

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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FRAZEE HOUSE HARVEST FESTIVAL 2019

Submitted by Maria LaMorte-Wright

The historic Frazee farmstead will host October festivities on its site and participate in Union County-wide events marking the area's deep Colonial history. All October events, besides providing engagement to county residents and lovers of history, will benefit the "Save the Frazee House" project, an effort to complete the renovation of the historic house.

The 4th Annual Harvest Festival will be held - rain or shine - at the Frazee House site, 1451 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, on Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be many family friendly activities: live music, pony rides, a petting zoo, food trucks, face painting, pumpkin tossing and bowling, a haunted trail, and a costume contest, plus, new for this year, bouncy house, water game and more games for all ages.

"We've made wonderful progress with the Frazee renovation and are excited for the public to see it," said Calamaras. The Harvest Festival is another chance for the community to visit the site and see for themselves.

There will be "The Great Pumpkin Patch," where pumpkins will be sold during the Harvest Festival and every day, from 11a.m. to dusk, at the Frazee site. The sales are ongoing from October 5 through 31.

Additionally, in October, overlapping the date of Harvest Festival, will be the Frazee House participation with Union

County's annual "Four Centuries in a Weekend," October 19 and 20. The county Board of Chosen Freeholders sponsors coordinated open houses that weekend at more than 50 sites all over the county — homes, museums, trails, cemeteries and parks — of which the Frazee site is one of the oldest. Representatives will be on the Frazee site between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. on both days with brochures, bookmarks, a video demonstration and an external tour of the house. History buffs can note that the Frazee House is one of the stops on the Battle of Short Hills Historic Trail as well as being renowned for the legendary confrontation between General Cornwallis and Aunt Betty Frazee.

"October 2019 could be one of the most significant milestones for Aunt Betty Frazee since she stepped onto her porch to defy the British on their march past her house in 1777," said Andy Calamaras, president of the Rotary Frazee House committee. The committee, with the support of the Township of Scotch Plains, has spearheaded a 12-year project to rescue the house's structure to the American Revolutionary period – and the external renovation is nearly complete.

More information about the Save the Frazee House project can be found at crowdrise.com/savethefrazeehouse. You can also visit the facebook page for ongoing updates regarding the October events: facebook.com/frazeehouse.

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Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

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

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“SCOTCH PLAINS WEEKEND” ACTIVITIES AND ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT ANNOUNCED

The Township of Scotch Plains presents “Scotch Plains Weekend” October 4, 5 and 6th at the Alan M. Augustine Village Green as a way to kick start into the fall season.

Friday October 4th – Family Movie Night featuring the Fall Classic “Hocus Pocus” is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Attendees are invited to arrive early beginning at 6:30 p.m. and decorate a pumpkin to take home as you settle in on the Green for the feature presentation.

Saturday October 5th – Play for P.I.N.K. Rose Checchio Walk to Wipeout Breast Cancer steps off at 9:00 a.m. Directly following the walk is the Annual Health and Wellness Fair that will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Local health businesses and institutions will be on hand to talk services, trends and wellness opportunities.

Sunday October 6th- Annual Scotch Plains Day event will be held from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00

p.m. on Park Avenue and the Village Green. The event will feature a display of local community groups, food trucks, live music, annual Ravioli Eating Contest, Kid Zone, Beer Garden and Electric Vehicle Show.

Saturday October 26th- The Township will be hosting its annual Trunk or Treat event featuring candy giveaways, hayrides, and crafts provided by the Scotch Plains Public Library. The event is scheduled from 3:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. with a rain date of October 27th. Interested “trunkers” and car decorating contest participants are required to register via Community Pass or the Recreation Department. The event is generously supported by the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association.

For more information please visit the Township of Scotch Plains website at scotchplainsnj.gov.

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PRESENTS

SCOTCH PLAINS WEEKEND

FRI OCT. 4 7:30PM	SAT OCT. 5 9AM-1PM	SUN OCT. 6 12PM-5PM
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT "HOCUS POCUS" STARTING AT 6:30PM DECORATE A PUMPKIN BEFORE THIS FALL CLASSIC!	PLAY FOR P.I.N.K. ROSE CHECCHIO WALK TO WIPE OUT BREAST CANCER + HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR (10AM-1PM)	SCOTCH PLAINS DAY MUSIC + FOOD + COMMUNITY GROUPS + KID ZONE AND ACTIVITIES + ELEC VEHICLE SHOW

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COLLEGE CLUB COMMUNITY CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

The 56th edition of the Fanwood Scotch Plains College Club Community Calendar is now available. The 13-month calendar contains a wealth of information about community activities providing dates of school holidays, testing periods, closings, concerts and activities (PTA, Music Boosters meetings and sports events) for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District K-12, Union Catholic and St. Bartholomew Academy. The calendar also provides listings of the local Houses of Worship and contact information for approximately 100 local organizations.

Due to the support of the 100 advertisers in the calendar the entire purchase price of \$10 goes directly into the Club's Scholarship Fund for scholarships that are awarded annually. In May the College Club was able to award \$37,000.00 in scholarships to eleven local young women. Calendar sales are a major fundraiser for the scholarship funds.

Calendars can be purchased at the Fanwood and Scotch Plains libraries and the following local merchants: Norman's Hallmark, Apple Blossom Flower Shop, Shear Magic and Scotchwood Florist as well as from any College Club member.

For additional information about the community calendar and the College Club of Fanwood Scotch Plains please visit the website: fspcollegeclub.org.



(above) The cover of the 56th edition community calendar of the College Club of Fanwood and Scotch Plains features the 2019 scholarship recipients.

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VINTAGE MARKET PLACE SUNDAY, 10/27

The Fanwood Train Station Vintage Marketplace will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2019. There will be

75+ tables of vintage items, antiques, collectibles and more. If you are a collector or love things from days gone by then you will enjoy this event which is held in the parking lot of the Fanwood Train Station on South Ave.

Spend some time browsing through all the items being sold, have some lunch and enjoy the great music.

Some of the food being sold at this event will be 'gourmet' such as Gyros, shish ka bobs, French fries, zeppoles and more!



COLLEGE CLUB PRESENTS "CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE CHILD AT A TIME"

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will be presenting "Changing the World, One Child at a Time" on October 21, 2019.

Jim Naugle is a volunteer Child Ambassador with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization that serves children in over 100 countries worldwide. He has traveled to Bangladesh, Kenya and Ethiopia to experience World Vision's work firsthand. Jim will share stories from his travels to some of the poorest areas in the world and will discuss the hallmarks of effective humanitarian intervention, "one child at a time". Jim is a resident of Scotch Plains and is a homecare physical therapist. Jim and his family have been sponsoring children through World Vision for 15 years and has seen the profound impact that sponsorship has on the child, their community and the sponsor themselves.

This informative program is free and open to the public.

It will be held at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 Martine Avenue, Fanwood, (around the back at the McDermott Street entrance). It will begin at 7:30 p.m. following a brief refreshment period.



(above) The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will be presenting "Changing the World, One Child at a time" with Jim Naugle on October 21.

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The Union County Post Offices that offer passport application service include: Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Elizabeth Main Post Office, Fanwood, Garwood, Linden Main Post Office, Netherwood Station in Plainfield, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Summit, Union Main Post Office, and Westfield.

Although some Union County Post Offices like Garwood, Netherwood Station, and Scotch Plains accept walk-ins, many Post Offices offering passport services require an appointment. For appointments during regular passport processing hours, the U.S. Postal Service has made scheduling easier with the USPS Retail Customer Appointment Scheduler tool (RCAS) at usps.com/scheduler.

The RCAS tool will display available appointment times for participating Post Office locations that offer passport appointment services within the selected radius. Users will receive

notifications of their scheduled appointment via email or text.

Application forms and information on the costs and how to apply for a passport can be found at usps.com/passport.

The U.S. Department of State's National Passport Information Center is available to answer passport questions by phone or email in English or Spanish. If you have a question about passports you can call toll-free 1-877-487-2778 or email NPIC@state.gov.

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9/11 SURVIVOR TALKS OF HEROES AND ANGELS

During the September 11, 2019 Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club lunch meeting guest speaker Connie Labetti told her 9-11 survivor story.

Many were moved to tears in the packed



(above) Rotary Club president Wayne Zuhl and Connie Labetti

meeting room as Connie recounted how heroes, and maybe even angels, helped her and others escape the south tower on 9/11.

Crucial to her survival was her boss Ronald Fazio who stayed behind and made sure everyone left the floor. Ronald made it from the 99th floor of the south tower to the lobby on 9/11, but he stayed behind to hold the door so others could make it out alive. He never did.

In honor of his memory, his son Rob founded the Hold The Door For Others Foundation. They help people deal with grief and loss. During the meeting Rotarians and guests collected \$327 for the foundation and the Club added another \$100 bringing the total contribution to \$427. To learn more about the foundation visit holdthedoor.com.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club has been serving the community since 1938. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at noon at the Stage House Restaurant. On the last Wednesday of the month, members can participate in a service project for Mobile Meals of Westfield. Guests are invited to attend and learn about the good that Rotary is doing worldwide. For further information, go to fsrotary.org.

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To participate as a "trunker," vehicles must be registered via community pass by October 18th. For more information, please contact the Department of Parks and Recreation: 908-322-6700 x 223

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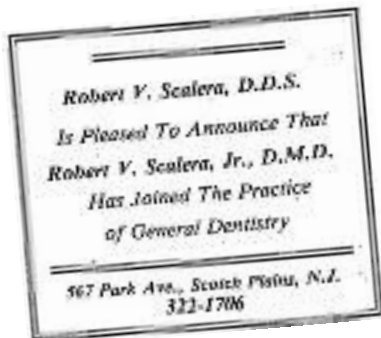
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On October 6th, 2019, Scotch Plains will offer something for everyone, food, music, games and community outreach and, in honor of the annual National Drive Electric Week (September 14-22) an electric vehicle show where residents can learn all about the benefits of plug-in vehicles. This is the second year the EV Show will be a highlight of Scotch Plains Day!

"We would like to invite residents and non-residents who own electric vehicles to sign up to display their EVs on Scotch Plains Day and share their experience of driving electric," says Mayor Al Smith. The Mayor is a proud owner of a hybrid vehicle and is looking forward to one day owning an electric car and says, "If you are a car performance enthusiast, and take drive an electric vehicle, you will know that this is the wave of the future."

Alternative energy and plug-in vehicles will be on display. Nissan World of Springfield will

display the 2019 Leaf Plus SL and Global Auto Mall will show off an electric Hyundai Ioniq. In addition, local EV owners will be on hand to share their experiences about going electric.

Representatives from Greenspot, an industry-leading smart mobility company who specializes in developing and installing networks of publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and electric mobility solutions will be back this year to share information about Greenspot's e-Mobility solutions including publicly available electric vehicle charging stations, e-Bikes, e-Scooters, and electric cars available to the public for rental.

If you would like to display your EV on October 6th, please reach out to Margaret Heisey at 908-322-6700 ext. 314 or visit the Drive Electric Week website and register on line at driveelectricweek.org.

For more information on Scotch Plains Day, please visit scotchplainsday.com.

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FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm
Adult\$8.59	Adult\$12.59
Kids 7-10.....\$6.29	Kids 7-10.....\$7.79
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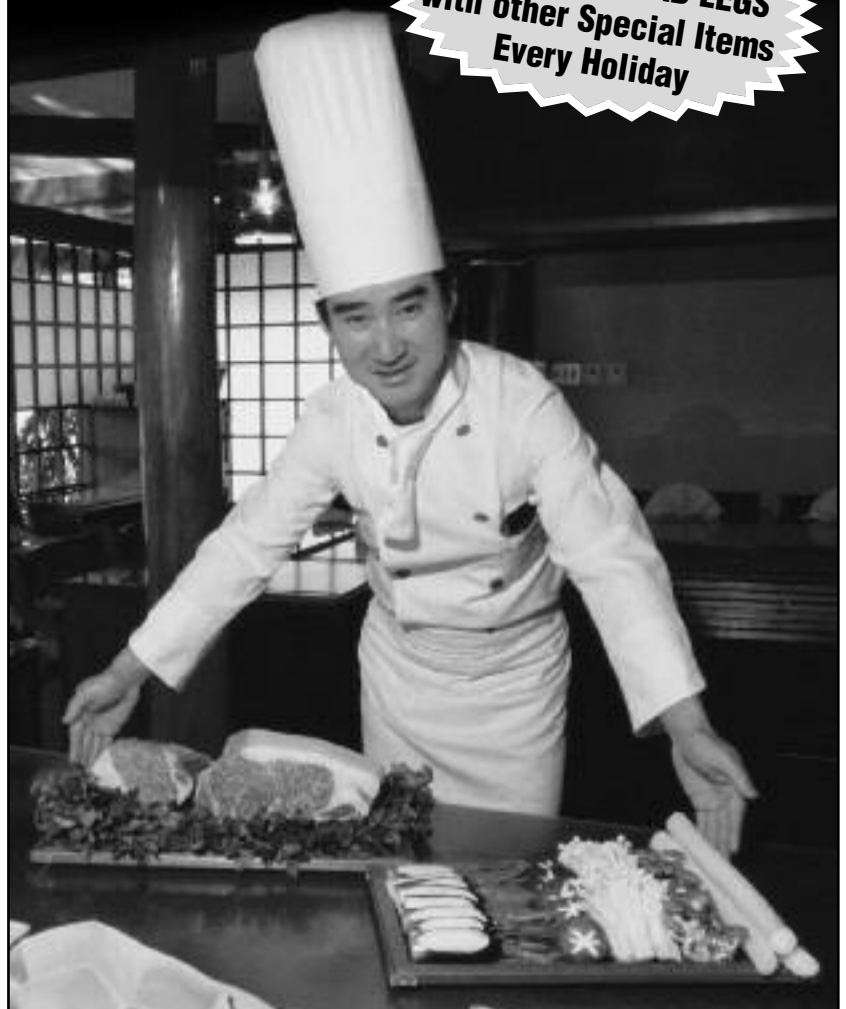
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LOCAL CIVIL AIR PATROL SQUADRON ACHIEVEMENTS

Submitted by Cadet Master Sergeant Niyati Shah

On Tuesday, August 20, 2019, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Anushka Kumar, a resident of Watchung, New Jersey, accepted command as the new Cadet Commander of a local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadron, the Captain "Bud" Jackson Composite Squadron (NJ-102). This prestigious role was passed on to her by Cadet Major Veronica Vergara, a resident of Scotch Plains, NJ, who has graduated high school and has started her college life at Rutgers University.

The Change of Command ceremony was conducted by Cadet Major Veronica Vergara, as previous Cadet Commander, Capt. Sachin Adbe, as Squadron Commander, and Cadet Master Sergeant Isaac Allen, as guidon bearer. The ceremony consisted of Cadet Major Vergara relinquishing command and passing on the squadron guidon to Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Kumar. The passing on of the guidon symbolizes not only a change in command, but the passing on of responsibility and expectations.

Cadet Commander isn't just a title, with the title comes tremendous responsibility. Cadet Kumar now acts as the liaison between the cadet body and senior member staff and ensures compliance with CAP regulations and policies in all squadron activity. She would set goals and develop training plans for the squadron to improve with. Under her leadership, the squadron will work towards the shared goal of maximizing cadet participation, recruitment, and striving for excellence. Cadet Kumar will lead and command 102 cadets, and it is not a small responsibility for a teenager.

Cadet Kumar joined the CAP in 2016 and has been an active member of the squadron, consistently rising in rank ever since. She has utilized many opportunities to learn about emergency services, leadership, cyber security, and STEM based topics. She leads drills and ceremonies, teaches about positive character traits, and encourages cadets to promote. She has become a role model to her peers and has inspired them to "Aim High".

During the same ceremony night, several other cadets were commended for their notable achievements. Cadet Paul Koizumi, resident of Fanwood, NJ, achieved a major milestone, the Billy Mitchell Award, promoting in rank to Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. This milestone signifies a transition from the leadership to executive phase of the Cadet Program. Additionally, twenty-four cadets were awarded the Encampment ribbon after completion of the rigorous Air Force-style boot camp at the Joint Base Mcguire-Dix-Lakehurst in Trenton, NJ. These cadets, along with staffing cadets, Cadet Kumar, Bellam, and Pant were commended for their hard-work and effort. In attendance were special guests Major

Jamie Currey, Captain Plunkett, and Captain Jill Milstein.

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Manali Shah was awarded an Achievement Award for her service in assisting a cadet with a medical emergency that had occurred at one of the squadron's weekly meetings. Cadet Chief Shah, a resident of Scotch Plains, NJ, is in training as an EMT and is a volunteer with the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. She is majorly involved in some of the CAP's main missions: Emergency Services, Search and Rescue missions, and Disaster Relief.

The Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program is an afterschool program open to all Middle School and High School students from ages 12 to 18. Since CAP is part of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, the cadet program teaches and challenges cadets to excel in discipline, character, community service (emergency service), Aerospace-STEM education, and Air Force customs and courtesies. The goal is to Aim High as cadets. For more information about the CAP cadet program, please contact CAP Captain Jose Vergara at jose.vergara@njwg.cap.gov or visit the CAP webpage at gocivilairpatrol.com.



(above) The passing on of the guidon from previous Cadet Commander Cadet Major Veronica Vergara to Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Anushka Kumar symbolizes not only a change in command, but the passing on of responsibility and expectations.

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F-SP SERVICE LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP'S SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

From Tuesday, October 8, 2019, new and gently worn Halloween costumes will be available. The shop has children's favorites: action figures, superheroes and heroines, Disney characters, firefighters, doctors, nurses, police officers, and more. For infants and toddlers there are character pajamas. The shop has not forgotten adults. A limited selection of adult costumes can be found. Shoppers can make their own costume with an assortment of accessories for scarecrows, witches and others. The shop invites community theaters and school's planning theatrical programs to come and find suitable theater costumes.

From Tuesday, October 15, to Friday, November 1, the Thrift Shop will hold its Boot Bonanza. For women, the shop will have knee length, ankle boots, fashion boots, and snow boots. Men's work boots and children's rubber boots will be available. Shoppers may find new and gently worn boots by favorite manufacturers such as Rockport, Uggs, Steve Madden, NorthFace, Columbia and others.

During October check for winter outerwear for the entire family. Ski pants are not just for skiing. For those who spend time outdoors, these pants are warm and water resistant.

The Holiday Season begins Tuesday, November 5 to Friday November 9 with the Doll and Toy Sale. Get the best selection early. Dolls

include Barbie and Barbie-like dolls, fashion dolls, character dolls, and baby dolls. Stuffed animals will be available. There will be a wide variety of games and toys from Mattel, Play School, Disney and others. Legos are often available. Puzzles and books will be available.

THE FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS SERVICE LEAGUE

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."

Shop hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items cannot be held. Sales are cash only. 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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MIDDLE SCHOOLERS SPEND WEEK TO “GET FIT WITH FANWOOD’S FINEST”

Submitted by Tom Kranz

The whistle sounds and forty t-shirted young people sprint across the blacktop at the Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains as six instructors urge them on. But these aren't police recruits. They are middle school students who signed up for a one week program of fitness and fun created by the Fanwood Police Department. Get Fit With Fanwood's Finest was the idea of Chief Richard Trigo and his administrative assistant Dianne Howarth, with the help of a \$2,000 grant from the First Responders Children's Foundation and donations from the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

“We wanted to get the kids out of the house,” said Chief Trigo. “So, we said let's do something where we workout with the kids. I approached some of our officers assigned to the Union

County Emergency Response Team about what daily workouts they go through with their training. I said I'd like to incorporate that into something for the kids. And the officers just took off with it.”

The two hour gathering is not the rigorous, boot-camp-like routine that actually occurs at the police academy, but an informal and relaxed set of basic exercises mixed with field games, tug-of-war and relay races.

“We can make workouts enjoyable,” said Officer Elliott Bernard, one of the instructors. “It doesn't have to be just push-ups, sit-ups and running for hours at a time.”

The five-morning program is free, thanks to the grant. In addition to being an end-of-summer activity, it allows police officers to reach out to children in a non-official capacity, an investment

in future relationships.

“We're not in uniform, we're not in that patrol car,” said Sgt. Marc Gottlick. “We're out here. We're running relay races with them, giving high-five and fist-bumps. They're getting to know us a little more individually.”

“All the officers in Fanwood are approachable,” added the chief's assistant Dianne Howarth. “Now the kids see it. So, if they ever have a problem, they're not going to be afraid to come to the police department or reach out to one of the police officers.”

In the last event of the day, a tug-of-war pitting the six officers against a group of kids, the kids won.

“You see what you accomplished when you work together?” Chief Trigo told the students afterwards. “Great job, everyone!”



(above) Get Fit With Fanwood's Finest instructors and students.

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(above, l-r) Instructors: Sgt. Marc Gottlick, Officer Kathy Case, Officer Tim Green, Officer Dan Piccola, Officer Dan Kranz, and Officer Elliott Bernard.



(above) Officers Piccola, Green and Kranz lead pushups

Photos by Tom Kranz



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THE ARC CELEBRATES 70 YEARS AND COUNTING

A leading provider of services for people with disabilities commemorates milestone year with a landmark event this October.



(above) Annie Forts, participant in programs at The Arc of Union County as a child, was appointed by (then President) Bill Clinton to serve 3 terms on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation (now known as The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities).



(above) The Arc Kohler School (formerly Harry Kohler Day Care Center) in Winfield Park, NJ is where The Arc of Union County's roots were started, providing services for children and adults with disabilities, including transportation.

Submitted by Ellen de Havilland

The Arc of Union County was founded in 1949 when a group of concerned parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities gathered by the collective desire for their children to lead fulfilling lives and thrive in their communities, instead of being subject to institutions with harsh living conditions. Seven decades ago, there was much to learn about intellectual and developmental disabilities (then referred to as 'mental retardation'), the people, their families and the causes. There were virtually no programs or services to assist people with disabilities in the community or to support their families. It was a common occurrence for doctors to tell parents that the best place for their child was in an institution. This group of parents was granted a temporary charter by the "New Jersey Parents' Group for Retarded Children", and what is now known as The Arc of Union County was designated the Union County Unit of that Organization. Seventy years later, The Arc has become a local pioneer within Union County and its surrounding areas.

To commemorate this major milestone, The Arc of Union County will hold their landmark event, "Celebrating 70 Years: Autumn & The Arc," on October 3, 2019 from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Stage House Tavern located at 1099 Route 22, Mountainside, NJ. The event will feature three hours of unlimited food, wine and beer, live music, and high value raffle items, including a cruise to Bermuda. Over 100 community partners and supporters are anticipated to join

The Arc in their celebration of 70 years of service. All proceeds of this event will benefit the continuation of programs and services provided by The Arc. For tickets and more information, or to donate/sponsor, please contact aoliver@arcunion.org or 973-315-0009 or visit arcunion.org.

"Our 70th Anniversary has been a record-setting year for the agency," said Frank Caragher, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County. "We have a proud history of changing with the times. While the agency has been undergoing exciting new developments and an expansion of services, its core principles have remained constant. As we work to achieve our vision of creating productive and enhanced lives for people with disabilities, their families, and the community, we're taking a moment to reflect on our past while also embracing our future."

Since its founding, The Arc of Union County has played a major role within the community by providing a lifespan of programs and care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through quality services and by advocacy efforts to fight the stigma of disabilities, The Arc has a longstanding profound reputation for making change happen.

"As we celebrate our 70th Anniversary, we must anticipate the next 70 years. We must continue to grow, taking what has been positive about our history, and use it to improve what we do. The stronger we will get, and the better we will be for our consumers and their families," said Frank X. Caragher.



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ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL CENTER ANNUAL FUNDRAISING RAFFLE DINNER



(above) Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark will be the guest speaker.

St. Joseph Social Center invites the community to their Annual Fundraising Raffle Dinner to be held on October 17, 2019 at the Westwood in Garwood.

(above) Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark will be the guest speaker.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, will be the event's guest speaker.

The Grand Raffle will be for 3 cash prizes: \$7,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000. Only 2,500 tickets will be sold so please get your tickets early!

The Tricky Tray and Restaurant Baskets will be better than ever. The evening at 6:30 p.m. so you have more time to "shop" and mingle!

Your support of this crucial fundraiser supports existing food, health, counseling, job training, clothing, and seasonal programs.

To purchase dinner tickets, sponsorships, or make a donation, please visit sjeliz.org/special-events.

Since 1983, St. Joseph's has served the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth, New Jersey, by providing basic human needs such as food, clothing and medications, as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social services they need to live with integrity. St. Joseph's is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

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TICKETS ON SALE FOR SHINING STARS GALA, CHRISTMAS SHOW

Shining Stars Network, a non profit organization shining the light on the special needs community through the performing arts and other activities, has two exciting events planned over the next few months.

Shining Stars will be hosting their inaugural "Reach for the Stars" Gala on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at the the elegant Park Savoy Estate in Florham Park, featuring a 5-star dinner and show featuring the Shining Stars special needs cast members.

The night will feature a cocktail hour, dinner and a Venetian hour, all highlighted by a 45-minute performance from the amazing and talented Shining Stars cast, along with a 50/50 raffle and auction items.

Shining Stars Network is an expansion of the successful Shining Stars talent shows which began in Cranford more than eight years ago with 15 cast members. That number has grown to 50

and there are new requests each week from those who want to become a part of the Shining Stars family. While the majority of cast members live in Union County, there are cast members from seven different counties who have taken the stage.

Tickets for the "Reach for the Stars" gala are available at shiningstars.booktix.com or you can email your ticket request to shiningstarsgala@gmail.com. The cost to attend is \$150.00 per person.

In addition, Shining Stars Network is also excited to present their second annual "Christmas Spectacular," a not to be missed evening of holiday favorites presented by their incredible cast and filled with sing-a-longs and audience participation, including the return of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which includes every audience member and instantly became an audience favorite.

Because of the success of last year's show, this year's "Christmas Spectacular" will be presented at the beautiful and historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway on Thursday, December 5, 2019.

Tickets for the Shining Stars "Christmas Spectacular" are on sale now at UCPAC.org/events. There will be a 10% discount on tickets through November 1 by using the code "holiday stars."

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