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Published by Renna Media

Issue 31 • April 2018

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RESCUE SQUAD STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 81 YEARS

Submitted by Sue Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad just celebrated its 81st year serving the residents of Scotch Plains and its surrounding towns. It is the oldest squad in Union County and one of the oldest in the state of New Jersey.

Last year, our all-volunteer members responded to 1087 calls that included everything from performing CPR to assisting with a childbirth. Our members are NJ State Certified EMTs who are capable of handling a wide variety of emergencies. Training and answering calls can be time consuming, but these members are dedicated professionals who consider it an honor to serve their community.

However, not all the duties performed take place on the ambulance. A lot of work goes into making the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad the best it can be, and for this, we need officers and committees to maintain crews, ambulances, supplies, and the facilities in which they are stationed.

On January 13, 2018, Mayor Al Smith swore in these dedicated members at the Annual Rescue Squad Installation Dinner. The officers for 2018 are as follows: Ed Fiedler (President), Deborah Speth (First Vice President), Gregory Cassidy (Second Vice President), Joanne Gurske (Secretary), Harold Hill (Treasurer), Robert Gurske (Chaplain and Deputy Chief), Carolyn Sorge (Chief), Jerry Handsman (Deputy Chief), Patricia Buckridee (Delegate), Joan Lozowski (Delegate), Daniel Sullivan (Delegate), April Gano (alternate Delegate), Cynthia Hill (alternate Delegate), Marcus Valdez (alternate Delegate), Robert Foerster (Trustee), Robert Speth (Trustee), and Chang Yaramothu (Trustee.)

Now, more than ever, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad needs the support of the community, whether it be by giving your time or donating to our fund drive. Many squads have had to close down in the last few years due to dwindling membership and funds. Let's keep the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad and its members riding long into the future serving you and your loved ones.

For more information about becoming a member or to make a donation, contact scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com or call 908-322-2103 any weeknight between 6 and 11 p.m.



(above) 1916 Bartle Avenue, Scotch Plains and Rescue Squad today.



(above, l-r) First Ambulance and Ambulance, today.



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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 or call 908-858-4012

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7TH ANNUAL SPECIAL NEEDS TALENT SHOW

Submitted by Michael P. Curci

One of the area's most anticipated events, "An Evening of Shining Stars," featuring members of the special needs community from around Union County, will take place on Friday May 4, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Founded by Cranford resident Sally Curci, the 7th annual showcase will feature "Music from the Decades" with the cast set to sing and dance their way into your hearts as they show off their amazing talents.

And for the very first time, the "Shining Stars" cast will take the professional stage at the beautiful and historic Union County Performing Arts Center, where many of America's biggest names have performed.

"We are so excited to give our special cast the chance to perform at such a great venue," noted Sally Curci. "Our audience has grown each and every year, and our cast continues to grow as we spotlight talent from around Union County. It's going to be a night to remember."

When the lights will go up, the "stars" will shine, entertaining you with music from the '20s through today, with solo acts and full cast dance choreography, which is one of the highlights of the show.

Adam Fleissner, who has performed in every show, can't wait to take the stage again, as he prepares to sing "Help!" by the Beatles.

"We meet so many great people," said Fleissner. "We get new people in every year and everyone has a good time meeting each other and performing. All of it is just fantastic."

Caitlin Madden is also excited to team with volunteer buddy Mark Lynch on the Elton John song, "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," with rehearsals in full swing.

"I'm very excited for the show, I like my number," said Madden. "I like all the years I've been doing it. It's fun. Come see us!"

Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org/events. Find the Shining Stars logo, select your seats and you'll be in for one of the best nights of the year!

"An Evening of Shining Stars" is presented by Shining Stars Network, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Union County that shines the light on the special needs community by creating inclusive events such as their annual talent show, dances at local high schools, and our Ambassadors basketball team, which travels to play local first responders to promote friendship and understanding.

SSN will also host their 2nd annual two week performing arts camp, "Camp Shine," from August 20 through August 31 in Scotch Plains. To reserve your spot, or for more information on any of these programs or events, email shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com, or check out their website at ShiningStarsNetwork.org



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TOM PETTY TRIBUTE BAND TO PLAY AT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

The Salem Roadhouse Café proudly presents Damn the Torpedoes performing on Saturday, 14 April, 2018.

This is your best chance to experience the foremost Tom Petty tribute band up close and personal, in an intimate, limited seating venue. Damn the Torpedoes have been playing to sellout crowds in large venues all over the Middle Atlantic and New England area. Only at the Salem Roadhouse Café will you be able to see and hear them in a nightclub-like setting, playing rare works as well as classic big hit Petty tunes.

All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, so bring the entire family!

Doors open 7:30 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$30, advance sales online only at: roadhousecafe.ticketleap.com/damn-the-torpedoes.

No door sales will be available the night of the show. Plan now for an evening of great music in Northern New Jersey's Most Intimate Coffeehouse™.

Proceeds will help Groundwork Elizabeth.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

Dedication best defines the Salem Roadhouse Café: dedication to excellent music and dedication to the community. As its tenth year begins, Salem Roadhouse Café reaffirms its commitment to both.

Started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, the Roadhouse Café continues to operate as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That may be its social mission, but the Roadhouse Café is and has been a performance venue beloved by the musicians who play there because of its special intimacy with the audience.

CHURCH MUSIC, IT'S NOT.

The Roadhouse Café has always offered its stage to local and independent main stream musicians. It's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music, in a world of clubs and bars. Jazz, rock, folk and other groups have performed. During the past 10 years well over 100 different entertainers have appeared. Local fine artists also display their works.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center for Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

The musicians who play the Roadhouse often ask to return as soon as possible. The Roadhouse has given them a place with a beautiful stage, good acoustics, a live, attentive audience, and a sound system that is first class.

Now well into its tenth year of operation, the Salem Roadhouse Café plans to feature many of the performers who have graced the stage in the past, as well as bring talent that is new to the Café stage. The current season will be benefitting Groundwork Elizabeth – Changing Places, Changing Lives Admission includes the show, snacks, beverages and dessert.

For more information visit website: roadhousecafe.org; Facebook: [facebook.com/roadhousecafe](https://www.facebook.com/roadhousecafe); or phone: 1-908-687-1028 (leave a message and a return number).

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LAURA TESTA OF SCOTCH PLAINS CELEBRATES 103RD BIRTHDAY WITH FANWOOD SENIORS CLUB



(above) Laura Testa

The Fanwood Seniors Club celebrated the 103rd birthday of member Laura Testa at their regular meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018. Laura, a resident of Scotch Plains, enjoyed

cake, a gift, and two rounds of "Happy Birthday." Fanwood Council members Kathy Mitchell and Tom Kranz were on hand as well.



(above) Laura, seated, surrounded by well-wishers including Fanwood Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell (far right) and Seniors Club President Joe Bruno (rear center).

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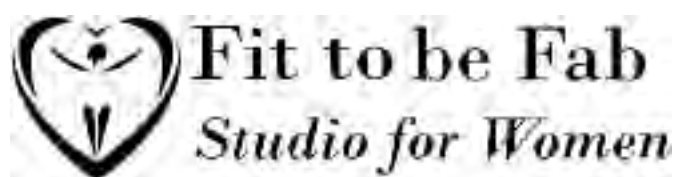
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MAYOR'S "DO YOU KNOW THIS SCOTCH PLAINS BUSINESS?" INITIATIVE

Submitted by Thomas Strowe

Scotch Plains Mayor Al Smith recently announced his "Do You Know This Scotch Plains Business?" initiative to promote Scotch Plains and its businesses. The Mayor announced he plans to visit each Scotch Plains business to take pictures and film short videos of business and property owners and feature them on social media and the Township website to promote Scotch Plains and bring more people to shop and eat here.

The first stop on Mayor Smith's tour of Scotch Plains businesses was the famous Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance Restaurant located at 250 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Mayor Smith enjoyed some of Snuffy's famous cheesecake for lunch while visiting.

"Snuffy's is a landmark in Scotch Plains, and their cheesecake is excellent," said Mayor Al Smith. "Please come on down to Snuffy's and try their famous cheesecake and buffet."

"I thank the Mayor very much for coming to Snuffy's," said Nick Pantagis, owner of Snuffy's. "We've been here for fifty years and people come from all around to enjoy our buffet and famous cheesecake. I really enjoy our customers and the people of Scotch Plains. Snuffy's is just one of our many great businesses in Scotch Plains, and I look forward to visiting our other businesses over the coming weeks to help feature them on our social media and website, said Mayor Smith. Let's bring more people to Scotch Plains to enjoy the many great things about our town!"

To view the Facebook video of the Mayor at Snuffy's visit: [facebook.com/ScotchPlainsTwp](https://www.facebook.com/ScotchPlainsTwp)



(above) Mayor Al Smith at Snuffy's.

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SCOTCH PLAINS ADA ADVISORY BOARD LAUNCHES ACCESS AND INCLUSION SURVEY

The Scotch Plains Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board has recently launched a survey aimed to help improve access, participation, and the provision of appropriate services for those with disabilities, including people who have any type of physical, developmental, unseen disability, or mental health challenge.

Participation in this survey will help inform the ADA Advisory Board of the needs and interests of the community. We encourage Scotch Plains residents to take this survey to let the ADA Advisory Board know how the Township can be inclusive and accessible. The Mayor, Township Manager, Town Council, and the members of the ADA Advisory Board are dedicated to promoting a welcoming environment for all Scotch Plains residents, regardless of their needs. The ADA Advisory Board works to improve access, participation, and provision of appropriate services for those with disabilities in our Township.

The online survey can be found at,

surveymonkey.com/r/scotchplainsadasurvey or by visiting scotchplainsnj.gov/, the Township's Facebook page [facebook.com/ScotchPlainsTwp/](https://www.facebook.com/ScotchPlainsTwp/) and the Township's Twitter account twitter.com/scotchplainstwp

Hard copies of the survey can be found at Scotch Plains Town Hall, 430 Park Avenue, Room 205. After completion, hard copy surveys can be submitted at a drop box in room 205.

The online version is set to only allow one submission per IP address. For those who are filling out the hard copy survey, we ask that you please adhere to the honor system and fill out only one survey.

If you have a disability and need assistance completing this survey, contact Margaret Heisey at 908-322-6700 ext 314 or by email at mheisey@scotchplainsnj.com. All responses are and will remain confidential within the ADA Advisory Board.

For more information on ADA Advisory Board, please visit our website: scotchplainsnj.gov



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PAUL LAMAstra OF ERA SUBURB REALTY REACHES GOLD LEVEL STATUS FOR THE 25th TIME IN HIS CAREER



Scotch Plains – The NJ Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Award is considered one of the most prestigious honors awarded to Realtors in New Jersey. Gold level has been awarded to Paul Lamastra, of ERA Suburb Realty.

Lamastra is co-owner of the company, which has been servicing the communities of Scotch Plains and Fanwood for over 57 years. As a Realtor for 32 years, Paul has been listing and selling thousands of homes in the surrounding communities. His clients become friends, and his friends become referrals.



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LOCAL CAP CADETS PARTICIPATE IN SCIENCE FAIR AND NATIONAL CYBERPATRIOT COMPETITION

Submitted by Jose G. Vergara

High school and middle school students who are members of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program participated in two important events, Local and National. The participating students were Niyati Shah, Kiana McQuade and Veronica Vergara all from Scotch Plains, New Jersey; Paul Koizumi from Fanwood, New Jersey; and Anushka Kumar from Watchung, New Jersey.

The local event was at the Park Middle School Science Fair, Scotch Plains/Fanwood, held on March 9, 2018, in which CAP cadets from the Captain "Bud" Jackson Composite Squadron (NJ-102) taught students the principles of flight with CAP flight simulators. The cadets also demonstrated facial recognition technology and flight with a Quadcopter. Further, the CAP cadets provided a Military Style Color Guard to initiate the Science Fair Awards Ceremony where the best students' projects were recognized, and prizes were awarded.

The cadets explained to the public that CAP is a non-profit corporation that serves as the official Auxiliary of the US Air Force civilian non-combatant. They talked about the benefits of participating in the afterschool CAP cadet program for middle schoolers and high schoolers, including aerospace and orientation flights (in powered planes and gliders), lessons in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) with hands-on activities, military structure (customs and courtesies, discipline,

drills, physical training, and leadership), national space mission competition, national cyber security competition, etc. In addition, CAP has over 30 summer camps across the nation that train cadets on different subject areas including engineering, flight instruction, international travel, engineering, pararescue, leadership, robotics, emergency services, and more. The CAP cadet program provides a unique experience not found in other after school programs.

The second activity that the CAP cadets participated was the National CyberPatriot (Cyber Defense) Competition. CyberPatriot is organized by the Air Force Association (AFA) and presented by Northrop Grumman Foundation, among other industries and federal organizations. The high school CAP cadets earned Second Place in the State Competition for the All Service Division composed of 21 teams from JROTC Army, JROTC Marines, JROTC Navy, JROTC Air Force, Civil Air Patrol, and Naval Sea Cadets Corp. The Middle School CAP cadet's team earned the rights to pass to the National Semifinals. Nationwide, 5584 teams enrolled for the CyberPatriot Competition.

The competition consists of scenarios where teams are placed in the position of newly hired IT professionals and are tasked with managing a network and/ or computer operating system. Their task was to find cybersecurity vulnerabilities and harden the system while

maintaining critical services. In addition, they learned teamwork, critical thinking skills, and technical knowledge which are key to a successful career in cybersecurity.

The National CyberPatriot Competition goal is to attract K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of growth for jobs in information security is projected at 37 percent from 2012 to 2022; much faster than the average for all other occupations.

Overall, students who become members of the CAP cadet program have a great advantage in their future college applications. The "College Confidential" webpage states: "...since Admission officials are up to their eyeballs in common extracurriculars ... Model UN, yearbook, orchestra, etc. CAP is something different and will help you stand out in a crowd. Secondly—and most important—it's something you want to do, and it meshes with your stated passions. It's likely that your enthusiasm will come across in your applications and, especially, in an interview situation. So even if you aren't applying to only military colleges, this sounds like a smart choice..."

For more information about the after school CAP Youth Cadet Program, please contact jose.vergara@njwg.cap.gov or visit CAP's webpage at gocivilairpatrol.com/cap_home/youth

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(above, l-r): Cadets Anushka Kumar (Watchung), Veronica Vergara (Scotch Plains), Sagar Patil (Edison), Paul Koizumi (Fanwood), and Kiana McQuade (Scotch Plains).

(left) Cadet Kiana McQuade of Scotch Plains teaching flight simulator to a Park Middle School student.



(left) Cadet Niyati Shah of Scotch Plains at her information booth at Park Middle School.



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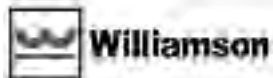
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ONCE UPON A MATTRESS AT CDC THEATRE

If you think you know the classic fairy tale “The Princess and the Pea” by Hans Christian Anderson, the next show at CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey, may surprise you! “Once Upon A Mattress” carries this tale of royal courtship, curses and love along on a wave of wonderful songs composed by Mary Rodgers.

Zach Mazout, who has appeared often on the CDC stage, jumps into the director’s chair for this show. ““Once Upon a Mattress” is one of my favorite shows because of its iconic music and tongue-in-cheek humor,” he recently shared. “Although the show was written in the late 1950s and first performed in the early 1960s, at

the center of the story is an atypical ingénue, Fred, whose story challenges traditional fairytale princess stereotypes. This theme has only gained popularity among modern audiences. It has the spectacle of a classic Broadway show without feeling dated or boring, and it’s a show that audiences of all ages can enjoy.”

Boasting a large cast of talented local performers, the show opens on Friday, May 4, and runs for three weekends until May 19, 2018. Additional information about the show and ticket purchases can be found by visiting the theatre’s website, cdctheatre.org.

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HEALING FROM GRIEF AND LOSS SEMINAR

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford,
11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ,
will hold their six-week seminar

“Journey to Wholeness:

Healing the Grieving Heart” on Sundays,
April 15 to May 20, 2018, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD, will lead the sessions in the Thompson Youth Center. Patti and Virginia in the 18th year of this ministry, and have helped approximately 2650 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other. Teaching is interactive, and the small groups are homogenously categorized among a facilitator with the same loss.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies and tools for

the journey, taking good care of ourselves, dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays, anniversaries, and building a support system.

Both leaders, and all the facilitators, have experienced loss within their lives and share from “the inside out.” It does not matter if your loss is divorce, death, depression, loss of health, or job loss. Loss is loss; it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. You must pre-register for this life changing event and attend the first session. Registration closes as of session one. Please call Patti to register- 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

The seminar is dedicated to Patti’s late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams, who had a vision for this program wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.



(above, l-r) Patti Williams and Virginia Waters.

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SCHOOL ONE READ ACROSS AMERICA CELEBRATION



(above, l-r) District Supervisor, Erin Mullman, receives some words of encouragement from School One Principal Justin Fiory as she prepares to read to students at the School One Read Across America Celebration held recently.

COLLEGE CLUB WELCOMES JAMIE NOVAK TO PRESENT 'KEEP THIS, TOSS THAT'

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes "organizing humorist" Jamie Novak at their April 23, 2018 meeting to present topics from her newest book, "Keep This, Toss That."

Novak is a 1990 graduate of SPFHS. She travels nationally presenting her programs and tips on spring cleaning for a fresh start. Topics to be discussed include which papers to keep and which to shred, what to toss, how to let go, where to begin organizing, how to clear clutter, and how

to store stuff.

This program is open to the public, is free of charge and will take place on April 23, 2018 at Union Catholic High School in the school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. after a brief refreshment period. Attendees should park on the left side of Union Catholic (when facing the building from Martine Ave.) and enter the door there. Union Catholic is located at 1600 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ.

UNION COUNTY NAMI EVENTS APRIL 2018

Union County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

has a support group for caregivers of loved ones who have a mental health diagnosis. Join our peer led monthly group meetings and gain insight from others facing similar challenges.

Meetings are held

on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

The "ER" Experience

The public is invited to hear Kelly Baker, Director of Psychiatric Emergency Services at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, speak about what to expect in the ER, the screening process/law and how caregivers fit into it.

NAMI meetings offer education and support as well as an invaluable opportunity to share with others who understand the challenges of caregivers. This event is

April 24, 7:30 p.m.

at RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

For more information, call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.

IMAGINE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Join Imagine in supporting children and adults coping with loss. 20,000 children in New Jersey lose a parent to death each year. Imagine supports children and families coping with loss and fosters resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve through our peer-support and educational programs.

From April 5 to 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Volunteer Facilitator Training will be held at 244 Sheffield Street, Mountainside, New Jersey. Come for the four-day, experiential training that provides you with the tools to facilitate Imagine support groups for children and adults. Explore your own losses and learn about the Companioning Model that Imagine uses to support grievers of all ages.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and need no special background other than a willingness to listen and the ability to be with children and adults in pain without trying to fix, solve problems, or give advice. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers must be 21-years or older. Volunteers serve as companions and loving listeners for those who are grieving.

For more information or to register contact: Mandi Zucker at mandi@imagineNJ.org or call 908-264-3100.

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KEAN UNIVERSITY ANNUAL YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION



The annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration at Kean University will take place on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6:45 p.m. at the Wilkins Theatre for the Performing Arts, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey.

This year's featured speaker will be Robert Bielsky, the youngest son of the legendary

partisan commander Tuvia Bielski, portrayed by Daniel Craig in the 2009 film "Defiance." He lectures throughout the world about the heroics of his father and uncles, and about their successful mission that saved over 1200 Jewish lives during the Holocaust, whose descendants today number in the tens of thousands.

Robert Bielsky is active in many Jewish organizations. He is a member of the Associates Board of the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City, and is past president of the Holocaust Memorial Committee of Brooklyn.

This event is free and open to the public; and is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ and Kean University's Holocaust Resource Center. Educators who attend will receive professional development credits, and sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information and to register, visit jfedgmw.org/kean.

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THIRD ANNUAL ROCKIN' FOR AUTISM MUSIC FESTIVAL

Submitted by Eric Sokolsky

The Third Rockin' For Autism Music Festival will be held April 14, 2018, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Fanwood's LaGrande Park, 200 LaGrande Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey. In addition, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Baseball Association will host its Opening Day Ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Highlights from last year's festival and more info on the upcoming event can be found at rockin4autism.org.

Rockin' For Autism is the brainchild of 16-year-old Fanwood resident Mallory Banks, who since 2011 has raised more than \$35,000 in honor of her brother, Ethan, 18, and all those affected by autism spectrum disorder. Miss Banks, an Autism Awareness Junior Ambassador for the past seven years, consistently ranks among the top young adults in New Jersey who raise money for Autism Awareness Month. Last year's music festival raised more than \$13,000.

"Rockin' for Autism 2018 is going to be awesome because we've added more music, more food, more prizes and lots of fun activities so that everyone has a great time," said Mallory, a sophomore at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. "Autism awareness is really important to me and my family, and our goal is to raise even more money than last year so that we can keep helping other New Jersey families who are impacted by Autism."

The musical line-up for this year's Rockin' For Autism Music Festival includes: Anthem, Patrick Bamburak, Good Works, Three Piece Nugget, Leave The Gun, the Bryan Hansen Band, and Fanwood's own singer/songwriter Eric Harrison. Additional performers include Sami Gootman, Matt Levine, the Cindy Smith Dance Studio and renowned music therapist Jammin' Jenn.

Festival attendees will enjoy edibles and refreshments provided by nine food trucks and local restaurants, including: Nick's Pizza, Fanwood Grille, Rocko's ice cream, The Empanada Guy, The Juice House, Red, White and Que, The Thai Elephant, and Jammin' Crepes. The popular Rockin' For Autism bake sale will satisfy everyone's sweet-tooth and New Jersey American Water will keep everyone hydrated throughout the event.

Kids will also enjoy an obstacle course from Child's Play Challenge Courses, therapy dogs from Creature Comfort Pet Therapy, a soccer clinic run by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls soccer team, a stilt-walking balloon artist, The Caped Crusader, Sparky – the Somerset Patriots' mascot, and more. The 'Chill Zone' quiet room will provide respite for those

in need of a low-stimulation environment.

As with past events, Rockin' For Autism will offer dozens of great prizes in its massive merchant tricky tray raffle, but this year will feature a silent auction for signed sports memorabilia from the New York Giants and Yankees, Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles and other local teams. The festival will also host a variety of booths and exhibits from local merchants, service providers and various non-profit organizations.

"The Rockin' For Autism Music Festival raises much-needed awareness and financial support for New Jersey's autism community, but it's also a great way for our local communities to have a great time while celebrating Autism Awareness Month," said Jeff Banks, father of Mallory and Ethan and co-chairman of the event. "Given the excitement and enthusiasm that the festival has generated to date, we're anticipating the 2018 Rockin' For Autism Music Festival will be even bigger and better than last year. We hope

you will join us for a full day of great music, food and festivities."

The Rockin' For Autism Music Festival organizers are thankful for the support and generosity of the musicians, merchants, donors, volunteers, festival-goers and Fanwood officials who help make the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival a tremendous success each year.

About Rockin' For Autism

Rockin' For Autism is an annual music festival dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Autism New Jersey, the largest statewide network of parents and professionals dedicated to improving lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders. For more information, or to donate, volunteer, sponsor or exhibit at the event, please contact info@rockin4autism.org, visit rockin4autism.org or follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/rockinforautism), Twitter ([@rockin4autism](https://twitter.com/rockin4autism)) and Instagram ([@rockin_for_autism](https://instagram.com/rockin_for_autism)). Help us spread the word via our hashtag [#rockin4autism2018](https://twitter.com/rockin4autism2018).

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SPFHS'S FBLA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2018

Submitted by Pat Kane

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's (SPFHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter competed in Atlantic City, New Jersey, against over 50 schools. From March 7 to 9th, 2018.

The SPFHS FBLA chapter had 11 members

compete in business topics varying from financial math, help desk, and more!

As a chapter, the SPFHS FBLA was recognized for the following chapter awards: Website Award of Merit, March of Dimes Volunteer, Membership Equalization and an award for Membership Expansion.

Three students nominated administrators for awards as well: Mrs. Fitzgibbon was awarded with Outstanding Local Chapter Volunteer and the adviser of the SPFHS FBLA, Mrs. Henry, received the Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser Award as well as her 5 Years of Service Award.

The conference held workshops in addition to competitions where students were able to pick a career track to listen to professionals and college majors of the given career.

The chapter was also proud to hold a campaign for sophomore Sandra Abdelmalak who ran for State Secretary. Although she did not win the position, it was a great way to involve all of the chapter and learn more about leadership positions available in FBLA.

The conference attendees included: Nicole Alvarez (Word Processing and American Enterprise Project), Lauren Eck (Help Desk and American Enterprise Project), Cheryl Schneider (Insurance and Risk Management), Alexa Anselmo (Client Services), Ryan Eng. (Intro to Information Technology), Shannon Persaud (Business Ethics), Ava Buttigheri (Client Services), Noah Samms (Intro to Business Presentation), Sandra Abdelmalak (Intro to Business Presentation), Zachary Labush (Accounting 1), and John Castro (Introduction to Public Speaking).

The chapter had four people place in team and individual events, as well as three participants making it to the final round.

Lauren Eck and Nicole Alvarez placed third in American Enterprise Day, a project which included writing a 15-page paper and 10-minute presentation about the American enterprise system and the annual Entrepreneurship Breakfast held by DECA and FBLA on November 15, 2017.

Cheryl Schneider placed fourth in Insurance & Risk and also received the Gold Officer Award. For this event, she had to complete a 100-question test on insurance and risk management in an hour or less.

Alexa Anselmo placed fifth in Client Services, an interactive role-playing event. She was an employee on the phone with the judges who were asking questions about the given case study.

Nicole Alvarez placed second in Word Processing and received the Gold Member Award. For her individual event, she completed a production test using Word Documents with specific jobs to complete (i.e. memos, agendas, business report formatting) in under an hour. She was the only student from SPFHS FBLA to qualify for nationals!

Overall, the conference was a success!



(above, l-r) Zachary Labush, Cheryl Schneider, Ava Buttigheri, Alexa Anselmo, Nicole Alvarez, Lauren Eck, Mrs. Bethany Henry, Shannon Persaud, Sandra Abdelmalak, Noah Samms, JanAndre Castro, and Ryan Eng.




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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS

Submitted by By Matt Kipp

When the weather turned cold, sports heated up at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Collectively, it was one of the best winter sports seasons the school has ever had. Some programs enjoyed their most successful season ever, while others experienced resurgence, and some continued standards of excellence.

No matter the circumstances for how each team arrived at winning levels, it was an ongoing display of success. Every winter sports team finished with a winning record, with some squads -- or individuals -- going on to compete deep in state tournament competition.

ICE HOCKEY

Entering the season, last year's graduation of Jared Figueroa, the program's most decorated player, loomed a large loss for the Raiders to endure. But that didn't seem to affect the team much at all, and in turn, SPF put together the most successful season of its 13 year history.

Finishing with a program-best record of 15-4-6, the Raiders came in first place in their NJIHL Kelly Division, won the Essex County Holiday Tournament, went to the Union County Cup semifinal, and even qualified for the State Tournament, among other accomplishments.

For nearly a month-long stretch ranging from December 19 until January 15, the Raiders rattled off a seven-game winning streak. During that span, the team swept a three-game set against Mountain Lakes, Parsippany Hills, and Pequannock to outright win the Essex County Holiday Tournament. In its final victory of the streak, SPF drilled Arthur L. Johnson (Clark), 11-2, in the Union County Cup quarterfinal. That win earned SPF the right to play archrival Westfield in the semifinal, and the Raiders did hang tough against the future champions in a 4-2 loss.

The Raiders also went unbeaten in their first seven games to open up the season.

Thriving on a balanced front line with excellent puck movement, the Raiders featured an arsenal of scoring threats. Senior captain Jonny Scheer led the team with a staggering 35 points (15 goals, 10 assists), and classmate Jack White put up 24 points (8 goals, 16 assists). Joining in double-digit points were Will White (18), Adam Glod (17), Tom Bruckman (16), and Kyle Remo (13).

Between the pipes, goalies Ryan Lamberta and Dalton Tango made it very hard for opponents to find the net. Lamberta saved 97 percent of the 364 shots he saw, while Tango, in his first year with the team, blocked 94 percent of his 129 shots against.

Though the Raiders' season ended a bit earlier than hoped for in the state tournament, Scotch Plains-Fanwood hockey is now on the statewide map and has a bright future ahead.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

After a mediocre start to the season the Lady Raiders found their stride towards the middle of the season. Seniors Nya Downing and Brianna O'Brien seemed to finally figured out how to

lead their team to wins.

Freshman Corinne Lyght played a crucial role for the Raiders all season starting some games and providing a spark off the bench whenever needed. Abbe-Gayle Burton also was a dark horse for the Lady Raiders leading the team in scoring and finishing second in rebounding. Both Lyght and Burton played in the most games for the Raiders

Earning a 10th seed and a first round bye game in the Union County tournament, the Lady Raiders were set to play crosstown rival and seven-seeded Union Catholic. The Raiders played tough and determined and left victorious with a final score of 38-34. A win lead by Senior forward Abbe-Gayle Burton and Junior guard Stefanie Devizio. In the next round the girls faced Roselle Catholic that had been dominant all year. The lady Raiders lost 28-61 against Roselle Catholic

The Lady Raiders had an impressive showing in the first round of the state tournament defeating Elizabeth 56-26. Then going on to face long time rival Westfield in a game regarded as one of the Lady Raiders more difficult matchups of the season.

Already suffering a defeat to the Blue Devils the Raiders entered their game with their backs on the wall. Considered to be a blowout the game was a polar opposite as the Raiders held their own for 3 ½ quarters of play against a talented Blue Devils squad. But a fourth quarter collapse lead to a 34-45 loss for the Raiders ending their season.

BOYS BASKETBALL

At the beginning of the season, the boys basketball team had its highest expectations since its 2008 state championship squad. SPF returned nine seniors: Brendan Beriont, Jack Brady, Lamont Cruise, Tommy Drubulis, Richard Jackson, Dwight Laylor, Ryan Muench, John Petris and Brogan Quigley.

Each of the Raiders top five scoring leaders were all seniors. Tommy Drubulis led in scoring with 318 points, Lamont Cruise in second with 279 points, Jack Brady in third with 240 points, Dwight Laylor with 201 points and Ryan Muench with 196 points on season. The Raiders were a senior lead team and it was apparent on the stat sheets.

Senior big man Dwight Laylor controlled the glass all year for the Raiders and lead them in rebounding with 122 rebounds for the season. Senior guard Lamont Cruise also chipped in with 36 rebounds on the year. Rebounding was crucial for much of the Raiders success on the year.

The Raiders got off to an assertive start of 9-0 with commanding wins over Woodbridge, Summit, Cranford, South Plainfield and Colonia. Tommy Drubulis lead the Raiders in three pointers made with 56 and Ryan Muench in second with 43 made attempts.

The Raiders finished the year at 20-7 accomplishing their second consecutive 20 win

season. The Raiders entered the Union County tournament as the 9th seed and defeated the 16th seeded Roselle Rams 56-59 and then defeated the New Providence Pioneers 56-41. Advancing to the quarter finals and losing to the Roselle Catholic Lions 77-36.

Entering the state tournament the Raiders were confident and humbled after suffering a loss on their home court on senior night against the Roselle Rams. The Raiders looked to translate their frustration from the loss into a first round victory against Perth Amboy. The team did just that defeating Perth Amboy in the first round of the state tournament, then going on to face Phillipsburg.

Going in the game was widely anticipated around the state as a marquee matchup.

WRESTLING

With individual wrestlers, Scotch Plains-Fanwood has always been a major player on the statewide scene. Those individuals all came together this year and not only made deep runs for themselves, but turned the Raiders into a force on the local level as well.

The Raiders surged to a 22-10 record against some of the areas top talent and sent a pair of wrestlers to the state finals in Atlantic City during a very successful season on the mats.

As far as team matches go, the Raiders enjoyed one of their best seasons of the decade. Highlights included a championship in the Holmdel Holiday Tournament, and North 2, Group 4 sectional tournament first round win over Sayreville. The Raiders also placed fifth in the Union County Tournament.

Before a loss to Middletown North in the sectional semifinal, the Raiders rattled off 10 consecutive match victories in January into February. That stretch began with a 33-30 triumph over Kearny on Jan. 26, and included massive blowouts over Union (62-6) on Jan. 31 and Glen Ridge (72-5) on Feb. 3.

Both Sam Wustefeld, who finished 37-2, and Jack Cannon, ending at 23-5, continued their seasons deep in the state individual tournament. The two both advanced past the district and regional tournaments to secure a spot in the finals at Atlantic City's famed Boardwalk Hall. Wustefeld went all the way to the 195-pound final for the second consecutive year, but was ultimately downed by Jacob Cardenas of Bergen Catholic.

GIRLS SWIMMING

An expectation of excellence has been set forth by Scotch Plains-Fanwood's lady swimmers over the past decade, and the Raiders exceeded those conjectures this winter.

Bringing home some hardware and ascending to the state's top ranks, the Lady Raiders churned out another stellar season. Finishing with 12-3 record, the team won championships in the Union County and Section 2, Public B tournaments, appeared in the state finals, and had numerous swimmers set personal bests throughout the winter.



(above) Wrestling went 22-10, and sent a pair of wrestlers to the state finals in Atlantic City.



(above) Sam Wustefeld (top) made it all the way to the state final in Atlantic City.



(above) Girls' basketball finished with a winning record and won its first state tournament game in seven years this season.



(above) Ice hockey enjoyed its most successful season in program history, winning 15 games, its holiday tournament, and making County Cup and state tournament runs.



(above, l-r) Seniors Lamont Cruse, Jack Brady, Dwight Laylor, and Tommy Drubulis helped lead the boys' basketball team to a 20-wins.

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Mind Your Local Business uses real life examples to illustrate successful techniques for managing and marketing your business. Local businesses will be featured. The first episode is about crafting a 30 second elevator speech. The February 2018 meeting of the Irish Business Association held at Molly Maguire's in Clark, NJ is featured in the first episode. Businesses that would like to be featured in an episode can email Joe at joerenna@rennamedia.com.

The Peterstown Show

The Peterstown show is a video continuation of the Peterstown Newspaper. The show focuses on the 100-year history of an Italian American Neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ. Like the newspaper, it preserves the culture and traditions while recording the oral history that may be lost. The first episode is an interview with Carmela Lepore who turned 108-years-old on January 30, 2018.

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