

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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COLLEGE CLUB 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Submitted by Bernadette Hoyer

Celebrating its 86th Anniversary, the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains continues its tradition since its inception in 1933: to support the pursuit of a college education for young women in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood communities by providing scholarships. To date the College Club has awarded approximately \$667,000.00 in scholarships to about 540 young women.

This past May, the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains awarded a total of \$37,000.00 in scholarships to 11 students, 6 of who are high school seniors who graduated this June and 5 of whom are currently attending college. These awards included a scholarship generously donated by Nadine Maleski, Esq., a previous College Club recipient and a special education award donated in honor of a current College Club Member, Elaine Carmen in memory of two former College Club Members, Carolyn Dittus and Elaine Lyons, all of whom were educators.

Among the 2019 College recipients for academic year 2019-2020 are Olivia Barcia, daughter of Vincent and Michele Barcia, who will be a sophomore at Lafayette College; Olivia Gelling, daughter of Chris and Linda Gelling, who will be a junior at the University of Scranton; Isabella Hurtado, daughter of Jim and Ann Marie Hurtado, who will be a sophomore at the Fashion Institute of Technology; Jillian Lapidus, daughter of Cynthia and Jack Lapidus, who will be a senior at Albright College; and Alexis Marta, daughter of Melissa Stryker, who will be a junior at The College of New Jersey.

The 2019 High School recipients for academic year 2019-2020 are: Audrey Bagdonas, daughter of John and Jean Bagdonas, who will be attending Villanova University in the Fall; Audrey Davis, daughter of Andrew and Sally Davis, who will be a freshman at Boston College in the Fall; Vanessa Handy, daughter of Russel Handy, Jr. and Marcel Vaughn Handy, who will be attending NYU in the Fall; Madison Haugh, daughter of Jennifer and Michael Haugh, who will be a freshman at the College of New Jersey in the Fall; and Olivia Welham, daughter of Mark Welham and Rosalie Intartaglia, who will be



(above, l-r) Standing: Olivia Gelling, Audrey Davis, Isabella Hurtado, Alexis Marta, Melanie Litwin and Vanessa Handy; Sitting: Jillian Lapidus, Madison Haugh, Aubrey Bagdonas. Not pictured: Olivia Welham and Olivia Barcia.

attending Quinnipiac University in the Fall.

Melanie Litwin, daughter of Renee and Ken Litwin, who will be attending Tufts University in the Fall, received the Academic Award of Excellence.

This is the 82th year that female students, seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree, have been helped by the club's fundraising efforts. Two of the club's largest efforts are the annual spring luncheon and the sale of the community calendar in the Fall.

A special dinner reception was held for the recipients and their families on Monday, May 21; Club Immediate Past President, Melissa Tice and Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs, Tish Isack and Marie Walford made the scholarship presentations at the dinner. Melissa Tice and Dorothy Lusk, Co-President also presented the High School awards at the SPFHS annual awards assembly.

The College Club hosts monthly informative programs presented by guest speakers on the third Monday of every month September-May; free and open to the public at the Fanwood Presbyterian church. Anyone interested in more information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains or would like to become a member please visit the club's website at fspcollegeclub.org

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

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

DR. JOAN V. MAST IS APPOINTED NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Joan Mast was appointed Superintendent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools on August 1, 2019. Her tenure in the SPF school district began in 2001 when she was named the District Mathematics Supervisor. In 2010 she became Assistant Superintendent overseeing the District Curriculum Supervisors, the Technology Department and the Professional Development Programs.

With a lifelong commitment to education, Dr. Mast received her B.A. in Mathematics Education from Georgian Court University and went on to teach high school mathematics and computer science at Mount Saint Mary's Academy and Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School. She has served as teacher and Curriculum Supervisor for both the Millburn and Mount Olive Township Public Schools.

Dr. Mast earned both her M.A. and Doctorate in Mathematics Education from Columbia University, Teachers College. She subsequently earned a Principal's Certificate and School Administrator license through the NJEXCEL Accelerated School Leader Certification Program.

Dr. Mast believes that public schools are essential in the lives of students to ensure they have access to quality education. She believes this education leads students to discover pathways to having happy lives and to becoming productive citizens of the world. At the core of successful schools there are dedicated educators, a visionary Board of Education, and an active, participating community. Dr. Mast values the

commitment of all stakeholders in Scotch Plains-Fanwood and is looking forward to working collaboratively with the whole community to meet the needs of all students.

Dr. Mast enjoys reading, cycling, playing her accordion, painting, singing with the Rise Up Chorus and spending time with her family.



(above) Dr. Joan Mast was appointed Superintendent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools.

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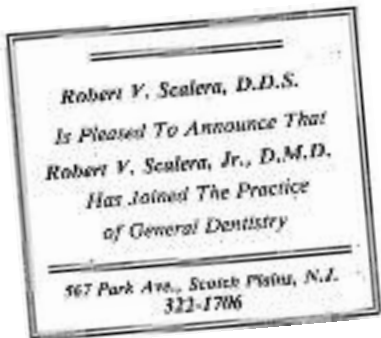
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KAREN VILLAREAL BECOMES ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Scotch Plains resident Karen Villareal is among the latest community volunteers to successfully train as advocates for Union County youth removed from home due to abuse or neglect, and now living in foster care. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union



(above) Karen Villareal of Scotch Plains joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as an advocate for foster youth.

County is the only organization serving as extra eyes and ears for family law judges in an effort to protect best interests and ensure needs are met.

Villareal said, "I became a CASA to make an impact on children and my community. Understanding a difficult childhood can impact a child long-term, I hope to provide a voice to a child who needs an advocate and positively impact their future."

As Villareal and her classmates arrived at the courthouse, Judge Richard Wischusen continued his practice of exiting his courtroom to greet and speak with the waiting volunteers. Later, while on the bench during the ceremony, he commended each for their commitment to the community's fragile child victims, and discussed the value of the CASA program to those children and case stakeholders, noting he always reads the CASA report and seeks their input during hearings.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class, ages 24 to 71,

is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including an adoptee, an adoptive parent, former military, immigrants, nonparents and parents, retirees, full- and part-time employees, and undergraduate and graduate students. Professional backgrounds include education, retail, nonprofit, information technology and academia. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

The final step before meeting their assigned foster youth is observation of seasoned CASA volunteers in court. Once assigned to the case, a court order grants access to the child, foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, enabling advocates to make informed recommendations in the child's best interests.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 are waiting for a CASA volunteer. Is that you? Contact Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136 to learn more.



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HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH BACKPACKS FOR LIFE

Submitted by Michael Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years our charity racing team, Operation Rebound, has been sponsored by Backpacks for Life (BFL). This amazing charity is responsible for providing thousands of homeless veterans backpacks full of essential toiletries and personal items. Also, the BFL will seek out veterans in need and help them with housing, food, employment and any other service that will help them live a better life.

The founder of the BFL, Brett D'Alessandro, is a United States Marine Corps veteran and

started this outstanding charity shortly after he returned home from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Brett recalls living out of a backpack during the war and felt a backpack can be a life-saving tool. In just a few years, Brett and the BFL are responsible for making thousands of backpacks for our homeless veterans.

The BFL doesn't just do backpacks, they are committed to helping our disabled veterans by providing them with the necessary resources and life-saving services by participating in various health fairs and PTSD groups. The BFL estimates about 350 disabled veterans have benefited from their resources and outreach. The BFL feels it's easy for a veteran to feel lost in the system. There are amazing resources out there, but it can be overwhelming trying to navigate it alone, so the BFL is there to help and guide the veteran through this agonizing process. What makes the BFL special is they invite veterans into their home and help with filling out paperwork, draft resumes, apply for housing, or whatever else is needed to help the veteran.

The future looks bright for the BFL. They're excited to expand their backpacks distribution and reach even more homeless veterans. As they connect with more veterans' organizations across the country, they will equip even more communities with backpacks.

Their mentorship and coaching process will

soon be accessible online. In this exciting development, veterans from across the country will be able to utilize the organization despite their location. Through this growth, the BFL focus remains on bringing hope back into the lives of veterans.

The BFL is out there every day making a difference and the Operation Rebound Racing Team is lucky to be a part of this incredible charity.

If you are interested with helping the Backpacks for Life please visit their website backpacksforlife.org.

For more information about New Jersey Veterans Network visit njvn.org.

About Operation Rebound

Operation Rebound is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. For the last two years, our team has made huge strides with suicide prevention simply by building trust and cementing friendships with people in need. It's most important to be honest with each person in crisis and follow up with ways to help them regain purpose in life. Setting goals motivates them to stay on a positive track. If you are interested with joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at mdbollio@optonline.net or call 973-332-1556.



(above) Brett D'Alessandro, Founder of Backpacks for Life



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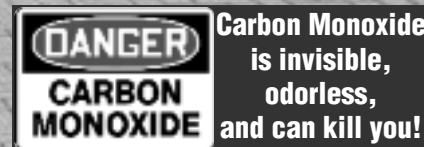
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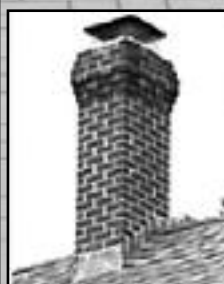
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LOCAL DANCERS WIN NATIONAL COMPETITION

The Moderne Academie Of Fine Arts Senior Dance Team won 1st and 2nd place in the Dancer's Inc. National Competition. They also won the Visually Brilliant Award and the Choreography Award! The competition was held in Harrisburg PA on July 12th, 2019.

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(above, l-r) Dancers and teachers Row 1: Gabby Dickstein, Tiffany Acosta, Sarah Cooney, Maddie Toll, Christina DiBella; Row 2: Simone Schomberg, Morgan Brown, Annie Stuart, Margot Rizzi; Row 3: Helen Watts and Ellen Smith.

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FALL PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Fanwood Recreation has announced its Fall schedule of programs for seniors. Unless otherwise noted, most programs begin the week of September 22nd and end the week of December 15th, 2019. They are scheduled for between 11 and 13 sessions, and will be held at the recreation building in Fanwood's Forest Road Park.

Each program costs \$15 for residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains, and \$30 for non-residents. Meditation for Seniors is free, but you still must register. For more information about these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org or call Fanwood Recreation at 908 370-7092.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Aerobics

Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
no class on 11/5

Gentle Yoga

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.–12 noon
no class on 11/12

Meditation for Seniors

Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.

Zumba Gold (aerobic dance)

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Aqua Jam (water exercise)

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.–12 noon
begins on September 11th,
ends December 11th

(at JCC pool, JCC of Central New Jersey,
1391 Martine Ave, Scotch Plains)

Gentle Yoga

Thursdays, 11 a.m.–12 noon
no class on 11/14, 11/28

Zumba Gold (aerobic dance)

Fridays, 9:15–10 a.m.
no class on 11/29

Tai Chi

Fridays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
no class on 11/29

F-SP COLLEGE CLUB PROGRAM - SEPT. 23RD

The Fanwood –Scotch Plains College Club welcomes Clara Barton, Angel of the Battlefield, portrayed by Pat Jordan. This program is a Public Scholars Project program sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and will take place on Monday, Sept. 23, 2019.

Pat Jordan is an accomplished actor, operatic singer and historian. She has worked with the American Historical Theatre since 1992.

Clara Barton was a strong-willed intelligent individual who answered Abraham Lincoln's call, signing on to support the Union efforts during the Civil War, frequently going to the front line where most nurses did not go.

This informative and entertaining program is free and open to the public. It will be held at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 South Martine Avenue, Fanwood (around the back at the McDermott Street entrance). It will begin at 7:50 p.m. following a brief refreshment period.

Attached please find a press release inviting the community to the College Club program on Sept. 23rd.

Please print the article and photo in the Sept. issue of the Fanwood Post and Scotch Plains monthly papers. Thank you-



(above) Pat Jordan will portray Clara Barton, Angel of the Battlefield.

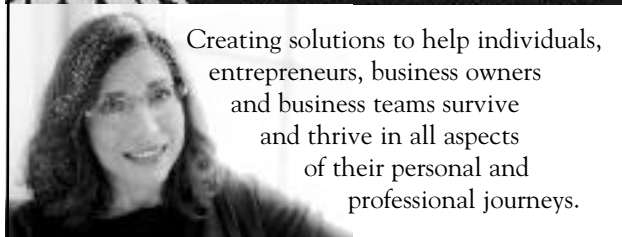
WELCOME COFFEE WITH THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS CLUB



The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers and Neighbors Club will hold our annual Welcome Coffee on Sunday, September 22, 2019, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at La Grande Park in Fanwood. This event is open to all, especially new and

prospective members. Please join us for coffee, light refreshments, an opportunity to meet club members, and a chance for your kids to play. Feel free to bring friends, neighbors, and other potential new members.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers and Neighbors is a non-profit social club that has been active in the community since 1950. Comprised of approximately 80 active families, we offer daytime and evening social activities. Please visit our website for more information: spfnewcomers.com.



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ROCK OPERA CHESS AT CDC THEATRE

The 2020-2021 season at CDC Theatre in Cranford will open with the complex rock opera Chess, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of ABBA fame. In the musical the ancient game becomes a metaphor for romantic rivalries, competitive gamesmanship, super-power politics and international intrigues.

The pawns in the drama form a love triangle: the loutish American chess star, the earnest Russian champion and the Hungarian American female assistant who arrives at the match with the American but falls for the Russian. From Bangkok to Budapest, the players, lovers, politicians and spies manipulate and are manipulated to the pulse of a monumental rock score that includes the international pop hits "One Night in Bangkok" and "I Know Him So Well".

"In addition to Chess being one of the most beautiful musical scores ever written, what excites me about the show is that it is at once a historical representation of the Cold War and a very timely exploration of US/Russia political relations given present day tensions.", said director Edgar Hidalgo. "CDC Theatre is producing the original London stage version of Chess, with the addition of "Someone Else's Story" from the Broadway production. We are excited to be presenting Chess in association with the New Jersey City University (NJCU). Students and alumni of NJCU are represented on-stage and in the orchestra, and the university's musical theatre and music departments are providing support in other areas of the production."

Information on how to get tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org, with the best selections and prices available on-line.

POLICE DEPARTMENT HOST 2019 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Scotch Plains Police Department hosted National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 6th, 2019, at Alan Augustine Park. The police were joined by the Scotch Plains Fire Department and Rescue Squad for the community building event.

First responders held demonstrations for the kids, and allowed them to explore their vehicles, complete activities, and ask any questions. Live music was also featured inflatable attractions were available for kids. A special guest appearance was also made by Batman!

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign celebrated by millions of neighbors across thousands of communities in America to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it is designed to: Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; Generate support for local anti-crime efforts; Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships; and Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. For more information visit natw.org.



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Oct. 4,5,11,12
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Event is being presented by the Kenilworth Historical Society to benefit the Oswald J. Nitschke House Museum Project.

2019 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PHOTOS

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Scotch Plains Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com). Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



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LISTENING AND SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Have you ever been told you are a good listener? Do you have a yearning to really make a difference? Caring Contact will be offering its 96th volunteer listening training beginning September 16 through December 16, 2019. Training will run once a week from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., plus one full weekend, December 7 and 8, and will be held at the Newmark School, 1000 Cellar Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ.

Participants receive 52 hours of comprehensive training by nationally certified instructors in active listening and become certified in Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Volunteers develop the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support.

"This training and volunteering opportunity is ideal for retirees, empty-nesters, stay-at-home parents," said Janet Sarkos, Caring Contact's executive director. "Many of our listeners were looking for something meaningful to do after they retired or their children left home. They find that volunteering at Caring Contact not only gives them something to do with their new-found freedom but also gives them a sense of reward

when they help someone in crisis. Full-time professionals also participate finding the flexible volunteer hours work well with their work obligations."

Following training, new volunteer listeners are supported by seasoned listeners during 24 hours of internship before they take calls on their own. Even once a volunteer is a certified listener, the hotline provides a range of support and training opportunities to allow them to keep honing their skills.

Anyone interested in registering for the training should visit caringcontact.org/volunteer-listener-application/.

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community, providing active listening support and best-in-class training to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. More than 100 trained volunteer listeners answered over 10,000 calls last year from people in crisis, having suicidal thoughts or simply feeling depressed and lonely.

If you are in crisis and need someone to listen, call us at 908-232-2880. To learn more, visit caringcontact.org.

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SCOTCH PLAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES EXCITING SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE FOR ADULTS

Although summer reading is over, there are still plenty of exciting September events planned for adults at the Scotch Plains Public Library.

On Friday, September 6 at 10 a.m., local artist Sandra Cerchio is back with her wildly popular "Sketching with Sandra" series.

In this month's session, learn basic drawing skills while perfecting clouds. Attendees should bring sketch paper, pencils, and an eraser. Registration is required for this session and is limited to Scotch Plains and Fanwood adult cardholders.

On Sunday, September 8 at 2 p.m., local musician Danielle Illario will perform a selection of American Standard jazz, R&B, and hip-hop.

Illario can be found performing across New York and New Jersey, including the Blue Note, Montclair Social Club, and the Capitol Theater. She has written and recorded for multiple artists and cites Nina Simone, Steely Dan, and Stevie Wonder as her top influences.

On Monday, September 9 at 10 a.m., the library will host Bagels & Books, where book-lovers share their recent reading experiences with other bibliophiles and pick up suggestions for future reading. Light refreshments will be served and registration is required. Later in the day, at 7 p.m., the Evening

Book Club will discuss Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. The club is always looking for new members, so if you've read this compelling story, stop by and share your thoughts.

On Thursday, September 19 at 7 p.m., join the library staff for a Downton Abbey "Tea Party."

Bring your own teacup to make a teacup candle and then stay to view The Manners of Downton Abbey, a documentary that reveals how the hit television show got all the details right. Registration is required for this event.

New to the programming line-up, on Friday, September 27 at 10 a.m., meet the library staff at a local park,

location to be announced, for a leisurely walk on the nature trail; learn about what's going on in the library, talk about what you're reading, and ask your library-related questions! Registration is not required, but please bring water and wear good walking shoes.

For more information or to register for the programs above, go to cotlib.org, email library@scotlib.org, call (908) 322-5007 x 204 or stop by the Reference Desk. Please note: For programs that require registration, priority will be given to Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents. The Scotch Plains Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, one block from Park Avenue in the center of town.

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ANNUAL FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT CENTER FOR HOPE

The Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care auxiliary will present its annual fashion show and luncheon on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Pines Manor, 2085 Lincoln Highway, Edison, NJ. All proceeds will directly benefit the center.

The event is always a sold out affair, featuring a professional show of fashions by Lord & Taylor of Westfield.

The parade of prizes includes themed baskets, sports items, household items, jewelry, electronic equipment and many more. There

will be a 50-50 raffle and grand raffle offering a \$2,000 visa gift card, 55" smart HD TV and a \$500 shoptite gift card.

The mission of the auxiliary is to increase public awareness of the valuable services provided by the center and to raise funds to enable them to continue their policy of coverage for everyone in need, regardless of their ability to pay.

The cost per ticket is \$65.00. Information and reservations may be made by calling Jo Favor at 908-276-2236.

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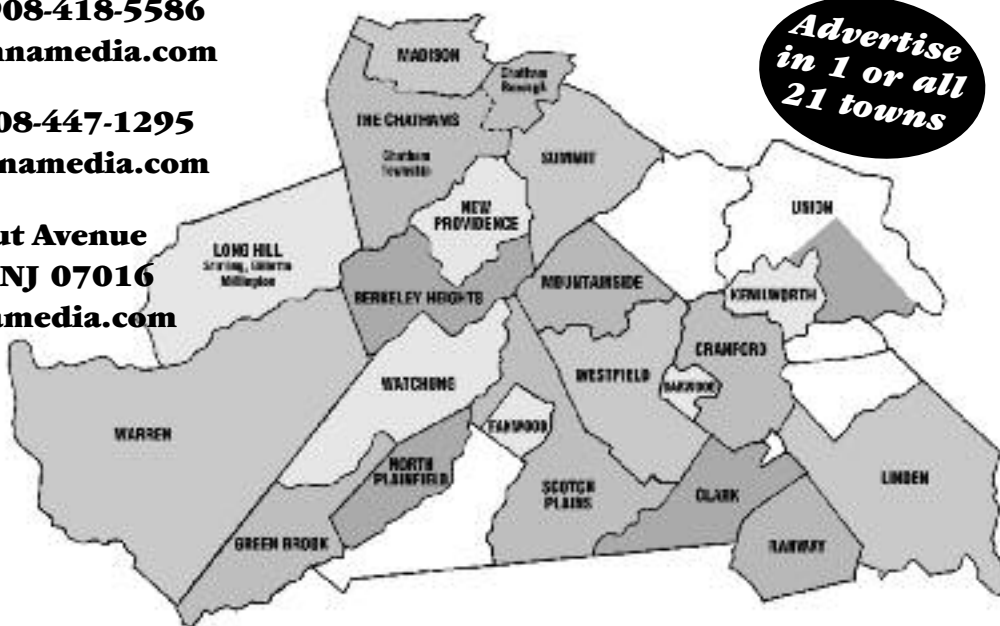
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WOOFSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 7, 2019. We will be having our Home for Good Dog Rescue summer music festival event – WoofStock! At Hartley Farms Polo Field, 9 Hartley Farms Rd, Morristown, NJ. This is Home for Good's largest adoption day of the year and is great fun for the whole family. This event is pet-friendly, so be sure to bring your HFG alum to visit!

We will be having live music from the amazing band Brian Kirk & The Jirks as well as food trucks, craft vendors, beer and wine, K-9 contests, prize raffles, dog and family photoshoots by the talented Jennifer Mount Photography. And of course dog adoptions!

This event is a great place to bring your Home for Good rescue pup for a reunion with other HFG rescue dogs as well as meet the fosters who care for so many dogs.

We would love for you to be part of this fun event at Hartley Farms Polo Field in Morristown, New Jersey.

Gates open at 11 a.m. Activities start: 12 noon. Music: 12 noon – 4 p.m.

Tickets on sale now at: HomeforGoodDogs.org \$25 in advance. \$30 at the gate. \$12 for children 12 and under.



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RENNAMEDIA.COM **NJ LocalInfo.com**

AD WEB PAGE: \$30
Block of 20 ads \$300 (\$15 per ad)
 Ad gets its own indexed web page on NJLocalInfo.com
 Searchable through search engines and shared on our Facebook network.

CALENDER EVENT: \$20
Block of 20 events \$200 (\$10 per event)
 Events get posted on RennaMedia.com calendar
 and included in weekly newsletter shared on our Facebook network

ONLINE PRESS RELEASE: \$130
Block of 20 ads \$1,200 (\$60 per PR)
 Ad gets its own indexed web pages on NJLocalInfo.com and RennaMedia.com
 Searchable through search engines and shared on our Facebook network.

DISPLAY ADS (12 months)
Banner Ad (500 x 100 pixels) **\$240** on RennaMedia.com
Column Ad (300 x 200 pixels) **\$960**
 Column ad appears on all pages of on RennaMedia.com and NJLocalInfo.com

WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan: \$250
- Website creation/update: \$2,400 (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting: \$300 per year
 Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- SEO Services - average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month
 Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing
- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market \$100
- National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets.
 Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295
joerenna@rennamedia.com
Visit RennaMedia.com or NJLocalInfo.com

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