

Carteret Press

Comic Con Returns!

A Publication Presented by Carteret Business Partnership

TO BE
Supreme

The 2024 Carteret
Comic Con Exhibit
returns to Central
Jersey Arts Council's
Blazing Star Cultural
Arts Center just in
time for New York
Comic Con
See page 16



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October 2024
Volume 22, No. 10
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Carteret Business Partnership is a nonprofit corporation that promotes economic development, business retention and recruitment through a variety of programs and incentives.

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Dear Friends,

Comic Con returns to New York City this month and in celebration, Central Jersey Arts Council is presenting its annual Comic Con Exhibit at Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center. Everything you need to know about the display can be found on pages 16 and 17.

Also in this issue:

- A preview of Central Jersey Medical Center's gala on Nov. 7 at The Grand Marquis in Old Bridge
- In other CJMC news, coverage of the dedication of the Ronald G. Rios Pavilion of Central Jersey Medical Center at Carteret
- A look at \$4 million in improvements to Waterfront Park and Veteran's Pier
- Coverage of Congressman Pallone's announcement of a \$1.2 million technology grant for the Borough Police Department
- A preview of the annual Carteret Fall Festival on Oct. 26 at Carteret Park
- Coverage of Carteret Battle of the Bands
- A CPAC Spotlight on The Vampire Circus, who'll perform Nov. 1 at Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
- A business profile of Exit 12 Mexican Bar & Grill located in the Red Roof Inn
- An Events Calendar
- A report on a new museum exhibit that

honors a World War II hero from Carteret

- A look at longtime impactful resident Mary Rindosh's 100th birthday celebration
- Notices about the state's new affordable solar program, OEM's upcoming training programs, Carteret PAC's schedule, Central Jersey Arts Council's Choir, upcoming basketball recreation programs, the annual Adopt a Park Fall Park Cleanup, our free Recycling Coach app, and Carteret Municipal Marina in Waterfront Park.

A reminder to promote your business or event to all Carteret residents and businesses by advertising in Carteret Press or at least submitting it to the Events Calendar. Each issue is delivered to every home and business. For more about advertising and/or a calendar listing, contact the Public Information Office at 732-541-3835 or makinb@carteret.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel J. Reiman".

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman

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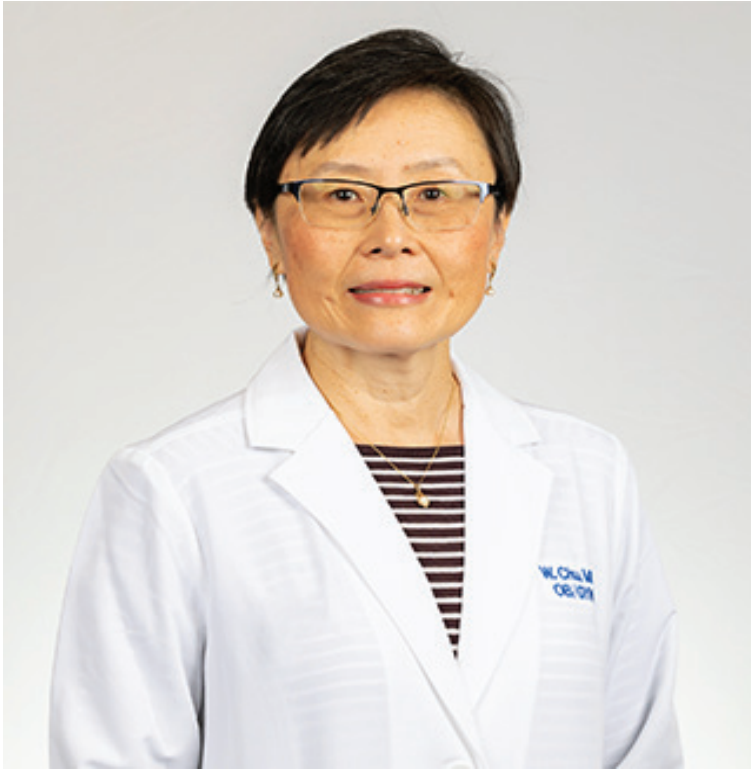
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Central Jersey Medical Center Gala Celebrates Community Service



Central Jersey Medical Center's highly anticipated charity gala will honor from left to right Dr. Wei Chu, left, Lisett Lebron, right, and Stanley and Susan Kusic, not pictured, on Nov. 7 at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge.

Central Jersey Medical Center is set to host its highly anticipated charity gala on Nov. 7 at the elegant Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. This distinguished event will celebrate outstanding individuals and raise crucial funds for the Medical Center's Women's Health Initiative.

The gala will honor four recipients for exceptional contributions to the community. Dr. Wei Chu, clinical director of the OB/GYN department at CJMC, will be awarded the Healthcare Hero award dedication and service in the medical field. Lisett Lebron, chief of staff for the City of the Perth Amboy, will receive the Woman of Leadership award, recognizing impactful leadership and advocacy. Stanley and Susan Kusic, esteemed community leaders who coordinate St. Mary's Food Pantry in South Amboy, will be honored with the Service Award for their commitment to supporting those in need.

"Central Jersey Medical Center recently expanded from Perth Amboy to a second satellite location here in Carteret," Mayor Daniel J. Reiman. "They provide crucial low-cost and no-cost services to the most needy in our community. I look forward to joining them in honoring the outstanding individuals they are awarding and supporting a cause crucial to our community's health and well being."

Proceeds will benefit the Women's Health Initiative, which provides 3D mammograms,

OB/GYN care, nutrition and fitness programs, behavioral health, endocrinology, and internal medicine. Services are offered regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay, ensuring women in need receive care.

In conjunction with the Women's Health Initiative, the CJMC is thrilled to partner with the Nicholas Hudanish Foundation. This collaboration aims to expand awareness about opioid addiction and enhance educational resources to schools in the region. The initiative is part of a broader effort to address the growing need for substance abuse education and support.

Tickets for the charity gala are available now, and the event promises an evening of celebration, inspiration, and community spirit with a scrumptious dinner, engaging speakers, delightful music, cocktails and dessert reception. Attendees will have the opportunity to support a cause that is making a significant difference in the lives of women and families in the region.

For more about the gala or to get tickets, contact Jennifer Pena at jpena@cjmc.us or 732-376-6628.

The gala follows a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Ronald G. Rios Pavilion of Central Jersey Medical Center at Carteret, CJMC's satellite office on Roosevelt Avenue in West Carteret. The Sept. 27 event was attended by Mayor Reiman, County Commissioner Director and facility namesake Ronald G. Rios, and other dignitaries. See page 7 for more.



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CJMC at Carteret's Ronald G. Rios Pavilion Celebrates Opening

The Ronald G. Rios Pavilion of Central Jersey Medical Center at Carteret has been dedicated in honor of Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios, who has been a resident of the Borough for over 50 years. The pavilion of the West Carteret health care facility was dedicated to the Commissioner Director on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 with an opening celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

A longtime service provider in Central New Jersey, the comprehensive, yet affordable Central Jersey Medical Center recently expanded to Carteret this year.

"Director Rios' accomplishments reflect a lifelong dedication to improving the quality of life for all people through effective, efficient and dedicated public service," Mayor Daniel J. Reiman said. "Central Jersey Medical Center's expansion into Carteret displays a desire to help as many in our region as possible."

Originally established as the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, the federally qualified health center opened in Perth Amboy in 2001.

Founding Executive Director Jack O'Leary said he was excited about dedicating the satellite medical center to Director Rios because he's an outstanding leader.

"That's what you need in government today," O'Leary said, "someone who understands the people he serves. That's one thing I can say about Ronnie: he's a good listener, and he gets things done."

Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin added, "It is truly fitting to have a place named after him while he's still here to be celebrated and hear all of the things that we all have to say. Ron makes a difference. This building and the services it provides will make a difference. I look forward to all the things that CJMC does."

In a letter read by Mayor Reiman, Senate President Nicholas Scutari said he was grateful for Director Rios' "tireless commitment to this project and the vision you brought to make this a reality here in Carteret for the residents of Middlesex County. I have no doubt that this new medical center will provide much-needed access to health care for your residents and help ensure your community is better equipped to meet its medical needs. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the people of Carteret, Middlesex County and the State of New Jersey."

Director Rios has served on the Middlesex County Board of Commissioners since 2008. He was appointed Commissioner Director in 2013.

Prior to that tenure, Director Rios served for many years on the Carteret Borough Council, including as Council President from 2003 to 2008. He also worked for more than 30 years for Conrail, during which time, he held many offices for the Oak Island Local 6965 Transportation Communications International Union AFL-CIO, including as president for 10 years from 1993 to 2003.



Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios speaks during a dedication ceremony for the The Ronald G. Rios Pavilion of Central Jersey Medical Center at Carteret. He is pictured with Mayor Daniel J. Reiman and Jack O'Leary, executive director of Central Jersey Medical Center.

"To the board of directors of the Central Jersey Medical Center and the Jewish Renaissance Foundation for this dedication of this brand new state-of-the-art medical center in my beloved hometown of Carteret, I'm truly humbled by this honor," Director Rios said. "If you told me 50 years ago when I first moved to Carteret, there would be a medical center or any building for that matter dedicated in my name, I'd say you're trying to pull a fast one on me, and you're crazy. Today is a dream that my parents could never have imagined for the Rios family name when they moved here from Puerto Rico. It's a dream that I couldn't conceive as a blue-collar worker all of my life and a public servant on the Carteret Borough Council for many years and for the past 16 years on the Board of County Commissioners, a job I dearly love."

Central Jersey Medical Center's services are vast ranging from primary health to dental to preventive services.

As a federally qualified health center, CJMC opens its doors to everyone who is in need of medical care whether they can afford it or not, O'Leary said.

"That's the truth of a federally qualified health center," he said. "We don't turn people away. We make sure that they're being taken care of on a medical basis. We consider ourselves a medical home where people not only come here when they're sick but are receiving the care that keeps them healthy each and every year."

In addition to the speakers, dignitaries at the dedication ceremony included councilmen Vincent Bellino, AJ Johal, Jorge Diaz, and Randy Krum, Middlesex County Democratic Chairman Kevin McCabe, County Clerk Nancy Pinkin, County Surrogate Claribel Cortes, and South Amboy Councilwoman Zusette Dato.





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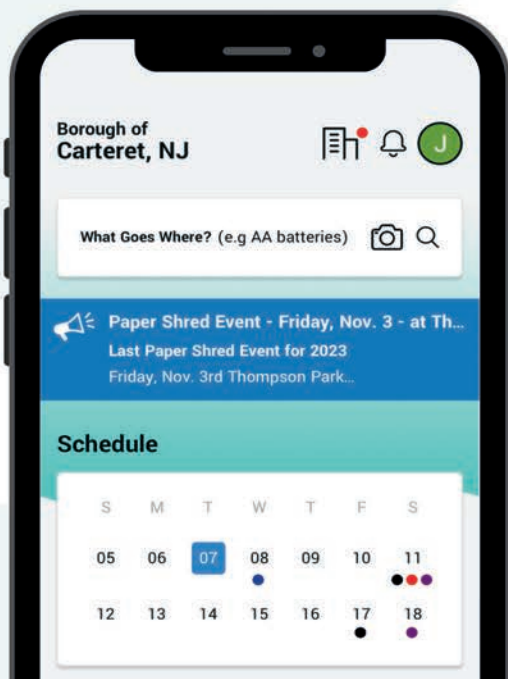


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The Municipal Marina

at CARTERET WATERFRONT PARK

The Borough of Carteret, New Jersey, is now offering registration for slips at the Carteret Municipal Marina, which just opened this past spring. The Marina, located along the Arthur Kill River at Carteret's beautiful Waterfront Park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, features 185 slips, 38,000 square feet of floating docks, gas and diesel fueling stations, sanitary pump out, deepwater port, and a 17-foot draft.

Slips are offered at competitive pricing - the lowest along the channel in the region. Carteret residents are offered even lower rates. Slip contracts and registration are available online for seasonal, annual, or short-term rentals at Carteret.net/Marina.



- Nestled along the Arthur Kill, adjacent to Staten Island with immediate access to the Raritan Bay, Upper & Lower Bays, and Sandy Hook, protected in a man-made cove
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Carteret.net/Marina

Carteret waterfront to receive more than \$4M in improvements



Carteret Waterfront Park is under reconstruction with recreation and landscaping improvements (1 & 8), including a new surface for the miniature golf course, not pictured within this concept plan of the improvements; expansion of synthetic turf picnic areas (2 & 4) and walkways (5); a 24-by-32-foot band stage (3); a Pier Pavilion (6), a three-season outdoor restaurant on Veteran's Pier, and a new pre-fabricated restroom (7).

The Borough continues to improve its waterfront with many new projects, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman announced.

More than \$4 million in improvements are underway at Waterfront Park partially paid with \$1,573,000 in county funding. They include:

- A Pier Pavilion, a three-season outdoor tiki bar and snack stand on the southern end of Veteran's Pier next to the Municipal Marina in a spot that doesn't conflict with local fishing areas
- A new pre-fabricated restroom building to replace the existing tank restroom, including water, electric, and sanitary sewer connections
- Expansion of the picnic areas and walkways
- 24-by-32-foot band stage pad, including new electric service
- Recreation and landscaping improvements, including new surfaces for the miniature golf course and putting green.

Park improvements will be done by Elizabeth-based Arco Construction Group. Work is expected to be completed by March 30, Arco said. Funding includes a \$1.5 million Middlesex County Open Space Grant and a \$73,000 Local Recreation Improvement Grant from the state Department of Community Affairs. Additional funds came from the Borough of Carteret Open Space Trust and the 2024 Municipal Capital Budget.

"My administration has worked to turn Carteret's coastline into a pristine destination from what once was an environmental nightmare abandoned by

industry," Mayor Daniel J. Reiman said. "We went after those corporate polluters to provide the first public access to the Arthur Kill in 100 years. We will continue to improve the waterfront, crafting it into the top-notch public destination and recreational area it deserves to be."

Near future waterfront improvements include:

- A 25-foot mobile kitchen in Waterfront Park that soon will go out to bid and will serve food and beverages from spring to fall, particularly at such popular events as the Carteret Independence Day Festival, Carteret Latin Fest, and the weekly summer-long Concerts by the Bay series
- A 2.5-mile Riverwalk to the north and south of Waterfront Park starting at Noes Creek, continuing to the border of Port Reading and currently under construction.

Additionally, the Borough is in the planning stages of adding an abandoned rail line that runs parallel to Peter J. Sica Highway and to the waterfront to make a 5-mile loop around Waterfront Park, Mayor Reiman said. Last year, the state Department of Transportation awarded the Borough a \$1.5 million grant for this Carteret Waterfront Multi-Use Pathway Project.

In essence, we would create this five-mile Rails to Trails-to-boardwalk concept," the Mayor said. "We're grateful to NJDOT for their support of our continued efforts to turn our former 'chemical coastline' into a recreational destination, not only with the forthcoming Riverwalk but also Waterfront Park, Veteran's Pier, and a marina."



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Carteret Receives Federal Funds for Public Safety Technology

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman recently announced that U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th) has secured \$1.2 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services to significantly enhance Carteret's public safety infrastructure.

The COPS Technology Grant will provide local police with thermal-heating drones, security cameras, laptops for patrol cars, emergency 911 call boxes to improve public safety and emergency response coordination, and pole-mounted license plate readers.

"I would like to thank Congressman Pallone for his unwavering commitment and support to the residents of Carteret and to all of our emergency service departments and personnel," Mayor Reiman said. "Carteret is a diverse urban community with nearly 26,000 residents and hosting major port infrastructure, the New Jersey Turnpike, rail, pipeline, manufacturing and critical energy infrastructure supplying the continental Northeast. With many redevelopment initiatives and vast improvements to nearly every sector of our local community and local economy, we have called upon Congressman Pallone's assistance and support for a broad range of initiatives.

"Today's funding announcement represents a pivotal investment in the safety and security of every person in our community," the Mayor continued. "With these funds, we will be able to equip our police department with cutting-edge technology that will significantly enhance their ability to serve and protect. From advanced security systems to sophisticated license plate readers, and the integration of the newest policing technology, these tools will provide our officers with real-time intelligence that will allow them to respond faster, more efficiently, and more effectively. This investment is not only about strengthening law enforcement; it's about promoting a vision for a safer, more connected community. These technologies will serve as a powerful deterrent to crime and will give our citizens greater peace of mind, knowing that we are equipped to handle the challenges of modern public safety."

The proposed enhancements are designed to improve situational awareness, expedite emergency response and enhance the overall security measures implements by Carteret's police and fire departments. With Carteret's proximity to the New Jersey Turnpike, industrial facilities, and vital coastal port infrastructure, these upgrades are not just beneficial but essential, Congressman Pallone said.



Mayor Daniel J. Reiman announces \$1.2 million in federal funding for technology upgrades for the local police secured by U.S. Rep Frank Pallone (D-6th), pictured to the right of the mayor. Also pictured from left to right are Councilmen Randy Krum, Vincent Bellino, and AJ Johal, Detective Sgt. Luis Maldonado, Detective Keith Cassens, Deputy Chief Theodore Nycz, Councilman Dennis DiMasco, and Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios.

"The strategic placement of emergency call boxes and advanced technology will significantly improve the capabilities of our local law enforcement agencies," the Congressman said. "By putting money into these upgrades, town officials can deliver faster responses and better teamwork during emergencies, all to keep our community safer and more secure."

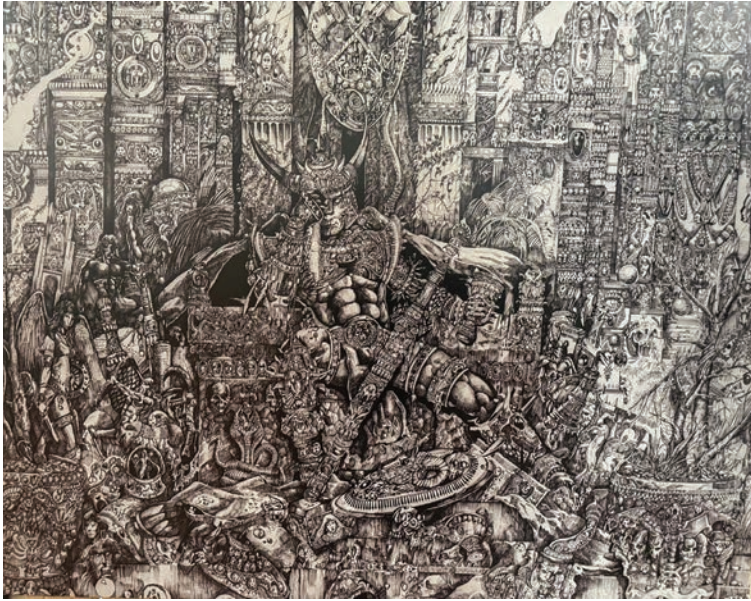
During the 2023 and 2024 appropriations process, Congress Pallone was instrumental in securing \$1.6 million in funds that will be used to relocate and upgrade the Carteret Office of Emergency Management and Emergency Operations Command Center, Mayor Reiman said. The forthcoming state-of-the-art facility will combine multiple locations and take advantage of modernizing an underutilized existing borough building while improving the ability to respond to emergencies, the Mayor said.

In November, the Borough received a \$625,000 competitive grant from the COPS Hiring Program to hire five new police officers.

"With the demands of law enforcement being greater than ever, these investments will make a clear statement: we are committed to empowering our officers with the tools and resources they need to succeed," Mayor Reiman said. "By embracing innovation and technology, we are creating a safer, more secure environment for our families, our local businesses, visitors and the future of our community."

2024 Comic Con Exhibit Re

Annual comics display coincides with Ne



Works by 15 tristate area artist, including five from Carteret, will be featured in Central Jersey Arts Council's annual Carteret Comic Con Exhibit on display through Oct. 31 at Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center in Carteret. Pictured from left to "Controlled Chaos," a pen and ink on Bristol by Winston Young of Whippany; "Mushroom Roper Miniature," epoxy clay sculpture by Paige Connelly of Woodbridge; "Move-In Day" from a comic book created by Carteret native Shayna Jones, and "Green Giant," a poster color on paper by Mi-Jin Park of Queens, N.Y. Pictured on the cover is "To Be Supreme," an acrylic marker on gallery wrapped canvas by Dino 'Commodore' Gravato of Newark.



The annual Carteret Comic Con Exhibit allows the community to explore the popular comic book medium, where comics are used to express ideas with images, often combined with text and other visual information. Comics speak to all ages in a way that they understand and identify with, and visitors to Central Jersey Arts Council's Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center, 63 Carteret Ave., can continue to do that through the exhibit's close on Oct. 31.

The exhibit, which opened Sept. 13 and coincides with the New York Comic Con from Oct. 17 to 20, brings both Eastern and Western art to the Arts Center, ranging from Marvel and DC comics to Manga, comics or graphic novels originating from Japan featuring an anime style of illustration.

"We're very proud of our annual exhibits at the Central Jersey Arts Council because they're a great example of how we continue to put the 'art' in Carteret along with our magnificent, world-class URSB Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center," Mayor Daniel J. Reiman said.

"We are excited to continue the growth of the exhibit to

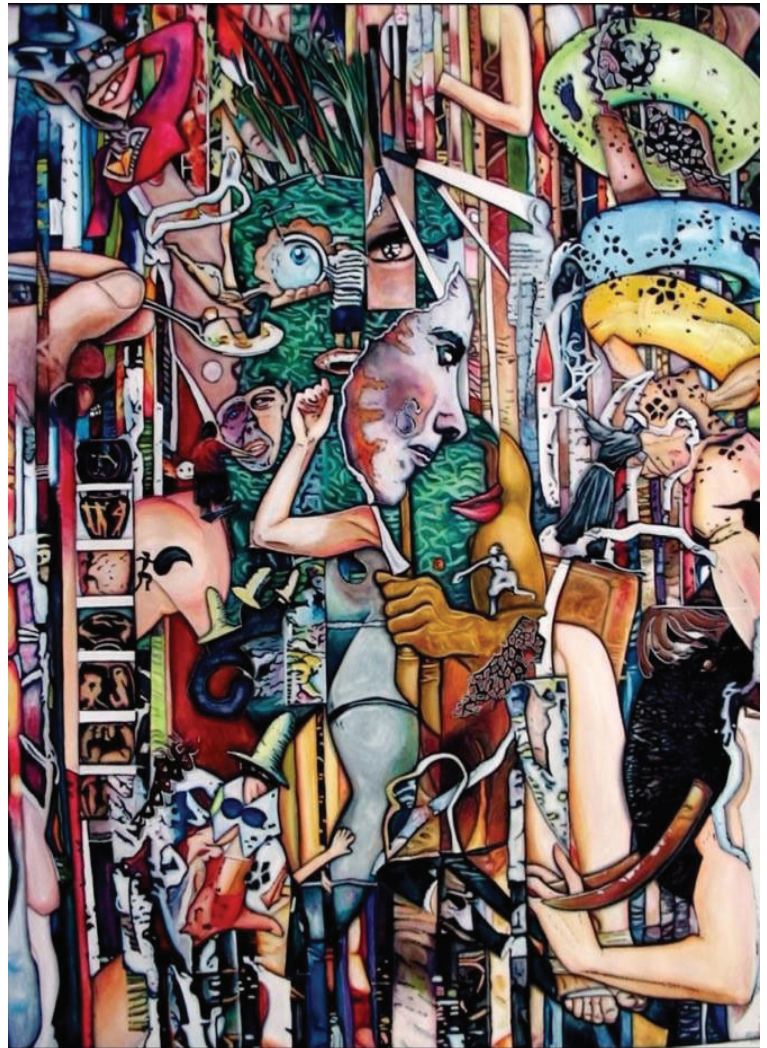
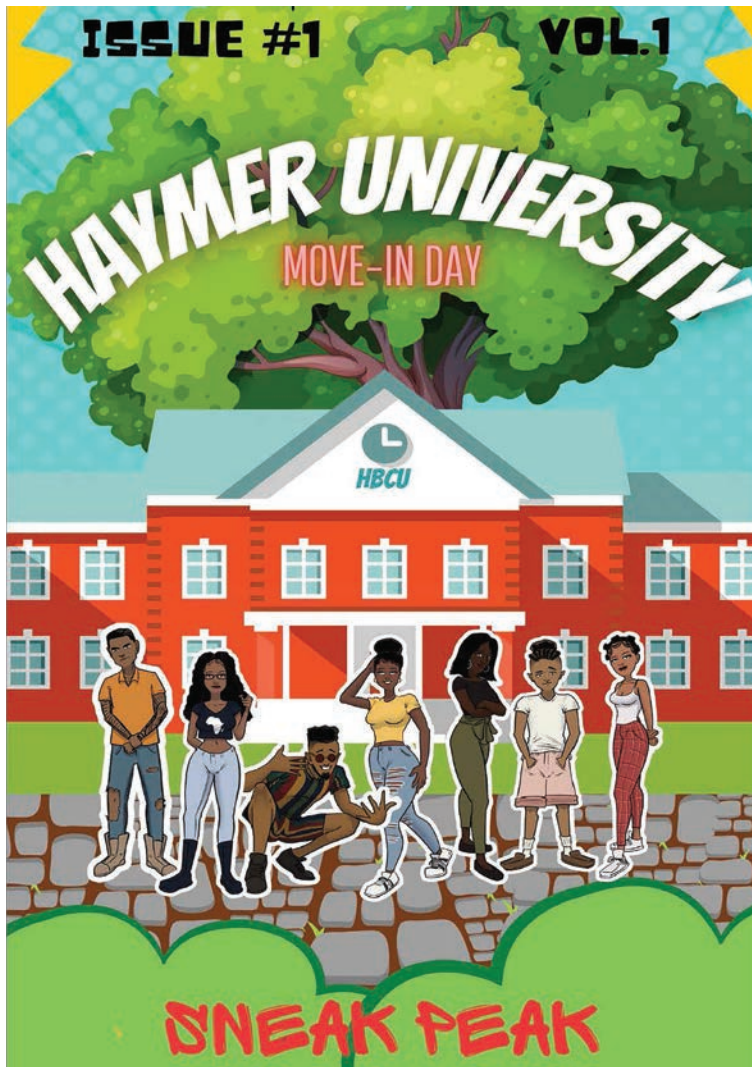
something bigger every year, from viewing to purchasing comics, collectibles, or artwork to potentially bringing workshops into the mix and meet and greets from fellow cosplayers," Central Jersey Arts Council Executive Director Elham Hussain added. "The limits are endless, and CJAC looks forward to providing endless options for art, culture and history to Carteret and surrounding communities."

This year, Carteret Comic Exhibit features 15 different artists. Five of them are from Carteret: Shayna Jones, Edwin Duran, Sarai Ortiz, Maria Mogir and Priya Singh. Singh is Carteret High School sophomore, and Mogir is in the same grade at Middlesex County Magnet School in East Brunswick. The other artists are: Soly Pena, Perth Amboy; Paige Connelly, Woodbridge; Javier Rodriguez, Linden; Jenica Rosenburg, Closter; Winston Young, Whippany; Jaylen Perez, Elizabeth; Jay "Tito" Bautista, Jersey City; Mi-Jin Park, Queens, N.Y., and Dino "Commodore" Gravato and Michael Paula, both Newark.

Singh said it felt pretty nice to be included among so many professional artists.

turns to CJAC's Blazing Star

New York Comic Con much closer to home



“At first, I just volunteered at the Blazing Star for fun, and I honestly wasn’t expecting to be apart of something like this,” she said. “I really enjoyed seeing other people’s art, and it was inspiring seeing all the different styles they had.”

Mogir agreed, “The feeling of being displayed among all these talented professional artists is quite literally a dream. I never imagined myself being placed in a comic exhibit among all these other artists. I’m just very grateful and proud of myself for reaching up to this point, and it was a pleasure to meet all of the other artists as well.”

The exhibit provides an opportunity to shed light on artists within Carteret and beyond, Hussain said.

This year’s exhibit focused on the artist’s work and various styles.

“Showcasing talents to the surrounding communities gives a chance for further exposure and for surrounding towns to get a chance to view all 15 artists all from the tristate area,” she said.

Exhibit hours are 4-7 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends. All Central Jersey Arts Council exhibits and events can be found at centraljerseyartscouncil.org.



“Bleach,” a painting by Carteret-based Middlesex County Magnet School sophomore Maria Mogir, is featured in the Comic Con Exhibit on display through Halloween at Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center. 17



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Fall Festival Returns to Carteret Park with Seasonal Family Fun



Pumpkin picking will be among the many highlights of the Carteret Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 26 in Carteret Park.

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman and Carteret Borough Council are proud to present the annual Carteret Fall Festival and Halloween Parade on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Carteret Park.

The Fall Fest is a long-standing tradition in Carteret held throughout the Mayor's Administration.

"Carteret offers a variety of family-friendly events and festivals throughout the year," Mayor Reiman said. "Fall Fest is among the best of them with free family activities that make the scenic autumn season even more fun.

"We also are proud to host our Annual Carteret Holiday Festival in December, Carteret Independence Day Festival in July, Latin Fest also in July, and our

traditional Ethnic Day Festival in September. Carteret is truly a destination for families year-round."

The Festival, which runs from noon to 2 p.m., will feature pumpkin picking, face painting, a moon bounce, cookies, candy, guess the weight of the giant pumpkin contest, prizes, DJ music and the annual Children's Halloween Parade. The parade lineup begins at 11:30 a.m. on the corner of Cypress Street and Washington Avenue. The parade route is Cypress Street to Carteret Avenue.

For more information about the Fall Festival or all the great events Carteret features throughout the year, visit Carteret.net or follow @MyCarteret on Facebook, Instagram and X.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: CARTERET COMMUNITY CHOIR

Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center 2024

“Lend Us Your Voice”

Whether you're a seasoned singer or just enjoy humming along to your favorite tunes, this is the perfect group for you. No prior singing experience is necessary—just a love for music and a desire to learn. Our members not only enhance their vocal skills but also build lasting friendships while making music together.

When & Where?

- Rehearsals: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm on the second, third, fourth, and fifth (long month) Wednesdays.
- Location: Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center, 63 Carteret Avenue, Carteret, N.J 07008

If you're interested or have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Marianne Wilson at mwccchorus@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming new voices into our choir!



Carteret Battle of the Bands Awards \$3,000 in Prizes to Three Local Bands



Hawthorne-based The Nitro Blues Band won \$1,500 from the Carteret Battle of the Bands on Sept. 18. The band plans to invest their winnings into the forthcoming release party at Clifton VFW Hall for their debut EP.

The winner of the annual Carteret Battle of the Bands is The Nitro Blues Band, a young four-piece steeped in the roots of rock that also influenced The Rolling Stones, The Allman Brothers Band, Cream and Led Zeppelin.

The band's prize from the Sept. 18 contest was \$1,500, which they plan to invest into their soon-to-be-announced debut EP release party at the Clifton VFW Hall.

Nitro Blues Band is vocalist-guitarist Patrick Graham Mellor, guitarist Armaan Gupta, and the sibling rhythm section of drummer Tony and vocalist-bassist Bella Grande. Hawthorne Bandshell.

"My mom sent the Carteret Battle of the Bands to me on Facebook messenger, and the prize money was good," Mellor said. "We're pretty confident in our ability as a group. It felt great! Massive anxiety relief."

The young bluesman said he got turned onto the genre by punk and garage bands he liked, as well as a guitar teacher.

"I was really into punk rock and old garage rock like MC5, The Clash, The Stooges," Mellor said. "The more I read about them the more they credited blues artists. Then my first guitar teacher, Chris Burnett, showed

me some surface level stuff, Muddy Waters, B.B. King, cats like that. Then I have just been digging deep into the blues ever since."

Coming in second at the Carteret Battle of the Bands was last year's winner, Carteret-based Latin rockers Rioz, who took home a \$1,000 cash prize. Third place went to Union veteran punk trio The Accelerators with a \$500 prize.

The Carteret Battle of the Bands is sponsored by Carteret Business Partnership, the Borough's nonprofit economic development corporation and special improvement district, and organized by Central Jersey Arts Council, which hosts regular programming at Carteret's Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center. The Battle of the Bands opened the four-day Mayor's Charity Carnival & Music Festival, which annually benefits the Mayor's Charity Trust, an enrichment program for at-risk Carteret youth, and included the 48th Annual Ethnic Day in celebration of the most culturally diverse town in Central Jersey.

For more about Central Jersey Arts Council, visit centraljerseyartscouncil.org. Visit Nitro Blues Band, @nitrobluesband on Facebook and YouTube and @theofficialnitrobluesband on Instagram.

UPCOMING SHOWS

meat loaf
The Neverland Express of Cleft Johnson

OCTOBER 12
CELEBRATING
MEAT LOAF

OCTOBER 18
CROSSING OVER WITH
PSYCHIC MEDIUM
JOHN EDWARD

OCTOBER 26
TOMMY JAMES &
THE SHONDELLS

NOVEMBER 1
THE VAMPIRE
CIRCUS

NOV 2
THAT MOTOWN BAND

NOV 7
WISHBONE ASH
THE WISHLIST TOUR

NOV 8
PUPPY PALS
LIVE!

NOV 9
THE JERSEY TENORS

NOV 15
A BRONX TALE STARRING
CHAZZ PALMINTERI

NOV. 16
WASON BRAZOBAN
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
ZEO MUNOZ

NOVEMBER 17
RAHUL
SIPLIGUNJ

NOVEMBER 22
AYUSHMANN
BHAVA
KHURRANA

NOVEMBER 23
ANUBHAV
SINGH
BASSI

DECEMBER 6
ENGELBERT
HUMPERDINCK
A WINTER WORLD OF LOVE

DECEMBER 7
THE SMITHEREENS W/
ROBIN WILSON &
MARSHALL CRENSHAW

DECEMBER 8
HOLIDAY
DREAMS
CIRQUE

DECEMBER 12
TWSA'S GIRLS NIGHT
BEFORE CHRISTMAS
THE MUSICAL

DECEMBER 13
GET THE
LED OUT

DECEMBER 14
THE NEW YORK
BEE GEES

DECEMBER 15
A CHARLIE BROWN
CHRISTMAS LIVE
ON STAGE!

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER 28
YIYO SARANTE
JANUARY 11
HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS
JANUARY 17
WILD WORLD OF ANIMALS

JANUARY 18
FOGHAT WITH SPECIAL GUEST CACTUS
FEBRUARY 8
THE WEEKLINGS BEATLES BASH
FEBRUARY 15
DESTINATION SOULTOWN

FEBRUARY 16
MARSHALL TUCKER BAND W/ THE OUTLAWS
MARCH 8
TUSK
MARCH 20
LEE BRICE: YOU, ME, & MY GUITAR



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CPAC Spotlight: The Vampire Circus



The Vampire Circus will perform Nov. 1 at Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center.

Heralded as a mix of circus cabaret and theatre, The Vampire Circus is a mysterious, tantalizing, fun, dark, cutting-edge production guaranteed to amaze the senses.

The Vampire Circus has been called a mix of circus cabaret and theater and is the result of a fusion of Tim Burton and Cirque Du Soleil. Patrons will enjoy a phenomenal night of live entertainment on Nov. 1 at Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center. Tickets are \$45-\$65 for the 8 p.m. show, which is based on the multidisciplinary skills of international performers showcasing theater, dance, and gymnastics. They amazingly push the physical boundaries of human performance and leave audiences amazed, astounded, and astonished.

Mortal spectators will experience horrific feats of cirque acrobatics, comical audience interactions, contortionists, jugglers, acrobats, and clowns. Tantalizing sounds and mesmerizing illusions catapult audiences into an emotional roller coaster of fear, joy, laughter and wonder. Audiences particularly rave with cheers for a “Mad Graveyard Clown.” Inspired by the magical, captivating allure of legend-

ary traveling carnivals, The Vampire Circus is the vision of founding CEO Francisco Santos, a veteran Cirque Du Soleil performer. The 90-minute production is an immersive ride through the Underworld and Vampires. Set in Bohemia during the 19th century, Count Dracula contemplates a plan for world domination, when he decides to open a traveling circus with his gypsy bodyguards. The Vampire Circus is a perfect cover-up to travel unnoticed and begin his world reign of terror and turn all humans into an army of vampires for global dominance.

The Vampire Circus is a journey that takes audiences into an immersive experience, plunging guests into a deep hypnotic state while “breaking the fourth wall.” With Vampire Circus, audiences are fully integrated into what is happening in front of them, surrounding them, and at times “inside” of them.

The Vampire Circus will delight the senses and deliver the unexpected. As the moon comes out, the magical mystique of the Vampire World begins.

For more about The Vampire Circus, visit thevampirecircus.com/. For show info and tickets, visit carteretpac.com/events/the-vampire-circus/.

CARTERET

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 Exhibit Hours, 4-7 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center (also Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays and 1-5 p.m. Oct. 6, 13 & 27)</p> <p>History and Haunting of Keyport and Red Bank, 5-6 p.m., Carteret Public Library</p>	<p>2 Carteret Historical Committee, 7 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural Center</p>	<p>3 Ghost Hunting 101, 4-5:30 p.m., Carteret Public Library</p> <p>Air Dry Clay: Ghost Tea Lights, 5-8 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural</p>	<p>4 Financial Fridays Webinar: "Financial Planning During a Life or Job Transition," 11 a.m. Zoom (register at middlesexcountynj.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/3901/446)</p> <p>Double Vision: The Foreigner Experience, 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center</p>	<p>5 Free Mammography & Cervical Screening Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth (appt: 908-994-8244, yarilyn.contreras@rwjbh.org; also Oct. 19)</p>
<p>6 Crafts: Haunted House, 2-5 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural Center</p>		<p>8 Breast Cancer Awareness Tabling: Breast Navigator & Health Educator, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Williamson Street Cafeteria, Elizabeth</p>	<p>9 Carteret Community Choir, 7 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural Center (also Oct. 16, 23 & 30)</p>	<p>10 Mediumship and Angel Messages, 4-5:30 p.m., Carteret Public Library (registration required)</p> <p>Halloween Terrarium, 5-8 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural Center (RSVP: 732-541-3879)</p>		<p>12 "Going from Renting to Owning" with Tyrone Lowman, 12-2 p.m., Carteret Public Library (registration required)</p> <p>Celebrating Meat Loaf: Bat Out of Helloween, 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center</p>
<p>13 Crafts: Ghost Painting, 2-5 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural Center</p>		<p>15 All American Dinosaur Show, 4-5 p.m., Carteret Public Library (registration required)</p>	<p>16 Workforce Wednesdays: Disability Etiquette for Business Professionals with Barbara Stockton, 11 a.m., Zoom (register at middlesexcountynj.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/3943/446)</p>	<p>17 Blacklight: Wood Painting, 5-8 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural Center (RSVP: 732-541-3879)</p>	<p>18 Crossing Over with Psychic Medium John Edward, 7 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center</p>	
<p>20 Carteret Community Choir Concert, 4 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural Center</p>		<p>22 Open Studio, 2-5 p.m., Blazing Star Arts Cultural Center (also Oct. 27 & 29 and 5-8 p.m. Oct. 24)</p>	<p>23 Breast Cancer Awareness Event with Gerardo Capo, medical director of Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center, 12-1:30 p.m., Vic Rachel Conference Center, Elizabeth</p>			<p>26 County Composting Workshop, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., EARTH Center, Davidson Mill Pond Park, South Brunswick (info: 732-745-4170)</p> <p>Tommy James & the Shondells, 7:30 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center</p> <p>Nu-Metal Halloween feat. That Nu-Metal Band, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., The Underground @ Carteret PAC</p>
<p>27 American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, 8:30 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. charity walk, Middlesex College, Edison</p>						



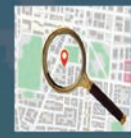
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Submit items to Carteret Events Calendar by the 1st of each month to makinb@carteret.net.

For more info call 732-541-3835.



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 The Vampire Circus , 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center	2 That Motown Band , 7 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
3 Acrylic Painting , 3-5 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center			6 Carteret Community Choir , 3-5 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center (also Nov. 13 & 20)	7 Open Studio , 4-7 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center (also Nov. 14 & 21) Central Jersey Medical Center Gala , 6:30 p.m., Grand Marquis, Old Bridge Wishbone Ash , 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center	8 Puppy Pals Live , 7:30 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center	9 Jersey Tenors , 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
10 St. Demetrius 115th Anniversary , St. Demetrius Banquet Hall Modeling Paste , 3-5 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center					15 Paint & Sip , 8-11 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center "A Bronx Tale" with Chazz Palminteri , 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center	16 Wason Brazoban/Zeo Muoz , 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center
17 Cake Pop Decorating , 3-5 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center Raul Sipligunj , 7:30 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center					22 Bartending Class: "The Art of a Cocktail" , 8-11 p.m., Blazing Star Cultural Arts Center Ayushmann Khurranna , 8 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center	23 Anubhav Singh Bassi , 7 p.m., Carteret Performing Arts & Events Center

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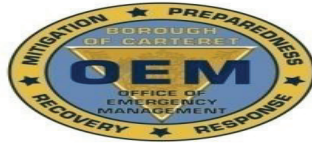
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Biz Profile: Exit 12 Mexican Bar & Grill

Danny Martinez, owner of Exit 12 Mexican Bar & Grill, wanted to open a Mexican restaurant in Carteret because during his youth and young adulthood, the Bronx native of Latin-Caribbean descent spent a significant amount of time in Mexico.

The culture, food, people and music made a big impact, Martinez said.

“I felt connected to it and wanted to bring that vibrant experience back to my now hometown of Carteret, where I could share it with my community and give locals a cool spot to eat and have a drink,” he said. “I spent some time analyzing Carteret and the demographic, and I felt this would touch all cultures so I have a bit of food for everyone. I really enjoy Carteret and hope to be here and grow.”

“What I love most about Mexican food is the depth of flavors,” Martinez continued. “The simplicity of ingredients combined with the complex layers of taste is truly something special. The culture is rich with traditions, vibrant colors, and a strong sense of community. Mexican drinks, like the Cadillac Margarita, are smooth, refreshing, and perfectly complement the food. Altogether, the experience of Mexican culture is one that makes you feel alive.”

While the Cadillac Margarita, which blends the tequila and lime of a classic margarita with a sugar rather than salt rim, a twist of fresh orange and the luxurious taste of Grand Marnier – hence “Cadillac” -- is Exit 12’s signature drink, the signature dishes are the Birria Tacos and the steak tacos.

Martinez said it’s hard to choose between the two.

“They’re packed with flavor, and they’re the dishes I personally go to when I want something delicious,” he said. “The nachos are also a customer favorite.”

Exit 12’s head chef, Julieta Bassteros, has appeared on “Iron Chef” and other cooking shows. Bassteros brought simple, yet flavor-packed dishes to the menu, Martinez said, and trained the staff, which includes bartender Angeli Batista, chef Irma Marroquin, and Martinez’s 10-year-old daughter, Valentina, a waitress and dish washer.

He was introduced to Bassteros by The Anaya Group, a collaboration between artists Fernando Cadenas and manager Javier Cazares. Cadenas created spectacular murals that line the walls of the restaurant.

“They brought the artistic vision to life and ensured that the artwork reflected the spirit of the restaurant,” Martinez said. “The murals tell the story of my life and love and experiences.”



Exit 12 Mexican Bar & Grill owner Danny Martinez, left, is pictured with Fernando Cadenas, the artist who created the restaurant’s magnificent murals.

A former truck driver, Martinez also is a woodworker who learned the trade from “the University of YouTube.”

To save on costs, he refurbished the restaurant’s furniture himself.

“We loved the idea of recycling,” he said. “It just felt right to create something with your own hands while keeping sustainability in mind.”

Business has been great, Martinez said.

A grand opening celebration is in the works, he said. “The local support has been overwhelming,” Martinez said. “We’re blown away by how much the community has embraced us, and we haven’t had a chance to take a breath! I just want to express how grateful we are to be a part of this amazing town. We love Carteret and hope to be long-standing business partners with the community for many years to come.”

Exit 12 is located within the Red Roof Inn at 1000 Roosevelt Ave. Contact Exit 12 at 732-366-4146. For more info, visit the restaurant on Instagram @exit12bar.

BREAKING: NJ AWARDED MORE THAN \$150 MILLION IN **SOLAR FOR ALL** FUNDING!

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Carteret WWII Veteran Remembered for Leading Capture of Nazi Fort



For an exhibit that will be on display Veteran's Day Weekend at The Military Technology Museum in Wall, Lyn Rutkoski, niece of Carteret World War II hero Capt. John Markowitz, right, wrote the profiles, right, of the 38 soldiers within Company K, who captured and signed a World War II German naval flag on Aug. 15, 1944 at Saint Malo in France. Stored for many years at the West Carteret Firehouse, the Nazi flag also will be on display.

The family of Carteret World War II hero Capt. John Markowitz recently reunited to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Saint Malo, France, from Nazi occupation.

The celebration took place in August at The Military Technology Museum of New Jersey in Wall. A large display of the German naval flag the Markowitz-led Company K of the 329th Infantry Regiment captured was the centerpiece of a museum exhibit dedicated to the liberation of Saint Malo.

The 38 men of Company K signed the 5-by-7-foot Nazi flag they captured, and several of their families from throughout the tristate area also participated in the anniversary exhibit. For the display, Markowitz's niece Lyn Rutkoski researched and wrote profiles for all 38 of the Company K soldiers.

"I thought it was great that everything worked out," Rutkoski said.

"It was an amazing presentation," added nephew John Markowitz, who was named after the war hero. "It took my breath away."

Some Company K family members came all the way from Colorado to see the flag, said Rick Wark, assistant director of the Military Technology Museum.

Of the 38 men who signed the flag, 34 survived the war. Markowitz was among the four who later were killed in action. Markowitz died on Oct. 6, 1944 in Echternach, Luxembourg. He stepped on a landmine while doing reconnaissance.

"John Markowitz's parents owned a bar in Carteret," Wark said. "After they signed the flag they captured at Saint Malo, Markowitz sent the flag home

to his mother, who hung it in the bar for a month or so until he was killed. His mother couldn't accept that, and she wanted the flag out of the bar. So it went to the local firehouse."

Representatives of the West Carteret Firehouse donated the flag to the museum.

Saint Malo was a major Nazi surrender in the wake of D-Day a couple of months earlier, Wark said.

In Saint Malo, the Nazis had created a stronghold within a fort that was surrounded on three sides by the sea. The only way Company K could attack it is across a narrow bottleneck of land with 500 yards of open ground to traverse before the wall of the fort was reached. The open ground was heavily fortified with trip wires, anti-tank obstacles and mines. The whole area was under fire from heavy caliber naval guns and from closer guns on the waterfront.

Under Markowitz's command, Company K fought back savagely, eventually capturing the fort and liberating the town.

Markowitz was 1938 graduate of Carteret High School, a parishioner at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Church and a member of its basketball club. He then graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in education. He was also part of the ROTC and upon graduation in 1942, entered the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant.

The signed Nazi flag and accompanying mural the museum created is displayed four times a year, including Veteran's Day Weekend, which is coming up Nov. 9 and 10. The flag also is available to groups upon request of an appointment at 732-280-3000. Museum hours at 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

For more about The Military Technology Museum, visit InfoA.ge.org.

Mayor Helps Celebrate Resident's 100th Birthday

Mary Mihalek Rindosh was born on Sept. 14, 1924 in Vysny Slavkov, Slovakia.

Family and friends gathered to celebrate her wonderful milestone by raising their glass in celebration of her life. They included Mayor Daniel J. Reiman who presented her with a 100th birthday proclamation.

“During her long and productive lifetime, Mary has demonstrated in countless other ways her dedication to the welfare of others and has earned the respect and affection of people from all walks of life and all ages,” Mayor Reiman said. “Mary is known for her commitment to community service in Carteret and neighboring towns. She has dedicated her life to helping others in need, making her community a better place for all. She advocated for Danielle’s Law in the State of New Jersey in loving memory of her first grandchild, Danielle J. Gruskowski, requiring staff to call 911 in life-threatening emergencies. Danielle’s Law was signed on Nov. 25, 2003, and four years later, Danielle’s Garden was dedicated in her honor at Waterfront Park. Mary continues to organize the Living Rosary held annually at Danielle’s Garden.”

Rindosh also served as a Eucharistic minister at Divine Mercy Parish, as well as Raritan Bay Medical Center, where she received a Certificate of Appreciation for more than 3,100 hours of her volunteer work. Mary is a life member of the VFW Star Landing Post No. 2314, held offices as president of the Slovaks Citizens Ladies Club and vice president of the General Stephanic Slovak Club, and helped grow the local Altar Rosary Society from 6 to more than 100 members.

Christmas Eve is legendary at Mary’s house, where nearly 100 family members and friends gather to enjoy her holiday cooking, including Santa Claus. Mary’s collection of 4,000 Santa Claus figurines has captured news media attention and is visited by Carteret school children for whom she bakes cookies and hands out Santa lollipops.



On Sept. 14, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman presented long-time community volunteer Mary Rindosh with a 100th birthday proclamation.

“When I look back, I feel so honored and humbled that I was able to have accomplished so much in my life,” she said. “I am blessed to have such a beautiful family and wonderful friends. How lucky can one person be? Thank you for making my 100th Birthday celebration the very best! May God bless you all and keep you in His care.”

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