



THE POWER OF EVERY VOICE: Fang Gong, Livingston Board of Education candidate, stated, “As we journey forward, I believe profoundly in the power of every voice. Your narratives, experiences, and aspirations deeply resonate with me. Every background and perspective is essential in the rich tapestry we weave. I urge you to stand with me in championing this vision. Please cast your vote for Fang Gong on Line 2D, found at the end of the ballot. Together, we’ll shape a future where everyone feels acknowledged and valued.”



Above, fifth grader Emma Yang competes in the Women’s Singles event at The 94th NJ State Table Tennis Championship. AT top right, Yang poses with her trophy from the Annual New Jersey NJTTC Championships, Womens’ Singles on Sunday, October 22. At bottom right, Yang was awarded a spot on the U11 Girls’ Team during the U.S. National Table Tennis Championship in July. Shown here is Emma and Mayor Michael Vieira with her award.

Yong Yang Photos

Livingston Student Becomes Youngest State Table Tennis Women’s Champ

On Sunday, October 22, Emma Yang, a fifth grade student at Livingston’s Collins Elementary School, won the Women’s Singles event at The

94th New Jersey State Table Tennis Championships, hosted by NJTTC in Springfield.

Just ten years old, she became



the youngest-ever New Jersey Table Tennis Women’s Champion in the history of this annual tournament.

In May, she won championship titles in the U11 Girls and U13 Girls categories at the 2023 USATT Northeast Regional Championships. In July, she earned a spot on the U.S. Table Tennis U11 Girls National Team during the U.S. National Table Tennis Championships in Fort Worth, Texas.

Voting Districts Are Restructured

Essex County has advised the township that voting districts 18 and 24 have been restructured. Voters historically in either of those districts should double check their sample ballots to confirm or make note of their new district number and voting location.

The area of town affected is located on the eastern side of town between Route 10 and Northfield Road. Residents in that area should be sure to check their sample ballot to ensure they are going to the correct voting location.

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7.

All voters are reminded to keep and bring their sample ballot with them. The sample ballot provides important information on the voter’s District number and polling location. For more information, helpful links, and important dates, go to livingstonnj.org/Voting.

Students Learn About Learning Differences

Kerry Magro, an autistic speaker and author, recently spoke to the Newark Academy student body about the exceptional abilities of individuals with autism diagnoses; the prevalence of bullying; and the importance of disability acceptance.

“Learning differences or accommodations aren’t a label, but part of your unique tool kit in this diverse and vibrant world,” Magro said. “Every mind is a universe of thoughts and every individual, a world of possibilities. Your differences are not just to be accepted, they are to be celebrated.”

He also provided students with strategies for both self-advocacy and being allies and friends to those with disabilities.

After the presentation, students continued the discussion in a break-out session with Magro.

When students who might have learning differences see others like themselves who are thriving, and understand that they are not alone in their struggles, “they learn to advocate for themselves,” said Newark Academy director of equity and inclusion Rochelle Outlaw Edwards. “For our students who we might describe as neurotypical, I hope that they learned how to be better allies and friends to those in the disabled community.”

Magro is an autism consultant to several TV series, including HBO’s “Mrs. Fletcher,” and Netflix’s “Love on the Spectrum U.S.”

He has spoken at numerous events, including two TEDx Talks, and is chief executive officer and president of KFM Making A Difference, a non-profit organization that hosts inclusion events and provides college scholarships for students with autism.

State law bans using metal nails, tacks or staples in utility poles.



HALLOWEEN HIJINKS: Jennifer Schroeder, a secretary at Hillside School, dressed as an “LPS Portrait of a Graduate” for Halloween. Many teachers and LPS personnel dressed up for the holiday.

LPS Photo

Watercolorist to Present Quick Sketch Demo



Watercolorist Pam Wenger will present an online demonstration of her “quick sketch” process. Shown here is one of her works.

The Livingston based Essex Water Color Club (EWCC), now in its 91st year, will present an online portrait demonstration by watercolorist and portrait artist Pam Wenger from 2

to 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 12. She will showcase her “quick sketch” process of capturing and painting a likeness.

“When I became an elementary teacher, there were plenty of outlets for creativity, but it wasn’t until I retired in 2012 that I began to explore painting. I figured I’d try watercolor first because it would be easier and cheaper than oils – both incorrect assumptions,” Wenger said. “Though I enjoy exploring all types of subject matter, I am drawn to portraits and figurative work. When I feel my relationship to my subject matter begin to click in the early stages of a painting, it’s like the beginning of a friendship.”

Access to the demonstration is available free to club members. Others may attend for a fee. To become a member or register for the demonstration, go to www.ewccclub.com. For more information, call 973-994-1597 or email laigranics@verizon.net.

“EWCC is New Jersey’s oldest art association devoted to the medium of watercolor,” EWCC member John Wolff said. “We are fortunate to be able to offer Pam’s demonstration, as she is highly sought after by art communities everywhere.”

Patrick Conforti 102 Years Old

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Patrick Conforti, a remarkable man who lived until just shy of his 103rd birthday, passing away on Sunday, October 29th, 2023. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Loretta, who predeceased him 11 years ago. They shared a wonderful life together in Convent Station, NJ where they lived for over 50 years. Patrick was not only a beloved patriarch but a World War II veteran and a trailblazing entrepreneur.

Born in 1920, Patrick served his country in World War II as a radar specialist on the USS Shangri-La. After returning home, he embarked on a journey that would shape his legacy. In 1965, he, alongside his devoted son, John Conforti, founded Comfort Conditioning, an HVAC business that would eventually evolve into Air Group, an industry leader, employing over 475 dedicated individuals today. His unwavering work ethic and commitment to excellence have left an indelible mark on the business landscape, transforming the lives of countless employees.

Beyond his professional achievements, Patrick was known for his zest for life. He had a passion for knowledge and was an avid news junkie and always had a newspaper in his hand, keeping up with the world’s happenings with remarkable curiosity. He also found solace and joy on the golf course. He and Loretta spent many wonderful years in Naples, Florida, perfecting their swing and enjoying the sunshine.

His fondness for the classics extended to his love of Frank Sinatra and the timeless sophistication of gin martinis. A true Yankee fan, he will always be remembered using his Louisville Slugger cane to illustrate his strong opinions!

Patrick’s life was a testament to resilience, ambition and dedication to family. He is survived by his loving son and daughter in law, John and Clare Conforti, their children Patrick (Leigh) Conforti, John (Lori) Conforti and Mary Ellen (Marty) Meehan. Patrick was celebrated by his seven Great Grandchildren: Emma and Nicholas (John and Lori), Julia and Nate (Patrick and Leigh) and Lucy, Maggie & Janie (Mary Ellen and Marty). He will be dearly missed by his loving family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

As we bid farewell to this exceptional man, we celebrate the legacy he leaves behind, one of service, entrepreneurship and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and success. Patrick Conforti’s memory will live on, a reminder of the power of determination and value of cherishing life’s simple pleasures.

A visitation is being held on Thursday, November 2, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Quinn-Hopping Funeral Home. A funeral mass will be celebrated on Friday, November 3 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Philomena Roman Catholic Church, with entombment to immediately follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover.

To honor the next generation, in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital (www.stjude.org).



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