Mayor’s Column

 The 1st Annual Bancroft/Chad Gunther Memorial Fund Picnic will be held on Sunday, May 21 at Lions Lake Park (rain date is June 4).

The fun begins at 6 p.m. with Wiffle ball games, badminton, Frisbee toss, horseshoes, a beanbag toss and fishing.

At 7 p.m., watch a softball game with players from the Bancroft Special Olympic Silver Medal winning team, Friends of Bancroft and the Voorhees Girls Softball Association (VGSA).

The snack bar will be open throughout the event serving free hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and snacks. Younger children can enjoy the playground and picnic tables will be available.

This event is not a fundraiser but just a fun evening to showcase the good work being done by Bancroft, VGSA and the Chad Gunther Memorial Fund for our special athletes.

With over 130 years of expertise in serving children with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities, Bancroft’s reputation for excellence is based on a commitment to providing a variety of individualized services, giving every child an encouraging and supportive environment to reach their maximum potential.

The family of Chad Gunther established a Memorial Fund that has provided young men and women scholarships to college through The Boys and Girls Clubs of America, purchased sporting equipment for the Promise School in Camden, sent needy youngsters to sports camps and provided food to underprivileged families in Camden. The fund has also sponsored the Below the Rim Basketball Program, supporting over 300 children in the Camden area. The last two years, scoreboards were provided to the Gibbsboro/Voorhees Athletic Association at Cricket Field on Route 561 and Rabinowitz Field on Kresson Road. This year, the Fund will continue to support the Youth Athletic and Community Programs in Gibbsboro and Voorhees, the Bancroft Special Olympics and the VGSA.

RSVP by May 14 to Megan Carroll (856-348-1145) or megan.emigh@bancroft.org.

This free event is made possible through the generous support of the Chad Gunther Memorial Fund, Ravitz Family Markets, Rosenblatt Roofing, BJ’s of Voorhees and Maple Shade and Third Base Sports.

\*\*The Voorhees Schools Color Fun Run will be held on Friday, May 19, at Connolly Park. Registration begins at 6 p.m. and the run begins at 6:30 p.m. Money raised from the event will help support technology and enhancements at VMS, ET Hamilton, Osage, Kresson and Signal Hill Schools. There will be music by Just Call Dawn DJ and other post run fun! For more information, visit [www.voorheesk12.nj.us](http://www.voorheesk12.nj.us).

\*\*The Animal Welfare Association will hold its “Paws & Feet 5K Run and Walk & Doggie Fun Day” on Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Eastern Regional High School. The day includes live music, food, activities and games for the entire family. For more information, visit [www.awanj.com](http://www.awanj.com)

\*\*The Voorhees Police Department will be conducting the annual free Bike Rodeo on May 20 from noon to 4 p.m. at Virtua Hospital Parking Lot D. This program will help your children ride with more confidence and will include training on crossing intersections, exiting driveways, getting around obstacles, staying visible to cars and more. The Bike Rodeo features age appropriate stations allowing kids to improve their bike skills under the supervision of adult volunteers.

\*\*The 9th Annual Alicia Rose Victorious 5k Run/Walk will be held on Sunday, May 21. Check in begins at 8:30 a.m. and the run/walk will start at 10 a.m. at Virtua Hospital, 200 Bowman Dr. in Voorhees. Cost is $30 for participants 19 and older and $15 for ages 5 to 18. The ARVF installs Teen Lounges in hospitals throughout the world. For more information, visit [www.victoriousfoundation.org](http://www.victoriousfoundation.org).