Greg Vartan, a member of the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad (http://summit.patch.com/listings/summit-volunteer-first-aid-squad-inc) Junior Program, was presented with a hero honoree award at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service celebration last week. The honoree award was based on an essay submitted by Liam Dwyer, a Summit Middle School student. In his winning essay on heroism, Liam described Greg’s courageous efforts to revive beloved middle school teacher, Mike Ryder, during the annual Stokes retreat last fall. “Greg deserves recognition for stepping up in a very difficult situation,” said Squad Captain Kari Phair after the event. “It says a lot about Greg, and we are lucky to have him as a member of the First Aid Squad.” We need more like him in our community—well done Greg, and thanks for the essay, Liam.

OVERLOOK NURSE HONORED FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LEADERSHIP

Lou Faraone, BSN, RN, CEN, NREMT-P, clinical coordinator for emergency services for Overlook (http://summit.patch.com/listings/overlook-hospital-28) Hospital (http://summit.patch.com/listings/overlook-hospital-28), who has drawn on his experience as both a paramedic and nurse to help guide staff and emergency medical service personnel at Overlook Hospital and its satellite emergency department in Union, recently received the Organization of Nurse Executives of New Jersey’s Aspiring Nurse Leader Award. The award, which honors aspiring acute care nurse leaders who demonstrate exceptional leadership, guidance and service to their institution and to the profession of nursing, was presented to Faraone at ONE/NJ’s annual Holiday Meeting and Awards Brunch in December. In a letter to Faraone, ONE/NJ’s president, Deanna Sperling, called Faraone’s accomplishments at the satellite emergency department, “truly outstanding.”

Faraone’s position as the clinical coordinator for emergency services, overseeing operations at both the hospital’s main campus in Summit, as well as its satellite emergency department, Overlook Hospital Emergency Services, Union Campus, has allowed him to draw on the skills he has developed throughout his career in healthcare, beginning as a paramedic, and then as a nurse. As a paramedic, he worked for Atlantic Ambulance, a subsidiary of Atlantic Health. He received a bachelor’s degree in nursing, from the College of Saint Elizabeth. “As a medic, your priority is stabilizing patient and getting them to the hospital,” Faraone said. “As a nurse, you’re looking at the global picture – their overall well being. You’re looking to get them better and able to leave the hospital.” The satellite emergency department offers a midpoint in that pathway of care, where patients brought by EMS are stabilized before sending them to Overlook or other hospitals where they will receive the care they need, Faraone said. While he said the switch to nursing was a natural progression, Faraone said his previous work as a medic provided him a level of understanding that facilitated interactions with EMS at the satellite ED. “Talking to EMS personnel is natural for me because of my background as one of them, which made communicating and aligning our efforts with them much easier,” Faraone said.

Among those efforts, Faraone provided community education as to the satellite regulations to all paid and volunteer Fire Departments and EMS agencies in the area. He also organized and facilitated a community-based EMS Council to provide a forum to discuss any related patient care issues and provide ongoing education. Sharon Kelly, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, manager of Overlook’s emergency services, said that the significant increase in volume that has occurred since the opening of the satellite ED is directly related to the outreach Faraone has made with the firefighting and paramedic community. “Lou’s passion, energy, dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for the nursing profession is overwhelmingly evident, as exemplified with his drive to make the Union Campus ED the model satellite not only in New Jersey, but nationwide,” Kelly said. In the aftermath of the closing of Union Hospital, Atlantic Health opened Overlook Hospital Emergency Services Union Campus in a section of the facility in Fall 2007, in order to maintain a source of needed, urgent medical care in the Union community.

Located 11 miles from the main campus of Overlook Hospital in Summit, the 23-bed satellite emergency department has seen an increase in volume since opening, today receiving about 26,000 visits each year. Kelly also noted Faraone’s quality-based initiatives, which have led to significant increases in patient satisfaction. These efforts include hourly bed rounding, tracking of nurses’ rounding behaviors, and a streamlined process decreased the time in which emergency patients were transferred to the cardiac catheterization lab by 10-15 minutes. “Lou exemplifies the work ethic and excellence that is demonstrated by leaders,” Kelly said. “He works side by side with his staff at the satellite, incorporating their ideas and gaining insight necessary to move the emergency department to the next level. He encourages teamwork and accountability, and sees to it that registered nurses are not only clinically competent but also have strong critical thinking and interpersonal skills. In addition, Lou creates a climate in which staff wants to do their best and be motivated.” Faraone credited his colleagues in emergency services with bringing the accomplishments of the department to fruition. “It’s very gratifying to be recognized in your field. At the same time it’s a little overwhelming,” Faraone said. “I can’t give enough credit to the people I work with. I won the award, but it’s the entire team in emergency services at Overlook that got me there.”
BUILDING SUMMIT WITH 60,000 LEGOS--CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?

There is still room for families to join in the fun of building Summit using 60,000 LEGO blocks. This annual family fun event is limited to 50 families, so hurry in to register before it’s too late. On Sunday, January 30, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., the largest LEGO construction project ever built in Summit, benefiting the Summit Historical Society, will be held at Washington School (http://summit.patch.com/listings/washington-school), 507 Morris Avenue. The Architectural Heritage Workshop is intended as a fun way to teach children, their parents and grandparents—even aunts, uncles and cousins—about the heritage of buildings in Summit. This is the fifth year for the workshop presented by Stephen W. Schwartz, AIA, Architect of SWS Architects, Livingston, New Jersey with the help of Summit Downtown, Inc. (http://summit.patch.com/listings/summit-downtown-inc) and Coldwell Banker (http://summit.patch.com/listings/burgdorff-realtors-3), who is sponsoring the workshop. Register for the event in person at Coldwell Banker at 401 Springfield Avenue. The registration fee is a minimum contribution of $25 per family, payable by check to the Summit Historical Society. Payment must be made at the time of registration to secure a spot at the event, which is limited to the first 50 families who register. Children must accompany their parents for the workshop, and spectators are invited to join the fun at no charge.

SHS SPRING TRACK AND FIELD MEETING

For all boys and girls interested in being on the 2011 Spring Track & Field Team, there will be a brief, but important sign up meeting on Wednesday, January 26 at 3 p.m. in the weight-room. Don’t miss this opportunity to be a part of the exciting and rewarding sport of Track & Field. There is an event for everyone and there is no bench. GET BACK ON TRACK! See Coach Adam Fern if you have any questions.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED?

Not surprisingly, the Catholic Church still holds Marriage sacred and honors couples for staying together. There are special anniversary liturgies celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. The Diocese wishes to recognize these couples and feels "the presence of a large number of couples will give favorable witness to the strength and stability of Christian marriage in today's society." For those who reach five, 25 and 50 years of marriage the masses are as follows. (contact your home church rectory to register in advance of these dates.)

May 1, 2011 at 3 p.m. for couples celebrating 50 years in Essex and Union Counties.

June 5, 2011 at 3 p.m. for couples celebrating 50 years in Bergen and Hudson counties.

June 12, 2011 at 3 p.m. for couples celebrating 25 years and five in all counties.

Spring and early summer is a very busy time of year so put the dates in your calendars for planning purposes—if you fit into these categories, you should enjoy the celebration and the recognition.

Want to announce something special in About Town? A birthday? Someone new move to town? Get a promotion or start a new job? E-mail summitpatchabouttown@gmail.com to spread the news.

Interested in a follow-up to this article?

About this column: About Town is Summit Patch's column about everything that's going on in town. It's our look at the lighter side of the news. If you're talking about it, we're writing about it. If you have a tip, send it to summitpatchabouttown@gmail.com.

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