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SPFHS REPERTORY THEATRE STAGES 'ONCE UPON A MATTRESS'

The SPFHS Repertory Theatre is proud to present this year's production of Broadway's hit musical "Once Upon a Mattress." Performances will be held on Friday, March 9; Saturday, March 10; Thursday, March 15; Friday, March 16; and Saturday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m. All shows take place at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

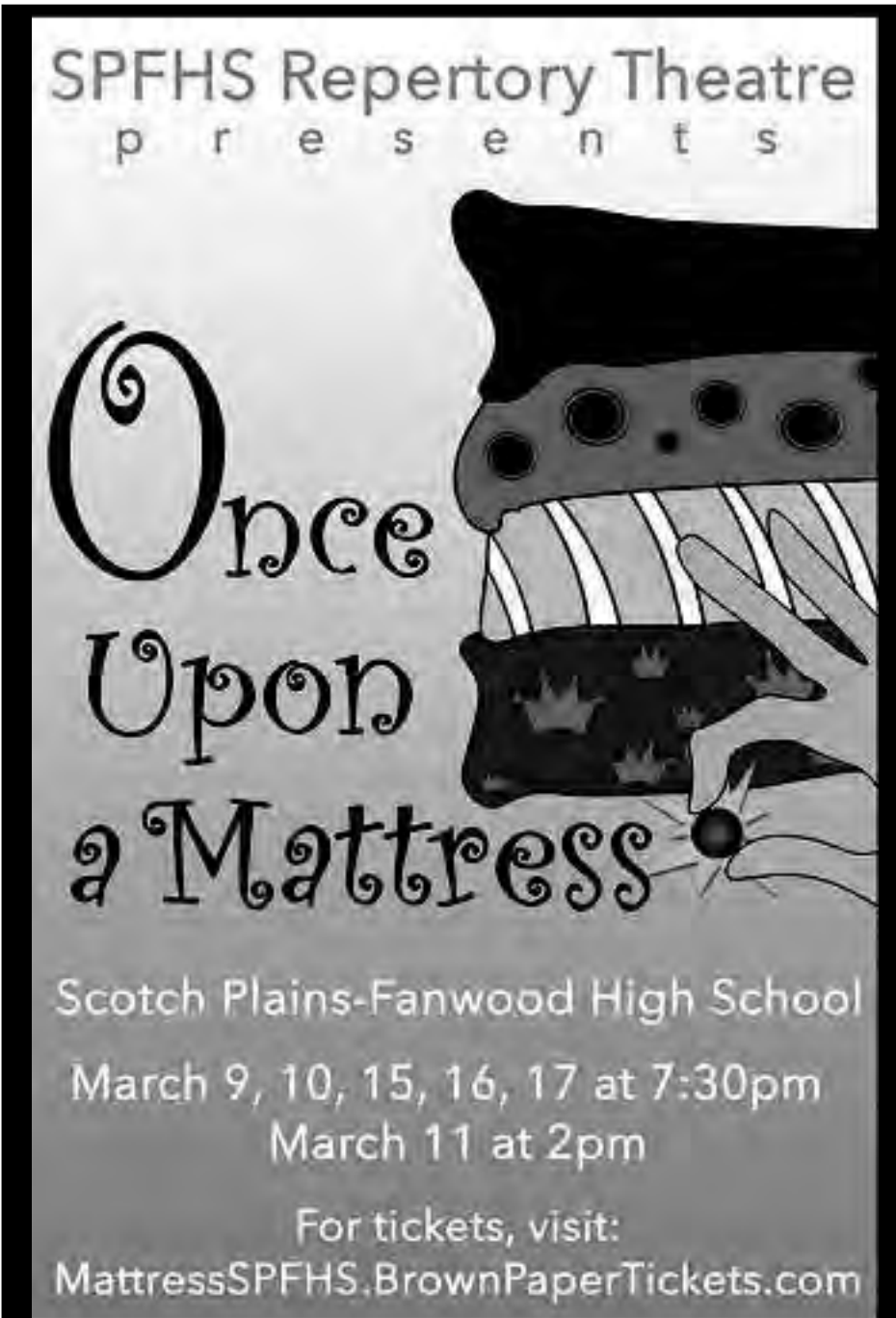
This comedic musical is an adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea."

The story takes place long ago and in a faraway kingdom where King Sextimus is unable to speak due a curse that has been placed on him and therefore his mean wife, Queen Aggravain, has taken over as the ruler of the kingdom. Queen Aggravain has decreed that her son, Prince Dauntless, who is seeking a bride, can only marry a princess of true blood, one who is sensitive enough to feel a pea that is underneath a pile of mattresses when she sleeps. Further, the Queen has declared that until he is married, no one else in the kingdom is permitted to wed. This is quite a problem for Lady Larken and Sir Harry, as Lady Larken is pregnant with Sir Harry's baby. This conundrum drives Sir Harry's determination to find a match for Prince Dauntless so that he can marry.

With the dramatic arrival of the unrefined Princess Winnifred, who hopes for the Prince Dauntless' hand, there is much hilarity; the Queen schemes to make sure that Winnifred isn't her son's soulmate, and Sir Harry, the King and the Jester work together to help Dauntless and Winnifred find their happily ever after.

The cast features a total of 54 students, 14 of whom are seniors, and is under the direction of Ms. Courtney Nemece, Director, SPFHS Repertory Theatre, a 5th grade teacher at Park Middle School; and Mrs. Jan Allen, SPFHS Choral Director, SPFHS Repertory Theatre Music Director and Producer. The show has a large stage crew and importantly, features a pit band as well.

According to Allen, "With over a hundred students involved in the show between the cast,



SPFHS Repertory Theatre
p r e s e n t s

Once Upon a Mattress

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School
March 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 at 7:30pm
March 11 at 2pm

For tickets, visit:
MattressSPFHS.BrownPaperTickets.com

crew, pit, costuming and stage management, it's really exciting to see this production come together. We've got a very talented group bringing 'Once Upon a Mattress' to life and we are really looking forward to performing this for the community."

Tickets may be purchased tickets at:

MattressSPFHS.brownpapertickets.com and are \$13 for students/seniors and \$15 for adults. All tickets will be \$10 for the Thursday, March 15 performance only. Seniors with Gold Cards may contact Kathleen Sheehy at ksheehy405@gmail.com for their ticket.

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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 or call 908-858-4012

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ROTARY CLUB BREAKFAST TO BENEFIT FRAZEE HOUSE

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Rotary Club will host their first Pancake Breakfast at the newly renovated Scotch Hills Country Club in Scotch Plains. The event will take place on Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the price will be \$10 per person. Pancakes, eggs, ham, turkey sausage, coffee, tea, and juice will be served and there will be prize drawings every 30 minutes.

For many years, the Scotch Plains Lions Club hosted the annual Pancake Breakfast. In March 2017, they held their final breakfast because the longtime organizers, Ron and Jane Kelly, relocated and there wasn't anyone in the club who could run the event. The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club agreed to take over as of this year.

Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the Save the Frazee House project (crowdrise.com/savethefrazeehouse), a local restoration effort managed by the Rotary Club. The Frazee House is a farmstead that has been

standing for more than 270 years, and has been celebrated as an example of vernacular architecture from the 1700's. According to local legend, British General Cornwallis marched through the property after the Battle of Short Hills in 1777, and asked Aunt Betty Frazee to hand over bread for his tired and hungry troops.

To this she replied, "Sir, I give you this bread through fear, not in love." Cornwallis and his troops did not touch the bread, but they did take just about everything else. Betty's husband, Gershom Frazee, was a carpenter and very likely built the home himself between 1720 and 1740, influenced by the area's early Dutch homes.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Restaurant, 366 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information, go to fsprotary.org or visit the Facebook page.

SPRINGFEST! SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018

Winter is coming to an end and that can mean only one thing – it's time for Bayern Verein Newark's SpringFest!

In Germany, Munich's Fruehlingsfest (Springfest in English) is the sister event to the city's legendary beer festival held later in the year. Known as Little Oktoberfest, the festival welcomes thousands of people to the Bavarian capital for more than two weeks of traditional celebration, including plenty of beer, food, music, and an all-round festive atmosphere.

And just like in Munich, our German festival will welcome Spring, complete with German cuisine, pretzels, beer, wine, music by Bernie's Orchestra, as well as our own traditional German

Schuhplattlers and Folkdancers in Lederhosen and Dirndls – all in a Festhalle right in Kenilworth, NJ!

Join us in kicking off the season on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Kenilworth Veteran's Center, 33 South 21st Street, Kenilworth, NJ at 6 p.m. Admission: \$35 per person, \$10 Children ages 6-16 years; Under 6 years – Free, and includes a hot food platter, dessert and tea/coffee as well as imported and domestic beer, wine, soda and water throughout the evening.

For More Information contact Ralph Ehmann at (908) 265-1602 or ehmannrtool@aol.com or Betty Bunger at (732) 463-7855 or embunger@gmail.com.



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SMITHEREENS FANS WANT STREET NAMED AFTER PAT DINIZIO

By Maryanne Christiano Mistretta



(above) Pat DiNizio performing at Duke Island Park, Bridgewater, New Jersey, 2013. (Photo by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta).

Scotch Plains resident Pat DiNizio, front man of The Smithereens, died recently, but fans will never forget him. They've been sending requests to Scotch Plains town officials to name a street after him.

The idea was spearheaded by Frank Lima, a fan from North Jersey, according to Cindy Sivak, of Sivak Entertainment/Smithereens Special Projects.

Sivak also provided a statement from DiNizio's band mates Jim Babjak and Dennis Diken: "The Smithereens support and applaud the grassroots effort by our fans to have a street in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, renamed in honor of the late Pat DiNizio, our friend and lead singer of The Smithereens. He was always a proud resident of his hometown and lived there until his passing. Such a tribute will be well deserved."

Scotch Plains Municipal Manager, Alexander Mirabella said, "We are working on the

appropriate way to honor Pat DiNizio in the Township of Scotch Plains, including a ceremonial street sign near his family home. Pat was a favorite son of the Township and a dear friend of mine personally and I miss him. He never missed an opportunity to speak highly of Scotch Plains whenever he was in the world. One of his final performances was in Scotch Plains last summer on the Augustine Green outside of Town Hall. The Township is planning a few surprises to honor Pat, which will be announced in the coming months."

The Smithereens sold millions of records/CDs of the melodic pop alternative hits like, "A Girl Like You," "Only a Memory," "Behind the Wall of Sleep," and "Blood and Roses."

For more information on The Smithereens, visit the official website at: officialsmithereens.com.

Photo by Maryanne Christiano Mistretta

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The Township Council and Mayor of Scotch Plains are pleased to announce that the Township is now offering free electronics recycling. Since February, 2018, Scotch Plains residents could safely get rid of old or unwanted electronic equipment that is not allowed to be disposed of in the regular garbage. The drop off program is available at the Municipal Public Works yard located at 2445 Plainfield Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

Items that will be accepted include televisions, computers, monitors, laptops, tablets, E-readers, printers, copy machines and fax machines. All material collected will be recycled. Please do not bring items not on this list as they will not be accepted.

Drop off will be available at the DPW every Thursday between the hours of 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. All residents of Scotch Plains are eligible to

participate at no cost. Residents must show ID to use this service.

“Old televisions and computer monitors are the source of a considerable amount of dangerous material, including lead, mercury, and cadmium – and it is unlawful to dispose of them with the regular garbage,” stated Scotch Plains Mayor Alexander “Al” Smith. “We are happy to be able to provide this service to our residents and increase our recycling tonnage going forward.”

Refrigerators, washers and dryers, microwaves, and air conditioners will not be accepted. Please save them for Union County’s Scrap Metal Recycling Program. Visit the County website for more details.

For more information about other County recycling events, please visit ucnj.org/recycle or call the Union County Recycling Hotline at 908-654-9889.

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SEWING & QUILTING MEETUP GROUP FORMING IN RAHWAY

Area residents who enjoy sewing and quilting, and those who would like to start, are invited to join the newly formed Rahway Sewing & Quilting Meetup group.

Members are encouraged to share their interests, tips and techniques, and just sewcialize with others who share their passion for creating with fabric. "Whether you enjoy making quilts, home dec pieces, gifts, clothing, accessories, or a little bit of everything, this is a group where you can show off your latest masterpiece, get help with a difficult project, exchange information and have some fun," says Lisa Shepard Stewart, organizer of the group and a lifelong fabric collector and sewing/quilting enthusiast.

An introductory meeting was held in February; the next one is scheduled for Sunday, March 18 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Cultured Expressions Studio, 1417 Main Street, Rahway, NJ 07065. For complete details, and to RSVP for the March meetup, go to www.meetup.com, search for "Rahway Sewing & Quilting Meetup" and join the group. It's free to sign up and participate in the group, though there may be a fee for some upcoming activities and events.

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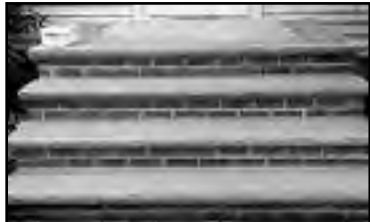


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SCOTCH PLAINS RANKS AMONG TOP 100 SAFEST CITIES IN NEW JERSEY

Submitted by Thomas Strowe

Scotch Plains ranks 47th among the safest cities in New Jersey according to a recent report published by the National Council for Home

Safety and Security, a trade association of security professionals that advocates for safe communities and home safety.

“I am extremely proud of the work that the men and women of the Scotch Plains Police Department have done in making the Township of Scotch Plains the 47th Safest City in New Jersey according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security,” said Scotch Plains Township Police Chief Ted Conley. “We strive each and every day to make Scotch Plains an extremely safe environment for our residents and visitors to our town. Hopefully we can achieve an even higher ranking in the years to come!”

Scotch Plains is the third highest ranked town in Union County and one of only six Union County towns to make the top 100.

“Scotch Plains is a great place to raise a family because of the dedicated and hard-

working men and women of our Police Department,” said Mayor Al Smith. “I congratulate Chief Conley and the entire Police Department for this prestigious ranking. On behalf of the entire Town Council and the citizens of Scotch Plains, I thank the Police Department for its service to our community.”

To identify the safest cities in New Jersey, the National Council for Home Safety and Security reviewed the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics along with their own population data and internal research. They rated New Jersey cities with populations greater than 10,000 for violent crimes per 1000 residents and property crimes per 1000 residents.

For more information on the National Council for Home Safety and Security’s report, please visit: alarms.org/safest-cities-in-new-jersey-2018/

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UNION COUNTY CLERK JOANNE RAJOPPI TO BE PRESENTED WITH “WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY” AWARD

March is Women’s History month and the Crane’s Ford Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter will be presenting Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk, with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution “Women in American History” award on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at noon at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ.

The “Women in American History” award, sponsored by the NSDAR, is designed to

recognize worthy women, and celebrate their contribution to history, culture, and society.

Joanne Rajoppi is the first woman County clerk in the 154-year history of Union County. She is the former Mayor of Springfield, former Union County Freeholder and first woman chairman of the Freeholder Board, and former NJ Assistant Secretary of State during the Byrne Administration. She has been an advocate for women running for public office, writing her first book, “Women in Office: Getting There and Staying There” in 1993.

As an author, her first book published in 2013 chronicled the military service of her great-grandfather during the American Civil War titled “New Brunswick and the Civil War: The Brunswick Boys in the Great Rebellion” letters he wrote to his family. She followed the story with the Hamilton women after the war writing her most recent book: “Northern Women in the

Aftermath of the Civil War: The Wives and Daughters of the Brunswick Boys.” This book was published in 2017. Ms. Rajoppi will be presenting a power-point program on her most recent book and copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The public is invited to join us for the presentation with a reception to follow. The Crane’s Ford chapter will also be celebrating its 74th Anniversary, chartered on March 8, 1944.

The NSDAR is a volunteer women’s service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, historic preservation, service to veterans and meaningful community service. Membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. For more information or DAR application please contact our chapter Registrar, Patricia Campanelli at patushkat@aol.com



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Good Friday: March 30 @ 7:30pm



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SCOTCH PLAINS RESCUE SQUAD TIP OF THE MONTH: THE DANGERS OF DROWSY DRIVING

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

Most people wouldn't think of driving after drinking alcoholic beverages. However, some of those same people would think nothing of getting behind the wheel when they're overly tired, even though research has shown that drowsy driving can be as dangerous as drunk driving.

A new report by AAA (American Automobile Association) states that "drowsiness is a factor in approximately one in ten accidents," much higher than previously thought. In New Jersey, a law was passed in 2003 that makes it illegal to knowingly drive while fatigued. Maggie's Law was named after Maggie McDonnell, a 20-year-old college student who was killed when another driver who hadn't slept for 30 hours and was using drugs hit her car head on in 1997. Maggie's Law defines fatigue "as being without sleep for more than twenty-four consecutive hours and makes driving while fatigued a criminal offense."

William Van Tassel, a driver training manager for AAA, makes it clear that the only solution for drowsy driving is sleep. "Short term tactics like drinking coffee, singing, rolling down the window will not work. Your body's need for sleep will eventually override your brain's attempts to stay awake," said Van Tassel.

Some of the symptoms to watch out for are drifting out of your lane into another, having trouble keeping your eyes open, head bobbing, yawning, and frequently rubbing your eyes. If you experience any of these signs, find a safe place to rest, or ask someone else to drive. Even if you don't fall asleep, fatigue impacts judgment and reaction time.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is a volunteer organization of Neighbors Helping Neighbors. With over 90 volunteers, we answer calls not only in Scotch Plains but in surrounding towns as well when needed. Besides answering calls, you will see our ambulances at many special events held in town, such as Scotch Plains Day, the Memorial Day Parade, high school football games, and the summer concerts on the Village Green. We are also available to provide demonstrations for Boys and Girls Scout troops, clubs, and any other group that may be interested in what we do. In addition, we lend out wheelchairs, crutches, canes, and other assorted medical equipment free of charge. Please reach out to us if there is something we can do for you. Call 908-322-2103 for non-emergencies or email: scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com




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ANNUAL GIANT BOOK SALE

Saturday, March 17, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
continuing on Sunday, March 18 from noon to 3 p.m.

The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library will hold their annual Giant Book Sale to benefit the library over several days in March.

The sale will begin with a children's sale on Saturday, March 17, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., continuing on Sunday, March 18 from noon to 3 p.m.

The adult book sale will begin with a members' only presale on Wednesday, March 21 from 4 to 8 p.m. New members may join at the door.

The open sale will begin on Thursday, March 22 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., continuing on Friday, March 23 with a half-price sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A bag sale on Saturday, March 24, from 9

a.m. to 3 p.m. will conclude the sale.

Donations to the book sale may be brought to the library between Saturday, March 3 and Friday, March 16, with the exception of Saturday, March 10. All events will occur at the library at 1927 Bartle Avenue, Scotch Plains.

The Friends request donations do not include older and time-sensitive materials such as videotapes, records, magazines, and textbooks.

The Friends are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to supporting the programming and development of the library and have contributed more than \$177,000 to the library since its inception in 1998.



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TOM KRANZ PUBLISHES FIRST NOVEL

It took ten years of on-again, off-again effort but Fanwood Councilman Tom Kranz has published his first novel, inspired by his experiences in television news and a fantasy of exacting swift justice for an objectionable, even criminal boss.

"Budland" is the story of how Bud Remmick, a successful TV assignment editor, went from newsroom manager to prison inmate. Bud's plan sounded good on paper--do the lenient prison time for killing his blackmailing, criminally abusive boss, get out in a few years, and move on with his life. But the realities of prison, including a near-fatal attack and the strain on his loyal wife, force him to face his lifelong denial of a deep-rooted anger that not even he can fully fathom.

"I know it's a leap of faith to read a first-time novel, but I think you may be pleasantly surprised," Kranz says.

While the self-published novel is based loosely on some of Kranz's own experiences, the characters are composites and not based on any particular individuals.

"There's humor and compassion and a despicable bad guy whose behavior pushes some of today's hot buttons on sexual abuse in

the workplace," adds Kranz who previously wrote a non-fiction book, "Liveshot: Journalistic Heroism in Philadelphia". Both are available on Amazon in paperback and Ebook.

A graduate of Temple University, Kranz worked for eleven years at WCAU-TV, the NBC affiliate in his native Philadelphia. He then worked for 15 years at CBS News, where he managed reporters, producers and photographers, wrote and edited scripts and did some field producing that took him to many American cities, Chile, Israel and Japan.

Kranz currently serves as Director of Communications for Chelsea Senior Living, a Fanwood based company. He is in his fifth year as a Fanwood Councilman and approaching twenty years as a volunteer EMT on the Fanwood Rescue Squad.

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SCOTCH PLAINS RESCUE SQUAD ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST – MARCH 4

Hosted by the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary, which raises funds for the volunteer squad.

All-you-can-eat pancakes, coffee and sausages are offered for just a \$5.00 per person entry fee. There is also a raffle for baskets, which are filled with goodies donated by the community and area businesses. This is the 9th year this event is being held, and it's clear by the number of people who attend that it's something the community looks forward to every year.

So come out with your family and friends and enjoy a hearty, delicious breakfast along with good conversation. It's a nice way to spend a Sunday morning.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad relies on ongoing community support. These contributions enable the Squad to fulfill their motto, Neighbors Helping Neighbors - We Work For Pride Not Pay. The squad looks forward to continuing to faithfully serve those who call for help.



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MARCH BLOOD DRIVES AT SCOTCH PLAINS DONOR CENTER

New Jersey Blood Services would like to announce that it is conducting the following blood drives at The Scotch Plains Donor Center:

- Monday, March 5, from 2 to 9 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 7, from 2 to 9 p.m.
- Friday, March 9, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 10, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sunday, March 11, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Monday, March 12, from 2 to 9 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 14, from 2 to 9 p.m.

To donate blood or for information on how to organize a blood drive please call toll free: 1-800-933-2566 or visit: www.nybloodcenter.org.

If you cannot donate but still wish to participate in bringing crucial blood products to patients in need, please ask someone to donate for you, or consider volunteering at a local blood drive.

Eligible donors include those people at least age 16 (with parental permission or consent), who weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, are in good health and meet all Food & Drug Administration and New York or New Jersey State Department of Health donor criteria. People over 75 may donate with a doctor's note.

The Scotch Plains Donor Center is located at 2279 South Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

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