A Note From Kenny in The Office

The word busy is an understatement to describe what’s been happening at Passaic County 4-H. Our after-school programs are in full swing throughout the city of Paterson; our instructors are in the classrooms weekly working hands-on with students to better their minds and the community through science, health, and art. We are also lucky to have partnered with St. Paul's Episcopal Church with whom we secured a grant to broaden our reach in Paterson. I am happy to announce a new 4-H club: The West Milford 4-H VelveTEENs, a club dedicated to the growth and care of rabbits. Based in West Milford, this club is getting off to a quick start and is ready for the bunny lovers out there to join their ranks. The winners of the state 4-H 50/50 raffle have been announced! And we think you'll be happy with the results because Passaic County took both 2nd and 3rd place! Once again we show how strong the Passaic County 4-H community is. Read inside to find out who won!

What a huge success this years West Milford Autumn Light Festival was! A big thanks to our club members, leaders, and parents. Our tent was filled to the brim (actually filled we ran out of spots to put all the exhibits) with all your hard work and many wonderful projects. Of course our amazing 4-H animals, from the cutest bunny rabbits to the most well-behaved and beautiful dogs you will ever see, this year's fair will be one to remember. We could not have done it without every member of Passaic County 4-H pitching in - this year's success is the result of a team effort, and we certainly have the best team.

The Passaic County 4-H Leaders Association would like to especially thank Rocky Hazelman and the West Milford Autumn Lights Festival Committee for allowing us to participate in the festival, and contributing a very generous donation to our newly minted West Milford 4-H VelveTEENs. Please save the date for our next big event the Passaic County Annual Awards Night and Holiday Dinner, Friday December 9th 2011.

Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together.- James Cash Penney
West Milford Autumn Lights Festival

Over 15,000 people attended this year’s festival!

4-H’ers taking it all in.

Spreading the word.

I See for You with our four legged club members.

4-H staff enjoying the fair.
West Milford Autumn Lights Festival

Club members exhibit their work.

Congrats and thanks to all of our club members, can’t wait to see what you have in store for next year’s fair!
Club Update—The Hoofers

The Hoofers would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to our new members Joi, Jourdan and their mom Tabatha. We’re so glad you joined the club and we look forward to teaching you your way around a horse. We love new members and we’re truly thrilled you all joined the club!

The Hoofers had great representation at the county fair. Most members displayed three different projects. We used 6 tables to make room for all our crafts and club presentations. A big congratulations to Ali Mahasky for winning best of show ribbons for both her poster on the horse’s eye and her 4-D painted horse craft. Congratulations to Natalia Dashnaw for winning the best of show ribbon for her charger plate. Way to go girls! Congratulations to all our members winning ribbons for their hard work and creativity on their club presentations and crafts. Job well done Hoofers!

A special thank you to Lisa Mahasky our Assistant Leader for her creativity in selecting our craft projects and her decorative ideas. She shuttled our projects back and forth from her home many times so all the members would be able to finish them. It was no easy task. We wouldn’t have had such interesting and colorful crafts if it wasn’t for Lisa. Another big thank you to Paula Pfeiffer for all her help with project labeling and fair set up. She helped with a lovely smile on her face the entire time. Finally thanks to Ania Dashnaw for her continued photography of the club members and pictures for us to include in the newsletter. Thanks for making us look good Ania. You ladies are fantastic! We really appreciate you and your hard work. A big Hoofers thank you to all our parents for helping support The Hoofers at the fair and all year long including the selling of raffle tickets.

Our future club plans include having our senior members and club officers Ali Mahasky, President, Natalia Dashnaw, Vice President and Amy Pfeiffer, Treasurer giving our members clinics on horsemanship. At the last meeting Amy gave a very enlightening clinic on brushing and hoof care with special attention to the hands on aspect. We had plenty of smiles and enthusiasm. A great time was enjoyed by all. The girls are now planning what lessons they’d like to give to the club in the upcoming months. We’re looking forward to learning valuable lessons about horses from these club officers.

We’re working with Karl Bauer the owner of the North Jersey Equestrian Center in Pompton Plains to schedule a riding lesson for our members in November. It’s been a long time since we’ve ridden and everyone is very excited. Once again our senior members will be tacking up the horses and warming them up before we ride. The girls help everyone mount and learn a basic seat. They’ll lead the horses or anything else our members need on a one to one basis. We’re only supposed to ride for a half hour and have a group lesson but Karl always gives us more time and individual attention to our members. He’s got a heart of gold and a soft spot for kids. We’re so very lucky to hold our club meeting at his ultra modern facility with horses at our disposal anytime for hands on lessons. Karl’s facility is huge and immaculate at all times. He stables 100 horses here and has another stable across Route 23. We hold meetings in the large office area the first Tuesday of every month. The facility has the largest indoor arena in the tri-state area. It’s heated or cooled depending on the season. Because of this type of stable we’re able to hold meetings and clinics all year long in comfort. We’re very lucky to have Karl and his wife Deena supporting us. It’s not a surprise because Karl and I met at our old 4-H club back in the seventy’s called The Easy Riders of Passaic county. Both of us are just giving back for all the lessons, help and support we’ve been given over the years through 4-H horse shows and clinics as well as what we’ve learned from other trainers. That’s what the community in the 4-H pledge is all about the giving back. If anyone is interested in our club please don’t hesitate to contact me directly for more information. You can reach me, Sue Kendal, at (973) 772-0544 or my email address sue@rkendal.com. Like I mentioned earlier we love new members! Come enjoy the fun!
Club Update—I See For You Puppy Club

In August, our club visited Camp Wishes in Wayne. Quix, Specs, Nasha, Kristen and Damen all had fun making new friends with the campers. This is great for the puppies to become accustomed to strange people petting them. In September, puppies Quix, Sayrs, Damen, Kristen, Nasha, Fulton and Dawn attended a minor league baseball game in Montclair and rooted for the NJ Jackals. The crowds, loud noise, and spilled food on the ground were all great practice for when the pups become Seeing Eye Dogs. October was full of fun events. First was our 4-H Fair at the West Milford Autumn Lights Festival (ALF) where all our club exhibits received “Excellent” and “Very Good” ribbons and Sayrs, Damen, Fulton and Nasha all got to practice walking through busy crowds of people. Second was The Seeing Eye’s annual “Woofstock” for puppies in training where the puppies strut their stuff, get training tips from other puppy raisers and trainers, and have a fun afternoon with their puppy friends. Damen, Kristen, and Fulton all passed the test and received their AKC “Canine Good Citizen” certification. All three of these puppies are under nine months of age, great work guys! Sadly, we wish two puppies well as they have returned to The Seeing Eye to begin formal training. Quix and Specs have recently started training and are on track to become Seeing Eye Dogs. Good Luck you two! We also welcome a new puppy to our club! Allison, a yellow lab/golden mix, is being raised by the Allison family. 

The last couple of months were also filled with events held by The Seeing Eye. August was “Family Day” for puppy raisers, held at The Seeing Eye’s main campus in Morristown, where raisers get a sneak peek into what happens when their puppies return for training. In September, The Seeing Eye held the first open house in 30 years! Public visitors got a glimpse behind the scenes of the world’s oldest existing guide dog school with a guided tour of the campus including the student dormitory, canine veterinary clinic, and main campus kennels. They also got a chance to meet working Seeing Eye dogs and puppies in training, watch a training demonstration and talk to Seeing Eye dog handlers and trainers! Other events such as the Gran Fondo NJ Bike Ride, Seeing Eye Day at Greenberry’s, Seeing Eye Night at Dublin Pub, and Sweet Treat Night at Heavenly Temptations were all held in support of The Seeing Eye.
Club Updates

West Milford VelveTEENs 4-H Rabbit Club

It's official! Announcing the West Milford 4-H VelveTEENS Rabbit Club! Most, but not all of the children have pet rabbits, but there are a wide variety of interests within the members from agriculture to music and photography.

The club officially meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month on Macopin Road, but is looking for a larger, more permanent place to meet. Sometimes they have special meetings as well. All of the children are happy to have found a voice in the club and plan to develop individual interests and talents, try new things, and of course, learn about the management of animals, their needs, habits, uses and care. The club has been meeting for over a year, and in that time they raised a litter of Californian rabbits and had special field trips including one to the West Milford Photography Club. The growing membership agreed that they were having so much fun that it was time to start a charter and become an official 4-H club.

Club members were proud to have exhibits of home crafts, home-made jewelry, flowers and vegetables at the West Milford Autumn Lights Festival and to allow the public the opportunity to pet their rabbits on the beautiful day. A number of mothers said, “This is the first time my child ever petted a rabbit”. Club-member, Ariana Bos was often surrounded by a crowd that wanted to hold her baby lion-head bunnies. Participants Brendon Nager, Caitlyn Campbell, Rebecca Byrne, also displayed animals while club members Allie Porter and James Collins who do not have rabbit pets at this time helped with the public and the management details of the fair. A splendid time was had by all, and the children are excited about the upcoming year!

Preakness Aggies

The Preakness Aggies are off on another great year! We held our first meeting on October 2nd, where we made halloween wreaths, October 8th we went to the Passaic County 4-H fair, and October 15th we went apple and pumpkin picking! We have many great things planned for this year such as going star gazing, visiting the Benjamin Franklin museum in Philadelphia, and doing several community service projects. The Preakness Aggies typically meet the first and third Friday of the month. Our President is Julia Semeraro and our Organizational Leader is Michael Semeraro. If you have any questions about the Preakness Aggies, call (973) 696-1317.

The youth is the hope of our future.– Jose Rizal
August was filled with the Teen Crusaders volunteering at Preakness Healthcare Center. There they helped the residents play bingo and celebrate birthdays. Many were glad Residents see so many volunteers helping, and made the teens feel welcome. The Crusaders danced along during parties, served snacks, and announced the bingo victories of the senior residents. Sadly, our term of service ended when the flooding interrupted the last few days' work. The Crusaders were able to enjoy their last few days of summer with an outing to Monster Mini Golf and a picnic at Camp Hope in West Milford.

The Executive Director of Camp Hope, Karen Cisco, gifted the Crusaders with new sneakers donated by David Harris of the NY Jets and by Give the Kids Hope Foundation, a Schumacher Chevrolet non-profit organization. Plans for other volunteer activities filled the weeks of September and October. The Teen Crusaders attended the West Milford Autumn Lights Festival along with all the Passaic County 4-H Clubs. Throughout the day, the teens assisted in different booths, assisting with donation requests, temporary tattoos, Get Moving, Get Healthy and science activities. The "Doggy Rest Stop" was used for the good of the largest to the smallest of dogs.

The Passaic County 4-H Teen Crusaders have continued to help their community and their community has given them its support.

**Power Paws**

We are going in to our 3rd year!!! After much searching we have finally found a new meeting location. We are now meeting at the Rea House in Hawthorne. We have 1 new member – welcome Michael!! we are very excited for this new year!!

A friend is one who knows you and loves you just the same.—Elbert Hubbard
Happenings In The Community

Rifle Camp Park — Nature Center

Located adjacent to Garret Mountain Reservation, Rifle Camp Park is a major recreational component of the Passaic County park system.

Public nights at the Astronomical Observatory

☆ Orion Nebula, Jupiter, Pleiades — November 18th 8:00pm
☆ Moon, Jupiter, Orion Nebula — December 9th 8:00 pm

For information & directions Call 973-523-0024

Children's Workshops

☆ Come check out the brand new butterfly garden!

Children’s Workshops are designed for children ages 8-12 (grades 3-6). Workshop are held at the nature center. For more information call 973-523-0024.

Christmas event

At the Dey mansion with the New Jersey Militia/Heard’s Brigade; Come enjoy costumes re-enactors, musket drills, hearth cooking, 18th century dancing, crafters, demonstrations and so much more— Sunday December 4th 2011, 11:00 am to 4:00pm. Call 973-696-1776 for more info.

4-H Afterschool

Starting with the new school year, Passaic County 4-H has been running a gamut of afterschool programs within the Paterson area. 4-H staff are going out into the community, providing services to P.S. # 13, St. Paul's, Paterson Free Public library and Riverside Terrace. Throughout the school year we will be running a number of different programs working with many students at each facility. These programs include: Get Moving—Get Healthy which focuses on health and nutrition; Young Engineers which is a hands-on experience exploring the basics of applied science and a new art program focused on environmental and recycled art. Our programming and the number of students we reach continues to expand and we hope that will be the case for the years to come.

4-H 50/50 Raffle Winners

It’s here the moment you have all been waiting for the announcement of the 50/50 raffle winners. First of all a big thanks to everyone who participated win or lose, at the end of the day it’s about the kids and you lent a great hand to all the 4-H counties around the Garden State. And now without further adieu the Winners of the 50/50 raffle!

1st place – Kolbe, from Morris County
2nd place – Art Pfeiffer, from Passaic County
3rd place – Linda Zuroff, from Passaic County
Upcoming Events

November 2011

- 4-H Rutgerscience Saturday, Extreme Weather—Rutgers University—November 19th
- Thanksgiving Break—Office Closed—November 24th–25th
- National 4-H Congress—Atlanta, GA—November 25th-29th

December 2011

- Annual Awards Night and Holiday Dinner—Wayne, NJ—December 9th
- Christmas—Office Closed—December 26th
- Summer Camper Winter Reunion—Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp—December 27th–29th

January 2012

- New Year’s Day (Observed)—Office Closed—January 2nd
- Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed—January 16th
- 4-H Rutgerscience Saturday, Our Ocean World—Rutgers University—January 21st
- Teen Winter Camp (Bergen, Passaic, Somerset, Warren)—Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp—January 20th-22nd
- State Model Horse Show (Hunterdon County)—January 28th

Annual 4-H Awards Night and Holiday Dinner

Friday, December 9th, 2011
7:00-9:00 PM
United Methodist Church
99 Parish Drive
Wayne, New Jersey

Please join the Passaic 4-H members and their families on Friday, December 9th for our annual awards ceremony and holiday celebration. Help celebrate the achievements of our 4-H members and leaders at our Awards Night. Please contact club leaders or the 4-H office for RSVP forms and more information. Please RSVP by Monday November 28th 2011.

Look for the Winter issue of 4-H Happenings in February
READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

It's never too late to help. We are now seeking motivated individuals who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of youth. To learn how you can help please contact:

Marycarmen Kunicki—passaic4h@rce.rutgers.edu or call 973-684-4786

Other Ways to Connect With 4-H

National 4-H Website: http://4-h.org
New Jersey 4-H: http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu
On Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/4-h
On Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/4H

4-H Passaic County Newsletter

Marycarmen Kunicki
Passaic County 4-H Program Associate

Marcus Thompson
Youth Educator

Dawn Wilkes & Tyriek Lane
AmeriCorps Volunteers

Madalyn Lee
AmeriCorps VISTA

Kenneth Faillace
Program Assistant

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County
4-H Youth Development Program
317 Pennsylvania Ave., Room 204
Paterson, NJ 07503
Phone: 973-684-4786
Fax: 973-754-9812
E-mail: Passaic4H@RCE.Rutgers.edu

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF PASSAIC COUNTY

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