. **\$125**
for all 4 days

Mixed Media Sunflower Workshop

For adults to create
a finished mixed media
piece of a sunflower

Sept. 27th

1:30 pm until 3pm
Residents **\$30**
Non-Residents **\$33**

Autumn Art Workshop

For kids ages 7 thru 12
Students will create a finished
mixed media piece inspired by
autumn themes and colors

Oct. 4th

1:30pm until 3pm
Residents **\$30**
Non-Residents **\$33**

Prince & Princess Tea Art Party

Dress up in your favorite costume

For children ages 1 thru 6

Caregivers stay and play

October 18th

2pm until 3pm
Residents **\$25**
Non-Residents **\$28**

900 CLIFTON AVENUE • CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY 07013
ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CLIFTON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

973-472-5499 Office Hours • Mon. to Fri. • 8am until 4pm



Mustang Harriers on their beloved home turf, front from left: Leo Spoon, Joseph Lopez, Boris Oldziej, Christian Cabanilla, Liam Olivares, Adrian Wilson-King, Adam Lopes, David Feliciano, Gabriel Cuba, Anthony Pichardo. Standing: Ashley Vargas, Rosana Boge, Samantha Rodrigues, Claire Kim, Ruth Lara, Hillary Batista, Nicole Florian, Dylan Delgado, Mariana Rodriguez Aperador, Dhruvi Sharma, Astrid Majano, Aylin Kara.



Tenaflly
Pediatrics

Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine

Clifton office: 973-471-8600

1135 Broad St., Suite 208, Clifton

Clifton Hours:

Mon.-Fri., 8:30am – 5pm

Wed. 8:30am - 8:30pm

Sunday for Sick Visits - 8:30am - 2pm

**Weekend sick visits also seen at our
Teaneck and Paramus locations**



We welcome new patients in Clifton and all of our locations!
www.tenafllypediatrics.com

The Clifton cross country teams are in a bit of a rebuild. Fortunately, a rebuild for a program with such a high level of tradition might still be pretty good. The Mustangs have some young, lesser-known faces in their lineup, but will still look to be competitive under the leadership of coach John Pontes—a living legend now in his 42nd season.

The girls went 7-1 a year ago and won the Big North Liberty Division. They will look to do it again behind senior Alexis Smith, all-county and all-league honoree in 2024. Already a standout, Smith has impressed Pontes with her preseason improvement.

And watch Senior Hillary Batista. A solid performer, Batista has had an injury-plagued career. She should be a difference maker for the Mustangs this year. Three juniors—Claire Kim, Rosana Boge and Samantha Rodrigues—are new to the sport but have had impressive preseasons and should contribute in a big way.

Senior Anthony Pichardo is back to lead the boys team after earning All-Passaic County first team honors last year. Junior Leo Spoon has a huge upside and appears poised for a breakout year.

MUSTANG SPORTS CROSS COUNTRY		
Sep 6	Darlington	9am
Sep 13	Garret Mtn.	9am
Sep 16	Darlington	3:30pm
Sep 20	Garret Mtn.	9am
Sep 27	Darlington	9am
Oct 7	Darlington	3pm
Oct 11	Garret Mtn.	9am
Oct 23	Garret Mtn.	3pm
Oct 25	Garret Mtn.	9am
Nov 1	Garret Mtn.	10am
Nov 8	Holmdel Park	10am
Nov 15	Holmdel Park	11am

Senior Adrian Wilson-King is new to cross country but is a top swimmer for Clifton. His endurance and work ethic lend themselves well to the sport and he should be a big point-getter.

“Adrian is competitive,” Pontes said. “He’s got that ‘athlete approach’—whatever he is going to do he is going to do the best he can.” Sophomore Nate Smith is another to watch on the boys’ side.

There are certainly question marks for the Mustangs on the trails this year, but the program is a template for consistency, largely thanks to Pontes, whose first season at the helm was 1984. He is the only coach that has been a Passaic County champion in each of the last five decades. With such him at the helm, there is always potential for end-

of-season hardware for Clifton cross country.

“If we work hard and stay healthy, we will make some noise by the end of the season,” Pontes said. “We practice a lot on the courses that matter the most. It is a big advantage. Our runners love when other teams get off the bus and say they hate running the hills at Garrett Mountain. Our kids say ‘ha, that’s our secret weapon.’”



BACK² SCHOOL with healthy, *happy feet*



MARC HASPEL, DPM
Podiatric Medicine & Surgery
1100 Clifton Ave., Suite C Clifton, NJ

973-777-4650

- Heel Pain
- Sports Injury
- Laser Surgery
- Hammertoes
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Bunions • Warts
- Corns/Calluses
- Ingrown Toenails

MOST INSURANCE HONORED

Mon. - Wed. 9am - 4pm • Thurs. 9am - 6:30pm • Fri. 9am - 1pm • Sat. by appointment • DrMarcHaspeldpm.com



MUSTANG SPORTS TENNIS

Coach Nicole Mooney knows she has a project on her hands — but that’s not a bad thing.

The first-year leader of the Clifton girls tennis program — who also happens to be the Mustangs’ head softball coach — understands that her team is coming off a 4-12 season in which it defeated only Paterson’s two squads, Eastside and Kennedy. Yet, while it will take hard work to get off the mat and put together a more successful campaign, Mooney is excited, optimistic and hopeful that 2025 can be the start of something great.

“I am very excited,” Mooney said. “A lot of our kids haven’t played until high school, but I am open to getting players who’ve never played before and introducing them to the sport.”

Mooney’s passion for teaching relatively new players to the game likely stems from the fact that she herself didn’t take to the clay until her junior year at Hawthorne High School. She got her start as a coach in college as a junior, but discovered she missed playing herself. So, as a senior, she played for William Paterson University.

She is doing a lot of teaching — but she likes what she is seeing from her roster. Junior Sophia Zeisel — in just her second year of competition in the sport — will suit up at first singles this fall. Zeisel has worked hard during the pre-season and developed into a leader for the Mustangs. Proficient in hitting the ball long, she also has strong placement

Sep 3	DePaul	4pm
Sep 5	Eastside	4pm
Sep 8	@PCTI	4pm
Sep 9	@Union City	4pm
Sep 12	Bergen Tech	4:30pm
Sep 15	@Passaic	4:30pm
Sep 17	JFK	4:30pm
Sep 19	@Hackensack	4:15pm
Sep 25	Lakeland	4:15pm
Sep 26	Lodi	4pm
Sep 30	@Eastside	4pm
Oct 1	Kearny	4pm
Oct 3	PCTI	4pm
Oct 6	@Bergen Tech	4:15pm
Oct 9	@Cedar Grove	4pm
Oct 10	Passaic	4:30pm
Oct 13	@West Milford	4:15pm
Oct 14	Kinnelon	4:15pm
Oct 17	@JFK	4pm

Varsity tennis from left: Mariajose Ramos, Krupa Jariwala, Stephanie Flete, Malaak Alwawda, Maura Coleman, Layla Judeh, Kayla Kozell, Sophia Zeisel, Jahayra Herrera Apreza.

skills. Zeisel has impressed Mooney with her ability to identify mistakes and quickly correct them.

Senior Jahayra Herrera Apreza is poised to play second singles and has emerged as a potential difference-maker. “Jahayra has one of those swings,” Mooney said. “She hits down on the ball and makes it hard to return. It works to her advantage.” Junior Kayla Kozell and speedy senior first-year player Stephanie Flete are vying for third singles responsibilities.

Whichever of the two does not earn the third singles spot could team with senior Maura Coleman as part of the Mustangs’ first doubles duo. Meanwhile, sophomores Mariajose “MJ” Ramos and Layla Judeh are expected

to compete at second doubles.

This group of Mustangs is energized and, despite its relative inexperience, skilled. That gives Mooney not just hope, but confidence, that they can deliver Clifton its first winning season since 2017. She hopes that will only be the beginning.

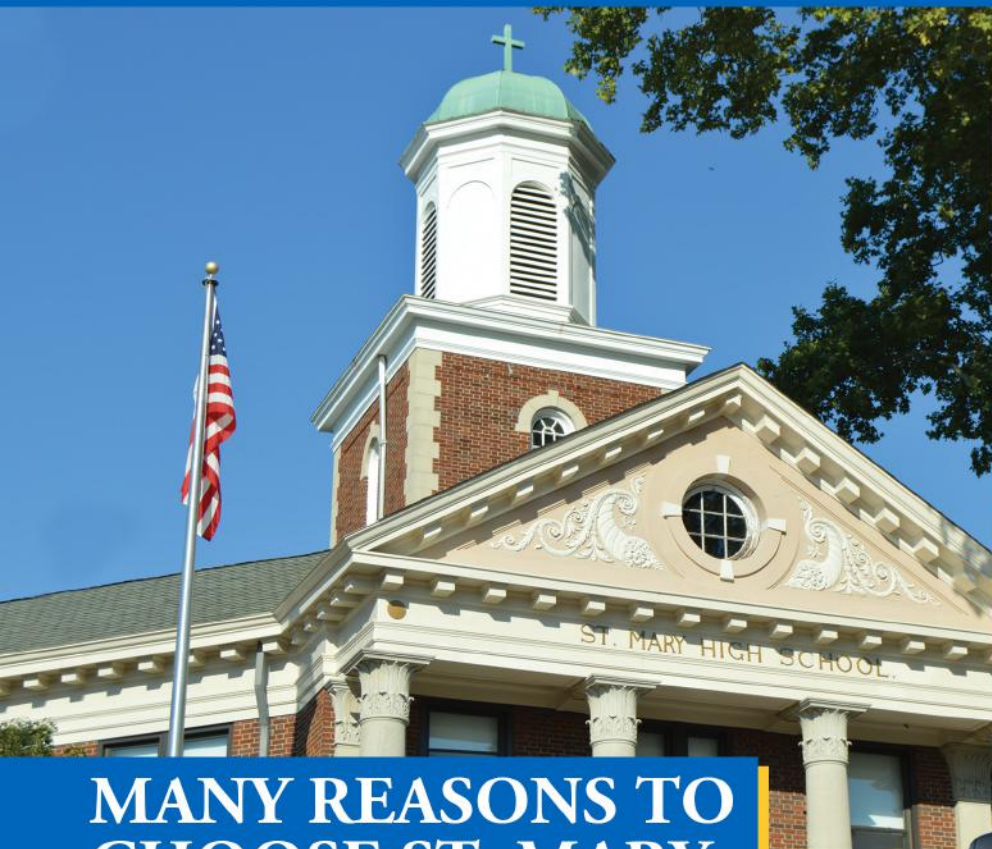
“I don’t plan on going anywhere,” Mooney said. “I plan to build my career [in Clifton], so I would love to take this program from where it is now and keep going up.”



St. Mary High School
Small | Personal | Catholic

**OPEN
HOUSE**

64 Chestnut St., Rutherford, NJ 07070



**Wednesday
Oct. 1**
6:30PM

**Wednesday
Nov. 5**
6:30PM

201-933-5220
admissions@stmaryhs.org
www.stmaryhs.org

MANY REASONS TO CHOOSE ST. MARY

- Academic Excellence
- Spiritual Formation
- Safe & Nurturing Environment
- Dedicated Faculty
- Championship Athletics
- Co-Curriculum Program
- Commitment to Excellence



Consider our Gael-for-a-Day Program...

Prospective students spend a school day with a St. Mary student.

To schedule, call **201-933-5220** or register online at www.stmaryhs.org

“That honor’s been earned by the dreams, sweat, hard work, laughter, and tears of I don’t know how many hundreds of athletes who’ve worn our uniforms. They’re the ones who earned it. I’ve been holding the stopwatch.”

–John Pontes

The Pontes LEGACY

By Ariana Puzzo



When he’s coaching his athletes, or during his career in the classroom, John Pontes knows how to take a tactical approach.

So apt analogies are right in his wheelhouse.

“I’m descended from farmers and wine makers,” said Pontes, 74. “A wine maker would tell you that the empty barrel is worthless.”

“I always thought that a coach is an empty barrel. The value is in the product — the athlete. What fills the barrel,” continued Pontes. “What’s filled the barrel of my life is remarkable kids.” Not unlike pole vaulter and Clifton Hall of Famer Emily Urciuoli (CHS 2010), pictured above.

Pontes, whose Clifton coaching and teaching career began in 1981, is being honored Sept 9. at 6:30 pm with a Track dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at the Clifton Stadium Track Field, 350 Piaget Ave. RSVP by emailing tvaleri@cliftonschoools.net.

It is a legacy that’s one for the Mustang books. Pontes is currently the head coach of the Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country teams. He is also the assistant coach for Indoor Track and remains the head coach of Boys Outdoor Track.



But he was head coach for all of Clifton's teams from about 2000 to 2012. Which contributed to his record of over 500 wins in Cross Country — including county invitational, league and state championships, and dual meets — and 186 wins for Outdoor Track.

Pontes has earned the title of Passaic County Coach of the Year about 29 times, was named the Charlie Brown's State Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2006, and he was inducted into the New Jersey State Coaches Hall of Fame in 2007.

His humility is steadfast.

"It's the kids that earn it," said Pontes. "There were some teams that were such overachievers, I thought I was watching a movie. It was incredible."

Faith in His Runners

If you grew up with Pontes in the Athenia section, you probably saw him outdoors.

"I was the kid who was always running around," laughed Pontes.

Pontes attended School 13 and Woodrow Wilson Junior High before joining his peers at the still-new high school.

The CHS 1968 grad didn't slow down once he made it to Colfax Ave. He ran the 440, 880, and the mile for the school's different Track teams. It was in 1965, after winning an 880 yard race in a time of 2:17, that Coach Ed Zak said Pontes would be a runner.

Zak's mentorship and coaching inspired Pontes to pursue a similar path. The latter competed in several Track & Field events at William Paterson, majoring in Health and Physical Education.

Pontes' post-graduation job was working for six months as a packaging design trainee making cardboard boxes for Clifton Packaging Corporation on Clifton Blvd. It was during that time that he was offered an assistant coaching job at Essex Catholic High School in Newark.

The years that followed were when he started a family. Pontes is a lifelong resident and lives in the Albion section with his wife, Carol. They have two children, Deidre (CHS 1996) and Joseph (CHS 1998). Joseph and wife Marlo have twin daughters, Athena and Isabella.

The proud grandfather recalled how just before his granddaughters, who are now sophomores, entered high school, they took him aside separately to talk to him with tears in their eyes. That was when he learned they didn't plan to run in high school.

"I looked at them like, 'Just because you're my granddaughters doesn't mean you're supposed to run,'" said Pontes. "'I love you because you're you, not because you might be a runner.'"

Even when he and Carol were young parents, Pontes realized that he needed to find a higher-paying job and that after seven years in Newark, getting back to his Mustang roots would be the solution.



14 Pilgrim Dr. Clifton • (973) 777-1699

- Roofing • Siding
- Gutters & Leaders
- Windows & More!



Don Knapp

We now do Gutter Cleaning

NJ License 13VH00726700

The Pontes **LEGACY**

Pontes retired in 2010 after nearly 30 years as a Health teacher at CHS. As his coaching tenure continues, he made clear how he never forgot Zak's coaching style. He has also benefited from some of Zak's specific lessons, which he uses as touchstones.

"Don't stop working hard," recalled Pontes about one of Zak's values. "The minute that you stop working hard, it's over. He was very encouraging and very motivating."

Pontes also learned the importance of finding different ways to reach student-athletes. Some athletes respond more to a stern, hard-knuckled approach, while Pontes sees other kids who gain more from the encouragement of someone who "looks like their grandpa."

"You can't make somebody run," he emphasized. "One of the greatest joys is to take a kid who started out and didn't look like a runner in how they ran and after ... one month or three-to-four years, they become a really good runner."

For the long-time coach, it's about guiding kids so that they can "make themselves." That means putting faith in them so that they are encouraged to try their best when they compete. Even if it's nerve-racking for them in the beginning.



Jacob Heredia, Brian Torres and Sean Henry.

"But they learn how to do it," said Pontes, confidently. "When they know somebody has trained them and has trust in [them], young men and women still respond to that trust and faith."

Memories of Mustangs

There are plenty of student-athletes that he'll never forget. And some of the names that Pontes mentioned are just the tip of the iceberg.

There was Jacob Heredia (CHS 2022) who ran a 4:09 mile for the Mustangs, plus winning four events at the State Sectional and four events at the County Meet. There was also Brian Torres and Sean Henry, both of whom were the 1994 and 1989 recipients of the Boys Student-Athlete of the Year Award from the Annual Passaic County Coaches Association All-County Awards, respectively.



Available Now

777 Passaic Avenue Offices

Landmark building near Rt. 3, minutes to highways.

Generous parking, two blocks to NJ Transit rail.
Across the street to NJ Transit bus to Port Authority.

On-site security and covered parking and walk to neighboring hotels.





Mountain Development Corp.

Call 973-333-6433



Sisters Catherine "Cathy" Paz-Fitzgerald and Jacqueline "Jackie" Paz-Schimmel. Mia Dubac. Chrissy (Klimek) Cole.

Pontes' coaching career in the 80's was also defined by the likes of sisters Catherine "Cathy" Paz-Fitzgerald and Jacqueline "Jackie" Paz-Schimmel.

Catherine held the 3200 meter school record for 33 years until Mia Dubac broke it in February of 2019.

As for Jacqueline, she was invited to train at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and went on to compete at the National level in road cycling. Today, she's a co-founder for the Chiropractic Center at Styertowne, 501 Allwood Rd.

And Pontes hasn't forgotten another staple of the 80's: Chrissy (Klimek) Cole. The CHS 1988 grad became the first and only student in school history to earn 16 varsity letters. Cole was an inductee into the 1999 CHS Athletic Hall of Fame and is now a Basic Skills Instruction teacher at Christopher Columbus Middle School.

"All three girls on the team were phenomenal," said Pontes. "I think that team was ranked 19th in the nation. That was only my second year as [the head] Cross County coach."

It's not just the kids who have created lifelong memories for Pontes. He ex-

pressed gratitude for his colleagues, including fellow coaches in other sports and the different assistant coaches that he spent thousands of hours working alongside.

Some of the names included Softball head coach Rick LaDuke, who led Clifton to back-to-back state championships in 1997 and 1998, and Baseball head coach Paul Pignatello, who was the previous Athletic Director and graduated a year after Pontes with the Class of 1969.

Others included the legendary Fernando Rossi, who took the helm of the Boys Soccer team from its founder, Severin Palydowycz, in 1978 and ran the program through its 2001 season, amassing 353 wins.

Fast-forward to the present, Pontes still admires the team's leadership under Stan Lembryk, who played under Rossi and became a professional player before returning to his hometown. "It's [all] quite a gift," said Pontes. "I also had Stan and his wife as students."

Job Seekers or Employers

Computer Science

Truck Driver

Culinary Arts

JOB SEEKERS

Unemployed?
Under Employed?
Need Training?
Passaic County **ONE-STOP**
Offers Training & Counseling.

EMPLOYERS

ONE-STOP can provide a variety of Free Services, Incentives & Custom Programs.

One-Stop Job Seekers:
973-340-3400 • Ext. 7335

Passaic County Employers:
973-340-3400 • Ext. 7223

200 Memorial Drive, Paterson, 07505 • pcwdc.org



Coaches Kareem West, Michael Rogers, Andrew Piotrowski, and Mike Velez. John Pontes as a Mustang in 1968.

Second Best Title

Those were the coaches in the vicinity. The head and assistant coaches in his immediate orbit amounted, by his estimate, to more than 40 throughout his career.

He has worked closely with Kareem West, Michael Rogers, and Andrew Piotrowski (CHS 1998), who he credited for their knowledge, dedication, and exceptional records. Now, he works with WWMS Social Studies teacher Justin Swisher and CHS Physical & Driver Education teacher Michael Velez to get each year's Cross Country team ready.

There are just over 30 athletes this season, the largest post-COVID team compared to prior years of 40-45.

"Sometimes they can read a kid better than I can, because they have them in class," said Pontes. "Whether Mike sees them in Gym class or Justin sees them in middle school, they might have some insight with them and can relate to them."

Pontes went on to say it sometimes takes an athlete some time to "see everything they want to see in me" since their interactions are limited to practices or at meets.

"Sometimes I tease [the assistant coaches], too, and say, 'You guys are my translators, because I was born halfway through the last century,'" laughed Pontes.

And when is that most apparent to him?

"I don't understand the music," he laughed. "I tell them, 'Put your favorite song on in your head when you're doing a long run of five miles.' I rattle off songs that I like and they're like, 'What is that?'"

For what it's worth, they're classics. Like the coach, himself.

"'Dust in the Wind' by Kansas," Pontes noted. "And a couple Beach Boys songs, like 'God Only Knows.'"

Which perhaps is fitting, because God only knows

where Clifton Track and Cross Country would be without him leading the charge and making it possible for others to forge their own paths. He doesn't take any of it for granted either.

Pontes remains in top shape by walking four to six miles daily. He also has an exercise bike that he rides for an hour and a half typically after his walk. During the summer, he swims.

He reiterated more than once how honored and humbled he is, particularly as a Cliftonite, that his name will be there for the track.

"That honor's been earned by the dreams, sweat, hard work, laughter, and tears of I don't know how many hundreds of athletes who've worn our uniforms," said Pontes. "They're the ones who earned it. I've been holding the stopwatch."

The big reward is when he runs into former athletes who recognize him on an airplane or on the other side of the country when he and Carol spend a week in Las Vegas "to contribute to their economy."

"I'll hear, 'Coach?' and turn, or I hear, 'Pontes!' on an airplane from down the aisle," he laughed. "Then other people will come up and be like, 'Am I supposed to know who you are?' It must be over thousands of people."

The feeling never gets old. Which is exactly what he emphasizes to his athletes.

"Something that I say to the kids during the season — it kind of chokes me up and it's mainly aimed at the guys," he said. "'The most important thing you're ever gonna be called is: Dad.'"

"In my life, the second most important thing that means almost the same is to be called: Coach," continued Pontes with audible emotion. "It's been a blessing."

Now Open Year Round!
SABRETT



THE ORIGINAL
JUMBO'S

@ 697 Van Houten Ave.
 Mon-Sat: 11-7
 973-773-4401

Walk up & Enjoy!
Pushcart Style
Hot Dogs \$3



Dave Martina
 Chief Winning Wiener,
 Pushcart Purveyor &
 Italian Ice Vendor



Buy'em Wholesale...

- 55 Sabrett Pushcart Style Hot Dogs: \$28.00
- 15 Old Fashioned Sabrett Red Hots: \$20.00
- Dozen Pushcart Style Rolls: \$3.00
- 2 Lb Sabrett Sauerkraut: \$3.75
- 1 Lb Sabrett Cooked Onions: \$4.00
- Sabrett Original Mustard: \$3.50

JUMBO'S

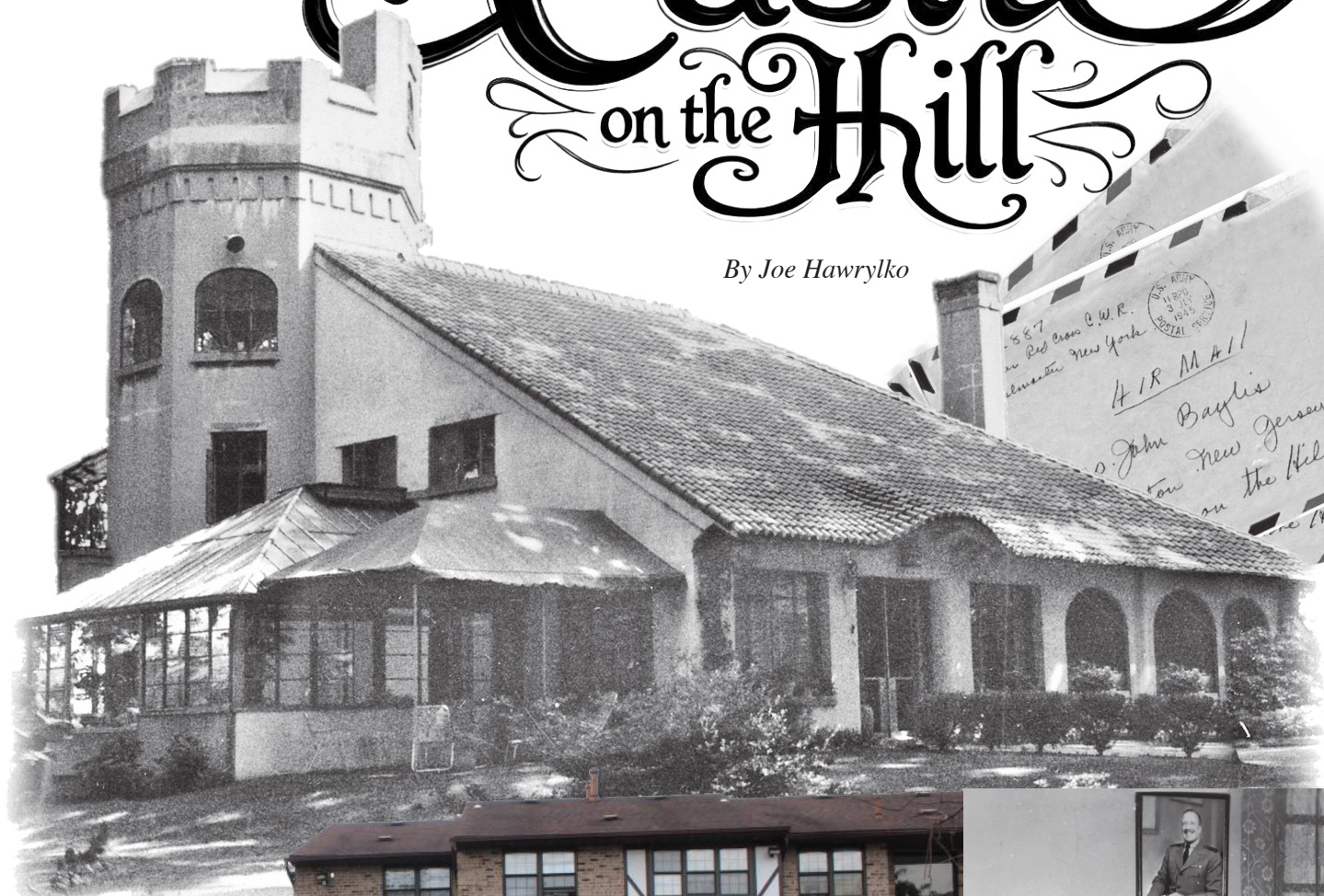
Italian Ice Flavors
Rainbow • Mango
Watermelon • Blue Raspberry
Chocolate • Coconut
New varieties come weekly!

Italian Ice Pushcart Rentals

Hot Dog Pushcart Rentals

The Castle on the Hill

By Joe Hawrylko



Love letters found amongst the rubble, photographs scattered in the debris and other memorabilia give us a glimpse into what was once called the Castle on the Hill. Sitting on three wooded acres, the estate, its servants quarters and guest home looked out over Weasel Brook Park, near Third Ave. and Highland Ave., now the site of Highland Terrace apartments.

For three quarters of a century, it sat atop a steep hill overlooking Weasel Brook Park and the rest of Dutch Hill. Covered by trees and shrouded in mystery, the Castle on the Hill—or the Clifton Castle if you prefer—was the center of many urban myths.

But now, all that remains are just a few tattered love letters, some photos and a weather vane modeled after the Egyptian Goddess Isis, after the Castle on the Hill was demolished to make way for the Highland Terrace condominiums. Clifton Merchant Magazine took a look back at the landmark in August and September of 2007, trying to uncover the mystery of the Clifton Castle with help from one of our readers. In the summer months, this massive home was almost invisible to the eye, thanks to the thick foliage surrounding the 6.3-acre property.



Taken in 1955, that's Bob Kovalycsik in front of the 416 Highland Ave. entrance to the Clifton Castle on the Hill.

The only inclination that a non-resident would have of the Castle on the Hill would be the two gates—one on Highland Ave. and another on Third St.—with two massive pillars in front of them.

Shrouded in mystery due to its seclusion from the rest of the neighborhood, the Castle was the focus of many urban myths. Some residents will recall sneaking onto the property as kids, only to be chased out by dogs that resided just over the perimeter wall.

Such treks onto the property seemed as if they were a rite of passage for Clifton kids. However, that came to an end in June of 1983.

Just a mere shell of its former self, this dilapidated Clifton icon of the past was in the midst of demolition in that year. The large hill that it once sat upon was being leveled and trees were being cleared to make way for the Highland Terrace condominiums.

After hearing of the Castle's impending fate, former Passaic resident Mark Dauphars took to action and headed over to the site with a camera to make sure that he would be able to preserve a part of Clifton history.

After snapping some photos from various angles on the property, Dauphars toured the empty building,

The Castle on the Hill

which is how he got a hold of some photos and dated mail. In his scavenger hunt, he also located the very peculiar weather vane that sat atop an obelisk near the gate.

“They were tearing the place down and it looked loose,” recalled Dauphars. “I hit it with a stick a few times and it fell.”

For over two decades, he held on to the historical items. In July of 2007, he contacted the Clifton Merchant office to donate his collection so that the story of the castle could be shared with the residents of Clifton. Thanks to Dauphars and then-Clifton Tax Assessor Jack Whiting, we were able to uncover some of the mystery surrounding the Castle.

Built in 1908, the original owners of the Clifton Castle are unknown, as it is not documented in city records. The earliest name attributed to the Castle is Marie Kleber Baylis, who purchased the property in 1944.

The names Clifton Castle and the Castle on the Hill are derived from the unique architecture of the three buildings on the property, more specifically, the large tower that was featured on the main building. In total, the trio of buildings came out to 4,208 sq. ft. (2,962 sq. ft. in the main building, 550 sq. ft. in the guest house and 696 sq. ft. in the servants quarters/garage).

One of the WWII-era love letters found by Dauphars on the property may shed light on the original owners of the property.

Written in 1943 by Jack S. Baylis, it is addressed to Mrs. M. K. Thiemes, presumably the former name of Marie Kleber Baylis, whom the property was entitled to. It would seem that the Thiemes family may have been the first to live there.

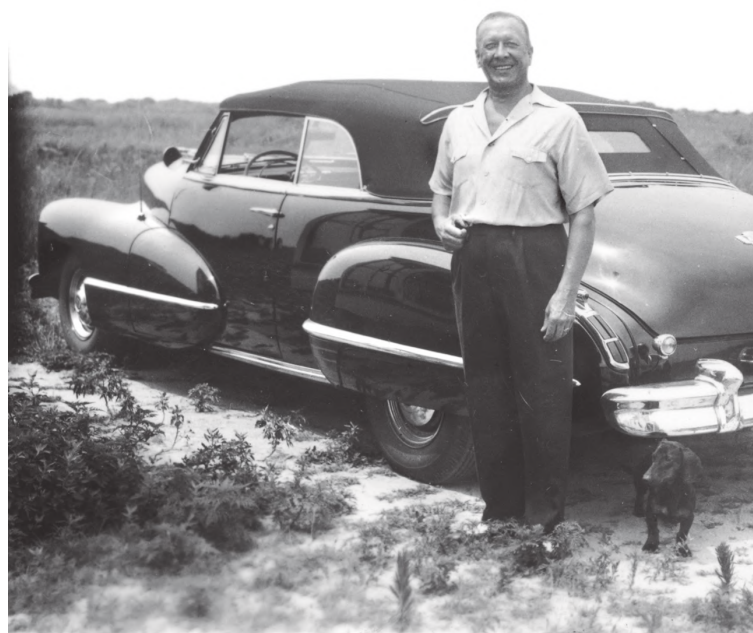
It is interesting to note that the letters sent to the property had no address on them, just simply ‘The Castle on the Hill’. Even postmen knew of the iconic home by name alone.

We encourage readers that have any additional information about the Castle to call us at 973-253-4400.

The Story Continues

Our August 2007 story on the Castle on the Hill, pictured at right, generated a wide variety of responses from our readers. Thanks to their comments and contributions, we received lots of new information on the iconic Clifton residence, which was in Dutch Hill.

Based on personal accounts of those who lived nearby,



Above is an undated photo of Jack Baylis. Also pictured are the servants quarters and the guest home with a two-car garage. Photos on this page are courtesy of former Clifton Tax Assessor, Jack Whiting. Other photos were provided by Mike Dauphars.

some reports do conflict with others. However, just before we went to press, Denny Kleber, the grandson of Marie Kleber Baylis, called us after receiving the magazine from a relative. He was able to confirm much of the information supplied by readers.

Marie Kleber Baylis did indeed inherit the fragrance factory directly next door (now the Clifton Skatezone) from her father Dr. Clemens Kleber, who adopted her.



We Remember...
9/11

Roy B. Garretson
Manager
NJ Lic. No. 3550

Nancy Shook Garretson
President
NJ Lic. No. 3657

Thomas J. Garretson
Director
NJ Lic. No. 4988

Kevin V. White
Director
NJ Lic. No. 4964

Joseph R. Bongiorno
Director
NJ Lic. No. 5149

639 Van Houten Ave, Clifton • (973) 471-9620 | ShookFH.com

The Castle on the Hill

He had founded the Clifton Chemical Co. (also known as the Fritzsche Brothers Co., the property later changed hands several times) in 1906 with family members from Long Island. However, there was a discrepancy as to when the Castle was built and if there was anything predating it on the property.

Joan Statzer, a resident who grew up right by the Castle and was friends with the family, said there was a much smaller home on the property in 1908, right by where the Castle's obelisk stood. She claimed that in 1915, Dr. Kleber had the castle built and the original home was remodeled into the guest house.

"The inside of the house was art deco. They didn't have it in 1908," said Statzer, backing her claim of the age of the castle. "Not even those glass cubes on the wall."

However, Denny Kleber, who based his information on his father, Jack 'Hans' Kleber—who was Marie's only son—said that construction began in 1906. The numbers 1915 that sat atop the servants' quarters was the date when all of the structures were completed, possibly explaining the difference between his and Statzer's accounts.

However, he added an interesting fact about the property. "My great-grandfather was friends with the man (Catholina Lambert) who built Lambert Castle," said Kleber, a 1974 CHS grad who starred on the '72 and '73 undefeated football teams. "They decided that they would build their castles on opposite ends of Clifton."

It is also important to note that Statzer—and Kleber—said that Marie Baylis' name from her first marriage was Thienes, not Thiemes as we had reported in our August 2007 edition.

Commodore John Baylis

Statzer added that John "Jack" Baylis was also in his second marriage and was a Commodore in the Coast Guard up in Skaneateles, NY. But there's more to his story as well. The Commodore was a 1903 graduate from the New York Nautical Schoolship St. Mary's, now the New York State Merchant Marine Academy. He entered the U.S. Coast Guard, then known as the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, on Oct. 7, 1907, and spent some of his service on the famous Cutter Bear, the Cutter Manhattan, and commanded the Destroyer Paulding.



Marie and Jack Baylis in an undated photo. Below is Mark Dauphars, who supplied photos of the Clifton Castle being demolished on the following page.



Before his retirement in Oct. 1, 1946, he received the Silver Star, Victory Button, Victory Medal for World War I; the Gold Lifesaving Medal was awarded to him in July 1924 for World War II service, and the Navy Commendation Ribbon for outstanding service as District Coast Guard Officer of the Tenth Naval District in San Juan.

Baylis, who died at the age of 87 on Nov. 24, 1971, was buried with full military honors and graveside services at Arlington National Cemetery. He was one of the few officers remaining from the old Revenue Cutter Service; one of seven cadets in his class when he entered the Academy, with a grand total of 41 in the three classes at the time. To read his full story, visit history.uscg.mil, select the dropdown "Browse by Topic", and choose "Notable People".

Recall & Reflect  September 11, 2001

East Ridgelawn Cemetery

EST. 1905



BRAND NEW
Columbarium
Niches NOW
AVAILABLE

973-777-1920



Pause &
reflect in our
newly redone
chapels



East Ridgelawn Cemetery has served over 65,000 families with care, dignity and compassion since its founding in 1905. We are a full-service cemetery providing in-ground burial, mausoleum entombment, columbarium and glass niche inurnment, scattering garden, and cremation facilities. East Ridgelawn also runs and operates Menorah Cemetery, the Jewish cemetery across our back gate on Passaic Ave.



PLEASE CALL TO SET UP
AN APPOINTMENT.

(P) 973-777-1920 (F) 973-777-3885
255 MAIN AVE, CLIFTON, N-J 07014

EASTRIDGELAWNCEMETERY.COM EASTRIDGELAWNCEMETERY@GMAIL.COM

The Castle on the Hill

Statzer was also able to recall what the magnificent home was like on the inside. “There were also secret passages in the walls,” she claimed. “One went from the bathroom in the basement to the library on the first floor to the master bedroom suite.”

Statzer then began speaking about Marie, whom she idolized growing up. “She was like a mentor of mine, but much older. She more or less adopted me as a young friend,” recalled Statzer. “I grew up going in and out of that house.”

Marie worked for the Red Cross in Puerto Rico during WWII, where she taught English over the radio. There, she received a Lhasa Apso from an Admiral as a gift, which she brought back to the United States.

She said the canine was one of the first of its kind in the country and a prized possession of the family. Over the years, Baylis also owned a Scottie named Max and a gray Great Dane named Rope.

Denny Kleber, who has lived in North Carolina for decades, added that his grandmother also owned a number of Collies throughout the years, including one that he said was of the original sons of the TV Lassie.

Statzer said that Baylis was also involved in the Paterson Operatic Society and that she had a lovely singing voice. Kleber added that his grandmother also sang in Manhattan at one point.

Even after moving to Middletown, Dominick DiDonato still remembered the Clifton Castle.

“I used to live with my parents Joseph and Katherine in the house to the left of the Castle entrance,” recalled the former Clifton resident of 64 years.

He and his family were friends of the Baylis’ caretakers, John and Tess Bilowith. Although he had not talked to them for some time, he said he recalled the Bilowiths living in a senior community center on Van Houten Ave.

DiDonato said that he was also well acquainted with the Baylis family. He and his relatives were regulars there, and DiDonato remembers many dogs, including a Great Dane named Shatsu.

He also recalled the massive vergerium, complete with tropical plants and a fish pond, as well as the spiral stairway passages. DiDonato said that Marie would come down once a year for his mother’s peonies flowers, which she used



for the centerpiece on her tables at her annual barbeque. According to Mike Russinn, who knew Hans through his brother, the parties included many recognizable names.

“All the stars went there, even the Rockefellers,” he claimed. “In the basement, there were autographed pictures of all the stars, including Clark Gable. That lady was very influential.” Kleber confirmed what several readers had claimed: Baylis was friends with the Roosevelts and the famed First Lady Eleanor was even in her wedding. Kleber added that his grandmother had a distinct fashion taste, only driving Cadillacs. She also had about 12 fur coats in a walk-in closet. These items remained family heirlooms for years.

“But they were very nice people,” summed up DiDonato. “Not snooty or anything like that at all.”

Without the help of our readers, this follow-up story would not have been possible. The individuals who called, gave us information or provided photos include Denny Kleber, Joan Statzer, Dominick DiDonato, Ernest Fodor, Kim Nouhan-Puzzo, John Nouhan, Mike Russinn, Bob Kovalycsik, and Francis Nouhan Florentine.

If you have any Clifton History to share, send an email to associate editor Ariana Puzzo at aripuzzo@gmail.com or call the Clifton Merchant office at 973-253-4400.



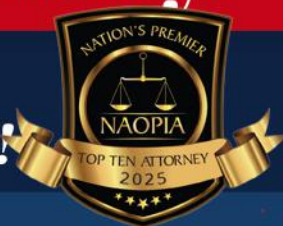
CP CORRADINO & PAPA, LLC

A Personal Injury Law Firm

Your Biggest Accident Could be Your Choice of Attorney.



*All you need to do is get better
and we will take care of the rest!*



- Personal Injury
- Auto Accidents
- Truck Accidents
- Workers' Compensation
- Slip & Falls
- Dog Bites
- Medical Malpractice
- PIP Arbitration
- Premise Liability

Mowimy po Polsku | Se Habla Español

955 Allwood Road • Clifton NJ Free Consultation

973-574-1200 **corradinoandpapa.com**



Despite a sense of sobriety as Russia continues its war against Ukraine, residents on Aug. 24 gathered at city hall to raise the flags of Ukraine and America to mark the 34th year of Ukraine's independence. Viktor Voitiuk, a member of the Ukrainian Special Forces who fought to defend his country from July 2022 until he was injured in March 2023, was among the noted guests, including clergy, elected officials, families and youth.



THEATER
LEAGUE OF
CLIFTON



2025



The Addams Family MUSICAL

NOVEMBER 14TH : 7:30PM
NOVEMBER 15TH : 2PM & 7:30PM
NOVEMBER 16TH : 2PM

Book by Marshall Brickman & Rick Elice
Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Director: Bill Kaufman
Musical Director: Mackenzie Miller
Producers: Mark Peterson &
John Traier

Rosen Performing Arts Center
(Inside Wayne Community Center)
1 Pike Drive - Wayne, NJ

973-928-7668

Adults: \$25 (\$30 at door)
Senior/Students \$20 (\$25 at door)

PO Box 4072 Clifton, NJ 07012

Reserve by phone, online or mail



www.theaterleagueofclifton.com

This program is funded, in part, through a grant from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.



The Addams Family is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com



You bring the jokes, Jonathan Justin will handle the rest. The Thursday Comedy Night may no longer be at Kashan Indian Kitchen & Bar, but Jonathan is searching for a new Clifton venue. Comedy Night is where civilians and veterans can congregate for a night of laughter, good food, and importantly — affordable entertainment. Questions? Call Jonathan at 551-777-0831 or jonathanjustin@gmail.com updates at jonathanjustin.com.



The Clifton Education Foundation are busy bees. Trustees connected club advisor and CEF grant recipient Terrence Brown (second from left) and his CHS Beekeepers Club with CEF donors. CJ Liquori of Agamies Deli on Market St. sold the club's

summer harvest of honey in five days. The next harvest is in October. For now, Lunar E-Clips Salon, 62 Market St., and Bluejay Pharmacy and Medical Supply, 377 Valley Rd., are selling Mustang beeswax lip balm. Follow the CEF @cliftoneducationfoundation on FB and Instagram. Interested in becoming a donor? For more details go to cliftoneducationfoundation.org.



The City of Clifton announced the official appointments of Kathleen Tolosi (from left) as City Clerk, Megan Krusznis as Deputy Clerk, and Thomas Egan as City Attorney. Tolosi brings 15 years of experience in municipal government, most recently as Deputy Clerk for the Township of Fairfield. Krusznis brings four years of experience as the Deputy Clerk for the Township of South Hackensack, where she additionally served as Secretary to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Egan (CHS 1983) for the past 19 years served as Clifton's Assistant Municipal Attorney, succeeding longstanding Municipal Attorney Matthew "Matt" Priore.

Clifton Behind the Scenes with Echo Unity Series invites all to learn about how city government functions and services offered. Programs are in English and Spanish, at 5:30-7 pm and 7-8:30 pm, respectively on Sept. 9. Councilwoman Rosemary Pino offers tours of city hall, its grounds and landmarks. Visit @rosiepino04 on Instagram to RSVP. Future dates: Oct. 15, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11.

C. GENARDI
CONTRACTING INC.
973-772-8451

- Roofing
- Siding
- Gutters
- Ventilation
- Chimneys



Corey and Roofer

**Providing Insurance
& Financial Services**



Thomas Tobin
973-779-4248



Bill G. Eljouzi
973-478-9500

You know Agamies for our Sandwiches...

Mon-Wed 6-4
Tue-Sat 6-6
Closed Sunday



62 Market St
973-779-3643
agamiesdeli.com

Open Holidays & Sundays for Catering



Our Favorite Sandwiches...



The Agamie
Chicken cutlet, prosciutto, roasted peppers,
fresh mozzarella, balsamic vinegar



The Allwood
Hot roast beef, mozzarella cheese,
brown gravy, on garlic toast



The Italian
Agamies Style...
Classic & delicious!



Breakfast Sandwich
Taylor Ham, Egg, Cheese
on a hard roll.

*As we enter our 3rd year, we thank
our customers, neighbors and friends.*

Clifton Democratic County Committee fall breakfast is Sept. 27, 9 am at Yesterday's, 70 Main Ave. Cost is \$40. Call City Leader John D. Pogorelec, Jr. at 973-778-1604.



St. John Kanty picnic features Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra on Sept. 7, 3:30-6:30 pm. Doors open at 1 pm. Come hungry to Speer Ave. and enjoy the home cooked Polish food. Then dance off the kielbasa and stuffed cabbage. Enjoy!

The Valley Seniors Social Club is travelling to Lancaster, PA, Nov. 18-19 for Sight & Sound in Dutch Country. The bus departs from the Clifton Masonic Lodge. To get on board and for costs, call 973-420-8605 or 973-473-2321.

CHS Class of 1970's 55th Reunion is Oct. 11 at the Best Western Executive Plus Inn, Fairfield. Find out more: email clifton1970reunion@gmail.com.

CHS 1975 50th reunion is at the Glen Ridge Country Club, Nov. 15. Call Susan (Stier) Boscia at 973-405-1552 or join the FB group CHS Class of 1975 before Oct. 1.

The CHS '76 Mustangs Bicentennial class will host its 50th reunion in June of 2026. Email Big Johnny George at georgesservice@gmail.com.

Clifton Rec and Garden State Honda's Obser Concert Series performance by the Emerald Experience Party Band is Sept. 7 at 7:30 pm, at Main Memorial Park. Free admission. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Questions? Call Clifton Rec at 973-470-5956 or visit cliftonrec.com.

True Colors Independent Indoor Color Guard practices Mondays in September from 6-8 pm at School 3, at 365 Washington Ave. Open to students ages 12 through 22. No experience necessary. Visit truecolorswg.org or call Tony Pagnozzi at 973-941-3797 or acp0709@optimum.net.

Congresswoman Nellie Pou and Passaic County Clerk Danielle Ireland-Imhof staffs will be at the Clifton Library Allwood Branch, 44 Lyall Rd., on Sept. 6 from 9 am to 1 pm. They will assist those having an issue with Social Security, Medicare, Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies. They will also process passport applications, notary oaths, and veteran's photo ID cards. Call Pou's office at 973-523-5152 or the clerk at 973-225-3690.



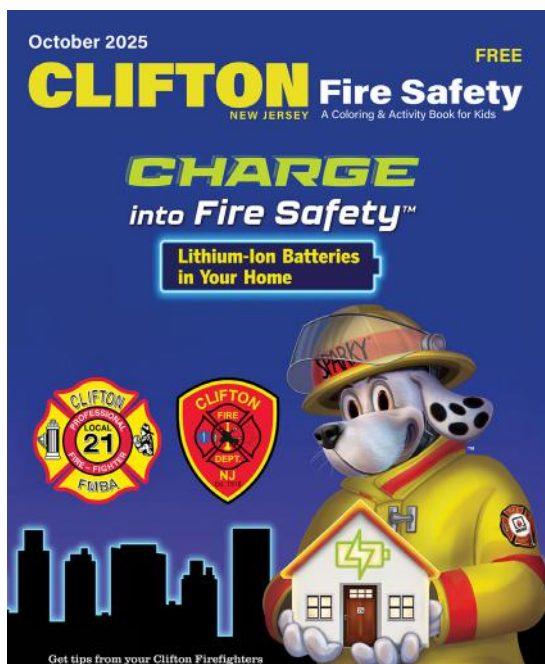
An artist reception for Peter Marcalus' sculpture "Exodus" will be Sept. 20 at 2 pm at the Clifton Arts Center & Sculpture Park. Marcalus said the new work is inspired by the millions of migrants worldwide struggling to find a new life. See more of Marcalus' art and his poetry and other inspirations at: pamarcalus.wixsite.com/sculpture.



On Aug. 15, Troop 21 and the Sagui, Siedlecki, and Shah families hosted the Troop 21 Eagle Court of Honor at St. Philip the Apostle Auditorium. The ceremony honored John Sagui, Anuj Shah and Riley Siedlecki.

The Clifton Garden Club's meeting is Sept. 9, 6:30 pm at the Allwood Library, 44 Lyall Rd. Christine Zelenka, a wildlife biologist and third-generation bee enthusiast will present "The Buzz on Bees – Guardians of our Gardens." Questions? Contact Donna Fantacone at 973-473-0577.

Ready for retirement? You don't need to relocate. Clifton ranked 25th in GO Banking Rates' America's 50 Fastest-Growing Retirement Boomtowns. Population aged 65 and up is 18.3%, one-year population increase ages 65+ is 4.3%, five-year population increase in ages 65+ is 26.7%. Clifton's ranking is between Cape Coral and Sante Fe.



Clifton FMBA 21, Clifton Fire Department and sponsors team up to present the 2025 Fire Safety Coloring Book. Seven thousand copies of the coloring book are distributed to Clifton kids during October, Fire Safety Month. Become a sponsor; call Tom Hawrylko at 973-253-4400. The Clifton Firefighters Foundation's Golf Outing is Sept. 22 at Hendricks Field Golf Course, Belleville. Registration is 9 am, shotgun start is 10:30 am. Cost of \$200 includes golf and roaming beverage carts, continental breakfast, barbecue lunch, dinner, dessert. Plus... open bar follows at The Chandelier, also in Belleville. Visit cliftonfmba21.org/golf. Plus... Clifton FMBA 21 members will be working with St. Peter's Haven in October, collecting for the annual coat drive.

Passaic County 200 Club's "Ignite the Night Fall Fund-raiser" is Oct. 14 at 6:30 pm at The Grand in Totowa. Magician and mentalist Gianni Palumbo will entertain before and after dinner. Cost is \$125 or 10 for \$1,100. Sponsors, membership and sales provide assistance, scholarships and support to first responders and their families in Passaic County. Go to pc200club.org or email pc200club@aol.com

Power of One's Seniors, We Care program runs through December and offers fitness, social activities, support groups and technology assistance. Take Zumba classes (Thursdays from 3-4 pm at the Clifton Senior Center) or a low-impact fitness class (Fridays from 2:30-3:30 pm). Membership is required for fitness classes. Residents \$15 per month and \$20 for non-residents. Register in person or by calling Kim Castellano at 201-328-2326.

Don't Miss These Other Great Upcoming Events...

- Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show, Sept. 14, 1255 Broad St.
- Ukrainian Festival, Sept. 21, 635 Broad St.
- Clifton Street Fair, Sept. 21, along Van Houten Ave.
- The Great Inca Road and Its Cultural Heritage, Sept. 20 meet the artists opening reception, Clifton Arts Center.
- Hispanic Heritage Carnival, Sept. 24-26, 1395 Main Ave.
- Clifton Arts Center 25th Anniversary, Oct. 5.

All Careers Tour hosted by Career Carnival for Kids, is Nov. 15 from 1-2:30 pm at the Clifton Public Library, 292 Piaget Ave. Children can explore career options, take part in hands-on activities and participate in games and giveaways. Free and open to all. Career fields to be discussed include architecture, engineering, healthcare, technology and entrepreneurship. Registration is encouraged. For more info, visit careercarnivalforkids.com/upcoming-events or @careercarnivalforkids on Instagram.

Clifton Cares supports our troops with holiday packages each November, but the volunteers are asking for early community support. The cost per package increased, making it \$29.95. Tax deductible donations made payable to: Clifton Cares Inc., Clifton City Hall, 900 Clifton Ave., Clifton, NJ 07013. The holiday mailing has holiday cards from school children and those signed by residents at the Food Truck Festival. To send a card, leave it in the bin in the City Hall before Nov. 15. Drop-offs can also include holiday candy, peppermints, candy and chocolate. Ramen noodles and beef jerky are other popular requests, as are packaged hot chocolate, packaged sweetener for water, and any kind of gummy candy. Make sure items are within the expiration timeframe. Got a question? Email Chris Lyszner at grandmachrissy99@aol.com.

Birthdays & Celebrations - September 2025

Send dates & names...
tomhawrylkosr@gmail.com



Nick Hawrylko is 30 on Sept. 12 and his mom **Cheryl Kastrava** turns 67 on the same day. **Elena Rose Latiano** will be 21 on Sept. 7. **Fanny Chem & Joey Angello** celebrate their anniversary on Sept. 2. **Eddie Bivaletz** will be 37 on Sept. 8.



Cameron Cummings turns 2 on Sept. 9! **Charles** and **Phyllis (Pecci) Nouhan** will celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary on Sept. 18. **John** and **Debbie Tauber**, Clifton's Emeritus Animal Control couple, celebrate their 47th anniversary on Sept. 2nd. **Deb's** birthday is Sept. 3rd.



Michael Capwell 9/1
Allison Di Angelo 9/2
Liam Robert Martin 9/2
Bill Federowic 9/3
Dave Gabel 9/3
Jennifer Martin 9/3
Sharon Holster 9/4
Natasha Mendoza 9/4
Joseph Shackil 9/4
Eric Wahad 9/4
Linda Ayers 9/5
Christy Gordon 9/5
Mohammed Othman 9/5
Ana Stojanovski 9/6
Darren Kester 9/7

Helen Albano 9/8
Shannon Carroll 9/8
Liz Tresca 9/8
Geoff Goodell 9/9
Annamarie Priolo 9/9
George Andrikanich 9/10
Nicole Moore 9/10
Dolores Wyka 9/10
Ronnie Courtney 9/11
Andrew Orr 9/11
Andrew Shackil 9/11
Lee Ann Doremus 9/12
Wayne Funke 9/12
Thomas Wayne 9/13
Sarah Bielen 9/14

Ryan Joseph Meade turned one on Aug. 19. He has a 3 year old brother Anthony and his parents are Kevin and Lauren (Hrina) Meade of Clifton.

Anthony Dorski..... 9/14
 Emily Duchnowski 9/15
 Manny Monzo 9/15
 Hagar Ibrahim..... 9/16
 Stacey Corbo 9/16
 Mav Cubero..... 9/16
 Nancy Ann Eadie 9/16
 Joe Genchi 9/16
 Jaclyn Scotto 9/16
 Cindy Murcko 9/17
 Kathleen Gorman 9/18
 Amanda Meneghin 9/18
 Dawn Smolt..... 9/18
 Daniel Smith 9/18
 Gloria Turba..... 9/18
 Mickey Garrigan 9/19
 James Graham 9/19
 Rickie Ojeda 9/19
 Louis DeLeon 9/20
 Sara Gretina..... 9/21
 Lynne Lonison 9/21
 Annamaria Menconi 9/21
 Peter Skoutelakis 9/21



Emily Kasa Peterson turned 5
 on Sept. 1. Below, her cousin
Maxwell Yoda turns 8 on Sept. 30.



Valerie Carestia 9/22
 Beverly Duffy 9/22
 Ryan Gorny..... 9/22
 Timothy St. Clair..... 9/22
 Keith Myers 9/23
 Brian Salonga 9/23
 Brian Engel 9/23
 Pam Bielen..... 9/25
 Deanna Cristantiello..... 9/25
 Donato Murolo 9/25
 William Wishard..... 9/26
 Corey Genardi..... 9/26
 Saverio Greco..... 9/26
 Richard Van Blarcom..... 9/26
 Kenneth Chipura 9/28
 Barbara Mascola 9/29
 Thomas E. Moore 9/29
 Mary Perzely..... 9/29
 Ryan Lill..... 9/30
 Lauren (Hrina) Meade..... 9/30

Greg & Margaret Nysk celebrate
 25 years of marriage Sept. 17.





The Cake Factory

308 LAKEVIEW AVE. CLIFTON, NJ

Se Habla Español **973-772-3837**

Order A Cake:

lakeviewbakerynj.com

See Our Creations:



Lakeview Bakery NJ

New Email: LakeviewBakeryNJ@gmail.com

Weddings • Engagements • Birthdays
Sweet 16's • Quinceañeras • Baby Showers

FAST CARS OR FLOWERS?



The Boys & Girls Club's 11th Annual Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show is Sept. 14 at 1255 Broad St. Presented by Fette Automotive, get up close to 400 classic and custom vehicles— ranging from the 1920s to the present. Admission is free; vehicle registration is \$20 and begins at 7:30 am. Judging ends at noon. Nearly 100 trophies will be awarded across custom and stock classes. Live music by Swingman & The Misfit Mutts, entertainment by DJ Nick at Nite, door prizes, 50/50 raffle, merchandise vendors and food court. Raindate Sept. 28. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Clifton. Info at bgcclifton.org.



Clifton Arts Center's sunflower workshop is Sept. 27 from 1:30-3 pm. Registration is \$30 or \$33 for non residents with supplies included. Beth Kearney will guide participants in creating a mixed media sunflower using paint, collage elements, paper, and found objects. For info or to register call 973-472-5499 or online at allpaid.com.

YOUR FULL SERVICE SIGN CENTER

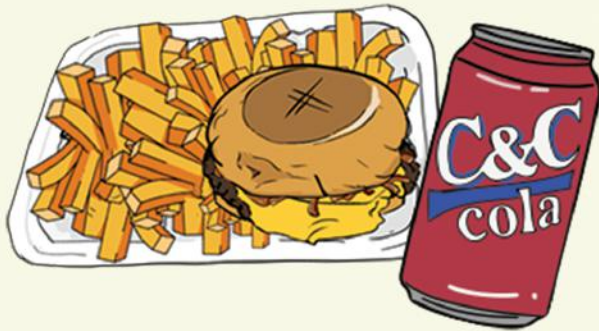


Signarama
The way to grow your business.

681 Van Houten Ave., Clifton
973-471-5558
www.CliftonSigns.com



Carved Wood Signs
—
Monument Signs
—
Building Awnings
—
Window Lettering
—
Vehicle Graphics
—
Channel Letters
—
LED Conversions



**SINGLE SLAP BURGER,
FRIES & CC SODA**
or substitute for water

\$8.99

**MONDAY-FRIDAY
11am-5pm**

***IN STORE ONLY**



1342 Clifton Ave.

973-246-4432

11am-1am • slapburgersnj.com



**FOLLOW
US!**

Chill.



Indulge.

REPEAT...



Richfield Shopping Center



**FOLLOW
US!**



1342 Clifton Ave. 973-246-3650

2pm-Midnight • chocolatehouseus.com

\$2 OFF

**Any Crepe
or Waffle**

Coupon must be clipped
and presented at register
Expires Sept. 30, 2025

\$3 OFF

**Any Crazy
Shake**

Coupon must be clipped
and presented at register
Expires Sept. 30, 2025



Fred Spoelstra
Broker Associate



Nancy Rodriguez
Sales Associate



Linton Gaines
Broker Associate



Roselys Ramirez
Sales Associate



David Kelley
Sales Associate



Alexandra Constandinou
Broker Associate

Buying or Selling
Call Today & Start Packing!
(973) 859-2270



Patricia Elmahdy
Sales Associate



Cesar Guzman
Sales Associate



Angela Cardenas
Sales Associate



Walter Porto
Sales Associate



Joanna Arias
Sales Associate

NICHOLAS TSELEPIS

Broker/ Owner

Top 1% Realtor in New Jersey

Nick@NicholasRealEstate.com

Cell: (973) 725-3778



Sophia Constandinou
Sales Associate



Alberto Mesones Jr.
Sales Associate



Gladys Mesones
Sales Associate



Micah Francis
Sales Associate



Sheila Esdalle
Sales Associate

IN THIS HOT MARKET
WE HAVE QUALIFIED BUYERS
FOR YOUR HOME



Just Sold
CLIFTON
1 family



Just Sold
CLIFTON
1 family



Just Sold
NORTH
HALEDON
1 family



Just Sold
NORTH
HALEDON
1 family



Wendell Maki
Broker Associate



Juana Torres
Broker Associate



Bobby Persaud
Sales Associate



Angelica Saenz
Sales Associate



SCAN ME



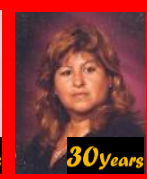
Maribel Feliz
Sales Associate



Raquel Familia
Sales Associate



Denny Cruz
Sales Associate



Nina Robayo
Sales Associate