A Note From The Senior Program Coordinator

Sitting here in the bitter cold of 2015 I keep hoping that spring will just pop up and surprise us! I hope everyone is staying warm and safe during this brutal winter. Even though winter has been snowy, cold, and icy that hasn’t stopped our 4-Her’s from keeping active and busy in their clubs. We started off the winter with a very successful Awards Night with all clubs and thier members in attendance. Throughout this winter our clubs created Valentine’s Day cards to donate to Passaic County residents who receive Meals on Wheels; we created a total of 650 Valentine’s Day cards this year. Thanks everyone! Teens from both the Teen Crusaders and the VelveTeens attended this year’s Teen Winter Camp. As the winter hopefully comes to an end we are gearing up for the first ever Passaic County 4-H Science-sational Day and the 2015 North Jersey Teen Conference. As most of you already know I am expecting the arrival of my little girl in the near future so I will be out of the office for a couple of months. In the meantime Kenny will be keeping things moving here in Passaic County. We have lots of great events and activities coming up and we hope to see many of our 4-Her’s participating in them all. Here’s to a happy and warm spring!

Public Presentation Night

- Public Presentation Night is May 1, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the Public Safety Academy in Wayne (Same location as Awards Night).
- Registration forms are due Thursday April 2nd.
- Remember to select what type of presentations you will be doing, the name of the presentation and how long it will be.
- Remember to bring all necessary items for your presentations with you.
- No Animals allowed.

If you need help with your registration contact your club leader. Registration form on page 7.

Can’t make it on May 1st? Make-Up your presentation at Bergen County 4-H Public Presentation Night.
When: Friday, April 24, 2015 at 6:30pm
Where: 1 Bergen County Plaza, 3rd Floor, Hackensack

“Snow provokes responses that reach right back to childhood.” ~ Andy Goldsworthy
Club members from the West Milford Velveteens and Passaic County Teen Crusaders joined teens from Bergen, Warren and Somerset County 4-H for a weekend of fun at this year’s Teen Winter Camp. Teens made the best out of a frosty weekend, they went on hikes, played improv games and made cookies. Thanks to all the teens and chaperones for making Teen Winter Camp 2015 a memorable one!

Another Great 4-H year was celebrated at the Annual Passaic County 4-H Awards Night and Holiday Dinner. With over 120 people in attendance this is our biggest awards night yet and we’re still growing! Thank you to all who attended and for the amazing food! (Sorry about the long line we are working on it!) Here’s to another great year of making the better best!

The New Junior Council Club is off to a great start!

One of the biggest clubs in the county, another great year for the Velveteens!

Huge thanks to our leaders for continuing to volunteer their time and to our new leaders welcome to the family!

Thank you to all who donated to Toys for Tots!
Club Update — I See For You Puppy Club

Two puppies, Autumn and Callie, have recently gone back to The Seeing Eye to begin four months of formal guide dog training. To take their place, Arrow and Clipper were welcomed by their puppy raisers, and are participating in club activities and outings.

On November 22, eleven puppies and their raisers visited Rockaway Mall to experience crowds of holiday shoppers and enjoy the Christmas decorations. They went up and down the elevator several times, and practiced good manners in the food court while their raisers had lunch. Abe, Autumn, Mimi, Reggie, Octavia, Victoria, Jibber, Callie, Cagney, Chekov, and Arrow had an exciting and tiring afternoon.

The annual 4-H awards dinner was attended by Autumn, Mimi, Cagney, Callie, Octavia, Owen, Reggie, Victoria and their puppy raisers. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food (not the puppies) and the good company. It was nice to see our young members honored for their hard work during the year.

On December 13, Victoria, Arrow, Jibber, Reggie, Mimi, Autumn, Chekov, Callie, Cagney, Libby and their families represented our club at the Pompton Lakes Holiday Stroll. In spite of the cold weather it was fun to meet people and talk about The Seeing Eye and what we do as puppy raisers.

The first weekend in January, two of our puppies went to Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. Victoria and Reggie and their families enjoyed a performance of Elf, a holiday musical. This event was arranged by the Morris County Puppy Club.

Our club visited the Stephen J. Gerace elementary school in Pequannock on January 23 to present two programs for students. Mimi, Arrow, Octavia, Jibber, Chekov, and Reggie demonstrated the commands they learn from their raisers. Our leader, Colleen Reilly, explained the puppy raising program to the students and told them how the puppies are named. Students at the school are participating in the “Pennies for “Puppies” program and raising money to be donated to The Seeing Eye to help with the expenses of training a guide dog.

Mimi and her raiser went to The Prudential Center in Newark on January 30 to see a Devils hockey game. The crowds, noise, and excitement of a hockey game are excellent experiences for puppies. Other puppies will also be going to Devils games over the next few weeks.

The members of our club have been busy making Valentine’s cards for the “Meals on Wheels” program. These will be presented to recipients on Valentine’s Day.

The “I See For You” puppy club meets at 6:45 p.m. every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at the Pompton Reformed Church on Hamburg Turnpike in Pompton Lakes. Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting and learn more about raising a puppy for The Seeing Eye.

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.” ~ Helen Keller
Hello and Happy New Year everyone! Arianna here, reporting that the Velveteen’s have been working ‘round the clock! This is my fifth month as president, and I’ve been learning about the many aspects of the community in which we participate! Our members work with all kinds of organizations such as the Beautification and Recycling Committee, the West Milford Library, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the West Milford Time Bank, and Sustainable West Milford. Recently the Lions Club asked us to do a presentation on our Seed Bank! The club made 30 special Thank You cards for soldiers in harm’s way which Ritchie Gomm’s Tire offered to pay postage to send them to the Goodyear Tire “Support Our Troops” Campaign.

We were scheduled to make 100 Valentine's Day cards for Meals on Wheels, but unfortunately our meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm. In other news, three club-members, including myself, had a fantastic time at 4-H Winter Camp where we went hiking, played cards, and ate yummy camp food like S'mores. A great time was had and we made new 4-H friends from all over the state. Club-members also went to a movie sponsored by Sustainable West Milford who invited us to join the Community Garden. The Wallisch Estate has also invited us to their site.

Did you know the VelveTeens do animal rescue? Yep! This year we have already rescued 9 rabbits in poor condition. Our friend Lois helped get ear mite medicine and ear wash from Dr. Cuccio, and they are being fostered out with some of our farm friends since all of our cages are currently occupied. Club-members rescued a boxer-pit bull mix named “Peanut” from a local junkyard who was living without shelter, and after being fostered, he was recently adopted to a forever home. Hayley has been working all winter with a deaf dog and a feral cat named “Tiger Lily”. With her hard work, she has made it more friendly, with our friends at North Jersey Community Animal Shelter where she is a registered volunteer.

Club-members have also worked with Close-to-Home Animal Rescue and Sanctuary, where animals come from kill shelters as far away as Kentucky! Did you know if you cannot commit to adopt an animal, you can foster a puppy or kitten for just one week? Or, if you drive around NJ, you could offer to transport animals to rescue personnel even as close as Central Jersey, just send an email to doggiedogrescue@aol.com or call 973-715-2113.

4-H Liberia has thanked us for the donation we sent and wants to partner with the VelveTeens via email! This is an interesting opportunity to be a part of and we are very excited to learn more about the international scene. Murad’s successful Seed Bank project has received a generous donation from High Mowing Organic Seeds which we would be happy to share with our friends at 4-H Liberia, if needed.

We are looking forward to spring and will start growing tomato, eggplant and pepper seedlings. They need the most time because spring comes late here in the Highland mountains. Since spring is around the corner, we are preparing our incubators for our exciting Spring batches of chicks! The VelveTeens also have many fun events and activities planned for Spring that I am looking forward to share with you in the next newsletter.

“Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.”

~ Swami Sivananda
Club Updates — Junior Council

During the September Club meeting the Junior Council members did a cup stacking challenge. We had to work together to figure out how to stack the cups as a team. In December all 4-H members went to the awards night at the Public Safety Complex in Wayne, NJ. We all went to the café to have dinner. Then 4-H leaders gave out awards, pins to different groups. In December the Junior Council went to Barnes and Nobles on Route 46. The group gift wrapped books and anything the customers brought from the store and fundraised $131.00 dollars. At our January club meeting Junior Council members created Valentine's Day cards for "Meals on Wheels". We discussed our future plans with the money that we raised from fundraiser at Barnes and Nobles. We also divided the money up between the group, $15 dollars a piece for the “Discover the Leaders in You” conference that’s in March 2015. At our last club meeting we made dog fleece blankets to donate to a local animal shelter. Also we brought in dog, cat food to go long with the blankets. On the next meeting we are baking dog biscuits to put in the baskets for the animal shelter.

Preakness Aggies

This season the Preakness Aggies have played with arts and crafts while working on potential entries for public presentation night and the county fair. At our last meeting the Preakness Aggies made hundreds of Valentines Day cards for our community service for the residence at the Preakness Healthcare Center.

We've also recently gone on our annual snow tubing trip where the clover buds had a wonderful time in this years winter wonderland. We will continue to work on educational crafts themed on all of the 4 H's.

The Hoofers

The Hoofers said goodbye to 2014 by celebrating our members time in 4-H at the 2014 Passaic County 4-H Awards Night. Here the Hoofers acknowledged our newest members and our oldest who have been in the club for over 4 years now! The Hoofers also celebrated the end of 2014 with a December party where they had some snacks while watching Secretariat, a movie about the horse who is still considered the greatest racehorse ever.

The Hoofers then rang in 2015 by learning about the many different kinds of horse breeds. From thoroughbreds, to quarter horses, to miniature horses, the Hoofers learned about the origins and defining aspects of a variety of horse breeds. At the end of January the Hoofers were able to hold a bake sale during a horse show held at the North Jersey Equestrian Center where the Hoofers hold our monthly meetings. With a great output from the club members, the Hoofers were able to raise over $80.00! It was well worth sitting in the cold for an hour or two! This money will help the Hoofers explore their interest in horses on horseback, through a trail ride as well as hopefully a riding lesson in the spring or fall! The Hoofers are also planning on holding more bake sales at future NJEC shows as well as selling our repurposed and decorated horse shoes in the future!

In February the Hoofers were able to learn about the many different disciplines of horseback riding. There are so many different ways to ride a horse, that it is difficult to fit all the disciplines into a two hour meeting! But with the help of some videos from YouTube and some extra knowledge from the owner of the North Jersey Equestrian Center Karl Bauer and his son Karlson, the Hoofers were able to see what many of these riding disciplines involve. Next month the Hoofers are going to put their knowledge to the test with a game of horse BINGO which will cover all of the topics they have covered since September 2014! The Hoofers are excited to test their previous knowledge and to get some more hands on lessons with the horses in the upcoming months as the weather gets better!
Upcoming Events

March
☆ March 13-15 — North Jersey Teen Conference, Pompton Plains, NJ
☆ March 21 — Discover the Leader in You! Regional Leadership Conference North, New Brunswick, NJ
☆ March 21 — NJ State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, Freehold, NJ
☆ March 22 — NJ State 4-H Equine Presentation Contest, Bordentown, NJ
☆ March 28 — NJ State 4-H Sheep and Goat Video Contest and Film Festival, New Brunswick, NJ

April
☆ April 11 - 16 — National 4-H Conference, Chevy Chase, MD
☆ April 18 — NJ State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest, Oldwick, NJ
☆ April 24 — Bergen County 4-H Public Presentation Night, Hackensack, NJ
☆ April 25 — Rutgers Day, New Brunswick, NJ

May
☆ May 1 — Passaic County 4-H Public Presentation Night

4-H Camp

March
☆ 3/14 — Earlybird Rate for summer camp registration ends.
☆ 3/28 — Community Service Day: 10 am - 2 pm. Come help get camp ready for the summer! We will be setting up the dining hall, waterfront and cleaning up around camp. Lunch is provided, so please RSVP.

April
☆ 4/11 — Range Day! - 10 am - 1 pm. Come help get camp ranges ready for the summer! A BBQ lunch and a fun shoot will follow the range clean up.
☆ 4/12 — Rain Date for Range Day

May
☆ 5/9 — Community Service Day: 10 am - 2 pm. Come help get camp ready for the summer!
☆ 5/15 -5/17 — Outdoor Family Weekend
☆ 5/16 — Celebrate Camp Open House: 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm.

Look for the Spring Issue of 4-H Happenings in May!
Passaic County 4-H Public Presentation Night
Registration Form
Friday, May 1, 2015
6:00 pm
Public Safety Academy
300 Oldham Rd.
Wayne, NJ 07470

Please arrive at 6:00 pm for check-in and set-up.

If you would like to present, please return this form by Thursday, April 2, 2015:
passaic4h@aesop.rutgers.edu and/or fax to 973-305-8865

Which type of presentation are you giving? (Check One):

Demonstration __________
Group Demonstrations __________
Illustrated Talk __________
Performing Arts__________

NAME: ____________________________________________ CLUB:____________________________

ADDRESS: _________________________________________ PHONE: ___________________________

_______________________________________ GRADE: ______ BIRTHDAY ___/___/___

YEARS IN 4-H? ______ CLOVERBUD (K-3)? ____ NUMBER OF PAST COUNTY PRESENTATIONS GIVEN: _____

PRESENTATION TITLE: ________________________________

BRIEF EXPLANATION: ___________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

LENGTH OF PRESENTATION: ____ MINUTES (Cloverbud (Grade K - 3rd) should be 3-7 min. (Grade 4th - 8th) must be 7-15 min. (Grade 9th - 13th) must be 10-15 min. Please time yourself; don’t guess)

PLEASE NOTE: The 4-H MEMBER is responsible for providing all equipment needed for the presentation. If you require special assistance, call the 4-H Office 973-684-4786 or email at passaic4h@aesop.rutgers.edu by Thursday, April 2, 2015

_______ YES! I will bring a tray of cookies or other baked goods for refreshments at the Awards Ceremony.

GOOD LUCK AND SEE YOU PRESENTATION NIGHT!
4-H Expressive Arts at Rutgers Day

On Rutgers Day, April 25th, Saturday, between 10AM and 4PM, on the College Avenue Campus, Voorhees Mall, 4-Hers from throughout the state are invited to do presentations, performances and artistic exhibits as part of our Expressive Arts 4-H “Imagination in Action” station. This is the sixth year that Expressive Arts 4-H has celebrated our 4-Hers’ creativity at the annual Rutgers Day celebration.

☆ Through expressive arts, 4-Hers have the opportunity to explore their creativity and individual uniqueness.
☆ Encourage your 4-Hers to be a part of Imagination in Action and Rutgers Day. This is a non-competitive event. 4-Hers can submit art created in their clubs, or at school. Or perhaps they wish to perform a dance, song, skit, or puppet show. They may wish to present their entries for county Public Presentations or share their 4-H fair entries.
☆ Deadline for submitting registration forms to my office is April 17th. Please note that the registration forms require member, guardian, club leader and 4-H Agent/4-H Program Associate signatures.
☆ A completed event permission form is required for any 4-Her attending Rutgers Day. Registration and event permission forms can be e-mailed, mailed or faxed. (Please contact your club leader for registration forms)

4-H Passaic County Newsletter

Marycarmen Kunicki
Passaic County 4-H
Senior Program Coordinator

Kenneth Faillace
Passaic County 4-H
Community Assistant

Erin Holswade
Americorps VISTA

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County
4-H Youth Development Program
1310 Route 23 North
Wayne, NJ 07470
Phone: 973-684-4786 Fax: 973-305-8865
E-mail: Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu
Passaic County 4-H Website: passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu
New Jersey 4-H: www.nj4h.rutgers.edu
National 4-H Website: www.4-h.org

New Jersey 4-H Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewJersey4H
Passaic County 4-H Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Passaic-County-4-H

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF PASSAIC COUNTY

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