



### *Inside this Issue*

4-H From Home	2
Club Updates	2-6
In The Community	7
Upcoming Events	7
Recognition	8
4-H Camp/Contact info	8

### A note from your 4-H Agent

Happy New Year to all our Passaic 4-H families. With the new year upon us, I would like to thank everyone who has played a critical role in keeping the 4-H program up and running here in Passaic County. Thanks so much to all our 4-H volunteer club leaders, you all have been amazing during a very difficult time. Thank you for sticking together and continuing to support the Passaic County 4-H program. I would like to thank all our 4-H families for sticking around as well and welcome back to a new 4-H year! I would also like to welcome all our new 4-H club members and families! Welcome to 4-H! I wish everyone many new adventures, much happiness, good health, peace, joy, and love in 2022. I am glad to be able to continue to help the Passaic County 4-H program "Make the Best Better"!

Marycarmen Kunicki, 4-H Agent

### A note from your 4-H Assistant

Many of you have already met me, but for those who have not, my name is Jennie Thomas. I began working for Passaic County 4-H back in April 2021. A little about myself, I was a Passaic County 4-Her when I was in high school and I was part of the *I See 4 You Puppy Club*. The *I See 4 You Puppy Club* was a club that partnered with The Seeing Eye, a guide dog school located in Morristown, N.J. I am still a puppy raiser for the Seeing Eye and I am currently raising my 9th puppy, JoAnn.

In December 2020, I graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a B.F.A. in Photography. I am always willing to talk about cameras, photography, and anything art related. I am excited for the upcoming year and I look forward to interacting with you all and getting to know you!



"That person who helps others simply because it should or must be done, and because it is the right thing to do, is indeed without a doubt, a real superhero." -Stan Lee



**4-H From Home Presents:**  
**Winter Fun!**

Interactive Webinar every Tuesday in  
January and February from 4:30 pm  
to 5:30 pm

Open to all youth in 4th grade and up. Youth do not  
need to be enrolled in 4-H to participate.

\*One session for youth in grades K-3, Tuesday January 25th -  
Fun Winter Crafts

Learn about animal adaptations in the winter,  
mindfulness activities, recipes, and much more!

To register: <https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/4h-from-home/interactive-webinars.html>



## ALPACA PALS

This club is looking forward to getting back to meeting and working with the alpacas



Spinning wool from the alpacas



Alpaca at the County Fair

“Heroes are made by the path they choose, not the powers they are graced with.”— Iron Man



# JUNIOR/TEEN COUNCIL

Our membership is growing this year, 10 of our previous Preakness Aggies moved up to join the Junior Teen Council this year. This is very exciting as everyone is learning how to expand their leadership skills and they will each take turns leading our group every month.

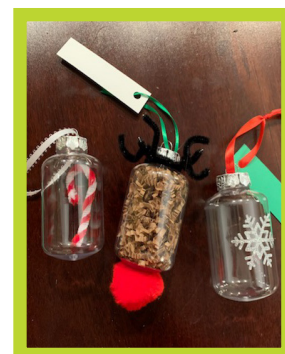
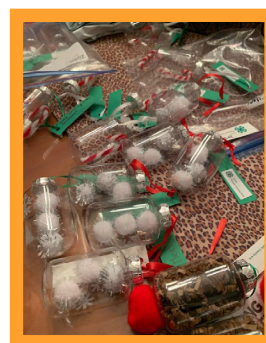
September started off with a fun activity of making blankets for the local animal shelter. We created 15 blankets in all to be used in the adoption cages of dogs and cats. In October, six of our members assisted the Rutgers Master Gardeners with harvesting and packaging 32 lbs. of leafy greens which were donated to CUMAC, a local food pantry. In November, we painted almost 100 clam shells with inspirational quotes and donated them to the Preakness Healthcare Center for the residents to enjoy and be uplifted. During December, the members decorated small bottle ornaments and donated almost 60 of them to a battered women's shelter for the holidays. This was greatly appreciated by the center staff who gave them out to the residents, to brighten their day.

Our plans for January include our annual Valentine's Day card making for Meals-on-Wheels recipients which we look forward to. Other plans include possibly having speakers / presenters come in to provide us with information on topics of interest. We look forward to a great year as Jr. Teen Council members!

By: Maureen Ritchie



Parsley harvest at the High Tunnel



Bottle ornaments made at home in lieu of December meeting



Bountiful harvest at the High Tunnel!



Seashell painting in November

“You can’t think about saving the world. You have to think about saving one person.” - Peter Parker.



# PREAKNESS AGGIES



Club members write names on shells



Donations made to a local shelter

The Preakness Aggies, our youngest club, with members in grades K-5, started off the new club year in October with an Open House to recruit new club members. With 11 brand new 4-H club members it's going to be a very exciting year for our youngest Passaic County 4-Her's! The Preakness Aggies would like to welcome Declan A., Alyssa D., James F., Victoria F., Jacqueline L., Veronica L., Carissa M., Emily N., Isabella P., Ella R., and Owen W. to the Passaic County 4-H family.

For the first official club meeting in November, club members worked together to create their very own club rules. Club members also decorated their own seashells to take home with them. Shells were donated to the club by the Junior/Teen Council club. The Aggies also held a food drive to donate nonperishable items to a local food pantry.

During the December meeting, club members made holiday cards. They used construction paper, markers, crayons and glue to make beautiful snowmen. They also has some science fun creating "Melting Snowman". Using a mixture of corn starch and water, club members tried their best to construct a snowman before it "melted". The club quickly learned that if they stopped interacting with the mixture, it would become liquid again. This substance also known as Oobleck (a non-Newtonian substance) with the properties of both a solid and a liquid. Club members will be meeting virtually in January, learning how to make a reusable bag from an old t-shirt. Club members are looking forward to a year filled with learning new things, having lots of fun, and making new friends.



Club members make holiday cards



4-Hers attempt to create snowmen before they "melt"



"I have no idea where I'm going to be tomorrow but I accept the fact that tomorrow will come and I'm going to rise to meet it." - Donna Troy (Wonder Girl)



# STEM AMBASSADORS / SCIENCE PATHWAYS

We ran our elections at our November meeting. For the position of president we have Ashley C., for vice president we have Sophia L., for co-President we have Axcel G., for co-vice president we have Jonathan C., for Secretary we have Andrea D., for Treasurer we have Axcel G., and lastly for Health Officer we have Christian R.

Our plan for this club is to teach our new, younger STEM Ambassadors the many different STEM related activities we do in 4-H. This will make it easier for when our seniors graduate. The group will be in good hands to continue the work we have done in the past. We also plan on doing different community service activities like making donations to our local services groups within our county because giving back to the community is the 4-H way! We have certain fundraisers in the works to help with scholarships our club members may need for upcoming 4-H activities. Teaching back to children in-person is something we are trying to get back to.

The reason I joined STEM Ambassadors was because of my older sister. My older sister was a shy and timid person before joining 4-H. Once she joined the group she branched out and blossomed into an outgoing and charismatic person. She used those new skills she attained to help others from different places and gained knowledge in the field of STEM. Because of this I aspired to also give back to the community by teaching science to the children in my community. 4-H gave me a sense of welcoming and opportunity to learn and grow

By: Ashley C.



Binary Beads at Passaic County Fair



Sequence Activity at December Meeting



Sharing circle at December Meeting



Human Coding Activity at September Meeting

“Life doesn’t give us purpose, we give life purpose.” – Barry Allen (The Flash)

# EMERALD ARCHERS

Hello!

My name is Serina and I am one of the leaders of the Passaic County Emerald Archers. After a long 2020, as a club we are so excited that our members have returned safe and healthy and ready to resume our club! We also want to welcome Nick L. and family to our club!

We're happy to have you come and grow with us.

In preparation for our monthly meetings, we elected club officers, took inventory of all our equipment, and discussed future purchases that will be needed. On a more fun note, every year we participate in creating Valentine's Day cards to donate to Meals on Wheels. The kids really have a good time and take pride in their work knowing that their cards will make so many smile.

In January, as part of a Service Project for our community, we will be participating in a county-wide donation of much need personal care items to donate to the Passaic County Women's Shelter.

By: Serina Montalvo



## 2022 Agri-Science Summit

March 10-13, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda

At the National 4-H Youth Summit on Agri-Science, high school students develop the skills and knowledge needed for the challenges facing agriculture, food security, and sustainability. Students will work with each other and experts in the agricultural community in this collaborative, hands-on educational setting.

**Application:** Use the QR code to register. **Application is due by January 15, 2022** and youth selected to be part of the NJ delegation attending the Agri-Science Youth Summit will be notified no later than January 31st 2022.



“Because no matter how small an act of kindness or generosity or simple positivity you put out into the world, it will make a difference.” —Wonder Woman



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Clifton Library STEM Summer Programming

The STEM Programming included different activities such as:

- Create and Make Ooblek
- Bristle/Scribble Bots,
- Sensory Fun
- CS Unplugged
- Sinking and Floating



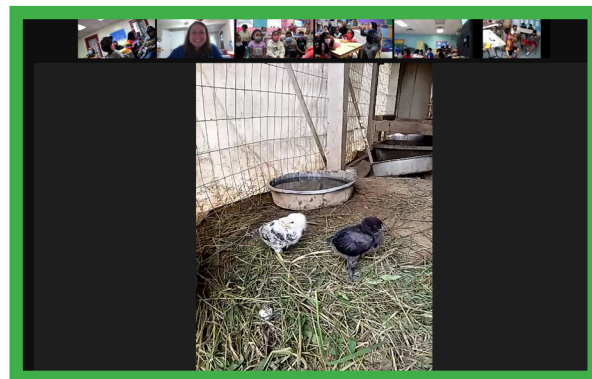
## CS Unplugged at Memorial Day Summer Camp in Paterson, N.J.



Campers strategize during Human Coding

## Animal Science Camp at Memorial Day Summer Camp in Paterson, N.J.

In-person campers with virtual presenters from all across New Jersey!



Amy Rowe gave campers a virtual farm tour

## 4-H Stem Challenge “Galactic Quest” at Clifton Library



Two youth work on the Cosmic Claw

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

January:

*Jan 29th:* MLK Day of Service Donation Drive Drop-Off for Passaic County Women’s Center

February:

*Feb 14th:* Valentine’s Day Cards for Meals on Wheels

For other state-wide virtual programs, activities, and clubs please check out:

<https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/4h-from-home/>

# RECOGNITION

These last two years Marycarmen has been recognized with several state, regional, and national awards as part of 4-H and Cooperative Extension teams.

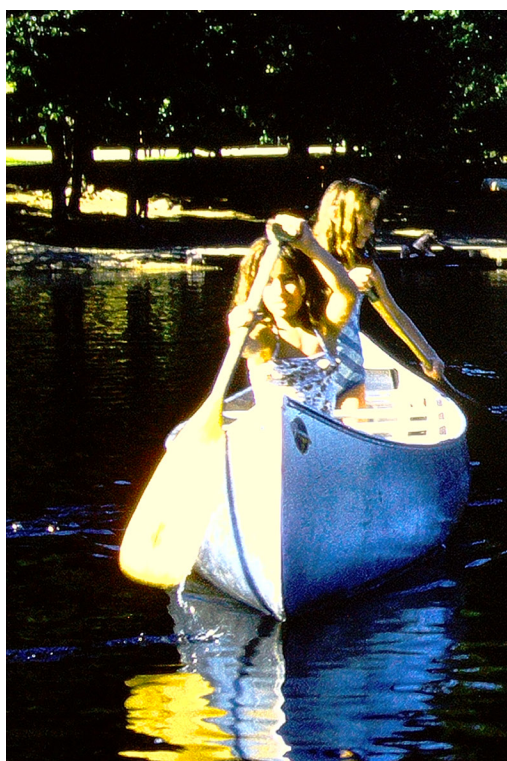
## December 2021

- The Passaic County Board of County Commissioners recognized the **Rutgers Cooperative Extension Food Waste Team** for being awarded four significant awards recognizing the teams' educational efforts regarding reducing food waste in Paterson Public Schools and beyond. (*Sara Elnakib, Jennifer Shukaitis, Amy Rowe, Cecelia Diaz, Marycarmen Kunicki & Marissa Staffen*)
- The School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station recognized both the 2020 and 2021 Team Excellence Awards at their Annual Awards Ceremony at Rutgers University.
  - 2020 TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARD - Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassador Team**  
(*Christine Bean, Sara Campbell, Kendrin Dyitt, Kenneth Faillace, Patricia Irizarry, Marycarmen Kunicki, Richard Lathrop, Janice McDonnell, Jim Nichnadowicz, Sharice Richardson, Chad Ripberger, Serafina Smith, Marissa Staffen, & Alesha Vega*)
  - 2021 TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARD - New Jersey 4-H From Home program**  
(*Jennifer Chudy Simon, Abigail Kesely, Marycarmen Kunicki, Matthew Newman, Jeanette Rae-Keywood, Susanne Ruemmele, & Marissa Staffen*)



## November 2021

- The National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals recognized the **NJ 4-H Computer Science (CS) Pathways** program as the National award winner for the **2020 Jim Kahler Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics Award** at their Annual National Conference in Memphis, TN. (*Marycarmen Kunicki & Marissa Staffen*)



## 4-H Summer Camp 2022

It's never too early to start thinking about summer camp!  
This year there is only availability for campers to sign up for one session of 4-H Camp

Session 1: July 4-9th  
Session 2: July 11-16th  
Session 3: July 18-23rd  
Session 4: July 25-30th  
Session 5: August 3-20th

For more information, contact the camp at 973-948-3550 or email them at [4hcamp@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:4hcamp@njaes.rutgers.edu)  
Visit thier website: <https://nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/>  
The Lindley G Cook 4-H Camp is located at 100 Struble Road Branchville, NJ 07826



## New Jersey 4-H Photo Corps



The NJ 4-H Photo Corps is open to youth in grades 4-13 (one year out of high school). You do not need to be enrolled in 4-H Photography Project to join Photo Corps. There is no cost to join or participate in the program.

Each month you can submit a photo based on that month's theme and your photo will be evaluated by professional photographers. They will then give you feedback and advice on how to make the best images!

Theme for January 2022:

What I See



January's theme invites you to share your perspective. Show us how you see the world or use your subject to ask the question.  
Submission due by 1/31/2022

To sign up, go to: <https://nj4hphotocorps.fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/15369>

For more information email Ellen Williams at [williams@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:williams@njaes.rutgers.edu)

## Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County

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**Passaic County 4-H Website:** [passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu](http://passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu)

**New Jersey 4-H:** [www.nj4h.rutgers.edu](http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu)

**National 4-H Website:** [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org)

**New Jersey 4-H Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/NewJersey4H](http://www.facebook.com/NewJersey4H)

**Passaic County 4-H Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Passaic-County-4-H](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Passaic-County-4-H)

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. For additional information, contact: 973-684-4786 or [nj4h.rutgers.edu](http://nj4h.rutgers.edu). Cooperative Extension encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you need special accommodations, have questions about physical access, or require alternate means for program information, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3583. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact your local Extension Office for information regarding special needs or accommodations. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3583

*Cooperating Agencies:* Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." – Superman