

The "Franklin Township Hi-Steppers" never say 'Never' when it comes to Dancing.



The Hi-Steppers Tap Dance Troupe started 22 years ago under the dance instruction and choreography of the late Helen Frenick who passed away last year. Her motto was, "You're never too old to dance." She has definitely been missed and is fondly remembered. Ever since their first year together, the group has been performing all over New Jersey entertaining at various senior centers, VFWs, churches, assisted living facilities, hospitals and more.

The Hi-Steppers welcome men and women who are new tap dancers and those with choreography experience. They meet at the Community/Senior Center Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. None of the members were dancers prior to joining the group. The idea is, if a person loves to dance, they can be a Hi-Stepper. Performances by the Hi-Steppers for your organization can be arranged by contacting Shonda Sanchez at 732-873-1991, or emailing: Shonda.sanchez@twp.franklin.nj.us or writing to the Franklin Township Community Senior Center, 505 Demott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873 attn. Shonda Sanchez.

Franklin Youth Initiative Update

The Franklin Township Youth Initiative (FYI) is focusing on improving access to services for Franklin's youth and families. FYI has been successful in bringing several programs to the community including: employment readiness workshops; an annual job fair; leadership workshops; parent and teen community workshops on gang prevention, internet safety, the social issues presentation--Students Tackling Ordinary Problems (S.T.O.P.), the "Yesterday I Died" presentation by DLG Productions; Boys Council; the GREAT gang prevention Program; and a Youth Forum.

The FYI website, www.franklinfyi.org, provides an extensive database and links to resources and services throughout the county to support Franklin's families. Community Services are also expanding at 935 Hamilton Street through the Department of Community Resource and Services (FTDCRS). Evening hours will be available on Tues and Thurs for support services and residents should call the FTDCRS at 732-873-2500, ext. 310 for additional information.

For the FYI meeting schedule and further information please contact the Recreation Department at 732-873-1991.



FYI Boys Council Celebrates Graduation

The Franklin Youth Initiative Boys Council held it's first after-school graduation on December 17. "The ceremony and testimony from graduates, parents, teachers and school administrators was very emotional" said Dennis Lue, facilitator of the program. "Our current graduating class included: **Shaheed Wroten, Rashad Dukes, Quanzie Neal, Shareef Brown, Jeremiah Ongwenyi, Kia-Shawn Wright, Jameer Outsey, Jamir Swindell, Deshawn Swindell and Jamil Lewis**, who are on the way to becoming our future leaders," said Bruce Medley FYI Program Coordinator. "To date, we have had 32 young men participate in the program, and we are proud of every one of our students."

Boys Council is a strength-based group approach to promote boys and young men's safe, strong and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years. In weekly sessions, a group of six to ten boys of similar age and development meet with one or two facilitators for 1.5 to 2 hours.

Program sessions are offered seasonally in the fall, winter, spring and summer for young men 12-15 years of age. For more information, contact Bruce Medley at the Franklin Township Recreation Dept. at (732) 873-1991.

Franklin's Future Leaders take the LEAP Challenge®

On December 12, sixty teens took part in the LEAP Challenge® with Randy Nathan of Project NextGeneration. Students participated in four workshops dealing with the Cornerstones of Leadership including: Lead, Xcel, Act and Persevere. The program aimed to help teens understand five core principles: I am who I choose to be; my life is a journey, not a destination; there are no mistakes, only opportunities; I am greater than I appear to be; and I am here for a special purpose.

Franklin High Schoolers Xavier and Sean Sanchez shared their thoughts after the program. Xavier said, "I expected it to be a boring lecture, but it was anything but boring. I enjoyed the workshop and group activities and learned a lot about the qualities of a leader that I can use in any situation. It was a great experience!" Sean had a similar positive reaction. He said, "Word around school spread fast after the workshop. My friends wanted to know when the next one would be. I thought it was a lot of fun, and I especially enjoyed the group challenge. The instructor motivated us to be leaders. We walked away not only knowing the qualities of a leader, but having used our leadership skills."

Randy Nathan is a Professional Certified Coach and has served as a national keynote speaker and workshop facilitator at numerous schools, camps, youth groups and corporations.

Student Production Recognized by the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association

The Township's Recreation Department, the Conerly Road Peacemakers & Movie Makers and the Franklin Township Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse (MAPSA) are the recipients of the 2010 New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association award for **Excellence in Cultural and Performing Arts** for the Peacemakers 2009 original video production of "Addictions Through the Eyes of a Child."

The Peacemakers & Movie Makers are comprised of 3rd and 4th grade students that met with four volunteer staff advisors once a week prior to the start of the school day on a project created by Where Peace Lives' founders Jeff and Donna Clapp and Jeff Rudy who are dedicated to teaching children how to deal with conflict and aggressive behavior through art and media.

The Conerly Road School project received a grant from MAPSA. Guidance Counselor, Virginia Abu Bakr said, "The \$1,500.00 MAPSA grant gave us the unique opportunity to use movie making as a tool for children to share their thoughts about substance abuse and prevention."

Students and staff met to learn about addiction and the scope of addictions, including addictions to drugs and alcohol, candy, stealing and TV. "Students, staff and parents collaborated on this project to create a unique learning tool that would be shared with their classmates, with curriculum guides and videos that were also provided to other elementary schools in the district as a learning tool," said Valerie Northey, Franklin's middle school and elementary school Student Assistance Counselor.

"I am extremely proud of this interagency effort, the dedication of the staff and parents, and the eye-opening efforts of the Peacemakers & Movie Makers in creating an awareness of the problems with addictions and how easily they can begin in a young child, even when drugs and alcohol are not even involved," stated Ms. Osipowicz.

Department of Parks and Recreation

Spring 2010 Recreation Programs



Franklin In Technology Computer Classes

Mail and walk-in registration accepted through 3/19/10 or until classes are filled, whichever comes first.

Welcome to Franklin In Technology, bringing you and computers together. • All courses require a \$60 fee. For two courses the fee is \$100 • Classes run 8 weeks and are 1½ hours long. • Classes begin the week of March 22, 2010 (No Classes on Monday, 4/5/10 - Furlough Day.) • Classes are held at Somerset Residence located at 360 DeMott Lane, Somerset • Complete the Recreation Department Registration Form and return it by mail or walk-in at 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873. • Registration is accepted on a first come first served basis. **SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 7**

#67711-25 Learning Computing I9:30 am – 11:00 am
Mondays starting March 22

No experience required. You will learn to use the mouse and keyboard; you will learn many skills that will be needed for using email and the Internet. An email account will be established in Yahoo. Basic keyboard skills that you formerly used with the typewriter will be taught to enable you to write simple letters using your computer. You will learn to play solitaire and draw with a program that is on every computer.

#67711-26 Digital Photography11:15 am – 12:45 pm
Mondays starting March 22

Open to all levels of experience. Learn to use your digital camera and begin to figure out how to do simple editing and adjustments. Bring your digital camera to class. We'll show you how to get those photos on your computer for simple editing. Digital is "right now" photography - shoot, edit and print. Learn how simple it can be. Still like film? Learn how to use a computer to make those photos into a digital photo story with music, narration and pizzazz. Bring out your hidden creativity by learning simple tricks using free software.

#67711-27 TBA1:15 pm-2:45 pm
Mondays starting March 22

Additional class will be formed based on registration demand for specific classes.

#67711-28 Learning Computing II9:30 am – 11:00 am
Wednesdays starting March 24

Prerequisite required. You must have completed Computers I or have gotten instructor's approval. This course is for people who have had a little experience on a computer. You will be shown how to use the Internet for searching and discovery; how to be effective at using e-mail with your new free Yahoo account which is

accessible anywhere in the world. We'll introduce you to Microsoft Word so you can create a simple letter. Increase your computing ability now.

#67711-29 Learning Microsoft Word '2003'11:15 am – 12:45 pm
Wednesdays starting March 24

Experience required. You should have completed Learning Computing II or received instructor approval. Mistakes are so easy to fix and we can't help but look really smart! But, it takes a bit of learning to figure out how to do it. Learn to add clip art, pictures and more to your documents in Microsoft Word. Never rewrite or white-out again. Just edit!!!

#67711-30 Learning Microsoft Excel 9:30-11:00 am
Thursdays starting March 25

Basic Computer experience required. GET ORGANIZED with Excel. Create lists and inventories that are easy to update and always at your fingertips. Use Excel to get ready for a garage sale, update your phone lists, put together a household budget, and maintain club lists. Excel helps you do basic math and accounting. Use Excel to instantly alphabetize, sort, list and calculate columns of numbers.

#67711-31 TBA11:15 am – 12:45 pm
Thursdays starting March 25

Additional class will be formed based on registration demand for specific classes.

You will be notified in advance of any changes in your selected class schedule.

Please contact the Recreation office at (732) 873-1991 if you have any questions.

Return the Recreation Department Registration Form by mail or walk-in at 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873. Registration is accepted on a first come first served basis.