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# The Family Buzz

Bancroft's Electronic  
Communication for  
Families.

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## Upcoming Events

**May 10 - 14**  
**United by Autism Book Fair**

To benefit Bancroft and other autism causes

**Location:** All Barnes & Noble stores on Tues.  
May 10 only; online May 10 - 14

**Book fair voucher:** [click here](#)

**Online shopping instructions:** [click here](#)

**Wednesday, May 18**

6:30 - 8:30 pm

**An Overview of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**

*Bancroft Developmental Disabilities Workshop Series*

**Location:** Farrington building,



Patrick Ritchings appears fascinated by Spooky the screech owl, who paid a special visit recently to The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility.

## Students meet, learn about zoo animals

About 20 students at The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility enjoyed a recent visit from some furry, feathered and scaly friends. Yep - the zoo came to us!

Specifically, Laurie and Sam of the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown, Pa., brought a menagerie for our students to see and touch, including Okeechobee the baby alligator, Oley the skunk, and Barley, a big Flemish rabbit.

Student Patrick Ritchings, 10, used his communication board to tell Laurie what animals he wanted to see. Although his first choice was a horse (which, unfortunately, couldn't fit into the zoo's minivan), his second request - a bird - generated a screech owl named Spooky.

Haddonfield Campus  
**Contact:** Pat Reid  
**Phone:** (856) 524-7453  
**Email:** [preid@bnh.org](mailto:preid@bnh.org)

**Tuesday, June 7**

8 am - 4 pm

**Golf Invitational**

**Contact:** Debbie Conner  
**Phone:** (856) 524-7023  
**Email:** [dconner@bnh.org](mailto:dconner@bnh.org)

**Monday, June 20**

7 - 8:30 pm

**Bancroft School  
 Graduation**

**Contact:** Carla Riley  
**Phone:** (856) 524-7341  
**Email:** [criley@bnh.org](mailto:criley@bnh.org)

**Wednesday, June 29**

8 am - 1 pm

**Clarence York Lecture**

**Contact:** Kathy Ross  
**Phone:** (856) 348-4008  
**Email:** [kross@bnh.org](mailto:kross@bnh.org)

**Wednesday, June 29**

**Family Welcome  
 Orientation**

**Location:** Farrington  
 building, Haddonfield  
 Campus  
**Contact:** Kathy  
 Nazarok  
**Phone:** (856) 524-7366  
**Email:**  
[knazarok@bnh.org](mailto:knazarok@bnh.org)

**Saturday, September  
 24**

10:30 am - 3 pm

**Bancroft Day**

**Location:** Challenge  
 Grove Park, Cherry Hill,  
 NJ

**Contact:**  
 Debbie Conner  
**Phone:** (856) 524-7023  
**Email:**  
[dconner@bnh.org](mailto:dconner@bnh.org)

"This was such a great opportunity for our children to experience wildlife up close and personal," said Principal Colleen Valentino. "Their smiles, eye-widening and body expressions truly said it all, and we are eternally grateful!"

The school serves young people who live at Voorhees Pediatric Facility, a long-term care center for those who are medically fragile and/or technology-dependent.



**Hard-hat area:** Workers construct a new residence on the Mullica Hill Campus. For more photos, [click here](#).

## New facilities take shape in Mullica Hill

There's great excitement at our Mullica Hill Campus, as new buildings are rising before our eyes! Since kicking off construction last fall, the first group of new residences is now well under way.

This modernization of our Mullica Hill facilities is a key component of Transforming Our World | *The Campaign for Bancroft*. (The Campaign also focuses on enhancing technology organization-wide, and a variety of other critical needs.)

Many adults who are supported in Bancroft programs may at some point transition into or out of Mullica Hill, as their needs change. Plus, the renovations will enable all

people supported by Bancroft - and members of the community - to take part in campus activities.

Want regular updates on the campus construction and/or the campaign? Please register for our members-only blog at [www.campaignforbancroft.org](http://www.campaignforbancroft.org).

Do you know someone who doesn't use a computer, but would like to stay informed? Please let them know they can receive a printed version of the blog by mail, by calling Linda Wasilchick at (856) 348-4002.

## Staff appreciation: Donations, prizes needed asap!

Our Staff Appreciation Festival is just a few weeks away, so donations are needed now for staff prizes.

So far, \$1,250 has been given by 29 contributors - but we still have a long way to go to reach last year's total of \$10,000!



Please show our dedicated, compassionate employees - including the staff who work with your loved one - how much you appreciate all they do.

Gifts of money enable our Family Council to purchase prizes for our staff. You may also donate new, unopened items we can use as prizes, such as electronics, home goods or gift cards.

To make a donation, call Sue Crouse at (856) 524-7479 or email [scrouse@bnh.org](mailto:scrouse@bnh.org).

Questions? Contact any member of Bancroft's Family Council, or call Bancroft executive Dan Keating at (856) 524-7372 or email [dkeating@bnh.org](mailto:dkeating@bnh.org).

***Thank you in advance for you generosity!***

## N.J. governor shows support



Governor Chris Christie speaks at his recent Town Hall Meeting in Mercer County, N.J.

***The following item was provided by the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP). It has been edited for space and style.***

Kim Todd, NJACP CEO, was invited as a guest of Autism New Jersey, along with Jack Mudge, executive director of Advancing Opportunities, to join N.J. Governor Chris Christie in his reserved seating area during his most recent Town Hall Meeting at the Grounds for Sculpture in Mercer County. NJACP greatly appreciates the opportunity to have a front-row seat at the event and its partnership with Autism New Jersey.

After four years of advocating for support for rebalancing the system to support community inclusion and the urgent need for community-based services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the bipartisan support of key members of the Legislature, most notable Assemblyman Greenwald, it was a distinct pleasure for NJACP to hear the governor's targeted comments and ardent support and hope for the growing number of people with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Governor Christie spent a considerable amount of time discussing the challenges and redirection the administration is undertaking, in response to a question posed by a parent of a child with autism who was concerned about the future. The governor pointed out that New Jersey is 49th in the nation with a high rate of institutionalization, despite research that clearly

demonstrated that it is better for people from a quality of life and medical perspective to live in the community.

In his remarks, Christie also referred to the fiscal situation related to providing services to people with developmental disabilities, calling it a "looming crisis for the developmental disabilities community." He spoke of the lack of adult resources, extensive Community Services Waiting List, our dependence on institutional care, and the growing number of people "aging out" of the educational system with few options after age 21. He noted this is a cost society will bear if we do not act, warranting his attention and action.

The issue is personal for the governor as well, as he referenced friends whose children have autism. He noted the efforts of his wife, Mary Pat Christie, who has a special interest in autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities, and her dedication to creating better futures.

NJACP extends great appreciation and thanks to the governor for all his efforts.

## Conference on self-direction

*Registration deadline is May 6*

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities is sponsoring the following event:

The New Jersey Self-Directed Supports Conference  
*Decisions, Decisions: My Life, My Home, Our Community*  
**Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21**  
Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center  
Somerset, NJ

The conference is "a fun and welcoming place to learn and share experiences related to self-direction," according to its organizers. "It is a place to share struggles and successes from all perspectives, whether you are purchasing supports, a family member, or provider organization. Individuals and organizations not yet involved with self-directed supports are highly encouraged to come and learn more."

Friday events run from 1 to 9:30 pm and include a "world café," film and discussion, and a semi-formal dinner dance. Saturday events, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, include presentations, an art, music and resource show, and more. All activities are free, except the Friday dinner dance, which costs \$40 per person.

To register or for more details, click on the following links:  
[View brochure with conference details and instructions](#)

[Register now using the electronic form](#)

[View additional conference information on The Boggs Center web site](#)

Registration contact: [elizabeth.ong@umdnj.edu](mailto:elizabeth.ong@umdnj.edu) or call (732) 235-9327

## Advocacy group plans Family Fun Day

The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network will host:

### **SPAN Family Fun Day**

**Thurs. July 14**

10 am - 3 pm

at the Freedom Fest State Fair

78 Route 526

Allentown, NJ 08501

The event includes exhibits, live entertainment and unlimited rides. Cost is \$10 per person; free for children ages 2 and under. Sponsors and exhibitors are welcome.

To buy tickets online, [click here](#)



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