



THE LEBANON LANTERN

SUMMER 2026

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LEBANON BOROUGH!



Photo: Corey Smith/Ace Photography

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BOROUGH HALL SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Please be advised that Borough Summer Office Hours until Labor Day are:

- Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.



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06-5368

HONORING CHIEF KEVIN SAHARIC



Live Like Kevin...

The Lebanon Borough Community, Hunterdon County, and fire departments from across the region lost a true legend. The overwhelming turnout at Kevin Saharic's funeral service was both humbling and deeply inspiring.

One story shared during the service told of Kevin climbing into a truck during a dangerous situation so the driver would not have to face his final moments alone. Judging by the outpouring of love and support at the service, there are undoubtedly countless other stories that reflect the kind of man Kevin was — stories of the lives he saved, the people he comforted, and the individuals he mentored and inspired. Do you have a memory you would like to include..... a funny story? All is welcome....

The Borough would like to invite you to share your memories of Kevin, big or small. How did Kevin touch your life? What act of kindness, courage, or mentorship will you never forget? Submissions can be kept anonymous if you choose.... Please just share your stories....

Send your stories to clerk@lebanonboro.com. Please put Live Like Kevin in the subject line. These memories will be compiled as a gift to Kevin's family and as an inspiring reminder of the impact one person can have on a community — a guide for all of us to "Live Like Kevin."



RECREATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Lebanon Borough Recreation Committee has had a busy and exciting year as we continue celebrating our borough's centennial.

One of our recent highlights was the **Centennial History Talk** by Lebanon Borough Historian **Joe Hauck**. Joe presented a fascinating look back at the people, places, and events that have shaped our community over the past 100 years. The many pictures displayed during the event can be found on the borough website. If you attended the talk, please stop by Borough Hall to pick up your commemorative Centennial pin.

Mark your calendars for our **Centennial Bingo Night** on **Aug. 14**. Join us for an evening of fun, prizes, and community spirit as we celebrate 100 years of Lebanon Borough. See page 9 for more information.

Another exciting event coming up is **Music in the Park**. The concert will take place on **Sept. 12**, from 4 to 7 p.m., with music by The Reel to Real Country Band and Clinton Music Studio. Hope to see you there!

Also, the **Centennial Gala** is scheduled for **Dec. 4**, featuring High in the Mid 80's at the Polish American Club. We would also like to congratulate the winners of our **Centennial Poetry Contest**. We were thrilled by the creativity and talent of everyone who participated. Their poems beautifully captured the history, character, and spirit of Lebanon Borough. We encourage everyone to take a moment to read these award-winning entries and celebrate the talented writers in our community. You can find them on the borough's website and the Lebanon facebook page.

Children's Division Winners

- Teju
- Gianna Lentini

Adult Division Winners

- Joseph Cuthbert
- Courtney Mezinis
- Sitara Chagi

Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest and to all who continue to support Recreation Committee programs and events. We look forward to seeing you at Centennial Bingo, Music in the Park and other community activities.

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LEBANON'S GARDEN CLUB: KEEPING THE BORO BEAUTIFUL

The Lebanon Boro signs were refurbished and surrounded by summer plantings, warmly welcoming visitors!



The Garden Club beautified the entrance and flagpole area at Holjes-Sheppard Memorial Park



The Garden Club's patriotic red, white and blue summer plantings at the new barn and pavilion in the park



The Garden Club's beautiful red, white and blue summer floral containers can be seen throughout



The Lebanon Boro Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in Borough Hall. After a brief July break, our next club meeting is Aug. 11.

At our monthly meetings, we discuss a variety of topics and hold various activities. These include gardening tips, floral and plant-themed crafts, guest-speaker topics such as Master Gardeners of Hunterdon's "Talks" and information about the club's upcoming projects and activities. These are generally focused on making Lebanon's streets and public spaces look beautiful so that they shine all four seasons of the year!

All are welcome to join us. We'd love to hear your ideas for ways we can further beautify our town! Roll up your sleeves and let's get planting and decorating together!

Last but far from least, we would like to thank the local businesses and individuals that have generously donated goods, services and support to the club. They include:

- **Hionis Greenhouses** for flowers and plants for our containers and gardens around town
- **Bishop's Market** for flowers and cookie platters
- **Clinton ShopRite** for flowers
- **Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County** for presenting the garden-related "Talks" program
- **Lebanon Fire Department** for watering our newly planted Green Giant Arborvitae
- **Flemington Tractor Supply** for donating soil
- **Mayor Jim Pittinger** for his laser designs
- **Karen Romano** for her constant support

All of our **Garden Club Members** who give their time, hard work and enthusiasm



LBS: A YEAR OF JOY, LEARNING, AND MILESTONES

As we close the books on the 2025–2026 school year, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on everything our community has accomplished. This was a year defined by the spirit of “Better Together” — a theme that proved itself in classrooms, in the gym, on the stage, and in the ways our families, staff, and students showed up for one another every single day.

Our students continued to grow academically and as individuals. They demonstrated curiosity, resilience, and genuine care for one another, exactly the qualities we hope to nurture at Lebanon Borough School. Watching them thrive never gets old.

I also want to recognize our outstanding faculty and staff. Teaching and working in a small school requires versatility, dedication, and heart and our team brings all of that every day. This year we said farewell to Mrs. **Lauren Baldoni**, who retired after 25 years of devoted service to Lebanon Borough School. Lauren’s impact on generations of students, families, and colleagues cannot be overstated, and we wish her and her family all the best in this well-earned next chapter.

May and June were busy and joyful, as always. Our students delivered a wonderful spring performance of Seussical Kids, and Field Day was a highlight for students and staff. A special thanks to our PTA for their support of this event and to our local fire department, which is always on hand to cap of the day with a fun way to cool off!

This year also brought a significant milestone for our school community: we held our very first 5th Grade Promotion ceremony, celebrating our students as they prepare to join our 7th and 8th graders at Clinton Public School. It was a proud moment for everyone in the building, and a wonderful new tradition. This was in addition to our final 6th grade promotion ceremony where we honored all the years that those students spent with us.

(Continued on page 16)



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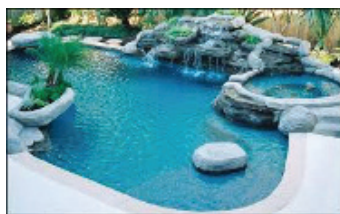
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CHELSEAS ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET FOR THE WORLD CUP

With the 2026 World Cup in full swing, Chelseas on Rt. 22 has been a hot spot for both hard core and fair weather fans. And come the final on July 19, one lucky patron will hit the jackpot.

"We created a passport so every time someone comes in, even if they only watch a game for five minutes, they get a stamp. And with that, they're entered into a drawing to win a table for eight friends," explained **Maria Wellbrock Bachert**, who has owned the restaurant since 2008.

Weather permitting, she'll have a big flat screen TV in the greenhouse area playing the championship game, which will also be playing on the TVs inside the restaurant. "It's going to be fun! It'll be loud inside – that's what happens during football season. But that's what makes it great."

Her big splash for the tournament, which happens every four years and began in June, is part of the personality that Wellbrock Bachert has been building for nearly 20 years.

"The World Cup has created a great opportunity for fans to gather, cheer together and enjoy the excitement in a fun local atmosphere," she said. "When someone walks into Chelseas, I want them to feel like they've just walked into a place where everybody knows they belong."

That has included hosting repasts for families who have lost loved ones to come to a family-oriented place to reminisce. Or for families to celebrate the baptism of a newborn.

"Recently we had a family come up from Florida after their dad passed away because when he lived here, Chelseas was his favorite place," she said. Wellbrock Bachert said she spoke to the man's wife, who was planning a repast for 40 people. She didn't know the woman but when she came up from Florida and showed Wellbrock Bachert a picture of her husband, she recognized him immediately.

"She plans for 40 people and it turns into 85. Her kids told me they remembered being here when they were younger. I said 'look at all these people coming for your dad. You have to be so proud.' It's rewarding to see generations of families celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and everyday moments with us."

Wellbrock Bachert prides herself on being flexible and ensuring customers get what they want, even if it's not on the menu. Sometimes, that's created challenges so she's narrowed the menu, tilting it back toward an English pub-style restaurant like it was decades ago. "I don't want to be a diner, but I still can make your favorite dish, which I think makes it more special."

So in addition to her award-winning wings, burgers, seafood and soup, you'll find shepherd's pie, bangers and mash and other English pub favorites.

While the food may be a draw, it's the atmosphere and community that really matters.

"Our biggest accomplishment isn't an award – it's seeing familiar faces coming back year after year, and watching new guests become regulars," she said. "Our goal is simple: Great food, genuine hospitality and a place where everyone feels welcome."

Wellbrock Bachert said she is grateful for the support she's received over the years from Lebanon Borough, a place where people naturally get together.

"We're excited about the future and look forward to continuing to serve Lebanon. Not just as a restaurant but as a place where people come together to celebrate life's moments."



This plaque on the wall at Chelseas was given to owner Maria Wellbrock Bachert by George Melick. It's from a former iteration of the restaurant (see the date at the top?) when it existed on the north side of Route 22, not the south side, where it is today.

Photos by Greg Crawford

The History of Lebanon's Bicentennial Tree



Photo by Greg Crawford

A committee of volunteers came together in late 1975 with the intention of making the 1976 Fourth of July special. They were successful by all accounts. The New York Times printed a glowing article about the parade and the estimated 10,000 observers. It was the biggest, but I think their estimate was a little high.

Vince Wilson, whose wife **Marge** was very involved in the community, planted a tree as one memorial. Vince was commissioned to find, buy, and plant the tree. A red oak, the state tree, was purchased and planted off to the north side of the ball field. It thrived there for around 10 years. When the new school was built the playground was renovated. Why stop there? The driveway was improved, parking was added, and the ball field re-oriented. The batting cage was moved from the northeast corner to the south-east corner.

That meant that the tree, now a good 4-5 inches in diameter, was in right centerfield! Of course it couldn't remain there. Fortunately, a kind backhoe operator, who was working on the school project, agreed to rip the tree out of the ground and relocate it. It was moved up the little hill adjacent to the ballfield and it's still there today. It took several years of caring and tending, but the tree did survive the move. Although it was rudely interrupted by the move, it continues to thrive and is now 24" dbh (diameter at breast height).

And so this year is not only 100th anniversary of Lebanon and the 250th anniversary of the United States, it's the 25th anniversary of our memorial tree. Hopefully it will last at least another 50 years!

By Joe Hauck

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LEBANON REFORMED CHURCH

Lebanon Reformed Church invites the community to join us for a variety of family-friendly events this summer and fall!

🎵 **Music on the Lawn** — Bring a lawn chair and enjoy an evening of music and fellowship on the church lawn.

- **July 24** — David Gove
- **Aug. 14** — Ed Jankiewicz & Tom Johnson

📖 **Ecumenical Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

Our VBS program is tentatively scheduled to begin on **Monday, June 29**, and continue on Mondays throughout July. More details will be announced soon.

🎨 **Family Craft Night** — **Thursday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m.**

🎬 **Family Movie Night** — **Saturday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m.**

🎨 **Family Craft Night** — **Sept. 16 at 7 p.m.**



CELEBRATING

100

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CENTENNIAL

BINGO!

 AUGUST
14


7:00 PM


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A collage of 15 photographs capturing various scenes from a patriotic parade in Lebanon, New Jersey. The photos are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping. The central image is a large red sign for 'CHIEF KEVIN SAHARIC' featuring a photo of a man in a military uniform and the number '18'. Other photos show floats with 'USA' and 'Celebrating 100 Years of Lebanon Borough' banners, a red tractor, a marching band, a child on a bicycle, a group of people holding flags, a float with 'BOROUGH OF LEBANON' and '100' signs, a group of people holding a 'Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Service Unit 81' banner, a group of people holding a 'Troop 200 on the Eagle Scout Trail since 1950' banner, a vintage car, a child on a bicycle, and a person in a Uncle Sam costume holding a flag. The photos are all in color and have a white border, giving them a scrapbook-like appearance.

Photos courtesy of **George Kopp Photography** | george@georgekopp.com/201.709.1355 | www.georgekopp.com | [instagram.com/george.kopp1](https://www.instagram.com/george.kopp1)

[illegible]

Photos courtesy of **Corey Smith/Ace Photography**

EXCITING SUMMER PLANNED FOR TROOP 200!

Troop 200 has had a great year.

Congratulations to **Garrett Gross** for earning 2nd class rank, **Rylen Seelig** for earning first class rank and **Teddy Abeles** for earning Scout rank. The troop welcomed **Jake Hatt** and **Trevor Melrose**.

In July, **Sean Verlin**, **Oliver Sudol**, **Gavin Martorana**, **Rylen Seelig** and **Nirvan Dinesh** will embark on an unforgettable adventure at Philmont Scout Ranch, Scouting America's premier high-adventure camp in New Mexico. The group will spend two weeks camping and hiking over 60 miles. In addition, many Scouts will attend summer camp at Rodney Scout Reservation in Maryland.

Troop 200 welcomes new members!

The troop is open to any boy in 5th through 12th grade.

Meetings: Mondays at 7 p.m.

Location: Skunk House, Lebanon Reformed Church



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Smart Patient: Listen to Your Mother and Use Your Sunscreen!

Sunscreen is often thought of as a way to prevent sunburn, but it also plays an important role in maintaining your skin health. In the summer, we spend more time outdoors as we march in Lebanon Borough's 4th of July Parade, garden with the Garden Club, vacation at the beach, play outdoor sports or take walks in town. While sunshine can improve your mood (vitamin D is great for bone health) too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation can damage your skin and increase your risk of cancer.

Effective sun protection includes using a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher. Many people assume a higher SPF means dramatically better protection. But while higher SPF provides more UV protection, the difference becomes smaller as the number increases, so an SPF 30 blocks about 97% of UV rays and an SPF 50 blocks about 98%. SPF 100 provides only slightly more protection than SPF 50. Proper application matters more than the number on the bottle.

Most people do not use enough sunscreen for it to work as intended. For full-body coverage, the general guideline is about one ounce or about two tablespoons total. For the face and neck, most people need about a half to one teaspoon, often described as the "two-finger rule" when applying sunscreen along the length of two

fingers. Each arm requires about one teaspoon, each leg about two teaspoons and the torso and back require additional coverage.

There are two main categories of sunscreen, mineral, which creates a protective barrier that blocks UV radiation, and chemical, which uses ingredients that absorb UV radiation before it damages the skin. In June 2026, the FDA added Bemotrizinol (BEMT) as a permitted sunscreen ingredient, the first new one in decades. It provides strong UVA and UVB protection and it is lightweight and less sticky so it may encourage daily use. People always ask whether price matters. The most expensive sunscreen is not always the best sunscreen. A reasonably priced sunscreen used every day is more protective than an expensive product left unused.

Remember, skin cancer prevention begins with everyday choices. Protect your skin, understand your products and have a safe and enjoyable summer!

By Councilwoman Marlene G. Baldinger, RN



Beyond the Tan: A Teen's Guide to Smart Sun Protection

Sun safety is an aspect of life in which small habits can make a big difference. Many teenagers and young adults spend a lot of time outdoors at the beach, pool, sports practices, vacations, and activities with friends. Being outside is part of a healthy lifestyle, but it is important to understand how to protect our bodies from too much sun exposure.

Many people think a tan means you look more radiant. But a tan is the skin's response to UV exposure. The darker color comes from increased melanin production after the skin has been stressed by ultraviolet radiation. There's a common misperception that a "base tan" prevents sun damage and makes the skin safer. That is not true.

UV exposure can also contribute to eye damage, including an increased risk of cataracts and other eye problems. Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses labeled with UV protection. And don't forget, your scalp is also exposed to the sun just like the rest of your body. You can wear a hat, cap or visor and use sunscreen products designed for the scalp, such as lightweight sprays, mists, or powders that can be applied without making your hair feel heavy or greasy.

Many teens and young adults want a sun-kissed glow, especially during the summer. Social media and beauty trends can sometimes make tanning seem like a sign of being healthy or active. Indoor tanning beds can be especially concerning because they expose the skin to concentrated UV radiation. This exposure can damage skin cells and increase the risk of skin cancer, including the most difficult to treat, melanoma.

If you like the look of a tan, sunless tanning options, such as self-tanning lotions, creams, mousses, or spray tans can provide color without the same UV exposure from tanning beds or intentional sun tanning. While sunless tanning products can change skin color, they do not provide sun protection, so sunscreen is still needed when spending time outdoors.

Looking healthy and protecting your health can go together. The best "glow" is one that does not come at the expense of your future skin health. Enjoy the summer!

By Ava Joy Baldinger

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July

All meetings are held at Borough Hall unless otherwise noted.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Snr Game Day 1 p.m.	2 Enviro/Shade Tree 5 p.m.	3	4 
5	6	7 Historical Cmte 5 p.m.	8	9 LBSA 7:30 p.m.	10	11
12	13	14 Land Use 7 p.m.	15 Snr Game Day 1 p.m. Council 7:30	16	17	18
19	20 Snr Bingo 1 p.m.	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Rec. 6 p.m.	30	31	

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Snr Bingo 1 p.m.	4 Historical Cmte 5 p.m.	5 Snr Game Day 1 p.m.	6 Enviro/Shade Tree 5 p.m.	7	8
9	10	11 Garden Club 6 p.m. Land Use 7 p.m.	12	13	14 Centennial Bingo 7 p.m.	15
16	17 Snr Bingo 1 p.m.	18	19 Snr Game Day 1 p.m.	20 LBSA 7:30 p.m.	21	22
23	24	25	26 Senior Mtg 1 p.m. Rec. 6 p.m.	27	28	29
30	31					

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September

All meetings are held at Borough Hall unless otherwise noted.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Historical Cmte 5 p.m.	2 Snr Game Day 1 p.m.	3 Enviro/Shade Tree 5 p.m.	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Borough Hall closed	8 Garden Club 6 p.m. Land Use 7 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Music in the Park 4 p.m.
13	14	15	16 Snr Game Day 1 p.m. Council 7:30	17 LBSA 7:30 p.m.	18	19
20	21 Snr Bingo 1 p.m.	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Senior Mtg 1 p.m. Rec. 6 p.m.			



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LBS: A YEAR OF JOY, LEARNING, AND MILESTONES

(Continued from page 6)

To all of our students heading to CPS, congratulations! We are proud of you and know you will carry the values and spirit of LBS with you. You will always be part of this school.

We are also excited about the completion of the park renovation! We are thrilled that our students will head into the 2026–2027 school year with an improved outdoor space that will make recess more engaging and enjoyable for everyone. It is a wonderful addition to our town and school community, and we look forward to seeing the children make great use of it. Thank you to borough leaders for their stewardship of this project.

Thank you, as always, to our families for your trust, your involvement, and your partnership. It is a privilege to serve this community. Wishing everyone a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer!

Budget Update

The Board of Education approved the 2026–2027 school budget in May. Budget information is available on our website at www.lebanonschool.org. The approved budget reflects a responsible approach to managing district resources while maintaining the high-quality programming our students and families deserve.

Our budget supports a comprehensive academic program that includes general education and special education services. Our specials program in art, music, library, Spanish, enrichment, and physical education continues to provide students with experiences that broaden their view of learning and develop individual talents and skills.

We continue to invest in our building and grounds as the centerpiece of the Lebanon Borough community, maintaining and improving the spaces where our students learn, play, and grow.

Registration for 2026–2027

If you or your neighbors have children entering kindergarten through 5th grade in September 2026, please register as soon as possible at www.lebanonschool.org. Early registration helps us plan class sections and staffing more effectively.

We are planning preschool and kindergarten welcome opportunities in August. Registered families will receive more information later this summer. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to reach out:

Mrs. Muia: rmuia@lebanonschool.org

Mrs. Duell: tduell@lebanonschool.org

Dr. Arcurio: barcurio@lebanonschool.org

Thank you again for your continued trust and partnership. I am proud of everything we have accomplished together, and I look forward to another strong year ahead. Lebanon Borough School is a special place and that is entirely because of the people in it.

**Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio, Ed.D.**

Superintendent, Lebanon Borough School District

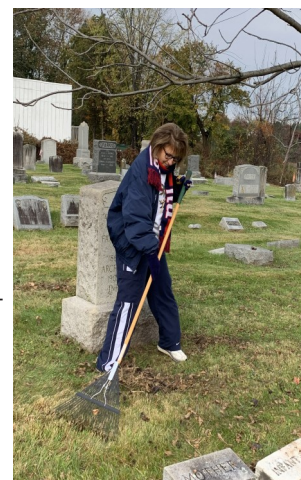
HELP PRESERVE UNION CEMETERY — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have loved ones buried at Union Cemetery in Lebanon? Are you interested in local history, or do you want to see this peaceful resting place well maintained for many years to come? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, you're invited to make a difference by volunteering with the Union Cemetery Association.

Association volunteers have completed the foundational work of creating bylaws and ensuring the cemetery is in compliance with rules and regulations.

The association is seeking new members to manage the operational activities of the cemetery. The time commitment is minimal — quarterly meetings and two annual cleanup days — but you can make a big impact, not only for the cemetery but the broader community.

Please consider joining this dedicated team by Sept. 1. Your involvement will help ensure the cemetery remains a place of remembrance, dignity, and community pride. For more information, email unioncemetery100@gmail.com or visit our website at www.unioncemeteryoflebanon.org.



THE BOROUGH'S BEST DECORATED HOUSES



Winner: Toni Ehasz and Wade Ashton, 2 High St.



Runner up: The Seeligs, 87 Brunswick Ave.

PARADE FLOAT WINNERS!

Congratulations to all the winners and everyone who participated in this year's parade!

Best theme: Lebanon Garden Club

Most original: Cheleas Pub

Best children's float: Girl Scout Service Unit 81

Most patriotic: Boy Scout Troops 200, 288 and 121

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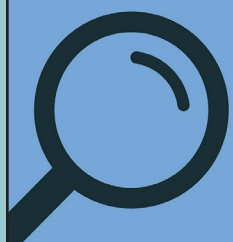
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Lebanon Borough Governing Body

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