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The Borough of Fanwood once again hosted the Rockin' for Autism fair at LaGrande Park, Fanwood, New Jersey, on April 14, 2018, the third consecutive year for this event which raises awareness of autism and funds for Autism New Jersey. The event is organized and run by the Banks family of Fanwood. Mallory Banks, 16, started fundraising in the name of her brother, Ethan, who has autism, when she was nine, selling baked goods. Years of similar fundraisers grew into a daylong event several years ago that now features several bands, a midway of exhibitors and vendors, food, and a beer garden. Funds are raised through a raffle, silent auction, and online donations. Many sponsors donated goods and services. Last year, the Banks raised more than \$13,000 for Autism New Jersey. At the time of submission of this article, a final tally was not yet counted.



(above, l-r) Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr with Gina, Jeff (parents) and Mallory Banks.



Photos courtesy of Natalie D'Angelo



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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.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The 52nd annual "Dollars for Students Drive" was conducted on Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25, 2018 by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation. We would like to express our appreciation to the local students who participated in our drive and to the generous citizens of Fanwood and Scotch Plains who made their efforts a successful venture.

We are pleased to report that 100 percent of the money that we raise is utilized to fund post high school education scholarships for qualified students residing in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Last year, our broad-based screening committee reviewed 150 applications and we were able to assist 92 deserving students with a total of \$144,500. During our 52 years of service to our communities, we have aided 2,997 students with \$3,071,502 in scholarship awards.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to all of our neighbors who so willingly continue to show the young people of Scotch Plains and Fanwood that they value them and their effort to continue their education. If you were not at home or if you did not receive a request through the mail but would like to support our efforts, please send your contribution in care of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023 or navigate to www.spfscholarshipfoundation.org and click the "Donate" button.

Mary Ball Cappio, President

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation

26TH ANNUAL LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE IS MAY 12

The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is happening on Saturday, May 12, 2018. On this day, you can set out your non-perishable food before your letter carrier's regular pick up time. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili, and/or pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken, and/or turkey), beans (canned or dry). You can also donate healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar items such as beans, oatmeal, and other whole grains, and canola or olive oil.

Please do not donate frozen food, homemade food, or home-canned items. Please do not donate items that have expired or are in glass containers. In keeping with good food-handling and food-safety procedures, food that is opened, damaged, out of code or does not have the official ingredients will be discarded by the food bank in the sorting process.

The Food Drive is primarily a people food drive, but if you also want to give pet food in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or direct it to pet shelters and organizations in the area that have a need.

Please do not donate any form of individual baby food products, including formula, jarred vegetables and fruits, meals, snacks, infant cereal. Baby food may be donated by the case or pallet, but single item donations present potential contamination risks and special handling requirements.

The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper,

and household cleaning items) in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or put them to good use with organizations that also provide help to those in need. Please note that not all food banks will be able to accept these items.

If you would like to volunteer with food distribution and sorting, or in any other capacity, call your local post office and ask to speak to the local food drive person there. Many food banks have a great need for volunteers on Food Drive Day, as well as all throughout the year.

All donations to the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive are tax-deductible because all the food collected on Food Drive Day is given directly to non-profit charity food agencies in the community the food was collected. Though the National Association of Letter Carriers plans the Food Drive's logistics and letter carriers provide the transportation for each donor's generous donation, the National Association of Letter Carriers is not the agency that gets listed on tax forms for claiming deductions. There are more than 10,000 food agencies throughout the country that receive these donations, so if you itemize your taxes and want to provide proper credit for your Food Drive donations, you will need to determine the name of the agency (food pantry or other charity) that received your food, as well as the agency's address and tax I.D. number for proper reporting on your tax-filing forms. The Food Drive Coordinator at your local post office should be able to give you the name of the receiving agency, and that agency will likely have tax information handy.

For more information, visit: nalc.org.



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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SWIM TEAM RECOGNIZED FOR 12-3 SEASON

Submitted by Pat Kane

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recently recognized the 2017-2018 Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) High School Varsity Girls Swim Team for achieving their impressive swimming record of 12 wins and 3 losses this season.

This Varsity Girls Swim Team captured the Union County title at the Union County Girls Swimming Championship for the fourth consecutive year, and they were North II Group B State Sectional Champions.



(above) Girls Swim Team 2018

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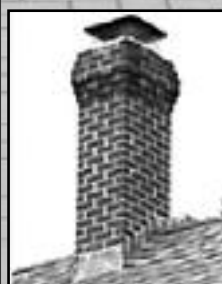
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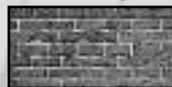
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JAMES ANGLIN OF FANWOOD SWORN IN AS CASA VOLUNTEER

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Community members from Fanwood, Bridgewater, Cranford, Elizabeth, Linden, North Bergen, Scotch Plains, and Summit recently completed child advocacy training in order to serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving Union County's abused, neglected or abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care. The volunteers, ranging from 25- to 62-years-old, were officially sworn in recently as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) by Union County Superior Court Judge James Hely.

Family, friends, CASA staff and board members looked on as Judge Hely administered oaths to the new advocates, who also received a commemorative pin and certificate. Each were matched to their foster youth or sibling set during a celebratory luncheon following the ceremony.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including a former foster youth, former teen mom, single parent, immigrant, soon-to-be first-time mom, and sibling of an adoptee. Professionally, members of the training class have backgrounds ranging from high school to graduate degrees, and employment that includes social services, corporate work, and self-employment. Both parents and non-parents were in the class, and most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate in the community and in court to ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible. It is CASA of Union County's goal that every area foster child have a CASA volunteer; yet half of the 600 Union County youth in care still await an advocate.

For details on training or other ways to help the organization, contact Courtney at 908-293-8136 or cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above, l-r) Outside the family courthouse in Elizabeth are, from left, newly sworn in CASA volunteers James Anglin of Fanwood, Tiffany Parchment of Elizabeth, Laurie Rando of Scotch Plains, September Patterson of North Bergen, Jaime Castro of Bridgewater, Melinda Giffen Frater of Summit and Kennisha Qualls of Linden. Not pictured is Cranford's Jim Van Horn.

2018 MAY 31 - JUNE 3

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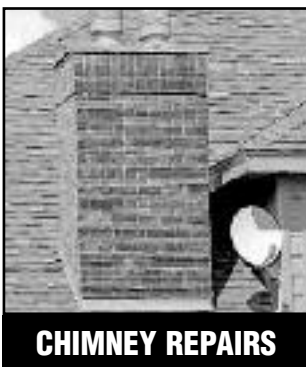
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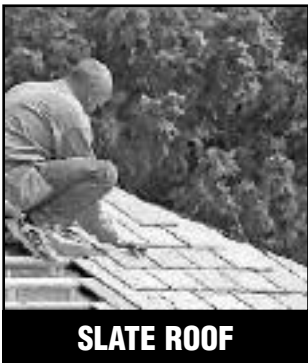
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RAILSIDE CAFÉ VOTED TOP NAME TO REPLACE MARA'S CAFÉ & BAKERY

Over 300+ customers submitted name suggestions to replace Mara's Café & Bakery. A Fanwood local (whom requested to remain anonymous) entered the name 'Railside Café' and the popular community hub on the corner of South and Martine will be rebranding throughout the month of May.



(above l-r) Patricia Claiborne (Cook), Paul O Loughlin (General Manager), and his daughter Josephine O Loughlin.

Owned and operated by 501 C3 not for profit 'Inroads To Opportunities,' the charity is excited to have a fresh start and move forward with the new identity. Inroads to Opportunities is a vocational rehabilitation center that provides life skills and employment readiness training to 400+ individuals with disabilities in Union and Essex County per year. Railside Café will be a competitive integrated environment for all abilities to work in a fast paced restaurant. The charity also provides a Serve Safe Food Handler Certification Program for people with disabilities interested in working in the food services business.

"A new name ... a fresh start....endless possibilities. Inroads LLC, a division of Inroads

to Opportunities purchased Mara's café in 2015. Since then a lot has happened! We were a franchise, moved over to a licensee and now we are branching out on our own as the Railside Café. We have learned a lot along the way and are very thankful to the residents of Fanwood for continuing support the Café. Look for some changes in the Café going forward and watch out for our upcoming customer appreciation event."

—Owner Michele Ford

Railside Café will continue to serve everyone's favorite items from Mara's Café & Bakery.

Our focus will be on connecting the community with our mission of, "Food For Good."



(above) Railside Café employees anxiously look on as their food was being judged. They were awarded "Best Pulled Pork," at Rahway Taste of The Town.

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WE WEREN'T BAD KIDS, WE WERE SAD KIDS: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT IMAGINE SHARES HER STORY

By Mary Robinson, MA, CT

When I was 14 my father died of cancer, reticulum cell sarcoma, still one of the most deadly and difficult cancer to treat. It was 1974 and I was a freshman at Madison High School, my brother Jim was a sophomore. I remember it like it was yesterday and still dream of my dad, and still miss him. The death of a parent changes a child's life forever, as it did mine.

When my father was first diagnosed I was in eighth grade and that's when I first started skipping school. Though not a very helpful way to cope with my distress, it was also not unusual, as grief starts the moment of diagnosis; someone doesn't have to die for us to grieve. And that was certainly true of me and my family.

After our dad died my brother and I acted out in ways typical of grieving children, we were textbook examples of grieving children in fact, but at that time it wasn't understood that children grieve too, not just adults. The adults in our lives saw our changed behavior but didn't know what to do or say, or even to equate it with our dad's death and changed home life.

My mom was extraordinarily resilient all through my dad's illness and after he died. She went from being a stay-at-home mom to being a realtor, seemingly working 24/7 to pay the bills and keep us in our home. She is definitely my hero for how she worked so hard on our behalf, sending me to college and making the life I live today possible. But not all kids are so lucky. Often after a death there is great financial stress along with many secondary losses like having to move to a new neighborhood or even a new town, so a child loses friends, a sense of safety and familiarity and connections to the very people that could have been supportive.

I've now been working and volunteering in the field of children's grief support since 1997, working to ensure other children and teens don't lose years of their lives to unresolved grief like my brother and I did. The death of a parent is a trauma for a child but it doesn't have to leave them traumatized, if they get support. As the founder of two children's grief support centers

and currently as Executive Director of Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss in Mountainside, my commitment is to ensure grieving children develop healthy coping skills, grow in their resiliency, emotional health and well-being, and to create communities where children coping with loss get the love and support they need to thrive and live up to their unique potential.

Dr. Gerald Glasser of Westfield was the catalyst for the start of Imagine. He wanted to insure that no child should ever have to grieve alone. He invited me to come to Westfield and open a grief support center providing an initial grant for startup funding through The Glasser Foundation, a philanthropic organization set up in memory of Dr. Glasser's son, Thomas Glasser, who was a victim of the 9/11 attack and who left behind two young children. The Glasser Foundation continues to provide extraordinarily generous annual support to Imagine.

Meeting Dr. Glasser was such a gift in my life. His generosity and vision provided me with my life's purpose. When my father died there was no awareness back then that children and teens needed support after a loss like the death of a parent or brother or sister. Children truly were 'the forgotten mourners' as Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, author of *On Death and Dying* said over 40 years ago. But fortunately things have gotten better since then with over 500 children's grief support centers like Imagine existing around the country, and with schools bringing us in to provide educational workshops so that they are better equipped to support and understand youth coping with all types of loss. Now when a parent dies, families tell us that they heard about Imagine from multiple sources including their child's school, their funeral home or house of worship, and from multiple friends who scour the internet looking for support.

Childhood bereavement is one of society's more pervasive issues. One out of seven children under the age of 18 will lose a parent or sibling by age 20. And kids in grief are at-risk for unhealthy or destructive ways of coping which is why Imagine and other centers like it exist. Children and teens don't necessarily have the coping skills, life experience, or maturity to process their loss, and they re-grieve their losses during the various stages of their development. Imagine exists as an effective intervention and prevention program and a place for healthy mourning. The key to how well a child or teen or adult will do after a loss is to actively mourn the loss and not keep everything bottled up inside.

The mission of Imagine is to support children and families coping with loss and foster resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve. But our higher purpose is to normalize grief and death and dying in society so that those who are grieving aren't left isolated or made to feel like there is something wrong with them. Our goal is to create "Good Mourning" communities that are grief- and trauma-informed. We do this by partnering with schools, agencies and workplaces to provide support and education on the topic of grief and loss and to hopefully



(above, l-r) Mary Robinson and her dad, Gerry Robinson.

change the lens through which society views grieving youth.

We work with the whole school community including school staff, parents, other agencies, healthcare providers, and first responders to create an environment that wraps around the youth served. The goal is that wherever a child turns in their life, at school, home, after-school programs, etc., there are adults who understand the impact of loss and trauma on youth, how to recognize it and how to support, listen to, and help build resilience in grieving youth.

Adults and peer support programs like Imagine can help children learn healthy ways to cope and grow more resilient. Loss is part of life and if we support children at the time of their loss they will be better able to cope with future life losses.

Over 40 years later, I am able to say, as I learned from my St. Vincent's School kindergarten friend Chris Harrington whose mom died when he was 11, that "I wouldn't have missed my dad for the world." I had the best dad for 14 years. Good can come from grief, loss, and pain, if we get and give support. As adults it is our job to help children navigate life's painful losses and create loving, supportive communities in which children can mourn their losses in healthy ways. That is the work of Imagine and all the centers like it around the country.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support center located in Mountainside, New Jersey serving children age 3 to 18 who have had a parent or sibling die, with concurrent support groups for their parents or guardians. Support for children and teens living with a parent or sibling with a life-altering physical illness is also available. Free year-round support groups are also available for young adults who have had a friend, sibling, parent or other important person in their life die, or who have a parent, sibling or friend living with an illness. Imagine is completely privately funded and completely free to participants for as long as they need. We rely on donations from individuals, companies, local businesses, and foundations to support the close to 300 children and adults currently attending our support groups every two weeks at Imagine. And we rely on volunteers to facilitate those groups. For more information about support, donating, or volunteering, please call 908-264-3100, email me at mary@imagine-nj.org or visit imagine-nj.org.



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29TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Submitted by Tom Kranz

For the 29th consecutive year, volunteers came to the Fanwood train station on April 21, 2018, to organize into groups to clean up parts of our town for our annual Community Clean Up. The event, organized by the Dept. of Public Works and the Clean Community Committee, attracted dozens of volunteers to pick up trash and debris

throughout the town. Each volunteer received a t-shirt and tote bag plus bagels from Fanwood Bagel and pizza from Nick's Pizza. DPW Director Clint Dickson and the Clean Community volunteers are the driving forces behind our event, which attracts people from all walks of life to clean up our town. Thanks, everyone!



(above) Monks from the Dhammakaya Temple in Fanwood ready to pick up trash.

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THE CELEBRATION SINGERS SPRING 2018 CONCERT

Submitted by Christopher Silvestri

The Celebration Singers would like to invite you to our spring concert titled "Music from the Heart, from the Soul" at Union County College, Roy Smith Theater, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey at 8 p.m. on June 1 and June 2, 2018. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance through our website, celebrationsingers.org, or at the box office at the night of the

concert. Any questions concerning the performances can be directed to our email at celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com or to our landline at 908-552-4656.

The Celebration Singers are multi-generational ambassadors of song drawing music from a breadth of genres and cultures. The Choir's commitment to artistic excellence and its engaging and dynamic style provide its diverse singers and audiences with a compelling musical

experience. The Choir lends support through music and participates in the cultural life of the community.

Please also visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/Celebrationsingers.

Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



(above) The Celebration Singers Adult Choir at St Michael's in Cranford New Jersey for their annual winter concert.

PROJECT GRADUATION FOOD TRUCK FEST

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Project Graduation Committee is hosting a Food Truck Festival on Sunday, May 6th to help raise money for Project Graduation!

Enjoy a day of music, food trucks, entertainment and more! Located at 667 Westfield Road in Scotch Plains, admission is \$5 per person, with children five years or younger free! For more information visit www.spfk12.org. More details to come.

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MARIANA HAY CALDWELL, PASSES AT AGE 99

Honorary Member of the Musical Club of Westfield

Mariana Hay Caldwell, 99, of Fanwood, passed away on Thursday, March 29, 2018. Born in Philadelphia, Mariana grew up in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where she attended and graduated from Johnstown High School. She then studied at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Fine Arts. She also went on to attend Temple University, with a Master's Degree in Music and Fine Arts.

She was a resident of Fanwood for over 70 years, and a longtime member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains. She was a musician, playing the violin with the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra for many years as well as an active member of the Westfield Music Club.

Mariana was predeceased by her husband, Brent Caldwell, in 1974; her grandson, William Caldwell; and son-in-law, Jeffrey Jaczko. Surviving are her four children; Brent Caldwell and his wife, Linda; Blythe "Bonnie" Jaczko; Austin Caldwell and his wife, Nancy; and Louise Boyton and her husband, Tom; and her brother, George Austin Hay. She is also survived by her nine beloved grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made in Mariana's memory to the Fanwood Rescue Squad Fanwood, New Jersey; or to All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.



SOMERSET PATRIOTS HOSTS ROCKIN' FOR AUTISM AND COMMUNITY DAY

Submitted by Eric Sokolsky

The Somerset Patriots have teamed up with the Borough of Fanwood and Rockin' For Autism to celebrate Fanwood Community Day on May 20, 2018, where the Patriots will take on the Long Island Ducks at TD Bank Park. The event is designed to bring the local Fanwood community together over a fun afternoon of baseball, while raising awareness and funds for Autism New Jersey.

The ceremonial first pitches will be thrown by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr and Mallory Banks, a 16-year-old Fanwood resident and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School sophomore, who, since 2011, has raised more than \$35,000 in honor of her brother, Ethan, and others affected by autism spectrum disorder. Miss Banks, whose

dedication created the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival, has been an Autism Awareness Junior Ambassador for the past seven years, and consistently ranks among the top young adults in New Jersey who raise money for April's Autism Awareness Month.

"Fanwood is excited to be able to support the Somerset Patriots and we're proud to partner with them and Rockin' For Autism to bring together Fanwood's deep love for baseball and compassion for those affected with autism spectrum disorders," said Mayor Mahr. "Thousands of people attend the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival in Fanwood each year, and I hope that they will join us again at TD Bank Park for America's favorite pastime and to support a great cause."

"Rockin' For Autism is incredibly proud to partner with the Somerset Patriots to raise awareness and funds for autism awareness, and we look forward to having its mascot, Sparky, liven up the crowd at our music festival on April 14," said Jeff Banks, co-chairman of Rockin' For Autism. "We're equally proud to participate in Fanwood Community Day activities with the Patriots, to say 'thanks' to Mayor Mahr and everyone else from Fanwood and the surrounding towns for their generosity and support."

The game against the Long Island Ducks kicks off at 1:05 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$11.50 and can be purchased at somersetpatriots.com/tickets/groupportal/ and entering Portal Code: Fanwood. A portion of all ticket sales will benefit Autism New Jersey, the largest statewide network of parents and professionals dedicated to improving lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

About the Somerset Patriots

The Somerset Patriots led the Atlantic League in attendance and made their 14th appearance in the playoffs last season. The Somerset Patriots will welcome their 7,000,000th fan in their 20th season at TD Bank Ballpark in 2018. Tickets are now on sale for the 2018 Season presented by Ford beginning at home on Friday, April 27th. For more information, please visit somersetpatriots.com.

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).

FILM TO RAISE SUICIDE AWARENESS

Submitted by Janet Sarkos

The crisis hotline Caring Contact will present a special screening of "Suicide: The Ripple Effect," the remarkable story of Kevin Hines, who at 19 attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. The screening will take place May 16, at 7:30 p.m. at AMC Loews at 1021 Route 22 East, Mountainside, New Jersey.

Following the screening, there will be a question and answer session and discussion on the topic, featuring some of the area's leading suicide prevention advocates. This discussion will be led by trained volunteers who are involved with Caring Contact.

Tickets are \$12, plus a processing fee, and can be purchased by visiting gathr.us/s/22327, where visitors can also view the film trailer and screening page. Tickets are limited so reservations are highly recommended.

With endorsements from some of the world's leading suicide prevention experts, "Suicide: The Ripple Effect" began worldwide screenings on March 13, 2018. Since surviving the jump, one of only 25 to live among the more than 1700

people who have jumped from the bridge, Hines has been on a mission to use his story to help others find recovery and stay alive. He has become one the world's most prominent suicide prevention speakers and advocates.

The film features some of the world's leading suicide prevention experts and shines light on people who are using their personal experiences with suicide to help others find the hope they need to stay alive.

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community serving North and Central New Jersey, an area with 3 million inhabitants in Union, Essex, Middlesex, Morris and Somerset counties. More than 100 listeners attentively and compassionately serve those in emotional distress and educate communities about the power of personal connection. Caring Contact responded to more than 10,200 calls in 2017.

Caring Contact is a member agency of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and its hotline services are available to anyone, anonymously and confidentially. Visit Caring Contact at: caringcontact.org



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(above) Addison Oppman, 5, of Fanwood, with the Easter Bunny.



(above) Patrick Klouda, 5, with his collection.



(above, l-r) Fanwood police officers Dan Kranz, Elliot Bernard, and Ryan Gilmore with the Easter bunny

FANWOOD ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT 2018

Submitted by Tom Kranz, Councilman Borough of Fanwood

Hundreds of Fanwood children and their parents attended the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Forest Road Park, Fanwood, New Jersey, Saturday, March 31, 2018. More than 1800 eggs, filled with candy and prizes, were scattered around the park in areas designated by age groups. It was all over in minutes! Thanks to the Recreation Commission volunteers, Recreation Director Bob Budiansky and others who volunteered to make this event special.



(above) Children between the ages of 4 and 5 begin gathering eggs.

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2018 MEMORIAL WEEKEND EVENTS ANNOUNCED

Submitted by Tom Kranz

The 2018 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade Committee announces annual concert and parade: Sunday, May 27, and Monday, May 28,

respectively. The concert is entitled "A Tribute to Fallen Heroes." The theme of this year's parade is "Remember and Honor All Those Who Sacrificed."

Memorial Day Concert (Sunday, May 27)

The seventh annual Memorial Day Concert will take place May 27 on the northside lawn at the Fanwood train station, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Westfield Community Band will play patriotic tunes and traditional marches. The program will include the reading of letters written by members of the U.S. military to their loved ones back home.

Memorial Day Ceremonies (Monday, May 28)

There will be a memorial service on May 28 and presentation of wreaths at 9 a.m. at the Fanwood Memorial Library at 5 Forest Road, Fanwood, New Jersey.

A memorial tribute and laying of wreaths will take place at 10 a.m. at the gazebo on Park Avenue and Front Street in downtown Scotch Plains.

Memorial Day Parade (Monday, May 28)

Starting at 10:45 a.m.

at the gazebo in downtown Scotch Plains, the 2018 Memorial Day Parade will proceed along Park Avenue to Martine Avenue into downtown Fanwood. The parade ends at La Grande Park in Fanwood.

The annual parade is funded by the

Township of Scotch Plains and the Borough of Fanwood. The concert is presented through the generosity of local donors – individuals, businesses and community organizations – that underwrite the expenses of staging the concert.

Last year's parade was cancelled due to inclement weather. However, last year's parade marshals will also be featured this year since they never got a chance to march. They are Ed Miller and Joe Nagy. A third, Alan Ebersole, passed away since then, but will also be remembered.

For those individuals or organization interested in participating in the parade or making a donation to support the concert, please contact Bob LaCosta at the Township of Scotch Plains at 908-939-8448 or

blacosta@scotchplainsnj.com.

FIRST SPF PAL DAY TO BE HELD MAY 12

Submitted by Bruce Moran

Do parents and players want to meet PAL coaches in various sports while enjoying food, beverages, and games?

Well, the Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL will hold its first SPF PAL Day on May 12, 2018, at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

The event at the park, which is located on Hetfield Avenue, will begin at 10 a.m. and run until 4 p.m.

Guests will be treated to hamburgers and hot dogs from the grill while beverages will be served as well. Games for the kids will also be provided. Coaches from all sports programs will be available to discuss the upcoming seasons and answer any questions that parents and players may have.

Meanwhile this event will also allow for parents to register their children for the 2018 PAL football season. A registration form is provided here so you can bring the form with a check or cash that day. Or you can fill out the form at Brookside Park or you can still register on-line by visiting the SPFPAL.com site. Whatever option works best for you.

Cheerleaders are also invited to the Brookside Park on May 12 since cheer coaches from the grade programs will be on hand, too. However, registration for cheerleaders regarding the 2018 season will remain on on-line only so please go the SPFPAL.com site to sign up.

Spread the word and bring friends.

If any parent has a question before the SF PAL Day, please email Bruce Moran, the vice president of the Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL, at brucemdfs@yahoo.com.



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