Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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(above) Students at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School participated in a "Faces of Reality" presentation to raise awareness about the harms of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

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The Grim Reaper visited the students of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School recently as part of the Faces of Reality presentation. During the day, students that agreed to participate left their classes escorted by the Grim Reaper. They then received a sign and a dark purple t-shirt. This was to represent their "death." This number signifies the number of people that will die in an alcohol related automobile crash.

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), one person dies every 51 minutes due to an alcohol related automobile accident in our country daily. Additionally, there were 48 students that agreed to participate by wearing bandages around their heads or on their non-dominant arm. This represented the number of people who are injured daily due to an alcohol related automobile accident. One person is injured every two minutes according to MADD. There were approximately 80 students that participated in the program during the day.

The presentation started with the Grim Reaper removing

students from classes. The students then returned to class wearing either light purple or dark purple shirts representing either death or injury due to a drugged, drunk or distracted driver

At the end of the day, juniors and seniors attended an assembly that highlighted the consequences of making a poor decision while driving. Speakers included Officer Elliott Bernard from the Fanwood Police Department; Detective Chris Aversa, School Resource Officer (SRO); Mr. Bill Mariani from Rossi's Funeral Home; and Health and Physical Education teacher Ms. Ashleigh Boyce. Officer Bernard and Detective Aversa spoke about the immediate aftermath of a motor vehicle crash. Mr. Mariani spoke about what it is like to plan the funeral of a young adult. Ms. Boyce spoke about her experience during her senior year of college when her boyfriend was struck and killed by a drunk driver.

The program was sponsored by the Municipal Alliance, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA, SPFHS, DECA and the District Student Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Knodel-Gordon.

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Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email editor@ rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012

Scotch Plains Monthly is online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/ Scotch Plains Monthly **CRANE'S FORD DAR CELEBRATES 75TH TEAR**

Submitted by Mary Leonard, Regent, Crane's Ford DAR

At a recent luncheon, held at the Holiday Inn in Clark, New Jersey, the Crane's Ford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the chapter.

On March 7, 1944 the Crane's Ford chapter was organized in Cranford and chartered by the National Society. At that time the chapter had 36 members and its founding Regent was Julia I Hazzard of Cranford. Since that time the chapter has had 23 Regents with many serving more than one 3-year term. The chapter took its name from a ford in the Rahway River where light horseman stood guard while General Washington's army was encamped at Morristown.

Attending the celebration were chapter members along with NJDAR State Officers including State Regent, Karen Strover, State Vice Regent, Bonnie Matthews, State Historian, Pat Saftner and the State Central District Director, Susan Luczu. The State Regent administered the Oath of Membership to the chapter's new member, Patricia Huxford of Roselle Park.

members from Cranford and surrounding town as well as many from out of state. The chapter is led by Regent Mary Leonard of Roselle Park and she is completing her 5th year. The chapter supports the National Society by continuing to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism as the local level. Throughout each year the chapter presents various awards including Good Citizen to high school seniors, American History Essay Contest, and JROTC to cadets at Elizabeth High School, Linden High School and Abraham Clark High School in Roselle. National awards given by the chapter over the years includes Conservation, Women in the Arts, Women in American History, and Historic Preservation Recognition awards.

Within NJ there are 46 chapters of the DAR, with over 2,700 members. Nationally there are over 175,000 members in over 3,000 chapters. Membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove a lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence. For more information please contact DAR.org or the Crane's Ford Today the Crane's Ford chapter has 56 Chapter Registrar at patushkat@aol.com.



(above, l-r) Crane's Ford DAR chapter members Pat Huxford of Roselle Park, Patty Campanelli of Clark, Bonnie Cierkowski of Cranford, Barbara Krause of Cranford, Mary Leonard of Roselle Park, Nancy Hatfield of Westfield, Kathy Hercel of Scotch Plains and Joanne Rajoppi of Union.



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THE SCOTCH PLAINS RESCUE SQUAD'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST DRAWS HUGE CROWD

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

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad held its 10th annual all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 24, 2019. Hosted by the Squad Auxiliary, it is their biggest fundraiser of the year.

A record crowd of 297 people turned out to enjoy delicious pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, fruit, juice, bottled water, and of course, chocolate chips to go on the pancakes, all for \$5.00 per person. Nearly 100 prizes were also raffled off, including 80 gift baskets and 20 gift cards. Handmade items such as knit blankets, paintings and crocheted scarves were among the amazing prizes.

Live music was a new addition this year. While dining, the group was entertained by the band Coast to Coast, with Mike Comiskey as the singer/guitarist and Gary Philbert on the bass guitar. For the children in attendance, tours of the ambulances were given.

Auxiliary members and EMTs, as well as youth volunteers from the Magnet School in Scotch Plains and the CCD program at St. Theresa's Parish in Kenilworth, helped out in many capacities to make the breakfast a huge success, and over 40 local businesses sponsored and donated to the event.

The Scotch Plains Rescue squad and the Auxiliary sincerely thank the community for their support. See you all next year!

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 continually and faithfully serving those who call for help.



(above) Nearly 100 prizes were raffled off during this year's Scotch Plains Rescue Squad's Pancake Breakfast.

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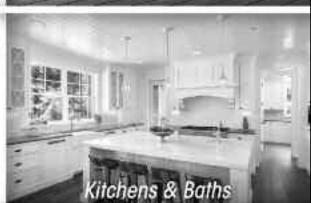












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CHAMBER CHOIR SHINES AT STATE MUSIC EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

Plains-Fanwood High School Chamber Choir, under the direction of Ms. Jan Allen, performed at the annual New Jersey Music Educator Association State Conference in East Brunswick,

On Thursday, February 21, 2019, the Scotch New Jersey. The Chamber Choir was selected from a very competitive application pool from the State of New Jersey. The choir world was buzzing about how great the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Students performed!



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(above) First Row: Cristabella Fortna, Audrey Smith, Rachella Carlino, Vanessa Handy, Tori O'Conner and Rachel Schuman. Second Row: Ms. Jan Allen, Chamber Choir Director; Peter Canevari, Josh Venick, John DeMarco, Brent Mankin, Matt Mahmet, Billy Kasper, Paolo Bayotas III, Roy McGowan, Katie Lamendola and Shannon McCreesh.

Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

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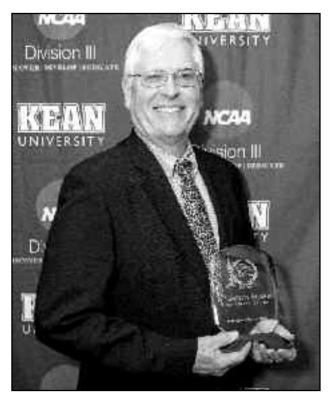
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(above) Scotch Plains resident J. Timothy Sensor, who was inducted into the Kean University Athletic Hall of Fame.

JONATHAN YU ACCEPTED TO NEW JERSEY ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA

Jonathan Yu, an eleventh-grade student at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, has been accepted into the New Jersey All-State Orchestra for 2019 as a result of his successful clarinet audition at the All-State level. Jonathan will now represent our music program and perform with the State's most talented high school musicians in November 2019 at the Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.



Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

SENSOR, OF SCOTCH PLAINS, INDUCTED INTO THE KEAN UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Plains, was recently inducted into the Kean University Athletic Hall of Fame. He has been a Scotch Plains resident since 1984, where he raised his sons.

J. Timothy Sensor served as the Chief Athletic Trainer at Kean University from 1983 until his retirement from the University in 2013. One of the longest tenured members of the athletic department, he was recently inducted into the Eastern Athletic Training Association's '49 Club (Hall of Fame). Shortly after his retirement, he was honored with the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award. This was the third collegiate hall of fame induction for Sensor as he is credited

J. Timothy Sensor, LAT, ATC, of Scotch with building both the Ramapo College and Kean University athletic training programs from the ground up. He has twice been inducted into the Ramapo College Hall of Fame (once as an athletic trainer and once as a member of the Ice Hockey team).

He has served the Athletic Training profession in many capacities in the state, regionally and nationally. He currently is on the National Athletic Trainers' Associations Research and Education Foundation board of directors. He is a member of the Athletic Training Advisory Committee of the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners. He also works at the Center for Concussion Care and Physical Rehabilitation at Overlook Hospital.

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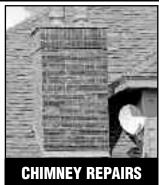
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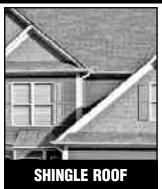




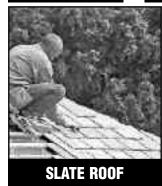
















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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND SCOTCH PLAINS ARE ATTACKING CANCER IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT

Submitted by Elizabeth Rodoussakis

On Friday, May 10, 2019, local participants will join together at the annual Relay For Life of Scotch Plains at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School to help beat our biggest rival - cancer. The event starts at 5 p.m.

Scotch Plains Fanwood High School faculty member and advisor Ashleigh Boyce states, "The Student Movement Against Cancer is a club that began in 2001 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School to raise awareness and funds in honor of a SPFHS student fighting cancer. For eighteen years SMAC has worked to continue to broaden their demographics. I see the amount of work that these students put in year-round to ensure that we not only bring awareness to our fight against cancer but to also raise funds for the many important treatments, lodging, support options, and programs for those who are fighting this battle. Relay For Life of Scotch Plains is deeply moving and emotional – a celebratory night for all who are in attendance. We celebrate our

survivors in attendance, honor our loved ones, and enjoy games, inflatables, and food trucks. Our Relay For Life event focuses on the courage of our survivors, caregivers, and cancer fighters while also celebrating the lives of those who are no longer with us. Although our theme for our Relay For Life event changes each year, our main message remains, and that message is HOPE."

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is the only organization fighting cancer on every front. Funds raised from Relay For Life events allow the ACS to attack cancer in dozens of ways, each of them critical to achieving a world without cancer – from developing breakthrough therapies and innovative research, to building supportive communities that come together to help those affected by cancer with access to treatment. The ACS provides empowering resources to deploying activists to raise awareness and develop game-changing approaches to address the cancer burden for all people.

Founded by Dr. Gordy Klatt in Tacoma, Washington, in 1985, the Relay For Life movement of 3.5 million participants across the world unite at more than 4,500 events to celebrate people who have been touched by cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change. Symbolizing the battle waged around the clock by those facing cancer, the event can last up to 24 hours and empowers communities to take a stand against cancer. Since 1985, Relay For Life events in the U.S. have raised more than \$6.3 billion.

Last year's fundraising totals from the community was \$100,000+. Thank you to all our local sponsors. The Relay For Life of Scotch Plains is supported by local businesses and organizations.

Together, we can beat our biggest rival. Join or donate to the Relay For Life of Scotch Plains.

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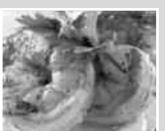
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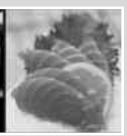
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ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK



(above, l-r) What do the McGinn School principal, media specialist, music teacher and school nurse all have in common? Their love of Dr. Seuss! The McGinn School students and parents were greeted by these wonderful educators as they celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday. Pictured are John Lohn (media specialist), Thing 1; Charlie Jackson (music teacher), Thing 2; Dr. Sasha Slocum (McGinn School Principal), "Principal Of All Things!"; and Cheryl Ward (school nurse) Thing 3.

Submitted by Patricia Kane

All five elementary schools participated in many exciting activities to celebrate Read Across America Week. Whether it was wearing pajamas to school, crazy hair day, performing random acts of kindness or taking part in a number of Dr. Seuss activities, our elementary students, parents, teachers, Board of Education members, as well as members of our community, found fun ways to promote their love of reading.

Park Middle School's PA.L.S. students (Peer and Leadership Support) walked over to School One and Terrill Middle School P.A.L.S. students visited J.A. Coles to read to the younger students.

Photos by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



(above) Justin Fiory, Principal of School One, dressed as Cat in the Hat with Officer Bob Mertin (SLEO), Sgt. Gottlick and Officer Rusin of Fanwood and Officer Florio of Scotch Plains.



(above, l-r) Guest readers included Al Smith, Scotch Plains Mayor; Officer Stomer, Fanwood Police Department; Dr. Karen Kulikowski, Board President; Steve Goldberg, Scotch Plains Business Association; Gail Moser, former School One parent; Dr. Karen Wetherell, Principal of Coles School; Deb Brody, Board Member and Dr. Sasha Slocum, Principal of McGinn School.



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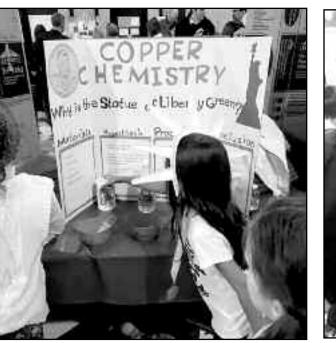
Submitted by Christine Schiumo

annual Science Fair in February. The Science Fair is a non-competitive PTA-sponsored event which gives the opportunity for Coles students in grades 1 to 4 to showcase various scientific interests and explorations.

A total of 160 students participated in the fair of which 35 were first graders, 28 second graders,

J.A. Coles School in Scotch Plains held their 45 third graders and 52 fourth graders. There were individual as well as team presentations of 77 projects.

> Students presented on various topics including volcanoes, magnets, correlation between propeller size and thrust, gravity, alternative ways to inflate balloons, elephant toothpaste, crystals, hydraulics and environmental studies.



(above) Students enjoy learning the science behind Lady Liberty's color!



(above) Coles kids get creative! Photos by Scotch Plains Fanwood Public Schools

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Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 14 • April 2019 CERCHIO SIBLINGS BECOME STATE CHAMPIONS

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Scotch Plains celebrated their third child to win a State Championship title in a year. Alexa Cerchio, 8 years old, competed at the Jersey Gymnastics Association State Championship in Galloway, NJ. She competed in the level 6 division and won the title of the All Around State Champion. Previous to that, her big sister Jenna Cerchio, now 12, won the title of the All Around State Champion for JOGA in the

On February 25, 2018 the Cerchio Family of level 4 division in April of 2018. Both sisters, along with their youngest sister, Gianna, 5 years old, train at Surgent's Elite School of Gymnastics in Westfield, NJ.

> Their older brother, Louie Cerchio IV also won the USA Wrestling New Jersey State Championship in Trenton, NJ in March of 2018 in the Junior division. Louie is a member of the Edge Wrestling Club National Team which is located in Whippany, NJ.

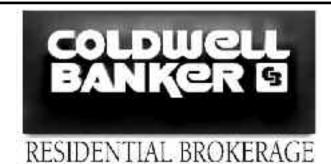


(above) The Cerchio siblings, the three eldest of whom won state championships within the same year.









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DISNEY'S NEWSIES COMING TO CDC THEATRE IN MAY

CDC Theatre in Cranford will finish out its 100th Season in spectacular fashion! Disney's Newsies will come dancing into the theatre, at 78 Winans Ave., in Cranford on May 3rd and run until May 18th. Based on the 1992 motion picture and inspired by a true story, Newsies features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken (Little Shop of Horrors, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin) and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein (Kinky Boots).

Set in turn-of-the century New York City, Newsies is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenaged "newsies." When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what's right! Director John Menter recently talked about the show. "Newsies is a family friendly musical about the "little guys" taking a

stand for what's right. It's based on a true story and perfect for CDC's 100th Anniversary Season. CDC is a great theater to work at. It's a beautiful space to create in and the creative process is supported by a dedicated production team and crew. The cast includes some of the most talented performers that I have had the pleasure of working with. Singers, actors and dancers that give you 110% all the time. The audiences will be amazed by this talented cast. Beautiful singing voices combined with powerhouse choreography and dancing that will blow you away!"

The large, intergenerational cast will take the stage on May 3-18, 2019, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, May 12. Additional information about the show and how to get tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org. For best prices and selection, tickets can be purchased on line at Brown Paper Tickets

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- How to pay for college in a failing economy without relying on 529 plans, expensive private student loans or raiding your retirement accounts
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- How to lower your "out-of-pocket" costs and get the maximum amount of money from each school

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"Opened up opportunity to look at colleges we thought were out of our price range."

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CARA ARGILA WINS VFW PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST

Submitted by Patricia Kane

On Thursday, February 28, 2019, Cara Argila, an eighth-grade student at Terrill Middle School, was honored in Ms. Odim's Language Arts class for her participation in the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.

Chairman of the contest, Joseph McCourt of Memorial Post 10122 in Scotch Plains-Fanwood, visited the school along with Cara's family and Dr. Margaret W. Hayes, Superintendent of Schools, to present Cara with the honor of winning first place over 6,000 participants in grades 6 to 8. Cara achieved first place overall in Post 10122, Union County and the State. Cara was presented with a Certificate of Achievement and a monetary award for her essay. Dr. Kevin Holloway, Terrill Middle School Principal, was also presented with a plaque honoring Cara's

achievements, which will be displayed at Terrill until January 2020.

Cara wrote about the topic, "Why I Honor the American Flag". She expressed her heartfelt appreciation and support for those who served in the many branches of the military, especially her father, uncle and grandfathers. She stated, "My father, uncle and grandfathers all served in the military and I am honored that they protected our country so we can have rights, freedom and privileges."

Cara's essay will be entered into the VFW's National Essay Contest, where she will have an opportunity to win a grand prize scholarship of \$5,000. Terrill Middle School and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public School District are incredibly proud of Cara accomplishments.

(left) Cara's essay



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(above, l-r) Joe McCourt; Sarah Odim; Cara Argila; Mrs. Argila; Mr. Argila; Ralph Gerace, Assistant Principal of Terrill Middle School; Officer Arthur Bruschetti, SLEO for Terrill Middle School; Dr. Kevin Holloway, Principal of Terrill Middle School; and Dr. Margaret W. Hayes, Superintendent of Schools. Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

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CARA ARGILA VFW AWARD WINNING ESSAY

WHY I HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG

By Cara Argila

The American flag means many things to many people. To some, it as a beacon of freedom; to others, a reminder of why some give their lives for our nation. Others see our flag as a symbol of power and dominance around the world. I see it as a reminder of my family members who proudly served in the United States military. Those 50 stars and 13 stripes are why my father, uncle and two grandfathers made their contribution to protecting the United States of America.

I honor the American flag because it is part of my identity as an American citizen and I am thankful to be part of the greatest nation in the world. I honor the flag as a way to show my respect to all who have served. Some served and came home to continue contributing to our nation through work and family. Others made the ultimate sacrifice. I honor their memory whenever I see our flag. When I cheer at football games, I look at our flag on the field and sing the American anthem. I feel a twinge of sadness for those that gave their lives to protect the flag and our way of life; but then I feel pride and happiness that our country has remained free because of the men and women who fought for the flag.

My father, a surgeon, was a major in the US Army during the Vietnam War. My one grandfather served in the US Army Air Force during World War II. My other grandfather served in the US Navy from 1946-1951. Finally, my uncle was a pilot in the US Air Force in the 1970's. All of these men were and are fiercely proud of their time in the service. Their experiences in the military helped form the kind of men they grew to be. Responsible, honorable, respectful and hardworking. These men in my life have instilled the same values in me and for that, I honor the flag.

I am grateful that this symbol of ours has given many generations a purpose and meaning to their lives. I look at the flag and remember that I am part of something grander and larger. I am an American.

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LANDSCAPE ARTIST, OIL PAINTER MARK SAENGER TO SHOW AT SOUTH AVENUE ARTS

Local artist Sharon Reed opened South Avenue Arts in September of 2016. She is inviting the public to the opening her April show in order to showcase her gallery and the art of one of her instructors. The opening will be held on April 6, 2019 at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The show, "Light & Atmosphere" by landscape, oil painter artist Mark Saengerf, is a collection of over twenty-five oil paintings of landscapes. Saenger describes it as "a journey through nature captured on canvas." The exhibit will hang for two weeks.

South Avenue Arts, located at 221 South Avenue, Garwood NJ, is a creative, cooperative, community art space. The studio offers art classes for adults, children and teens, and summer art camp. Art in the gallery is available for sale as well as jewelry and other gifts. The unique bar space is available for event rentals, kids birthday painting parties, corporate meetings/team building, and group painting parties.

Hours are: Monday - Thursday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., Wednesday 12 - 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. -3 p.m. For more information visit southavenuearts.com.



(above) Landscape artist, oil painter Mark Saenger



(above) Westfield artist Sharon Reed



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THRIFT SHOP BRINGS IN SPRING

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop, 1741 East 2nd St., Scotch Plains, welcomes spring with clothing, housewares and accessories for milder sunnier days. The Thrift Shop windows are dressed in the colors and styles of the season. Inside the shop, look through the collection of new items with original price tags. Other items are gently used and a good value.

Beginning with Easter, Sunday, April 21, spring is the time of celebrations and gift giving. The Thrift Shop has men's, women's and children's clothing for proms, weddings, communions, confirmations, and graduations. Mother of the Bride and wedding gowns are available. Shoes and accessories are also in stock. Don't forget Mother's and Father's Day. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12, and Father's Day is Sunday, June 17.

For gift giving the Thrift Shop features collectibles and jewelry. Currently available are pieces by Royal Crown, Royal Doulton, Schumann, Arzberg, Nuova Capodinonte. A special butterfly jewelry collection is available. All items are researched on Amazon and well

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League below Amazon pricing. Dealers are welcomed. arift Shop, 1741 East 2nd St., Scotch Plains, Casual and formal linens and full service elcomes spring with clothing, housewares and tableware is available.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that has served the local communities since 1974. Since its founding, the League has donated more than \$1.3 million for local causes. Anyone interested in learning more about the League or membership is invited to call (908) 322-5420 visit the League's website at scotchplainsthriftshop.weebly.com or speak to any of the volunteers at the Thrift Shop. Checkout the organization's Facebook page, "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League," and give the League a "Like."

Shop hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will gladly accept new and gently used donations during business hours. Volunteers will provide tax receipts. Tax receipts can be used for saleable items.

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BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE BAND HEADLINES MUSIC FESTIVAL

Submitted by Eric Sokolsky

The organizers of the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival announced that its 2018 fundraising efforts resulted in it becoming the top autism awareness fundraiser for Autism New Jersey (autismnj.org). The third annual music festival raised more than \$17,500 – an increase of more than 30% from 2017. Highlights from last year's festival can be found at rockin4autism.org.

In addition, Rockin' For Autism also announced that its fourth annual music festival will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at La Grande Park (200 La Grande Avenue, Fanwood, NJ), headlined by The BStreet Band, the original Bruce Springsteen tribute band.

Rockin' For Autism is the brainchild of 17-year-old Fanwood resident Mallory Banks, who since 2011 has raised more than \$52,000 in honor of her brother, Ethan (age 19). Miss Banks, an Autism Awareness Junior Ambassador for the past eight years, ranks among the top young adults who raise money for autism in New Jersey. Over the past three years, the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival has raised more than \$41,000 through its merchant raffles, silent auctions, bake sales, event sponsorships, donations and other fundraising activities.

"Autism New Jersey is incredibly grateful for the broad community awareness and fundraising efforts generated by the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival and the Banks family," said Ellen Schisler, Associate Executive Director of Autism New Jersey. "Through their support, and the



(above) The BStreet Band, the original Bruce Springsteen tribute band, will be headlining the 4th Annual Rockin' For Autism Music Festival on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at LaGrande Park in Fanwood.

support of all of our donors, Autism New Jersey has been able to provide much-needed services and programs to individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder. But we are particularly proud of the ongoing commitment and dedication shown by Mallory Banks in support of our mission."

As in years past, the festival will feature music from a variety of local bands and artists, a wide assortment of food trucks and local restaurants, a beer garden sponsored by Sheelen's Crossing, a boulevard of local merchants and vendors, plus street performers, costumed characters and lots of fun activities for families.

"Last year, thousands of people attended The Rockin' For Autism Music Festival to hear great music, eat great food and support a great cause, and because of them, Rockin' For Autism reached a major fundraising milestone," said Jeff Banks, father of Mallory and Ethan and co-chairman of the event. "This year's festival will have more music, more food, more activities and attractions, and everything else that makes Rockin' For

Autism such a great family-friendly event. Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000 for Autism New Jersey so we hope the community will join us in this effort."

Rockin' For Autism is actively seeking volunteers, vendors, merchant donations and corporate sponsors. For more information, or to donate, volunteer, sponsor or exhibit at the event, please contact info@rockin4autism.org.

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. Since its inception in 2015, the Rockin' For Autism Music Festival has raised more than \$41,000 for autism-related services and programming.

Please visit us on Facebook or rockin4autism.org, and follow us on Instagram (@Rockin_for_Autism) and Twitter (@Rockin4Autism).



(above) Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr (left) joins Rockin' For Autism Music Festival volunteers in presenting a \$17,500 check to Ellen Schisler of Autism New Jersey (4th from left). Rockin' For Autism was Autism New Jersey's top autism awareness fundraiser in 2018.









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TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR "AN EVENING OF SHINING STARS" 8TH ANNUAL SPECIAL NEEDS TALENT SHOW SET FOR MAY 3RD

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 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Founded by Cranford resident Sally Curci, the 8th annual showcase will feature another talented cast ready to sing and dance their way into your hearts as they share their amazing talents.

For the second consecutive year, 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. Last year, more than thirty special needs performers and their high school "buddies" amazed an audience of over 1,000 while singing and dancing to many of the greatest hits through the decades. This year's show is titled "The Greatest Show" and will feature songs from Broadway, movies, and even a few original songs.

"We are so excited to give our special cast the chance to perform at such a great venue once again," noted Shining Stars Founder and Codirector Sally Curci. "Last year was electric. The audience was wonderful and our performers were just amazing. 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 another night to remember."

When the lights go up, the "stars" will shine, entertaining with solo acts and full cast dance choreography — which is one of the highlights of the show.

"It was like being on Broadway," said Shining

Stars President Mike Curci. "It's a classic venue, Our performers showed how talented they are, and the audience support was simply fantastic. We can't wait to do this again in May. Everyone is very excited."

"We continue to be inspired by their talents every day," noted Shining Stars Co-director Nicole Greene. "This a wonderful chance for our cast to not only learn new songs and choreography, but to build all-important self-confidence and self-esteem, which they take with them away from the stage."

Adam Fleissner, who has performed in every Shining Stars show, can't wait to take the stage again, as he prepares to sing a Broadway tune. "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."

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 non profit 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 their Ambassadors basketball team, a special needs team that travels to play local first responders and other organizations to help promote inclusion, friendship and understanding.

For more information email shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com, or visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org.



(above) The 2018 cast of "An Evening of Shining Stars," who amazed an audience of over 1,000 during last years performance. The Shining Stars will take the stage again this year at the Union County Performing Arts Center on May 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.





Sunday Sounds 2019

APRIL 7 - 2pm

Sing of Spring: An Afternoon of Gershwin, with pianist Gil Scott Chapman on keyboards and Lauren Scales, vocalist.

MAY 5- 2pm

Ed Goldberg and the Odessa Klezmer Band, in honor of Jewish American History Month.

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(above, l-r) Sponsor Joe Renna of Renna Media; Second Place finisher Saverio Paradiso of Fanwood-Scotch Plains Boy Scout Troop 33, and Jim Parlapiano, Cranford Troop Volunteer.



(above) Liam Ott was one of three payers from Troop 33



(above) John Boyle of Fanwood-Scotch Plains Boy Scout Troop 33 finished with a 2.5 score at The Munsee District of Boy Scouts 6th Annual Chess Tournament

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SAVERIO PARADISO WINS SECOND PLACE IN BOY SCOUT CHESS TOURNAMENT

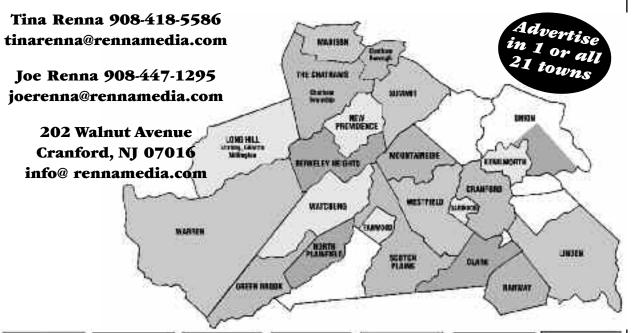
Boy Scout Troop 33 took second place honors in the 2019 Munsee District of Boy Scouts 6th Annual Chess Tournament. Saverio won three of his four games, and drew one to finish with a score of 3.5. The tournament was held at the Cranford Community Center, in Cranford, NJ on February 23, 2019.

Rockaway Troop 113 finishing with a perfect score of 4.0, winning all four of his games. Third Place was Joshua McDonald of Branchburg

Saverio Paradiso of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Troop 90 finishing with three wins and a score of 3.0. Trophies in the form of traveling chess sets were awarded to first, second, and third place finishers.

Twenty-six contestants participated in the tournament that is organized by Joe Renna of Renna Media, and Tournament Director John Moldovan. This tournament also met the 6a First place winner was Andrew Terhune of requirement for the scouts to earn a Chess merit badge. Lunch was provided for all participants and spectators by Big Apple Pizzeria, located on Walnut Avenue in Cranford.





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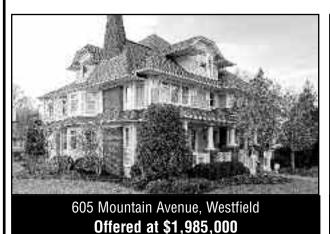
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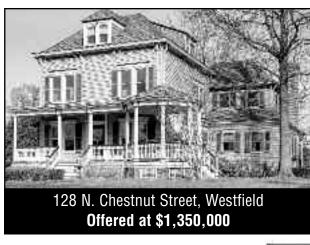














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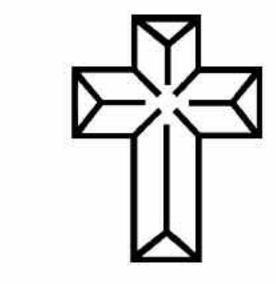
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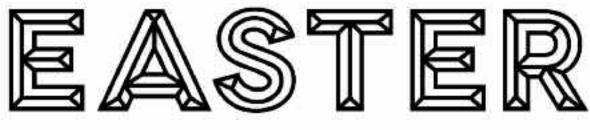
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AT EVANGEL CHURCH

SUNDAY APRIL 21

SERVICES AT: 7:30AM | 9AM | 11AM | 1PM

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR AGES
3-KINDERGARTEN AT 1PM SERVICE

INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC HOPE-FILLED MESSAGE FUN KIDS PROGRAM



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