

# THE FRANKLIN REPORTER & ADVOCATE

## Monthly Digest

PRSRT STD  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 1239  
Bellmawr, NJ

ECRWSS  
Local  
Residential Customer

June 2023

Serving the Eight Villages of Franklin Township in Somerset County, N.J.

Vol. VI, No. VIII

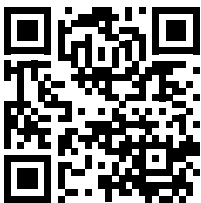


### Live Streams

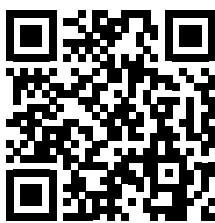
Scan the QR Codes with your mobile device to see the videos.



Damaris Sanchez Rivera and state Assemblyman Joe Daniels celebrating the grand opening of Sanchez Rivera's new men's and women's hair salon, D Styles Beauty & Barber Shop, June 21 in the Stop & Shop Plaza at Route 27 and Veronica Avenue.



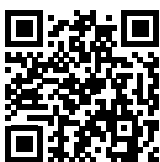
Hamilton Street was the site of the second annual Juneteenth Parade, followed by the festival at Naaman Williams Park. U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman was the parade's Grand Marshall.



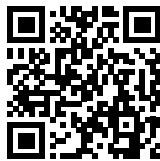
Franklin High School seniors glammed it up at the Princeton Westin Hotel on June 16 for the annual Senior Prom.



Part 1



Part 2



Part 3

## Franklin High School Graduates Class Of '23

There are now 609 more young men and women who can call themselves graduates of Franklin High School.

The threat of bad weather forced the Class of 2023 commencement ceremony indoors to the gym on June 23, but impending rain didn't dampen the spirits of the graduates or their friends and family who came to watch them get their diplomas.

Both grandstands were packed, and people lined the balcony for an in-person view of the proceedings. There was also overflow seating in the cafeteria, in which large television screens were set up and the ceremony broadcast in.

The graduates and their guests heard from four speakers: Valedictorian Christopher Liem, Salutatorian Ryan Kpamegan, Class of 2023 President Aastha Patel and FHS Principal Nicholas Solomon.

Liem told his classmates that they should plan their lives much as they would plan



THUMBS' UP – Rainy weather forced the Class of 2023 graduation indoors.

a road trip by car.

Referring to Solomon's penchant for telling students to "find your Why," Liem said: "Let me pose a different

question: How will you get to your 'Why'?"

"We often concern ourselves with the 5 W's, Who, What, When Where and

Why, but often forget the How," he said.

This dilemma perplexes me because I believe the How

*Continued on Page 7.*

## Franklin Veteran Is Installed As First Female Commander At VFW Post 9111

A township resident made history on June 2 when she became the first female Commander installed at VFW Post 9111 in Kendall Park.

Laura Johnson, a 20-year veteran of the Navy Reserves was inducted in her new position during the annual officer installation ceremony at the Post.

Johnson has been a member of Post 9111 for about the past three years. She said the reason she wanted to join is that after retiring from the Reserves, she was looking to find a way to continue to serve her community.

"I retired and wanted to continue to serve," she said. "I found this post and just engaged ... the opportunity came along, three years, four years, and I am here where I am."

"It has been a journey the last three, four years ... learning what this whole process is," she said.

Johnson credited her rapid rise to Commander on her mentors, including the woman who swore her in, outgoing District Commander Yvonne Zirrieth. Zirrieth is also

the first female Commander of VFW Post 262 in Monroe.

In her address to the Post, Zirrieth said that she wants "the outgoing commander and the new commander to work together" to ensure cohesiveness in the Post.

The VFW's role in the community is "to help our veterans," Johnson said.

She said Post members

work with other organizations, such as the Menlo Veterans Association in Edison, the local fire department and the local police department.

Mayor Phil Kramer presented Johnson with a Commendation from him and the Township Council that said her becoming the first female Commander of the Post "is a testament to her leadership

skills, integrity and her dedication to her fellow veterans."

"She serves her comrades and keeps our society going," Kramer said. "Many people serve without having to be in the military. I'm very proud of having a Franklin woman being a Commander of a VFW post."

## New Principal, Vice-Principal Named

The Board of Education named a new school principal and vice-principal at its June 20 meeting.

Jennifer Stein was named the new principal at Franklin Park School, and Angela Pape was named the new vice-principal at Claremont Elementary School.

Stein fills the position formerly held by Rebekah Solomon, who earlier this year was named as the new principal at Franklin Middle School - Sampson G. Smith campus, and Pape fills the position formerly held by Joshua Solomon.

Formerly the vice-principal at Elizabeth Avenue

School, Stein said that when she pursued that position, "I was looking for a place that I was going to call my forever home. A place that is diverse, a place that celebrates, and just being here tonight and seeing all of our PTO volunteers, everyone being recognized, is something special to be a part of."

"I am honored to be starting my 16th year in education as the principal of Franklin Park School," she said.

"I am passionate about diversity, inclusivity, and the success of all Franklin Warriors," Stein said. "We as educators support the academic and social development of our students through the ex-

periences we provide them. I look forward to many experiences with Franklin Park School."

"I am humbled by the appointment and look forward to the school year ahead," she said.

Pape was an English as a Second Language teacher for the past 11 years at Pine Grove Manor School.

"I am truly honored, humbled, and grateful to make this transition from teacher to administrator in such a wonderful diverse and supportive district," she said.

"I am deeply committed to work with you to continue to guide our students to success," Pape said.



FRANKLIN REPORTER & ADVOCATE

Monthly Digest

The Franklin Township  
Chamber of Commerce  
2023  
Small Business of the Year



PUBLISHERS  
PJ PARKER | BILL BOWMAN

EDITORIAL  
BILL BOWMAN, *EDITOR*  
EDITOR@FRANKLINREPORTER.COM  
(908) 581-3522



ADVERTISING  
PJ PARKER, *ADVERTISING DIRECTOR*  
ADS@FRANKLINREPORTER.COM  
(732) 820-0840



The Franklin Reporter & Advocate Monthly  
Digest is distributed throughout Franklin  
Township at a variety of restaurants, retail outlets,  
housing developments, the Municipal Complex, Town-  
ship Library and branches and the Township  
Community/Senior center.

The Franklin Reporter is printed in a plant which  
receives 40 percent of its electricity from solar energy  
and uses soy-based ink.

All content Copyright ©2023

# CJCP Grads Told To ‘Make The Communities You Want To Live In’

**POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE** – Central Jersey College Prep seniors queue up during their graduation ceremony.

The Central Jersey College Prep Charter School’s Class of 2023 was told to create the communities they want to live in and meet whatever success means to them at their June 15 graduation.

The 41 members of the graduating class also heard from state Sen. Vin Gopal, who told them they, and graduating seniors across the state, give him hope for the future of the state.

Class Valedictorian Sajan Thomas told his fellow graduates that he believes “this graduating class is the embodiment of quality over

quantity. When I look out into the crowd, I see the layers of everyone.”

“I believe everyone has their own individual talents and are smart enough to have been valedictorian themselves,” he said

“Everyone here has what it takes to meet and surpass success,” he said. “Whatever success that is, no one can tell. Nothing is set in stone.”

We all understand that success isn’t a predestined course that we are to find or discover,” Thomas said. “Success is an ever-changing, ever moving goalposts that we define for ourselves. Get your own success and own it.”

Co-Salutatorian Diya Patel thanked the many unsung people in the school who keep it running, such as the security guards and mainte-

nance staff. She also thanked her teachers and her family.

“I’m thankful for having such a good group to lean on up to this point,” she said.

“We started as strangers and I hate to think we’ll end up as them to, but before I knew who I was, you knew me,” she said.

Prisha Thoguluva, the other co-Salutatorian, said that, “Today is no small feat. As much as I am excited for all you will accomplish in the future, I will miss not seeing you in the hallways ... I am confident our future will be very bright.”

Gopal, the keynote speaker, said that he is heartened by what he is seeing in the various high school graduating classes he’s visiting this season.

“I have so much faith that this graduating class here ... and around the state,” he said.

“I can’t imagine having not been in a classroom during Covid 19 and having to learn all of my classes virtually ... and having to come through that and having to take a bunch of standardized tests and persevere,” he said.

“What you have done is something that your predecessors have not even come close to doing,” Gopal said.

“To watch this class come out with a 100 percent graduation rate .. and to see the friendships that you are going to keep for a lifetime, it

inspires me so much,” he said

“When I read the stories provided by the administration about what you’ve gone through, and how you celebrate each other, that is something that can’t be taught ... that is something that is in each and every one of you,” he said. “You’re going to lift each other up, you’re going to look out for each other.”

Namik Sercan, the school’s Chief Education Officer, told the graduates that every one of them is “a testament to the power of hard work, resilience, and determination. As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, remember that the lessons you have learned and the experiences you have had at CJCP have equipped you with the tools to overcome any obstacle and achieve greatness.”

“Whether you continue your education, pursue careers, or venture into new territories, I have no doubt that you will make a lasting impact on the world,” he said. “Embrace the challenges that lie ahead, for they will mold you into the leaders and change-makers of tomorrow.”

“I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Class of 2023,” he said. “You have made our school community proud, and I am confident that you will continue to make us proud in all your future endeavors.”

# Gleason Funeral Home

Providing traditional service with a contemporary approach

William K. Gleason, Manager,  
N.J. Lic. No. 4489  
1360 Hamilton Street  
Somerset, New Jersey 08873  
Phone: (732) 545-0700 | Fax: (732) 545-0046  
[www.gleasonfuneralhome.com](http://www.gleasonfuneralhome.com)

## FHS Med/Tech Club Holds STEMposium

The Franklin High School Med/Tech Club held its annual end-of-the-year STEMposium on June 2.

Unlike other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) events where exhibits and experiments are displayed in classrooms throughout the school, the STEMposium was held in the school cafeteria and featured

individual and panel speakers on various STEM-related subjects.

Among the topics discussed at this year’s event were pharmacy, physical therapy, and nursing, said Warren Chen, the club’s advisor.

“We’re also having representatives from the state and county health departments,” he said.

Also participating were

FHS alumni who either majored in STEM-related programs in college or are now working in a STEM-related field, Chen said.

“The whole purpose is to share knowledge, to network, to celebrate each other’s company, basically,” he said.

Chen said between 20 and 25 club members planned the event.



UNITY BANK

3.75%  
APY

4.25%  
APY

9 MONTH CD<sup>1</sup>

15 MONTH CD<sup>1</sup>

Learn more at [unitybank.com/CDspecials](http://unitybank.com/CDspecials)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> APY = ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD. PENALTY FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL APPLIES. PRINCIPAL MAY BE REDUCED BY PENALTY AMOUNT. MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$1000 FOR ALL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD) PRODUCTS. AVAILABLE FOR CONSUMER, BUSINESS, AND IRVING RETIREMENT CD'S. OFFER VALID BEGINNING JANUARY 24, 2023. OFFER CAN BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME. RATES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE ASK A REPRESENTATIVE FOR MORE DETAILS. MAXIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$1,000,000. CURRENT CD'S WILL NOT AUTO-RENEW AT PROMOTIONAL RATES. CALL 800-619-2296 FOR DETAILS. ONLINE ACCOUNT OPENING IS NOT AVAILABLE TO IRA OR BUSINESS ACCOUNTS.  
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER. MEMBER FDIC. 9 MO PROMO CODE: 1000 | 15 MO PROMO CODE: 1000



# Fundraising Set To Begin (Again) For Township YMCA Branch

An idea that was first broached about 20 years ago, but never materialized, is coming back in focus.

Officials at the Greater Somerset YMCA announced June 27 that a feasibility study recommended they move forward with placing a YMCA branch in Franklin, on the Township's portion of the former Consolata property on Route 27.

Township Councilman Ram Anbarasan (D-At Large) said he was at the announcement meeting, held at the AVE residential/hotel development on Pierce Street.

Anbarasan said at the Township Council meeting that in attendance were YMCA officials and residents, such as himself, who were interviewed during the feasibility study.

"The good news is the survey came out supporting the YMCA in Franklin," he said. "Everybody understood it's a very valuable addition to the township. It's going to help a lot of kids and adults."

The company which conducted the study, he said, "recommended YMCA to go ahead with the campaign to fundraise for the construction."

"They will be undertaking that in the coming months," Anbarasan said. "It's purely going to be funded by public donations and grants."

"Hopefully, it will become a reality in the Township in a few years," he said.

This is not the Township's first flirtation with a YMCA. In November of 2003, a similar announcement was made about a YMCA branch coming to Franklin, targeted for six to eight acres at the corner of Mettlers and Weston roads.

The land was owned by Eastman Properties, a developer that also pledged \$450,000 to the center.

Also on the land was to be housing, retail, medical and office uses.

The project was never built.

ad cetera, inc

Interior and Exterior Signage

Phone: 800.940.9165 Fax: 732.940.0099

your logo here

your logo here

your logo here

your logo here

SALE %

SALE %

Wee Shop CBD

BUDTENDER

657 Hamilton st Somerset NJ 08873

732-757-2866

SALE %

SALE %

\$1,700 REWARD!

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the murder of SHARON THOR.

Call Crimestoppers: 1-888-577-TIPS (8477) or email tips@888577tips.org with any information.

Sponsored By:

Resta's Car Care & Detail 1873 Amwell Road

Miklos Tree Service, 256 Cedar Grove Lane

Sister 2 Sister

Supporting Minority & Underserved Breast Cancer Survivors

Monthly meetings time/location email a2a@a2sccnj.org

Earn a \$10 ShopRite card just by getting your mammogram

Go to a2sccnj.org for details

1201 Hamilton Street, Somerset

(732) 246-8360

QR Code

10% OFF YOUR ORDER!

PIAZZA ORSILLO

Pizzeria • Ristorante • Catering

Cedar Grove Plaza

123 Cedar Grove Lane

(732) 805-9506

Order Online @ PiazzaOrsillo.com

WE DELIVER!

HOURS

Mon. - Sat.

11 am - 9 pm

MEDICAL & RECREATIONAL AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS 21+ 20% OFF FIRST TIME VISIT PRE-ORDER ONLINE.

BLOCDISPENSARY.COM @MEETUSATTHEBLOC

1075 EASTON AVE. SOMERSET, NJ

1761 N OLDEN AVE EWING, NJ

501 U.S. 9 WARETOWN, NJ

Man in beanie



# B9 Warehouse Traffic Expert Grilled At Planning Board Hearing

The traffic engineer for the proposed B9 warehouses at Schoolhouse and Mettlers roads came under prolonged questioning from the Planning Board and public during a continuation of the application's hearing at the June 21 Board meeting.

Most of the questions asked of the engineer, Corey Chase, centered on the extent to which Chase accounted for future warehouse development in the area when he was calculating the traffic impact of the B9 warehouses.

Chase testified that according to his calculations, the two warehouses would generate about one vehicular trip per minute — passenger car and truck combined — during peak morning and afternoon rush hours.

Plans call for two buildings on the 20-acre lot, with the first building being 144,450 square feet and the second building measuring 70,970 square feet.

There will be a total of 60 loading docks and a total of 105 parking spaces on the property.

The project was brought to the Planning Board by Link Logistics. There were

previous hearings on the application in January and May.

The project abuts the Canal Walk and Summerfield active-adult communities. Canal Walk residents have formed a citizen's group opposed to the project.

Chase, the traffic engineer, testified that during peak weekday hours — defined at 7-9 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. — the warehouses would generate 49 total trips in the morning and 52 total trips in the afternoon.

"That correlates to approximately one trip every minute during the peak period," he said.

## WATCH FOR DETAILS ON OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

**DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS?**

- ✓ Numbness
- ✓ Pain when you walk
- ✓ Sharp, electrical-like pain
- ✓ Burning or tingling
- ✓ Difficulty sleeping from leg or foot discomfort
- ✓ Muscle weakness
- ✓ Sensitivity to touch

**YOU MAY HAVE PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY**

Peripheral Neuropathy is a condition that affects millions of Americans, commonly resulting in pain, tingling, numbness, and other painful symptoms in the hands, legs and feet. This pain changes your life and affects how you work, how you play and how you live.

- PHYSICAL THERAPY
- CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES
- ACUPUNCTURE
- SPORTS MEDICINE
- POST-SURGICAL REHABILITATION

✓ We accept most major insurances & Medicare!



**NEW FDA-CLEARED TREATMENTS PROVIDE HOPE**

AllCure Spine and Sports Medicine is pleased to announce their new program for treating Peripheral Neuropathy, which includes a combination of advanced FDA-cleared treatments with breakthrough technology that aids in healing the damaged nerves. The effects of this program can be felt on the first few visits. This treatment restores, stabilizes, and rebuilds the nerves in your extremities. Treatment has also been effective in addressing painful symptoms of arthritis, MS, and other forms of chronic pain. Patients generally feel relief physically throughout the treatment period and even feel better emotionally after experiencing a reduction in pain.

USE YOUR DEVICE TO SCAN THE QR CODE, AND THEN CLICK ON THE LINK TO SEE OUR GRAND OPENING VIDEO!

**Stop Living With Pain!  
Book Your Appointment Today!**

**AllCure**  
SPINE & SPORTS MEDICINE  
**732-521-9222**  
1101 Randolph Road, Suite F • Somerset 08873  
f allcurespineandsports.com

**24/7 POWER PROTECTION**

**FRANKLIN ELECTRIC** MAINT. CO. INC.  
SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION  
602 HAMILTON ST. SOMERSET, NJ 08873  
Phone: 732-249-1359  
www.FranklinElectricNJ.com  
FranklinElectric@aol.com  
Est. 1954 Lic. # 5379

**GENERAC**  
AUTHORIZED SALES DEALER  
AUTOMATIC STANDBY & PORTABLE GENERATORS  
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

**SHOE REPAIRS With AN ARTISAN TOUCH**

- HANDBAG, LUGGAGE & BELT REPAIR • ORTHOPEDIC SHOES & MODIFICATIONS • SHOE CARE
- LEATHER, FABRIC & SUEDE CLEANING • WATER & STAIN PROTECTION • SHOE & BOOT POLISHING
- SHOE/BOOT STRETCHING & REBUILDING • FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES

**DISTEFANO'S QUALITY FOOTWEAR & REPAIRS**

TRIANGLE CENTER  
RT. 206 & TRIANGLE ROAD • HILLSBOROUGH, NJ • 508 359 7463  
HOURS: M, T, TH, FRI: 10:30 - 7:30 • WED: 10:30 - 6:00 • SAT: 10:00 - 5:00



**YEAR-ROUND CLEAN-UPS!!**

RESIDENTIAL	CONSTRUCTION
• Attics	• Concrete
• Basements	• Roofing
• Garages	• Sheetrock
• Yards	• Wood

**DANIEL CLEANING & HAULING**  
family owned over 30 years  
Alan Daniel, Owner • 153 Myrtle Street, Somerset • (732) 247-4847 • (732) 221-7569 (cell)

**THERE'S A CYCLONE BREWING IN SOMERSET**

**JERSEY CYCLONE BREWING COMPANY**

We look forward to seeing you...  
Our outdoor roped-in area is open weekends, and our indoor area is back to 100 percent occupancy for socially distanced beer lovers!  
Scan the QR code for our rules, hours and beers!

14J World's Fair Drive • Somerset, New Jersey  
www.JerseyCyclone.com



**SPRING TRAINING SPECIAL!**

**6 MONTHS, \$60/month!**  
New Customers Only\*

\*Plus taxes & fees • Offer good through 6/30/23

732-227-1256 • 1075 Easton Avenue #7 • Somerset, NJ 08873  
Managed by Jonny Ruffy • (732) 249-5809



**the Y**

**FIND YOUR FUN. FIND YOUR FRIENDS. FIND YOUR Y.**

At our day camp, your kids will make new friends and have tons of fun as they learn, play and grow.

**HILLSBOROUGH YMCA**  
A branch of Greater Somerset County YMCA





WATCH  
for our  
GRAND OPENING  
COMING THIS SUMMER!

Help us celebrate the opening of Franklin Township’s newest  
licensed adult-use recreational cannabis store!

Learn about our services and products!

900 Easton Avenue, Suite 18  
Somerset, NJ 08873

**(908) 908-9333 (WEED)**

[leafhausnj@gmail.com](mailto:leafhausnj@gmail.com)  
[leafhaus.com](http://leafhaus.com)



# Township Educators Of The Year Honored By School District At Annual Breakfast

Twenty district educators were honored June 1 during the annual Educators of the Year breakfast at the Imperia.

Honored were Teacher of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the year from each of the district's 10 schools.

"It's extremely important to recognize the talent, the hard work, the connections, the dedication, the joy, the passion, and it inspires people that aren't recognized today to do better to get recognized tomorrow," Board of Education president Nancy LaCorte said at the end of the ceremony.

"It inspired me, hearing the words that were used about them, they are important words for people to hear," she said.

"I love ... recognizing talent," she said. "I was also thinking about all of the things these people are doing during the school day and after the school day. They have a family that they go home to, so they have a family that is kind of working for us. People think the day ends at 3, it doesn't. They have a lot to do, and the family fuels that."

Schools Superintendent John Ravally, who brought the ceremony with him from his former district, said that the event is important because "recognizing the accomplishments of our teachers hopefully has others emulate their work, and that's why we do it."

"These professionals have dedicated much of their time and energy to make sure our students reach their potential," Ravally said at the beginning of the ceremony.

Speaking to the room filled with teachers, administrators and friends and family, LaCorte said, "Be conscious of your words, words that you say matter. Words that we don't say enough to people is thank you, I appreciate you, you're making a difference in our tomorrow, and you're making a difference in our today."

"We really truly appreciate everything that you do," she said. "You're

the front-line people."

Nick DiMeglio and Wendy Riga from the township PTO Presidents' Council also addressed the attendees.

"I think everybody here realizes it, but what an amazing group we are among today," Riga said. "We all collectively understand something ... that is so powerful and life-changing, and that is education. We are in a great district for that."

"Look around the room, make eye contact and give these educators and paraprofessionals of the year a smile of gratitude," DiMeglio said. "Everyone in this room is an educator, times have been tough the past few years, and your passion, commitment, drive, sacrifices, and love of teaching does not go unnoticed. That kind of commitment can never be repaid."

During the ceremony, principals of each of the schools introduced the honorees and spoke about why each of the educators was chosen.

Those honored as Educators of the Year were:

- Deborah Cooke, Ed. Services Professional
- Franklin Middle School – Sampson G. Smith Campus
- Robin Both, Teacher
- Florence Gonzales-Perez, Ed. Services Professional
- Claremont Elementary School
- Shannon Sorbino, Teacher
- Nancy Llanos, Ed. Services Professional
- Conerly Road Elementary School
- Rania Saba, Teacher
- Karen Melhorn, Ed. Services Professional
- Elizabeth Avenue Elementary School
- Eva Barabas, Teacher
- Emily Desai, Ed. Services Professional
- Franklin Park School
- Ashley Anthal, Teacher
- Disha Hinduja, Ed. Services Professional
- Hillcrest Elementary School
- Melissa Dalere, Teacher
- Maddy Michaylin, Ed. Services Professional
- MacAfee Road Elementary School
- Jean Motard, Teacher
- Hema Devanathan, Ed. Services Professional
- Pine Grove Manor Elementary School
- Edgar Vazquez Molina, Teacher
- Patricia Bertelle, Ed. Services Professional
- Franklin High School
- Matthew Young, Teacher
- Theresa Kamen, Ed. Services Professional
- Franklin Middle School – Hamilton Street Campus
- Lauren Servedio, Teacher

# Shade Tree: No Public Money For Private Trees

The Township Shade Tree Committee voted at its last meeting to tell the Township Council it opposes a proposed deal that would allow public money to be used to buy trees targeted for the Canal Walk housing development.

The deal was described in a letter written by an attorney representing the Canal Walk Homeowners' Association concerning the proposed B9 Schoolhouse warehouses project planned to be built across Mettlers Road from the development.

The deal entails using more than \$89,000 that the developer of the proposed warehouses would be required to donate to the Township's Shade Tree Trust Fund to plant trees on Canal Walk property, rather than on public land.

Commission member Arnold Schmidt said the deal violates Township ordinance, but Franklin's Economic Development Director Vince Dominach said it could be done through a developer's agreement.



Call 732-356-5400 to book a tour today!


ACADEMIC RIGOR DIVERSE COMMUNITY INDIVIDUALLY-FOCUSED EDUCATION - CEDAR HILL PREP




NEW

RUNNERS' CLUB & WELLNESS CLASSES


- Sauna
- New Equipment & TVs
- Kids/Adult KARATE
- Koko Fit Digital Training
- Zumba/Yoga/Hiit/ and So Much More!



As mentioned in MEN'S JOURNAL MAGAZINE



Take a tour of our club!



Franklin Towne Center  
3391 Route 27  
@ So. Middlebush Road  
Franklin Park

OPEN: M-F 6AM –10PM • Sat. & Sun. 7AM – 5PM  
732-422-0046 • clubmetrousa.com

Mignella's

CENTRAL JERSEY VACUUM CENTER

EXPERT REPAIRS FOR LESS

All Brands • All Models

WE HAVE YOUR BAG IN STOCK

We Specialize In:

- HIGH PERFORMANCE
- LIGHTWEIGHT PROFESSIONAL VACUUMS FOR THE HOME

65 Main Street, South Bound Brook (732) 356-8540



CENTRAL JERSEY CARPET CLEANING



REAL STEAM SANITIZING @250°

Cleaner, Drier, Healthier, Kills Dust Mites

- Superfast Drying
- Pretreat Traffic Lanes
- Furniture Moved
- Spot & Stain Removal
- Deodorize
- Sanitize

24 HOUR FLOOD SERVICE

(732) 356-8540

FREE ESTIMATES

My Family Appliances

Where You Always Get The Family Discount

25% OFF

Any purchase of \$500 or more.

0% Financing Available!

The Lowest Prices, Best Service, Finest Installations!

We will ALWAYS beat the "Big Box Stores!"

We are open now, but keep your eyes open as we fill our store with loads of brand-name appliances!

We sell all major brands, including GE®, Frigidaire®, LG®, Samsung®, Whirlpool®, Bosch® and So Many More!

EVERYTHING for your kitchen, laundry room and patio! Refrigerators, Ovens, Ranges, Cooktops, Dishwashers, Disposals, Washers, Dryers, Stackers, Grills, Outdoor TVs and Kitchens!

AND SO MUCH MORE!

(732) 410-7444 • www.MyFamilyAppliances.Com

561 U.S. Highway 1, Edison (in the Wick Plaza, next to Planet Fitness)

Clarence and all of your favorite salespeople from the now-closed Derby Appliances are right here at My Family Appliances!



# Franklin High School Class Of 2023 Graduation Ceremony

*Continued from Page 1.*

is the most crucial of the six,” he said. “Sure, the five ‘W’s allow us to describe something, but the ‘How’ explains how to take us to a certain destination, and we use our ‘How’ to measure progress. It motivates us to act rather than be idle with inaction.”

“Plan your route, but I caution to make sure that every step you take is meaningful,” Liem said. “It’s just like finding your route to your destination while driving; you want every turn you take to get you closer to your destination efficiently.”

“It’s OK to take detours, in fact, it’s inevitable,” he said. “You are embarking on a road trip that takes the rest of your life, and you are the driver.”

Kpamegan told his classmates that “(w)hile today is a day to celebrate our personal achievements, we must also acknowledge the invaluable support we received along the way. Our families, teachers and mentors have been our rocks, offering us guidance, belief and encouragement.”

“They stood by us

through thick and thin and we owe them a debt of gratitude for helping us reach this momentous day,” he said.

“As we embark on our individual journeys, let us never forget the strength we possess when we come together as a unified force,” Kpamegan said. “Collaboration and unity have the power to bring about transformative change in our communities and beyond. Let us seek out opportunities to work together, to lift each other up and to make a lasting positive impact on the world.”

Let us carry forward the torch of knowledge, resilience, and compassion,” he said. “The road ahead may be uncertain but armed with the skills and potential that we have developed, I’m confident that we will rise to any challenge.”

“I have no doubt that we will leave a lasting mark on the world,” he said.

Patel told the students they should remember the people they met during their careers at FHS.

“These are the people who you have lived and

loved with throughout high school,” she said. “These are the people who you have lived and loved with throughout simple and difficult times.”

“As a class, we have created remarkable moments with one another,” she said/ “Try to remember this time that you have created with these extraordinary individuals and continue to live and love as we part ways today and endeavor on our own path.”

“Today we have reached such an important milestone in our lives, but graduating from Franklin is just the beginning to our aspiring future,” Patel said. “We’re going to come across many unfamiliar and uncomfortable moments, and this is the time to let your passions and motivation speak for itself. Show them what this Warrior from Franklin is truly capable of.”

Solomon’s speech focused on three aspects of life: resilience, reflection and relationships.

“Throughout your high school years, you have demonstrated incredible resilience,” he said. “The transitions from traditional learning

to hybrid models, then returning to the daily routine of in-person classes were not without their challenges.”

“Yet, you persevered and thrived, and as an educator, I’ve always been astounded by the unwavering resilience of students at Franklin High School,” he said.

“Why should you reflect upon the obstacles and challenging times you have encountered? The answer lies in the fact that we learn and grow through our pain, our experiences and even our mistakes,” he said.

“Take time to reflect not only the hardships, but also the joyful moments spent in the halls of FHS, during the lunch periods, games, pep rallies, trips, the connections you made with people,” he said. “Each of these experiences

contributed to your growth and learning.”

“I implore you to reflect upon your personal journeys, celebrate the victories and acknowledge the setbacks,” Solomon said. “Consider what you had to overcome to be sitting in your graduation seat today.”

“One of the remarkable aspects of being in a school community is witnessing the profound relationships that develop among students; the bonds you have formed with the peers and classmates, teammates, club members or even through the shared moments in the cafeteria are precious and irreplaceable,” he said. “Cherish the memories created through these interactions.”

“Let us remember to uplift others, to be bridge builders,

to give back and above all, to be exemplary individuals,” Solomon said.

“Embrace resilience, engage in reflection foster the meaning of relationships,” he said.

The Franklin High School JROTC honor guard presented the colors, and Student Government President Akeira Faulknor led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Sanika Chaturvedi, with accompaniment by Andy Lam on the viola.

Torie Schenck sang “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

An a cappella group comprised of Sanika Chaturvedi, Erica Rice, Rebecca Russo, Torie Schenck and Artaisha Woodson sang the FHS alma mater.

## Noise Ordinance Amendments Passed

Amendments to the Township’s Noise Ordinance which restrict the time that industrial-related loading and unloading operations, as well as the use of vehicles with backup beepers, can be used on

properties that abut Scenic Corridors which are adjacent to residential developments, was approved on second reading June 13 by the Township Council.

The amendments apply to properties that abut Scenic

Corridors which in turn abut properties in residential zones.

Township Councilman Carl Wright (D-Ward 4) cast the lone “no” vote on the measure.



## We're Hiring!

Shifts Are:  
**6 a.m. – 2 p.m. • 2–10 p.m. • 10 p.m. – 6 a.m.**

Stop by either of our Somerset locations, at  
1667 Easton Avenue (Village Plaza) or  
1760 Easton Avenue (Easton Franklin Shopping Center),  
to complete an application!



## PATRICK'S

LANDSCAPING SERVICE LLC

Annual Lawn Care Programs

- Shrub & Bed Maintenance
- Landscape Design
- Patios & Walkways
- Fencing & More ...

**(848) 200-6821**

Pesticide Business License #91732B



## Franklin Pride ... Be A Part Of It!

# CELEBRATING FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP'S BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES



## BAM

DESSERTS


Cakes, Cupcakes, Custom Cookies, Dessert Tables, Cake Pops & More

Made in Peanut Free Facility  
Eggless & Vegan options available

Address: 1830 Easton Ave, Somerset  
Phone: 732 325 0315



www.BAMDesserts.com  
Order Online Options Available



## Herbal

KEMISTRY

Changing Lives & Awakening Eyes One Spirit At A Time

Let us help you find and root out imbalances and disease using a wide array of natural and often non-invasive diagnostic tools including tongue and nail analysis, Ph testing, iridology and detailed health appraisals.

**(844) 990-5041**

1075 Easton Avenue • Tower 3, Suite 4 • Somerset, NJ

## Sister Sister

Supporting Minority & Underserved Breast Cancer Survivors

- Monthly meetings time/location email [s2s@s2scnj.org](mailto:s2s@s2scnj.org)
- Earn a \$10 ShopRite card just by getting your mammogram
- Go to [s2scnj.org](http://s2scnj.org) for details

**1201 Hamilton Street, Somerset**  
**(732) 246-8300**



## Wee Shop CBD

BUDTENDER

657 Hamilton st Somerset NJ 08873  
732-757-2866

## YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE HERE!

\$100 per month w/12-month commitment

Call PJ Parker, (732) 820-0840



*Discover the hidden treasures of Indian Cuisine at Samudhra.*

OUTDOOR DINING | INDOOR DINING | BAR | LOUNGE

**samudhra**  
Premium Restaurant & Lounge

📍 3391 NJ Route 27, Unit #107 Franklin Park, NJ 08823, USA  
Phone: +1(732)369 9942

🌐 [www.samudhra.com](http://www.samudhra.com) 📱 @samudhrausa