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HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORT'S ATHLETES RECOGNITION

Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at the Town Conference Meeting, the following Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Athletes were honored: Ben Fleischer Cross Country First Team All County; Brandon Garcia Cross Country First Team All County; Madeline Bord Cross Country First Team All County; Michael Ferrara Boys Soccer First Team All County; Brogan Quigley Boys Soccer First Team All County; Cooper Heisey #1 in completed passes in 2017; #1 in passing yards with 3039 yards and which broke the previous school passing record in a single season, was named First -Team All - Area Football by the Courier News and was a 2017 Maxwell Football Club New Jersey Mini Max Award recipient.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Varsity Soccer Team has won the Union County Championships for the eighth season in a row. Team members are: Taylor Diggs; Ashley Vincent; Danielle Mrozek; Kaitlyn Mrozek; Gina Fahrenholz; Kayla Krutis; Brianna O'Brien; Erica Muskus; Sabrina DiLollo; Kylie Bierne; Kerri McNeely; Maria DelSordi; Isabella Corsaro; Stefanie DeVizio; Maggie Traina; Gabriella Kowlaczyk; Elizabeth Ley; Gabby Aloe; Maya Kessler; Isabelle Richardson; Michaela Genty; Maya Sutterlin; Jada Gomillion; Brooke Klurman; Corinne Lyght; Abigail Hanvey; and Jamie Valian.



(above, back) Mayor Al Smith and Councilman John Del Sordi Jr.; (front) members of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Varsity Soccer Team.

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(above l-r) Mayor Al Smith, Cooper Heisey and parents, and Councilman John Del Sordi Jr.



(abovet, l-r) Mayor Al Smith, Brandon Garcia.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email

editor@rennamedia.com

Fanwood Post is online at www.rennamedia.com like us on [facebook.com/Fanwood Post](https://www.facebook.com/FanwoodPost)

MEET MARYANNE CHRISTIANO-MISTRETTA YOUR CONTACT FOR NEWSPAPER CONTENT



Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Hello Readers!

I'm ecstatic to introduce myself as the new editor for Renna Media. It's such an honor working with Joe and Tina Renna; they are awesome!

Joe has asked me to write a little bit about myself for our readership, which is probably a great idea since I'll often be out

and about in the community.

Residing in Union County with my husband, Dennis, and our beloved cat Nicholas, my interests, besides writing and editing, include animals, music, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Writing professionally since 1995, I'm an award-winning journalist. I received my award from The NJ Society of Professional Journalists for investigative journalism. I'm also an author, public speaker, and poet (recently selected to read at the All About Eve Arts Festival at the West End Theatre in Long Branch, New Jersey).

Having a great passion for music, I've developed a unique library program called "The Learn & Listen Series" which pays homage to legendary musicians.

The two-fold presentation begins as I host, sharing a musician's biography – which I wrote – followed by actual live music from local New Jersey and New York talent. Librarians can choose from a variety of singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, Johnny Cash, Janis Joplin, and David Bowie.

I'm blessed to be able to work with performers like indie recording artist Keith Beck; jazz sensation Stephen Fuller (front man for Amani);

singer/performance artist, Anna Oh; and three-time Grammy winning producer, Rob Fusari.

"Learn & Listen" also includes Jayne DiGregorio and Rich Timberlake, who work behind-the-scenes filming for an upcoming documentary.

In addition to the "Learn & Listen" series, I also lecture on "History of the Newspaper Industry," "Going, Going, Gone: What the Next Generation Won't Remember" (seniors love that one!), and there's also a healthy foodies series, which includes sampling.

Now, if you've read this far, you may be asking yourself – how can this woman work so much and still have time to edit 21 newspapers? As Joe Renna himself says – "It's not work, it's a lifestyle." I somehow get everything done ... and with a big smile on my face.

When you have a grand passion for what you do, it doesn't matter what day it is. It could be a Monday, or a Friday, and you're equally as happy. Sometimes I'm home all day working in my pajamas; other times I'm having a blast taking photos at a Winter Walk. Whether I sleep in or get up super early to attend a town meeting, it's all good. In this line of work, every day is different, and every day is exciting.

In just one month of working for Renna Media, I've attended many fun affairs and met incredible people. It brings a tear to my eye when a child cheers, "I'm gonna be in the newspaper!" after I take his or her photograph. That's what it's all about – the essence of presenting a good story to the community.

So, don't hesitate to send me your community news. We call on the arts, fundraisers, nonprofits, new businesses – anything positive that should be in your local newspaper.

Reach me at 908-858-4012, or email me at: Editor@RennaMedia.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

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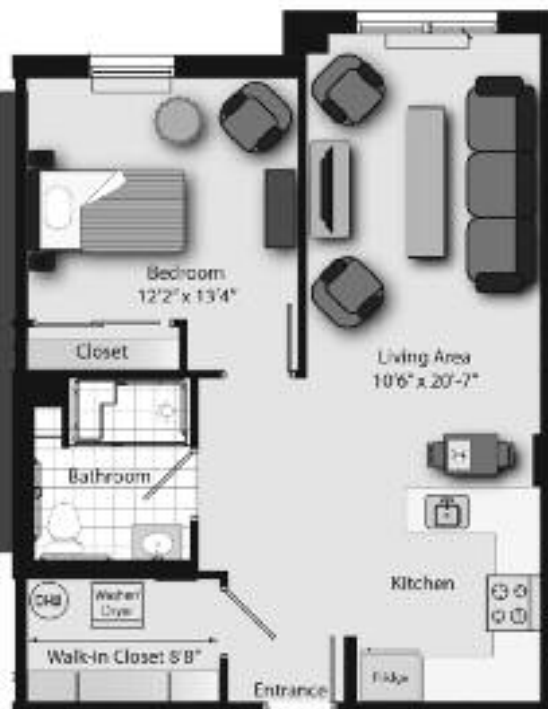


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SIMULATION DRIVES HOME MESSAGE OF SAFE DRIVING

If you drove past Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School last month you might have thought that there was a traffic accident on Happel Court. In fact, it was a drill brought about by the efforts of the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Police Departments, the Scotch Plains Fire Department, the Fanwood Rescue Squad, the Municipal Alliance Committee, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA Chemical Dependency Committee, and DECA, the co-curricular Marketing Club of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The purpose of this drill was for the senior class at the high school to witness a simulation of the loss of life and injury that happens when driving while distracted or under the influence.

The Raider's Don't Risk It Project was the brainchild of Marjorie Fitzgibbon, DECA Advisor, and SPFHS student Catie Currie, DECA

Executive Vice-President who spearheaded the involvement of the DECA Club members.

Throughout the school day, seniors went out to Happel Court during their Health and PE classes and watched the events unfold immediately as if there had been a crash. Students were able to witness a reality-based portrayal of the aftermath of the crash and the response by law enforcement, emergency personnel and family members. The event was to remind the seniors of the risks and legal ramifications of driving while under the influence or distracted as in texting, using a cell phone, or horse playing. Seniors Caitlin Bourke, Ryan Lopez, and Nate Redmount played the roles of the students in the vehicle. PTA volunteers Dawn Smith, Jennifer Powers, and Lisa Ciarrocca were featured in the roles of parents of the students.

The Raiders Don't Risk It Project is a dramatic presentation to educate the seniors of SPFHS about the true consequences of poor decisions while driving. When students see their friends and peers covered in a tarp and another being hand cuffed, it hits home. It is even more gut wrenching to see the reaction of the parent actors finding out that their teen did not survive the crash and how poor driving decisions can impact so many people.

After the reenactment, the seniors participated in a question and answer session with Sergeant Brown and Chief Ted Conley of the Scotch Plains Police Department, Chief Richard Trigo of the Fanwood Police Department, and Liz Knodel-Gordon the District Student Assistance Coordinator. After the Q&A, students were also able to tour the crashed vehicle.



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(above) Students participating in a Q&A session after the reenactment.

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FANWOOD SANTA PARADE

Submitted by Councilman Tom Kranz

Photos by Tom Kranz.



(above) Santa with Patrick Klouda.



(above) Santa delivers a present to a little girl on LaGrande Avenue.



(above) Mayor Colleen Mahr with words of thanks before the parade embarks.



(above) Group including Santa, Mayor Colleen Mahr, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Police Dept and family members who prepare the gifts for the Santa parade.

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FANWOOD SENIOR CLUB HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Fanwood Senior Club's annual holiday luncheon was held on December 11th at Snuffy's Pantagis in Scotch Plains.

The Fanwood Seniors Club meets weekly through most of the year and sponsors programs for Fanwood and Scotch Plains seniors including trips, guest speakers, fundraisers and other activities. Club President Joe Bruno has kept the organization going through the past few years.

Fanwood Council members Kathy Mitchell, Russ Huegel and Tom Kranz attended along with Police Chief Richard Trigo. The Moonglowers from Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School played holiday tunes.



(above) Councilman Tom Kranz
with Bob and Grace Kruthers.



(above l-r) Councilman Russ Huegel; Senior
Club president Joe Bruno; Police Chief
Richard Trigo; Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell;
and Councilman Tom Kranz.



(above) The Moonglowers
from Scotch Plains/Fanwood High School
played holiday tunes.

SCHOOL ONE KIDS CARE CLUB

The School One of Scotch Plains PTA SOS Committee along with the Kids Care Club, hosted a Thanksgiving Food Drive.

With the support of the School One families and staff the collection was a huge success. A

total of 662 food items were collected and organized for delivery to the Salvation Army of East Orange. The school is proud to serve the needs of their surrounding communities and spread kindness to others.



(above) Thanksgiving Food Drive 2017.

TEEN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: "YOUR TOWN THROUGH YOUR EYES"

If your child is in grades 6-12 and they have an interest in photography, the Fanwood Library Teen Photography contest is officially underway! Those interested must take a photograph that captures Fanwood-Scotch Plains through their eyes. This contest is open to all Fanwood-Scotch

Plains library card holders in grades 6-12. Must be your original photo and limited to ONE (1) entry per person. The deadline for submission is February 15, 2018.

For more information, visit the Fanwood Library site at: www.fanwoodlibrary.org

FANWOOD RECREATION WINTER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND SENIORS

CHILDREN

Fanwood Recreation's upcoming lineup of after-school programs offers a fun, exciting mix of the old and the new. Returning are such favorites as LEGO Club, Babysitting Certification Class, Junior First Responders, and Child's Play Challenge Course.

And, for the first time, for those young scientists who like creating things that are a little bit icky, Fanwood Recreation presents Slimeology!

Plus, for our youngest athletes, USA Sports Group offers several sections of Soccer Squirts (ages 3 to 5, 5 to 6)—indoors!

Most of these programs will begin the week of January 22, 2018. For more information, including detailed descriptions, dates, times, prices, and age group, go to fanwoodrecreation.org, where you can also register and pay.

SENIORS

Fanwood Recreation announces its fall program schedule for Fanwood seniors. Programs begin the week of January 1, 2018, and run weekly through the week of March 26, 2018. Classes include aerobics, yoga, zumba, water exercise and tai chi.

All classes will be held in the recreation building at Forest Road Park, with the exception of water exercise, which will be held at the JCC of Central NJ Wilf Jewish Community Campus indoor pool.

The fee is \$15 per program for Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents; \$30 for all others.

To register online and pay by credit card, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

Or, if you prefer to pick up a registration form and pay by check, please go to Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 N. Martine Avenue.

RESIDENT ROCK STAR, PAT DINIZIO, DIES AT 62

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Photo by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Fanwood Post • Page 9 • January 2018

Tuesday, December 12, 2017, Pat DiNizio, front man of The Smithereens, died at the age of 62. Causes of his death were not immediately revealed, though it was known he was suffering from health complications over the past few years, including nerve damage. But he continued to perform with his arm in a sling.

A resident of Scotch Plains, the lead singer and songwriter formed The Smithereens in 1980 with bandmates Jim Babjak, Dennis Diken, and Mike Mesaros.

Throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s they sold millions of records/CDs of their melodic pop alternative hits like, "A Girl Like You," "Only a Memory," "Behind the Wall of Sleep," and "Blood and Roses."

The video for "Blood and Roses" had moderate rotation on MTV. "Blood and Roses" was also featured on the 1980s TV show "Miami Vice." Other tunes were scored in many movie soundtracks.

The Smithereens' music also made its way into many New Jersey nightclubs such as Aldo's in Lyndhurst and The Loop Lounge in Passaic. They also played at New Jersey's original music club The Dirt Club, in Bloomfield, before their career skyrocketed.

In 1990 "A Girl Like You" broke into the Top 40, reaching No. 38 on the Billboard pop charts.

Throughout the years, The Smithereens tour-supported bands like the Pretenders, Tom Petty, and Bruce Springsteen.

DiNizio released several solo albums and in 2001 he launched his "Living Room Tour," where he'd perform at the homes of fans, by request. That same year, he was also one of the first musicians to support XM Satellite Radio, becoming a host and program director.

In addition to his recording successes, he had an audiobook called "Confessions of a Rock Star" and produced an independent film, "King Leisure."

In later years, DiNizio continued performing both with The Smithereens and acoustic solo shows. In 2015 he'd appear on a weekly basis at Crossroads in Garwood, performing intimate sets paying homage to bands like The Monkees, The

Rolling Stones, The Beatles, and The Who.

DiNizio, was not only a prolific songwriter, but also a fine storyteller. As he shared great tales in between songs at these informal shows, it was like getting a private basement rehearsal show. Afterwards, as always, he was accessible, casually chatting with fans and friends.

A diehard fan of The Who, DiNizio showed up at the Fanwood Library in 2015 when author Michael Rosenbloom, who wrote "When Stars Were in Reach," gave a presentation about The Who performing at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains back in 1967. From the audience, DiNizio participated by sharing anecdotes about being a music fan growing up.

Scotch Plains was dear to DiNizio. He lived in other places – England, Chicago, L.A., and New Orleans for a bit, but resided in Scotch Plains until his death. In 2010, he told The Aquarian Arts Weekly that it was the only place in the world he felt "centered" and that "New Jersey is my home."

Condolences to his family, close friends, and bandmates. DiNizio's music will live on in our hearts – much more than "a memory."



(above) Pat DiNizio performing at Duke Island Park, Bridgewater, New Jersey, 2013.

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CDC THEATRE PREPS CRIMES OF THE HEART

Rehearsals are underway for Beth Henley's "Crimes of the Heart" at CDC theatre in Cranford, New Jersey. Warm-hearted, irreverent, zany and brilliantly imaginative, the play teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their passions. "Crimes of the Heart" won Best Play from the NY Drama Critics Circle, was nominated for a Tony Award, and Beth Henley won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981. The 1986 film version was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

"The Pulitzer Prize is given to honor a distinguished play that deals in an original way with American life. It is no wonder Beth Henley was given this honor at the age of twenty-five for her very first professionally-produced play," stated Director Maurice Moran.

The cast is made up of Maeve Brady, Rebecca Dolan and Katherine Brown as the three Magrath sisters, Lenny, Meg and Babe, with Danielle Mastropiero as Chick, Joe Leo as Doc, and Zach Mazout as Barnette. The production will run from February 16 through 24 and details and tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org. CDC Theatre, New Jersey's oldest continuously producing community theatre, is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.

THRIFT SHOP FRESHLY STOCKED

The Thrift Shop at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church opened on Wednesday January 4th with freshly stocked clothing. There is a large selection of winter coats and clothing for children of all ages and featured at this time is a good selection of clothing for large women. Many of these items for sale are new or nearly new.

The volunteers who work at the Shop have

been busy and will be filling the shelves and racks continually.

The Shop will be open each Wednesday from 10am to 4pm.

The Thrift Shop is located on McDermott Place at the rear of the Church complex.

For further information and directions please call the church office at 908-889-8891 or e-mail admin@fanwoodpc.org.

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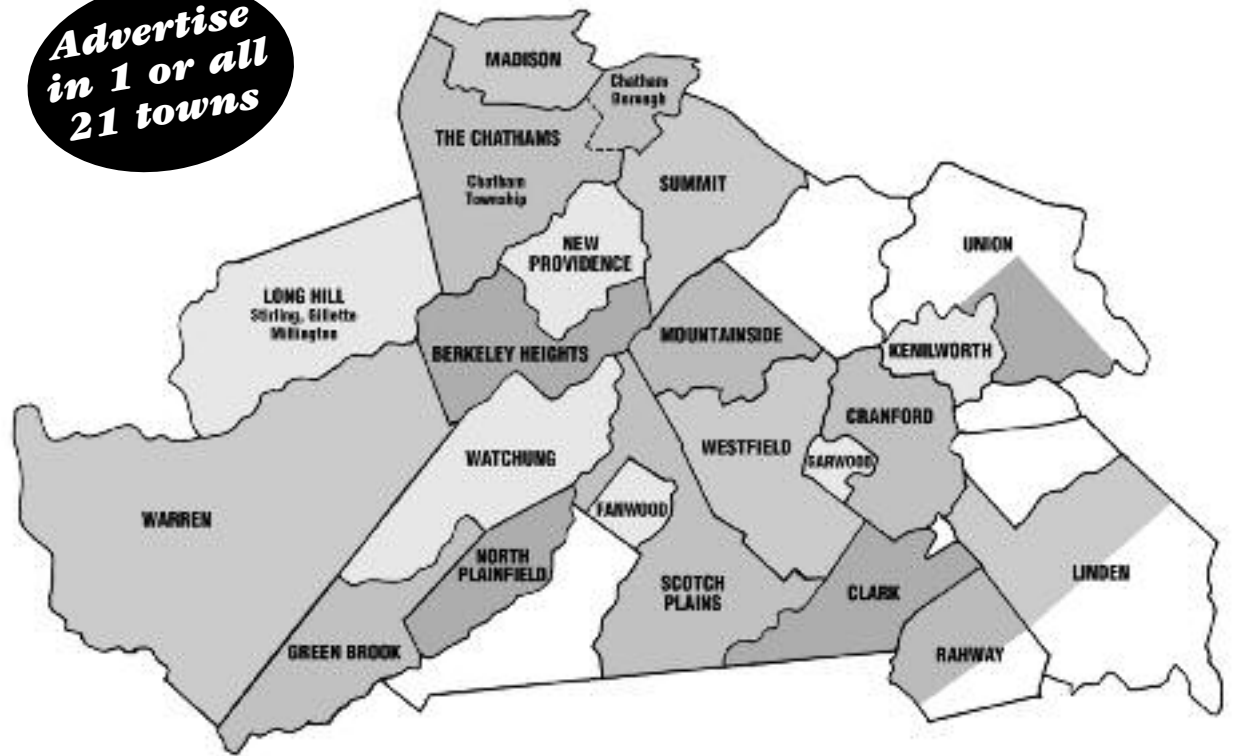
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