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Carrying a Tune from Broadway to Old Bridge

OLD BRIDGE – A local high school chorus group brought a bit of Broadway to the residents at Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge Thursday afternoon.

Minus the neon lights and high-priced tickets, an all-female Old Bridge High School recital class performed a series of Gershwin-Theater-inspired songs, leaving their long-term care center audience raving for more.

“They get better every time they come,” belted out Roosevelt resident Jackie Clark, who’s counted herself among the choir’s fan base on previous occasions.

During its latest concert, the group plucked much of its melodies right off the sheet music from the acclaimed Broadway hit “Wicked.”

Scene-by-scene, Old Bridge High School Choral Director Steven Updegraff walked residents through the storyline of this longstanding musical, a prequel to “The Wizard of Oz.”

The singing troop of 18 junior-and-senior girls followed up with songs like: “I’m Not that Girl,” “Popular,” “Defying Gravity” and so many other favorites.

“This is a great opportunity for students to get in the community and give back,” Updegraff said post-performance.

It’s also the type of community outreach that resonates with the older generations, said Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge Administrator Alan Fialka.

“Our residents have really come to look forward to these visits,” Fialka said. “On top of its entertainment value, it’s a morale booster – not only for our residents, but I’d imagine for the students too.”

For more information on Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge, an operation overseen by the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, log onto www.rooseveltcarecenter.com.

MEDIA CONTACT: *Maria Prato, 609-655-5141, mp@mciauth.com*