

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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RESPONDERS RECOGNIZED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Father Nelligan Council of the Knights of Columbus recognized police officers, firefighters and rescue squad member from Scotch Plains and Fanwood during their 44th annual Shield Awards presentation at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. The ceremonies, emceed by Grand Knight Don Yost, honored the responders listed below.



- Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department firefighter Russ Hamill for 46 years of service, presented by Assistant Chief Dave Zawodniak.
- Fanwood Police officer Mike Rusin for a check fraud bust that led to a larger fraud ring and arrests related to a murder, presented by Chief Richard Trigo.
- Fanwood Rescue Squad first responder Dave Zawodniak for 26 years of service, presented by President Ed Winsor.
- Scotch Plains Volunteer Fire Department firefighter Bill Malone for 40 years of service, presented by Battalion Chief Dan Biglin.
- Scotch Plains Police officer Gerard Rites for helping a choking man by performing the Heimlich maneuver to clear his airway, saving his life, presented by Chief Ted Conley.
- Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Cadet Corps led by EMT Chang Yaramothu, presented by Chief Carolyn Sorge.



Photos by Tom Kranz

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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD 2019 MEMORIAL WEEKEND EVENTS ANNOUNCED

The 2019 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade Committee has announced the following events:

ANNUAL CONCERT AND PARADE SUNDAY, MAY 26,

and Monday, May 27, respectively.

Two Fanwood WWII veterans will serve as Grand Marshals this year Joe Schott and Joe Murano.

MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT (SUNDAY, MAY 26)

The 8th Annual "Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Concert" will present a tribute to America's service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in defense of our country. The concert, performed by the Westfield Community Concert Band, will also include readings from several of our community's veterans. The audience usually exceeds 500 people from Scotch Plains, Fanwood and surrounding towns. Please bring a lawn chair.

This year's concert, "A Tribute to Fallen Heroes," will be presented on Sunday, May 26, 2019, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on the Alan Augustine Village Green adjacent to the municipal building in downtown Scotch Plains. Your generous contribution will help fund this patriotic program.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES (MONDAY, MAY 27)

There will be a memorial service and presentation of wreaths at 9:00 a.m. at the Fanwood Memorial Library at 5 Forest Road. A memorial tribute and laying of wreaths will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the gazebo on Park Avenue and Front Street in downtown Scotch Plains.

Memorial Day Parade (Monday, May 27)

Starting at 10:45 a.m. at the gazebo in downtown Scotch Plains, the 2019 Memorial Day Parade will proceed along Park Avenue to Martine Avenue into downtown Fanwood. The parade ends at La Grande Park in Fanwood.

Memorial Day pays tribute to American military personnel of all wars who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in service to our country. Your participation will honor these fallen heroes and contribute to the success of the parade.

The theme for this year's parade is "All Gave Some... Some Gave All." We will recognize the dedication, commitment and sacrifice of all members of our Armed Forces who have defended our nation and continue to protect our country.

The very popular Memorial Day Parade Float Contest will be included in this year's parade. There will be prizes awarded for the top three floats: 1st Place \$750; 2nd Place \$500; 3rd Place \$300.

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.



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LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE – MAY 11

The 27th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is on Saturday, May 11, 2019.

The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is happening on Saturday, May 11, 2019. 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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STUDENTS COMPETE IN FBLA STATE CONFERENCE IN ATLANTIC CITY

Eighteen Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students and members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) organization attended the FBLA State Conference in Atlantic City on March 20, 2019, competing amongst other schools in the State of New Jersey. These students were: Sandra Abdelmalak, Nicole Alvarez, Alexa Anselmo, Marin Brace, Ava Buttigheri, Charles Coolidge, John Dazzo, Ryan Eng, Conor Feeney, Alexa Gingold, Zach Jachera, Suzanne Jackson, Michael Marino, James Middleton, Shannon Persuad, Cheryl Schneider, Rohan Shah and Jamie Weinberg.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School chapter took home the following awards: Chapter Website Award of Merit, Gold Chapter Member, Gold Chapter Officer, Outstanding Local Chapter, and Scrapbook. Six of our members took home individual/team awards for their presentations and projects. Those students were:

5th place: Nicole Alvarez for American Enterprise Project (a report and presentation event)

2nd place: Cheryl Schenider for Agribusiness (an objective test event)

1st place: Charles Coolidge for Intro to Public Speaking (a speech event) and

1st place: Jamie Weinberg, Alexa Gingold, and Marin Brace for Intro to Business Presentation (a presentation event).

The following students are eligible for the National Conference this year in Texas: Cheryl Schneider, Charles Coolidge, Jamie Weinberg, Alexa Gingold, and Marin Brace.



(above) Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students at the Future Business Leaders of America State Conference.

Photo by Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools.

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MEET JERRY HANDSMAN AND LEO RIBAU OF THE SCOTCH PLAINS RESCUE SQUAD

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



(above) Jerry Handsman, member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad since 1992.

(above) Leo Ribau, member since 2016.

Jerry Handsman joined the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad in 1992 at the age of 40. He's now been riding for 27 years and has served most recently as a deputy chief.

Always wanting to help others, Jerry decided to take it beyond the CPR training that he was certified for at the time and became an emergency medical technician (EMT). He's been on many calls over the years, but his most memorable was participating in a child's birth.

Upon the squad's arrival at the house, the baby boy decided he was coming right away, so there was no time to get to the hospital. With the assistance of Jerry and other squad members on scene, the mother and child did just fine. They were later transported to the hospital for follow-up care.

"It is a tremendously fulfilling feeling being able to help people in need," said Jerry.

During the day, he's a software quality assurance engineer, and has also been involved with Literacy Volunteers of America.

Leo Ribau joined the squad cadet program in 2016 at the age of 16. A friend of his was already riding and when Leo heard about what he was doing, it inspired him to join as well.

Today, he's been riding for three years and during this time was in charge of the squad

auxiliary for over a year and a half.

During his first call as an EMT, he recalled how nervous he was, but once he had to care for the patient, his training took over and he was able to provide the right treatment.

"With the training I had I knew what to do and what to look out for. When the call was over and we were leaving the hospital, I felt like I had really made a difference. The realization of actually saving a life made me feel honored, like being an EMT was something I was meant to do," said Leo.

He also stated that he appreciates how diverse the squad is and even though members come from different places and have different backgrounds, everyone is there because they have the drive to help others.

"Being part of our squad is not just something you volunteer to do; you become part of a family and a team. If you want to help people and be there in the moments that really matter, you should think about joining the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad," he said.

Please reach out if you would like to join your neighbors and become a part of our organization. Website at scotchplainsrescuesquad.com, email us at scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com, or call 908-322-2103.



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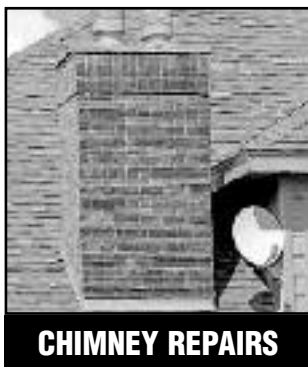
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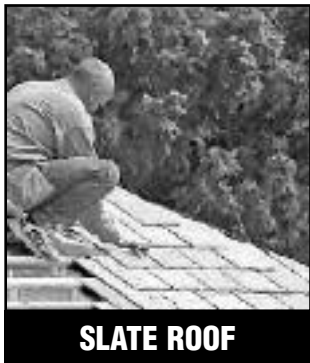
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2018 UNION COUNTY STEM SCHOLARS GRANT AWARD

Submitted by Pat Kane

Scotch Plains-Fanwood K-12 Science Supervisor, Guida Faria, shared the exciting news that Park and Terrill Middle Schools were awarded grants from Union County STEM totaling \$1,800. Park Middle School seventh grade Tech Ed teacher, Erica Toto and principal Dr. Jocelyn Dumaresq will be receiving \$800 for Afterschool STEM which will help fund the purchase of a 3D printer for Park's S.T.E.A.M. Club. This printer will enable students to see their prototype designs come to life as it 3D prints and then allows the students to compare its success relative to the first two prototypes.

Peggy Brown and John Scholtz, sixth grade science teachers at Park Middle School, were awarded a Union County STEM grant for Project Based Learning totaling \$500. The goal of this grant is to purchase fossils and other materials needed to create a simulated fossil dig in the

classroom. Students will practice fossil preparation skills using real tools and techniques to remove real fossils from an artificial mix. The second goal is to expose students to various STEM related careers, in particular, paleontology and archeology.

Terrill Middle School seventh grade teacher, Michael Wolenter and principal Dr. Kevin Holloway were awarded a Union County STEM Grant for project-based learning totaling \$500. This project-based learning unit is called, "Aquaponics: Looking for the Best Solution to a Growing Problem" and is designed to have students look at a possible solution to the growing problem of feeding an increasing world population. The goal of this grant is to purchase various aquaponic and hydroponic systems to determine ideal conditions for optimal plant growth.



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John has over 25 years of experience in the financial industry. His mission is to give personal service to help his clients achieve their financial goals, from college planning to retirement. His storefront is able to offer all the services of Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 firm. He welcomes the opportunity to work with attorneys and accountants to deliver a comprehensive strategy.

Though Edward Jones Financial Advisors' address is listed on South Avenue, its entrance is on Martine Avenue in the complex anchored by Railside Cafe on the corner. John Capeci or Office Manager Jennifer Mongold can be reached by phone at 908-288-7094 or through the website edwardjones.com.

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an appearance by The Joker, refreshments,
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(above, l-r) Westfield Area Chamber representatives, Board Secretary Mike Martin, Jim Mooney of Minuteman Press, and Chamber Director Gene Jannotti, Fanwood's Development Consultant Liz Jefferies and Councilwoman Patricia Walsh, and Mayor Colleen Mahr, Owner John M. Capeci, Jennifer Mongold of Edward Jones, John's wife Nancy Giuliani, John's mom Mary Ann, Steve Prato of Edward Jones.



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ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEW HIP HOP DANCE CREWS



(above) Crew 2019 Middle School Dance Crew



(above) Crew 2019 Elementary School Dance Crew

Photos by Scotch Plains Fanwood Public Schools

Submitted by Maria Daniel

Elementary and Middle School Students worked hard to earn their membership in the Scotch Plains Fanwood Hip Hop Dance Crew. They completed several weeks of dance training in the Hip Hop Experience Dance class while learning about the Hip Hop culture. They even created their Graffiti Art Project and concluded their class with a B-Boy/B-Girl battle in front of their parents. They earned their "bricks" and presented multiple dances and routine including an 80s Hip Hop throwback and footwork. The class is taught by Maria Daniel of iDance Ministry and offered through the Scotch Plains Parks and Recreation Department. Are you ready for the next level? These students clearly are.

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- Dance Camp: introduction to a variety of dance styles for incoming 1st-8th graders

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of the individuals, families and communities we serve.

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Photo by Michael J Photography.

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GIRL SCOUT WEEK

Scouts from Troops 40105 and 40547 presented Girl Scout cookies to the Fanwood Borough Council during their March 18, 2019 meeting and read tributes to Scouting from the

podium. It is the 107th anniversary of the Girl Scouts.

Fanwood and Scotch Plains Scouts sold 53,000 boxes of cookies during this year's drive.



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(above) Girl Scouts at the podium

Photo by Borough of Fanwood

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6TH GRADE PARK STUDENTS HONOR AND REMEMBER HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

Submitted by Patrice Barth

Sixth grade Language Arts students at Park Middle School held their annual Holocaust Remembrance Museum in Mrs. Phillips', Ms. Rodriguez's, Ms. Washuta's and Mrs. Zazzara's classrooms. Students studied the Holocaust throughout several months while reading Hana's Suitcase, The Children of Willesden Lane as well as a variety of historical fiction novels set during the Holocaust.

In addition to the novels read in class, students learned about the Nuremberg Laws, which placed restrictions upon Jewish families living throughout Europe. They also learned how Kristallnacht – The Night of Broken Glass, saw many Jewish businesses, places of worship, and homes destroyed. In addition to reading about the Holocaust, students also viewed survivor testimonies, and watched Paper Clips, a documentary that showed how students in Whitwell, Tennessee became a national sensation by collecting paper clips to symbolize the 11 million victims of the Holocaust and built a memorial right on their school property.

To conclude the Holocaust unit, students were asked to consider: What can we learn from the

lives of others? What do we want others to know and understand about the Holocaust? How can we honor and preserve the memory of those who perished? These questions let students decide what impacted them and what they wanted people to know and remember about the Holocaust.

When asked if students believed we were successful in preserving the memory of the Holocaust and those who were lost, McKenna Dryer responded, "I believe we were successful because many of the projects showed that the people who were brutally murdered during the Holocaust, will always have a place in our hearts."

Parents and administrators were invited into the classrooms to view student projects ranging from posters, diaries, models, poetry, paintings, and essays. The museum not only gave students the opportunity to preserve the memory of so many tragic stories, it also allowed them to teach all of us the importance of treating others with kindness and compassion, instead of with hatred and indifference. Please visit Park Middle School's website, spfk12.org, to view student projects.

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THE CELEBRATION SINGERS SPRING 2019 CONCERT: "GOIN' HOME"

The Celebration Singers would like to invite you to our concert which will be held on May 31 and June 1, 2019 at 8 p.m. at Harvest Training Center located at 69 Myrtle Street, Cranford NJ, 07016.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. T

ickets can be purchased in advance through our website, celebration-singers.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 invites the public to their concert, which will be held on May 31 and June 1, 2019 at 8 p.m. at the Harvest Training Center in Cranford.

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CHELSEA AND ROLLING THUNDER TEAM UP FOR SERVICE VETERANS

Stacks of dry goods, non-perishable food and sundries were ready to go to service men and women overseas and to veterans in need here in New Jersey, thanks to donations from eight Chelsea Senior Living residences and the Rolling Thunder veterans support group.

Chelsea spearheaded the collections at its buildings in Tinton Falls, Fanwood, Belvidere, Marlboro, Brick, Monroe, Montville and West Milford. The goods were brought to the Belvidere location - the Chelsea at Brookfield - where Rolling Thunder members Diane Malanga and George Matheis, both of the Broadway, NJ, chapter, loaded them up for delivery on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

“You can’t do enough for our servicemen and

women and our veterans,” said Tom Kranz, Director of Communications for Chelsea Senior Living. “And at Chelsea, we have many veterans among our residents to whom we pay ongoing tribute.”

“Some of the donations will go to the various programs at the VA facility in Lyons, including the nursing home and the transition program for homeless veterans,” said Malanga.

Rolling Thunder, initially known as a motorcycle club, now has 90 chapters and thousands of members nationwide, many of whom don’t ride but who support veterans and service members and POW/MIA issues.

Chelsea Senior Living has 19 assisted living communities in NJ, NY and PA with residents who include veterans from all services.



(above, l-r) Standing: George Matheis, Rolling Thunder; Virginia Greenlaw, resident/veteran; Diane Malanga, Rolling Thunder; Breanna Abbondante, Chelsea at Belvidere Country Cottage Coord; Jane Pritsker, Chelsea at Fanwood Lifestyle Dir; Sandy Peterson, Chelsea at Brookfield Lifestyle Dir; Seated: Raymond Taylor, resident/veteran and Robert Detrick, resident/veteran.

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SINGERS WITH DISABILITIES STAGE CABARET

Submitted by Christopher Reardon

What good is sitting alone in your room when you can come hear the music play? And when the music is performed by singers with developmental disabilities, life truly is a cabaret.

Performers with disabilities staged their second annual Cabaret at Community Access Unlimited, a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through comprehensive supports. All performers are either CAU members or attend the agency's Academy of Continuing Education (ACE).

CAU regularly stages musical productions, including a full-cast musical play each summer and a collaborative concert with Kean University music students each winter to empower its members through music and to showcase their talents. This is the second year the agency staged its Cabaret evening.

"Cabaret is an opportunity for our members to show the talent they have that might not be known to others," said Marguerite Modero, CAU's music director. "It's also an opportunity for our members to prove something to themselves. They grow by doing something out of their comfort zone."

The audience was treated to a variety of music, including pop, folk, country, Broadway and Frank Sinatra. On stage the performers worked collaboratively but also sang solos.

"It is an experience that fosters self-reliance because they have to rely on themselves up there," Modero said.

John Drescher has been a member of CAU since its inception in 1979, but only took up music four years ago, learning to play the drums and sing. He sang Sinatra's "My Way" at the Cabaret and loves the experience of being on stage, he said.

"It makes me feel happy and excited," he said. "I'm a little nervous at first, but I calm down."

Ernie Small is an ACE student who takes his art very seriously.

"I sing, dance and play the drums," he said. "It feel good inside. I get relaxed. It brings the love and not all the negativity."

CAU member Terrell Ross sang the Beatles song "Twist and Shout." His stage debut came in 2014 in CAU's production of "Fiddler on the Roof, Jr."

"I like to be a star," he said. "I get over my nerves once it starts and afterward I feel more confident."

Member Michelle Rosenkrans agreed. She

sang "I Win" by Carrie Underwood.

"I love it," she said. "The singing, the performing, I get a lot more confident. I used to be scared when I performed on stage. Now I enjoy it."

Naturally, the group opened with "Cabaret," made famous by Liza Minnelli, and closed with Queen's "We are the Champions."

"When they were done they told me, 'We rocked it,'" Modero said proudly.

About Community Access Unlimited

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil right. CAU currently serves more than 6,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



(above, l-r) Performers with disabilities in the 2019 CAU Cabaret included Terrell Ross, Michelle Rosenkrans, Ernie Small and John "Old Blue Eyes" Drescher.



(above) The entire cast takes a bow at the end of the show.



(above, l-r) CAU members Megan Modero, Maurice Stephens Aidan Dolan sing during the performance.

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TWENTY-FIVE VOLUNTEERS STEP UP FOR UNION COUNTY FOSTER YOUTH

More than two dozen volunteers from 10 Union County municipalities as well as towns in Bergen, Essex and Monmouth counties have been sworn in by Superior Court Judge Richard Wischusen to advocate for Union County youth removed from home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in foster homes or residential facilities.

After completion of training with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County and taking their oath, the new CASA volunteers - or advocates - attended three hours of family court hearings to observe other CASA volunteers in action, and then were matched to their assigned foster youth or sibling set.

They are Steve Polychronopoulos of Berkeley Heights; Dana Panavalli of Cliffside Park; Shelley Grobe, Corey Sherlock and Susan Shaw of Cranford; Brittany Gonzalez and Flor Maria Mendez of Elizabeth; Janice Pettiford of Fanwood; Arlene Sumner of Linden; Adejoke Adedokun and Belinda McFarland of Newark; Louise Connelly of Roselle; Coleen Coffey and Margaret Van Heek of Scotch Plains; Laura Nanda of Spring Lake; Jim Moss and Meredith Nolen of Summit; James Ancharski, Karen

Gorman, Su Huskey, Zoe Kimble, Suzanne LaForge and Michele Roosevelt of Westfield; Fernanda Olivo of West Orange and Diane Zinkowicz of Union.

The advocates range from age 23 to 74, and are parents, nonparents and grandparents; high school graduates to PhDs; full-time, part-time and retired professionals in such fields as education, law, medicine, nonprofit and business; and homemakers. Some had experience with foster care or adoption, as well as domestic violence or substance abuse within family or friends. Most, however, had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers are extra eyes and ears for family law judges. With court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, they incorporate findings into court reports and work to ensure each youth's needs are met and best interests protected. They are a constant during chaos. There are approximately 500 Union County youth in foster care; more than 200 still await a CASA volunteer. Is that you? Reach Courtney at 908-293-8136 or cgreen@casao.unioncounty.org for details on the next training opportunity.




(above) Margaret Van Heek of Scotch Plains was sworn in to advocate for Union County youth in foster care.




(above) Union County Superior Court Judge Richard Wischusen with the newest advocates for Union County's foster youth. There are approximately 500 Union County youth in foster care; more than 200 still await a CASA volunteer. Is that you? Reach Courtney at 908-293-8136 or cgreen@casao.unioncounty.org for details on the next training opportunity.




(above) Coleen Coffey of Scotch Plains was sworn in to advocate for Union County youth in foster care.




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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL COMPETES AT THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC IN BOSTON

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School music department arrived home on Sunday, April 7 2019, after an outstanding weekend at the Boston Festival of Music Trip. Wayne Mallette, Supervisor of Art and Music for the district, said “the students were stellar in their conduct and performances and they were great ambassadors for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District.”

The day of the competition was long, but the students of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School rose to the occasion. The judges were impressed with the pieces they performed and praised the students for the commitment to their craft.

The trip was filled with educational experiences as well, touring the freedom trail, visiting the historic town of Boston, taking a Duck Boat tour, a dinner dance cruise, and an evening performance of the Blue Man Group. The director of sales for the Blue Man Group said the Blue Man Group theatre management and house staff enjoyed working with our students and staff. They said they were "a joy to have in the theatre!"

Mr. Mallette expressed his gratitude to the dedicated and talented music staff of the Scotch

Plains-Fanwood School district: Mrs. Jan Allen (Choirs); Mr. Durand Thomas (Instrumental); Mr. John Gillick (SPF Jazz); Mr. Joe Reo (Rhythmsense); and Ms. Jackie Close (Winter Guard). Their hard work and dedication to the students make experiences like this possible. He also thanked Scotch Plains-Fanwood district staff, Ms. Heather Filipski and Ms. Cathy Hoffman, Lisa McNally (nurse) and Kristen Dinegar (nurse) as well as the music booster parents who went to serve as chaperones for all their hard work and dedication.

The results are as follows:

Men's Choir Category - Men's Choir ranked in 1st Place with a rating of Superior

Chamber Choir Category - Chamber Choir ranked 1st Place with a rating of Superior;

Select Choir Ranked 2nd Place with a rating of Superior

Women's Choir Category - Las Cantadoras Ranked 1st Place with a rating of Superior

Concert Choir Category - Concert Choir Ranked 1st Place with a rating of Superior

Indoor Color Guard Category - Winter Guard Ranked 1st Place with a rating of Superior

Percussion Ensemble Category - Rhythmsense ranked 1st Place with a rating of Superior

High School Jazz Category Class A - SPF Jazz Ranked 1st place with a rating of Superior

High School Jazz Category Class AA - Moonglowers Ranked 1st place with a rating of Superior

Concert Band Category - Concert Band Ranked 1st Place with a rating of Excellent

Wind Ensemble Category - Wind Ensemble Ranked 1st Place with a rating of Superior

Special student awards given by the judges:

Overall Jazz Soloist went to Stephen Oduro and Allan Romero

Overall Student Accompanist went to Sarah Gorman

Overall Soloist went to Megan Sheehy

Overall Concert Choir went to SPF Chamber Choir

Overall Jazz Band went to the Moonglowers

Overall Concert Band went to the Wind Ensemble



(above, l-r) Special student awards were earned by Megan Sheehy, Allan Romero, Stephen Oduro and Sarah Gorman.



(above) SPF Select Choir on stage during the Festival of Music.



(above) SPF Rhythmsense performing at the festival.

Photos by Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools.



(above) Members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School music department at the Annual Festival of Music in Boston, MA.

PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT DYSLEXIA

Submitted by Karina, Shannon, and Abi

Hello. We are 7th grade students from Park Middle School in Scotch Plains. We are conducting Service Learning Project and have chosen to raise awareness about Dyslexia, which is a quite common disorder. Based on our research, we have learned that Dyslexia is a disorder which affects reading, writing, and spelling. This disorder affects approximately 15%-20% of the population. (Schachter, 2016).

The cause of dyslexia is unclear and doctors continue to research the condition in order to understand what causes it. The research in Understood.org (2019) stated, "When we study children or adults with dyslexia, we find that some of those areas aren't activated quite the same as they are in people who do not have dyslexia. The imaging research has given us a very nice inside view of the reading brain and how it differs in struggling readers." That means a large portion of the brain is not being used to its fullest capacity in people with dyslexia. The research also stated, "Reading is made up of different components. And likewise what we see in the brain is a network that reflects those different components that we use for reading. Reading uses different parts of the brain to sound out unfamiliar words, recognize familiar words by sight, and to think about how to pronounce those words." To simplify, humans use different parts of the brain to understand the sound of the language, recognize the words visually, and pronounce the words.

Finding the right teaching method is crucial in order to help people with dyslexia learn how to read and write. So far there are a few promising methods such as an effective approach provided by Orton-Gillingham, an organization that helps dyslexics to read by breaking down the words. Other methods involve multisensory teaching (Gooding, 2017) that involves use of sand to sound out words, write out the words or clap the syllables before writing the word. Other methods involve technological advances. From researching Dyslexia.com we learn that "Keyboards with colored overlays and larger letters make typing more accessible to dyslexic students. Some come with multimedia hotkeys that enable the user to play, pause, stop, or rewind audio, which is useful as dyslexic learners often use text-to-speech software when reading and writing." These methods are easily accessible and provide dyslexic children with the opportunity to learn how to write and read.

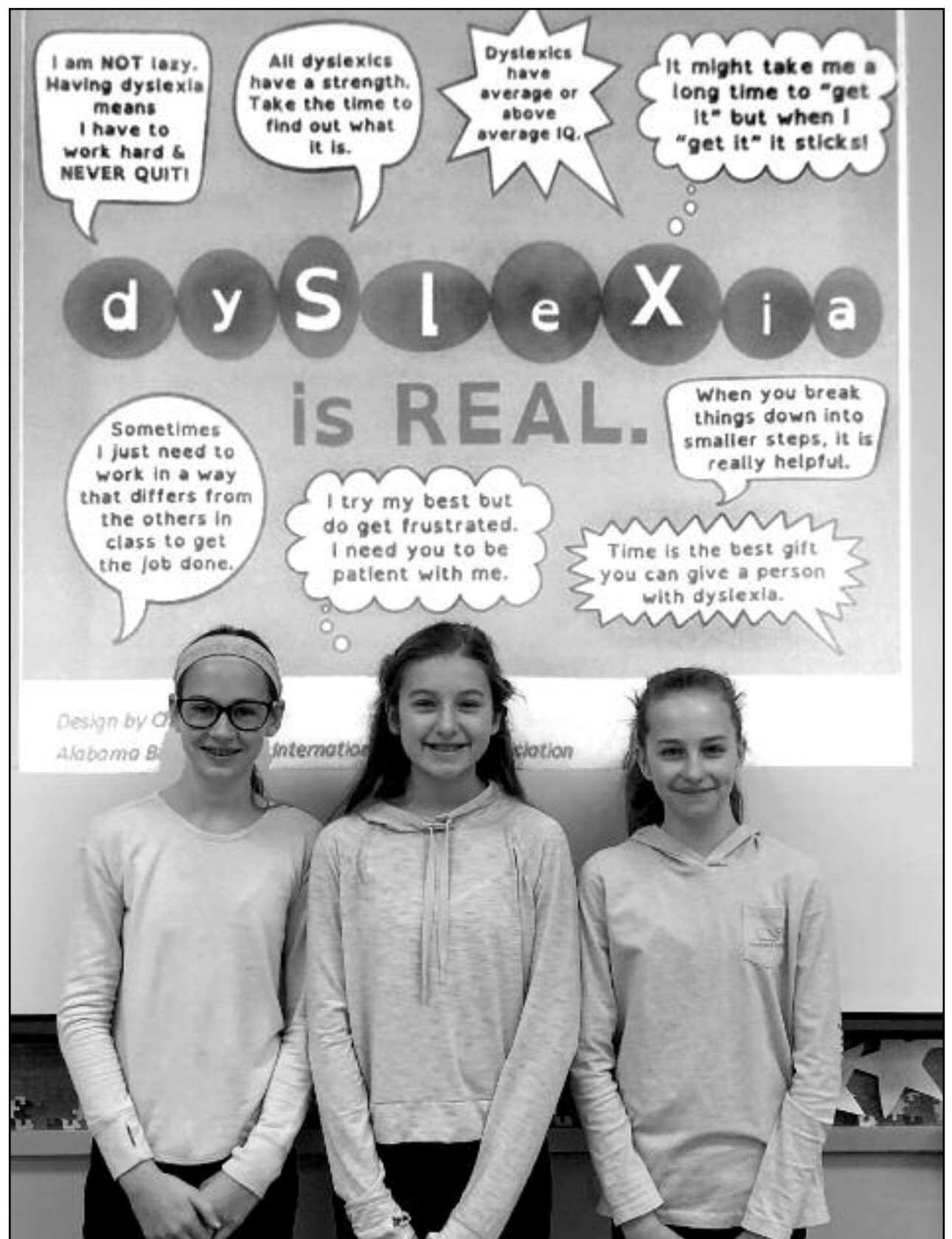
People with dyslexia are not the only ones affected by the disorder. In the article "The Effects of Dyslexia", 2015 we read: "Siblings are often upset or jealous because they might feel that one child is getting more attention because of an illness. This is normal for children to feel this way and for families to struggle to find a solution". Indeed, the dyslexic children need more attention than other children. For example, they may need extra help with homework and this could take attention from parents to this child in need. However, dyslexia doesn't have to stop anyone from reaching the full potential. In "Jamie Oliver is right: people with dyslexia really do

look at things differently" Usborne (2017) we read "I have five severely dyslexic children - says the association's policy manager Sue Flohr, who is herself dyslexic. They're now a doctor, a teacher, a photographer, a designer and a nightclub manager". This shows that even people with dyslexia can still do great things in life and be successful. To sum up, dyslexics are not the only people affected by dyslexia, family members are too. Dyslexia doesn't have to stop you from living your dream.

To conclude, dyslexia is a reading disorder, however, it does not affect children's intelligence. Many people don't understand what dyslexia is and jump to conclusions assuming that people with dyslexia are not smart. We hope that this article will inform you about dyslexia. If you ever meet someone with this condition, please be aware they are just as intelligent and hardworking as you.

Resources Consulted:

- Dyslexia: What Teachers Need to Know
- Gooding, Margie (2017, February 24). Retrieved February 07, 2019, from youtu.be/kE3DqJP-nkI
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- The Effects of Dyslexia - "The Effects of Dyslexia." No Bullying - Bullying & Cyber Bullying Resources, 14 Feb. 2015, nobullying.com/the-effects-of-dyslexia
- Understood.org (2019). Retrieved Feb. 08, 2019, from www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/child-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/video-dyslexia-and-the-brain
- Usborne, Simon. "Jamie Oliver is right: people with dyslexia really do look at things differently." The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 5 Sept. 2017



(above) Karina, Shannon, and Abi, students from Park Middle School in Scotch Plains, completed a service learning project on dyslexia.

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD WINTER ATHLETES WIN BIG

Che Dashiell wins Gold Medal in the North II Group III High Jump

On February 10, 2019 during the North II Group III State Sectional Meet at the Bennett Center in Toms River, New Jersey, Che Dashiell distinguished herself amongst all other competitors in the High Jump and earned the North II Group III Gold Medal.

The 2018-2019 Girls' Winter Track Team exhibited outstanding talent, dedication and teamwork throughout the season and was led by Head Coaches Jeff Koegel and Rich McGriff, Assistant Coach Dan Doherty and Volunteer Coaches Peter Kane and Alexandra Neidig.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Boys' Varsity Winter Track Team Earns Team State Championship

The 2018-2019 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Boys' Varsity Winter Track Team achieved success at a level never before achieved in the history of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

On January 22, February 10 and February 16, 2019, the Boys' Varsity Winter Track Team competed at the Bennett Center in Toms River, New Jersey earning team championships at each event. On January 22, the team won the State Relay Title by scoring 36.5 points. On February 10, the team won the North II Group III title, earning 26 more points than the runner up. This Boys' Varsity Winter Track Team completed the State Championship sweep on February 16, besting the runner up by 10 points.

The 4 x 400 team (Myles Singletary, Justin Williams, Kyle Estivene and Jacob Leigh) won all three State Championships. The team also has individual champions, Ian Celardo (Pole Vault, North II Group III), Ben Fleischer (3200, Union County), and Jacob Leigh (55 and 400, North II Group III Champion). The 2018-2019 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Boys' Varsity Winter Track Team consists of three first team All-County Athletes: Ben Fleischer, Brandon Garcia and Jacob Leigh.

The 2018-2019 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Boys' Varsity Winter Track Team consisted of Cameron

Adams, Kenny Agwu, Akinbusola Akinwunmi, Michael Banic, Maximo Cardarelli, Ian Celardo, Justice Corpin, Christopher Downey, Tyler Dvorin, Colin Dwyer, Kyle Estivene, Ben Fleischer, Brandon Garcia, Jacob Leigh, Roman Perrelli, Miles Roper, Peter Shih, Myles Singletary, Miles Varner, Justin Williams and Melvin Williams. Head Coaches are Jeff Koegel and Rich McGriff, Assistant Coach is Dan Doherty along with Volunteer Coaches Peter Kane and Alexandra Neidig.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Boys' Varsity Swim Team Wins the North II Group B Sectional Title and State Semi Finals

On February 14, 2019 at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA in Perth Amboy, the 2018-2019 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Boys' Varsity Swim Team won the North II Group B Sectional Title for the third time in the past four years. Additionally, on February 19, 2019, the Boys' Varsity Swim Team won the State Semi Finals at the Gloucester County Technical Institute in Sewell, achieving an impressive record of 11 wins and 4 losses this season.

The Boys' Varsity Swim Team had County Champions in the 200 Freestyle Relay (Alan Shao, Josh Cohen, Daniel Donaldson and Matt London) and the 400 Freestyle Relay (Alan Shao, Josh Cohen, Corey He and Matt London). The 200 Freestyle Relay and 400 Freestyle Relay were new Scotch Plains-Fanwood school records.

Alan Shao was named the County Champion for winning the 200 Individual Medley and 100 Butterfly and Josh Cohen was named the County Champion for winning the 200 and 500 Freestyle for the fourth consecutive year.

Josh Cohen set a Scotch Plains-Fanwood school record in the 100, 200 and 500 Freestyle as well as the 100 Butterfly. Additionally, Josh placed 2nd in the 200 Freestyle and 1st in the 500 Freestyle in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) 2019 Meet of Champions at Gloucester County Institute of

Technology. Senior Josh Cohen has met the rigorous qualification times for the Meet of Champions in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle events for the past four years.

The team consisted of Christian Blanco, Drew Burfeindt, Josh Cohen, Luka Culjak, Michael DePaola, Daniel Donaldson, Owen Ferrone, Virendra Ghate, Corey He, Sean Hough, Stanley Kanu, Prabvir Kukreja, Matt London, Ethan Melville, Sean Merkel, Jason Mongiovi, Ethan Morrobel, Gavin Morrobel, Conor Reilly, David Riedell, Lucas Route, Alan Shao, James Sullivan and Aidan Trenery. Head Coach is Jessica Hulnik and Assistant Coach is Judy Sharkey.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Girls' Varsity Swim Team Wins Fourth Consecutive Union County Title

On January 27, 2019 at the Union County Girls' Swimming Championship at Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey, the 2018-2019 Girls' Varsity Swim Team won their fifth consecutive Union County title. The Girls Varsity Swim Team achieved an impressive swimming record of 10-2-1 this season.

The 2018-2019 Girls Varsity Swim Team had a County Champion 200 Free Relay team consisting of Rachel Small, Julia Bonhote, Chloe Howell and Abby Ryan. Lily Hughes was named the County Champion for winning the 100 Backstroke setting a Scotch Plains-Fanwood school record.

The 2018-2019 Girls Varsity Swim Team consisted of Aubrey Bagdonas, Julianna Blanco, Julia Bonhote, Stephanie Brown, Camille Cooke, Sofia Corsaro, Rachel DiFabrizio, Kaleigh Einhorn, Sophia Gallahue, Katelyn Gaulin, Lily Holston, Chloe Howell, Lily Hughes, Kaitlyn Jackmin, Nicole Kenny, Sofia Leonetti, Kaitlyn Lusk, Aislinn Mooney, Eleanor Richard, Jessica Rojek, Emma Route, Abby Ryan, Rachel Small, Morgan Tsin, Caroline Warren, Julianna Warren, Chloe Yang and Julia Yick. Head Coach is Jessica Hulnik and Assistant Coach is Judy Sharkey.

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WINTER ATHLETES

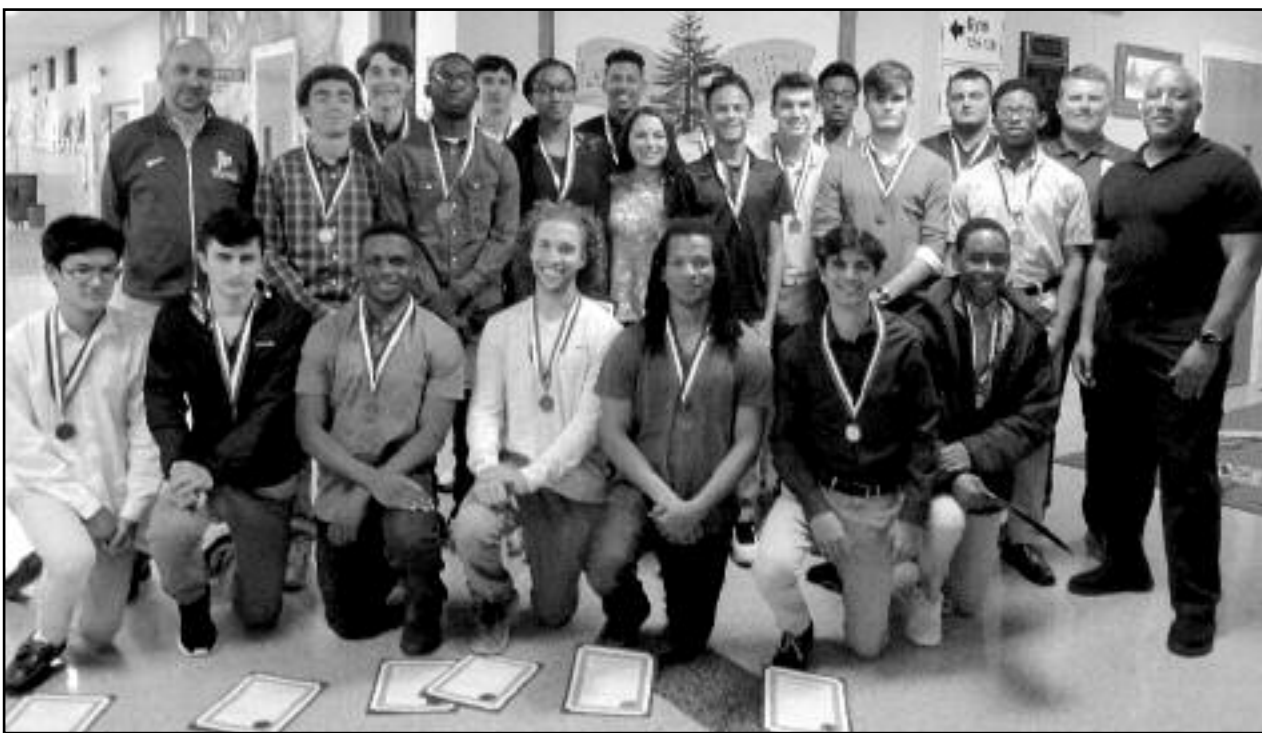
Photos by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



(above) Scotch Plains-Fanwood Girls' Varsity Swim Team



(above) Scotch Plains-Fanwood Boys' Varsity Swim Team




(above) The Varsity Winter Track Team celebrate a State Championship win this season.

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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 scotchplains-thriftshop.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."

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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated