

Around Town: Hearing Loss Association to launch an Essex County chapter



The Hearing Loss Association of America is starting a new chapter in Essex County (*Star-Ledger photo file*)

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The Hearing Loss Association of America is starting a new chapter in Essex County to help families and individuals with services they need for hearing loss.

In Essex County, officials of the new chapter said hearing loss affects 157,000 people, which means one out of every five people living in the county are impacted.

"Our chapter will offer the mentoring and support that families need to manage hearing loss because it has reached the point where almost every family is affected by it," said Latisha Porter-Vaughn, the founder and president of the new HLAA Essex County chapter.

"Family members with normal hearing can be just as stymied by hearing loss, because misunderstandings fester when communication breaks down. No one should face hearing loss

alone."

Porter, the chapter's first president, knows the issue all too well. The Newark resident has severe sensorineural hearing loss, wears two hearing aids behind her ears and she reads lips.

The first meeting is from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. March 7 at the Union Public Library, 1989 Morris Avenue. It will feature Rashuan Boyd, a sophomore at Mount Lakes High School, who will talk about his everyday challenges as a teenager with hearing loss.

For more information, call (908) 397-5531.

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